

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • JANUARY 2009

OUR MISSION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

***“We welcome all to receive God's love through Christ and
to share it with the world.”***

In This Edition Look for...

Office Notes	<i>Page 2</i>
Pastor's Note	<i>Page 3</i>
Worship Notes	<i>Pages 4-7</i>
Discipleship, Fellowship and Service	<i>Pages 8, 9</i>
Treasurer's Report	<i>Page 9</i>
Member News and Thank You Notes	<i>Page 10</i>
Church Council Notes	<i>Page 10</i>

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education and Confirmation Classes

9:30 a.m.

No classes on January 25th

Youth Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m.

Communion Weekly





OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Friday
CLOSED

TELEPHONE

610-326-2810

www.stjamespottstown.org

STAFF

Ministers

Each and Every Member of St. James

Pastor

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson

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Director of Discipleship

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Director of Music Ministries

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Custodian

Glenn Yerger

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Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
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Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
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OFFICE NOTES

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

All room reservations, including committee meetings and private gatherings, should be made with Darlene in the office. Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, (extra chairs, tables) so proper preparations can be made.

Newsletter Deadline for February 2009 Edition: January 15, 2009

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org or placed in the “newsletter” mailbox the Sunday before the deadline. Also please note that articles may be edited for clarity and space conservation.

Alter Flower and Bulletin Sign-ups

The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$30 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table. Cash or check payment can be placed in offering or turned in to the office.

Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. You must sign up again in 2009 as no one is automatically reserved a date from the previous year.

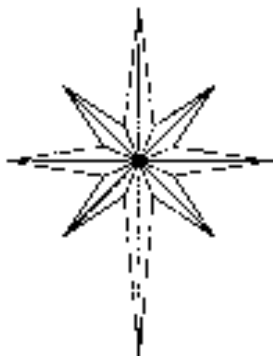


Snow Cancellations



Please watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or by checking their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC), listen to WPAZ radio (AM 1370), or call the church for a message regarding cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather.

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson



Just about every morning I take a “daily constitutional,” or, in other words, a good long walk. I walk around the block, which where I live (over in Coventry) is about two miles. And it’s best for me to go first thing in the morning. That means this time of year it’s often still dark outside.

As I was walking the other day, I looked out into the northern sky over Pottstown and I saw the brightest star! It shone so brilliantly that I began to slow down my walk and just gaze at it. It reminded me of the star that arose over Bethlehem so many years ago that led the wise men to Jesus.

And just as I was thinking how it was just like that...the light began to move...and then got dimmer and dimmer...and then it disappeared. It was nothing more than a plane headed in one direction, who then turned and flew off in another direction. I shrugged and thought to myself “*Imagine me thinking of that! A star like the one for Jesus over little ol’ Pottstown!*”

But then, even though the light had gone, I was reminded that the star back in Jesus’ time was simply a sign that God put in place to show people that, through his Son, he was now present in the world. The star was a marker to show the spot where that was happening at that time.

But in all honesty, the light from the plane that I saw that morning did the same thing! It marked (one of many) spots where God is present in the world today. And because of the coming of his Son, Jesus, God now remains present throughout the world, in every one of our lives! That plane’s light was simply another reminder to me that God is present in our world, even in the little town of Pottstown!

Anytime you’ve got troubles and you might be wondering where the heck is God, let this season of Epiphany help to remind you that he is right there with you. Right alongside of you, and even right above you, like that light from so long ago. Like that light I saw the other morning. Only in this case, the light of Christ will not turn and go away, but stay with you forever. Amen.

PASTOR

WORSHIP NOTES

Installation of Council Members

On **Sunday, January 18** during worship we will install the Church Council for the new year.



Congregational Meeting

On **January 25, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.** the second part of the annual congregational meeting will be held for the approval of the annual reports along with this year's slide show of the year in review. There **will be no Adult Education or Confirmation classes** that morning.

New Bible Study with Pastor WHO REALLY IS JESUS?

The time after Christmas called "Epiphany" is a good time to reconsider just what that season is all about.

During these weeks we are reminded that Jesus coming into the world is an: epiphany; revelation; manifestation; and presentation of God himself come to be with us! Which is to say that Jesus, is in fact,...God! This idea (called Christology) has been a basic and foundational teaching from very early on in the Christian church. And yet, many of us still struggle with the concept.

Understanding that it is often hard to make sense of this truth, our upcoming Bible Study will help us take a closer look at the subject. We'll cover how this idea came to be viewed by the earliest, and then later, Christians and we'll review some passages from Scripture that helped them, with the hope that they will also help us.

So please come to one of the two sessions offered. We ask that you bring only your interest; a bible if possible; and most importantly an open mind and willingness to learn something new. As always, bring a friend if you are inclined to as we all continue to grow in our faith.

First classes begin on January 13, 2009 (Tuesday evening) 7 p.m. in the adult classroom at church, and January 15, (Thursday morning) 10 a.m. at the Sanatoga Retirement Village Community Room. This session will run five weeks and finish on February 10 & 12.

Complimentary coffee and doughnuts are provided Thursday mornings and free mints are given out on Tuesday nights. See you then, weather permitting.



Third Sunday Offering

January Recipient:
Manatawny Manor

Manatawny Manor is a part of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and offers a range of retirement services such as assisted living, and skilled nursing and rehabilitative care. Manatawny Manor also cares for residents with dementia-related illnesses in two secure settings-The Horizons Community in the Assisted Living Center and The Milestones Community in the Nursing Care Center. Finally, Manatawny Manor offers Adult Day Services

St. James connections to Manatawny Manor are varied. We have members who currently are residents there. We also have members who are employed there or who volunteer their time to assist and connect with the residents or in the operating of Manatawny Manor.

Your gift will help Manatawny Manor to provide the extras that make life more enjoyable and fulfilling for their residents.

2009 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

JANUARY - Manatawny Manor
FEBRUARY – Lutheran Theological Seminary (Seminary Sunday)
MARCH - Cluster Outreach Center
APRIL - Visiting Nurse Association
MAY – Volunteer Home Care
JUNE - Salvation Army
JULY – School supplies for children (Cluster Outreach Center)
AUGUST – Global Mission
SEPTEMBER – Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER – Cluster Outreach Center
NOVEMBER – Open to allow for offering for current need, i.e. hurricane relief.
DECEMBER – ELCA World Hunger



We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at our December Rejoicing Spirits worship including a mini-concert by Boy Scout Troop 129, a hymn sing. and fellowship with birthday and punch. Special thanks to those who helped make this evening special with the worship, music and fellowship.

Our next Rejoicing Spirits worship will be on **Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7 p.m.**

Please help us to continue to get the word out to those who would benefit from Rejoicing Spirits. Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities, yet it is also open to everyone in the community. We hope you will consider joining us in the new year.



Reception of New Members

On Sunday, November 30, St. James received into membership the following individuals and families: Rob, Kyle and Noah Benedetto; Loretta Chaback; Lynierosario Clements; George and Gerry Davis; Jonathan and Emily Gallagher; Sam, Nancy, Elena, Annah and Thomas Giraldo; Stephanie, Sylvia and Cassandra Groff & Emily Weaver; Phil Hackett and Merle Pace; Marge Heil; Timothy, Michele, Colin and Brenna Horger; Anthony, Jason and Ava Matrone & Alicia and Kaitlyn Shirley; Wes Moyer, Evelyn Szczepanski; & Caleb and Kim Weaner. Congratulations to them all.

(See member biographies on next page).

Meet our New Members Part 1

Rob and Kyle Benedetto return to St. James after a brief time away. Rob is a Pottstown native and lived in such places as Florida, South Dakota and England. He is a graduate of West Chester University earning a BSN. He is currently the owner of a martial arts school and is also an instructor. In addition to martial arts, Rob enjoys video games, sports and hanging out with family and friends. Kyle was born in Lancaster and grew up in Harleysville. She has earned a BSN from Penn State University and received her MSN from Villanova University. She is a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). She too also enjoys marital arts, as well as spending her leisure time shopping and reading. Rob and Kyle are the proud parents of Noah, their son.

Nancy Giraldi was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA and grew up in Shavertown, PA. She is a graduate of Lak Lehman High School and Wilkes Barre General Hospital. She is a manager of Oncology Clinical Trails for Quintiles Transnational. She enjoys reading, gardening and driving. She is married to Sam and they have three children, Elena, Annah, and Thomas.

Stephanie Groff was born in Reading and has lived in the Pottstown area most of her life. She is a graduate of Boyertown Area Senior High School and is currently a nursing student. When school and studying is not taking up her time, she is a kept busy and active being the mom of three daughters: Sylvia, Emily and Cassandra. Stephanie likes nature and animals and enjoys volunteer work, acquiring peace and singing. She is the wife of Charles Groff.

Philip Hackett was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in northern Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Canton High School and is self-employed as a consultant. Phil enjoys photography and hiking. He has three children, Christine, Russell, and Jamie (deceased). He comes to St. James from Oley Bible Church.

Merle Pace is also a Pottstown native. She is a graduate of Pottstown High School and prior to retirement worked for 20 year as a data analyst at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. Her interests include biking, walking, gardening, sewing, homemaking, and doing word/math puzzles and origami. She has a daughter, Lori Davis and three grandchildren: Andrew, Alec, and Aaron. She comes to St. James from Oley Bible Church.

Marge Heil is a Pottstown native and has lived here her entire life. The house where she was born is also where she lived for 59 years. She is a graduate of North Coventry High School and of the Pottstown Business School. Prior to retirement she worked thirty-five and half years as a secretary for Design Engineering and Stanley G. Flagg & Co. She enjoys bowling, knitting and playing cards. She has a son, Michael Fern, Sr. and is the wife of Bill Heil.

Lynierosario (Lynie) Clements was born and raised in the Philippines. In addition to living to the United States she has also lived in Kuwait and Canada. She is a college graduate and her interests include dancing, singing and traveling. She is married to Tom Clements.

Evelyn Szczepanski was born and grew up in Philadelphia. Prior to settling in Pottstown she lived in Texas, California, Virginia and South Carolina. She is a graduate of both high school and technical school where she studied plumbing. She served in the military and was a medical specialist. Recently Evelyn has been employed as a home health aide, childcare worker and has done some housecleaning. She enjoys volunteering in the area of animal rescue and rehabilitation and in her spare times likes writing poetry.

New Adult Education Opportunity



Opening the Book of Faith Coming in January 2009

Opening the Book of Faith is an invitation to experience the Bible as a book of faith. This class provides an introduction to the Bible and Lutheran perspectives that guide the understanding of Scripture. The seven-session course introduces practical methods and approaches to studying Scripture, and then reinforces the basics of scriptural interpretation with four integrated studies that build biblical fluency.

Both individuals new to studying the Bible and long time students of the Bible are encouraged to join in this class. *Opening the Book of Faith* is a course being offered not only here at St. James but in ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) congregations across the nation. **The course begins on January 4 in the Blue Room at 9:30 a.m.**

Start 2009 off with a commitment to learn more on the Bible and come join us in January for this class.

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

All adult education classes
are at 9:30 a.m.

Seasons of the Spirit

This is a lectionary-based Bible study that shapes and transforms lives. Each week as a class the group will take an in-depth look at the Bible readings heard that week in worship while discovering and learning to share God's Word. The class teaches, inspires and involves its members in prayer and spiritual growth. **The class will meet weekly in the Adult Study classroom on the ground floor.** Individuals can join this class anytime.

No adult classes will be held on January 25th due to the congregation meeting.



DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Reports Due

All year-end committee and other reports are due into the Church Office **by Sunday, January 4, 2009.**

Salvation Army Community Lunch

Each second Wednesday of the month a group of volunteers from St. James prepares and serves the community lunch at the Salvation Army. This month it will be held **January 14.** Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Blood Drive

January 5, 2009 is a time when you can unselfishly give to your neighbor when they are in dire need. You can donate part of yourself by giving blood between 2 - 7 p.m. when Miller Keystone will be at St. James. To make an appointment please contact Ellen Ibach at 610-323-4477.

Blood Pressure Checks

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **January 4th** after the 8 and 10:45 a.m. worship services.



Hoagie Sale for Super Bowl Sunday February 1, 2009

The confirmation class and youth will be making and selling hoagies for Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, 2009. You can place your order by filling out the order form in Horn Hall. All hoagies will be Italian hoagies with or without onions. Hoagies are \$5 each. All orders and money are due by January 18.

Women of the ELCA Upper MontCo Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Manatawny Manor, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Sr. Jane Roeper presenting *Daniel: Trail by Fire (Daniel 3:17).*

The January Bible Study will be held at, on **Tuesday, February 3, 2009,** at Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, with Fran Ivarsen presenting *Daniel: Thrown to the Lions (Daniel 6:26b).*

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *The Hidden Hand of God: A study of wisdom in Ruth, Daniel & Esther.* This is the 24th year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends! We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints.

If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.

2009 Senior High Gathering

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's 2009 Senior High Gathering will be February 20 - 22 at the Dolce Valley Forge Hotel in King of Prussia. This year's gathering theme is **"Connected in Chaos"**. We will explore what it means to walk together with Jesus Christ in a world that is often times chaotic. This year we are excited to be able to travel off site on Saturday to find out what God is up to in a "chaotic" world. The gathering is open to youth in grades 9-12. Any youth interested in attending needs to contact Suzanne no later than January 4, 2009.

Completion of First Communion Classes

Congratulations to the following children and youth who completed a First Communion class with Pastor Hutchinson in December:

Robbie Taylor, Cassandra Groff, Emily Weaver, Elena Giraldi, Kyle Kirsten, Evan Kirsten, Mary Rigg, Kaitlyn Shirley, and Jason Matrone.



Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Community Service

The 3rd Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service is scheduled for **Sunday, January 18, 2008 at 3:00 PM**. The service will be hosted by the Hill School and held at The Hill School Center for the Arts. Come share in this celebration honoring the life and work of Dr. King and designed to build strong relationships and to promote Unity in the Pottstown community.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>NOV2008</u>	<u>Year toDate</u>
Income	\$ 24,8 62.48	\$ 235,496.28
Expenses	<u>23,130.05</u>	<u>265,589.91</u>
Net Income	\$1,732.43	(\$30,093.63)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$19,228.86	\$188,370.56
Needed*	<u>19,498.94</u>	<u>214,488.37</u>
Over (Under)	(\$270.08)	(\$26,117.81)

Third Sunday Offering

Collected	\$392.00	Hurricane Relief
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Capital Campaign

	<u>Oct-2008</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$4,927.40	\$287,262.24

*Amount required to balance the budget.

MEMBER and COUNCIL NEWS

January Birthdays

1 – Candy Koons; 2 – Suzanne Rigg; 3 – Kirk Detweiler, Pam Evans; 4 – Annette Renn; 5 – Susan Cameron; 6 – Bob Wagner; 8 – Kerri Smith; 9 – William Heil, Bradley Mazurek; 10 – Ginny Kerr, David Miller, Jr. ; 13 – Susan Cocci, Janet Kenney, Nathan Strichik; 14 – Esther Garner, Daniel Hutchinson, Bill Mauger; 15 – Collin Svanda; 16 – Kristin Mitchell; 17 – Willard Bickel; 18 – Dawn Detweiler; 20 – Pete Compton, Ray Henninger; 21 – Don Weller; 23 – Velma James; 27 – Jack Dilks, Irene Dilks; 28 – Melinda Mace, Avigal Taylor; 30 – Mindy DuVal, Chrissy Lamberton; 31 – Austin Rothenberger, Rose Wagner

Thank You Notes

Pastor and Debbie thank everyone for the Christmas cards and gifts of appreciation over the Christmas season. Blessings to you all, from us and our family.

Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church for Christmas. It was beautiful.

Thank you to those who helped with the Salvation Army kettle collection and bell ringing at Boscov's on that cold, cold day in December.

Thank you to all who donated gifts and made the Christmas Angel program a success.

Thank you to all who provided food for the new member reception on Advent 1. Thanks too to those who set up and cleaned up.

Council Member Contact

If at anytime you have a question, concern, or suggestion that might help the church, contact one of the following elected Council members.

Ron Schafer - President 610-326-4814
Email: ronslibrary@comcast.net

Pat Baer - Vice President 610-326-8598
Email: pattedbaer@verizon.net

Vickie Kirsten - Secretary 484-300-4915
Email: vjkirsten@comcast.net

Sherry Clancy - Treasurer 610-323-5977
Email: srclancy@comcast.net

Barbara Ungerman 610-718-9368
Email: bungerman@comcast.net

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Email: lunns2@dejazzd.com

Julie Hauck 610-385-7308
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Scott Strichik 610-327-3108
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