

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • JANUARY 2011

OUR MISSION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
***“We welcome all to receive God's love through Christ and
to share it with the world.”***

Pastor's Message

As I stood in the back of the church at our last 'Rejoicing Spirits' worship gathering, I thought that what I was looking at was probably something that the founders of our church would never have expected to be happening in our sanctuary. A Boy Scout ensemble playing Christmas songs from the Chancel area, people clapping and sometimes shouting 'out of turn', and persons with developmental disabilities and their caregivers present in a service designed just for them to feel comfortable, welcomed, but most of all,....to feel God's love in Christ.

In the season of Epiphany, we direct our attentions to what that word 'Epiphany' means – “God appearing to us”. And what Christians came to believe long ago, was that when Jesus came into the world that is exactly what happened! God appeared to us!

The interesting thing about that is this was never the way anyone ever imagined that God would appear to the world. Not as a helpless little baby,...not as one born of such humble and meager origins,...not as one who wielded no sword or who had no army,... not as one who aligned himself with the least and lowest (sinners they called them),...and most of all, not as one who, without a fight, willingly let himself be killed.

But God is funny like that. Not “ha, ha” funny, but funny in that He surprises us all the time, and did so when he came to earth many years ago in the person of Jesus. And what this event teaches us that God's nature is to do just that regularly! To come to us and be with us to show his love for us in our lowest of places, with the least of whom society values, in the most unusual ways, and when we least expect Him to be there.

That's a good lesson to remember as we travel on our journey of life – this fact that God is with us, not simply when things are peachy and good, but also and most especially, when we'd least expect that He is there. So look for God in Christ where you'd never imagine Him to be, in every day and in every place of your life.

Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal

9 a.m.

Children's Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly



OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. – noon
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 Music Ministries

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Financial Administrator

Sherry Clancy
stjamespottstownfinance@gmail.com
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Custodian

Glenn Yerger
contact: 610-326-2810

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler

OFFICE NOTES

**Newsletter Deadline for February 2011 Edition:
January 15, 2011**

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.

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

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

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light, Bulletin Sponsorships

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 plate or turned in to the office. Sign-up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. You must re-sign up for 2011 as no one is automatically reserved a date from the previous year.

Reports Due

All year-end committee and other reports are due into the Church Office by Sunday, January 2, 2011.

Weather Cancellations

For cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather, please call the church for a message or watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or check their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC).

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WORSHIP NOTES

Installation of Council Members

On Sunday, January 23, 2011 during the congregational meeting, we will install the Church Council for the new year.

Congregational Meeting

On January 23, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. the second part of the annual congregational meeting will be held for the approval of the annual reports and a special election for council. There will be no Adult Education or Confirmation classes that morning.



We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at our December Rejoicing Spirits worship including a mini-concert by Boy Scouts, fellowship with punch and cookies and special gifts – jars filled with candy to share. Special thanks to those who helped make this evening special with the worship, music and fellowship.

Our next Rejoicing Sprits worship will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 7 p.m. with pre-worship music at 6:55 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.

Third Sunday Offering

January Recipient:
Homeless Ministries

It is January and it is cold outside. What would you do if you had no warm place to stay for the night because you were homeless? Where would you go? Who would you turn to?

Thanks to the work of The Ministries at Main Street, the homeless of Pottstown have some place to sleep in the coldest months of the year. The Ministries at Main Street have made it their mission to see that these folks have a place to rest and receive shelter from the cold and food for their nourishment.

Through the help of volunteers, donations from congregations, schools and organizations, and thanks to the hospitality of local churches who serve as host churches, the Ministries of Main Street are able to provide a seasonal mobile homeless shelter from the months of November through April. In addition to a place to sleep, dinner is served every night and breakfast is available in the morning. This winter season's host congregations are: Christ Episcopal (November 2010), Trinity Reformed U.C.C. (December 2010), St. John's U.C.C. (January 2011), St. Paul's U.C.C. (February 2011), Zion's U.C.C. (April 2011).

Monetary donations and volunteers are often the most crucial needs for guaranteeing the success of this outreach ministry to the homeless of our community. You can find information on being a volunteer at www.ministriesatmainstreet.org or by calling 610-970-2444.

The Ministries at Main Street helps to organize and oversee a much needed service for our community's homeless. Please consider supporting their efforts through this month's Third Sunday Offering.

Exploring Faith in Life

"I bring you good news of great joy for all the people" (Luke 2: 10), so said the angel when announcing the birth of Jesus to the shepherds in their fields. But that was not the only time in the bible when angels from God appeared or spoke to people. There are many examples throughout both the Old and New Testaments, when angels are present and active.

In January, Pastor will lead an exploration of learning about Angels in the Bible, what their words meant, why God uses them, and even if they are still active.

In February, we will take a look at the Book of Hebrews. "Hebrews! What's in that?" you ask. Well most of us can't really say or quote much of it, but there is a whole lot of what Christianity is all about in there. It's almost an outline of all that our faith teaches about how we come to know God in Christ. It would be a good crash course for anyone who wants to know (in five short sessions), what it is that we believe.

Both sessions should be fun and informative. No prior bible knowledge is necessary. We meet on **Tuesday nights, from 7 – 8 p.m.** in the Sunday school room next to the office, and **Thursday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m.** at the Sanatoga Retirement Village Community Room (with coffee and doughnuts!) First meeting is on Tuesday, January 11th / Thursday, January 13th and we continue until the season of Lent begins.

So come and learn and help us explore faith and what it means in our daily lives!

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

There are two adult education opportunities on Sunday mornings 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 throughout the year.

Study with Pastor - This is Pastor's adult study class will continue its discussion and learning about other churches and denominations. All are invited and welcomed.

INVITATION

By the grace of God, and in accordance to apostolic usage, **Mark Robert Rigg** (spouse of Suzanne Rigg) will be **ordained** to the ministry of Word and Sacrament with prayer and the laying on of hands on **Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 3 p.m. at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Advent, West Lawn, PA.**

Your prayers and presence are requested.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

News from Our Director of Music Ministries

The **Children's Choir** has begun with 7 singers, who sang three songs for the 3 o'clock Christmas Eve Service! Please have your children (age 4 thru Grade 4) come join us. **We rehearse every Sunday from 10 to 10:25** in the big room near the stage on the lower level of the church. We will plan to sing once a month in the worship service.

Youth Choir has also begun! This group of six, sang for the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. We even had a duet and a trio perform from this group with a cello and violin to accompany them. Come join us and lend your voice to help this group as they too become part of the worship service each month. **Instrumentalists are also needed!**

Wanted:

People interested in music outreach. I would like to start a committee that would help with a Music Concert Series here at St. James. The committee would only meet a couple times a year. I need people to help plan, give ideas, advertise, prepare the church, usher, provide refreshments and do other "behind-the-scenes" tasks. If you would like to be a part of the Music Ministry Outreach Committee, please let me, Bruce Tonkin know by talking to me on Sundays or by phone - 610-220-5457 or e-mail at htonkin@stjamespottstown.org.

Blood Pressure Checks

Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure **checks will be on January 9th** after each service.

Salvation Army Community Lunch

The work on the kitchen at The Salvation Army is scheduled to be completed this month so we will once again be providing a meal there on the second Wednesday of the month. **St. James will be preparing and serving the community lunch at the Salvation Army on January 12th.** Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792 if you can volunteer for this much needed ministry.

CROP Walk Update

The final numbers are available for the 2010's Pottstown CROP Walk. The whole Walk raised \$13, 784 with St. James' contribution to that being \$501.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held Manatawny Manor, Pottstown, on Tuesday, January 4th at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30. The leader will be Sister Jane Roper presenting *Worship (John 4:23-24)*.

The February Bible Study will be held at Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe on February 1st. The leader will be Janet Luyben presenting *Race and Culture (Acts 10:34-35)*.

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity*. Study materials are found in *Lutheran Women Today* magazine. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. This is the 26th year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer for carpooling.

Relay for Life Update

Thank you one and all for supporting the Relay Team at our Advent Table. This is our second biggest fund raiser of the year (peanut butter cups are #1).

Thanks to Olga Christman for organizing all the elves in our church who are marvelous cooks, bakers, and makers of all good things. We would like to thank the following: Ellen Ibach, Merle Pace, Peggy Thomsen, Gloria Skora, Patti Boyer, Suzanne Rigg, Nancy Garner, Tracie Rheel, Barb and John Ungerman, Jeanette and Larry Wert, Mary Vickerman, Debbie Hutchinson, Melinda and Mike Mace, Dottie Smith, Diane Mitchell, Gail Neiffer, Donna Rose, Carol Keller, Janis Lunn, Barb Updegrove, Barbara Thornton, Dolores Mauger, Karen Orchard, Annette Renn, Ted Baer and Bob Rheel

A special thanks to Nancy Christman who makes the nutrolls for us and sells them to us at cost. We sold 193 nutrolls for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

*Happy New Year
from the St. James Relay for Life Team*

MEMBER NEWS

January Birthdays

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

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to **Hailey Krasley, Haley Byers, Collin Horgan, and Mya Detweiler** who completed a First Communion class with Pastor Hutchinson in December.

Welcome to our New Members

On December 5th, St. James received the following individuals into membership: Patti Boyer, Diana & Chris Reed and their son Jack, Dawn Sheffey, Val Sheffey, Beth & Shawn Slanker and their son Jacob, Melissa & Andrew Taylor and their son Charles, Peggy & Hans Thomsen, and Bruce & Marcia Tonkin. Read more about our new members in the February edition of the Spirit of St. James.

Thank You Notes

Pastor and Debbie want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and well wishes this Christmas season. We pray that the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace that God brings to us in Christ, be yours all year long.

Thank you to Kim and Scott Strichik and to Elaine Christman for their donation of furniture to the youth room.

Jim Warner thanks all his friends at St. James for their kind thoughts and prayers upon the death of his sister, Ginny.

Thank you to the Property Committee for setting up the Crèche in the front of the church.

John Ungerman thanks everyone for their prayers and concerns upon his recent surgery.

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

Harry Keller wishes to thank the St. James family for all the cards, prayers and well-wishes during his recent illness. They were all greatly appreciated.

Thank you to those who helped with the Salvation Army kettle collection and bell ringing at Boscov's. Your time and commitment are very much appreciated.

Thank you to all who donated gifts and made the Christmas Angel program a success. We once again provided 50 gifts.

Thank you to all who gave food to the Cluster Holiday Basket collection. We collected all we needed.

Thank you to Terry Arner for delivering the food to the Cluster for the Holiday Baskets.

Thank you to all from St. James who went Christmas Caroling at the Coventry Mall and sang with the other Lutheran Churches. Special thanks to Bruce Tonkin for helping to lead the singing.

Thank you to Pastor and Glenn Yerger for their help in moving furniture into the youth room.

Marie Bade, President of Pottstown's Church Women United, would like to thank Suzanne Rigg, Marge Fegley and the rest of the women who took part of the Church Women United's 2010 World Community Day in November through their participation in the program and for providing a fellowship time after the program.

Thank you everyone for all your caring, concern, support and most of all your prayers. I am so grateful. Although the cancer has returned I will not give up so please keep me in your prayers.
Love,
Helen Anne Yocka

Dear Friends,
Greetings from Lutheran World Relief! And thank you for your recent gift of \$367. With the support and help on compassionate people like you, LWR can continue to help impoverished communities in developing nations to grow food, earn income and build better lives. On behalf of the staff of Lutheran World Relief, our partners, and the communities we serve with your support, thank you for your gift and may God continue to bless you.
In Christ,
John A. Nunes
President and CEO

On behalf of the Pottstown Disaster Relief Committee, thank you for your very generous contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund in the aftermath of the North Charlotte Street fires. Thanks to your support and others we were able to distribute just over \$2700 to the three families (comprising of twelve individuals) whom the Red Cross had identified as being most in need of aid. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!
Blessings,
The Rev. John Wm. Houghton, Ph.D.

COUNCIL NOTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Nov-10</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 20,468.26	\$ 245,916.76
Expenses	<u>16,001.42</u>	<u>263,313.62</u>
Net Income	\$4,466.84	(\$17,396.86)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$15,631.75	\$190,885.58
Needed*	<u>19,717.89</u>	<u>216,897.19</u>
Over (Under)	(\$4,086.14)	(\$26,011.61)

Third Sunday Offering

SeminarySupport

Collected \$392.00

Capital Campaign

	<u>Nov-2010</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$6,036.00	\$489,658.25

*Amount required to balance the budget.

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.

Cyndi Krasley- 484-945-0165
Email: nannahsbmd@gmail.com

Barbara Ungerman - 610-718-9368
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