

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • JULY 2010

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

FREEDOM

This month we once again celebrate our nation's freedom in what some commonly call "Independence Day". The date, July 4th, marks the signing of the Declaration of Independence, right down the road from us in Philadelphia, long, long ago.

But even longer ago than that, a fellow named Martin Luther wrote a letter to the local mayor speaking about a different kind of freedom – what he called “the freedom of a Christian”. In that letter he said “*A Christian is perfectly free - subject to none (but at the same time) A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all*”. Luther admits that this sounds contradictory, but he points out that he is simply quoting the bible and the apostle Paul in particular who says in 1st Corinthians 9:19 “*For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all*”.

What Luther (and Paul) mean is that first and foremost, our allegiance and devotion is to God, and not man-made authorities. And while being subject to the Lord and living under his rule and authority, even in that, we are also made free from the consequences of our disobedience to the laws of God through the forgiveness we receive in Christ. So we are people, not free from all but God's authority, but also free from the guilt of sin when, as repentant believers, we are given absolution as a gift.

So where does that leave us as free people? Luther concludes his letter by saying that as forgiven people of Christ, we are moved to become like he who forgives us. And, of course, that means living as Jesus lived and being a servant to all people, like he who brought God's love without restriction. Therefore, as free people in Christ, we move to become his servants, and thus also become a servant to all, without restriction.

Just as the United States pauses to give thanks for its freedom and, as a result has often gone around the world to share its blessings as a sort of servant to others, so does a Christian person pause to give thanks for his or her freedom from sin, but then move towards sharing their blessings as a servant in Christ to others. Freedom, whether in the political or the godly sense, is not something simply for us to enjoy for our own benefit. It's something that allows and enables us to use our freedom to go without reservation and be joyful servants doing for others.

So enjoy your freedom and have a blessed Independence Day!

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Worship

9 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

10 a.m.

Holy Communion
Weekly

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. – noon
Friday
CLOSED

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Each and Every Member of St. James

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OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for August 2010 Edition: July 15, 2010

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 Suzanne 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 or turned in to the office. Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested.

A Reminder from the Archives Committee

If you have any photos from any church related events that can be shared, please see that the Archive Committee receives them. We are looking for past & future events. Also, if possible, please try to identify the people in the photos. Thanks!

WORSHIP NOTES

The Feast of St. James Sunday, July 25, 2010

Each year we continue to celebrate The Feast of St. James on the Sunday closest to the actual date of the festival (July 25th) in honor of the namesake of our church, the apostle, James. This year that Sunday will actually be July 25.

You may recall that the disciple James, along with his brother John, wanted to have seats of glory next to Jesus, who then told them that whoever wishes to become great must become a servant (see Mark 10:43-45). James may not have understood what it meant to be a disciple of Christ early on in his following of Jesus, but he certainly did understand later. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

We mark The Feast of St. James as both a day to remember and to celebrate our calling as disciples of Christ. So please plan to join us on this special day of worship.

St. James Picnic July 31, 2010



The St. James Picnic will be held on **SATURDAY, July 31 from Noon-4 pm** at the Warwick County Park! This is change from what we have done in the past.

Meats and drinks will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish/dessert to share and lawn or folding chairs. There will be games for all ages and an all-around good time is sure to be had. If you would like to attend **please sign up** in Horn Hall by July 25. **For more information, please see the attached flyer.**

Bible Study with Pastor

A woman loses her husband, then has to deal with her loss and wonder if she ever will marry again. Besides that, there are all the family dynamics of children, in-laws, and other relatives and friends that follow. It is a story of husbands and wives, faithfulness and commitment, God and community, and hopes and dreams. What is it? The Book of Ruth!



Our bible study for the month of July will take a look at this very short book (only four chapters) to see what it says about God, and people, and our relationships with both. It will be an eye-opener and it promises to give surprising insight for women, but men also!

We'll meet on Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m., at the church (**July 6, 13, 20, 27**) and Thursday mornings, 10 a.m., at Sanatoga Ridge Retirement Community (**July 8, 15, 22, 29**).

Everyone is always welcome and no previous bible knowledge is necessary (in fact, it might help if you have none)!

Swahili Words of the Month

As we wait to hear who our companion congregation from Tanzania will be, we have been learning some Swahili each week in worship. Here are the words and phrases we learned in June:

- June 6 – Ubatizo – “baptism”
- June 13 – Asante Sana – “thank you very much”
- June 20 – Baba – “father”
- June 27 – Yesu – “Jesus”



Next Rejoicing Spirits worship
at St. James

Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities it is also open to everyone in the community. If you have not had a chance to come and worship with us, give it a try and see for yourself the love and joy that is shared among all who attend.

Coming in August

**Rejoicing Spirits Cookout
August 11th at 6 p.m.**

Come join us for food and fellowship as we enjoy time together with members of our Rejoicing Spirits community. We will have hot dogs off the grill, root beer floats and other munchies.

**Looking to be involved with the life
and ministry of St. James?**

Forms are available in Horn Hall if you would like to join or get more information on a ministry, team or way to serve. The green forms are located on the resource table of Horn Hall and once completed can be placed in the offering plate or returned to the office.

Third Sunday Offering

**JULY Recipient
School Uniform Program
of the Cluster Outreach Center**

This month's Third Sunday Offering will benefit the Cluster Outreach Center in support of their School Uniform Program. The goal of this program is to provide one or more uniforms to school age children in need living in the Pottstown Area. Getting ready to go back to school each fall can often be a financial burden on families. With school supplies and clothes needing to be bought, a family can easily spend hundreds of dollars a year on getting their children ready for another school year. This often creates distress for many families who already struggle to provide for the basic needs. Families and their children will greatly benefit from your help. Please consider helping to support this local ministry.



2010 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

- AUGUST – Homeless Ministries of Pottstown
- SEPTEMBER – Lutheran World Relief
- OCTOBER – Cluster Outreach Center
- NOVEMBER – Lutheran Theological Seminary (Seminary Sunday)
- DECEMBER – ELCA World Hunger

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed for our Senior VBS August 2nd – 6th

Help is needed in the areas of games, crafts, registration and hospitality including set up and serving for fellowship time and lunch. One does not need to commit for the whole week, but can help as you are able. VBS is in the morning and times would vary depending on your responsibility. If you would like to volunteer please contact Suzanne (610-326-2810 or srigg@stjamespottstown.org)

Salvation Army Community Lunch July 14, 2010

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

Blood Pressure Checks Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **July 11th** after the 9 a.m. service.

Save the Date Next Blood Drive

Our next blood drive will be Monday, August 23rd.

Relay for Life Update

The 2010 Relay for Life has come and gone. This is the 6th year that St. James has had a team and the 6th year that we have been successful and had lots of fun doing it. We dedicated our relay this year to our dear friend and teammate, Mary Arnt (check out the Relay board in Horn Hall). Mary's daughter and son attended the Relay and gave us a generous donation in her memory.

A big thank you goes out to all of our church membership who support us year round by buying nutrolls, peanut butter cups, raffle tickets, eating at Friendlys and Henrys and much more! We could not do it without you.

At this writing, we have raised over \$12,000. Our twenty-two team members collectively raised \$2970. We received \$565 in donations and \$1000.00 as a corporate sponsorship from the church. We are the only church in the area to have our name on the back of the t-shirts. Thank you St. James.

A special thanks to our set-up and teardown crews. It was very hot and humid the entire weekend. There is a lot of work involved. Thanks to Mike Lunn, Harry Keller, Rob Krasley and Dave Hartzman - Ted couldn't have done it without you. Thanks to Rob & Cyndi Krasley and Dave Hartzman for doing the overnight shift.

Next year's theme is "The Wonderful World of Relay - Feel the Magic". We already have 12 team members enrolled for next year.

Also, a big thanks you to those members of St. James who participated in the CPS-3 study. I was proud to see so many members of St. James come forward to help in this important study.

Thanks again for your continued support to benefit the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life.

Pat Baer



2010 V.B.S.- Baobab Blast St. John Lutheran Church

This year St. James will not be sponsoring a VBS for kids, but children of St. James are invited to participate in the VBS program at St. John Lutheran Church. Below is the date, location, time and contact information:

St. John Lutheran Church
75 East Main St. Pottstown
August 2nd-6th
5:30-8:00 p.m.
Dinner included
610-326-1120

Women of the ELCA Upper MontCo Summer Bible Study August 3, 2010

The WELCA Bible Study group will meet for the August Bible Study on **Tuesday, August 3, at 9 a.m. for breakfast and Bible Study** at the Pottstown Diner, 99 W. King St.

The Rev. Ann Baly will lead the Bible Study entitled "Pray Always". Pastor Baly has been a supply pastor at St. James recently. The magazine "Lutheran Woman Today" contains the Bible Study in the June, July, August issues. The Bible Study will begin around 10 a.m. with breakfast orders taken at 9 a.m. Individual checks will be available. **Reservations for the breakfast should be made before July 20 by calling Grace Schafer at 610-326-4814.**

Back by Popular Demand!

Senior Vacation Bible School Rooted in Faith August 2-6, 2010

**St. James Lutheran Church
1101 E. High Street, Pottstown**

**9:30 a.m. – Noon
*Lunch follows***

This is a week long program open to **individuals ages 62 and older** that explores the topic of faith. The program includes **worship, music, crafts, games, bible study and a noon-time meal.**

The bible study will be based on the Apostles Creed as we explore the origin of the Apostles' Creed and its relevance and application to our lives today. Also on Wednesday, August 4, Patricia Ann Moyer will present: *Biblical Gardens: Rooted in Faith.*

Music will include some singing of our favorite hymns of faith, as well as two days of mini-concerts by pianist Michael Ruhl. Everyone will have the opportunity to participate with games and crafts and there will be plenty of fellowship time to catch up with friends or to make new ones.

Register for Senior Vacation Bible School **by completing a registration form located on the resource table in Horn Hall.** A registration fee of \$10 is due the first day of your participation. **A full week commitment is not necessary,** so just come for the days that you can. **Registration deadline is July 21, 2010. Space is limited so register early.**



July Birthdays

2 – Bill Rex, Dennis Rolando, Deborah Stein; 3 – James Stein; 4 – Bob Clouser; 6 - Doris Myers; 7 – David Lapreziosa, Leslie Stott; 8 – Millie Casner, Shanon Hoehne; 9 – Madison Smith; 10 – Amy Jones, Michael Noll, Herb Ziegler, Kyle Benedetto; 12 – Brian Culp; 16 – Alex Hoffman; 18 – Ava Byers, Ed VanBuren; 20 - Shirley VanBuren; 21 – Marie Haller, Wes Moyer; 22 – Darlene Medvetz, Ruby Starling; 23 – Kelly Hefner, Mary Rigg, Jeffrey Stott; 26 – Christine Bealer; 28 – Dylan Rolando, Tyler Rolando; 29 – Ron Stott; 30 – Kathryn Geist

News from the Pottstown Cluster

After more than 15 years of searching, the PCRC has found a new home at 57 N. Franklin Street. More information to come as to when the move will take place. Below are the current needs:

Current needs for the food pantry:

Peanut Butter, Cereal, Oatmeal, Tuna, Jelly, Green Beans, Corn, Peas, Diapers 4,5,6, Wipes, Cleaning Products, Bar Soap, Deodorant, and Shampoo **and for the clothing closet and housewares:** Pots and pans, Dishes, Kitchen gadgets, Glad Trash Bags, 30 gallon size with red ties; Summer kids clothes, Queen, King and Full sheets.

Donations for the Cluster can be brought to St. James and placed in the basket by the lower level mailboxes located at the bottom of the stairs closest to the parking lot. Donations can also be taken directly to the Cluster.

Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

137 Walnut Street Pottstown, PA 19464
(610) 970-5995
Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday,
9 AM-12 Noon



Affirmation of Baptism

Congratulations to **Ashley Marie Hoffman, Annmarie Binsfeld and Shira Cassidy Schaeffer** who affirmed their baptism on June 6, 2010

Notes of Thanks

Thank you to Merle Pace for her work in the flowerbeds around the church.

Thanks to all my friends at St. James for their prayers, food, cards and well-wishers. Thanks also to Pastor Pete for his visit and words of well wishes. A special thanks to Brother Theodore for his wonderful strawberry rhubarb pie.

Bob (ESB) Rheel

Deepest Sympathies

To the family and friends of *Karl Moore*.

WORK MISSION REPORT

In 2010 St. James continued with its Work Mission commitment forged back in 1995. This year we returned again to the Gulf Coast and East New Orleans. There is still a lot of work being done there and much, much more to be done.

A weary team of 19 people met at St. James at 3 a.m. Monday morning May 3rd for the first leg of the adventure to Philly airport. We were two groups making up one team. Representing St. James were John and Barbara Ungerman, David Hartzman, Robert Rheel, Tracie Rheel, Chris Howard, Pastor and Debra Hutchinson, David Garner, Larry Wert, Diane Mitchell, Cindy Krasley, Mike Lunn, and Pat and Ted Baer. We were able to convince Colleen and Cary Hendricks of Grace Lutheran Church to join us. In addition she talked her sister Lisa Brown and her friend Andrew Asbury to join us. This was the largest group we have had in recent years.

This year we secured housing thru United Church of Christ Disaster Recovery Volunteer Group of the New Orleans area. We were housed at Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ on Carrollton Avenue in the Garden District near Tulane. This one building now houses what were two churches. Central United Church of Christ was a black congregation down town, who lost their church to Katrina. They moved in with St. Matthew United Church of Christ, a white church, and feel the partnership is going very well. Both churches lost most of their members during and after the flood, but they are slowly regaining membership and activities to reestablish their place in the community.

On Wednesday evening May 5th, we were treated to a red beans and rice supper. The food was very good, but the company was better. The people who prepared the meal sat and ate with us. They told us their personal stories of Katrina, fleeing the city, what they found when they returned, and what has happened since. It hits home a little more when you can put a face and story to the tragic event. I think we all learned a lot that night.

We worked again this year with Habitat for Humanity at properties located on Flake Avenue in East New Orleans. They were working on several homes on the street. The jobs greatly varied from outside finish work to painting and putting up a roof. Many of us work on the house at 4909 Flake Avenue. The house was a frame with Tyvec plywood sides, when we arrived on Tuesday. When we left, the roof trusses, roof deck and roof itself were in place. We were also able to get 90% of the Hardi Board siding in place. On Saturday when the owner came to the site to put in her sweat equity time, she drove right past the property, as she did not expect to see the home completed as far as it was. It actually brought her to tears when she spoke with us.

We did take a little time to enjoy the area. We were able to get into downtown New Orleans on two evenings to sample the local fare. Some of the group took the street-car downtown, which was a treat. We also had a poboy sandwich night on Thursday to again get some of the local flavor. Ask Bob Rheel about his alligator sausage sandwich. Anyone who has gone on these trips knows that we work hard, but also have a good time and try to keep things lite.

Besides what each team member contributes to the trip, we are fortunate to have a great congregation behind us. Your support of the Work Mission by attending and supporting the Spaghetti Dinners, keeps the commitment alive. The April dinner helped raise around \$3,500.00 towards the trip with the matching dollars from Thrivent. The next spaghetti dinner is being planned for the fall and further details will be coming out in the near future.

Consider joining us in 2011. The destination is unknown at this time. Age and experience should not hold you back, as there is always something for everyone of every skill level to do. I know you will enjoy yourself and your heart feels better having helped others.

Robert T. Baer
Work Mission Coordinator

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	<u>May-10</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
-		
Income	\$20,794.99	\$119,699.41
Expenses	<u>30,234.46</u>	<u>135,651.32</u>
Net Income	(\$9,439.47)	(\$15,951.91)
<u>Regular Envelopes</u>		
Received	\$17,452.00	\$87,766.83
Needed*	<u>19,717.89</u>	<u>98,589.83</u>
Over (Under)	(\$2,265.89)	(\$10,823.00)
<u>Third Sunday Offering</u>		
	Volunteer Home Care	
Collected	\$288.00	
<u>Capital Campaign</u>		
	<u>May-2010</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$3,674.50	\$440,841.25

*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.

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

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

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

Dave Garner – Treasurer 610-970-7560
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