

the Spirit of St. James



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

A good friend from the beautiful part of the world called New Hampshire sent me one of those emails the other day with some very lovely pictures accompanied by some very profound facts. He said he usually doesn't send such messages along, but felt compelled to do so when he received this one. Consequently, I also felt compelled to share it with all of you. It was titled 'Global Village' and it put forth the following statistics:

If the entire world were a village of 100 people –

57 would be Asian, 21 European, 14 American (but that includes all of North, Central and South America) and 8 would be African.

30 would be white and 70 would be non-white.

30 would be Christian and 70 would be non-Christian.

About 6 people would control about 60% of the world's wealth, while 80 would live in poverty.

One person would have a College degree, but 70 would be illiterate.

It further said that if you have a full refrigerator, clothes on your back and a place to sleep with a roof over head, you're better off than 75 others.

If you have some money in your pocket and in the bank, then you have something that 92 others do not have.

And if you woke up today safe and healthy, then you would be in luck, since 1 million aren't and won't live through the week.

How do we respond to such startling numbers? It's right and good to give thanks to God for what we have and for the country we live in. But too often we stop there and don't go any further in our hearts and minds.

What if we were not lucky enough to have been born in this land with the advantages and opportunities that we've had? What if you lived among the majority in the world who are poor, unhealthy or unsafe, and who are uneducated and cannot read? How would you feel?

When I was on the mission trip flying across half the country, there were several points at which the plane enabled us to look down on the earth below. As it did, I wondered, 'Is this how God sees the world?' But when we consider such numbers as those I've mentioned, do we wonder 'How does God feel when he sees these extremes in his world?' Does he think that the few who have, simply deserve a disproportionate of the goodness he provides, or that it's not his problem to worry about those with so little?

It's a shame that more of the world does not know Jesus the Christ (only 30 out of 100). But we do know him, and from what I know of Jesus, my guess is that the answer is 'No, God does not think it's OK that there are such glaring disparities in who has his gifts'.

What do you think?

PASTOR

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Worship

9 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

10 a.m.

Holy Communion
Weekly

In This Edition

Pastor's Note.....page 1

Office Notespage 2

Worship Notes and
Other Newspages 3,4

Discipleship, Fellowship,
Service.....pages 5,6

Member News.....page 7

Council Info.....page 8



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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Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
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OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for July 2010 Edition: June 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.



Newsletter On-line

If you ever lose or misplace your newsletter you can read it on-line at our website: www.stjamespottstown.org. The newsletter is located under News. The assisting ministers' schedule can also be found on our website under Worship/Servants.

WORSHIP NOTES and OTHER NEWS

Affirmation of Baptism June 6, 2010



Three of our youth, **Ashley Hoffman, Shira Schaeffer and Annmarie Binsfeld**, who have completed their confirmation studies and will **affirm their baptism** on June 6, 2010. A special coffee fellowship in their honor will follow worship. Please plan to join us this day for worship to celebrate with these three young people.



Next Rejoicing Spirits Worship is June 9th at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Please remember that even though 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.

Capital Campaign Three-Year Anniversary June 13, 2010

On **Sunday, June 13, 2010** we will celebrate the **three-year anniversary of our Capital Campaign**. A special coffee fellowship will follow worship.

Details Coming Soon on the Annual Church Picnic

The annual St. James Picnic will be on Saturday, July 31st from Noon – 4 p.m. at Warwick Park, Pavilion #2.



2010 V.B.S.- Baobab Blast Grace Lutheran Church, Pottstown

All children from the age of 3 years to sixth grade are invited to come and join us for a week of learning and fun. Be a part of our Vacation Bible School's Baobab Blast! The themes for the 5 evening V.B.S. sessions are: "Trust", "Love", "Follow", "Care", and "Share."

When: July 12-16 (Monday-Friday)
Time: 6:15-8:30 p.m.

Location: Grace Lutheran Church
660 North Charlotte Street, Pottstown
Phone: (610) 323-9320

Cost: \$5.00 (Payable on the 1st Night)

A registration form is attached to the newsletter.

Please bring a white T-shirt with your child's name on it on Monday, no later than Tuesday, so it can be decorated and worn for the closing program. There will be a T-shirt station so the shirts get put into the correct bag based on the appropriate classroom.

This year we are inviting the children and their families to attend worship at 9 a.m. on July 18th at Grace Lutheran to share with the congregation the songs that they have learned during V.B.S.

Also, if anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Megan Meeker by calling Grace Lutheran Church at 610-323-9320.

News from the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study Class

The Sunday morning Adult Bible Study class has decided to sponsor a child through Compassion International. This wonderful organization exists as a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults.

Our child's name is Miriam Augustino Baltomeo. She is a 9 year-old girl who lives with her grandmother in Tanzania. There are two children in the family. Her jobs include carrying water, gathering firewood, and gardening. Miriam likes to play ping pong. She regularly attends church activities, Bible class and choir.

Please consider adding Miriam to your prayer list.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Those of us who are Thrivent members, will soon learn that Thrivent is beginning a new program called "*Thrivent Choice*". This program will give members with active Thrivent accounts "Thrivent dollars" that they may contribute to a charitable organization of their choice (as long as that organization is registered as a Thrivent approved agency).

The church Council at St. James is recommending that anyone who is afforded Thrivent dollars, designate those dollars to be donated to St. James with the promise and blessed assurance that all of those dollars will be contributed towards the Capital Campaign to help reduce our debt for the improvements and repairs recently done. So please prayerfully consider doing this if you are able.

Third Sunday Offering

JUNE Recipient Salvation Army

Our Third Sunday outreach offering for June will be given to support the work of the Salvation Army in Pottstown. During the interval between Thanksgiving and Christmas, a familiar sight at many locations is the red Salvation Army kettle with volunteers (including St. James members) ringing the bell to attract givers.

Locally, the mission of the Salvation Army is well known. A homeless shelter operates by providing emergency food and shelter to those in need, as well as counseling. They also assist people in finding affordable housing, employment, childcare and educational opportunities.

Community meals are served each Wednesday, staffed with volunteers, including members of St. James. A major project is the annual Christmas Angel program, providing food and Christmas gifts to hundreds of families. Aside from this major effort it is evident that "need knows no season." Therefore there is an ongoing need to provide food, clothing, shelter, rent assistance, electricity and fuel payment assistance.

The Salvation Army has an outstanding record of low overhead in the administration of their operation and is quite worthy of our support. Please consider supporting the Salvation Army through your Third Sunday Offering.

2010 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

JULY – School supplies for children (Cluster Outreach Center)

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



Community Meal

This month, volunteers are needed June 24th to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up for the community meal. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

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. Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Fourth Annual



Reading Phillies Baseball Game June 20, 2010

Enjoy the fun and fellowship and plan to attend the Reading Phillies' baseball game on June 20th. **Game time is 1:05 p.m** with gates opening at Noon. **Tickets are \$8 and are on sale after worship in Horn Hall.**

Give-aways and promotion on that day include: Father's Day R-Phils America's Classic Ballpark Neck Tie (first 2000 males); Father's Day Post-Game Play Catch on the Field w/ Dad; Dollar Dogs ; and Thomas the Train and Friends.

Join the FUN as "Thomas and Friends" Celebrates its 65th Anniversary at FirstEnergy Stadium. There will be cake for fans as they enter the ballpark, sing-along to Happy Birthday, color a picture of Thomas, and see a special message from Thomas and Friends on the stadium video board. *(Please Note - an actual Thomas the Train will not be appearing at FirstEnergy Stadium).*

Relay for Life News



The 13th Annual Pottstown Relay For Life main event is at Pottsgrove High School on **Saturday, June 5th**. Thank you to all who came out to Friendly's on May 10th to support our fund-raiser.

Reading Phillies - Part 2 Save the Date

The Lutheran Churches of Pottstown are sponsoring a night out at the Reading Phillies on July 22nd for "Celebrate Your Faith Night." Game time is 7:05 p.m. with gates opening at 6 p.m. Ticket information will be available soon in the bulletins on Sunday mornings or call the office at 610-326-2810.

Blood Pressure Checks Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **June 12** after the 9 a.m. service.



On behalf of everyone at Miller-Keystone Blood Center, as well as the community hospitals they serve, I would like to thank each and every blood donor who continually participates in the blood drives sponsored by St. James. When someone gives blood, they are doing one of the most amazing things that anyone can dream of...**SAVING A LIFE!**

At the May 3rd drive St. James was able to supply 20 units which equates to 60 lives saved. We are always in need of new donors as well as our usual donors. Our next blood drive will be Monday, August 23rd.

Thanks,
Ellen Ibach

WELCA Pot Luck Dinner



Join our end of season event for WELCA in Horn Hall on **Monday June 21st at 6:00 p.m.** Bring your favorite dish. Plates, beverage, utensils will be provided by WELCA.

News from the Pottstown Cluster

Current needs for the food pantry:

Sizes 4-6 diapers, baby wipes **and for the clothing closet: and housewares;** Glad trash bags – 30 gallon size with red ties, boys pants size 10, spring and summer clothes - sizes include 2T for both boys and girls and 12 month boys, sheets (queen, king, full size).

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

A Rockn' Luau Dance!!

With Crazy DJ Dave

June 19, 2010

7-9 p.m.

Parents of Girl Scout Troop 7354 are sponsoring a co-ed dance for children and youth in grades K-12. Call ahead for tickets:

- Pizza, dancing, drink - \$10 (at door \$13)
- Just Dancing - \$7 (at door \$10)

Tickets are available by contacting Ms. April at 610-513-1144

Back by Popular Demand!

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

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.**

Anyone interested in helping with registration, crafts, games or in the kitchen can contact Suzanne Rigg for more information at 610-326-2810 or srigg@stjamespottstown.org.

MEMBER NEWS



June Birthdays

1 – Michael Eshbach; 2 – Kathleen Degler, Peter Rheel; 3 – Charles Moore, Mary Vickerman; 4 – Rose Houck, Natalie Stichik; 5 – Gloria Skora; 6 – John Kochel; 7 – Virginia Ritner; 8 – Ashley Bush, June Henninger; 10 – Debbie Hutchison; 11 – Bob Rheel; 13 – Anna Neiffer; 14 – Eric Sandoe; 17 – Don Clancy, Bernice Lengel, Karl Moore; 18 – Margaret Bickel, Eugene Johnson, Kristian Olock, Ashley Taylor; 19 – Bob Reber; 20 – Linn Bierman, Gladys Evans, John Chaback, Margaret Heil; 21 – Sandra Meadowcoft; 23 – Mary Kochel, Brenna Horger, Mercedes Maldonado, Darius Maldonado; 25 – Evan Kirsten, Phyllis Lengyel; 26 – Kim Culp, Linda Ferreri; 27 – Paul Casner; 28 – Tom Clements, Robert DuBois, Justin Hutchison; 30 – Mike Medvetz

~ **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!** ~



Baptisms

We welcome to the Lord's family;
Jacob Palmer DuVal, son of Jennifer DuVal.

Christelle Matea Snider, daughter of Connie and Craig Snider.



Know someone who is graduating?

Would you like to share information on a graduate you know from the congregation? If so, please provide their name and information to Suzanne Rigg so we may wish them our congratulations in next month's The Spirit of St. James.

Change of address

Jonathan and Emily Gallagher have moved to:
5 Dale Court
Bovertown, PA 19512

Deepest Sympathies

To Deb Geesey and her family upon the death of her mother, Jean Smith.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you sending cards to Ruth Neiffer. She was thrilled to have heard from old friends.

Members and friends of St. James, Thank you to all who shopped at and helped with the Rummage Sale in May. A total of \$742 was raised.

Gail Neiffer
WELCA

Thanks from everybody on the committee to all who helped, baked, worked, were patrons, and attended the B.A.C.A. concert on May 16. It was wonderful and a great sendoff for Ms. Lamb. Special thanks to Mike Lunn, Ted Baer, Ellen Ibach, Marge Fegley, David Hartzman and all the other hands who helped out.
Janis Lunn

Thank you to all who gave blood in May and honored me. You are selfless and very kind.
Marge Fegley

Rick and I would like to thank our fellow church members for their prayers, visits, phone calls and well wishes to our Mom, Jean Smith. We are deeply grateful to Pastor Hutchinson for his many visits and prayers at Sanatoga Center and the Pottstown Hospital. It meant so much to my Mom that everyone was thinking of her.
Rick and Deb Geesey.

Thank you to Pastor Hutchinson and to the members of St. James who were with me or sent messages to me when I was ill.
Marge Fegley

Memorial Contributions

Mabel Meloy from the Willard and Margaret Bickel and Jay and Sue Meloy.

Jean Smith from Barbara Thornton, Gladys Evans, Art and Helen Nease, Robert Wagner, Richard L. Mummert, William Linebaugh, Samantha Wesner & Family, Ronald and Vicki Mock, and Earl and Helen Moyer

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Mar-10</u>	<u>Apr-10</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 20,804.42	\$32,066.75	\$ 98,904.42
Expenses	<u>29,326.58</u>	<u>31,152.76</u>	<u>105,416.86</u>
Net Income	(\$8,522.16)	\$913.99	(\$6,512.44)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$15,548.33	\$22,008.00	\$70,314.83
Needed*	<u>\$19,717.89</u>	<u>19,717.89</u>	<u>78,871.93</u>
Over (Under)	(\$4,169.56)	\$2,290.11	(\$8,557.10)

Third Sunday Offering

	Pottstown Cluster	Visiting Nurse Association
Collected	\$421.00	\$315.00

Capital Campaign

	<u>Mar-2010</u>	<u>Apr-2010</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$6,305.00	\$9,915.00	\$437,166.75

*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
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