

the Spirit of St. James



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

Summer is coming! Vacations and time off, right? Not here at St. James! Not by a long shot! We will not be on vacation here at church, as there will be lots going on. As summer arrives, we move to one worship service on Sundays at 9 a.m. That has proven to be a fun experience with lots of good loud singing and enthusiasm. I, for one, am looking forward to summer months and the full church that we'll have every Sunday!

The weekend of **June 4th and 5th** is the **Relay for Life event**, of which our church team is a major participant and contributor.

Sunday, **June 12th**, we celebrate the **Confirmation of four St. James youth** who will affirm their Baptismal promises on this day. June 12th is also the **Day of Pentecost on the Church calendar**, the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers in the early Christian Church. Everyone is asked to wear red, the color associated with the Spirit.

June 19th is **Holy Trinity Sunday**, the day we note that the God we worship is the God who comes to us in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Sunday, **July 3rd** (Independence Day weekend) we'll sing a patriotic song and hear a sermon about **“America the Beautiful.”**

On Friday, **July 8th**, we'll join other Lutheran churches in town to attend the **Reading Phillies** game that night.

Sunday, **July 10th** we will honor and celebrate the 25 years of service that our Music Director, Bruce Tonkin, has given to the Lutheran Church in his ministry of music.

July 24th is **St. James Sunday** on which we will have a special worship service and then enjoy our annual Church Picnic at Warwick County Park.

And during the month of **August**, we'll once again have fun as we learn during **Senior Vacation Bible School** for anyone over 62 years old. Also in August we will host **Movie Night** for several weeks and enjoy some 'flicks' that will prompt a discussion of how we've seen God and/or the Jesus story in the film.

So, you see, there is no time off from God; from church; from St. James. In the midst of your own vacations and summer fun, we hope to see you often, as we never go on vacation.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Worship

9 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

10 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
Email: pastorh@stjamespottstown.org
Home: 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

Suzanne Rigg, Diaconal Minister
Email: srigg@stjamespottstown.org
Office: 610-326-2810
Home: 610-898-4291

Office Administrator

Pat Baer
Email: secretary@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-326-2810

Director of Music Ministries

Bruce W. Tonkin, A.I.M.
Email: btonkin@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-220-5457

Financial Administrator

Sherry Clancy
stjamespottstownfinance@gmail.com
contact: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Glenn Yerger
contact: 610-326-2810

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler

Newsletter Copy Editor

Rose Wagner

OFFICE NOTES

**Newsletter Deadline for July 2011 Edition:
June 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. Cash or check payment can be placed in the offering or turned in to the office. Sign-up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested.

Welcome/Information Center

Now available upon entering or leaving our worship space is a Welcome/Information Center located in Horn Hall. This center has information for visitors, long-time members, and everyone in between. It is the place you can go to get info on upcoming events, concerts, classes, fellowship events, and so on. Purchase tickets here for gatherings like the spaghetti dinners or Reading Phillies games, or even to sign up for special events like Senior VBS. There will be greeters at this center to help you find the information you need. So come and check it out!

In This Edition

Pastor's Message.....	page 1
Office Notes	page 2
Worship Notes.....	pages 3-4
Discipleship, Fellowship, Service.....	pages 5-8
Member News, Council Notes.....	pages 9-12

WORSHIP NOTES

Ascension of our Lord Good-Bye to Our Seminarian June 5, 2011

The Ascension of our Lord will be celebrated at St. James on Sunday, June 5th. We will also be saying farewell to our Seminarian **Chris Rothharpt** upon the completion of his academic year with us. A special coffee fellowship in his honor will follow worship.

The Day of Pentecost Affirmation of Baptism June 12, 2011

The Day of Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, June 12th as **we rejoice in the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church**. The Holy Spirit is the resurrected Jesus in our midst, claiming us in baptism, feeding us at the Eucharist, and sending us into the world as bearers of the Gospel. **Wear red** to mark the occasion and to liven up the celebration.

Also on that day four of our youth will be affirming their baptism. **Stephanie French, Samantha Goins, Kyle Kirsten, and Emily Weaver** have completed their confirmation studies. A special coffee fellowship in their honor will follow worship. Please plan to join us this day for worship to celebrate with these four young people.



Festival of the Holy Trinity June 19, 2011



The festival of the Holy Trinity celebrates the mystery of God, both transcendent and immanent. Though the nature of God is beyond our rational explanation, we ascribe glory to the one who is holy. Christians have held a festival in honor of the Holy Trinity since the ninth century and in the fourteenth century the festival was added to the calendar and has been celebrated throughout the world since that time. To mark this day **we will be using the Athanasian Creed**. This creed communicates two essential points of Biblical teaching: that God's Son and the Holy Spirit are of one being with the Father; and that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person. **Traditionally it is considered the "Trinitarian Creed"** and in many congregations it is read aloud in corporate worship on Trinity Sunday, the Sunday after Pentecost.



Next Rejoicing Spirits Worship is June 8th 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.

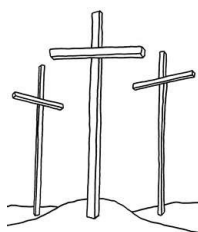
“Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”

As the Lenten season drew to a close and we moved into the celebration of the resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday was a joyous day with worship (and the breakfast) going very well. Thanks again to all who helped make that day special.

I can't leave Lent, however, without expressing my lament on the very poor showing of attendance at both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Maybe it's the pastor's fault for not promoting them and their importance to us as Christians. Over the years, I have tried to emphasize the significance of participating in those days of Holy Week. I did emphatically remind folks on Palm Sunday, at both the beginning and end of that service to come those days. Still, if one has been a Christian (and even more so, a Lutheran) for years, observing those days is not a new idea.

Unfortunately, it is a long held practice of many to bother to be with Jesus on the day of his resurrection, but to abandon him those fateful nights three days before; even his own disciples did the same thing. It's not just that Bruce, Suzanne, the Pastor and others prepared very good worship events for so few to be part of, as much as it's disrespectful to God and Christ to have ignored Him at those times. I hope that during future Holy Weeks folks will reprioritize their whereabouts on at least one of those days.

Pastor



Third Sunday Offering JUNE Recipient **Pottstown Volunteer Home Care**

Volunteer Home Care (VHC) is an interfaith outreach ministry offering assistance to individuals and families of all faiths through support of spiritually enriched volunteers. VHC has trained and caring volunteers who may be able to help someone through a difficult time in his or life at no cost by providing non-medical and non-professional services. Several members of St. James are volunteers for VHC.

Short-term, temporary assistance may be available with transportation, errands, light household chores, meal provision, outdoor chores, and minor repairs. Volunteers may also offer friendly visits to a shut-in or telephone reassurance to someone living at home. VHC may assist other professional and supportive services to provide care. VHC will join the network of family, friends, neighbors, and churches to help someone through a difficult time.

Pottstown Area VHC serves the communities of Pottstown Borough, Upper Pottsgrove, Lower Pottsgrove including Sanatoga, West Pottsgrove including Stowe, North Coventry, South Coventry, East Coventry, Spring City, Limerick and Royersford. VHC is an interfaith outreach ministry administered by The Lutheran Home at Topton, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Please consider a gift to VHC though this month's Third Sunday Offering.

2011 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

JULY – Cluster Outreach Center (school supplies and uniforms)

AUGUST – Manatawny Manor, Pottstown

SEPTEMBER – Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia

OCTOBER – SPCA of Perkiomenville

NOVEMBER – Operation Holiday

DECEMBER – ELCA World Hunger

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Relay for Life

The Pottstown Relay for Life event is Saturday, June 4th. Twenty of us from St. James will be at Pottsgrove High School walking the track and raising money for the American Cancer Society. If you have an opportunity, please stop by and enjoy the festivities. We work hard all year to fund raise and we thank you for your support throughout the year.

Please remember why we work so hard for this cause. As we walk the track and look at all the luminaries lining the track, we pause to remember our St. James members who have died from this terrible disease: Jim Christman, Bill Thornton, Larry Kehler, Barry Trate, Mary Arnt, Howard Snyder, and Bill Heil. We do this for them.

Blood Drive June 6, 2011

Our next Miller-Keystone Blood Drive is **Monday, June 6th from 2 – 7:00 p.m.** Please remember to keep June 6th available and contact Ellen Ibach at 610-323-4477 to make an appointment to give blood.

Blood Pressure Checks *Second Sunday of the month*

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

WELCA Pot Luck Dinner

Join our end of season event for WELCA in Horn Hall on **Monday, June 20th at 6:15 p.m.** Bring your favorite dish. Plates, beverage, utensils will be provided by WELCA.



Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study for this summer will be a breakfast/Bible study at the Pottstown Diner, 99 W. King Street, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, August 2 with breakfast at 9 a.m. and Bible Study at 10 a.m.** The presenter will be Doris Krewson, a long time WELCA member and a past president of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA. The topic will be "Renew, Respond, Rejoice!" which is also the theme of the WELCA eighth Triennial Gathering held in July 2011 in Spokane, Washington. Doris will also share some of the highlights of the Triennial Gathering. The summer Bible Study can be found in the Lutheran Woman Today magazine, June, July, and August.

Please contact Grace Schafer (610-326-4814) if you will be attending the breakfast. Each person can choose from the breakfast menu and receive individual checks.

Discussion and Dessert with Homeless Advocate Cork Moyer

Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 7 p.m.
At Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Hanover and Walnut Streets

The Lutheran Vision Group invites you to a discussion and dessert time with Cork Moyer, pastor of Still Waters Church and homeless advocate, who will share with us information about the homeless people of Pottstown. Come learn more about the services currently being made available to the homeless through The Ministries at Main Street Homeless Shelter as well as what needs are going unmet. Hear from others who also do homeless ministry as they share their experiences with us. Also discover what the future hopes are for Pottstown and its homeless population from those engaged in outreach to the homeless. All are invited to come, learn and enjoy fellowship together. Stop by the Welcome/Information Center in Horn Hall to RSVP for this event or call 610-326-2810.

Mark Your Calendars

The annual **St. James Picnic** will be on Sunday, **July 24th** from Noon – 4 p.m. at Warwick Park- Pavilion #2.



Folding Chairs for Sale

The Property Committee is selling at least 30 folding chairs that are no longer in use. The chairs are light blue in color with wooden seats and are selling for \$3 each. If you are interested in purchasing any, please contact David Garner at rueren@cavtel.net or 610-970-7560.



Night Out at the Reading Phillies
with the Lutheran Congregations of Pottstown
July 8th at 7:05 p.m.

Tickets are now being sold for a Reading Phillies game on July 8th at 7:05 p.m. against the Trenton Thunder. It is "Celebrate your Faith" Night that evening and fireworks will follow the game. Tickets are \$9 a person and can be purchased at the Welcome/Info Center or by calling the office at 610-326-2810. **All tickets must be purchased by Sunday, July 3.**

Muhlenberg 300th Celebration at Augustus Lutheran Church

September 6, 2011 will mark the 300th anniversary of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's birth. A German immigrant and Lutheran Pastor, Muhlenberg resided in Trappe for much of his life, and is known as the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America.

As one of the original congregations to call Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Augustus Lutheran Church is commemorating this occasion with a year-long series of special events. The event for June:

Sunday, June 19: Old Church Sunday & Founder's Day Picnic

Summer services in the historic Old Trappe Church at 9:30 a.m. will commence with a service to commemorate the building and the founding fathers, including Pastor Muhlenberg. Refreshments and tours will be available following the service.

Ministries Needing Some Attention

We are looking for some individuals to help take responsibility for the following ministries. Please let Pastor or Suzanne know of your interest by contacting them at 610-326-2810 or pastorh@stjamespottstown.org or srigg@stjamespottstown.org.

Coffee Fellowship – Prepare a schedule assigning individuals responsible for providing hospitality for Sunday morning fellowship.

CROP Walk – Organize St. James' involvement in the Pottstown CROP WALK which helps raise money to stop hunger here in our community, and around the world.

Cluster Delivery Team – Prepare a monthly schedule assigning individuals to deliver food and other items to the Cluster Outreach Center.

Rejoicing Spirits Worship Team – Aid in the organizing and planning of our monthly worship service for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Christmas Angel Tree Program-- Help organize St. James' participation in the annual Christmas Angel Program sponsored by The Pottstown Salvation Army. St. James members purchase gifts for local children, age 14 or younger, to make their Christmas more special.

Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins Help spread some holiday cheer by organizing Christmas caroling to the shut-in members.

Easter Pot Luck Breakfast – Help organize this annual favorite of providing a potluck breakfast on Easter Sunday.

Fair Trade Items- Maintain our fair trade display to advocate and promote fair trade and promote it to the congregation.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing – Organize St. James' involvement in helping the Salvation Army with their holiday bell ringing and bucket collection.

Welcome/Information Table - Help welcome and greet newcomers and visitors before and after worship and assist them with any questions and pass out information on St. James. Would also offer assistance in helping individuals sign up for events.

Media Team - Help with the current ways St. James communicates who we are and what we do through printed media and electronic media (such as the newsletter, the website, e-mail and photography), but also to help us make use of video and social media outlets, such as Facebook or YouTube.

Senior Vacation Bible School

Encountering God

August 1st - 5th, 2011

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 God. The program includes:

worship, music, crafts, games, bible study and a noon-time meal.

The bible study will be based on encountering God in scripture and during our music time we'll look at how we encounter God through music. Everyone will have the opportunity to participate with games and crafts, with plenty of fellowship time to catch up with friends or to make new ones.

Sign up for Senior Vacation Bible School **by completing a registration form located at the Welcome/Information Center 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 24, 2011. 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.

2011 WORK MISSION TRIP

On Monday May 9th, our 2011 Work Mission Team left on their way to Mississippi. This year's team included John & Barbara Ungerman, David Hartzman, Cary & Colleen Hendricks, Chris Howard, Cynthia Krasley, Mike Lunn, Diane Mitchell, Laurie O'Connell, Bob & Tracie Rheel, Dottie Smith, Merrill Weber, Larry Wert and Pat & Ted Baer.

The team traveled by bus from St. James to Philadelphia airport and on to our final destination of Gulfport/Biloxi Airport via Charlotte, NC. We were met at the airport by representatives of Habitat for Humanity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast who brought two 15 passenger vans, which were turned over to our team for the week.

We traveled to the Habitat offices in Biloxi where the group received indoctrination on the work being done on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and watched a film on safety. The group was also given t-shirts and a travel kit from Habitat as a welcome gift. The group then traveled to Biloxi Christian Church which houses the New Life Volunteer Camp and settled in. The women were divided with six in one room and three in another. The men were placed into a room with four bunk beds. In reality, only one bed would be put into such a space in anyone's home let alone four. The cramped conditions were a challenge for all – too many people, not enough bathrooms. We were not the only group sharing the volunteer camp, so space became a real challenge all week long.

Also sharing the camp was a group of volunteers from the Evergreen Baptist Church San Gabriel Valley from La Puente, California. This group is mostly Asian in makeup, with a great work ethic and a very strong religious base. They led devotions most mornings. We realized that we had shared lodging with some of this same group in Biloxi in 2009 and as the week went on, memories came back of our time together. They were also working at the one site along side of some of our team the rest of the week. We ended our week on Saturday morning with a prayer and laying on of hands from them for our safe travel home. Evergreen was video recording their daily activities and have posted them on their website. Log on to www.evergreensgv.org to see the video listed as working with St. James.

Work day one was a different type of day for us. We all traveled northwest to Bud's Mobile Homes. The job for the day was to clean up, repair and spruce up eight mobile cottages. These cottages were used after Katrina and have been sitting around unused for a while. This was not the glamorous building job we signed up for, but these cottages were being made ready to be moved up to Northern Mississippi in the area where the tornadoes did so much damage. They were being sent to a town that was totally destroyed and these cottages will offer some people the only shelter that they will have until they get their lives back together. Knowing the cottages' destination made this day's work very satisfying.

The rest of the week our group worked at three houses under construction in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Part of the team, led by John Ungerman, went to two houses on the east side of the street to work with members of Team Evergreen. This group worked mostly on various stages of siding for the remainder of the week. While that does not sound like much of a challenge, these homes are on stilts 12 feet off the ground and all siding work had to be done from scaffolds.

The other part of the team, led by Ted Baer, went to a home across the street. The big job at this house was putting down the bamboo flooring inside. Half of this group worked on that task and the rest of the group worked on painting and various finishing jobs on the outside of the home.

The highlight of the week was our Thursday night activity organized by Habitat. We traveled to the Pascagoula River Audubon Center in Moss Point, Mississippi. There we glided on a flat bottom boat through the swamps of the Pascagoula River. We were treated to sightings of Osprey nests and to a mother and chicks, a bald eagle, four alligators, a sleeping raccoon in a tree, along with many other animals and local plants and wildlife. Our guide, Bennie, was very colorful and knowledgeable about the area, as he grew up around that swamp.

After a good week's work, it was back to Pennsylvania and the daily grind. You can be proud of your Work Mission Team, as they represented St. James well. All the supervisors were very pleased with the work effort we brought to the job and what was accomplished. I think all the team members were also satisfied with what they accomplished. We all would have liked to stay for at least one more day, as there was some work that we could have finished completely, but that was left for the next group to complete.

Now home to plan for next year's trip. You are all invited to give some prayerful thought in going on next year's trip.

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; 8 – Ashley Bush, June Henninger, Bruce Tonkin; 10 – Debbie Hutchison; 11 – Bob Rheel; 13 – Anna Neiffer; 14 – Eric Sandoe; 15 – Martha Williams; 16 – Trinity Linville; 17 – Don Clancy, Bernice Lengel, Karl Moore; 18 – Margaret Bickel, Eugene Johnson, Kristian Olock, Ashley Taylor; 19 – Dorothy Jones, Bob Reber; 20 – Linn Bierman, Gladys Evans, John Chaback, Margaret Heil; 21 – Sandra Meadowcoft; 23 – Mary Kochel, Brenna Horger, Mercedes Maldonado, Darius Maldonado; 24 – Gavin Tilling 25 – Evan Kirsten, Phyllis Lengyel; 26 – Kim Culp, Linda Ferreri; 27 – Paul Casner; 28 – Tom Clements, Robert DuBois, Justin Hutchison; 30 – Mike Medvetz

Belated birthday wishes to Justin Purdom who celebrated his birthday on May 1.

~ HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! ~

Births

Congratulations to Caleb and Kim Weaner upon the birth of their son **Tyler Howard** born on May 8, 2011.

Baptisms

We welcome to the Lord's family; **Carsen Sophia Suchta**, daughter of Shannon and Michael Suchta.

Note of Thanks

Members and friends of St. James, Thank you to all who shopped at and helped with the Rummage Sale in May. A total of \$739 was raised.

Gail Neiffer

Congratulations to our Graduates

Greg Hutchinson received his BA in English from Temple University at commencement exercises held on May 12.

Vickie Kirsten is participating in commencement exercises on June 1 when she will be receiving her Doctoral Degree in nursing from Thomas Jefferson University.

Lauren Purdom, will be graduating from Pottsgrove High School on June 16. She will be attending Lehigh University in the fall where she will study Bioengineering, with the intention of improving the lives of those with disabilities.

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*.

Memorial Contributions

In memory of Bill Heil:

Paul & Mildred Casner, Barbara Thornton, Jane Trate, Ted & Pat Baer, Ellen Jameson, Pat Weber, Ron & Grace Schafer, Olga Chirstman, Jim Meloy, Willard & Margaret Bickel, Ray & June Henninger, Jon & Martha Fink, Julia Jackson

In memory of Virginia Ritner:

Ellen Jameson, Mike & Phyllis Lengyel, Ron & Grace Schafer, Elaine Christman, Jon & Martha Fink.

In memory of Harold H. Large:

The Wert family

Thank you to our members for your generous contributions.

COUNCIL NOTES

Council Member Contact

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

Cyndi Krasley (President) 484-945-0165
Email: nannahsdmb@gmail.com

Caleb Weaner (Vice-President) 610-960-6705
Email: calebweaner@hotmail.com

Barbara Ungerman (Secretary) 610-718-9368
Email: bungerman1428@verizon.net

Dave Garner (Treasurer) 610-970-7560
Email: dggarner1@comcast.net

Marge Fegley 610-323-3936
Email: mfegley1@verizon.net

Mike Lunn 610-367-8762
Email: lunns2@comcast.net

Julie Hauck 215-378-1827
Email: jlynne65@ptd.net

Ellen Ibach 610-323-4477
Email: bach1465@comcast.net

Bob Yoder 610-385-1600
Email: bob@bob-jr.com

Diane Mitchell 610-970-4250
Email: poohgers2712@yahoo.com

Tracie Rheel 610-323-7051
Email: trheel@comcast.net

Ed VanBuren 610-327-1159
Email: edandshirley@comcast.net

Rose Wagner 610-327-4995
Email: rcrmwagner@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
-		-
Income	\$34,617.79	\$ 93,481.79
Expenses	<u>34,909.91</u>	<u>108,955.56</u>
Net Income	(\$292.12)	(\$15,473.77)
<u>Regular Envelopes</u>		
Received	\$20,973.00	\$68,200.00
Needed*	<u>20,244.01</u>	<u>80,976.41</u>
Over (Under)	\$728.99	(\$12,776.41)
<u>Third Sunday Offering</u>		
	ELCA Disaster Response for Japan	
Collected	\$980.00	
<u>Capital Campaign</u>		
	<u>Apr-2011</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$4,906.00	\$519,271.44

*Amount required to balance the budget.



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Assembly 2011 Report

Under the theme “The Once and Future Church,” The 2011 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly looked ahead to the faith needs of the millennial generation, reached back to heal an historic rift with Mennonites, and discussed the new realities in which the church is currently living.

Living in the Present Tense

“In a culture in which ‘none’ is the second most frequently named religious preference among Americans, the church and our Synod are challenged to re-think how to join God’s mission in the world,” **Bishop Claire Burkat** said in her annual address. As the Synod readjusts staffing and priorities in the wake of recurrent budget shortfalls, the bishop offered a statement of purpose to guide us in this period of transition.

**“Activated by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we equip the saints
and congregations for the work of ministry,
for building up the Body of Christ.”**
(Ephesians 4:11-13, adapted)

The elimination of two staff positions to balance the 2012 budget, and the voluntary departure of two other staff members, is not a crisis but “an opportunity for us to sincerely seek God’s direction, to boldly lean into God’s future, and to re-imagine the ministry we do together as a Synod,” Burkat said. Citing inspired outreach programs the 259-year-old **St. Peter’s, Lafayette Hill**, and the newly birthed **Rhawnhurst Turning Point** and **The Welcome Church**, the bishop noted that we are already embodying the outreach, authenticity and service that will revitalize the Lutheran witness in our area.

“This is the new world, and Church, in which we live,” Burkat said. “It won’t be easy for the Church to change when such shifts are happening in the world. But, the Church of Christ has always been faithful through the ages and will continue to grow long after we are gone. We pray...that we, too, may be faithful,” she said, “so that the world may be blessed for generations to come.”

Millennial Ministry

Ministry with the generation aged 10-30 today “looks more like the church of the 1st and 2nd Centuries” than the institution of the 1960s that many leaders fondly recall, said **Dr. Rodger Nishioka**, a professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia and an expert in the faith of young adults.

Instead of catering to a dwindling tribe of insiders, ***the church has the opportunity to reach out to religious “immigrants” who “have no experience with the church,”*** Nishioka said. Research shows that youth and young adults are hungry for spiritual experience rather than religious knowledge, and are open to the mysteries of faith when presented in ways that resonate with them.

Nishioka outlined a number of trends among millennials that challenge the church to change. For example, this generation is looking for authentic, gifted leaders and doesn’t rely on academic credentials. Also the rapidly pace of change this generation has grown up with forces organizations to shift focus from long-term to short-term plans. “Seekers are looking for real experience of faith, not just a tradition to join. This generation is also hostile to traditional mass evangelism but is open to one-on-one invitations,” he said,

Reconciled Communities in Christ

The Assembly opened with Lutherans and Mennonites receiving bread and wine and distributing the elements side-by-side, then a time of reconciliation marking Lutheran repentance for the sins of our 16th Century ancestors who persecuted and murdered Anabaptists because of doctrinal differences.

Bishop Burkat made an emotional apology on behalf of the Synod to **Pastor Charles Ness**, a **Franconia Mennonite Conference** pastor who has been involved in the global Anabaptist reconciliation movement. She then presented him with a pitcher, basin, and towel representing the washing away of past sins.

In his own emotional acceptance of the gifts, Pastor Ness said, "These words and actions today point to the truth that ***the Kingdom of God is more than denominational labels and distinctions***. Through these confessions I believe that Christ will heal the wounds of history and free us to become whole persons and spiritually renewed churches."

Financial Matters

The Assembly approved a balanced \$2.54 million budget for 2012. "After completing several years with deficits that depleted the Synod's Fund for Mission and with a continuing decline in partnership support gifts from congregations, the finance committee and Synod Council decided to present a balanced budget for 2012," said **The Rev. Christopher Weidner**, finance chair.

On the revenue side, the budget anticipates that partnership support income, which makes up 90 percent of the synod's revenues, will not significantly increase from 2010 levels. Last year, partnership support income again fell below the total received in 1985. Partnership support as a percentage of congregations' regular income was about half what it was in 1985, Weidner said. To reduce expenses, the Synod eliminated two staff positions in March, and another staff position will be voluntarily reduced to half time this summer.

The Assembly also elected **Janet Neff, C.P.A.**, as treasurer to succeed **Dick Reimet**, who stepped down after 32 years. Reimet will continue to handle property matters for the Synod.

Commissioned for Mission

Surrounded by family, friends, and congregations supporting ministry in Tanzania, **Tom and Susan MacPherson** were commissioned by Joanne Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Vision, and Bishop Burkat, to serve as volunteer missionaries at the Children's Home in Irete, Tanzania.

"We did not wake up one morning and say to each other let's be missionaries," said Tom. "On the contrary, I was trying to plan for our future. I thought I was in control. Boy was I wrong."

He told of how a visit in 2008 to Tanzania with their home congregation, **St. John's in Mayfair**, changed their lives as they were touched by the depth of the people's love for God.

The Assembly also formally received **New Life Ministries** as a new congregation, which formed a year ago from a merger of Calvary and Immanuel in West Philadelphia.

Other Business

The Synod re-elected **The Rev. Raymond Miller** as Secretary. Miller, pastor of St. John, Quakertown, has served since 1999.

The Assembly passed a resolution encouraging congregations to model **environmental stewardship** by auditing and reducing their energy use, and encouraging members to use less energy in their homes. The resolution also calls on the ELCA Church wide Assembly to challenge all congregations to reduce energy use by 5 percent a year, with an ultimate goal of reducing overall emissions by 35-40 percent by 2020.

The Assembly also passed a resolution urging congregations to join or create programs to **prevent bullying** in the church and to combat its effects in schools and other areas of culture.

The Assembly passed a resolution acknowledging 2011 as the **International Year for People of African Descent**, as well as one reinforcing the Synod's **anti-racism** practices.

More news online at www.ministrylink.org/2011

Assisting Ministers' Schedule

*A reminder: If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute.
Then call the office to let Suzanne know so that the correct names are in the bulletin.*

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 – ASCENSION SUNDAY – 9 a.m.

ACOLYTE: Lara Goins

SOUNDBOARD: Larry Wert

LECTOR: Andrew Taylor

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Willard Bickel

CHALICE BEARERS: Debbie Hutchinson and Barbara Ungerman

BREAD & CHALICE: Jeremy and Troy Wagner

USHERS: Terry Arner, Nancy Bergstresser, Mindy DuVal, Robert DuVal

GREETERS: Tom and Elsie Drauschak,

WELCOME CENTER: John Ungerman

MONDAY COUNTERS: Jeanette Wert*, Larry Wert, Terry Arner, Herb Ziegler

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Charles and Immy Moore

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 – DAY OF PENTECOST

ACOLYTE: Jeremy Wagner

SOUNDBOARD: Glenn Yerger

LECTOR: Misha Hutchison

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Suzanne Rigg

CHALICE BEARERS: David Hartzman and Rob Krasley

BREAD & CHALICE: Jacob Slanker and Colin Horger

USHERS: Nancy & David Garner, Bob Rheel, Debbie Fisher

GREETERS: Marge McElroy, Barbara & David Updegrove

WELCOME CENTER: Ellen and Bob Ibach

MONDAY COUNTERS: Scott Strichik*, Deb and Rick Geesey, Debbie Fisher

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Confirmation Reception

SUNDAY, JUNE 19 – TRINITY SUNDAY

ACOLYTE: Megan Mace

SOUNDBOARD: Glenn Yerger

LECTOR: Betty Johnson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Barbara Ungerman

CHALICE BEARERS: Annette Renn and Laurie O'Connell

BREAD & CHALICE: Jadeson, Jameson, and Jackson Jenkins

USHERS: Mike & Janis Lunn and Bob & Donna Yoder

GREETERS: Debbie Fisher, Marge Fegley, Merle Pace

WELCOME CENTER: Mike and Janis Lunn

COUNTERS: Hans Thomsen*, Ron and Grace Schafer, Melinda Mace

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Sandra and Paul Eshbach

SUNDAY, JUNE 26 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE: Nathan Strichik

SOUNDBOARD: Glenn Yerger

LECTOR: Willard Bickel

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Cyndi Krasley

CHALICE BEARERS: Immy and Charles Moore

BREAD & CHALICE: Haley Byers and Hailey Krasley

USHERS: Ted Baer, Paul Casner, Sara Jane Silver, Dave French

GREETERS: Bob and Ellen Ibach

WELCOME CENTER: Sara Jane Silver

MONDAY COUNTERS: Pat Baer*, Barbara Ungerman, Mary Vickerman, Sara Jane Silver

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Barbara Ungerman and Dottie Smith

SUNDAY, JULY 3 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE: Hailey Krasley

SOUNDBOARD: Glenn Yerger

LECTOR: Julie Hauck

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Larry Wert

CHALICE BEARERS: Leslie Stott and Nancy Berstreser

BREAD & CHALICE: Jeremy and Troy Wagner

USHERS: Sandra & Paul Eshbach and Peggy & Hans Thomsen

GREETERS: Ruby Starling, Pat Weber, Jane Trate

WELCOME CENTER: John Ungerman

COUNTERS: Cindy Kehler*, Dave Hartzman, Julie Hauck, Pat Weber

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Diane Mitchell and Suzanne Rigg

June Altar Guild: Wendy Cocci*, Diane Mitchell

July Altar Guild: Cindy Kehler*, Katie Johnson

June Cluster Delivery: Robert and Ellen Ibach

July Cluster Delivery: Grace and Ron Schafer

*Thank
you*

June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10 am- Bible Study-SRRC	3 8 am - Men's Bible Study – BR	4 Relay for Life
5 <i>Ascension Sunday</i> Good-bye to Our Seminarian 7 pm – A.A.	6 2 – 7 pm - Miller Keystone Blood Drive 7:30 pm – Girl Scouts	7 6 pm-Weight Watchers-BR 7 pm – Bible Study - ASC	8 Community Meal Salvation Army 7 pm –Rejoicing Spirits	9 10 am- Bible Study-SRRC	10 8 am - Men's Bible Study – BR	11 9:00 am – Noon Property Committee Work Day
12 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> Affirmation of Baptism Blood Pressure Checks 7 pm – A.A.	13 7:30 pm – Girl Scouts	14 6 pm-Weight Watchers-BR 7 pm – Bible Study - ASC	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:30 a.m.-Mom's Club – HH 7 pm – Council - BR	16 10 am- Bible Study-SRRC	17 8 am - Men's Bible Study – BR	18
19 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> Third Sunday Offering 7 pm – A.A.	20 Community Meal - Christ Episcopal 6:15 p.m. –WELCA 7 pm-Vision Team- BR 7:30 pm – Girl Scouts	21 6 pm-Weight Watchers-BR 7 pm – Bible Study - ASC	22	23 10 am- Bible Study-SRRC 7 p.m. – Homeless Discussion at Emmanuel Lutheran Church	24 8 am - Men's Bible Study – BR	25
26 2 <i>Pentecost</i> 7 pm – A.A.	27 7:30 pm – Girl Scouts	28 6 pm-Weight Watchers-BR	29	30	<p><u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <p>Worship at 9 a.m. with Holy Communion</p> <p>Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.</p>	