

the Spirit of St. James



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

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Sunday Schedule

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education and Confirmation Classes

9:30 a.m.

No classes on January 24th

Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:10 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.



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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home 610-718-0313

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Suzanne Rigg

e-mail: srigg@thehill.org
office 610-326-2810
home 610-970-4865

Secretary

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e-mail: secretary@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-326-2810

Financial Secretary

Sherry Clancy

financeadmin@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-326-2810

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe

email: sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net
contact: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Glenn Yerger

contact: 610-326-2810

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler

contact: newsletterstj@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for February 2010 Edition: January 15, 2009

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

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. You must sign up again in 2010 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 3, 2009.**

Weather Cancellations

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



PASTOR'S ARTICLE



The Christmas song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” reminds us that, within the church, the season of Christmas is just that: 12 days. It ends when the next Feast and season is upon us on January 6th – **Epiphany!** Epiphany is the season that comes immediately after Christmas and leads up the next season, which is Lent.

So what is “Epiphany” and what does it mean and why have a season for it?

Well, the word means ‘revealing’, ‘showing’, ‘appearing’, or ‘shinning forth’. We celebrate it, for one reason, because Christians have done so since the 4th century. But making note of it is important for more than that.

We need not look any further than the story of the Wise Men (*The Magi*) from the Gospel of Matthew in 2:1-12. They were actually astrologers who studied the stars and looked for other signs of things going on and things that were to come. The Magi were thought to have special abilities to help them see the answer to questions that humans wondered about in relation to the powers over and above them. When they saw the star over where Jesus lay, they realized that God, in his power, was doing something very special.

In some ways, the Wise Men are no different than all of us. We too can often look upward (or around us) and wonder, what God is like; what does he want; how does his power operate and what is it’s purpose, and maybe sometimes we just wonder if he’s even with us. But in the birth of Jesus, God gives the answers to all those questions.

The epiphany of God is God *revealing* his true nature through the Son; God *showing* his will towards us by way of Jesus; God’s grace *shining forth* with forgiveness and love in the person of Christ; and God *appearing* to be with us forever through the Spirit that Jesus brings. God’s power and purpose for our lives is no longer a mystery among peoples, but is there for all to see. Jesus is not just ‘an’ epiphany of God, but ***the epiphany of God!***

So if you ever (or as you) wonder what God is like and what he is doing or what he has in mind for you...don’t gaze at the stars and scratch your head. Just look at Jesus, the epiphany of God, and see the answers for yourself!

PASTOR

WORSHIP NOTES

Installation of Council Members

On **Sunday, January 17** during worship we will install the Church Council for the new year.



Congregational Meeting

On **January 24, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.** the second part of the annual congregational meeting will be held for the approval of the annual reports along with this year's slide show of the year in review. There **will be no Adult Education or Confirmation classes** that morning.



We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at our December Rejoicing Spirits worship including a mini-concert by Boy Scout Troop 129, fellowship with punch, cake and cookies and special gifts – 2010 Rejoicing Spirits Calendars. 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 13, 2010 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.



We Want to Pray for You

We started the weekly Guide to Daily Prayer on May 2, 2004. On the guide we pray for individuals on their birthdays, as well as on their baptism, confirmation, and wedding anniversaries. Much of this information is on record in the office, but some of it is not and it has been over five years since we have tried to collect any new information. To help update our office records and our records for our Guide to Daily Prayer, we ask that you take a minute to complete the enclosed form found in this newsletter and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Thank you for your assistance in helping us pray for you and your family.

Raising Dough January 17th at 9:30 a.m.

There will be a presentation at St. James on Sunday, January 17th, 2010 titled **Raising Dough**. The discussion will be given during the education hour from 9:30 – 10:30 in the Blue Room by a representative of KenCrest, a Lutheran social agency.

Raising Dough is a biblically based stewardship program designed by several Lutheran churches and organizations in the Cleveland Ohio area. The program's purpose is to help people think creatively about giving to God in a planned way, now and through the end of their lives. It is not a complicated lesson on investing, accounting or taxes, nor does it seek a commitment from anyone. It is instead offered to give information and to help get us thinking, and questioning, and praying about the value of ways in which our *bread* can help the work of the Lord.

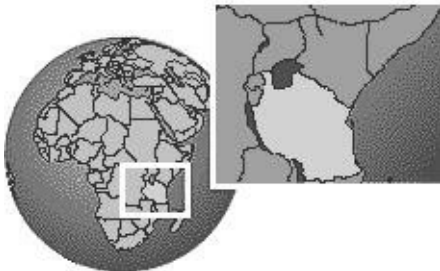
You and anyone you would like to bring are invited to come and discover some new ideas and enjoy yourself at the **Raising Dough** presentation. KenCrest has received *yeast* in the form of a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to deliver this program to churches throughout the country.

Tanzanian Companion Congregation

We are in the early process of forming a relationship with a Tanzanian congregation of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). We are hoping to become a companion congregation to one of the congregations in the North-Eastern Diocese. To learn more about the North-Eastern Dioceses of the ELCT please see their website: www.elct-ned.org.

Currently we are working on our congregation's profile to help us be matched with a congregation from Tanzania. We are also looking for more individuals to serve on the team that will help facilitate and grow this relationship. We are looking for all kinds of people with a variety of interests and experiences. We would like to have all aspects of our congregation represented by the members who serve on this team.

If you would like more information about serving on the team or about what it means to be a companion congregation, please talk to any of the team members – Vickie Kirsten, Cyndi Krasley, Barbara Ungerman, Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson.



Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

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

Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Part 2 New Adult Class Starts January 3rd

Lutherans often have questions about Lutheran theology and beliefs that are basic to the Christian faith itself. This class will take a look at some of those questions in regards to Lutheran History and Heritage, the Bible, God, Jesus Christ, Humanity, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, the Church, Worship, Sacraments, Christian Life, Reign of God and Polity. The study is based on a book by the same title written by Martin Marty, a distinguished Lutheran historian and theologian. **Please join us on the 3rd in the Blue Room at 9:30 a.m.**

Seasons of the Spirit

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

No adult classes will be held on January 24th due to the congregation meeting.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Blood Pressure Checks Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **January 10th** after each service.



Blood Drive

January 11, 2010 is a time when you can unselfishly give to your neighbor when they are in dire need. You can donate part of yourself by giving blood between 2 and 7 p.m. when Miller Keystone will be at St. James. To make an appointment please contact Ellen Ibach at 610-323-4477.

Salvation Army Community Lunch

Each second Wednesday of the month a group of volunteers from St. James prepares and serves the community lunch at the Salvation Army. **This month it will be held January 13.** Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Save the Date

The next Spaghetti Dinner is **April 16, 2010.**



Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Barbara Lisi presenting *Nothing Can Separate Us*.

The February Bible Study will be held at Augustus Lutheran, Trappe, on **Tuesday, February 2, 2010,** with Janet Luyben presenting *Does God Keep Promises?*

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Study materials are found in Lutheran Women Today magazine. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. This is the 25th 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.



Sunday, February 7, 2010

More than 20 years ago the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day over \$60 million dollars have been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that has transformed Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth lead weekend of giving and serving as youth work to collect food and money for the hungry and give compassion to those in need.

Be a part of this movement that is sharing God's love to those in need by giving generously on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7. Every dollar donated or food collected goes to the Cluster Outreach Center. In addition, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans through their Care in Regions program will provide a supplement of \$1 for every \$3 raised up to \$250. So please bring your donations with you on Sunday, February 7 to support the efforts of our youth and to help the neediest in our community.

Third Sunday Offering

January Recipient:
Manatawny Manor

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

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

Your gift will help Manatawny Manor to provide the extras that make life more enjoyable and fulfilling for their residents. Please consider giving this month to our third Sunday offering benefitting Manatawny Manor

2010 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

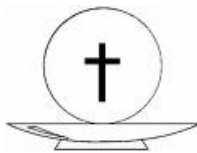
JANUARY - Manatawny Manor
FEBRUARY – Lutheran Theological Seminary
(Seminary Sunday)
MARCH - Cluster Outreach Center
APRIL - Visiting Nurse Association
MAY – Volunteer Home Care
JUNE - Salvation Army
JULY – School supplies for children (Cluster Outreach Center)
AUGUST – Homeless Ministries of Pottstown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

MEMBER NEWS



January Birthdays

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



Completion of First Communion Class

Congratulations to Annah Giraldi who completed a First Communion class with Pastor Hutchinson in December.

Thank You Notes

Pastor and Debbie want to thank everyone for their cards and gifts this past Christmas season.

Also, Pastor thanks everyone once again for their cards, well wishes, help (and patience) as he slowly recovers from knee surgery.

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

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

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

Thank you to all who gave food and gift cards to the Cluster Holiday Basket collection. We collected 220 pounds of food and \$250 in gift cards.

Thank you to all who assisted with the tasks that needed to be done while Glenn recovered from surgery.

Thank you to all who helped with worship on December 20th filling in as needed due to the snow.

THANKS

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

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

Marge Fegley 610-323-3936
Email: fuz36121@aol.com

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

Caleb Weaner 610-960-6705
Email: calebweaner@hotmail.com

Mike Lunn 610-367-8762
Email: lunns2@dejazzd.com

Julie Hauck 610-385-7308
Email: jlynne65@ptd.net

Scott Strichik 610-327-3108
Email: sstrichik@verizon.net

Laurie O'Connell 610-323-5787
Email: rloconnelljr@concast.net

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

Candy Koons 610-327-0458
Email: itp494@aol.com

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

Treasurer's Report

	November '09	Year to Date
Income	\$ 23,2551.51	\$ 252,222.32
Expenses	<u>22,930.14</u>	<u>265,404.04</u>
Net Income	\$325.37	(\$13,181.72)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$17,601.50	\$202,453.88
Needed*	<u>19,739.69</u>	<u>217,136.95</u>
Over (Under)	(\$2,138.19)	(\$14,683.07)

Third Sunday Offering

Collected	\$350.00
Beneficiary	Homeless Ministries

Capital Campaign

	<u>Nov-2009</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$6,806.00	\$405,180.75

*Each month includes \$14,729 actual pledged and \$5,051 needed growth to balance the budget.