

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 ? (610) 326-2810 ? JULY 2006

OUR VISION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“To Be, and to Become, a Worshiping, Caring, Teaching,
and Outreaching Congregation.”*

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Sunday Schedule

**Summer Worship
begins June 4th**

One service and Children's Church
9 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly

1896-2006 St. James Lutheran Church - Celebrating 110 Years of Ministry
Emphasizing Our Vision to Be an Outreaching Congregation



OFFICE HOURS

June 1st through Labor Day Weekend

Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday CLOSED

TELEPHONE
610-326-2810
Fax: 610-326-1025
www.stjamespottstown.org

STAFF

Ministers

Each and Every Member of St. James

Pastor

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson
e-mail: pastorh@stjamespottstown.org
home 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

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

Secretary

Pam Lloyd
e-mail: plloyd@stjamespottstown.org

Organist and Choir Director

Lincoln Noecker
e-mail: lnoeck@comcast.net

Custodian

Larry Kehler
home: 610-327-2238

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
newsletterstj@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

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

Newsletter Deadline for July Edition: July 15, 2006

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.

Weekly Bulletin Announcements Now on the Website

Weekly bulletin announcements now can be found on St. James' website under the **new section called News, Needs and Calendar**. This section will be updated weekly with new information available from week to week. Check it out for yourself **at www.stjamespottstown.org**.



Holiday Office Hours

Due to the July 4 holiday, the office will be closed on Monday, July 3 and open on Friday, July 7.

Staff Announcement

At their May meeting Church Council accepted with regrets the resignation of Lincoln Noecker as Organist / Music Director. Lincoln has offered an effective date of July 31, but agreed to stay on until the end of the summer if that meets the needs of St. James. We have appreciated Linc's fine work over the last two years and will miss his contribution to our worship services. We pray God's blessings on him and his ministry as he goes forth.



What does the Lutheran Church Believe?

Has anyone ever asked you what your church teaches or what it means to be a Lutheran? If so, do you have a coherent answer for them? There was a good article in the June issue of *the Lutheran* magazine that asked and accurately responded to this question.

It started out with the reminder that the word “Lutheran” was initially an insult used by Luther’s opponents. Luther actually preferred the word not be used, saying that he was not crucified for anyone. Luther had rather his followers simply be called “Christian” and over time they used the word “evangelical” to describe their emphasis on proclaiming the gospel (*good news*) of Jesus the Christ.

It’s true that all followers of Christ are “Christians”, be they called ‘Lutheran’, ‘Catholic’, or ‘bible-believing’ Christians. And yet, different churches emphasize different aspects of the faith or practices or theology. So for Lutheran Churches, there are some key things about God we hold up and cling to.

Salvation - First and foremost is that *we are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ*. That does not mean that we have to have a conversion experience to be “saved” or make a one-time confession of faith as others insist. Simply stated, if we trust in God’s grace through Christ, we will be saved on the Day of Judgment. It is pure gift and we are to always give thanks for that gift.

The Bible – We believe that the bible is the inspired word of God. That does not mean that everything in the bible must be proven or

upheld as factual. Was the world created in six days...or back then was a day equal to a million years? More importantly is that the bible speaks the truth about the nature of God and human beings and the relationship between the two. Most critical in bible reading is to understand that God’s word comes to us always in two forms; *Law and Gospel*. The Law commands what God expects of people and the Gospel announces God’s forgiveness when we fall short and fail to do those things or when we do wrong. The word of Law reminds us of our sinfulness and our need for a Savior. The Gospel tells of that saving act of God’s grace found in the Savior, Jesus Christ. The Law always accuses us. The Gospel always frees us to go forth forgiven and believing.

Means of Grace – This love and grace of God comes to us in both *Word and Sacrament*. Word as in the bible; read, preached, sang, and prayed, the creeds spoken and all other forms of spoken word. The Sacraments are, for example, Holy Baptism where we become children of God in Christ, and Holy Communion when we are strengthened in our faith. Unlike other churches which may emphasize only one or the other, the Lutheran Church sees both as critically significant. Both of these can most fully and properly be received in worship.

Theology of the Cross – This means that Lutherans never get away from the fact of Christ’s suffering which was necessary for our sakes. It looks straight in the face of the hardship and disappointment and unfairness in life and reminds us that Jesus knew the same shame, struggles and hurt as we do. A theology of the cross sees God coming down to suffer with us, as opposed to a theology of glory that can lead to false promises of prosperity and the lie of constant happiness.

(continued on next page)

"What does...believe", continued)

Saints and Sinners – A Lutheran understanding tells us that we are BOTH of these at the same time. Saints, in that we have been blessed by being joined with Jesus Christ, but sinners in that we continue to go our own way instead of God's way. A saint is no more than a forgiven sinner. Such an understanding keeps us balanced from getting too down on ourselves, but also not getting too high and mighty.

Vocation – Another word might be "calling". Not only are pastors called, but all Christians are "called" to serve God. What Luther called the "priesthood of all believers" meant that in whatever job or vocation you find yourself, that you can be a worthy servant of God by doing that job well. The world would be a pretty unappealing place (and might even grind to a halt) if we all went into the ministry. Luther noted that all serve God by doing what they do in a Christ-like manner. So that means anything you do, do it for God and be confident that you are serving him.

Good works – Luther made a big deal out of saying that "good works" do not grant us salvation because some in the church were teaching that false doctrine at the time. But Luther also didn't mince words when he called on us to do good works as grateful people saved by the blood of the Lamb of God. That means we don't just worry about our own, only Christians, only Americans, or other Lutherans, but do good for all people in need. We are to be what Luther called "little Christs" to the world.

Staff Position Opening – Organist and/or Choir Director

St. James has started the search process to hire a new organist and/or choir director. Below is the position information if you know of anyone who may qualify and be interested in applying for the position.

Position Title: Organist and/or Choir Director (part-time) Brief Position

Description: Traditional liturgical background. Proficient in organ and piano, in a wide variety of styles. Choir Director responsible for Chancel and Bell Choirs. Willingness to develop children's program. Position could be filled by one individual.

Application Information: Please send resume to: *Pat Baer, 1115 Rambler Avenue, Pottstown, PA 19464* or via email at pattedbaer@aol.com

Number of Weekly Services:
2 (September – May); 1 (during summer)

Rehearsals: 1 weekly

Ensembles: Chancel Choir (16), Bell Choir (8).

Hours per Week: 10 - 15

Organ description: Crossan-Savage; 3 manuals, 38 ranks.

Compensation Information Annual:
Salary \$15,000 - \$18,000

Weeks of Paid Continuing Ed: n/a

Weeks of Paid vacation: 4

Benefits: Book/Music Allowance

Position Available: 01-Aug-2006

Response Deadline: 30-Jul-2006

WORSHIP NOTES



Good news for Rejoicing Spirits! The Rejoicing Spirits ministry at St. James was featured in the June 11th edition of The Mercury. If you missed the article you can see it in Horn Hall where it is posted.

The next Rejoicing Spirits worship will be July 12th at 7 p.m. 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, please prayerfully consider joining us.

The Feast of St. James Sunday, July 23, 2006

Each year we will 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 will be Sunday, July 23. You may recall that 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).

So we mark that day, in part, to remember our call as Christians and as a congregation, to not seek our own greatness, but to realize that **in serving, God will bless us with glory.** We therefore **on this day also recognize the lay ministries of the congregation celebrating the work we do serving in Christ's name.**

Third Sunday Offering July Recipient Our Missionaries in Nepal

Our Third Sunday outreach offering for July will be given to support the work of our missionaries in Nepal, Dr. Stephen and Becky Thorson. The Thorsons through The World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) and have been doing so for more than ten years. Stephen is a missionary pediatrician who teaches theology and also works as a doctor. He has been the author of several bible commentaries. The Thorsons stay in touch with us through cards and e-mails and these messages are often included in the newsletter when received.

WMPL, the organization supporting the Thorsons, is committed as a fellowship to some very simple ideas: the power of community, the essential ministry of prayer, the adventure of pursuing a simplified lifestyle, and the urgent challenge of sharing in all the world the wonderful news about Jesus. Their community is comprised of sisters and brothers from around the world in service to the world that surrounds them. WMPL is involved in pioneering service and outreach ministries in Africa and Latin America, as well as the United States and Canada, and Asia, where the Thorson's serve in Nepal.

Nepal is the world's only Hindu Kingdom. Some 90% of its population count themselves Hindu. Buddhism and animism, however, are intertwined significantly in much of the country. Nepal's population is approximately 20 million. About 7 million more live in "diapsora", outside the country. The World Mission Prayer League cooperates in several international ministries in service to the people of Nepal, including the United Mission to Nepal and the International Nepal Fellowship. Please consider giving generously to support the Thorsons and their extraordinary work.

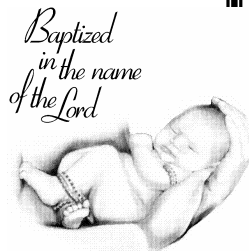
New Sponsorship Available: Congregational Baptismal Gift

The Christian Education Committee would like to introduce a new sponsorship available to all members of St. James. This sponsorship would be for a baptismal gift given to both children and adults who are baptized at St. James. These gifts would be from the congregation but sponsored by particular individuals to reinforce the welcome that we give, as a congregation, to each person baptized into the Lord's family.

Individuals who are interested in being a sponsor would be able to sign up in Horn Hall at anytime. When there is an upcoming baptism, someone on the list will be contacted to sponsor the gift for that time. Individuals may also request to sponsor the gift for a particular person. Upcoming baptisms will be posted next to the baptismal gift sponsorship sign up sheet allowing the sponsor to make a specific request. The cost of the sponsorship is \$20.

Gifts for children and adults will be different from each other. Each child baptized will receive *The Day I Was Baptized* book that works as an album and will include photos of both the exterior and interior of St. James, the baptismal font, the congregation and the Pastor. Also the child will receive a medallion with the name of the child and the date of his or her baptism engraved on it. Adults being baptized will receive a NRSV gift bible and a copy of *The Lutheran Handbook*.

Individuals can begin to sign up for this special sponsorship beginning July 16. Also starting that Sunday will be a display in the Narthex corner of the gifts so that all can see them. If you have any questions in regards to the baptismal gift sponsorship, please do not hesitate to ask Melinda Mace, Suzanne Rigg, Ron or Grace Schafer.



Altar Flowers, Eternal Light and Bulletin Sponsorships

Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone who would like to sponsor the altar flowers, eternal light and/or bulletins. No one automatically has the same week they reserved the previous year, so be sure to sign up again for 2006.



The cost is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Envelopes for payment are available in Horn Hall. They can then be placed in the offering plate or returned to the office.

Prayer List

If you have anyone who you would like to add to the prayer list, or if a name should be removed from the current prayer list, please note this by using the yellow **communication cards found in the pews** or by contacting Suzanne Rigg at 610-970-4865.

Grace Matters

Tune your radio in to *Grace Matters*. For 30 minutes each Sunday the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offers a fresh expression of **Christian radio**. Join host Peter Marty and his guests for engaging interviews, biblical meditations, colorful commentary and life-changing stories. Tune in on **Sundays at 7a.m. on WNTP 990 AM**. Listen, and be renewed by God's amazing grace.

Vacation Bible School
July 24-28, 2006
6:30- 8:30 p.m.
at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Summer is here and so is Vacation Bible School! We will once again be doing Vacation Bible School in partnership with Emmanuel Lutheran Church, located at Walnut and Hanover Streets. "Son Treasure Island" is the theme for 2006 with the offering money from VBS going to the Heifer Project International.

Vacation Bible School will be for children **preschool - grade 6**. Registration forms can be attained any Sunday in worship and there is also a form included with this newsletter. **Registration forms are due by July 16.** Also attached is a volunteer sheet listing opportunities for youth and adults to volunteer. In particular need for this summer from St. James are volunteers to help teach the Bible stories for VBS. If you would like to help with VBS in this, or any other way, please contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-970-4865 or 610-326-2810.



Upcoming STEWARDSHIP Events

The annual **Ministry Fair** will be held in Horn Hall on **Sunday, September 10th from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.** The Fair is an opportunity for all members to learn more about the various ministries that operate through the efforts of the congregation both externally and internally. Members can then decide how God is calling them to participate in the various ministries. Gifts of the Spirit commitment forms will be distributed at the Fair. It is important for all members to complete and return them over the next two weeks. **Consecration of the Gifts of the Spirit commitment forms** will be made on **September 24th** during both worship services. Refreshments served during the Fair will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.

All ministries of St. James are invited and encouraged to take part in the event. Set up will be on Saturday, September 9 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please let Dave Garner know if you want to reserve table space for the event (rueren@aol.com or 610-970-7560).

Commitment Sunday Guest Speaker

Pastor Janet Corpus, Assistant to the Bishop and Stewardship Specialist for the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod will be the guest speaker for **Commitment Sunday on October 15, 2006**. On this day members will be asked to make financial commitments for the upcoming year to support the work and operations of St. James. A celebration brunch (no charge) will be held after each service.

Look and listen

for more details on all of these Stewardship activities through newsletter articles, mailings and temple talks in the coming months. Prayerfully consider how you can best use your gifts for God's work!

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WELCA News

THANK YOU to all who helped support WELCA's Spring Rummage sale here at the "Red Door Boutique"! Thanks to your generosity with donated items and the shopping of many people, we raised \$952.15. Thrivent has also said they will make a donation, probably in the \$300.00 realm.

Our "summer break" for monthly meetings takes place during July and August. Watch the August Newsletter for an announcement.

If you're cleaning this summer, the "magic dates" for the next "Red Door Boutique" Rummage Sale ~ October 2nd (for St. James shopping 4 -6PM) and Tuesday, October 3rd (public sale). Bring your "stuff" to church Sunday, October 1st!

Again, a sincere thank you to all and a BIG special Thank You to Larry Wert. Larry's always willing and available to provide muscle and aid for this WELCA event, during the event.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference

Summer Bible Studies to be held:

July, 2006 - No Bible Study this month.

August 1, 2006 - Buffet breakfast (cost \$8) at The Villa at Morlatton in Douglassville beginning at 9 a.m. and Bible Study at 10 a.m. The presenter will be Karen Baum, a parish nurse. Her topic will be women's health issues. Please call either Mary Amt (610-323-6176) or Grace Schafer (610-326-4814) for carpooling and reservations for the buffet breakfast in August by July 25.

SCRIP

It's that time - SUMMER!! While we all dislike the cost of gasoline, maybe the price at the pump will be a bit more "tasteful" if you use Scrip to "feed" your vehicle or lawn mower! We always have gas cards for WaWa, Sunoco, Mobil, Exxon, Sheetz, and can also purchase them for Shell, Chevron/Texaco, BP/Amoco, and Speedway. Actually, you are also able to use our Giant gift cards at the Giant Grocery Store gas pumps. You just have to take the card to the main store first.

Stop by the Scrip table in Horn Hall ANY Sunday following our summer service and we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have. We can give you a brief introduction to the "easy way to budget" while helping to feed a hungry person at the same time.

Committee Night

There **will be no Committee Night in July**. The **next** Committee Night will be **August 2, 2006**.

If you are not currently serving on a committee but are interested in learning more about what each committee does, please join us. Anyone willing to serve on a committee should talk to Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson.

Cluster Outreach Center

CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

Clothing Sorters - Volunteers needed to unpack, sort, tag and rack donations of adult clothing, shoes and household items. - Everyday during operating hours.

Food Pantry - There is a lot of food to sort at the Outreach Center. If you can read, you can sort. - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Food Pantry - Need volunteers to help with bagging fresh foods and stocking shelves. - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

Community Meals - Volunteer Teams to prepare and transport food for Kid's Cafe.

If you would like to volunteer, contact the Outreach Center at 610-970-5995, or stop in at 137 Walnut Street, Pottstown.

Pantry Needs:

Canned fruit, crackers, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, and spaghetti sauce, sugar and tubes of toothpaste.

Clothing & Household Needs:

Baby bath, powder and lotion, toddler socks, girl's pajamas size 6, 8, 10 & 12, bath towels, irons, and table lamps.

Jump Start:

Donations of used cars in good condition.

Always needed:

Brown paper and plastic grocery bags, all sizes of Ziploc plastic bags, paper towels.

Donations accepted Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9-11 a.m. and Wednesday 3-5 p.m. Also from 9-11 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month.

St. James' Cluster Collection Basket Has a New Location

The baskets for donations to the Pottstown Cluster Outreach Center are **now located in Horn Hall** and not inside the door from the parking lot. Another basket for donations is by the lower level mailboxes located at the bottom of the stairs.

Salvation Army Community Lunch Second Wednesday of Month

Volunteers are needed! Cooking and preparing the meal begins at 8:30 a.m. and is usually done by 11:30 a.m. Serving and cleaning up begins at 11:30 a.m. and volunteers are usually done by 1:30 p.m.

Please consider helping those in need. For additional information please contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Community Meal

In 2006, St. James is helping with the community meal on the following Thursdays: August 24 and October 26. **Volunteers are** needed to provide desserts, to cook, set up and clean up.

If you need more information, or would like to help, **please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.**

July 23, 2006



The St. James Picnic will be held on "The Feast of St. James Sunday" at the Warwick County Park! Meat and the drinks will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish/dessert to share. 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 16. **For more information, please see the attached flyer.**

**Second Annual
Reading Phillies Baseball Game
June 25, 2006**

Come join the fun and plan to attend the second annual Reading Phillies Baseball Game fellowship gathering on June 25. **Game time is 1 p.m. Tickets are \$7** and can be obtained after worship in Horn Hall. Please see Deb Hutchinson, Tracie Rheel or Jeff Leiby for tickets or more information.



Movie Nights
Thursday Evenings in August

Come join the fun on Thursday nights in August when we will gather to eat some popcorn, drink some soda, watch a movie, and discuss what theological themes or ideas our present in the movie. More information will be coming soon about movie titles and show times. All are welcome!! Don't forget to invite others like your friends and neighbors!

**Ice Cream Block Party with
Peaches**

August 19, 2006

Look for more information coming soon on the block party we will be having in August. There will be fun and music, and free ice cream and peaches for everyone.





Health News

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"
1 Corinthians 6:19*

Should you apply heat or ice to an injury?

*Taken from Healthy Family, Better Homes And Gardens, May 2006
Submitted by Marge Fegley*

Ice is always the best choice at first, says Dr. Matthew Sharpio, a spokesperson for the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, ice decreases swelling by restricting blood flow to the area. Cold also deadens pain. If you put ice on a sore knee for 20 minutes, it could give you two hours of pain relief, as per Dr. Sharpio. Place a thin towel between the ice and your skin. After 20 minutes, remove the ice pack and wait an equal length of time before reapplying it. Do not leave it on longer or you may actually get frost bite especially if you fall asleep with the ice pack on, set a timer. If the ice cube tray is empty, use a bag of frozen vegetables, peas or corn work well. Use caution when using blue frozen gel packs, if these pack should rupture the contents will burn you. After 48 hours of treatment with ice, you may then use heat to address any lingering stiffness and muscle soreness. It helps to loosen things up, and can help relieve pain. Be careful not to set the heating pad on high, and the 20 minute time rule also applies here, by leaving an hour in between applying it. If you have been told differently by your physician, do as the physician ordered.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be available on July 2nd following the 9 a.m. worship. See you then!

BLOOD DRIVE On July 10th Miller-Keystone will hold its next St. James blood drive. Keeping the blood bank supplied is essential and can make a difference one day for you or a loved one. Please set aside Monday, July 10th from 2-7 p.m. for your donation. Call Marge Fegley at 610-323-3936 to schedule.

Faith and Leadership Academy 2006



"Let your light so shine before others..."

Our Synod's Faith and Leadership Academy is a six-week adventure in faith and discipleship. Through lectures, discussions, prayer and mutual encouragement, participants discover new insights about their faith, their church and themselves. The Academy is designed to identify and strengthen the potential leadership that is in all of us. Open to any confirmed member of a congregation over age 18, the Academy focuses on development of leadership to meet the challenges of ministry and mission in our multicultural society.

The 2006 **session will run Saturdays, October 14 - November 18, at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.** If you would like more information or if you are interested in registering for the Academy, please contact Pastor Hutchinson or Suzanne Rigg. **There is no cost to any member who would like to attend.**

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations

to our Confirmands!! Those who recently affirmed their baptism include: Christine Bealer, Alyssa Hartzman and Chelsea Hartzman.



July Birthdays

2 – Bill Rex, Dennis Rolando, Deborah Stein, Robert Williams; **3** – James Stein; **4** – Bob Clouser; **5** – Cindy Clark; **7** – David Lapreziosa, Leslie Stott; **8** – Millie Casner, Shanon Hoehne; **9** – Madison Smith; **10** – Amy Jones, Michael Noll, Elaine Richards, Herb Ziegler; **11**- Arthella Fritz; **12** – Brian Culp; **16** – Alex Hoffman, Doris Saltzer; **21** – Mark Arnosky, Corinne Daylor, Marie Haller; **22** – Darlene Medvetz, Ruby Starling; **23** – Kelly Hefner, Mary Rigg, Jeffrey Stott; **26** – Christine Bealer; **28** – Dylon Rolando, Tyler Rolando; **29** – Ron Stott; **30** – Kathryn Geist

Memorial Contributions Given

In memory of William Thornton from:
Olga Christman

Contact our Missionaries

the Thorsons at:
stephenthorson@yahoo.com
or
c/o World Mission Prayer League
232 Clifton Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55403
or
c/o United Mission to Nepal
Box 126
Katmandu, NEPAL

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to Melinda and Mike Mace for making nametags for everyone.

Thank you from WELCA to all who made this spring's rummage sale a success through your donations and purchases.

Thank you to WELCA for the incredible work you do at each rummage sale helping others in need.

Thank you from Harry Keller to Pastor for the hospital visit, and to the congregation for their prayers, cards, and well-wishes during my recent illness.

This was my first year for the Relay for Life and I really enjoyed it. I thought the whole day was super. I am so glad that we have a church that is interested in doing this. Thank you Pat Bear for all your hard work in coordinating this great day. We are also blessed to have a wonderful Pastor and his wife Debbie.

Debbie Fisher

Welcome our New Members:

Linda L. Bulchie, 218 Arlington St, Reading PA 19611, 610-375-3653. Linda was born in Reading and grew up there. She is a graduate of Reading High School. Linda has two daughters, Sharon and Kathy. She was part of the executive management team at Sovereign Bank and now enjoys bingo, arts and crafts and crosswords. She comes to St. James from St. Stephens Polish National Church. Linda's sponsor is Debbie Fisher.

Eugene and Betty Johnson, 149 Grove Road, Elverson, PA 19520. Eugene grew up in the Boyertown area and is a graduate of West Chester University. Betty grew up in the Lock Haven area and is a graduate of Lock Haven University. Both are teachers. Eugene is retired from teaching music in the Twin Valley School District and Betty is currently teaching history in the Twin Valley School District. They have three children and one grandchild. Eugene enjoys reading and participating with the Pottsgrove Community Band. Betty also enjoys reading, movies and using movies to teach history. They come to St. James from Grace Lutheran, Pottstown, PA. Eugene and Betty are sponsored by Ron and Grace Schafer.



Julie L. W. Hauck, 106 Balsam Drive, Douglassville, PA 19518, 610-385-7308. Julie was born in Levittown, PA where she also grew up. She is a graduate of Wilson

High School and of West Chester University. Prior to living in Douglassville she had lived in Hatboro. Julie is a classroom assistant in special education at the Pottstown Middle School. She is married and her husband is P. Christopher. She enjoys motorcycling, skiing, traveling, gardening, reading and walking. She comes to St. James from St. John's, Hatboro, PA. Julie's sponsor is Debbie Hutchinson.

Pauline Hoehne, 1270 Farmington Ave., Pottstown, PA 19464. Pauline was born in Delmar, DE and grew up in East Greenville. She attended Upper Perkiomen High School and later earned her G.E.D. She is married to John and has nine children, Judy, Joseph, John, Wayne, Shanon, Aaron, Hank, Adam, Eugene. She also has five stepchildren. As hobbies and interests, Pauline enjoys doing crosswords and drawing. Pauline's sponsor is David Hartzman.

Pam and Jim Irwin, 614 Beech St., Pottstown, PA 19464, 610-323-1511. Jim was born in Lorain, OH and grew up in Hatfield, PA. He is a graduate of Salesianum High School. Pam was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Florida, South Carolina and in Pennsylvania. Levittown, PA. She is a graduate of Strath Haven High School in Wallingford, PA and attended Delaware Technology and Community College. Before coming to Pottstown they both have lived in Lansdale and Horsham, PA. They have a son, Joshua, who is completing 4th grade. Jim is a milkman with Rosenberger's Dairies in Hatfield and Pam is a cashier at Home Depot, but her real passion is her Creative Memories business. Jim enjoys reading and Pam likes to work on her family's albums, and doing cross-stitch and reading. They come to St. James from Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, PA. The Irwin's sponsors are the Kirsten Family.

Duke and Marlene Kinckiner, 636 Woodland Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464. Duke was born in Pottstown and Marlene in Reading, PA. She is a graduate of Pottstown, High School and he of Norco High School and Embry Riddle Institute in Miami, FL. They have two grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. Both are retirees. Duke when actively employed worked mostly as an office and terminal manger for a trucking business and as an auto mechanic and Marlene has worked most her life doing secretarial work in a variety of settings. They own a trailer at the shore where they spend much of their time. Duke enjoys sports, such as golf and basketball, walking and reading. Marlene likes to read and is active in the DOE Club . They come to St. James from Transfiguration/Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown, PA. Duke and Marlene are sponsored by Fritz and Barbara Drauschak.

Lorraine Smith, 830 George St., Norristown, PA 19401, 610-277-6161. Lorraine was born in Norristown and grew up in Plymouth. She is a graduate of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. She has always worked in the bookkeeping field. She has a son, Jason Matrone, who is currently completing the 3rd grade. She has a variety of hobbies and interests. Lorraine's sponsor is David Hartzman.



*Sing psalms, hymns and
spiritual songs with gratitude
in your hearts to God.*

Colossians 3:16

CHURCH COUNCIL

Ideas Needed!

Are you involved in a volunteer organization that would benefit from financial support? Council needs ideas on how to spend 3-7% of the endowment as mandated in the Endowment Charter. A minimum of \$10,641 must be allocated this year!

We are looking for ways to fulfill our mission to “reach out to the community and the world”. Why support organizations that St. James’ members are involved in? To lift up your effort, increase the organization’s exposure, and accomplish what we are so lovingly called to do. Please communicate your ideas to a Council member today!

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>May 2006</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$17,842.68	\$121,542.38
Expenses	<u>28,776.90</u>	<u>138,526.85</u>
Net Income	\$10,934.22	(\$16,984.47)
<u>REGULAR ENVELOPES</u>		
Received	\$15,226.00	\$91,999.84
Needed*	<u>20,034.76</u>	<u>40,069.51</u>
Over (Under)	(\$ 4,808.76)	(\$6,728.00)
<u>THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING</u>		
Collected	\$ 256	
Beneficiary: Manatawny Manor		

*Each month includes \$14,653 actual pledged and \$5,382 needed growth to balance the budget.

Council Member Contact

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

Dave Garner 610-970-7560
Email: dggarner@comcast.net
Represents the Stewardship Committee

Jeff Leiby 610-327-9454
Email: jefnrobn@yahoo.com
Represents the Fellowship Committee

Sherry Clancy 610-323-5977
Email: srclancy@alumni.moravian.edu
Represents the Finance and Endowment Committee

John Ungerman 610-718-9368
Email: john.ungerman@thrivent.com
Represents the Property Committee

Alison O'Donnell 610-779-1119
Email: Alison.C.O'Donnell@GSK.com
papodonnell@comcast.net

Dottie Smith 610-323-8226
Represents the Personnel Committee

Pat Weber 610-326-5421

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

David Hartzman 610-909-5806
Email: Crittersdad1949@aol.com
Represents the Evangelism Committee

Tracie Rheel 610-323-7051
Email: tar403@yahoo.com

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814
Email: ronslibrary@aol.com
Represents the Christian Education Committee

Chipper Meadowcroft 610-327-0458
Email: meadow1135@hotmail.com

Jessica Mitchell 610-970-4250
Email: irabbit23@comcast.net

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Refugee Resettlement Ministry

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" - Matthew 25:35

St. James will be entering into a new and exciting ministry working with other congregations to sponsor a refugee family. We will be partnering with Emmanuel Lutheran Church and St. Peter's to co-sponsor a refugee family from Russia through Lutheran Children and Family Services (LCFS).

Who is Lutheran Children and Family Services?

Lutheran Children and Family Services is a volunteer agency that works with refugees. Refugee is a legal term given to people who cannot return to their homeland because of persecution, or fear for their lives. When LCFS receives word that they are going to be sponsoring a refugee family, they look for a church or congregations to help them support the refugees' resettlement process. As part of this process, a host family offers housing and additional support to the family as they make the transition. LCFS's goal is to help the family move into more permanent housing within two weeks and to attain a measure of independence at the end of four months.

What Responsibilities Come with Resettling a Refugee Family?

As co-sponsors we and the two other congregations initially agree to a commitment of 120 days. At the end of that period, support can be modified as the refugee family becomes self-sufficient and gradually changes their role to become contributing members of their community.

The following lists the responsibilities of the co-sponsors:

1. Meet the refugee(s) and transport them to housing.
2. Provide clean, safe, and furnished housing for at least 120 days.
3. Provide food or money for food for at least 120 days.
4. Provide clothing and other necessities for at least 120 days..
5. Assist refugee(s) in applying for Social Security cards by taking them to the nearest social security office.
6. Take refugee(s) to County Assistance Office in the appropriate county office to apply for food stamps, cash and medical assistance as needed.
7. Assist refugee(s) in receiving a health-screening exam within the first 30 days of arrival by taking them to the nearest health center.
8. Help the family to register children at school. Assist with testing for academic and language proficiency.
9. Assist adults in finding ESL classes and schedule transportation until the family members can travel independently.
10. Provide orientation to the new community and society by teaching the families the culture, giving them a tour of the neighborhood, town, etc.
11. Assist adults in preparing for work and getting a job
12. Provide transportation to job interviews and job training. If a car is unavailable, teach them to ride public transportation.
13. Maintain contact with case manager and resettlement for 90 days after the refugees' arrival and complete any required documentation.

What Are The Specific Responsibilities of St. James?

Each congregation was assigned a specific area or category to find an individual who is willing to chair that portion of the ministry. These areas/categories include interpreters, housing, medical, education, transportation, hospitality, financial, employment, and life skills. St. James has been assigned the following areas: interpreters, transportation and employment. Individuals are needed from this congregation to help lead in these three areas, keeping in mind that the actual doing of the work related to these areas will be shared among the three congregations.

What Can Be Done Right Now to Help?

First is the need to find interpreters. The family that we will be resettling does not speak English; they speak Russian and Turkish. So if you speak either of these languages or know someone who does, please contact Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson. Do not forget to ask your friends, neighbors, or co-workers if they know of anyone who can serve as interpreters. Interpreters will be needed to communicate with the family and for doctor appointments, government interviews, to answer the family's questions, and to assist with emergency situations.

Second, because there will only be a week to ten days notice as to when the family will be arriving, there is also a need to find temporary housing for the family. Host individuals or families are being sought to give the refugee family a temporary place to live. A host family or individual, in addition to board and room, provides emotional support and develops close and personal ties with the family. The host family helps to acquaint their temporary guests with their new surroundings. Sometimes this means introducing them to electricity, stoves, and how to work other appliances. If you would be interested in helping in this way, please contact Pastor or Suzanne.

Finally, pray for this ministry and pray about your role in this ministry.

Who Is The Refugee Family?

The family that LCFS is trying to resettle in the Pottstown area is one of three Meskhetian Turkish families. This Muslim family comprises of a father and mother and their three children, whose ages are somewhere between 5 and 18. Prior to immigrating to the United States they will go through three intensive screening interviews, which includes being interviewed by the Department of Homeland Security and the United Nation High Commissioner on Refugees.

Who Are The Meskhetian Turks?

The Meskhetian Turks are Turkish in origin, gaining the Meskhetian prefix due to the region they come from, Meskhetia. Their religion is Islam, though their practice of faith has been modified over the years. They adhere to dietary regulations of Islam and will not eat pork, will not drink alcohol, and will pray before meals. They would appreciate being resettled near a mosque, though their attendance at mosque is irregular. Religious ceremonies like marriages, births, and deaths are important. Their language is Turkish, though influenced by Uzbek and Russian. Their Russian is excellent and is the lingua franca on the Russian side of the resettlement process. They are close-knit and emphasize an extended family as opposed to a nuclear family. The most recent generation will consist of two parents and two or three children, though the parents may come from seven to eight children families. The Meskhetian Turks consider the extended family as their family.

Average education is eight to ten years of general schooling, though some people are better educated. Many are employed in agriculture, though they also express a desire to work as laborers (mechanics, drivers, maids). When in Uzbekistan, some fulfilled positions in medical and dental clinics as well, though they were not able to continue in those positions in the Krasnodar Krai. Meskhetian Turks work very hard and are enviously noted for their work by others in the Krai.

The Meskhetian Turks live in rural areas, in compact villages consisting of 10,000 to 60,000 people. They live in large extended families and are very close to one another. Meskhetian men are able to drive and some do own cars. As with most people in the Krasnodar Krai, those with enough money have purchased cell phones and the children will know (to varying degrees) how to use a computer and the Internet. Meskhetian women are in charge of cooking and would be familiar with stoves and ovens, but not a microwave or other high-end appliances (blenders, mixers, etc.). The Meskhetians are exposed to conveniences, though they do not dominate their lives. Women generally do not work outside of the home, and girls receive less education than boys.

If you are interested in learning more about welcoming and resettling a refugee family, please contact Pastor Hutchinson or Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810.

