

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • JUNE 2008

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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Summer Schedule



Worship

9 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

10 a.m.

Children's Message

2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month

Holy Communion Weekly



OFFICE HOURS

June 1st through Labor Day Weekend

Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Closed Friday

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

Darlene Jackson
e-mail:
secretary@stjamespottstown.org

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe
Email: sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net
Office: 610-326-2810

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 Darlene 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 '08 Edition: June 15, 2008

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.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost for each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. 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.

Newsletter On-line

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

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

Once in a great while, the need arises to speak out to the vast *minority* of people. That's right,...I'm talking about the few who matter too! What (or who) I refer to are the very limited, but also very important, number of people who find it difficult to come to worship during the summer months when we hold one service at 9 a.m.

Most have expressed enthusiasm and appreciation over the one service idea. Some of the positive comments include that the church is fuller and the participation, especially the singing, is (or at least seems) to be greater. Others have said that it's nice we all get a chance to see other folks from the St. James family of believers who we would otherwise never know or run into.

But there are also those who say that during summer worship it's hard to find a seat if you come in a little bit late. And for others the time isn't what they're used to (either too early or too late for their schedules). And still a few others maybe prefer the way they are able to worship as we do the rest of the year. All of these sentiments are valued and understood.

However,...when you don't come to worship (for whatever reason) you hinder your relationship with God and thereby fail to nurture and feed the faith, which is one of the primary reasons we worship in the first place. God is saddened (and we all miss you too) when you do not come to worship for long periods, in the summer or any other time.

Not because you have failed to meet some religious obligation, but because you neglect being with and listening to and praying to the one who holds your life in his hands. You not only miss communing with God, but also with your sisters and brothers.

So do yourself a favor,...and put aside whatever "issues" you may have with summer worship or whatever reason that prevents you from being closer to God, and join with us Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. starting June 1st through Labor Day. If you give it a chance, both you and God will be glad you did.

PASTOR

WORSHIP NOTES



**Thank you,
we couldn't do it without you!**

Dear Friends:

Thank you for generously supporting the Rejoicing Spirits ministry at the April's *Laugh-in Comedy Night*. The proceeds are being used to spiritually reach our friends with developmental disabilities both locally and nationally.

We welcome you to a Rejoicing Spirits worship service. It is an uplifting experience, and one that will touch your heart.

Again, thank you for your contribution. It makes a difference in the lives of some very special people.

Next Rejoicing Spirits worship
at St. James
Wednesday, June 11, 2008
7 p.m.
All are welcome!

Vacation Bible School

With St. John's U.C.C.

July 20 – July 24

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Get ready for this year's VBS, *Power Lab, Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power* which will be held jointly with and at St. John's United Church of Christ.

VBS is for children in preschool (age 3) through grades 6 (last grade completed). We will have lots of fun sharing God's love with everyone. **To register stop by the VBS table after worship later in June or call the church office at 610-326-2810.**



Volunteer opportunities are available. Please inquire with Suzanne Rigg if you are interested in helping at 610-326-2819 or srigg@thehill.org

Bible Study for June

Bible study begins again this month when we will be studying "*The Parables of Jesus*". This will be for four weeks on **Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at St. James** and on **Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. at Sanatoga Retirement Community, beginning June 3 and 5**. The study, lead by Pastor Hutchinson, will end on June 24 and 26.

Then Pastor will lead "*Lord Teach Us to Pray*" – a Study of the Lord's Prayer. This study class begins July 1st at St. James and July 3rd at Sanatoga Retirement Community and ends on the 29 and 31.

From our former Seminarian – Jerry Lutz

Dear Sisters and Brothers Baptized into the
One Family of God,

Most of us, baptized as infants, do not remember that glorious day when we were claimed as children of God even though many still have carefully preserved white garments that we were dressed in for receiving the sacrament. For some, the item of clothing is new and often purchased as a gift for the great event. For others the clothing, previously worn by a parent or grandparent, honors and remembers the baptism of another. Whether old or new, preserved or discarded, the attire is only worn by us once in our life.

Similarly just as we wear the outfit only once in our life, we are baptized only once. Even if we did not save the clothing, God saved us and has kept us as his forever. The action comes from God and not by anything we can or could possibly do. The gift is free by the grace of God. We did not nor could not do anything or perform any deed, action or work to earn the reward. We did not have to have a self-realization of Jesus as our savior since the act was not ours but the action of the Holy Spirit. God does not store us away in a box put in safekeeping in the back of a closet shelf or attic chest. He keeps us active and alive, able to enjoy all the wonder and glory of Christian life knowing that in our baptism we too shared the death of sin through Christ's death and the resurrection in Christ's resurrection.

If indeed we still own the outfit we wore at baptism or not, there is no need to pull it out and look at it daily since it is only a piece of cloth. What we really do is remember everyday that we are baptized children of God and granted with the promise of eternal life through Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Third Sunday Offering JUNE Recipient

Salvation Army

Our Third Sunday outreach offering for June will be given to support the work of the Salvation Army in Pottstown.

During the interval between Thanksgiving and Christmas, a familiar sight at many locations is the red Salvation Army kettle with volunteers (including St. James members) ringing the bell to attract givers.

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

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

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



JULY - School supplies for children
AUGUST - Missionaries
SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Community Meal

This month, volunteers are needed June 26th to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up for the community meal. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

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 7 a.m. on WNTD 990 AM. Listen, and be renewed by God's amazing grace.

WELCA - Pot Luck

Join our end of season event for WELCA in Horn Hall on **Monday June 16th at 6:30 p.m.** Bring your favorite dish. Plates, beverage, utensils will be provided by WELCA.



Salvation Army Community Lunch

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

Blood Pressure Checks

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **June 1st** after the 9 a.m. service.

Blood Drive

The next blood drive is **Monday, July 7th** from **2 - 7 p.m.** Please contact Marge Fegley at 610-323-3936 to make an appointment to give.

Spring Rummage Sale June 2nd and 3rd

Please have your CLEAN, ready-to-use items packed to bring to the church Sunday, June 1. Place them in Horn Hall, in the marked area, and plan to shop!!

- Shopping for St. James members Monday 4-6 p.m.
- Public sale Tuesday 9-noon & 12:30-1:30 p.m. (bag sale)

Second Annual Reading Phillies Baseball Game June 22, 2008

Enjoy the fun and fellowship and plan to attend the Reading Phillies' baseball game on June 22. **Game time is 1:05 p.m. Tickets are \$7 and are on sale after worship in Horn Hall.** Please see Vickie Kirsten for tickets or more information.

Question: “What’s Darfur?”

Actually, the question is; ‘*Where is Darfur,...and what’s going on there,...and why should I care?*’

Answer:

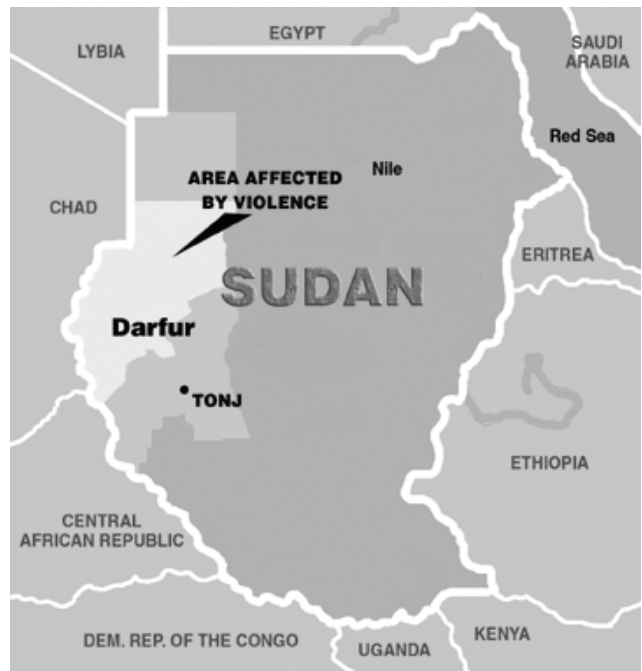
Darfur is a region in the eastern African country of Sudan (near the Middle East on the map)

- The government of Sudan is engaged in a civil war against rebels who are fighting against what they perceive to be injustices by the government
- According to the United Nations Sudan has sponsored and carried out atrocities against innocent civilians as part of that war. The result has been the massive killing and torture and rape of the citizenry.
- An estimated 250,000 people have been killed and over 2 million chased from their homes which have been burned. This has been going on now, without interference from the outside world, for five years.
- The government troops and the murdering militia groups it supports represent mostly Arab Muslims, while the citizens under attack are mostly black and predominantly Christian.
- President Bush and the U.S. government has called what is happening in Darfur “genocide”. Sudan has resisted peace keeping troops from the African Union and the U.N. and refuses to admit what is happening.

- Sudan sells China most of its oil (its primary source of income as a nation) and the proceeds from that helps the government continue to pay for its oppression and massacre of innocents. China has done little to try to influence different behavior from its trading partner, Sudan.

- As people of God who were taught by Jesus to love and care for and help our neighbor (see ‘Good Samaritan’ story) we are called to help ALL people

- If you’d like to know more or even help; ‘**Save Darfur**’ is an alliance of over 170 faith-based and humanitarian groups and individuals who want to help try to stop the genocide. You can look them up on line or check out the info. and materials available in Horn Hall.



MEMBER NEWS

Baptisms

We welcome to the Lord's family



Darius Jorell and Mercedes Marie Moldonado, son and daughter of Chelle` Krasley.

Eden Elisabeth Clancy, daughter of Sherry and Don Clancy.

Emily Joan Weaver, daughter of Stephanie Groff.

Congratulations to our graduates

Ashley M. Rose, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pa with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentrations in Operations Management and Management Information Systems

Emily L. Rose
Metro Beauty Academy, Allentown, PA
Cosmetology

Jessica Mitchell
Valedictorian,
Pottsgrove High School



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.

June Birthdays

1 – Michael Eshbach; 2 – Kathleen Degler, Thomas Mitchell, Peter Rheel; 3 – Charles Moore, Mary Vickerman; 4- Rosemary Houck; 5 – Gloria Skora; 6 – John Kochel; 7 – Virginia Ritner; 8 – Ashley Bush, June Henninger; 10 – Debbie Hutchison; 11 – Bob Rheel; 13 – Kirstin Gulotta, Anna Neiffer; 14 – Eric Sandoe; 15 – Martha Williams; 17 – Don Clancy, Bernice Lengel, Karl Moore; 18 – Margaret Bickel, Eugene Johnson, Dot Nagy, Kristian Olock, Ashley Taylor; 19 – Bob Reber; 20 – Linn Bierman, Gladys Evans, John Chaback; 23 – Mary Kochel, Brenna Horger, Mercedes Maldonado, Darius Maldonado; 25 – Evan Kirsten, Phyllis Lengyel; 26 – Kim Culp, Linda Ferreri; 27 – Paul Casner; 28 – Robert DuBois; 30 – Mike Medvetz

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

New Address

Virginia Davis

53A Hillside Drive

Pottstown, PA 19464

THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you to Larry Wert for mowing the grass and for the other outdoor work he has done.

Thank you to John Ungerman for painting the lines in our parking lot.

Thank you to Jon Fink and Herb Ziegler for repairing the office intercom system for the back door entrance.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Apr-2008</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$21,561.97	\$ 87,909.25
Expenses	<u>23,656.88</u>	<u>104,760.82</u>
Net Income	(\$2,094.91)	(\$16,851.57)
<u>Regular Envelopes</u>		
Received	\$15,422.00	\$66,781.25
Needed*	<u>19,498.94</u>	<u>77,995.77</u>
Over (Under)	(\$4,076.94)	(\$11,214.52)
<u>Third Sunday Offering</u>		
Collected	\$297.00	- Visiting Nurse Association
<u>Capital Campaign</u>		
		- <u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	<u>Apr-2008</u> \$3,918.00	<u>Campaign</u> \$227,421.75

*Amount required to balance the budget.

Council Member Contact

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

Ron Schafer - President 610-326-4814
Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

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

Vickie Kirsten - Secretary 484-300-4915
Email: vjkirsten@comcast.net

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

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

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

Jim Irwin 323-1511
Email: jei1013hotmail.com

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

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

David Hartzman 610-909-5806
Email: Crittersdad1949@aol.com

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

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

Carol Keller 610-326-1013
Email: shane550@aol.com

Jessica Mitchell 610-970-4250
Email: jrabbit23@comcast.net

THANK YOU NOTES

Thanks to Olga Christman for taking care of having all of our paraments as well as Pastor's vestments cleaned and pressed. They will look even more beautiful!

Thanks to Dawn Richard and her family for "pinch hitting" for us and cleaning the church for a couple of weeks after the death of Larry Kehler.

Bob Clouser for the lovely 'Danbury Mint' clock with illuminated stained glass picture of Jesus. The clock now hangs now in Horn Hall.

Thank you to the many who contributed food and beverage for our Social Justice Concert.

Thanks to Marge Fegley, Ellen Ibach and Debbie Hutchinson for help with the refreshments for the Social Justice Concert.

Thank you to John Ungerman, Larry Wert, Chipper Meadowcroft and Mike Lunn for the temporary solution to our internal leak in the sanctuary. It is working great!!



Dear People of St. James,

Thank you for all your cards sending us your sympathies and your prayers of comfort during this difficult time. We very much appreciate your love and support.

Helen and Earl Moyer

Dear St. James members and staff,

Thank you all so much for the care, concern and support during Larry's illness and passing. I know he was deeply touched by the visits from Pastor Hutchinson and all the cards and calls he received while he was home. And we as a family appreciate the heartfelt sympathy since his passing.

Sincerely,
Cindy Kehler and Family



Dear friend at St. James,

Greeting from Nepal! Thank you so much for the generous gift you gave to our support in March. It is a tremendous help. We also want to thank you for your prayers. Please pray that the leaders of Nepal will do what is best for the people. God bless you.

In Him,
Becky and Steve Thorson

I want to thank the entire congregation for their never-ending faith and love throughout my years here at St. James. As I prepare myself to head off to college in August, I can be assured that all of you are always supportive of me in everything that I do. It is the biggest honor to know that I'm going away with a scholarship from my St. James family; a family that can never be replaced. There is no doubt in my mind that every member here will always be a part of me, and I look forward to the chances I get to come home and be around all of you. Keep me in your prayers as I embark on this new journey in my life. I will miss all of you dearly.

Gratefully,
Jessica Mitchell

Work Mission Trip

On Sunday April 27th, ten members of St. James travels from the church to New Orleans by way of Atlanta. There the group was housed at Grace Lutheran Church in the Lake View area of Northern New Orleans. We were met there by Mike Adler, a member of Grace Lutheran, who showed us around the building and gave us a brief tour and history of how the church had 8 feet of water in the building during the hurricane. We then went on a motor tour of the area. Lave View is an upper middle class area, mostly white, but only around 40% of the homes are repaired and being lived in. Another 40% are still standing in the same state they were in right after the flood.

On Monday morning we went to the Musician's Village area where we met with Bob Marye of New Orleans Habitat for Humanity. Bob gave us a brief tour of the building site and some information on Habitat and what they are doing in New Orleans. They are getting 55,000 volunteers a year in New Orleans to help with the rebuilding, but still there is a lot of work yet undone. After the meeting, we took a side trip to the Lower 9th Ward. This is mostly a black area, but was hardest hit by the flooding. There still is little that has been done in this area. We went thru this area last year and the only difference is a lot of the homes have been taken down. Only about 10% of the homes have been repaired and are being lived in.

On Tuesday we were assigned a work site in Harvey, which is across the river from New Orleans. What they refer to as the West Bank. We went to work on finishing a home for Ms. Lorena Johnson on Jefferson Street. Lorena is a single woman who has been working two jobs and many hours on her new home. She was a joy to meet, as she was so proud of her new home and what it meant to her. On Wednesday, we participated in the Habitat ceremony to officially turn over the house to Lorena. This was an interesting plus for all of us, as we had never been this involved with a homeowner taking possession of her new property. There are still inspections to pass and she will not move in until around Memorial Day.

On Thursday, we were assigned to another work site that was in various stages of completion. Our group worked on putting up roof trusses and decking on one home and siding another home with HardiBoard siding. The chief coordinator for Habitat did surprise us with his leather Kilt and bagpipes on Friday morning and gave us a personal concert. He also played during lunch, marching up and down the street for our enjoyment. One of the other coordinators joined in at lunch playing the trombone, but you had to look around to realize he was playing from on the top of one of the rooftops. After all New Orleans is all about the music.

We were also blessed in sharing our housing with a small group from Connecticut. We were able to share bread with them and also enjoyed sharing our devotion in the evening with them. As it turned out, they were very musically gifted and led us in musical devotions which I think was a high for everyone. It is always good to compare our program with that of others and to break bread together. On our final workday, they also came to the Habitat site and worked with us there.

We did have time to spend in the French Quarter of New Orleans on two occasions during the week. Walking that area is interesting, with its buildings and history. Jazz Fest was in New Orleans the weekends we were there, which brought a lot of additional traffic. It always makes you feel good when the average person you meet sees your shirt or identification badges and takes the time to thank you for coming to the area to help rebuild. This happened several times at various locations during the week.

In all, I think it was a very good workweek and a positive experience for everyone. I think everyone is willing to go back again and hopefully we can take a larger group next year. There is something for everyone of every skill level and ability to do at one of these sites.

This trip was made possible by you, the members of St. James, by supporting our Spaghetti dinners. Our most recent dinner in April brought in 223 people. Thru this we are able to raise over \$3,000 with the Thrivent matching funds to defray the costs of going on these trips. We thank you for your support and hope to see everyone at the next dinner in November.

Ted Baer, Work Mission Coordinator