

# the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • MARCH 2009

OUR MISSION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

***“We welcome all to receive God's love through Christ and  
to share it with the world.”***

## In This Edition Look for...

Office Notes	<i>Page 2</i>
Pastor's Note	<i>Page 3</i>
Worship Notes	<i>Pages 3-6</i>
Discipleship, Fellowship and Service	<i>Pages 7, 8</i>
Member News	<i>Page 9</i>
Council and New Member Info	<i>Page 10</i>

## Sunday Schedule

### Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

### Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

### Adult Education and Confirmation Classes

9:30 a.m.

### Youth Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m.

### Holy Communion Weekly

### Midweek Lenten Worship & Soup Suppers

Wednesday Evenings  
Soup Supper at 6 p.m.  
Worship at 7 p.m.



## OFFICE HOURS

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

**Friday**  
CLOSED

## **TELEPHONE**

610-326-2810

[www.stjamespottstown.org](http://www.stjamespottstown.org)

## STAFF

### **Ministers**

Each and Every Member of St. James

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson

e-mail: [pastorh@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:pastorh@stjamespottstown.org)  
home 610-718-0313

### **Director of Discipleship**

Suzanne Rigg

e-mail: [srigg@thehill.org](mailto:srigg@thehill.org)  
office 610-326-2810  
home 610-970-4865

### **Secretary**

Darlene Jackson

e-mail: [secretary@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:secretary@stjamespottstown.org)

### **Director of Music Ministries**

Sharon MacCabe

email: [sharonmaccabe@comcast.net](mailto:sharonmaccabe@comcast.net)  
office: 610-326-2810

### **Custodian**

Glenn Yerger

contact: 610-326-2810

### **Missionaries**

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson  
Kathmandu, Nepal

### **Newsletter Editor**

Dawn Detweiler  
[newsletterstj@wi.rr.com](mailto: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 April 2009 Edition: March 15, 2009**

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to [newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org](mailto: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 and Bulletin Sponsorships**

Just a reminder that we do not put flowers on the altar during Lent (Sundays of March 1- April 5). Please feel free to sponsor the eternal light or the bulletins during that time. Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. Remember that **no one is automatically reserved a date from the previous year**. You must request the date each year that you want to sponsor.

### **Snow Cancellations**

Please watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or by checking their website at [wfmz.com](http://wfmz.com) (look for St. James ELC), listen to WPAZ radio (AM 1370), or call the church for a message regarding cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather.

## A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

*Lent is a time* for us to more deliberately think about our relationship with God. A relationship that is based on the fact that, through our baptism into Jesus Christ, God will always love us; forgive us; be with us; and fulfill his promise of salvation to us. Lent is also a time to ponder that, as part of this love, we all have been given many good things by God: things which are not just for our own use, but to his glory and for the betterment of the world.

*With guidance from the Stewardship Committee*, we will be encouraged during the Lenten season to reflect more deeply on our responsibility to be accountable to God for these gifts. And, we will look at ways in which each of us can, even in some small way, say 'Yes' to God's call for our good use of the gifts we have received.

*So each week*, in Sunday worship as well as mid-week services Wednesday nights, we will focus on ways in which we can more creatively share some of the gifts that God has given to us. Realizing all that has been given to us by God, we will prayerfully consider the following truths: that,

**Our Lives Are Not Our Own**  
**Our Abilities Are Not Our Own**  
**Our Time Is Not Our Own**  
**Our Possessions Are Not Our Own**  
**The World and Our Legacy in that Is Not Our Own**

I hope and pray that we all put to good use the season of Lent by taking advantage of this opportunity to grow in our faith relationship with the God who loves us - no matter what. As we receive that constant promise of love and forgiveness, may we be moved to change some area of our lives to better share these gifts from God.

Peace be with you.

**PASTOR**

## World Day of Prayer Worship March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. St. James Lutheran Church

**"In Christ there are many members, yet one body."**

This service will be held here at St. James and is sponsored by the Pottstown Church Women United. Our Christian sisters of Papua, New Guinea have prepared the service, and slides and music from that part of the world will be shared in worship. All are invited to attend. A fellowship time follows worship.

### New Prayer Practice

Beginning the first Sunday in Lent, during the prayer time in worship, we will pray for a different church every week. **The first Sunday** of the month we will pray for a fellow Lutheran church within our conference/synod. Then prayer will be said for a local non-Lutheran church in the Pottstown **on the second Sunday of the month**. On the **third Sunday** we will pray for a random church within the nation where a problem or issue has arisen (e.g. Coatesville fires), and finally **on the fourth Sunday** we will pray for a church in a foreign land. As part of that, we will send a letter to the church we pray for and advise them that we have done this for them.

The point of all this is to be faithful in our call to pray for others and not just ourselves and to pray for "the Holy Catholic (Christian) Church" which means everywhere and anywhere and not just within our denomination, our locale, or our country. Advising the people we are praying for them will be a gift of grace that we hope will bring them to greater faith and give them a greater sense of God's peace and love.

Lastly, praying for other churches reminds them and us that we do ministry together, as one body of Christ, joined by the Spirit and faith in Christ...only from different traditions and locations.

## Sunday Lenten Worship

During the season of Lent we will be using communion setting four from the Lutheran worship book and hymnal *With One Voice*. We have used parts of this communion setting over the past few years.

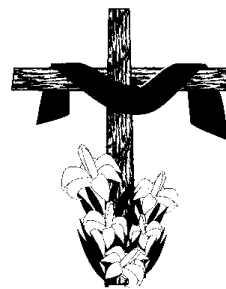
## Midweek Lenten Worship

Midweek Lenten worship continues on **Wednesdays in March - March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup>, and March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and ends on April 1.** During our mid-week Lenten services on Wednesday nights we will be using the Evening Prayer service by Marty Haugen and focus on the idea that our lives are not our own as each week we will look at a different aspect of this concept. So please come and enjoy the delicious soups and salads, but most especially come and learn and **grow in your faith** as we make the Lenten journey to the Cross, and then to the Resurrection.

## Lenten Soup Suppers

During the season of Lent, we are again holding our traditional mid-week Lenten soup and salad suppers prior to worship. We will be inviting the Rejoicing Spirits folks to the meal on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Meals are served at 6 p.m. and services begin at 7 p.m. each Wednesday up until Holy Week.** We enjoy a delicious variety of soups, along with wonderfully fresh and creative salads and good breads. Visitors are welcomed, so bring with you anyone who would like to come. Please sign up in Horn Hall if you can so we can better plan for the meal.



## Why does the date of Easter change every year?

*Around 325 A.D. (the time of the Council of Nicea) the early Christians decided to celebrate Easter on the Sunday following the full moon that follows the spring equinox. There are various reasons for this that have little to do with spring and more relating to Old Testament celebrations and the Julian calendar used in Western Christianity. The Eastern Orthodox Church uses a different calendar and thus has a different date for Easter than we do every year. But for us, Easter will always be celebrated some time between March 22 and April 25. This year, it's April 12!*

## Why then does the season of Lent start when it does?

*Christian tradition has designated this to be a period leading up to Easter in which fasting, discipline and a more deliberate effort to turn towards God is practiced. The season is based on imitating the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert in which he fasted, prayed to God his Father, and practiced the discipline of denying his self and temptation. Since Sundays are days in which we celebrate the resurrection, Lent is calculated as the 40 days before Easter (less Sundays) to the beginning of the season (Ash Wednesday).*



March's Rejoicing Spirits will be incorporated into a regular Wednesday night Lenten worship service. We hope that many of the regular Rejoicers will join all us for worship. Our next **regular Rejoicing Spirits worship will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** Please note that this is the third Wednesday of the month and not the second.

### New Contact Information for the Synod Offices

The offices of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod have relocated from Norristown to Philadelphia. The offices are now located on the first floor of the Wiedemann Center on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

The mailing address for the new office is:

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
Wiedemann Center  
7241 Germantown Avenue,  
Philadelphia, PA 19119

MAIN NUMBER -- 267.323.3737  
FAX -- 267.323.3777

### Worship at Parkview

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will once again venture down to the Parkhouse Nursing Home to lead a worship service that Sunday afternoon. This is a short service for about 75 persons who gather to worship God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. We read bible lessons, sing hymns, say prayers and also celebrate Holy Communion as part of that service. **The service begins at 2:30 p.m.** and lasts about a half hour. In the past we have met at St. James at around 1:30 to travel down there together. So if anyone would be interesting in helping out with that, please let Pastor know.



### Women of the ELCA Upper MontCo Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg on **Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Ellen Gallagher presenting *Esther: Two Queens in Persia (Esther 2:17a)*.

The APRIL Bible Study will be held on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009**, at St. James Lutheran Church, Pottstown, with Betty Darocha presenting *Esther: For Such a Time as This (Esther 4:14)*.

**All women** are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *The Hidden Hand of God: A study of wisdom in Ruth, Daniel & Esther*. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends! We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.

## Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

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

### Opening the Book of Faith It is not too late to join!

*Opening the Book of Faith* is an invitation to experience the Bible as a book of faith. This course introduces practical methods and approaches to studying Scripture, and then reinforces the basics of scriptural interpretation with integrated studies that build biblical fluency.

Both individuals new to studying the Bible and long time students of the Bible are encouraged to join in this class. **The course meets in the Blue Room.**

### Beginning on March 22 Rediscovering the Book of Faith

This study explores how the Bible came to be our Book of Faith by providing an introduction of the creation, collection, and canonization of Scripture. Participants will discover where the Bible came from, will better understand how it was put together, and will examine the contribution the Reformation made toward scriptural literacy.

### 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.

## Third Sunday Offering March Recipient Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities and the Feinstein Challenge

The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities (PCRC) provides **various forms of assistance to people in need in the Greater Pottstown Area.** Resources for the work of PCRC come from different sources including the United Way, the religious communities, individuals, civic organizations and businesses. All funds raised and all donations collected are greatly appreciated and enable this organization to fulfill its mission.

Raising funds can be a difficult task so PCRC looks for ways to maximize the donations received. That is why PCRC is once again participating in the Feinstein Challenge. For a twelfth straight year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1,000,000 among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide using it to help them raise funds during March and April 2009. **For all money and food items received by the Cluster from March 1 through April 30, 2009, PCRC is permitted to count the financial contributions in dollars and food donations as \$1 per item.** This information is then submitted to the Feinstein Foundation in early May and the Cluster receives a proportionate share of the \$1 million posted by Mr. Feinstein based on the amounts raised by all agencies in the country participating in the Challenge by the end of June.

Even though the Cluster does not receive a dollar-for-dollar match on the funds raised, the additional money still helps PCRC help others.

**Please consider making a financial contribution and/or food donation during the months of March and April either through St. James' Third Sunday Offering in March or through the ongoing food collection that St. James sponsors.**

### Upcoming Third Sunday Offering Schedule

APRIL - Visiting Nurse Association  
MAY - Volunteer Home Care  
JUNE - Salvation Army

# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

---

## Crucifer and Acolyte Training

On **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** following the 10:45 a.m. worship, we will be training all young people (**1<sup>st</sup> grade or older**) interested in becoming a crucifer or an acolyte. Those who have served as crucifers or acolytes are welcome (and encouraged) to refresh their understanding and to encourage others. You will be fitted with an alb and given instructions. Parents are welcome to sit in! **Please let Suzanne Rigg (610-362-2810) know if you plan to attend.**



## Time To Order Easter Flowers

To order please use the order sheet attached to this newsletter or pick up an envelope from Horn Hall. Orders need to be in **no later than March 29.**

## Blood Pressure Checks

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **March 1<sup>st</sup>** after the 8 and 10:45 a.m. worship services.

## 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 **March 11.** Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

## Peanut Butter Cups and Hungarian Nut Rolls for Easter

The Relay for Life Team is once again selling peanut butter cups and Hungarian nut rolls for Easter. Peanut butter cups are sold for \$10/ dozen and are available in either milk or dark chocolate. The Hungarian nut rolls are \$11 per roll. If you would like to purchase either one of these items, please see Olga Christman, Pat Baer or any member of the Relay for Life team. Thanks for your support!



## Spaghetti Dinner April 17 4:30 to 7 p.m.

The next Work Mission Spaghetti Dinner is being planned for Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> in Horn Hall. The menu and price remains at \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets will be available starting later in March from Ted Baer or any Work Mission Team member.

Help support this year's Work Mission to Mississippi by buying a ticket and joining us for dinner. Donations will also be greatly accepted, if you are not able to attend. As in the past, matching funds will be provided by Thrivent through the Upper Montgomery Chapter #31392.

## Scholarship Fund Applications Available

A \$1000 a year scholarship is available to be given to youth as monies for college or post high school education. Allocation of the scholarship money will be dependent on the number of approved candidates as determined by the Scholarship Committee. Applications are available from the office and **must be submitted completed no later that March 15, 2009.**

The following criteria will be considered when granting these scholarships:

- \* Applicant must be an active member of St. James for a minimum of one year.
- \* Applicant must be active in St. James' ministries.
- \* Applicant must be a graduating Senior of their high school and are eligible to receive scholarship monies up to five years from their high school graduation date.
- \* Applicant must graduate with a minimum 2.5 GPA or its equivalent.
- \* Applicant must be accepted into or participating in a recognized program of studies (ex. college, junior college, community college, nursing school, trade school, etc.)
- \* Applicant must have a satisfactory record of school citizenship and attendance.
- \* Applicant may apply more than once for this scholarship if they met the above criterion.

If you have any questions about this exciting program, please contact the office for further details. **Don't forget to make the March 15th deadline.**



## Poems by our *Seasons of the Spirit* Adult Class

Recently the adult Sunday morning class that meets in the Adult Study Classroom had a lesson that asked them to write a poem. Here are few for your enjoyment.

Poem Type: Haiku (*A Japanese poem composed of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five morae, usually containing a season word*).

Jesus our Healer  
Cleanse us by your very Word  
Proclaim it freely

Poem Type: Diamite (*This poem moves from one word to its opposite over five lines*).

God  
Kind, patient, generous  
Healing, loving, giving, caring, guiding  
Eternally, compassionately, indefinitely  
Devil

Devil  
Sneaky, evil, cruel  
Tricking, tempting, fooling, scaring, hindering  
Harmfully, eternally, terribly  
God

Poem type: Seven-line poem (*this poem moves form one noun to a similar noun over seven lines*).

Lent  
Quiet, somber  
Fasting, praying, studying  
Soup, salad, bread, butter  
Eating, serving, cleaning  
Happy, fulfilled  
Easter

# MEMBER NEWS

---



## Baptism

We welcome to the Lord's family:  
*Jersey Anne Mazurek*, daughter of **Julie Mazurek**

## March Birthdays

1- Merle Pace; 2 – Marvin Kehler;  
5 – Immy Moore; 7 – Rusty Bealer, Robert DuVal;  
11 – Tracie Rheel, Pattie Schaeffer;  
12 – John Jacobs; 13 – Mya Detweiler, Sylvia Groff, Adam Hoehne, Jennifer Yashin;  
14 – Todd Reber; 16 – Sam Giraldi;  
18 – Katie Johnson; 20 – Cindy Kehler;  
21 – Jennifer Mittura, Alison O'Donnell;  
23 – James Reidnauer, Iva Trate; 24 – Krista Schmalbach;  
25 – James Warner, Larry Wert;  
27 – Beth Cocci, John Ungerman, Ray Yocom;  
30 – Elsie Drauschak, Jon Fink, Sherrie Hedrick;  
31 – Barbara Drauschak

## Address Change

Life long members of St. James, **Bob & Dot Wien**, have moved into Manatawny Manor. Their new address is:

Manatawny Manor  
A19  
Old Schuylkill Road  
Pottstown, PA 19464

They would appreciate cards and visits from their St. James family.

## Thank You Notes

Thank you to all who supported the Youth Hoagie Sale on Super Bowl Sunday. Over \$300 was raised to offset the cost of future youth events.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Through your donations and with the matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, we raised \$232 for the Cluster Outreach Center and donated 40 cans of soup.

Thank you for the lovely flowers you sent to me.

Virginia Kerr

Dear Friends,  
I am writing today to thank you for your recent support of the mission and ministry of Lutheran World Relief. Your generosity, encouragement and compassion help improve the lives of impoverished families across the globe and we deeply appreciate your gift.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Lutheran World Relief and those we serve in the name of Christ.

With gratitude,  
John A Nunes  
President and CEO

## Meet our New Members – Part 2

**Michele and Timothy Horger** both were born and raised in Philadelphia. They attended Arch Bishop Ryan High School graduating a year apart from each other. Michele is a graduate of Millersville University and Kutztown University. Prior to staying home with her children she worked as a special education teacher and a reading specialist. Tim is a graduate of Drexel University and Penn State University. He works as an electrical engineer. They have two children, Colin and Brenna. In addition to spending time with family, Michele likes to exercise and Tim likes sports.

**Wesley Moyer** was born in Reading and grew up in Boyertown. He is a graduate of Boyertown Senior High School. Wes works in maintenance. When he is not working he enjoys music and Eagles football.

**Kimberly and Caleb Weaner** were married at St. James. Kim was born in Phoenixville, but grew up in Sanatoga. She is a graduate of St. Pius X High School and of Millersville University. She is a product manager for Globus Medical's product development department working on spinal implants. Caleb was born and raised in Moore, West Virginia. He is a graduate of Tucker County High School and attended Virginia Tech. Caleb works as an electronics manufacturer at Advanced Product Design and Manufacturing. Kim and Caleb both enjoy reading while Kim also likes traveling, working out and field hockey, and Caleb likes woodworking and biking.

## 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](mailto:pattedbaer@verizon.net)

**Cyndi Krasley- Vice-President**  
484-945-0165

**Barbara Ungerman - Secretary**  
610-718-9368  
Email: [bungerman@comcast.net](mailto:bungerman@comcast.net)

**Vickie Kirsten** 484-300-4915  
Email: [vjkirsten@comcast.net](mailto:vjkirsten@comcast.net)

**Sherry Clancy - Treasurer** 610-323-5977  
Email: [srclancy@comcast.net](mailto:srclancy@comcast.net)

**Ron Schafer** 610-326-4814  
Email: [ronslibrary@comcast.net](mailto:ronslibrary@comcast.net)

**Mike Lunn** 610-367-8762  
Email: [lunns2@dejazzd.com](mailto:lunns2@dejazzd.com)

**Julie Hauck** 610-385-7308  
Email: [\\_jlynne65@ptd.net](mailto:_jlynne65@ptd.net)

**Scott Strichik** 610-327-3108  
Email: [sstrichik@verizon.net](mailto:sstrichik@verizon.net)

**Laurie O'Connell** 610-323-5787  
Email: [loconnelljr@concast.net](mailto:loconnelljr@concast.net)

**Tracie Rheel** 610-323-7051  
Email: [trheel@comcast.net](mailto:trheel@comcast.net)

**Candy Koons** 610-327-0458  
Email: [itp494@aol.com](mailto:itp494@aol.com)

**Carol Keller** 610-326-1013  
Email: [shane550@aol.com](mailto:shane550@aol.com)

