

the Spirit of St. James



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

Pastor's Message

March Madness

This month the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) holds its annual college basketball tournament. Sixty-four teams will qualify to participate in games that eventually eliminate all but one who will be crowned the champion. But it's commonly held among fans of the tournament, that the best part of this event taking place over several weekends, are the upsets that happen from time to time. Without fail, there are almost always a few teams that nobody gives a chance to win their game, who defeat a much more powerful team that nobody thought could lose. That is why the tournament came to be nicknamed "March Madness".

People are likely drawn to this part of the games because these kinds of "upsets" are so very much different from the norm in our lives. What and who we see as the powerful and mighty, almost always prevail in the real world. There are almost never any upsets of the status of things, the ranking of people, and the priorities and outcomes that are all too predictable in life.

But as we journey during the season of Lent towards the cross that Jesus hung on in Jerusalem, we are reminded of yet another different outcome than what was anticipated. While the powerful religious leaders in control at that time had the advantage over Jesus and all the odds in their favor - God was planning a result that was different than what everybody expected. While the might of the Roman government had been "undefeated" at that time - God was about to turn the death sentence and execution on its head with a final score that defied what the experts of the day said would happen. And while odds makers thought that Jesus' total demise was "a sure thing", there was brewing in that tomb something that would upset the odds; there was at work a plan to defeat those in power and jar the entire world forever as Jesus would be crowned champion over death.

We are not there yet, but count on the fact that it will come; that it will happen. And as it happens with Jesus, so be assured that it will happen with you. Take time during this Lenten season to ponder the reality of that grand upset despite what might look like the chances against it, because God makes it happen all the time and it will happen with you. You can bet on it!

Blessings,

Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:10 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. – noon
Friday
CLOSED

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610-326-2810
www.stjamespottstown.org

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Each and Every Member of St. James

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contact: 610-326-2810

Newsletter Editor
Dawn Detweiler
contact: newslettersti@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for April 2010 Edition: March 15, 2010

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to newslettersti@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

Just a reminder that **we do not put flowers on the altar during Lent (Sundays of February 21 – March 28)**. 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 and sponsorship is \$15 for the eternal light and \$15 for the bulletins.

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).

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Jan 2010	Year to Date
INCOME	\$20,115.73	\$20,115.73
EXPENSES	- 22,832.35	- 22,832.25
NET INCOME	(\$2,716.62)	(\$2,716.62)

REGULAR ENVELOPES

Received	\$ 14,660.00	\$14,660.00
Needed*	19,718.25	19,718.25
Over (Under)	(\$5, 058.25)	(\$5,058.25)

THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING

Manatawny Manor

Collected	\$ 347.00	
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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

	Jan - 2010	Total Campaign
Income	\$ 3,728.00	\$417,067.75

*Amount required to balance the budget.

WORSHIP NOTES

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on **Friday, March 5th at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, corner of Grace and Franklins Streets at 2 p.m.** sponsored by Pottstown Women United. The theme is *"Let everything that had breath praise God."* The women of Cameroon, West Africa invite us to their country through slides, worship and song. They remind us that with every breath we renew the gift of life, and for this we praise God. Everyone is welcome!

Palm/Passion Sunday 2010

March 28

Worship at 8 and 10:45 a.m.



This year we will be celebrating Palm/Passion Sunday with two services. We will also once again make use of the eco-palms, which are full palm branches. Because of the palm procession, we will **first gather for worship in Horn Hall and then proceed to the narthex.** We plan to sing the "Palms" and worship will also have a dramatic reading of the Passion according to St. Luke. Please come and worship on this special Sunday and invite your friends and neighbors.



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 14th at 7 p.m.** We will be celebrating our 5th anniversary so please plan to join us for worship and a special celebration.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Midweek Lenten worship continues on **Wednesdays in March – March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th.** During our mid-week Lenten services on Wednesday nights we will be using the Evening Prayer service by Marty Haugen and focus on our spiritual health. 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 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.

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 welcome, so bring with you anyone who would like to come. Please sign up in Horn Hall so we can better plan for the meal.

Soup, Salad and Bread is Needed for Suppers

Soup, bread, and salad are needed for our mid-week Lenten Soup Suppers. **If you can supply any of these food items please sign up** in Horn Hall or contact Suzanne at 610-326-2810. Food items may be donated or expenses can be reimbursed. Please ask Suzanne for more details.

EVENTS and WORSHIP in HOLY WEEK

Thursday, April 1st Soup Supper at 6 p.m.

Please join us for a simple soup and salad supper prior to worship on Maundy Thursday. Sign up in Horn Hall if you plan to attend.

Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 p.m.

There will be a traditional **Maundy Thursday worship at 7 p.m.**, with Holy Communion celebrated using the *Unfailing Light* evening Holy Communion setting by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl. At the end of the service, the altar will be stripped to symbolize the stripping and humiliation of Jesus at the cross.

Friday, April 2nd Prayer Walk



On Good Friday, April 2nd, the Pottstown Clergy Association will again be sponsoring a Good Friday Processional. **We will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the green between Emmanuel and Zion's UCC Churches on Hanover Street.** The processional is about a mile long and lasts about an hour. We will stop at nine prayer stations and pray for various aspects of community life.

Good Friday Worship at 7 p.m.

One service will be held on Good Friday at 7 p.m. recognizing the day that Jesus was crucified.



Sunday, April 4th The Resurrection of our Lord Worship at 8 and 10:45 a.m.

Worship includes **Holy Communion and special music and Potluck Breakfast between services at 9:15 a.m.** There will be no adult education or confirmation classes on this day. **An Easter Egg Hunt with a devotion for children will begin at 10:15 a.m.**

A sign up sheet will be available in Horn Hall starting on March 14th to sign up if you plan to attend the breakfast. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of coffee, juice, supplies, etc. If you would like to volunteer your time to set up, help serve, or clean up, please see Suzanne Rigg.

There will also be a collection box in Horn Hall on March 21st and 28th for anyone who would like to donate small candy (miniature peanut butter cups, chocolate eggs, etc.) and other small prizes (stickers, crayons, playdough, puzzles, etc.) for the egg hunt.

Easter Flowers and Music Sponsorships

This year in addition to ordering flowers to decorate the church for Easter Sunday, one **may also sponsor the music** that will enhance our worship on that day. Sponsor envelopes can be found in Horn Hall or can be obtained by contacting the office.

Cost for sponsorships are as follows:
Lilies (4-5) Bloom - \$9,
Hyacinths (3 blooms) - \$7.50,
Tulips (8 bulbs and 7" pot) - \$9,
Music - \$20 (suggested amount)



**Orders/Sponsorships are
due March 22, 2010.**

Worship at Parkview

On March 14th 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.

Adult Study Class

Seasons of the Spirit 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. **Individuals can join this class anytime.**

Bible Study Continues

During the season of Lent, Pastor will continue on the life of the apostle Peter as recorded in the New Testament. Issues such as: forgiveness, courage and boldness, loyalty and acceptance will be just some of the areas of Peter's relationship with Jesus Christ that we will be looking at with this study.

You can choose to attend **every Tuesday evening, from 7- 8 p.m. in the adult study classroom, ending March 23, or Thursday mornings at Sanatoga Ridge Community from 10 – 11 a.m. concluding on March 25.**

Sunday Morning Adult Education In the Blue Room

For the remaining Sundays during the Season of Lent we will **engage in a study and discussion of the Ten Commandments.**

*"Been there, done that" you say? "Oh, I already know them", you're thinking? Not so fast. While most of us think we know what they say and what they are all about, we often forget that Jesus said he came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. What does that mean in conjunction with our understanding of the laws of God? How might these decrees of God, when looked at in the light of Christ, have more meaning in our life? Are they possible to keep and if not, why even bother with them? "**Come and see**" as the apostle Philip once said to a skeptic.*

Last class is March 28.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Community Lunch

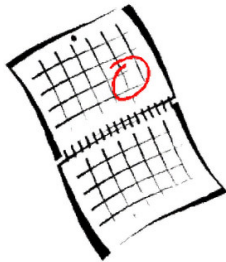
Each second Wednesday of the month a group of volunteers from St. James prepares and serves the community lunch at the Salvation Army. **This month it will be held March 10.** Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Blood Pressure Checks Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **March 14th** after each service.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The annual **St. James Picnic** will be on Saturday, **July 31st** from Noon – 4 p.m. at Warwick Park- Pavilion #2



WELCA Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars! The WELCA Spring Rummage Sale will take place on **May 3rd and 4th**. More info to come. Time to start spring cleaning!

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study



The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Augustus Lutheran, Trappe, on **Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Fran Ivarsen presenting *The Renewing of Our Minds* (Romans 12:1-2).

The April Bible Study will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg, on **Tuesday, April 6, 2010**, with Barbara Zwicki presenting *Holy Hospitality* (Romans 15:7)

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.

Upper Montgomery Conference Spring Gathering Saturday, March 13 at 9:30 a.m.

The Spring Gathering will be held at Advent Lutheran Church, 470 Landis Road, Harleysville, PA . Registration begins at 9 a.m.

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 thirteenth 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 2010. **For all money and food items received by the Cluster from March 1 through April 30, 2010, PCRC will count towards their fundraising efforts for this challenge.** 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.

2010 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

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 - Lutheran Theological Seminary (Seminary Sunday)
DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger



News from the Pottstown Cluster

Current needs for the food pantry include: laundry and dish detergent, sizes 4-6 diapers, baby wipes, small cereal boxes, tuna, peanut butter, plain oatmeal, toilet paper and personal care products;

and for the clothing closet: towels, sheets (full, queen, king size), silverware, glasses/cups, pots and pans, iron, toaster, coffeemaker, bathroom rug, lamps.

Donations for the Cluster can be brought to St. James and placed in the basket by the lower level mailboxes located at the bottom of the stairs closest to the parking lot. Donations can also be taken directly to the Cluster.

Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

137 Walnut Street Pottstown, PA 19464
(610) 970-5995
Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday,
9 AM-12 Noon

NEW DATE - Spaghetti Dinner Friday, April 23rd

Due to several conflicts, the Spaghetti Dinner is now scheduled for Friday, April 23. We hope that you mark you calendar and come out and support the Work Mission Team that night. It will be the same great night and good food for all to enjoy.

Tickets will be available starting on March 28th from any of the Work Mission Team members. Again matching funds will come from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Upper Montgomery Chapter #31392.



2010 Work Mission New Orleans

Plans are currently under way for the 2010 Work Mission. We are returning to work in New Orleans as we did in 2008. **The dates for the work mission are Monday May 3rd to Sunday May 9th.** The New Orleans Habitat group works Tuesday thru Saturday, so our travel days will be Monday and Sunday. Lodging and other plans are not firmed up yet, but should be shortly.

The trip is open to anyone who wants to go. No skills are needed, as we offer on the job training. Participant cost is \$150, with the proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinners offsetting the remaining costs.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact Ted Baer or any member of the Work Mission Team as we would love to have you go along.



The Pottstown Area Relay for Life is June 5, 2010.

Our St. James team is gearing up for the big day. We are dedicating our 2010 walk in memory of our dear friend, **Mary Arnt**. Mary was a member of our team from the beginning and was a willing helper always. Her spirit is with us as we continue to raise money to eradicate this terrible disease.

Relay activities coming up:

Here at St. James we will be selling **Peanut Butter cups** (\$10 per dozen) and **Nutrolls** (\$11 each) for Easter. Also, we have beautiful **23rd Psalm bracelets** made by Laurie O'Connell for \$25 each.

March 21st and 22nd - Sweet Street sale in the parking lot outside of Kohl's at the Coventry Mall. Please be sure to tell them to credit the St. James team.

April 17th - Bark for Life at Limerick Community Park.

May 10th - Friendly's restaurant. Come to Friendly's, enjoy a meal. Our team gets 10% of the sales that evening.

If you have questions about any of the Relay activities or would like to join the team, please see Pat Baer, Carol Keller, Janis Lunn, Annette Renn or Tracie Rheel.

Adoption Information Meeting

Lutheran Children and Family Service of Eastern Pennsylvania will host a free informational meeting to prospective adoptive parents and the public entitled "The ABCs of Adoption" on **Tuesday, March 9, 2010**. The meeting will focus on adoption through the countries of Latvia and Russia. Adoption coordinators will be on hand to answer specific questions.

The meeting will be held at Living Word Lutheran Church, 1250 Easton Road, Roslyn, PA, from 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. For more information and to reserve your space, please contact Kelli Myers-Gottemoller at 215-881-6800, extension 221, or via email at kellim@lcfsinpa.org.

Free Monthly Forum on the Needs and Care of the Aging

Grace Lutheran Church in Royersford continues to host a monthly meeting/forum for people to gather, receive access to information and to ask questions of professionals to help them with the challenges of providing care for themselves or others. Presenters will include social workers, visiting nurses, doctors, lawyers, and hospice workers.

All sessions are free and will be held at **Grace Lutheran Church (6th and Main Sts. Royersford)** on the third Monday of the month, **from 7- 8:30 p.m.** **Registration** is appreciated and **can be done by calling the church office at 610-948-3684.**

March 15 – Post hospital in-home services and outpatient therapy – VNA Services.
Presenter – Rob Gutmann

April 19 – Veterans Affairs – A Look at Veterans Benefits – Do I Qualify? – John Nowak

When was the last time you had a *financial* checkup?

When you hear the work *checkup*, what comes to mind? Most likely it's your physical health. But checkups are just as critical to your financial health—which may be equally important.

Most financial experts recommend you get a financial checkup at least once a year. The experienced and knowledgeable financial representatives at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help.

Thrivent Financial offers simple ways to deal with changes in your life that naturally lead to changes in your financial needs. For example, if you have a new grandchild, money you invested in a CD two years ago may now make more sense in a college savings plan. Or a recent job promotion may mean it's finally time to start saving for retirement.

Regular financial checkups are one of the most important ways you can ensure you're doing what's necessary today to help you achieve your long-term financial goals. For a financial checkup or to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact John Ungerman, Senior Financial Consultant, at 610-970-4740 or john.ungerman@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

Shredding Event

Tri-County Associates are hosting a shredding event on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9 a.m. to noon. Protect your credit card statements, legal papers, financial records, income tax files and other confidential materials by having them shredded by PROSHRED.

No boxes or bags will be accepted prior to the event. Please personal documents only, no businesses.

We will be accepting monetary donations for the Salvation Army and collecting nonperishable items for the Pottstown Cluster.

For more information, please call 610-970-4740 or email sandy.hallman@thrivent.com.

MEMBER NEWS



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; 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

Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring. Including the matching funds from Thrivent we raised \$562.71 for the Cluster Outreach Center and were able to donate to them 77 items of food. Great job everyone!

Thank you to my friends and family at St. James for remembering me with cards and prayers. Thank you to Pastor for his visits. I enjoy hearing and reading about the activities from the church each month.

Gladys Schott

Recently I was hospitalized. Pastor Hutchinson visited me the day I was admitted and continued until I was discharged. For those of you to say this was his job, fine, HOWEVER he goes beyond his responsibility of the position and shows definite deep caring and genuine compassion. We are extremely blessed to have such a Pastor as the leader of our congregation. Thank you to the Pastor, the many well wishes from my Saint James Family and of course to Our Almighty Ever Loving God.

Andy Olock

Thank you to Debbie Fisher who assembles our bulletins each week. Her work is appreciated by us all.

Dear members and friends of St. James, Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cards and support upon the death of Mabel. Your thoughtfulness has been very much appreciated.

Jim Meloy

Thank you to Virginia Reber for her donation to the Archives Committee of an old plate with a picture of St. James Lutheran Church on it.

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

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

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

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