

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • MARCH 2011

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

Speaking to the people in exile, God's prophet Isaiah proclaims to them: *“Do not consider the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert”* (Isaiah 43: 18-19).

We all have “former things”; both good and bad that can either cause us to forget about and ignore God or enter into despair and turn away from our faith in God. That can happen when our vision is focused solely on the things of the past, or even only the present. When we get caught up in that part of ourselves, our vision to whatever new thing God will do is limited.

So in the Lenten season that is soon upon us, as you faithfully practice whatever disciplines you choose, I want to ask you to consider one other thing to do. Try to begin envisioning the new things that God will be doing for you. Walk in faith and with your vision directed towards the future new things that God has planned. Trust that despite what the past or the present might try to tell you, that your eyes will perceive the vision of God making a better St. James; a better world; a better you; a better tomorrow.

The Christian faith teaches that, in Christ, God has done his greatest new thing! That new thing is the promise of his never ending love; forgiveness; care; protection and presence in our daily lives, and that death will not be the end for those who have faith in Jesus Christ. If your life sometimes feels like a wilderness or like you're in a desert, look for God to bring you a new thing in the form of relief and comfort and salvation in the midst of your hardship; your suffering; your sin; and even your death.

In Lent, we are called to “*repent*” which means most simply: *to turn our hearts towards God*. But we can only turn our hearts if we lift up our heads and also turn our vision towards the God of new things; to imagine and then see those new ways in the wilderness and new rivers in the desert. And as we make our Lenten journey with Jesus Christ to the cross, we shall see that he dies in order to make those new things of God come true.

Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal

9 a.m.

Children's Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly



OFFICE HOURS

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

TELEPHONE
610-326-2810

www.stjamespottstown.org

STAFF

Ministers

Each and Every Member of St. James

Pastor

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson
Email: pastorh@stjamespottstown.org
Home: 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

Suzanne Rigg, Diaconal Minister
Email: srigg@thehill.org
Office: 610-326-2810
Home: 610-898-4291

Office Administrator

Pat Baer
Email: secretary@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-326-2810

Director of Music Ministries

Bruce W. Tonkin, A.I.M.
Email: btonkin@stjamespottstown.org
contact: 610-220-5457

Financial Administrator

Sherry Clancy
stjamespottstownfinance@gmail.com
contact: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Glenn Yerger
contact: 610-326-2810

Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler

Newsletter Copy Editor

Rose Wagner

OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for April 2011 Edition: March 15, 2011

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

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

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

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light, Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$30 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table. Cash or check payment can be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the office. Sign-up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested.

Weather Cancellations

For cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather, please call the church for a message, listen to WPAZ 1370 AM, or watch for an announcement on WFMZ-TV Channel 69 or check their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC).

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WORSHIP NOTES



Wednesday, March 2nd at 7 p.m.

Rejoicing Spirits will be on the first Wednesday of March due to Ash Wednesday being on the second Wednesday.

Please 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, give it a try and see for yourself the love and joy that is shared among all who attend. **All are welcome!**

The season of Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday, March 9th



For the Christian Church, Lent is a penitential season and Ash Wednesday is our 'day of atonement' on which we most deliberately reflect upon our own sinfulness and our need for forgiveness, which we receive through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Two worship services will be held on March 9th

Early afternoon worship – 2 p.m.

Evening worship – 7 p.m.

Holy Communion at both services

As part of those services, we will offer the long held Christian tradition of **imposition of ashes**. Worshipers come forward to receive the ashes, and the words of our own mortality will be spoken by the pastor.

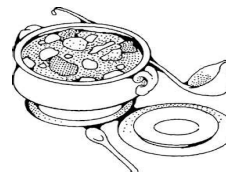
**Worship continues on
Wednesday nights
throughout the season of Lent**

**Soup Supper at 6 p.m.
and
Worship at 7 p.m.**

Midweek Lenten worship continues on **Wednesdays in March (March 16th, 23rd, 30th) and in April (April 6th and 13th)**. 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. **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 Needed

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.

Worship at Parkhouse

On March 13th 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 people 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 the 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 1:30 p.m. to travel down there together. So if anyone would be interested in helping out, please let Pastor know.



Join the Switch to Simply Giving

The promotion which began last year has been very successful! 35 giving units within the congregation now enjoy the ease and efficiency of the Simply Giving program for their offerings to St. James. No checks to write for the givers and no processing of payments by the church. The transfer of funds electronically is safe, paperless and timesaving all around. Please consider signing up for Simply Giving. If you have any questions please contact Sherry Clancy, Financial Administrator or Dave Garner, Treasurer.



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 the fourteenth 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 2011.

All money and food items received by the Cluster from March 1 through April 30, 2011, 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.

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

There are two adult education classes on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Seasons of the Spirit - 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 will meet weekly in the Adult Study classroom on the ground floor. Individuals can join this class anytime throughout the year.

Study with Pastor - Pastor leads an adult study class covering a variety of topics. All are invited and welcomed to come join the discussion and learning.

Blood Pressure Checks

Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood pressure checks will be on **March 13th** after each service.



Blood Drive

Miller Keystone will be at St. James on March 7, 2011 from 2-7 p.m. Make an appointment to donate blood by contacting Ellen Ibach at 610-323-4477. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Music Notes

Transfiguration Sunday - March 6th

We will be featuring the newly "restored" Festival Trumpet stop on the organ this Sunday, with a special prelude 10 minutes before each service and at the offering time. Don't miss this fantastic sounding set of pipes!

The children will be burying their ALLELUIAS, which they have colored, in a treasure chest during the 10:45 Service. They will be sealed up and not brought out again until Easter Sunday.



Concerts at St. James

Mark Your Calendar

April 10th at 4 p.m. – Duo-Piano Recital
2 pianos, 8 hands

May 15th at 4 p.m. - Bel Canto Children's Preparatory Choir and Adult Festival Choir

Liturgy Update

During the season of Lent, we will be learning the new "Holy, Holy, Holy" and the "Lamb of God" from the setting of liturgy that we have been using the last six months. Thanks to the congregation for their willingness to learn this new setting that comes from the new "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymn book.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Media Team New Ministry Opportunity

St. James is seeking new ways to welcome all to receive the love of God through Christ. We are also looking for new ways to connect with others and with one another. To do that we are looking to form a media team that would help us with the current ways that we communicate who we are and what we do through printed media and electronic media (such as the newsletter, the website, e-mail and photography), but also to help us make use of video and social media outlets, such as Facebook or YouTube.

Persons with all sorts of skills and interest are sought to be a part of this team. So whether you like to write or edit, take photos or shoot videos, spend time connecting with others on Facebook or through e-mail, or just simply are looking to try something new, we can use you for this team. For more information or to join the team, please contact Suzanne at 610-326-2810 or srigg@stjamespottstown.org.

Upcoming Relay for Life Happenings

Beginning March 6th through March 27th orders for peanut butter cups will be taken. They are \$10 a dozen.

Beginning March 6th through April 10th orders for nutrolls will be taken. Nutrolls are \$11 each.

Delivery date for both the peanut butter cups and nutrolls are April 16th and 17th.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer(s) needed to help in flower shop training program for non-profit mental health group. Experience in floral design required along with the ability to work in a training capacity. Flexible hours. Contact Chris or Marita at 610-326-9112 for more information.

Help Needed for Community Meal

Volunteers are needed on **March 24th** to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

News from the Pottstown Cluster

Current needs for the food pantry include:

Baby Wipes, Toilet paper, Paper towels, Cleaning supplies, Laundry detergent, Dish liquid, Bar soap, Feminine Products

and for the clothing closet:

Backpacks, carts or suitcases with wheels, sleeping bags; Toiletries - personal hygiene wipes, soap, toothbrush/toothpaste, deodorants, combs, shampoos, Women jeans all sizes, Women khaki pants all sizes, Junior size clothing.

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

Church Women United World Day of Prayer



The women of Chile invite us to join them on **Friday, March 4th** for the World Day of Prayer service and program being held at **St. John's U.C.C., High and Price Streets, at 2 p.m.**, sponsored by the Pottstown Church Women United. Come and be a part of this worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer. Men, women and children are all welcome.

Upcoming WELCA Meetings

March 21 – Meeting at 7 p.m.

April 13 – Lenten Soup Supper

May 16 – Meeting at 7 p.m.

June 20 – Potluck at 6:15 p.m.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at **St. John's Lutheran Church at Sumneytown on Tuesday, March 1st** at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30. The leader will be Fran Ivarson presenting *Loving Relationships "Open Hearts"* (Matt. 22:36-39).

The April Bible Study will be held on **Tuesday, April 5th at St. James Lutheran Church at Limerick.** The leader will be Ann Seislove presenting *Barriers to Resurrection "An Easter People"* (Mark 16:3-4).

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity*. Study materials are found in *Lutheran Women Today* magazine. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. This is the 26th 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.

WELCA News Mark your calendars

The Spring Rummage Sale is May 2nd and 3rd. Please bring your items to the church on Sunday, May 1.

Spaghetti Dinner

The next Spaghetti Dinner to support the work of the Work Mission Team is set for Friday April 8, 2011. The price of this terrific meal is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under twelve years old. The serving hours will remain at 4:30 to 7 p.m. in Horn Hall. **Tickets will be on sale starting March 13th.** Please see Ted Baer or any Work Mission Team Member for tickets. The Work Mission Team hopes to see you on the 8th of April.



Work Mission Being Planned

Preliminary arrangements have been made for this year's Work Mission. We are going to return to the Gulf Coast, specifically Biloxi. **The dates of the work mission will be May 9th through the 15th,** with the team leaving on Monday the 9th and returning on Sunday the 15th.

This will be the fifth year of Thrivent's commitment to help out Habitat of the Gulf Coast. The Thrivent Financial participation makes this trip workable, as we have depleted much of the funds that we have earned over the past few years.

We are always looking for new members to participate and would love to talk to you about going. It is always a great week and you will feel better about yourself when you return, plus maybe have some new skills. See Ted Baer or any of the Work Mission Team members for more information.

MEMBER NEWS and INFO

March Birthdays

1- Merle Pace; 2 – Marvin Kehler, Alexis Levan;
4 – Kaitlyn Shirley; 5 – Immy Moore; 7 – Rusty
Bealer, Robert DuVal; 10- Jacob 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; 19 –
Drew Taylor; 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

As your parents age ...

Are you ready?

Some conversations are too important to wait. As your parents get older, now is the time to have a heart-to-heart about their future, their wishes and potential needs—so you can both be ready. But where do you begin? **Join us for a free workshop.**

Heart-to-Heart: As Your Parents Age is a free, 60 minute educational workshop designed to help adult children start important conversations with their parents to help them make transitions with greater ease and dignity. This workshop can help you gain:

- * An understanding of your parents' vision for the future.
- * Information to make decisions on your parents' behalf.
- * Tips for starting heart-to-heart conversations.

The workshop will be presented by Thrivent Financial representative John Ungerman on **Monday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church. Sign up for this free event today!** To register, or for more information, call John Ungerman's office at 610-970-4740.

Baptism

We welcome into God's family: **Angelo William Pino**, son of Wilmary Bauza and William Pino.

Lost and Found

A Guitar Hero DS Lite game has been found. To claim it as yours, please contact the church office at 610-326-2810.

Thank You Notes

Marge Fegley shares the following from a note from her Adopt-a-Child in Haiti (Danielle):

She (Danielle) thanks our church for our support and prayers (which have been a help to her) and "for the gift sent to the project". She adds that she is praying for each and every one of us to be blessed abundantly by God.

Thank you so very much for your generous support and partnership with us and the gospel of Jesus Christ through your contribution to The Ministries at Main Street Cooperative Shelter Project.

Still Waters Church Homeless Shelter
Ministries

Deepest Sympathies

To the family and friends of Doris Myers.

To the family and friends of Loretta Chaback.

COUNCIL NOTES

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.

Cyndi Krasley (President) 484-945-0165
Email: nannahsdmb@gmail.com

Caleb Weaner (Vice-President) 610-960-6705
Email: calebweaner@hotmail.com

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

Dave Garner (Treasurer) 610-970-7560
Email: dgarner1@comcast.net

Marge Fegley 610-323-3936
Email: max987@netzero.com

Mike Lunn 610-367-8762
Email: lunns2@comcast.net

Julie Hauck 215-378-1827
Email: jlynn65@ptd.net

Ellen Ibach 610-323-4477
Email: bach1465@comcast.net

Bob Yoder 610-385-1600
Email: bob@bob-jr.com

Diane Mitchell 610-970-4250
Email: poohgers2712@yahoo.com

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

Ed VanBuren 610-327-1159
Email: edandshirley@comcast.net

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

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	<u>Jan-11</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
-		-
Income	\$21,396.98	\$21,396.98
Expenses	<u>23,860.97</u>	<u>23,860.97</u>
Net Income	(\$2,463.99)	(\$2,463.99)
<i>Regular Envelopes</i>		
Received	\$16,926.50	\$16,926.50
Needed*	<u>20,244.37</u>	<u>20,244.37</u>
Over (Under)	(\$3,317.87)	(\$3,317.87)
<i>Third Sunday Offering</i>		
Homeless/Main St. Ministries		
Collected	\$399.00	
<i>Capital Campaign</i>		
	<u>Jan-2011</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$5,593.00	\$506,008.25

*Amount required to balance the budget.

