

the Spirit of St. James



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

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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

Summer Worship

Summer worship begins June 7th
with one service at 9 a.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

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

Custodian

Glenn Yerger

contact: 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 June 2009 Edition: May 15, 2009

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, \$30 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

On Easter Sunday morning at church, we sang a popular song called 'Lord of the Dance'. It was written in 1963 by Sydney Carter, a British poet, folk singer, and songwriter. Mr. Carter once said about his song that he thought of Christ as a sort of piper who dances a dance and invites us all to follow along with him and go his way.

He adapted the words of the song to the tune of an old Shaker hymn. The Shakers were a religious sect that originated in England several hundred years ago. They believed in enthusiastic expression of the joy that their faith in God brought to them. Their trust in the Holy Spirit's work within to bring us that joy made them somewhat unique at the time in which they lived.

But there is a line in the song that speaks of the crucifixion and says "*It's hard to dance with the devil on your back*". Those words are true, but just as Jesus did not let the devil win victory over him, neither will God allow the devil to overwhelm us, no matter how much it feels like the devil's on your back. That is why we rejoice over what Easter means to us.

Dancing is an expression of joy and happiness. So while the tune 'Lord of the Dance' is fun to sing, it's an even better philosophy of living. That is to fully believe in what God did in Christ and therefore follow Jesus and walk (or even dance) in his ways. So that when life gets us down, we know that even when they hung Jesus on a tree, God intervened and raised him up to dance once more! So it is and will be for us!

Sydney Carter died in 2004, but now, because of the resurrection of Christ, we trust that he, and we, and his song will dance on forever!

Bible Study with Pastor

Sometimes the bible seems like a lot to understand. Like a meal that looks too large to consume, it can often be better taken in small bites. So Pastor will begin a bible study that does just that. Each week we will take a look at one of the smallest books of the bible. That way, we can go home and digest what we have learned without being stuffed and overwhelmed.

The books we study will include the Old Testament book of Obadiah and New Testament books: Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. Each of these books has only one chapter.

So please come to receive the word of God in a relaxed and easy to swallow presentation, complete with all the fixings of our enjoyable bible studies.

Gatherings will be Tuesday nights at 7p.m. on May 5th at St. James and Thursday mornings at the Sanatoga Ridge Retirement Village at 10 a.m. beginning May 7. Coffee and snacks are generally available at both meetings. All parishioners and their friends are welcome!

PASTOR

WORSHIP NOTES

The Day of Pentecost May 31, 2009



The Day of Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, May 31, 2009 as **we rejoice in the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church.** The Holy Spirit is the resurrected Jesus in our midst, claiming us in baptism, feeding us at the Eucharist, and sending us into the world as bearers of the Gospel.

Wear red to mark the occasion and to liven up the celebration.



Festival of the Holy Trinity Affirmation of Baptism June 7, 2009 9 a.m.

The **festival of the Holy Trinity celebrates the mystery of God, both transcendent and immanent.** Though the nature of God is beyond our rational explanation, we ascribe glory to the one who is holy. Christians have held a festival in honor of the Holy Trinity since the ninth century and in the fourteenth century the festival was added to the calendar and has been celebrated throughout the world since that time.

Also on this day **Jackie Bealer will affirm her baptism and we will also be receiving new membes.** A special coffee fellowship in their honor follows worship. Please plan to come and worship on this very festive day and join us for fellowship afterwards.

Third Sunday Offering MAY Recipient Pottstown Volunteer Home Care

Volunteer Home Care (VHC) is an interfaith outreach ministry offering assistance to individuals and families of all faiths through support of spiritually enriched volunteers. VHC has trained and caring volunteers who may be able to help someone through a difficult time in his or life at no cost by providing non-medical and non-professional services. Several members of St. James are volunteers for VHC.

Short-tem, temporary assistance may be available with transportation, errands, light household chores, meal provision, outdoor chores, and minor repairs. Volunteers may also offer friendly visiting to a shut-in or telephone reassurance to someone living at home.

VHC may assist other professional and supportive services to provide care. VHC will join the network of family, friends, neighbors, and churches to help someone through a difficult time.

Pottstown Area VHC serves the communities of Pottstown Borough, Upper Pottsgrove, Lower Pottsgrove including Sanatoga, West Pottsgrove including Stowe, North Coventry, South Coventry, East Coventry, Spring City, Limerick and Royersford. VHC is an interfaith outreach ministry administered by The Lutheran Home at Topton, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Please consider a gift to VHC though this month's Third Sunday Offering.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

JUNE - Salvation Army
JULY - School supplies for children
AUGUST - Global Mission
SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER - Cluster Outreach Center
NOVEMBER - Open to allow for offering for current need, i.e. hurricane relief.
DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger



Next Rejoicing Spirits Worship is May 13, 2009 at 7 p.m.

All are welcome!

Naomi Fuerman will be singing and we hope that you can join us to hear this talented young woman.

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.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

The following is a schedule of the adult education opportunities for May:

- "In God's Name" a study led by Pastor Hutchinson in the Blue Room on May 3 and 10.
- "Grace & Gravity" a study led by Pastor Hutchinson in the Blue Room on May 17 and 24.
- "The Economy" a study led by John Ungerman in the Blue Room on May 31.
- Bible study on the lessons heard each week in worship in the Adult Study Class all of the month of May

Both of these classes meet at **9:30 a.m.**
Please feel free to attend one at anytime.

Receiving Individuals into Membership

We will be receiving individuals into membership on **Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2009.** If you have been worshipping with us and would like to become a member, or know of someone who would, please talk to Pastor or Suzanne.

Commitment Sunday Saying "Yes" to God

On April 19th we celebrated our gifts of time, talent and treasure with a Commitment Sunday. This event was the culmination of the Lenten theme-*Our Lives are not Our Own, saying "Yes" to God.* The message by Pastor Hutchinson, a special litany and the music provided by Sharon, the St. James choirs and guest musicians all focused on the theme and encouraged us to commit ourselves to God. During worship the congregation was invited to indicate their financial commitments to the work of St. James. We presented the written forms as part of the service. Members were also directed to a display in Horn Hall that highlights the people who do the various ministries of St. James. A Catalogue of Ministries and forms are available at that site which will remain there until June for those who want to make "**new**" commitments to serve.

Anyone who did not have the opportunity to complete either the financial commitment form or the ministries commitment form is encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Both forms are available at the Horn Hall display. The financial forms should be provided to Darlene, our Church Secretary. The ministries form can be turned in at the display table. Thank you to all who participated in the event and all who have prayerfully made commitments.

The Stewardship Committee

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**12th Annual
Pottstown Relay For Life
The MAIN EVENT**
at Pottsgrove High School



Saturday, May 30th

Thank you, members of St. James, for your continued support to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Blood Pressure Checks

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **May 3rd after each** service.



**Spring Rummage Sale
May 4th and 5th**

Please have your CLEAN, ready-to-use items packed to bring to the church Sunday, May 3. Place them in Horn Hall, in the marked area, and plan to shop!!

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

Women of the ELCA Upper MontCo Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown on **Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Sheila Specht presenting *Esther: Reversal of Fortune (Esther 9:1b)*.

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 24th 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.

WELCA News

WELCA's next meeting **will be May 18th** at 7 p.m. in Horn Hall. Barry Moyer will be our special guest.

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.

Thank Yous

Dear Members and Friends of St. James,

Thank you for remembering me on my birthday. I was truly surprised and touched to have received a card with many of your signatures on it. Thank you also to the many of you who sent individual cards or telephoned me. I received a total of 45 birthday cards! It was very thoughtful and I very much appreciate your kindness.

Sincerely,
Ray Yocom

Thank you to our **Lenten Hospitality Team** – Ted Baer, Kathryn Geist, Debbie Hutchinson, Marge McElroy, Garnet Nye, Bob Rheel, Grace and Ron Schafer, Sara Jane Silver, Vanessa Thompson, and Barb Ungerman – and the many others who helped week to week with our Lenten Soup Supper and Haggadah Meal.

Thank you to the many who provided the soup, bread and salads for our Lenten Soup Suppers. Your contributions were very much appreciated.

Thank you to **WELCA** for providing the soup and other foods, plus the hospitality at our April 1 Lenten Soup Supper.

Thank you to the many individuals who helped to make our Potluck Easter Breakfast a success. Thank you to the members of the **Adult Sunday School classes** and others for their labor in setting up, serving and cleaning up. Thanks also to all who provided the good food that was shared. We all ate well that morning!

Thank you to all who provided the foods needed for our Haggadah Meal.

Thank you to the generous individuals who supplied the candy and prizes for our Easter Egg Hunt. Your donations were well received by the children on Easter Day.

Thank you to the **Altar Guild** and all their work in the month of April transforming our worship space from Lent and the Passion to the Resurrection of the Lord and the Easter season.

Thank you to all who supported the Work Mission Team by attending or donating to the spaghetti dinner.

Thank you to **Glenn Yerger** for adding the extra tables and chairs in Horn Hall for our Easter Breakfast and spaghetti dinner and for taking down chairs in the Main Sunday School Room for our egg hunt.

Thank you to **Shira Schaeffer, Sam Goins and Emily Weaver** for hiding and scattering the eggs for our egg hunt.

Thank you to **Mr. Baer** for giving me another special coin on Easter Sunday, from **Mya Detweiler**.

Thanks

MEMBER NEWS

May Birthdays

1 – Julia Jackson; 3 – Ashley Hoffman, Barbara Shollenberger, 4 – Tracy Lapreziosa; 5 – Chelsea Hartzman; 7 – Carol Keller; 9 - Mike Mace, Kim Strichik, Leah Willow; 10 – Aimee Civera; 13 – Audrey Stine; 16 – Helen Moyer; 17 – Mabel Meloy; 18 – Nancy Garner; 21 – Tom Drauschak, Grace Schafer; 23 – Ellen Jameson; 24 – Del Mauger; 25 – Mae Erb, Justin Kirsten, Judy Swanson, Teri Widmann; 26 – Sharon Chaback; 27 - Jack Drauschak; 28 – Laura Bierman, Samuel Svanda, Colin Horger

Congratulations

to **Chelsea Hartzman, Sylvia Groff** and **Jessica Mitchell**, all recipients of the 2009 St. James Scholarship.

Know someone who is graduating?

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.

New E-Mail Address

Carol Keller – mycourt33@comcast.net

Deepest Sympathies

*to the family and friends of **Ernest Schultz***

*to the family and friends of **Robert Williams**.*

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-Presidnet
484-945-0165

Barbara Ungerman - Secretary
610-718-9368
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