

the Spirit of St. James



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

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly



Summer Worship Schedule
begins June 1st with one service at 9 a.m.



OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday
8 a.m. – noon

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 June '08 Edition: May 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.

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 Wntp 990 AM. Listen, and be renewed by God's amazing grace.

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

The Bible is full of images of growing and growth, especially in the New Testament.

But the truth is that nothing alive is ever static or just remains the same. For instance, if you think of a plant, you know that God has designed it to grow, but at the same time it also needs things in order to grow. It needs to be watered and have sunshine and draw nourishment from the soil. If those things are left undone, the plant's growth will be limited or even stunted. When that happens, the fruit that the plant is designed to produce is also stunted and limited!

The best thing for plants, then, is to help them in their growth. So if a plant is rooted in good soil, it will grow more and bear more and better fruit. If a plant is placed in a sunny spot, it will also grow and produce more. If a plant is watered regularly, it will be healthier and provide a greater yield.



A large part of what Suzanne and I are called by God to do at St. James is help the people of God to grow in their faith. The end result of that is for believers to become more dedicated disciples of Jesus and bear the good fruit of faith, hope and love. That is why during Lent we emphasized embracing one or more of the '*Marks of Discipleship*'. The idea of the blue cards that we sent out to all of you, is to use them as a tool to help us assist those who have a desire to grow in faithfulness to God. If we know what specific areas you want to grow in your faith,...then we are better able to help you.

When we don't receive cards, we figure that maybe people forgot or lost their cards, or that people plan to grow in faith on their own without any help from the church (a contradiction in itself),...or...that they don't wish to grow and produce more fruit for the Lord. But we also understand that some might be confused or even uncomfortable with our asking you to make a commitment to grow, so I thought we'd try to explain it further.

We pray that everyone wishes to some how grow in faith, but the thing is, if we don't know what areas you'd like some help, then we can't help.

So please drop off, bring to worship, or mail in your blue cards so that we can help God in Christ to help you.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Day of Pentecost May 11, 2008

The Day of Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, May 11, 2008 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.



Wednesday, May 14, 2008

7 p.m.

All are welcome!

We will be celebrating Pentecost at our next Rejoicing Spirits so **wear red** to help remind us all of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

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.

Festival of the Holy Trinity May 18, 2008



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.

Looking for Chancel Choir Members

We all enjoy the beautiful singing our Chancel Choir provides for us each Sunday at the 10:45 service (and also sometimes at 8 a.m.). Recently, we lost several members. Jon Fink retired, Jim Warner moved to Hawaii, Karen Hall moved to Wisconsin and Jeff Leiby moved back to Michigan.

If you would like to **consider singing** in the Choir, please think and pray about it and then, if you wish to try it,



talk to Sharon, Pastor or Suzanne, or one of the current Choir members about how you might go about getting involved. You'll find that the demands are not stringent and that it would undoubtedly be a great experience for you! It also would be a good way to enhance your practice of discipleship and giving more of yourself to God. Thanks for considering the idea

Sunday Morning Adult Education

The following is a schedule of the adult education opportunities for May 4-25th:

- “Politics and Religion,” a study led by Pastor Hutchinson in the Blue Room.
- Bible study on the lessons heard each week in worship – Adult Study Class.

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



- Work on the elevator continues. Completion of the project will be in June.

Variety of Service Music

Starting with Pentecost Sunday we will be using the best of the service music from a variety of communion settings and hymnals. Familiar music will be used from *The Lutheran Book of Worship, With One Voice* and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Music was selected based on familiarity, ease in singing, and popularity.

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-term, 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 through this month's Third Sunday Offering.

Upcoming Third Sunday Offering Schedule

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

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Grace Lutheran, Pottstown Limerick on **May 6th at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Sheila Specht presenting *Blessing in the Midst of Suffering*.

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme "Blessed to follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship".

This is the 23rd year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome interdenominational 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 19th** at 7 p.m. in Horn Hall.

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.

Why Did St. James Hold a "Social Justice" Concert

As Christian people, we are reminded that we *are* our brother's keeper and that what happens to others matters to us. In the story of 'The Good Samaritan' Jesus taught that loving neighbor does not begin and end with only those we know, those who are nearby, or those who are like us.

The purpose of the Social Justice Concert was to increase awareness within our local community of the terrible acts that governments and other groups bring upon the innocent, throughout history and even still today. In particular, we highlighted what President Bush has called acts of "genocide" occurring in the Darfur region of the country of Sudan. Atrocities either supported or condoned by the Sudanese government have continued now for years. Most of the world, as has happened in the past, has stood by silently.

Our concert brought, through the art of music and with poetry readings, recognition of these things and the truth that God desires people to speak out against evil and work for the good. Hopefully, if you were there, it inspired you to take a more active interest in the subject of social justice in our world. If you were not,...then please consider the matter and at least pray for the victims and for peace in their world. Thank you.

Blood Pressure Checks

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **May 4th** after the 10:45 a.m. service.

**Walk-a-thon to benefit
the Preeclampsia Foundation
Saturday, May 10th**

Penn State University – York Campus

Help mothers and babies affected by this pregnancy disorder. Contact Kelly at kllicari@comcast.net if interested in donating or participating.



**11th Annual
Pottstown Relay For Life
The MAIN EVENT
at Pottsgrove High School**

Saturday, May 31st

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

**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 go on sale in May after worship in Horn Hall. Please see Vickie Kirsten for tickets or more information.

**Boyertown Area Choral Association
Concert**

Boyertown Area Choral Association under the direction of Marguerite (Peg) Lamb, will be **at St. James** on Sunday, **May 18th at 3 p.m.** presenting their Spring Concert, "Here's to Our America."

If you would like to be a **patron for the concert or bake for the social after the performance, please see Janis Lunn** or call her at 610-367-8762. We need your support!

Please mark your calendars and invite all your friends and family.



**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 from 4-6 p.m.
- Public sale
Tuesday from 9-noon and
12:30-1:30 p.m. (bag sale)

MEMBER NEWS

May Birthdays

1 – Julia Jackson; 3 – Ashley Hoffman, Barbara Shollenberger, Kit Weller; 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

Congratulations

to Jessica Mitchell
recipient of the 2008
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 Address

Diane and Jessica Mitchell
2207 Walnut Ridge Estates
Pottstown, PA 19464.

Jeff and Robin Leiby
2692 Hazelnut Lane
Kalamazoo MI 49004

Deepest Sympathies

to the family and friends of **Larry Kehler.**



Death of former member

Rosemarie Alston, nee Tholan died in 2007 in Sicklerville, NJ. Rosemarie was the daughter of Willis and Florence Tholan and was both confirmed and married at St. James. She was active in the children's and youth choirs and also a member of the church Brownie and Girl Scout troops. She leaves two children and five grandchildren.

Memorial Contributions

*Given in memory of **George Neiffer;***
Marge Fegley, Eleanor Hetrick, Paul & Millie Casner, Timothy & Judith Smith & Elaine Biller, Olga Christman, Robert & Melinda DuVal, Ruth, Jay and Janet Neiffer, Elizabeth Darocha, Raymond Yocom, Gerald & Elaine Richards, Jim Porpeggia, George & Ferne Monshower, Richard D. Linderman, O'Donnell, Weiss & Mattei, PC, Raymond & Linda Butsack, Len & Jean Fillman, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Loughin and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Molinaro, Pat Weber, Gladys Evans, Fay Saylor, Bill & Del Mauger, Donna Rose, Bob Rheel, Cindy and Larry Kehler, Gerald & Elaine Richards, Jon & Martha Fink, Barbara Thornton, Gene & Pauline Reiner, Bill & Julia Jackson, Elaine Christman, Chipper Meadowcroft, Annette & David Renn, Jane Trate, Robert and Ellen Ibach, Grace and Ron Schafer, Helen and Earl Moyer, Willard and Margaret Bickel, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mitchell, Jr, Debbie Fisher and Bernice Lengel, AAA East Central, Karl Glocker, Glocker Real Estate, Karl, Immv and Charles Moore.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to Ellen Ibach for her donation of a bin for the nursery to hold some blocks and other fun things.

Thank you to all who have helped to clean the church building during Larry's absence.

Dear St. James Family,
Thank you very much for your prayers, the cards of sympathy and your words of comfort at the loss of a dear mother and very good friend. Your kindness meant a lot to us. May God's blessings be with you.

Sincerely,
Bill and Julia Jackson

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	<u>Mar-2008</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$29,304.22	\$ 66,347.28
Expenses	<u>31,327.46</u>	<u>81,103.94</u>
Net Income	(\$2,023.24)	(\$14,756.66)
<i>Regular Envelopes</i>		
Received	\$20,484.75	\$51,155.75
Needed*	<u>19,498.94</u>	<u>58,496.83</u>
Over (Under)	\$985.81	(\$7,341.08)
<i>Third Sunday Offering</i>		
Collected	\$284.25	Pottstown Cluster
<i>Capital Campaign</i>		
		-
		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Mar-2008</u>	<u>Campaign</u>
Income	\$13,713.73	\$222,198.75

*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
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