

# the Spirit of St. James



---

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

I have heard in recent years how some Christians have been on a crusade against the celebration of Halloween as being anti-Christian. Sometimes I think we all take the practice of religion too seriously. Halloween is a uniquely American event that originates from the immigrants who came to our country in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and who also brought with them some of their superstitions. One was the rural practice of pausing one night a year to call to mind the dead and to even try to connect with their spirits. My opinion is that I don't think Halloween is so bad, as long as people don't take it too seriously either.

As this practice continued in the new country, it somehow was put on the calendar right near to the Christian celebration of '**All Saints Day**'. That, of course, is a time when Christians remember the dead too, but the dead who have actually gone on to live in the resurrection! And that is something we ought to take seriously.

There are many ways in which we can remember and honor our loved ones who have died. Some really do try to communicate with them (I can't say how well this works) but I know that there is nothing wrong with feeling their presence and closeness to us. That is especially appropriate if we believe that they have gone to be with the Lord because if we believe that the Lord is close by us, then it only goes to figure that, in some way, they are not far from us in this world also.

But our celebration of All Saints Sunday is not to help bring them closer to us; it is to help bring us closer in faith to the Lord. When we recall the dead whom we loved and miss, it can stir up all kinds of sorrow and even fears within us. Yet, when we recall what Jesus said and his own resurrection, it can give us some comfort in that, not only are our deceased loved ones all right, but also that we'll see them again at some point.

To believe this you have to have faith and faith comes in part from trusting someone other than ourselves. So unless Jesus was just pulling a prank on us and all that he said and did was simply a foolish 'trick'...like for Halloween...then we end up believing that what he promised must be true.

As we remember our dead on All Saints Day, and every other day too, trust that by knowing the love of God in Christ, we will see them again. Then the thought of **that** will be a real treat!



## 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](mailto:pastorh@stjamespottstown.org)  
Home: 610-718-0313

### **Director of Discipleship**

Suzanne Rigg, Diaconal Minister  
Email: [srigg@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:srigg@stjamespottstown.org)  
Office: 610-326-2810  
Home: 610-898-4291

### **Office Administrator**

Pat Baer  
Email: [secretary@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:secretary@stjamespottstown.org)  
contact: 610-326-2810

### **Director of Music Ministries**

Bruce W. Tonkin, A.I.M.  
Email: [btonkin@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:btonkin@stjamespottstown.org)  
contact: 610-220-5457

### **Financial Administrator**

Sherry Clancy  
[stjamespottstownfinance@gmail.com](mailto:stjamespottstownfinance@gmail.com)  
contact: 610-326-2810

### **Custodian**

Glenn Yerger  
contact: 610-326-2810

### **Newsletter Editor**

Dawn Detweiler

### **Newsletter Copy Editor**

Rose Wagner

## OFFICE NOTES

### **Newsletter Deadline for December 2011 Edition: November 15, 2011**

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.

### **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. Cash or check payments can be placed in the offering or turned in to the office. Sign-up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. **Also anyone who sponsors flowers is encouraged to take a vase of flowers with him or her.** Please pick up your flowers after worship in the flower room (located on the right of our worship space.)

### **Weather Cancellations**

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



## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

### **Worship**

8 and 10:45 a.m.

### **Coffee Fellowship**

9 a.m.

### **Youth Choir Rehearsal**

9 a.m.

### **Adult Education Classes**

9:30 a.m.

### **Youth Gathering**

9:30 a.m.

### **Children's Choir Rehearsal**

10 a.m.

### **Children's Church**

10:45 a.m.

# WORSHIP NOTES

---

## Annual Meeting – Part One

Please plan to attend part one of the annual meeting to be held **between services on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** The agenda includes **the election of Council members and the adoption of the 2012 budget.** There will be no adult Sunday School classes on this day. There will not be a separate mailing notice for this meeting, so mark your calendar now!

**Part two of the annual meeting will be held on January 22, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.**

## All Saints Sunday November 6, 2011



On Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating “All Saints Sunday” in worship. As part of our offering of prayers to God that day, we will lift up the names of all loved ones who have died in the last year. We hope that this act of remembrance will be meaningful to you as we recall those who have gone to be with the Lord.

## Christ the King Sunday and Children and Youth Sunday November 20, 2011

As we celebrate the last Sunday of the church year, Christ the King, we will also be led in worship that Sunday by the children and youth of the congregation. Youth and children will participate in both the 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services leading us in song, the readings and the prayers. Please plan to join us for worship on that Sunday as we conclude the church year in a very special way.



Our next Rejoicing Spirits worship will be on **Wednesday, November 9th at 7 p.m.** Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love with our Brothers and Sisters with developmental disabilities. It is also open to everyone in the community. Join us to see for yourself the love and joy that is shared among all that attend.

In **November** we will be showing thanks to all of our caregivers and Rejoicing Spirits friends. For our **fellowship time we will be having Pumpkin Pie** with topping. Sounds pretty good, huh? If you would like to help out, we need donated pumpkin pies. I know that there are many great cooks and pie makers at St James. If you run out of time to bake a pie, Mrs. Smith's makes a good one too.

**There is a sign-up sheet in Horn Hall if you would like to help by supplying a pie** or you can also let Suzanne or myself know.

If you would like to see some happy faces worshipping and eating pumpkin pie then come worship with us too.

Thank you to all of the runners and walkers who joined our **2nd Rejoicing Spirits 5K Run and Walk** and supported us from St James. We were so blessed with great weather and lots of excitement and energy.

Thanks,  
David Hartzman  
Coordinator of Rejoicing Spirits



## Third Sunday Offering

November Recipient  
**Operation Holiday**



Another holiday season is approaching and The Mercury is preparing once again to provide gifts and food to the children of our community through their Operation Holiday. This year, they are hoping to provide more than 200 area families with boxes of food and gift certificates to purchase gifts for children.

The goal of Operation Holiday is to give the children in their readership area gifts for the holidays and food for a holiday meal and some food staples to help families through difficult times. They attempt to serve families of the Pottstown area, reaching as far as the Perkiomen Valley, Phoenixville, northern Chester County, the Upper Perkiomen area and communities in Berks County served by their newspaper.

Their mission, as established in 1991, is “to provide children of families who may be going through tough times with holiday gifts and a meal with all the trimmings.” They realize that many families in our area who once enjoyed prosperity may be struggling with the loss of a job, a health problem or a change in financial circumstances.

Operation Holiday has served thousands of families in the Pottstown area during the past 19 years through the generous donations of their readers and through the volunteer efforts of The Mercury employees. They hope, that in these difficult times for all, they can come together once again to provide something for the holidays for those less fortunate. Please join them in this effort by supporting this month’s third Sunday offering.

DECEMBER – ELCA World Hunger

## Bible Study for November

### How Did Isaiah foretell the coming of Jesus?

Each year during the Season of Advent, we hear passages from the prophet Isaiah read in worship. That is because the earliest followers of Jesus understood the words that he wrote hundreds of years before, to be about Jesus! They saw in Isaiah, clear prophecy of Jesus the Christ (or Messiah) as foretold by God’s prophet from long ago. But what did Isaiah say that so convinced them of this? How did his words match up with what Jesus said and did and what happened with him?

We’ll look at these passages and discuss this in **a three week study that will begin on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** as we approach the Season of Advent. The study will conclude the week before Thanksgiving, on November 15 and 17.

### **Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities**

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

***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 at any time throughout the year.

***Study with Pastor*** - Pastor holds a class covering a variety of topics each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Blue Room.

## Music News

### Organ Recital November 13, 2011

Plan ahead to attend the Organ Recital at 2 p.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November here at St. James. It is called a *recital* and not just a recital, because I will tell you about many aspects of the organ. The organ pipes will be demonstrated and you will be given tips on how to listen to organ music and find out about the different sounds that our organ can produce; there is even a piece for pedals alone! Joan Johnson, from the piano duo group, will be playing a piano and organ duet with Bruce based on several spirituals. Highlighting the *recital* will be the World Premier Performance of a newly-composed piece of music written for Bruce Tonkin. The three movement piece titled "SANCTUARY" was written by Dr. Stephen Grieco who is the Dean of Humanities at Montgomery County Community College. Make plans to bring your family and friends.



### Advent Christmas Festival December 11, 2011

This is our second year for presenting the Advent – Christmas Festival here at St. James. The afternoon program, at 3 p.m. on December 11<sup>th</sup> will feature a mass choir from the area, along with our Chancel, Bell, and Children's Choirs. Last year, this program packed the sanctuary and many wonderful comments were shared.

We will be singing Advent hymns and Christmas Carols and the mass choir will sing three Christmas anthems together. Don't miss this wonderful concert to help us prepare for the Christmas Season.

## Blood Pressure Checks Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **November 13<sup>th</sup>** after both services.

### Salvation Army Community Lunch November 9, 2011

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.

### St. James Relay for Life Upcoming Fund Raisers

#### Nut Roll Sale Fundraiser

In time for the holidays we have delicious nut rolls made locally by Nancy Christman on sale now for Thanksgiving. **Delivery date is November 20<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$11.** Rolls for Christmas can be ordered beginning November 27<sup>th</sup> with a delivery date of December 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to place an order, please see Janis Lunn or Pat Baer. **All orders must be pre-paid.**

#### Advent Table

Beginning November 27<sup>th</sup>, the Relay for Life Team will be selling homemade jellies, applesauce, pickled beets, salsa and chow-chow, ornaments, dishcloths, dollar items and lots more in Horn Hall during the season of Advent. New food items will be added each week including cookies and home-made soups. Come out and do your holiday shopping while also supporting our Relay for Life team.

# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

---

## Spaghetti Dinner November 11, 2011

Due to scheduling issues, we are later than normal, which hopefully will make everyone's appetite a little stronger! We will be in Horn Hall from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and the price is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Children under 2 are free.

Just think, this is the only time this century you can enjoy spaghetti on 11/11/11. This is also Veterans Day, so if you see a veteran at the dinner, thank him or her for serving our country.

**Tickets are on sale** after each service. Please see Ted Baer or other sales people. Matching funds will be provided by Upper Montgomery County Chapter #31392 of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Hope to see everyone there.

*The Work Mission Committee*



## First Communion Instruction

Pastor will be available to provide instruction for Holy Communion to any children who, along with their parents, feel they are ready and want to begin receiving and taking part in celebrating the Lord's Supper. Instruction takes place on three Sundays immediately after worship, for about 15 minutes each time. There is no age limit on this and parents and siblings are invited to be present for the teaching.

## Women of the ELCA News

Thank you to all who contributed in some way to this fall's Rummage Sale!

We will be doing the **"Y" personal care gift bags** again this year. Here is what we can use in small personal sizes: *Shampoo, Q-Tips, Disposable Razors, Small Tablets, Combs, Pens, Toothpaste, Small pack of Tissues, Powder, Toothbrush, Small Calendars, Costume Jewelry, Caps for men, Small Mirror, Dental Floss, Nail Polish, Small Plastic toothpicks or any personal care item.*



Please place items in **the collection box in Horn Hall no later than Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your support. WELCA will put together the gift bags at their meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

This month's meeting will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown on November 1, **at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Sheila Specht presenting *Power and Authority* (Mark 4:40).

The December Bible Study will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sumneytown on December 6. Barbara Thornton will present *Beyond Boundaries* (Mark 6:38).

**All women** are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *"Take heart; get up, Jesus is calling you."* Study materials are found in Lutheran Women Today magazine. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. This is the 27th year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend and carpool, contact Grace Schafer.

## Cluster Outreach Center Holiday Food Baskets



In November we will be collecting items for the Holiday Food baskets that the Cluster assembles and gives to families in need. St. James is responsible for providing 100 cans (14 oz) of jellied cranberry sauce. **If you are interested in contributing to these baskets, please take a tag from Horn Hall.** Please bring donations to the church starting November 13<sup>th</sup> with all donations returned to the church by December 11<sup>th</sup>. **Please contact Suzanne if you have any questions about the donation.**

## Christmas Angel Program



St. James will once again be participating with the Pottstown Salvation Army in their annual Christmas Angel Program. We have accepted 50 gift tags. All the tags request a gift for a local child, age 14 or younger. By taking the initiative to purchase the time for a child you will be making Christmas more special for him or her. **You will know if you need to purchase a gift for a boy or girl from the tag itself.**

The tags will be available in **November and can be found hanging on the Social Ministry bulletin board in Horn Hall.** Please take one tag or as many as you think you are able to provide gifts for. When you have finished purchasing your gift, please hold onto it until November 20<sup>th</sup> when you will be able to deliver it to the designated area of Horn Hall. If you do take a tag and find, for whatever reason, that you cannot make a gift purchase, please return the tag no later than November 27<sup>th</sup>. **All gifts should be UNWRAPPED with the tag securely fastened and need to be at the church no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.**

## Community Thanksgiving Worship

A community Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday November 20, 2011 at 7 p.m. It will be held at Congregation Mercy & Truth, 575 N. Keim St. in Pottstown. There will be a joint choir of the congregations that are attending.

## Give the World a Present

Honor your friends and family with the holiday gifts that make the world a better place. The humanitarian gifts that you purchase at New Hanover Lutheran's Living Gifts Fair enables people in need around the world to become more self-reliant. This is not a fund-raising event for the church, but for those beyond our walls. Both local and global organizations will be benefited by your financial help and by your love and concern.

### Please visit the living Gifts Fair

Saturday, **November 12**, 9 am - 3 pm  
Sunday, **November 13**, 10 am - Noon

### New Hanover Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

2491 Lutheran Road, Gilbertsville, Pa

Lunch will be available on Saturday and includes hot roast beef sandwiches and home-made soup.

The event will also include the following:

- Ten Thousand Villages
- ELCA World Hunger Program
- Relay for Life
- Maya Works
- "Christmas Flea Market"
- Habitat for Humanity
- Child, Home and Community and other organizations.

For more information call 610-326-1335.

# MEMBER NEWS and COUNCIL NOTES

---

## November Birthdays

2 – Dot Wien; 4 – Elaine Christman, Marge McElroy, Barbara Updegrove; 5 – Jerry Fegley 8 – Paul Rigg, Jane Trate; 9 – Betty Hatfield, Gladys Schott; 10- Julie Hauck; 12 – Tom Cooper; 13 – Ryan Levan; 14 – David Garner, Ryan Olock, Dawn Richard; 16 – Martha Fink, John Kochel; 17 – Virginia Davis, Lani Goins; 18 – Harry Keller; 19 – Gail Neiffer; 23 – Jay Neiffer, Donna Rose; 24- Babe Hillegass, Ruth Zimmerman; 25 – JoAnne Binsfeld, Margaret Cooper, Sara Jane Silver; 26 – Sarah Kochel, Helen Ziegler, Thomas Goins; 27 – Scott Reynier, Raymonda Valletta; 29 - Diana Kauffman

## Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

***Ikeem Christan Wollah***, son of Delvin Wollah, baptized October 2, 2011.

***William Travis Barteckko***, son of Regina and Travis Barteckko, baptized October 16, 2011.



## Congratulations

The following couples were married here at St James:

**Susan Cocci & Matthew Gilbert**  
October 1, 2011

**Rachel Ettinger & Donald Stanley**  
. October 8, 2011

## Thank You Notes

Thank you to Melinda Mace for organizing this year's Reformation Sunday Potluck.

Thank you to Vickie Kirsten for being the adult leader for the Junior Youth Gathering attended by five of our youth.

Thank you to Helen and Earl Moyer for the cake they shared with us in celebrating their 71st wedding anniversary.

Thank you to Larry Wert for stripping the peeling paint from the chancel area.

## Memorial Contributions

### In Memory of Elsie Drauschak:

Bob & Ellen Ibach  
Bob Rheel  
Paul & Sandra Eshbach  
Theodore Drauschak  
Pat & Ted Baer  
Marge McElroy  
Larry & Jeanette Wert  
Mike & Janis Lunn  
Charles & Immy Moore

### In Memory of Mary Kochel:

Mike & Janis Lunn

### In Memory of Frank Klaus:

Jon & Martha Fink  
Paul & Millie Casner

# COUNCIL NOTES

## Council Member Contact

If at any time 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](mailto:nannahsdmb@gmail.com)

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

Barbara Ungerman (Secretary) 610-718-9368  
Email: [bungerman1428@verizon.net](mailto:bungerman1428@verizon.net)

Marge Fegley 610-495-5950  
Email: [mfegley1@verizon.net](mailto:mfegley1@verizon.net)

Mike Lunn 610-367-8762  
Email: [lunns2@comcast.net](mailto:lunns2@comcast.net)

Julie Hauck 215-378-1827  
Email: [jlyne65@ptd.net](mailto:jlyne65@ptd.net)

Ellen Ibach 610-323-4477  
Email: [bach1465@comcast.net](mailto:bach1465@comcast.net)

Bob Yoder 610-385-1600  
Email: [bob@bob-jr.com](mailto:bob@bob-jr.com)

Diane Mitchell 610-970-4250  
Email: [poohgers2712@yahoo.com](mailto:poohgers2712@yahoo.com)

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

Ed VanBuren 610-327-1159  
Email: [edandshirley@comcast.net](mailto:edandshirley@comcast.net)

Rose Wagner 610-327-4995  
Email: [rcrmwagner@comcast.net](mailto:rcrmwagner@comcast.net)

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
-		-
Income	\$26,144.66	\$213,888.58
Expenses	<u>21,208.96</u>	<u>232,621.44</u>
Net Income	\$4,935.70	(\$18,732.86)
<i>Regular Envelopes</i>		
Received	\$22,545.00	\$162,258.85
Needed*	<u>20,244.01</u>	<u>182,196.48</u>
Over (Under)	\$2,300.99	(\$19,937.63)
<i>Third Sunday Offering</i>		
Seminary Support		
Collected	\$384.00	
<i>Capital Campaign</i>		
	<u>Sep-2011</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Income	\$5,363.50	\$855,000.00
Principal		
Owed	\$279,103.98	as of 9/28/11

\*Amount required to balance the budget.

