

the Spirit of St. James



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

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Youth 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

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Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
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OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for December 2009 Edition: November 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.

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

The cost of the sponsorships are: \$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.

Reminder from the Archives Committee

If you have any photos from any church related events that can be shared, please see that the Archive Committee receives them. We are looking for past & future events. Also, if possible, please try to identify the people in the photos. Thanks!

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 radio (AM 1370), watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or check their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC).

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

On Thanksgiving Day in 2001, Carole Lewis' daughter (a married mother of three) was killed by a drunk driver. A few years after that, in response to that and other events in her life, she wrote a book about thankfulness and choosing to be thankful to God. How could she possibly do that?

In our culture today, the practice of complaining and criticizing is much more prominent and popular than the practice of giving thanks. Whether it's in politics, economics, international affairs, families, or even churches, pointing out what's wrong receives more of our attention and energy than what is good and right. Maybe it's not just our society today; maybe it's just human nature and the way people try to cope with their problems and adversity in their lives.

But to pause in the midst of whatever woes we have and recognize the goodness of what we have, the blessings that we adore, and the positives that God has graced us with, is a better medicine for our hardships and pain than complaining. To focus on and lament over all of our troubles and concerns works against our faith in God, undermines our hope for the future, and hinders our ability to love others. On the other hand, when we make a choice to concentrate more on giving thanks to God instead of complaining, our faith helps us to bear our burdens, our hope is strengthened, and we tend to show love to others more easily and on a more regular basis.

This month our nation celebrates a Day of Thanksgiving. For many, this is just a time for turkey, pumpkin pie, and football games. But for the serious Christian, it is a day to give thanks to the God who gives us all good things. But let that day also be a reminder for

us of God's call to give him thanks all of the time. Not just because he says to do so, but also and maybe even more so, because it will be good for us to do so.

Pastor

Bible Study



The month of November is when we all celebrate 'Thanksgiving'. And yet, as Christians, we know that we are called to give thanks to God all the time and every day of the year. This pleases God as well as giving us peace in our hearts and creating a sense of wellness within us. To regularly say thanks to God and to be thankful people to others around us, is good medicine for us in daily life.

Pastor's Bible study class continues this month with a three week session on **giving thanks**. We will look at bible passages of how God's people and Jesus gave thanks, but also at how giving thanks helps move us to a new and better perspective on life. As always, we meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in the adult classroom downstairs at the church, and on Thursday morning at 10 am at the Sanatoga Retirement Village.

All parishioners, as well as friends and visitors and, are encouraged to come!

Beginning the week of Thanksgiving, Pastor's bible study will take a break until after the Christmas season

WORSHIP NOTES



All Saints Sunday November 1, 2009

On Sunday, November 1st we will once again 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.

November 8, 2009 We Welcome Dr. Stephen and Becky Thorson

Stephen and Becky Thorson, have been missionaries sent by the World Mission Prayer League (a Lutheran mission agency) to the country of Nepal for over 25 years. Becky is the visa holder, most recently in a full-time position as the Language & Orientation coordinator for the United Mission to Nepal. She fits in some clinical counseling (she is licensed), likes to teach Bible study methods, and team-teaches pre-marriage classes with Stephen.

Stephen is a pediatrician, and works half-time teaching medical interns and residents, working in the clinics, and coordinating a big research program at Patan Hospital. He also works on computer productions of Christian literature in the Nepali language. Past projects included an adapted Nepali Bible Dictionary, Sunday School materials, and most recently Luther's Small Catechism in Nepali. He wrote most of the topical articles for an original New Testament Commentary in Nepali, and has also written most of the general articles for The Applied Old Testament Commentary in English, which was published by David C. Cook at the end of 2007. But his favorite work is teaching theology in Nepali to Bible school students.



The Next Rejoicing Spirits worship at St. James will be **Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7 p.m. Pre-worship music begins at 6:55 p.m. with singing by Naomi Fuerman.** All are welcome!

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.



First Communion Instruction

In the next few weeks, Pastor will be offering instruction on receiving Holy Communion to any youth who have expressed an interest or desire to begin doing that.

As long as parents are supportive of their children receiving the Lord's Supper, we do not impose any age restrictions or limits on receiving.

We will be meeting for three Sundays immediately after the 10:45 worship service sometime in November/early December to discuss the purpose and meaning as well as method(s) of participating in "The Great Thanksgiving". Each session will be about 15 – 20 minutes (and parents can sit in if they wish). We will try to set up a schedule that works for those families taking part. Please let Pastor or Suzanne know if your child will be participating and attending this instruction on the Eucharist.



Annual Meeting – Part 1

Please plan to attend part one of annual meeting **between services on Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m.** The agenda includes the **election of Council members and the adoption of the 2010 budget.** There will be no adult Sunday School classes this day. There will not be a separate mailing notice for this meeting, so mark your calendar now! **Part 2 of the annual meeting will be held on January 24, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.**

Third Sunday Offering NOVEMBER Recipient

This month's third Sunday Offering goes to the work that is being done locally to provide for the homeless. Through the efforts of The Ministries of Main Street, and other churches in this town, work is being done to provide shelter and food to those who have no place to call home. Starting this month area churches will host the Main Street Mobile Shelter with each church hosting one month at time into the spring. Last year five different churches hosted this shelter.

Through your prayers and support these churches can continue caring for our most unfortunate here in the Greater Pottstown area. On behalf of our poor and homeless community in Pottstown, thank you in advance for the support you can provide through our Third Sunday Offering to the homeless ministries in this community.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

Classes meeting in the Blue Room at 9:30 a.m.:

**“Goodbye, guilt. Hello, better prayer life.”
November 1 and 15**

Is prayer just another source of guilt in your life? “I know I should pray but I can't seem to find the time.” Or “I want to pray but I'm not good with words.” All of us have picked up attitudes on prayer that affect us today. During this class we will try to let go of some of those unhelpful attitudes so that we can say hello to a refreshed relationship with God.

**Becky Thorson Presentation
November 8**

Missionary Becky Thorson and her husband Dr. Stephen Thorson will be visiting with us on this day. Becky will giving a presentation of her and her husband's work as missionaries in Nepal.

**Advent Conspiracy
November 22, 29 and December 13 & 20**

Tired of the consumerism that has come to define Christmas? Advent Conspiracy invites us learn how to restore the scandal of Christmas by substituting compassion for consumption. Through this engaging, four-session DVD curriculum Advent Conspiracy will show us how we can substitute compassion for consumption by practicing four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts: Worship Fully—because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus! Spend Less—and free up resources for things that truly matter. Give More—presence: helping hands, healing words, humble hearts. Love All—the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the sick, in ways that make a difference.

Classes meeting in the Adult Study Class 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. This class meets weekly.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Blood Pressure Checks Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **November 8th** after each service.

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.

Spaghetti Dinner November 6, 2009



Buy you tickets. The next great spaghetti dinner has been set for **Friday, November 6.** We will again be in Horn Hall from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The price remains at \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Children under 2 are free. **Tickets are on sale** after each service. Please see Ted Baer or other sales people. Matching funds will again be provided by Upper Montgomery County Chapter #31392 of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Hope to see everyone there.

The Work Mission Committee

WELCA News

The next WELCA meeting is on **Monday, November 16th at 7 p.m.** when we will be packing the holiday gift bags for the families at the YWCA. Hope you can help us on that evening.

Donations Needed for WELCA's "YW" Parent Network HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS



Personal care gift bag items:

Shampo Q-Tips Throw Away Razors Tablets
Comb Pens Toothpaste Small pack of
Tissues Small Tablets Powder Toothbrush
Small calendars Costume Jewelry Caps for guys
Small Mirror Dental Floss Nail Polish Small
Plastic toothpicks or any personal care item
Small personal sizes of the above are used.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference

Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, November 3, 2009, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Kitty Pell presenting *Hope Does Not Disappoint.*

The December Bible Study will be held at Manatawny Manor, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, December 1, 2009,** with Sr. Jane Roper presenting *Moved to a New Address.*

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 or Mary Arnt for carpooling.

St. James Relay for Life Nut Roll Sale Fundraiser

In time for the holidays...delicious nut rolls, made locally by Nancy Chrisman, are on sale now for Thanksgiving **with a delivery of November 22 at a cost of \$11.** Rolls for Christmas can be ordered beginning November 29th with a delivery date of December 20th. For more information or to place an order, please see Olga Christman, Pat Baer, or Carol Keller. **All orders must be pre-paid.**

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. **Below are the items being collected for the baskets:**

Boxed mashed potatoes, canned turkey gravy, boxed stuffing mix, canned corn, canned green beans, canned sweet potatoes/yams, brown sugar, little marshmallows, mushroom soup, cranberry sauce, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.



If you would like to donate any of these items, **please place them in the specially marked Holiday Food basket in Horn Hall by December 6.**

The Cluster is also wishing for gift cards from Redners to purchase perishables such as milk, eggs, butter or turkeys. If you would like to **donate any cards, please give your donation to Suzanne Rigg by December 6.**

Other food items for the Cluster can be placed in the basket located **by the lower level mailboxes found at the bottom of the stairs** closest to the parking lot.

News from the Pottstown Cluster

Current needs for the food pantry include: **sizes 4-6 diapers, baby wipes, baby oil, baby rach cream, baby shampoo, laundry and dish detergent, all purpose cleaner, shampoo, Ensure** and for the clothing closet: **ladies' socks, ladies' underwear (sizes 7-9), kids' socks, kids' winter pajamas/sleepers, boys' jeans (7-18), babies' winter jackets (newborn – 2T), girls' tops (24mo – 2T) and underwear for adults and children, blankets, towels, washcloths, sheets (full size) and kitchenware.**

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



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, for whom Christmas will be more special by someone taking the initiative to purchase him or her a gift. **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 or as many tags as you think you are able to provide gifts. When you have finished purchasing your gift, please hold onto it until November 22nd when you will be able to deliver it to the designated area of Horn Hall. **All gifts should be UNWRAPPED with the tag securely fastened and need to be at the church no later than the 6th of December.**

Of course, 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

MEMBER NEWS

November Birthdays

2 – Dot Wien; 4 – Elaine Christman, Marge McElroy, Barbara Updegrove; 5 – Jerry Fegley, Connie Snyder; 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

Special Note From Pastor:

Pastor recently offered a Sunday morning adult class in which we viewed and discussed the video “*Confronting Death*”. It was hosted and narrated by Walter Wangerin, Jr., a famous Lutheran pastor and award-winning author of 35 books.

In the hour long video, Wangerin addresses the following subjects: how we confront serious illness, our grieving before death, caring for the one who is not sick, how we handle the pain, and confronting death itself. Wangerin not only discusses these from a theological perspective, but he does so from his own personal viewpoint since he himself was recently diagnosed to be in an advanced stage of cancer. It is a serious, helpful, and often moving experience to watch this video and can be a guide for us in the matter that we all will encounter some day. It is highly recommended. If you would like to borrow the DVD from Pastor (or to discuss its content at some point) please let him know.



CALLED
TO SHARE
HIS
LIGHT

Auction Update

Friday, October 16th was a terrific evening here at St. James as we held a Silent and Live Auction to raise money to put towards the capital campaign. Along with the auctions we also had a Country Store selling many hand-made items and home-made goodies to eat and the “St. James Dollar Cafe” served delicious food including homemade soup, chili and desserts. The evening was a good time for all as we were entertained by the talent and wit of our auctioneers. **Thank you to all who contributed to this evening:** those who gave items for the auctions; those who made items and goodies to sell in the Country Store; those who donated and made food to be sold; those who donated items for the auctions; those who bought and bid on auction, store and café items; and those who gave of their time to organize the auction and to work on that night. **Through the work and effort of many we raised just over \$7000!**

Thank You Notes

Thanks you to Pat and Ted Baer for providing the setting and décor for our Blessing of the Animals.

Thanks to Barb Updegrove for her beautiful painting of St. James Church that she donated to the church this past month. Thanks also to Larry Wert for hanging it up on the landing near our new elevator where it is now displayed

Use your values to guide financial decisions

Your values serve as an important foundation for how you manage your money. They're the things that are most important to you—for example, your faith, family, friends, health, education or giving back. Your values give you a rock-solid sense of who you are and what you believe in.

Your values come from experiences in life. They also drive your decisions and actions. For example, if you value your health, you may exercise daily. If you value learning, you may continue your education by attending classes.

Developing a clear and compelling list of your values makes it easier to choose how you want to use your time, talents and treasures.

When it comes to your money, you have three choices:

1. share
2. save
3. spend

As a steward of your resources, having a guideline for how you use your money can be helpful.

What's more, your values can be a clear, consistent guide to who you are and what you want to become. Investing time and energy to define your values and then aligning your actions with your values is a powerful way to achieve your financial goals and live the life of your dreams.

For more information on how your values can help you achieve your financial goals, contact John Ungerman, Senior Financial Consultant at 610-970-4740,

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
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