

the Spirit of St. James



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

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

* One worship on October 26 at 10 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
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
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Secretary

Darlene Jackson

e-mail: secretary@stjamespottstown.org

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe

email: sharonmaccabe@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 November '08 Edition: October 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, \$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.

New Office Hours

Effective immediately the hours for when the church office will be open are Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – Noon and 1-2:30 p.m. The office is closed on Friday.

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

It's Time To Vote!

On Tuesday, November 4th, our nation will vote to elect its next president (as well as other office holders). Voting, of course, is a serious matter for us as Americans. Lots of other countries still do not enjoy this freedom that many people died for us to have. But voting is also a serious matter for us as Christians. We are all called from the moment of our Baptism to engage the world and to be Christ-like in doing so. What that means with respect to our participating in the electoral process is that our greatest fault may be not so much in making the "wrong" choices when we vote, but in being indifferent and not participating at all.

The apostle Paul in the book of Romans and Christian teaching has always emphasized generally supporting temporal leaders. Martin Luther (protected by the princes of his day) echoed those sentiments in much of his writings. That does not mean we endorse or ignore the policies and practices of leaders that are inconsistent with Christian principles. But it also means that we do not simply disconnect by saying "all of them are crooks" or other blanket condemnations. Furthermore, Christianity has fostered support for democracy and voting because the practice embraces the very Christian idea that every person matters.



So we have a responsibility to participate in picking our leaders and to do so with attention to the heart of Christ. Some churches offer guidelines and principals to

"help" (or direct) members in deciding whom to vote for. I think that trying to pin Jesus down as a Democrat or Republican; a liberal or conservative; or whatever partisan cause one has passion for, once again reflects ourselves onto Christ instead of the other way around.

But in being Christ-like in all that we do, and that includes voting, we should remember what Jesus said and did and was for us. He spoke up for and cared for the least in society and brought into the presence of God's grace those whom the majority cast out or ignored. He was gentle and kind and compassionate, but not passive. He passionately sought for people to pursue justice and to adhere to and further God's will. And maybe most importantly, by his own death, he invoked the idea of sacrifice to bring about good.

You won't hear those running for political office saying much about that because it generally won't help get you elected. But if we have listened and paid attention, we can arrive at an informed opinion to help us cast our votes for candidates who we feel best reflect the best that there is – that is, Jesus Christ. We may not be completely sure if how we vote is in accord with Jesus, but one thing is for sure - that we won't be in accord with him if we don't vote at all.

And one last thing. After we elect a president and others this fall, it is also our calling to then support them in prayer - even if we don't like their policies. Nobody ever said it was easy being a Christian.

PASTOR

Pastor's Fifth Year Anniversary

October 1st marks the Fifth Year Anniversary of Pastor Hutchinson's arrival here at St. James. To celebrate the occasion we will be honoring him at a **special coffee fellowship on Sunday, October 5 following the 8 a.m. worship.** We hope many of you can attend to help us celebrate this milestone.

Fall Bible Study

Starting October 2nd and 7th

Word and Witness

Worship and Witness are integral parts of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We gather together in "the house of the Lord" each week to give God **worship** and it's pretty clear that this is a good thing for us to do. But why is it important that we do this? And do we understand what exactly goes on there (you may be surprised!)? And is there a right/wrong way to **worship**? Where does the idea and practice come from anyway? These and other questions relating to **worship** will be entertained and explored as we look for answers from passages of scripture in the first four weeks of October.

In the next four weeks in November leading up to Thanksgiving, we will embark on a study on what is supposed to be the outcome of our time of worship: that is, the idea of being a **witness** for Christ. To be a **witness** for the Lord is something that Lutherans and other Christians often struggle to understand (although we may already be doing it!) Yet it is stated pretty regularly throughout the scriptures that we are called to do this and it will be helpful

and good for all of us (Pastor included) to take a good look at why and where and how we might be a **witness** for Jesus. These studies will begin on Thursday, October 2nd at the Sanatoga Retirement Village, at 10:00 AM. If you have not been there before, please know that all are welcomed and that many from outside of St. James attend these sessions. We have coffee and doughnuts each week as part of the fellowship. All you need to bring is a bible. Or, you may attend the second class which will begin the following Tuesday evening, starting on October 7th, at 7 PM. We meet in the adult Sunday school room next door to the office at the church (and Philip Hackett hands out free mints!). Again, anyone and everyone are welcome and feel free to invite non-members as well. You may come to both studies, or, one or the other if you wish.



... **One More Thing**

Realizing how important it is that we grow in our practice of discipleship,...and that too often people foolishly feel inhibited about coming to study groups because they feel incompetent,... and since some folks just are mistaken to think that they have better things to do - **as an incentive, Pastor will donate one hour of his time to each new person who attends one of the above bible study classes.** That hour may be used as you wish, but Pastor is willing to rake leaves in your yard, to wash the windows in your house, wash your automobile, or even give private bible study on whatever subject you want. It's your choice of how he might serve you, but the offer is for real! So don't miss this chance to learn and get some free work from a faithful servant of the Lord. And we'll see you at bible study.

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

Two adult education opportunities continue to be offered 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 anytime

Blue Room - Pastor Hutchinson will lead the adult Christian education class viewing the film '**Final Blessing**' which examines the spiritual dimensions in the lives of the terminally ill who find peace and healing at the end of their lives. This videos is part of the award-winning films produced by Martin Doblmeier, including '*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*' (which we watched a couple years ago) and '*The Power of Forgiveness*' which we watched and discussed last spring. Mr. Doblmeier has also done work for the ELCA and has given presentations at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. All persons are welcomed and encouraged to come to see this film to help us learn and grow in our faith and understanding of God.

No Adult Education Classes
on October 26.

Blessing of the Animals October 5, 2008



In celebration of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, there will be a blessing of the animals at the home of Ted and Pat Baer (on Rambler Avenue, across from the church parking lot) on **Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 5 p.m.** You are welcome to bring pets and animals of all sizes and varieties to receive a blessing.

Convinced that Christ identified with the poor and the needy, St. Francis abandoned his own wealth and began to serve the poor. He ministered to lepers, worked in the field with the migrant workers, and opened soup kitchens for the homeless. He believed that the entire cosmos is an agent of evangelism, including animals.



The Next Rejoicing Spirits worship at St. James will be **Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 7 p.m.** All are welcome!

Naomi Fuerman, one of the Rejoicers, will once again be sharing her musical talent with us as she plans to sing both in October and November. In October she will be singing ***I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*** and in November, her piece will be ***Breath from Heaven*** (a song made popular by Amy Grant). Please plan to join us for both these evenings.

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.

Third Sunday Offering

OCTOBER Recipient The Cluster Outreach Center

This month's third Sunday offering will benefit the Cluster Outreach Center. The Cluster Outreach Center is a ministry of The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities, which represents over 60 congregations in an interfaith effort to provide for the needs of the community. The Outreach Center is a tangible expression of God's love in our world today.

The Cluster Outreach is blessed with abundant donations of food, clothing and household items from many benefactors. However, as with many non-profit organizations it feels the crunch when it comes to financial contributions. Without the financial support of the faith communities of Pottstown their mission of providing for the needy in the Greater Pottstown area would not be possible. Please consider giving to this month's third Sunday offering to support The Cluster.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

NOVEMBER – Hurricane Relief
DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger

Reformation Sunday

October 26

one worship time - 10 a.m.
German-Style Potluck Dinner
following worship

Every year, in Lutheran churches across the land, the last Sunday of October is marked and celebrated as Reformation Sunday. This is done to honor and remember when Martin Luther posted his arguments against the Church of Rome at the time (The 95 Theses they were called).

To help us celebrate that day, we will once again have one worship service at 10:00 AM. Sharon will have some special music and other exciting things are being planned to make this a special day.

After worship we invite everyone to come and dine together at a German-style Pot Luck dinner. That means that we need folks to bring in their favorite or best German dishes (other types of food are also welcomed to make the meal excellent and filling!).

Come and enjoy a time of meaningful worship and fun fellowship for all and don't forget to wear red, the liturgical color of the day!



DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Blood Drive

October 6th is our next scheduled blood drive to be held from **2-7p.m.** We do four drives per year. Please contact Ellen Ibach at 610-323-4477 to make an appointment.

First Baptist Church of Pottstown is 150 years old this year.

This is your special invitation to be part of our celebration on the weekend of October 4 and 5. Saturday night's events begin with a social hour at 5:00. At 6:00 we move into the sanctuary for a special historical presentation to be televised by PCTV. This presentation was written and produced by Pat Smith, a church member and Pottstown historian and author. At 7:00 we go downstairs for a banquet catered by Boyers Catering. Tickets for the banquet are \$15/adult; \$5.00/children 6-12; and children under 6 are free. On Sunday morning we gather for a special anniversary worship service at 10:45, followed by a reception at noon. For more information, please contact First Baptist Church at 610-326-2273.



CROP Walk October 12, 2008

Come rain or shine, many individuals in the area are gearing up to join in the Pottstown **CROP WALK, on Sunday, October 12, 2008. The WALK will begin and end at First Presbyterian Church located at 750 N. Evans Street.** Registration is at 1:30 p.m. with the walk at 2 pm.

Organized by the Cluster Outreach Center, the Pottstown CROP WALK's goal is to help stop hunger here in our community and around the world, through self-help development initiatives.

If you are interested in walking or would like to sponsor someone who is walking, please stop by the CROP WALK table in Horn or contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810

Laura Kaczor Concerts In Memory of Richard John to Benefit St. John's Lutheran Church and the Korogwe Lutheran Parish, Tanzania



Laura Kaczor will be performing her "Wake Me Up" Tour. The concert and worship will be on Saturday, October 4th at 7:30 p.m., for all ages with a donation of \$10. Then again on Sunday, October 5th at 6 p.m. it will be held for youth and young adults with donation of \$5 (no one turned away).

The concerts are at Grace Lutheran Church, 660 N. Charlotte St. Pottstown, PA.

Schuylkill River Festival October 11 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This year **St. James will be hosting a table** at the Schuylkill River Festival sponsored by The Montgomery County Community College and its collaborative partners. All are invited to spend the day at the **Schuylkill River Festival along College Drive in Pottstown.** Some of the activities this year include: the YWCA Art Show, artist/craft booths, food vendors, community tables/displays, performances and storytelling, quilt show, apple pie bake off and chili cook-off and more.

Activities especially for children include a track-less train, build-a scarecrow, face painting, sandbox treasures, hands-on art and crafts and more. If you would like to give some time in hosting the table for St. James, please contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810.



Recycling at St. James

Did you know that we recycle here at St. James? If you're helping out in the kitchen, please use our new recycle bins. Also, if you do not wish to keep your bulletin after Sunday services, please place it in the basket in Horn Hall and we'll recycle it for you!

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Psalm 24:1-2



Thermostat Settings for the Winter

With winter just around the corner and knowing the cost of oil, the Congregational Council took some action to help conserve some energy and cost. At the September Council meeting the council decided that when the church building is occupied the thermostats will be set to 68 degrees, a setting used by many of us in our own homes.

We know that heating a church building is not quite the same as heating a home, so as the winter progresses, if the temperature needs to be adjusted to provide a comfortable setting, it will be. We are hoping that maintaining a set temperature will be easy to do with the new thermostats installed in our worship space. Also knowing ahead of time what the temperature will be in the building each week will allow each us to dress appropriately for your own comfort.



WELCA News

The WELCA fall "Red Door Boutique" rummage sale held at St. James is coming October 6 and 7. Get ready now! Have your CLEAN, ready-to-use items gathered to bring to the church on Sunday, October 5. Place them in Horn hall, in the marked area, and plan to shop.

Remember, if there are tags or tickets still attached to your items, do NOT remove those! It's helpful if you place those items in a separate bag. We add these new-tagged items to our annual In-Gathering.

Shopping for St. James members will be Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. The sale opens for the public Tuesday from 9 to noon and then 12:30 to 1:30. Tell your friends about this event. They, in turn, tell all their friends and co-workers to shop at the "Red Door Boutique" to find WONDERFUL items two times a year!

Women of the ELCA Upper MontCo Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. James Lutheran, Limerick, on **Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Ann Seislove, presenting *Ruth: The Plan for Security (Ruth 2:12)*.

The November Bible Study will be held at, on **Tuesday, November 4, 2008**, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Pottstown with Barbara Lutz presenting *Ruth: A Place in Community (Ruth 4:11)*.

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.

SCRIP and Holiday Plans

Plan ahead for the holiday season. Use SCRIP for gifts and save gas. Shop at the SCRIP table on your way to the elevator.

We have gift cards for gas, food, eating, establishments, home improvements and more. Stop by for a current list. We now also have WalMart and Pet Smart gift cards.

The earlier you know what you would like, the better the chance we will be able to fill your wish list. See you at the SCRIP table.

Spaghetti Dinner



Mark your calendar. The next great spaghetti dinner has been set for **Friday, November 7th**. We will again be in Horn Hall from 4:30 to 7:00. The price remains the same at \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Children under 2 are free.

Tickets will be on sale starting October 19th after each service. 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

Faith and Leadership Academy

Our Synod's Faith and Leadership Academy is a six-week adventure in faith and discipleship. **Through lectures, discussions, prayer and mutual encouragement, participants discover new insights about their faith, their church and themselves.** Classes are led by seminary staff, pastors, and trained lay leaders.

The 2008 session will run Saturdays, October 11, 25 and November 1, 8, 15, and 22 **at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia from 9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** The Academy does not meet Saturday, October 18, due to the Synod Mission Fair.

If you would like more information or if you are interested in registering for the Academy, please contact Pastor Hutchinson or Suzanne Rigg. **There is no cost to any member who would like to attend.**

Applebee's Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

November 8, 2008

Benefiting the Cluster Outreach Center

Again this year Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar is providing a pancake and sausage breakfast on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 7 to 10 a.m. with all proceeds from the event going towards the general operating expenses at the Cluster Outreach Center. Tickets are \$5 per adult and \$3 per child. Please contact Earl Moyer for more information or tickets.



Cluster Outreach Center

Pantry Needs:

Canned fruit, snacks, saltine crackers, graham crackers, personal items (shampoo, conditioner, etc.) and diabetic foods (low sugar and sugar free).

Clothing & Household Needs:

Silverware, toasters, can openers, and twin size sheets.

Baby Needs:

Similac Advance with iron formula, diapers sizes 5,6 and newborn, stage 1 and 3 baby food.

Always needed:

Brown paper grocery bags, quart and gallon size Ziploc plastic bags (freezer or regular), empty water bottles with lids.

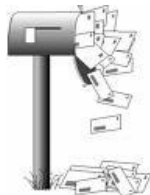
Donations can be brought to St. James on Sundays or donations are accepted at the Cluster on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 9-11 a.m. and Wednesdays 3-5 p.m. Also from 9-11 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of the month. The Cluster is located at 137 Walnut Street.

MEMBER NEWS

Address Changes

Evelyn Szezepanski
20 S. Charlotte St., 2nd Floor
Pottstown, PA 19464

Jim Irwin
91-1 Sherman Road
Ottsville, PA 18942
610-310-9302



Kelly and Robert Heffner
314 Anthonys Mill Rd.
Bechtelsville, PA 19505

Stay in touch with our college students:

Jessica Mitchell
C214
Academic Ridge
Fort Collins, CO 80521

If there are other college students whose addresses you would like to share, please contact Darlene Jackson or Suzanne Rigg.



Deepest Sympathies

To David Hartzman upon the death of his mother, Ernestine.

To Pastor Hutchinson upon the death of his mother, Anne.

To Mindy DuVal upon the death of her sister, Jayne Knopp.

To the family and friends of Jerry Lutz (our former seminarian).

October Birthdays

1 – George Clements, Corrine Drauschak, Vickie Kirsten; **2** – Barb Ungerman; **3** – Amanda Kulp; **4** – Devon Byers, Frank Klaus, Robin Rolando; **7** – Mary Louise Hartzman, David Updegrave; **8** – Olga Christman; **9** – Paul Saltzer; **10** – Sandra Drauschak; **12** – Robbie Taylor; **13** – Jim Irwin, Mary Koenig; **14** – Eugene Hoehne; **15** – Del Weller; **16** – Nancy Bergstresser, Kathy Geiger; **17** – Betty Kirkhoff; **18** – Jennifer DuVal; **19** – Carol Mittura; **20** – Andrew Morris; **21** – Barbara Thornton; **22** – Max Drauschak; **24** – Fritz Drauschak; **25** – Jeremy Wagner; **27** – Mary Arnt, Greg Smith; **29** – Joel Swanson; **30** – Morgan O'Donnell; **31** – Linda Clouser, Mike Lunn

Thank You Notes

Thank you for the many cards, prayers and expressions of kindness that was extended to my family and me for the passing of my sister Jayne Knopp.

Melinda (Mindy) DuVal and family

Thank you to all who helped me during my confinement after surgery. I very much appreciated the cards, visits, meals, and the transportation. The cards gave me a real emotional lift and made me feel that I was not alone. It also helped me have faith in myself.

Sincerely,
Marge Fegley

(thank you notes continued next page)

Thanks for the cards, prayers and phone calls on my recent surgery and recovery. Special thanks to Chef Bob Rheel for the pies.

Ted Baer

Pastor and Debbie wish to thank everyone for the many beautiful cards and notes of condolence as well as all the kind words, thoughts and prayers following the death of Pastor's mother. It was also appreciated that some folks even made the long trek to New Jersey for her funeral.

She died on Friday, Sept. 5th, one week after suffering a massive stroke. She was 82 years old and lived a life, as most lives, filled with many joys as well as some sorrows. Pastor's father, who is 88, survives her.

In the week long interim period between the stroke and her death, she was able to be visited by family and friends and to hear and even acknowledge expressions of love and care. We entrust her now to the love and care of the Lord.

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	<u>Aug-2008</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$23,058.76	\$175,356.44
Expenses	<u>21,434.50</u>	<u>203,516.72</u>
Net Income	\$1,624.26	(\$28,160.28)
<i>Regular Envelopes</i>		
Received	\$19,178.40	\$139,659.05
Needed*	<u>19,498.94</u>	<u>155,991.54</u>
Over (Under)	(\$320.54)	(\$16,332.49)
<i>Third Sunday Offering</i>		
Collected	\$303.00	World Mission Prayer League (Thorsons in Nepal)
<i>Capital Campaign</i>		
		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Aug-2008</u>	<u>Campaign</u>
Income	\$5,646.00	\$261,708.99

*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
Email: lunns2@dejazzd.com

Jim Irwin 323-1511
Email: jei1013hotmail.com

Scott Strichik 610-327-3108
Email: sstrichik@verizon.net

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

David Hartzman 610-909-5806
Email: Crittersdad1949@aol.com

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

Chipper Meadowcroft 610-327-0458
Email: meadow1135@hotmail.com

Carol Keller 610-326-1013
Email: shanek550@aol.com

