

# the Spirit of St. James



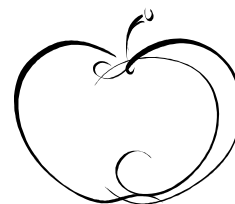
St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • SEPTEMBER 2009

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

### September 6

Worship at 9 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship 10 a.m.

### Starting September 13

Worship at 8 and 10:45 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship at 9 a.m.  
Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.  
Confirmation at 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church at 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](http://www.stjamespottstown.org)

## STAFF

### **Ministers**

Each and Every Member of St. James

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson  
e-mail: [pastorh@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:pastorh@stjamespottstown.org)  
home 610-718-0313

### **Director of Discipleship**

Suzanne Rigg  
e-mail: [srigg@thehill.org](mailto:srigg@thehill.org)  
office 610-326-2810  
home 610-970-4865

### **Secretary**

Darlene Jackson  
e-mail: [secretary@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:secretary@stjamespottstown.org)

### **Director of Music Ministries**

Sharon MacCabe  
email: [sharonmaccabe@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:newsletterstj@wi.rr.com)

## OFFICE NOTES

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### **Newsletter Deadline for October 2009 Edition: September 15, 2009**

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.

### **Useful Information on our Website**

Along with descriptions of our ministry and mission, one can find the following information on our website: **weekly announcements** (under News), parts of the **Guide to Daily Prayer** (under the Prayers/Daily Devotions), **Assisting Ministers' Schedule** (under Worship/servants), and **the newsletter** (under News).

### **Staff Resignation**

For almost two and a half years, Darlene Jackson has faithfully served as the church secretary for St. James. Sadly, Darlene has informed us that she will be leaving St. James.

In her time here, we have been blessed by her dedication in service to the Lord, her presence of caring for and sharing with so many, and her helping us out and doing whatever is asked of and needed from her.

She will be missed and we ask God's blessings upon her and her family.

Her last day is projected to be Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Office Hours**

The office is now open Monday – Thursday  
from 9 a.m. – Noon.

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

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### *Planning Ahead*

As I write this, we are in the midst of summer with temperatures all week over 90 degrees. What better time to talk to you about...Christmas! That's right. Christmas will be here before we know it. Maybe we should start planning for it early this year so that all the things we have to do are done in time. You know: all the decorations, the gifts, the Christmas cards to buy.

Ah, yes - the Christmas cards. Most of us send them and I know that I always enjoy receiving cards from friends, family, and especially from the congregation. But I wanted to make a suggestion to you, well in advance of when you go out and buy your cards for this year. Try to remember what **Christmas** is all about. We all know it's about Jesus the Christ, born into our world to bring God's redeeming grace and salvation. It's about the celebration of God's coming to be with us and to save us, through Christ.

And so isn't it more appropriate for us, as Christian people, to send out Christmas cards that reflect that message instead of scenes of snowy winters, wreaths on the front door, and (maybe worst of all) Santa Claus? It's not that I am against all those things,...I'm not really. I love snow, we put up wreaths, and my kids use to wait for Santa. But can't we use the opportunity of sending Christmas cards to remind folks that "*Jesus is the reason for the season*" as they say.

Isn't it a pretty simple way to practice the ministry of the church and do just a little bit for Christ, as compared to what he has done and will do for us? I know that we too often are timid about and balk at sharing our faith with others. But in today's world, where religion (and Christianity especially) has been shoved out of the picture, are we right to play along with that game to where we move Christ out of the picture of our Christmas cards?

So please give some thought to the idea that you can send an important message to those around you. A message that says God is still here with us today because he came to be with us so long ago on that Christmas Day. That's what makes it such a special time of year.

Peace to you and peace on earth!

**PASTOR**

# WORSHIP NOTES

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## Children's Church Begins September 13<sup>th</sup>

Children's Church will begin on **September 13<sup>th</sup> with two Children's Church classes.** Children's Church is a ministry for children preschool - grades 5 allowing them to worship God in age appropriate ways. Children begin their worship experience in community with the entire church family and then after the announcements, depart to one of the two classes.

The **first class is for children Preschool-Kindergarten** and meets in the nursery and **the second class is for elementary school children grades 1-5 and meets in Horn Hall.** During this time the children will hear a bible reading and lesson and do a craft or coloring page, a game or sing a song connecting with the message. Children return to worship at the time of the Sharing of the Peace.



**Wednesday, September 9 at 7 p.m.**

**Naomi Fuerman**, one of the Rejoicers, will once again share with us her wonderful talent as **she sings for us.** Please join us on what should be a very special evening.

Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities and 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.

## Bible Study with Pastor

Bible Study with Pastor Hutchinson will begin again in September with a **three week short course on some answers to Christian question(s) of "Why?"**

*Why do Christians throw rice at weddings, eat hot cross buns for Easter, or hold their hands together (or upward) when praying?*

*Why do some pastors wear a clerical collar and bow towards the Altar/Cross?*

*Why was Christmas once banned in early America?*

Such questions will be the subject of our discussion for several weeks and pastor will even take on one or two of your own questions to be answered the following week (assuming he doesn't know it right off the top of his head).

So come and enjoy and bring a friend. No bible knowledge is necessary and, in fact, the less you know the more fascinating this study will be!



Class begins at **St. James in the downstairs adult Sunday School Room on Tuesday, September 15 from 7 – 8 pm**, and **at Sanatoga Retirement Community Center Main Room on Thursday, September 17 from 10:00 – 11:00 am.** Coffee and doughnuts are provided Thursday mornings and free mints on Tuesday night!

In October, we will look at the Gospel of Luke and what it has to say about healing.

## Third Sunday Offering

September Recipient  
Lutheran World Relief

This month's Third Sunday Offering will go to Lutheran World Relief. Empowered by God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ, Lutheran World Relief envisions a world in which each person and every generation lives in justice, dignity, and peace.

Every day in 50 countries, **Lutheran World Relief (LWR) works to combat the causes of poverty** and the dignity it robs from people's lives. They advocate for fair trade that helps farming families earn a better income. (Our Fair Trade Coffee and Eco-Palms programs at St. James are through LWR). **They teach people to better care for themselves their communities and the environment** and how to be less vulnerable to natural disasters. They advocate with and for them for policy change that more fairly represents them. LWR counsels them after manmade and natural disasters, and helps them recover with material aid. They do all of this exclusively with partners from the communities they serve. Their partners help them remain incredibly efficient and effective.

U.S. Lutherans, freed and empowered by God's grace in Jesus Christ and called to respond to God's love for all people and creation, **put faith into action** through the mission of Lutheran World Relief. LWR values the contribution of Lutheran theology to their understanding of faith active in love and cherishes their Lutheran heritage and identity. LWR acts on behalf of U.S. Lutherans, the ELCA, and the LCMS as a common expression of their faith through international relief and development.

### Third Sunday Offering Schedule

OCTOBER – Cluster Outreach Center  
NOVEMBER – Open  
DECEMBER – ELCA World Hunger

## Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference

### Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, September 8, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Barbara Lutz presenting *Mutually Engaged*.

The October Bible Study will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, Limerick, on **Tuesday, October 6, 2009**, with Bobbi Hoffman presenting *The Obedience of Faith*.

**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.

### Fall Gathering

**Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 9 a.m.**

St. John's Lutheran Church  
3104 Main Street  
Sumneystown, PA

Theme: Matthew 28:18-20 – "Mission, Ministry, Mentoring, Message"

**Registration begins at 9 a.m.**

**Program begins at 9:30 a.m.**

**Program:** The Mustard Seed Puppeteers  
from Jerusalem Church

Coffee and breakfast goodies will be available. Bring canned goods for Jerusalem's Lutheran food pantry.

## Children Church Leaders Needed

The fall is soon approaching when we will be returning to our normal schedule of two services and Children's Church. With the return of Children's Church in the fall we could use a few more individuals who would be willing to lead our Children's Church during the 10:45 service. **Individuals can either lead our preschool-kindergarten group of children or our elementary children who are in grades 1- 5.**

Children's Church leaders present a brief lesson and lead the children through an activity (game, craft, worksheet, etc.) that reinforces the lesson. Lesson plans and materials are provided. **Leaders teach approximately 6 times a year. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Suzanne at 610-326-2810.**

## Confirmation Class Starting in September



Any parents of children who are entering **sixth grade or older** who want their child to participate in Catechetical Class (Confirmation Class) should notify the pastor so that they may be included in this year's class.

**The confirmation process is a three year obligation** in which students learn more about the Christian faith through instruction following an outline designed by Martin Luther. It covers study of the Old and New Testaments, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion as well as a look at liturgy and worship throughout the church year.

We meet in the youth room off the Main Sunday school room on **Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 from the fall through the spring. The first class is September 13.**

## Let your light so shine . . . Get trained as an acolyte!



On **Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** following the 10:45 a.m. worship, we will be training all young people (**1<sup>st</sup> grade or older**) interested in becoming acolytes. Those who have served as acolytes are welcome (and encouraged) to refresh their understanding and to encourage others. You will be fitted with an alb and given instruction sheets. Parents are welcome to sit in! **Please let Suzanne Rigg (610-362-2810 or [sirgg@stjamespottstown](mailto:sirgg@stjamespottstown)) know if you plan to attend.**

## SCRIP

As we return to a fall worship schedule, we will again be selling Scrip weekly after the end of the first service until the beginning of the second service. The scrip table will be located to the rear of Horn Hall.

It's not too early to begin thinking about possible opportunities to use "Scrip" for the holiday season. We also now have available VISA gift cards. These gift cards and all the other cards and certificates we have will not cost you any more than if you purchase them at a local store, AND you'll be helping someone who is hungry to receive a meal.

Thank you to those of you who faithfully support this ministry. We welcome all to stop by for a list to take along and review, or an order form!



## Musical Opportunities

### St. James Chancel Choir

The St. James Chancel Choir is open to all who love sacred music from all styles. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals are held weekly on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. **First rehearsal is on Thursday, September 10.**

### St. James Handbell Choir

The St. James Handbell Choir is open to all who love sacred music and the challenge of ringing handbells. New members are always welcomed. Rehearsals are held weekly on Thursdays at 6:15 pm. **First rehearsal is Thursday, September 10 with music now available on the organ for marking.**

### Youth Choir

The Youth Choir is open to young people from fourth grade and up. Rehearsals are at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. **First rehearsal is on Sunday, September 13.**

### First Sunday Choir

The First Sunday Choir is designed for those individuals who would like to sing on an occasional basis. The music is designated to be read quickly. Rehearsal is normally on the first Sunday of the month and at 7:30 p.m. on the Thursday prior. **The first rehearsal will be on Thursday, Sept. 10 and the choir will sing on Sunday, Sept. 13.** (Yes, that is the second Sunday, but it is our first Sunday back from our restful summers). Future Thursday rehearsal dates are Oct. 1, Oct. 29, and Dec. 3 All are welcome!!

## Spiritual Vitamins

contributed by Earl Moyer

Part of the whole life stewardship is the nourishment of the soul. Add these Biblical promises to your daily supplements.

### **Anxious?** Take Vitamin A

All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

### **Blue?** Take Vitamin B

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. (Psalm 103:1)

### **Crushed?** Take Vitamin C

Cast all you anxiety on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

### **Depressed?** Take Vitamin D

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. (James 4:8)

### **Empty?** Take Vitamin E

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with his praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. (Psalm 100:4)



# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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## Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

Starting on September 13, 2009 there will be 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 anytime throughout the year.

**Amazing Grace** - Across time, the oceans and cultures, the hymn "Amazing Grace" has endured as one of the most popular pieces of music in the English language. Many of us already know of the paradox that the author of the song was once a slave ship captain who later reformed his life. But the effect of the hymn has been to impact many other Christian people for 150 years since then. In a video titled 'Amazing Grace', acclaimed journalist Bill Moyers, helps to tell the story of this famous hymn through some of the many famous people who have sung it. Along with telling about the music, these artists speak of the power that the hymn has had in their personal lives.

You are invited to come and enjoy this presentation along with the discussion that will follow each week on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27.



## Blood Pressure Checks *Now on the Second Sunday of the month*

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **September 13<sup>th</sup>** after the 9 a.m. 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.

## Blessing of the Animals October 4, 2009

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 8, at 2 p.m.** You are welcome to bring pets and animals of all sizes and varieties to receive a blessing.

## New Television Commercial Begins Airing in September

Look for St. James' new TV commercial on the Food Network and ABC Family. The commercial will air regularly from September 1<sup>st</sup> through December 27<sup>th</sup> and will be shown between the hours of 5 a.m.–Midnight.

## WELCA NEWS

Come to our "kick-off" for a new season of WELCA on Monday evening, **September 21<sup>st</sup>**, and bring a friend! Meet us in Horn Hall at 7 p.m.



The **WELCA FALL Rummage Sale** here at the "Red Door Boutique" is coming **October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** so get ready now!!! Have your **CLEAN**, ready-to-use items gathered to **bring to the church on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. Place them in Horn Hall, in the marked area, and plan to shop!!

Remember, as you clean and gather your special items, if there are tags or tickets still attached, 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 they shop at the "Red Door Boutique" and find WONDERFUL items two times a year!!

## St. James Auction Night October 16, 2009



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Live Auction, Silent Auction and Country Store

### *Benefiting the Capital Campaign*

5:00-7:00 pm - **Food in Horn Hall** - Enjoy hotdogs, barbeque, soup and desserts for one low price.

5:00 pm - **Country Store in Blue Room** - Shop for homemade crafts and goodies. The store is open the entire night.

5:00-7:00 pm - **Silent Auction in Main Sunday School Room** - Compete for bargains as a warm up to the main event. Winners announced during a break in the Live Auction.

7:15 pm - **Live Auction in Main Sunday School Room** - Bid for treasures and win door prizes.

**Volunteers are needed** for various tasks prior to and during the event - please contact Carol Keller – 610-326-1013.

**Deadline for donations for both auctions is September 30** - please contact Annette Renn – 610-970-7499.

**Invite your friends to this night  
of food and fun for a worthy cause!**



**CALLED  
TO SHARE  
HIS  
LIGHT**

**October 16, 2009  
St. James Auction Night  
Donation Form**

St. James will be sponsoring both a silent auction  
and a live auction with all proceeds benefitting  
our capital campaign.

**Deadline to make a donation is September 30<sup>th</sup>**

We hope that you will consider donating an item for one of the auctions on October 16, 2009. **Donations of all kinds (hand-crafted items, gift cards or certificates, sports memorabilia, gift baskets, art, labor, dinners, etc.) are being accepted for both auctions.** Your imagination is the limit of what can be donated!

If you would like to donate an item please complete this form and return it to Annette Renn or the office. **If you have any questions you can contact Annette at 610-970-7499 or [arenn@colonnadeseniorliving.com](mailto:arenn@colonnadeseniorliving.com).**

**Please use one form per donation.** Additional forms can be obtained by contacting the church office – 610-326-2810.

**Name of donor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information:**

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Item being donated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of item:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate dollar value/worth of item:** \_\_\_\_\_

## CROP Walk October 11, 2009

Come rain or shine, many individuals in the area are gearing up to join in the Pottstown **CROP WALK, on Sunday, October 11, 2009. 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. A portion of the funds raised here in Pottstown will go to the Cluster Outreach Center.

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

## News from the Pottstown Cluster

**Current needs** for the food pantry include: **new born and sizes 6 diapers, baby wipes, Pull-Ups, laundry detergent, tampons, jelly and Good start formula, any type including soy** and for the clothing closet: **any children's clothing.**

Donations for the Cluster can be brought to St. James and placed in the basket located in Horn Hall or 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

## Free Seminar

### "Understanding Memory Loss"

Presented in cooperation with  
Alzheimer's Association/Greater PA Chapter  
**September 16, 2009 at 2 p.m.**  
**Pottstown Public Library**

Learn the difference between normal, age-related memory lapses and symptoms that may signal the onset of Alzheimer's disease or other dementia disorders. Among the related topics to be covered are:

- Tips for maintaining memory
- 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's
- The importance of early diagnosis
- Current treatment options and research trends

## Free Monthly Forum on Needs and Care of the Aging

**Grace Lutheran Church in Royersford** will host a monthly meeting/forum for people to gather, receive access to information, and to ask questions of professionals to help them with the challenges of providing care for themselves or others. Presenters will include social workers, visiting nurses, doctors, lawyers, and hospice workers.

All sessions are free and will be held at **Grace Lutheran Church (6<sup>th</sup> and Main Sts. Royersford)** on the third Monday of the month, **beginning September 21 from 7-8:30 p.m.** **Registration** is appreciated and **can be done by calling the church office at 610-948-3684.**

Below are the dates and session topics for the next three months:

**September 21** – Basic services of aging and adult services/ An overview – where to turn for help/  
Presenter – Darrell Lewis

**October 19** – Navigating the system to receive in-home services or nursing facility care. What do I need to complete a nursing home or aging waiver application.  
Presenter – Darrell Lewis

**November 16** – Alzheimer's Dementia, Parkinson's disease, stroke and the need for 24 hour supervision/Adult day care service.  
Presenter – Ann Short

# MEMBER NEWS

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## September Birthdays

2 – Ted Baer, Gerald Richards;  
4- Noah Benedetto; 5 - Jeanette Wert, Bob Wien; 6 – Haley Byers, Scott Shollenberger; 7 – Nancy Giraldi, Gary Hall, Laurie O’Connell, Amy Stein; 8 – Beverly Reber; 9 – Annah Giraldi; 12 – Don Bilger, Alice Schindler, Troy Wagner; 13 – Alyssa Hartzman, Kristy Lapreziosa, Mike Lengyel; 15 – Amelia Kulp; 18 – Thomas Giraldi; 19 – Andy Olock; 20 – Joshua Irwin, Marlene Kinckiner; 21 - Yvonne Brewer; 23 – Mary Beth Kochel; 25 – Sandra Eshbach, Shira Schaeffer; 27 – Sandy Olock; 29 - Earl Wilson

## Baptisms

We welcome to the Lord’s family,  
**Ty Cassel Bradley**, son of Joseph and Mary (Kochel) Bradley. Grandson of Judy Kochel and great grandson of Mary Kochel.



## Memorial Gift

Thank you to Eleanor Metzler for the generous memorial gift donated to the church to purchase a new refrigerator. This gift was given in memory of her parents, James and Martha, and her brother, James.

## Thank You Notes

Thank you to Gail Neiffer for her many years of providing the bread for Holy Communion. She concluded this service at the end of August.

*Dear Staff of the Senior VBS,  
Sincere thanks for providing Senior VBS. I thoroughly enjoyed being a student and we were all well fed in body, mind and spirit through the bible study, social activities, special music and food.*

*Blessing to you all,  
Marian Mercer*

Thank you to the many who helped make our Rejoicing Spirits cookout a success despite the rain. Thanks to all who provided food and other items, cooked, served, set up, cleaned up, and to everyone who provided the many smiles we shared with those who joined us for this meal.

*Thank you to Gail Neiffer for providing the popcorn and treats and to Kathy Geist for providing soda for our August movie nights.*

Thank you Sandra Eshbach for her delicious donation of home-made zucchini bread that was used for prizes at our Senior VBS bingo game.

*Thank you to staff of our Senior VBS for their dedication to the week: David Hartzman, Darlene Snyder, Michael Ruhl, Debbie Hutchinson, Pastor Hutchinson and Suzanne Rigg.*

Thank you to everyone who helped with the picnic. Thank you to all who moved grills, shopped, cooked, planned games, and brought dishes and desserts to share.

## 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](mailto:pattedbaer@verizon.net)

Cyndi Krasley- Vice-President  
484-945-0165

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

Vickie Kirsten 484-300-4915  
Email: [vjkirsten@comcast.net](mailto:vjkirsten@comcast.net)

Sherry Clancy - Treasurer 610-323-5977  
Email: [srclancy@comcast.net](mailto:srclancy@comcast.net)

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814  
Email: [ronslibrary@comcast.net](mailto:ronslibrary@comcast.net)

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

Julie Hauck 610-385-7308  
Email: [jlynne65@ptd.net](mailto:jlynne65@ptd.net)

Scott Strichik 610-327-3108  
Email: [sstrichik@verizon.net](mailto:sstrichik@verizon.net)

Laurie O'Connell 610-323-5787  
Email: [rloconnelljr@concast.net](mailto:rloconnelljr@concast.net)

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

Candy Koons 610-327-0458  
Email: [itp494@aol.com](mailto:itp494@aol.com)

Carol Keller 610-326-1013  
Email: [mycourt33@comcast.net](mailto:mycourt33@comcast.net)

### TREASURER'S REPORT

-	<u>Jun-09</u>	<u>Jul-09</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$17,135.41	\$27,636.55	\$159,181.55
Expenses	<u>21,662.36</u>	<u>20,900.19</u>	<u>181,507.15</u>
Net Income	(\$4,526.95)	\$6,736.36	(\$22,325.60)
<i>Regular Envelopes</i>			
Received	\$14,299.00	\$22,261.28	\$126,446.15
Needed*	<u>19,739.69</u>	<u>19,739.69</u>	<u>138,178.19</u>
Over (Under)	(\$5,440.69)	\$2,521.59	(\$11,732.04)
<i>Third Sunday Offering</i>			
	Salvation Army	Cluster School Supplies	
Collected	\$245.00	\$247.00	
<i>Capital Campaign</i>			
	<u>Jun-2009</u>	<u>Jul-2009</u>	<u>Total Campaign</u>
Income	\$10,284.00	\$15,112.00	\$367,227.24

\*Amount required to balance the budget.

## **ELCA ASSEMBLY DECISION**

Every two years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (of which St. James is a member) has a “church-wide” gathering of representatives of Lutheran churches. During the third week in August, delegates (both clergy and lay persons) from churches in every synod throughout the country gathered and met in Minneapolis. At that meeting, after years of discussion and deliberation, the ELCA voted to adopt policies which will allow congregations to recognize the spiritual gifts of people who are “in life long and committed same-gender relationships”. In other words, the ELCA will now approve the ordination of persons in a committed homosexual relationship. This also opens the way for churches to choose to recognize life-long monogamous same-gender relationships among the lay persons of the church.

Prior to this, the ELCA has only officially recognized couples in heterosexual marriages and maintained that pastors could not be sexually active outside of traditional marriage. While in the past, the church has been willing to ordain homosexuals, those persons had to have promised to remain celibate.

This action has been a divisive and emotional issue in the ELCA (as well as other church denominations) for some time this new action still leaves the clergy and the members of the ELCA divided. However, what this does not do is compel any congregation to accept a gay or lesbian person as their pastor, nor does it force clergy to recognize or bless same sex unions in their church.

As Pastor of this church, I have always practiced and preached that the Christian Church should be a place to welcome all people. We are all fallen sinners and even if we believe that homosexual behavior is inconsistent with God’s will, there are countless others who sit in the pews of every church each week who most certainly should not be one “to cast the first stone” in the direction of others. At the same time, I cannot say that the ELCA action is consistent with my understanding of Scripture, with 2000 years of church teaching, and most importantly with what the Christian idea of marriage has always been.

Yet, having said that, those who came to our recent bible study on this subject saw how the issue is not as simple and black and white as both the advocates or detractors to this change sometimes want us to believe. The conversation within the ELCA will go on, as it will all over our nation in various places of worship, places of work, and places wherever people are. Pray then, for guidance from the Spirit of God as you consider your fellow human beings and discuss this subject with others.

