

# the Spirit of St. James



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

### Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

### Adult Education Classes

Beginning September 14  
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**  
8 a.m. – noon

## **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)  
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home 610-970-4865

### **Secretary**

Darlene Jackson

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### **Director of Music Ministries**

Sharon MacCabe

email: [sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net](mailto:sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net)  
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### **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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### **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 October '08 Edition: September 15, 2008**

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.

### **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.

### **Grace Matters**



Tune your radio in to Grace Matters. For 30 minutes each Sunday the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offers a fresh expression of Christian radio. Join host Peter Marty and his guests for engaging interviews, biblical meditations, colorful commentary and life-changing stories. Tune in on Sundays at 7 a.m. on WNTP 990 AM. Listen, and be renewed by God's amazing grace.

## A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

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### NEW MUSIC PROGRAM AT ST. JAMES!

Any organization, be it a business, school, government office, and even a church, is doomed to either fail (at worst) or become less relevant (at best) if it refuses to recognize and respond to the needs of those whom it wishes to serve. For years now, St. James has prided itself on having a wonderful music program for Sunday morning worship, and we still do! We are truly blessed with a magnificent organ, a marvelous baby grand piano, terrific Chancel and Bell Choirs, and a wonderful Music Director.

However, in order to attract and welcome all types of people to hear and experience God's presence and love in their lives, especially the younger and those with growing families, we realize that we have to be willing to change, even if it's just a little bit. So that is what we will be doing starting in September.

Each Sunday of the month at the 10:45 a.m. worship we will be presenting a 'different flavor' of music in terms of style and instrumentals. Our existing Choirs will remain intact and continue to bless us with their gifts. But each week we also will be creatively expanding our music. One Sunday a month, only the Chancel Choir will be featured. Another week will have the Chancel Choir enhanced to include others from the congregation. Another Sunday we plan to feature some more modern musical instruments. On yet another Sunday, a Youth Choir will help lead us in worshipping God through our songs. And every so often the Bell Choir will still perform.

Will we now be one of those contemporary churches with unimaginative and overly simplistic music? No, not to worry! The 10:45 worship is not becoming a "Praise worship service" nor can we rightfully even call it contemporary worship. We will use our familiar Lutheran liturgies, hymns from the green and blue hymnals and everything else that you are used to and fond of in our worship.

But ask yourself this. Suppose every day you had the same type of meal and put the same kind of seasoning in the meal you prepare? Even if you were happy and content with it, if you wished to have a dinner party and invite and appeal to as many people as possible, then having only one type of meal with one kind of seasoning would certainly limit those interested in coming.

Each Sunday we have a sort of dinner party in which the meal is God revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ. The form of music that we then select and use is like the seasoning for that meal. And so if that's limited in scope, so will be our guests. And since it is our calling to invite and welcome all people to this celebration of Jesus Christ, we want to do what we can to make the meal good and appealing to lots of people. So please come with an open mind, an open heart, and open ears to hear the many ways in which God gives and receives the gift of music.

Pastor

## Our New Music Program

### FIRST SUNDAY First Sunday Choir

The First Sunday Choir will be for individuals whose busy lives do not allow them to make a commitment to the choir every week. This Christian choral group will sing at the 10:45 am worship at St. James on the first Sunday of the month. The music will be diverse - from Sacred Classical to Taize to Christian Contemporary. Rehearsals will be held at 7:30 pm on the Thursday evening before the first Sunday of each month beginning September 4th (future rehearsal dates are October 2, October 30, and December 4). All are welcome!!

### SECOND SUNDAY St. James Chancel Choir

The St. James Chancel Choir has a long history of providing wonderful music to the St. James church community. This ensemble's repertoire is diverse, with music from the past and present. They will continue to offer music every Sunday and will be the featured music group on the second Sunday each month at the 10:45 am Sunday morning worship. Rehearsals are held weekly on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. New members are welcome!!

### THIRD SUNDAY New Sounds in Worship

On the third Sunday at the 10:45 am worship, music will be offered using contemporary instruments. This may include a guitarist and other instrumentalists to go with the piano. While the sound may be new, the format will remain traditional. We will continue to use the Lutheran liturgy and hymns accepted by ours and other established churches at every service. The blending of the old and new allows for a worship experience that is appealing to all ages.

### FOURTH SUNDAY Youth Choir

The Youth Choir is a new choral opportunity at St. James. The Choir is open to youth third grade and up. Music will be contemporary. Individuals are invited to bring instruments also. Rehearsals will be held Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 am. The Youth Choir will provide music on the fourth Sunday at the 10:45 worship every month. All are welcome!

### St. James Handbell Choir

The St. James Handbell Choir has provided wonderful music in worship for many years. Music will be offered on the fourth Sunday every other month at both the 8 and 10:45 services. Rehearsals are held weekly on Thursday at 6:00 pm. New members are welcome!!

### ANY SUNDAY Instrumentalists

All who play an instrument are encouraged to use their musical talent to help us worship the Lord. Instrumentalists are invited to play special music at any of our worship services to accompany the choirs and congregation. When and how often will be decided on need and the availability of the instrumentalist.

Please remember that no experience is needed to become a member of any musical opportunity at St. James. One only needs a willingness to praise the Lord through music. Should you have any questions about the program or would like to participate in one of the groups, please contact Sharon MacCabe, our Music Director at 484-431-3287 or by e-mail at [sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net](mailto:sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net).

# WORSHIP NOTES

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## Confirmation Classes

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 14.**

## Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

Starting on September 14, 2008 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

**Blue Room** - Pastor Hutchinson will lead the adult Christian education class.

The first three weeks we will view a film titled **'The Heart Has Its Reasons'**. This story is about Jean Vanier who founded a community based on the Sermon on the Mount, called L'Arche, for men and women with mental handicaps.

The second three weeks we will see 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. These videos are 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 the films to help us learn and grow in our faith and understanding of God.



**The Next** Rejoicing Spirits worship at St. James will be **Wednesday, September 10th, 2008 at 7 p.m.** All are welcome!

Please remember that even though Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities it is also open to everyone in the community. If you have not had a chance to come and worship with us, give it a try and see for yourself the love and joy that is shared among all who attend.

**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 program at St. James is 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

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



On **Sunday, September 28<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) know if you plan to attend.**



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**Children's Church Begins September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Children's Church will begin again on September 7<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 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.

# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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## 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.

## WELCA NEWS

Come to our "kick-off" for a new season of WELCA on Monday evening, **September 15<sup>th</sup>**, and bring a friend! Meet us in Horn Hall at 7 p.m. as we share summer moments, refreshments, and play bingo.

The WELCA FALL Rummage sale here at the "Red Door Boutique" is coming **October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>** so get ready now!!! Have your **CLEAN**, ready-to-use items gathered to **bring to the church on Sunday, October 5<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!!

## Women of the ELCA Upper MontCo Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, September 2, 2008, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Rev. Paul Xander, presenting *Ruth: The Journey Begins (Ruth 1:16b-17)*

The October Bible Study will be held at St. James Lutheran, Limerick, on **Tuesday, October 7, 2008**, with Ann Seislove presenting *Ruth: The Plan for Security (Ruth 2:12)*.

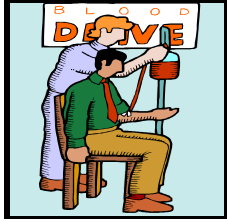
**All women** are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *The Hidden Hand of God: A study of wisdom in Ruth, Daniel & Esther*: This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.

## CROP Walk October 12, 2008

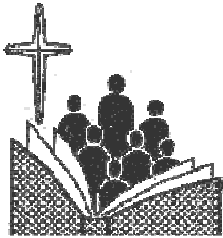
Come rain or shine, many individuals in the area are gearing up to join in the Pottstown **CROP WALK, on Sunday, October 12, 2008. The WALK will begin and end at First Presbyterian Church located at 750 N. Evans Street.** Registration is at 1:30 p.m. with the walk at 2 pm.

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 Hall in the month of September or contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810



**BLOOD DRIVE** October 6<sup>th</sup> is our next scheduled blood drive held from 2-7p.m. We do four drives per year. Please set aside this date and plan to give.



## 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.**

## 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

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### Thank You Notes

As you all know, we had our annual St. James Sunday Picnic a few weeks back. Although it did not turn out quite the way we planned (to put it mildly!), we witnessed and have heard from many people that some unexpected good things happened as a result of the stormy conditions. Some people got the chance to make new acquaintances with folks they might not have otherwise, maybe due to needing to take shelter under the same tent, or garage space. There was a lot of laughter all around, as we just made the best of things. So often in life we need to do just that. Everyone chipped in to help one another get into the house, dry off a bit, clean up, or bring in desserts so we could continue eating! Maybe God said, "OK, St. James folks. You have had enough sunny picnics; time for a change. Let's see how you do when things do not go quite as you planned!" We think we all did pretty well. We will certainly all remember this

We would like to thank *everyone* who helped out with the picnic – before, during, and after. All of the preparation, clean-up, etc., provided more opportunities for some of us to get to better know people we might not normally meet up with in church. And that is really what the picnic is all about – bringing the St. James family together to relax and have some fun together. We Thank you one and all!

God's blessings,  
Pastor and Debbie

Thank you to Marge Fegley, Sharon MacCabe, Sandy Meadowcroft, Emily Weaver, Sylvia Groff and Stephanie Groff for helping with this year's VBS with St. John U.C.C.

Thanks to all who donated supplies or monetary gifts for the snacks for VBS. Your generosity was very much appreciated by the children and the staff.

We wish to thank the members of St. James for their prayers and flowers, and also for the prayers and visits from Pastor Hutchinson during Ray's recent surgery.  
Ray and June Henninger

Dear Friends,  
Our records show that during the first half of 2008 you have made donations to the Outreach Cluster of 408 lbs. of food, 19 bags of clothing, bags of household goods, and 1 item of furniture. On behalf of the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities I wish to thank you and all who participated in your generosity. Your contributions will be put to good use in the community and we look forward to your continued support.  
Very truly yours,  
Pastor Sandy J. Christophel

### Memorial Contributions

#### Given in memory of Nancy Schultz

*From Harry Keller, Marge Fegley, Russell Biehl, Ray Boone, Bob Boyer, Joseph Moran, Virginia Grove, Paul Peterka, Make Eddinger, Jackie Pierson, Ruth Seasholtz*

## Congratulations



### Weddings

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, Pastor presided at the celebration of the affirmation of wedding vows taken by Thomas Clements and his wife, Lynierosario ("Lyni"). We rejoicing with them in their new life together and pray for God's blessing on their marriage.

### Baptisms

We welcome to the Lord's family

**Caroline Maria Johnson**, daughter of Christopher and Sherry and granddaughter of Eugene and Betty Johnson

**Page Michael Faith**, son of Kelly and Michael Faith

## 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](mailto:ronslibrary@aol.com)

**Pat Baer - Vice President** 610-326-8598  
Email: [pattedbaer@verizon.net](mailto:pattedbaer@verizon.net)

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

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

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

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

**Jim Irwin** 323-1511  
Email: [jei1013hotmail.com](mailto:jei1013hotmail.com)

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

**Mary Arnt** 610-323-6176

**David Hartzman** 610-909-5806  
Email: [Crittersdad1949@aol.com](mailto:Crittersdad1949@aol.com)

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

**Chipper Meadowcroft** 610-327-0458  
Email: [meadow1135@hotmail.com](mailto:meadow1135@hotmail.com)

**Carol Keller** 610-326-1013  
Email: [shanek550@aol.com](mailto:shanek550@aol.com)

**Jessica Mitchell** 610-970-4250  
Email: [jrabbit23@comcast.net](mailto:jrabbit23@comcast.net)

### TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>July 2008</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$20,536.39	\$152,297.68
Expenses	<u>22,950.94</u>	<u>182,082.22</u>
Net Income	(\$ 2,414.55)	(\$ 29,784.54)
<u>Regular Envelopes</u>		
Received	\$16,595.35	\$120,480.65
Needed*	<u>\$19,498.94</u>	<u>\$136,492.60</u>
Over (Under)	(\$ 2,903.59)	(\$16,011.95)
<u>Third Sunday Offering</u>		
Collected	\$329.00	
Beneficiary: Cluster Clothe a Child		
Capital Campaign		
Income	\$12,537.50	\$256,062.99

\*Amount required to balance the budget

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**Ron Schafer - President** 610-326-4814