

# the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 ? (610) 326-2810 ? MAY 2006

OUR VISION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“To Be, and to Become, a Worshiping, Caring, Teaching,  
and Outreaching Congregation.”*

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## Sunday Schedule

### Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

### Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

### Children's Education

10:45 a.m.

### Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

### Holy Communion Weekly

**1896-2006 St. James Lutheran Church - Celebrating 110 Years of Ministry**  
*Emphasizing Our Vision to Be an Outreaching Congregation*



## **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Thursday**  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Friday** 8 a.m. - noon

### **TELEPHONE**

610-326-2810

Fax: 610-326-1025

[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

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### **Secretary**

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e-mail: [plloyd@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:plloyd@stjamespottstown.org)

### **Organist and Choir Director**

Lincoln Noecker

e-mail: [lnoeck@comcast.net](mailto:lnoeck@comcast.net)

### **Custodian**

Larry Kehler

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### **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 Pam in the office. She will post the event on the master calendar, in the weekly bulletin when applicable, and will directly inform those who should be told about the event.

Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, (extra chairs, tables) so proper preparations can be made.

### **Newsletter Deadline for June Edition: May 15, 2006**

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.

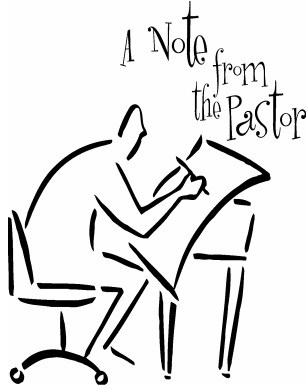
### **Catching Up On Offerings**

When you are unable to attend worship on any given Sunday, please make up that day's offering the next week. St. James' budget is based on members' weekly offering pledge times 52 Sundays. When you and your offering are absent, our ministry is diminished.

### **Weekly Bulletin Announcements Now on the Website**

Weekly bulletin announcements now can be found on St. James' website under the **new section called News, Needs and Calendar**. This section will be updated weekly with new information available from week to week. **Check it out for yourself at [www.stjamespottstown.org](http://www.stjamespottstown.org)** .





## **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!**

In this Easter season, we are reminded that we are resurrection people. That is, we proclaim the resurrection of Christ and our own resurrection promise in our worship. We live in that hope of resurrection through our faith in Jesus Christ all of our lives. We talk about resurrection (whether we realize it or not) in our conversations with others. And we are called to do resurrection work in our daily lives. As Christian people, we are people who will be, but who also are now images of the great gift of resurrection by God through the death and resurrection of his Son, with whom we are joined in our Baptism.

Last month, some of that resurrection work was done by representatives of St. James Lutheran Church who went on the Mission Trip to Florida to help the victims of hurricane destruction. While they were down there, they did some roof work, replaced some windows, and painted and cleaned up part of the mess that nature left in the wake of the natural disaster of several hurricanes that struck that region of the world.

What they did, was what we could call “resurrection work”. In other words, they redeemed and rebuilt and brought about something new, where once there had been ruin. They put new life into some homes and into the hearts of the people who had lived in those homes. They provided cover for protection from the elements, just as God covers and protects us.

They put in windows to see through, just as God opens our eyes to His glory and goodness by the light of Christ. And they spruced up things, just as God spruces us up by the forgiveness of sins. And although there were only about ten of them sent down there from our church, we too, with our financial support and prayers and well wishes, went with them and participated in the resurrection work that they did.

At the same time, there is resurrection work needed all over the world and in our very lives. Not work to clean up the mess from natural disasters, but to clean up the mess from sin. Restoring and renewing broken relationships, doing the hard work of forgiveness given freely to others, lending people help and a hand up with a kind word, a gentle touch, and acts of grace by what we say and the deeds we do.

There’s lots of resurrection work to do all the time, and as people who live in the promise of that gift for us eternally, let us go forth to live as people who help to make that hope a reality wherever we are.

# WORSHIP NOTES

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## Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday this year is **May 7**. On this Sunday our youth of the congregation will serve as the assisting ministers at the 10:45 a.m. service.



April's Rejoicing Spirits was a special night as we celebrated the Resurrection of Our Lord and our 1st anniversary of this ministry. With almost sixty present that evening we had a wonderful and spirit-filled worship. Displayed for the first time was a Rejoicing Spirits banner designed and made by Tracie Rheel. The banner allows one more opportunity for participation in worship as it will be carried into worship each month by one of the Rejoicers.

**May's Rejoicing Spirits worship will be back on the second Wednesday of the month, that being May 10 at 7 p.m.**

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, please prayerfully consider joining us.

## Prayer List

If you have anyone who you would like to add to the prayer list, please use the yellow **communication cards found in the pews** or by contacting Suzanne Rigg at 610-970-4865.

## Grace Matters

Need a change of pace or a fresh start to your week? Tune 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 7a.m. on WNTP 990 AM**. Listen, and be renewed by God's amazing grace.

## Summer Worship

Summer worship begins **June 4** with one service and Children's Church at 9 a.m.

## The Day of Pentecost June 4, 2006

The Day of Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, June 4, 2006 as we rejoice in the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church. The Holy Spirit is the resurrected Jesus in our midst, claiming us in baptism, feeding us at the Eucharist, and sending us into the world as bearers of the Gospel. Also on this day three youth will affirm their baptism. Please plan to worship on that day and wear red to mark the occasion and to liven the celebration.

## Festival of the Holy Trinity June 11, 2006

The festival of the Holy Trinity celebrates the mystery of God, both transcendent and immanent. Though the nature of God is beyond our rational explanation, we ascribe glory to the one who is holy; whose glory fills the whole earth. Christians have held a festival in honor of the Holy Trinity since the ninth century. In the fourteenth century the festival was added to the calendar and has been celebrated throughout the world since that time.

## Why Do We Do That in Worship?



**Q: Why does pastor (and a few other people) do the sign of the cross in worship?**

**A:** *Within your Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) as well as the With One Voice (WOV) book, you will see at the beginning of the service (and then again as forgiveness is announced) and once more at the end, a little red cross within the words of the service. That is an indicator that worshippers may wish to do the sign of the cross at those times. In the red letters of instruction called rubrics, it tells worshippers that they may do the sign of the cross in remembrance of their Baptism at these points. So it is a practice encouraged by those who have prepared our approved worship books.*

**Q: But I don't remember any of our pastors in years past doing that.**

**A:** *The LBW was prepared almost 30 years ago, but even long before that, Luther did the sign of the cross all the time and in his Small Catechism he directs that our mornings and evenings begin and end with the sign of the cross. He says to do this because in Baptism we were "marked by the cross of Christ forever" and so by doing the sign of the cross, we actively affirm this gift. Luther, of course, did this when he was still a Catholic, but also after he left the Church of Rome. It is one of those things that fell out of favor as Lutherans tried to become and look more like other Protestants and less like Roman Catholics.*

**Q: Well, isn't it really a Catholic thing after all?**

**A:** *Actually, it's a Christian thing (although Catholics never stopped doing it). Doing the sign of the cross was a very early Christian devotion dating at least all the way back to the time of the early church father; Tertullian (200 A.D.). It was originally called "the sign of the Lord" and was encouraged at the start and close of the day, in times of trial or trouble, and a means of identification during persecution when Christians chose not to hide their faith in Christ. Today, the triune words we recite describe God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit usually accompany the sign of the cross, but it can be used at any time you feel like during worship or any time in your own private devotion and prayer life.*

**Q: I think I would be too embarrassed to do that. What might others say?**

**A:** *Maybe if you try it in your own privacy, you will someday feel comfortable enough to do that in public worship. And maybe the person next to you does it privately already when they pray. But even if you chose not to do it, that is all right too. It is only as good as it is good for you.*

**Q: If I want to try and do it, what is the proper way?**

**A:** *Take the right hand and touch the forehead first. Then take to the middle of your chest around where your sternum is. Next, over towards your left shoulder. Finally to your right shoulder. Remember though, that even Catholics do it with numerous variations and besides, it is not so much a function of "doing it right" as a reminder that we are saved by the grace and love of God through Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for us on the cross.*



## Third Sunday Offering May Recipient Manatawny Manor

A long-time member of the Pottstown community, Manatawny Manor is a part of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and offers a range of retirement services.

Residents who want to maintain an optimal level of independence, yet need assistance with daily tasks, can enjoy living in the Assisted Living Center. Manatawny Manor also offers skilled nursing and rehabilitative care for residents who require short-term strengthening and rehabilitation following a hospitalization. Manatawny Manor cares for residents with dementia-related illnesses in two secure settings-The Horizons Community in the Assisted Living Center and The Milestones Community in the Nursing Care Center. Finally, Manatawny Manor offers Adult Day Services. In many situations, the program allows older persons or those with disabilities to live at home or with family members during the evenings and weekends, providing caregivers with a respite during the weekdays.

Volunteers and Friends groups are critical to the mission and service of Manatawny Manor. A dedicated corps of volunteers helps make life for residents interesting and varied. Volunteers tie Manatawny Manor to the larger community.

Your gift helps Manatawny Manor to provide the extras that make life more enjoyable and fulfilling for their residents.

## Mark Your Calendars Vacation Bible School July 24-28, 2006

6:30- 8:30 p.m.  
at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

For the third year, we will be doing Vacation Bible School jointly with Emmanuel Lutheran Church, located at Walnut and Hanover Streets. The dates for VBS are July 24-28 with Emmanuel hosting this year. "Son Treasure Island" is the theme for 2006. Vacation Bible School will be for **children preschool - grade 6** with lots of **opportunities for youth and adults to volunteer** with teaching, crafts, and music. Look for more details to come.

## Bible Study

Gatherings continue through the month of May for the **series called "Faith on the Edge."** The subject of Bioethics and the connection (and sometimes clash) of science and moral underpinnings of society will be discussed from a Christian perspective with biblical references to help our exploration of some current and provocative issues.

Each session will cover a contemporary topic, summarizing what science has to say along with what we believe God tells us how we respond. **Meetings are on Tuesday evenings at the church at 7 p.m. and at the Sanatoga Ridge Community on Thursdays at 10 a.m.** You're invited! So is anyone you would like to bring who might find the topic interesting. The schedule for the rest of May is as follows:

May 2 & 4 – "In the Beginning God Created"  
May 9 & 11 - "In Search of the Perfect Child"  
May 16 & 18 - "The Immortal Clone"  
May 23 & 25 - "The Stem Cell Revolution"  
May 30 & June 1 - "The Valley of the Shadow of Death"

# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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## Committee Night Wednesday, May 3

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with devotions and meetings beginning at 7 p.m. All committees will reconvene at 8 p.m. to share any necessary communications. Committees meeting this month include: **Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Stewardship and Worship and Music.** If you are not currently serving on a committee but are interested in learning more about what each committee does, please join us. Anyone willing to serve on a committee should talk to Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson.

## Fair Trade Coffee

Only one more month to get your coffee, cocoa, & tea at St. James. Stop by the youth table **May 21<sup>st</sup>** to make your final purchases! You can also pick up information on how to get these products mailed to you.



## Nametags are back!

Over the next several weeks we will be updating nametags for ALL members. A table will be set up in Horn Hall where you can **choose from eight** different styles/icons for your nametag. There will also be options for the way the nametag is worn (clip on, necklace). **Everyone** likes to be recognized by name and having nametags helps us be able to do that. Please look for the table in coming weeks and pick the style that suits you best!

## Gifts to the Congregation

The processional cross sits in a new beautiful **brass stand** in the Narthex. It was given as a Memorial gift by the **family of Jacob Lengel.** "Jake" died on July 20, 2004. We thank his daughter, Debbie, and his wife, Bernice, for their generous gift. We also thank Howard Snyder, who did a beautiful job refinishing the pole that the processional cross is lifted up by. As we draw our attention to the cross, we are reminded of the gift of new life that Jesus Christ on the cross brought to all those who believe in him.

The beautiful new **brass Holy Communion trays** were given as a Memorial gift to St. James by the **family of Anna Fegley.** Anna died on March 6. They replaced our old communion trays, which were a memorial gift, given circa 1919. We thank Anna's husband, Gerry, and her daughter, Marsha for their very generous gift to enhance our worship services. As we receive the promise of forgiveness of sins and resurrection to new life in the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we give thanks to God for those we love who have gone to be with Him, and for His promise that we will see them again some day.

The **extravagant depictions** of the life of Christ in the lovely hand painted scenes within the crosses are given as a gift to St. James by **Robert and Genevieve Clouser.** They are displayed as you enter the Narthex, near the Nursery, on the wall across from the stairs. The crosses are displayed in the pattern of a cross to remind us even more of the new life we are given through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

## WELCA News

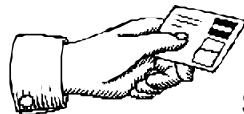
The date of the Spring Rummage Sale **has been changed to June 5th and 6th** due a conflict with the Spring Concert of the Boyertown Area Choral Association. So please have your CLEAN, ready-to-use items packed to bring to the church Sunday, June 4. Place them in Horn Hall, in the marked area, and plan to shop!! **Shopping for St. James members will be Monday from 4-6 p.m. The sale for the public is Tuesday from 9-noon and 12:30-1:30 p.m.**

WELCA's May meeting will be May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in Horn Hall. Pat Eltz will be presenting "Women's Healthy Hearts."



The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, May 2, 2006, at 10 a.m.** with coffee at 9:30. The leader will be Sheila Specht.

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies found in the Lutheran Woman Today Magazine. This is the 21st year of meeting and sharing together. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.



## SCRIP

When you purchase Scrip, you're purchasing negotiable gift certificates that are used just like cash. Scrip is issued by national and local retailers. These merchants want to support non-profit organizations, and in return ask you to support them by shopping with scrip at their stores. With every purchase, Scrip earns revenue for the hunger programs we support through these efforts.

### Liberty Lutheran Services Invites You to Its 2006 Signature Event!

**"THE LION KING"**  
A Disney Theatrical Production  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2006,**  
**1:00 pm at the Academy of Music.**

Proceeds from this event will benefit Lutheran Disaster Response Partners of Southeast Pennsylvania, whose services to disaster victims are coordinated through Liberty Lutheran Services.

Ticket Prices:  
Balcony (Patrons)- \$250.00 each;  
Family Circle A-B- \$175.00 each;  
Family Circle- \$135.00 each;  
Middle Amphitheater- \$55.00;  
Side Amphitheater- \$35.00.

To order tickets, call 215-283-2404.

# Cluster Outreach Center

## CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

Clothing Sorters - Volunteers needed to unpack, sort, tag and rack donations of adult clothing, shoes and household items. - Everyday during operating hours.

Food Pantry - There is a lot of food to sort at the Outreach Center. If you can read, you can sort. - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Food Pantry - Need volunteers to help with bagging fresh foods and stocking shelves. - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

Community Meals - Volunteer Teams to prepare and transport food for Kid's Cafe.

**If you would like to volunteer, contact the Outreach Center at 610-970-5995, or stop in at 137 Walnut Street, Pottstown.**

### Pantry Needs:

Canned fruit, crackers, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, and spaghetti sauce, sugar and tubes of toothpaste.

### Clothing & Household Needs:

Baby bath, powder and lotion, toddler socks, girl's pajamas size 6, 8, 10 & 12, bath towels, irons, and table lamps.

### Jump Start:

Donations of used cars in good condition.

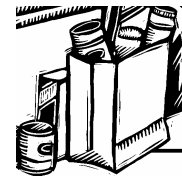
### Always needed:

Brown paper and plastic grocery bags, all sizes of Ziploc plastic bags, paper towels.

**Donations accepted** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9-11 a.m. and Wednesday 3-5 p.m. Also from 9-11 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month.

## **St. James' Cluster Collection Basket Has a New Location**

Starting in May the basket for donations to the Pottstown Cluster Outreach Center will be **located in Horn Hall** and not inside the door from the parking lot. A second basket for donations will be **by the lower level mailboxes located at the bottom of the stairs.**



## **Altar Flowers, Eternal Light and Bulletin Sponsorships**

**Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall** for anyone who would like to sponsor the altar flowers, eternal light and/or bulletins. No one automatically has the same week they reserved the previous year, so be sure to sign up again for 2006.



The cost is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Envelopes for payment are available in Horn Hall. They can then be placed in the offering plate or returned to the office.

## Salvation Army Community Lunch Second Wednesday of Month

Volunteers are needed! Cooking and preparing the meal begins at 8:30 a.m. and is usually done by 11:30 a.m. Serving and cleaning up begins at 11:30 a.m. and volunteers are usually done by 1:30 p.m.

Please consider helping those in need. For additional information please contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

## Community Meal

In 2006, St. James is helping with the community meal on the following **Thursdays**: June 22, August 24 and October 26. **Volunteers are needed to provide desserts, to cook, set up and clean up. If you need more information, or would like to help, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.**

## Diakon Annual Benefactors Dinner

The 2006 Benefactors Dinner is scheduled for **Thursday, May 11, 2006** at the Reading Sheraton Hotel. The proceeds from this dinner will benefit Diakon Senior Living Services at the Lutheran Home at Topton, Diakon Adoption and Foster Care, Diakon Family Life Services, and Diakon Volunteer Home Care.

Heather Feltman, Executive Director of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) will be the featured speaker. The **reception is at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.** The cost is \$150 per person. To join Diakon on this special evening, **call Joie Barry at 610-682-1354 or Brian Pinto at 610-682-1266.**

Walk-up Registrations welcome  
the day of the event!



## Preeclampsia Foundation 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk-a-Thon

Saturday, May 6  
10 a.m.

Pottsgrove High School

Preeclampsia is a condition that occurs during pregnancy and the postpartum period and affects both mother and baby. This rapidly progressive disorder is characterized by dangerously high blood pressure, swelling, and protein in urine. It is common and life-threatening, and is the number one reason doctors deliver a fetus prematurely.

**You can make a difference!** Join the walk, sponsor a friend, or donate directly to the cause.

Registration forms and info located in Horn Hall or **contact Dawn Detweiler at 610-258-9290 or [dkkd@wi.rr.com](mailto:dkkd@wi.rr.com).**

*\* Reading Phillies game ticket give-aways.*

*Longaberger, Tastfully Simple, Handmade Item, and Kids Fun Bucket Raffles.*

*Blood Pressure Screenings*

*Free t-shirt for each walker! \**



## Health News

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"*

*1 Corinthians 6:19*

### **A FORGIVING HEART**

*From Marge Fegley written by Betsy Drutecco  
Better Homes and Garden, May 2006*

Does your blood boil every time you see the next-door neighbor who chopped down a magnificent oak tree that shaded your deck for years? You may want to let it go. A growing body of evidence suggests that forgiving others may be good for your own heart. A recent study at the University of Tennessee shows that forgiveness can lower blood pressure and heart rate.

Holding a grudge is hard work; it places a lot of demand on the heart. Choosing to forgive an offender reduces anger, depression, and anxiety, all of which affect cardiovascular health. Another study of couples with troubled marriages found higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol in those who said they could not forgive their spouse over an issue or problem. In the book, *Outliving Heart Disease* by Dr. Stein, one of the guidelines he gives for preventing and treating heart disease is to know how thoughts and feelings affect health.

Negative emotions may promote hardening of the arteries and even trigger a heart attack. Dr. Stein says reducing hostility, anger, stress, and depression can lower the occurrence of cardiac problems.

Forgiveness does not come easily. One method, uses the acronym REACH to teach people how to forgive. How it works:

1. Recall the hurt. Try to remember the hurt objectively
2. Empathize with the person who hurt you. Try to understand the other person's perspective and feel compassion.
3. Altruism. Realize we are all alike in that we have hurt others too. When we are forgiven, we experience freedom and gratitude. Give the gift of forgiveness to the person with whom you now empathize.
4. Commit publicly to forgive. Forgiveness becomes real when you say it aloud or write it in a letter rather than keep it private and you do not have to deliver the letter.
5. Hold onto forgiveness. When painful memories resurface, it doesn't mean you are still holding a grudge. Remind your self that you have forgiven that person and have moved on.



**Blood pressure checks** will be taken on May 7th after the 8 a.m. service and at 10:15 before the 10:45 a.m. service. See you there.

## The Pottstown Relay for Life event

**MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>  
POTTSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL**

Please mark your calendar for this very important day. Come out to the school and have fun. There will be much to do and see for all ages. St. James team will be there selling raffles and handmade items. Stop by and see us.

### **The team will be selling raffles in Horn Hall each Sunday prior to the relay.**

Please stop by and see our wonderful handmade things - made by our own talented members.

**If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to the American Cancer Society. Cash and checks may be given to any of our team members.**

Thank you again for all of your support.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Pastor would like to thank Suzanne, Pam Larry and Linc, as well as those of the congregation who helped to make our Lenten observances, Holy Week activities and Easter celebration wonderful this year! You all have been a blessing to him and to St. James. Thank you!

Thank you to all who provided food at our Seder Supper and to those who helped to set up and clean up.

Thank you to all who helped with our Wednesday night Lenten worship in April; especially David Hartzman, Jeff Leiby and members of our Chancel Choir.

Thank you to Tracie Rheel for making the banner hanging in the front of the church building during the season of Easter. Thanks also goes to Tracie for making the banner for our Rejoicing Spirits worship service. It is a wonderful addition to our service.

Thanks to Barb Ungerman for making the beautiful new "Alleluia" banner that was displayed for the first time on Easter morning. We sing and speak alleluias from the Easter season onward as part of our thanks and celebration of the resurrection of Christ. A resurrection that we share with him!

Thank you to all our "friends" who contributed goodies to the extended coffee fellowship on Easter Sunday. Based on the high turnout and the favorable comments we think that everyone enjoyed the event.

Nancy and Dave Garner

To Our Family at St. James,

Thank you for the overwhelming sharing of joy that everyone has expressed to us in so many ways on the birth of our daughter, Dana. We have been touched beyond words.

Thank you also to Pastor Hutchinson for visiting Sherry & Dana during their hospital stay, to Carol Keller for playing handbells in Sherry's absence, and to those who have filled in for Don as chalice bearer and for both of us as counters.

Don & Sherry Clancy

# MEMBER NEWS

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## May Birthdays

1 – Julia Jackson; 3 – Ashley Hoffman, Barbara Shollenberger, Kit Weller; 4 – Tracy Lapreziosa; 5 – Chelsea Hartzman; 7 – Carol Keller; 9 - Mike Mace, Kim Strichik, Leah Willow; 10 – Aimee Civera, Roy Silcox; 13 – Audrey Stine; 16 – Helen Moyer; 17 – Mabel Meloy, Ruth Rank; 18 – Nancy Garner; 21 – Tom Drauschak, Grace Schafer; 23 – Ellen Jameson; 24 – Del Mauger; 25 – Mae Erb, Justin Kirsten, Judy Swanson, Teri Widmann; 27 - Jack Drauschak; 28 – Laura Bierman



## Baptism

We welcome into the Lord's family: Justin Scott Strichik, son of Scott and Kim Strichik, baptized April 16, 2006.

**Congratulations** to Eugene Hoehne, Kyle Kirsten, Megan Mace, Austin Rothenberger, and Ashley Taylor who completed acolyte training this spring. Please wish them well as they serve in their new roles.

## Change of address:

Garnet Nye  
PO Box 210  
Pottstown, PA 19464

**Deepest Sympathies** to the family and friends of Mildred Crane.

## Memorial Contributions Given

In memory of Anna Fegley from: Olga Christman, Pauline J. Thacker, Frank Palmieri,, Montgomery Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

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## Discussion Topic

### Gambling Questions and Answers

**Hey Pastor! Whadaya think about the casino that might come to Limerick? Isn't the church against that sort of thing?** *The Lutheran Church for years has spoken out against casinos because they tend to promote things like – illegal drugs, prostitution, addictive gambling and organized crime. The church has especially criticized the government for its promotion of casinos and lotteries because they take money from those who can least afford to surrender it; the poor.*

**Yea, but isn't gambling just part of America anymore?** *Not just anymore, but for a long time. The early Jamestown settlement was financed by a lottery in England and lotteries were used to finance many things in early America. They have come and gone, but during the Depression, the state of Nevada legalized casinos and within a decade a dozen more states opted for various forms of legal gambling also. That trend seems to be growing and now has been made law in Pennsylvania.*

*( gambling discussion continued)*

**So if we love to gamble so much, what's the harm in it? Is it immoral?**

*The bible does not speak directly to the act of gambling as being sinful, but as I said, the harm comes from what can be connected with gambling.*

**Didn't the disciples gamble when casting lots to replace Judas? No, not really.**

*What the apostles did was not gambling. They (like others in the bible who cast lots) were trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide what they were doing so that it would be in accordance with God's will. They did not seek financial gain, trust in chance, or risk anything, as gambling does.*

**Then when is it OK and when is immoral?**

*Well, each person of Christian faith may have their own opinion, but I would say that it is immoral when; it is based on the ungodly desire of greed and excessive gain without labor,... when it replaces faith in God with a foolish trust in what we call "Lady Luck",... and when it adversely affects our stewardship of God's blessings.*

**Can you be more specific for me please?**

*Yes. I think there is nothing wrong with running raffles or doing bingo or any other games if it is rooted in the desire to have fun or is connected with doing good with the proceeds. It's when we get zealous for riches that gambling begins to corrupt us. And I think there is nothing wrong with hoping we win in a game of poker or pinochle as long as we don't try to make God part of the game by asking for His help. At the same time, if we base our trust on some idea of chance, that tends to encourage us to remove God's power from our daily life.*

*And I don't think it's sinful to spend a little money on such things, but when we foolishly waste resources which could be put to much better use for family and the work of God in this world, then that is immoral.*

**It sounds like you are not giving me a straight answer? But I am.** *It's just not the black and white answer people so often want for such things. I told you that gambling is not intrinsically wrong, as neither are things like alcohol or drugs. It's what we do with them and our abuse of them that makes them wrong. God gave us the freedom of our will to make choices and to opt for either good or bad behavior. Therefore, gambling in some forms, like a lot of things when used properly, can be OK and possibly even bring about good in some instances.*

**Back to my first question. Are you in favor of or against the casinos?** *If I had a vote on whether to make them legal in the first place, I would have voted 'no'. But now that they are the law of the land and will be placed somewhere in the state, I think it might even be morally wrong to campaign against them being in our backyard, with hopes that they will be put in somebody else's instead. As Christians, I believe we have a responsibility to be wary of the promises they make, but to be open minded to the good that might come. I think we have a duty to decide if we think going to the casinos is morally right or wrong, based on our own intentions and what effect they will have on our behavior. And I think that we have an obligation to warn others of their potential harmful effects and to watch out for those we know, lest they be caught up in the negative and immoral aspects of gambling.*

*What do you think?*

# CHURCH COUNCIL

## Ideas Needed!

Are you involved in a volunteer organization that would benefit from financial support? Council needs ideas on how to spend 3-7% of the endowment as mandated in the Endowment Charter. A minimum of \$10,641 must be allocated this year!

We are looking for ways to fulfill our mission to "reach out to the community and the world". Why support organizations that St. James' members are involved in? To lift up your effort, increase the organization's exposure, and accomplish what we are so lovingly called to do.

Please communicate your ideas to a Council member today!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Feb 2006</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$28,440.99	\$70,704.40
Expenses	<u>29,738.01</u>	<u>78,876.39</u>
Net Income	(\$1,297.02)	(\$ 8,171.99)

### REGULAR ENVELOPES

Received	\$21,233.30	\$54,574.81
Needed*	<u>20,034.76</u>	<u>40,069.51</u>
Over (Under)	\$ 1,198.54	(\$6,728.00)

### THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING

Collected \$ 455.00

Beneficiary *Seminary Support*

\*Each month includes \$14,653 actual pledged and \$5,382 needed growth to balance the budget.

## Council Member Contact

If at anytime you have a question, concern, or suggestion that might help the church, you may contact one of the following elected Council members.

**Dave Garner** 610-970-7560  
 Email: [dggarner@comcast.net](mailto:dggarner@comcast.net)  
 Represents the Stewardship Committee

**Jeff Leiby** 610-327-9454  
 Email: [jefnrobn@yahoo.com](mailto:jefnrobn@yahoo.com)  
 Represents the Fellowship Committee

**Sherry Clancy** 610-323-5977  
 Email: [srclancy@alumni.moravian.edu](mailto:srclancy@alumni.moravian.edu)  
 Represents the Finance and Endowment Committee

**John Ungerman** 610-718-9368  
 Email: [john.ungerman@thrivent.com](mailto:john.ungerman@thrivent.com)  
 Represents the Property Committee

**Alison O'Donnell** 610-779-1119  
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**Dottie Smith** 610-323-8226  
 Represents the Personnel Committee

**Pat Weber** 610-326-5421

**Mary Arnt** 610-323-6176

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 Represents the Christian Education Committee

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