

# the Spirit of St. James



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

**Summer Worship  
begins June 4<sup>th</sup>**

One service and Children's Church  
**9 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**

June 1<sup>st</sup> through Labor Day Weekend

**Monday through Thursday**

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Friday CLOSED**

### **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

### **Director of Discipleship**

Suzanne Rigg

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home 610-970-4865

### **Secretary**

Pam Lloyd

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

### **Newsletter Deadline for July Edition: June 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.

### **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)**.

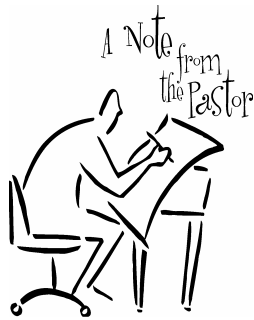


### **Holiday Office Hours**

Due to the July 4 holiday, the office will be closed on Monday, July 3 and open on Friday, July 7.

### **Staff Announcement**

At their May meeting Church Council accepted with regrets the resignation of Lincoln Noecker as Organist / Music Director. Lincoln has offered an effective date of July 31, but agreed to stay on until the end of the summer if that meets the needs of St. James. We have appreciated Linc's fine work over the last two years and will miss his contribution to our worship services. We pray God's blessings on him and his ministry as he goes forth.



## Where do we find the truth?

Some of you have probably heard about the movie 'The Da Vinci Code'. You may have even read the best-selling book written by Dan Brown of the same title. Most of you (if you haven't already) will hear or know of the controversy that the book, and now the film, is causing. "What's the big deal?" you might ask.

Well, many Christian people are incensed because the book (and movie) tells a story of Jesus that is simply not true. That is, it tells of a Jesus who ended up married to Mary Magdalene, with the two of them having children together with his heirs still living today. It tells of a vast and dark conspiracy to cover up this story and it blames forces within the Christian Church that go back to the beginning of early Christianity. It therefore challenges our understanding of who Jesus was as well as the whole Christian story that followed his death and resurrection.

But before you get too riled up by the movie (or book) and start to question the historical truth of Jesus and what the church teaches, you need to know several things. The first and most important is the fact that the book (which the movie is based on) is FICTION. That means it is not a factual tale. The author combined some facts with lots of fiction and mixed in a lot of historical errors and goofs (actually over 100 of them) to concoct this make believe story.

The second thing that you ought to remember is the fact that people love conspiracy theories. People who consider the possibility of truth being portrayed in the Da Vinci Code

may mistakenly think that now they have had the secret knowledge of the real story imparted to them, when in fact all they have read or seen is a sort of fairy tale. But our love for such tales can lure us into starting to believe the make believe.

The next thing to consider is the fact that people are always quick and anxious to question authority and to be suspicious of institutions of any kind, be it the government, the school teacher or school board, or of course the Church. People like when a long-standing institution like the Christian Church is challenged and questioned, and the Da Vinci Code does just that.

And the last (and rather sad) thing we need to be mindful of, is the fact that the Christian community has terrible amnesia when it comes to the history of our faith. Just like kids in school today don't know about U.S. history, most Christian people don't know much about what happened in Christianity prior to our time in Sunday School, or at the most, the Reformation. The truth is, there was a great deal that people close to Jesus and the apostles did which helped secure the truth and establish all that we teach and preach and believe today. A story like the Da Vinci Code can easily create controversy when people of the faith (let alone the unfaithful) don't know the truth of history.

The truth is that the Da Vinci Code is not the true story of Jesus, but an expression of art. And like any kind of art, it can be tasteful and well done and even beautiful. However, it does not always have to be truthful. The only truth that art must tell is what the artist wants you to experience. So read the book if you want and go to the movie if it's good entertainment and well done. But by all means, don't draw your conclusions from a factually inaccurate and historically false bit of fiction. **Get your conclusions from the place where the truth of Jesus has been protected from falsehood for 2000 years. Come to church!**

## WORSHIP NOTES

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The month of May was a special time for our Rejoicing Spirits worship because of two reasons. First, we welcomed to our Rejoicing Spirits Ministry Claire Marville, who will play piano for us. Claire is a music teacher at East Vincent Elementary School in the Owen J. Roberts School District. She brings with her not only her terrific talent, but also much diversity having attended many churches of different denominations. Welcome Claire!

Second, we were fortunate to have present with us in May a photographer from *The Mercury*. *The Mercury* will run a feature story on Rejoicing Spirits sometime in the near future. Thanks to Pastor for contacting *The Mercury* about this unique ministry. Hopefully this publicity will help spread the word as to what St. James has to offer with Rejoicing Spirits.

**June's Rejoicing Spirits worship will be June 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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.



**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.

### **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 7a.m. on WNTP 990 AM**. Listen, and be renewed by God's amazing grace.

## Why Do We Do That in Worship?

**Q: “Where do the bible lessons that we use on Sundays come from? Who picks them each week?”**

A: In 1966, representatives from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America (the latter two became the ELCA in 1988) got together to form a common hymnal with common readings to be used for each Sunday as well as daily readings. At the same time, other denominations began to consider whether they could agree on sharing common readings from the bible each Sunday. By 1983 a *Common Lectionary* was formed, which was later refined into what we today call the *Revised Common Lectionary*. Those lessons are now used in most mainline churches as well as Roman Catholic churches each Sunday (Evangelical churches generally do not participate in using the Lectionary).



**Q: “So it’s another one of those new ideas from the church?”**

A: Not really. The idea has its roots in the Jewish synagogues of ancient times, where portions of the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament) and the prophets were read in regular cycles in worship. The early Christians continued this practice and slowly added the readings about Jesus as they became available. When Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, the Lectionary became uniformed throughout Christianity.

During the Reformation, Luther never abandoned the use of the Lectionary for Sunday worship.

**Q: “What then exactly is the Lectionary?”**

A: The Lectionary consists of a first reading that is usually from the Old Testament,... a psalm or portion of a psalm,... a second reading from one of the epistles (or letters) in the New Testament ,... and a gospel reading from one of the four gospels. The Old Testament reading (and often too the Psalm) usually complement or add meaning to the theme of the gospel lesson.

Also, all four of the lessons can reflect on the season of the Church year. For instance, in Lent the readings might all say something in particular about repentance. These readings run on a three year cycle so that churches will use Matthew’s gospel in year ‘A’ and then Mark the next year, and Luke the third year. The cycle is then repeated every three years. Readings from the gospel of John are interspersed throughout each of the years, especially during Lent, Holy Week and Easter season.

**Q: “This may sound silly, but why do we use the lectionary?”**

A: The Lectionary leads our church and our worship through the Church year, which is a re-telling of the story of God’s salvation culminated in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That story is our story and so the Lectionary helps us to follow and make sense of and connect with the message and what God has said and done and is saying and doing with his people. By following the Lectionary, the pastor or leader of a church cannot impose a unique agenda or liturgy that varies a whole lot from the life of the church as guided by the seasons of the church year. In other words, the rhythm of the Church year is not disrupted or distorted when we follow a Lectionary. In addition to that, the Lectionary brings us into a common form of worship with our brothers and sisters in other denominations and churches. So on any given Sunday, your sister in the Episcopal Church, and your brother in the Methodist Church and your neighbor in the Presbyterian Church and your daughter in the United Church of Christ, and your son in the Roman Catholic Church, will all likely be hearing the same word of God spoken to them. So in a sense, the Lectionary helps to unite us, just as Jesus longs to see us be as one.

**Q: Then do we get to hear the whole Bible read by doing this?**

A: The Lectionary does not cover the whole bible. It is hoped that people in their own personal bible reading, in times of bible study and other forums and opportunities will be able to experience the rest of the Holy Scriptures outside of Sunday worship. After all, the Bible is not intended for use just one hour a week.



**Third Sunday Offering**  
 June Recipient  
**Salvation Army**

Our Third Sunday outreach offering for June will be given to support the work of the Salvation Army in Pottstown.

During the interval between Thanksgiving and Christmas, a familiar sight at many locations is the red Salvation Army kettle with volunteers (including St. James members) ringing the bell to attract givers.

Locally, the mission of the Salvation Army is well known. A homeless shelter operates by providing emergency food and shelter to those in need, as well as counseling. They also assist people in finding affordable housing, employment, childcare and educational opportunities.

Community meals are served each Wednesday, staffed with volunteers, including members of St. James. A major project is the annual Christmas program, providing food and Christmas gifts to hundreds of families. Aside from this major effort it is evident that "need knows no season." Therefore there is an ongoing need to provide food, clothing, shelter, rent assistance, electricity and fuel payment assistance.

The Salvation Army has an outstanding record of low overhead in the administration of their operation and is quite worthy of our support.

**Third Sunday Offering Schedule**

- JULY - Missionaries
- AUGUST - School supplies for children
- SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief
- OCTOBER - Cluster Outreach Center
- NOVEMBER - Prison Fellowship
- DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger

Mark Your Calendars  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**July 24-28, 2006**  
 6:30- 8:30 p.m.  
**at Emmanuel Lutheran Church**



Summer is almost here and that means so is Vacation Bible School! We will once again be doing Vacation Bible School in partnership 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 with the offering money for VBS going to the Heifer Project International.

Vacation Bible School will be for **children preschool - grade 6**. Registration forms will be available in the very near future. Also available soon will be volunteer sheets listing lots of opportunities for youth and adults to volunteer. In particular need for this summer from St. James are volunteers to help teach the Bible stories for VBS. If you would like to help with VBS in this or any other way, please contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-970-4865 or 610-326-2810.

**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.



# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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## WELCA News

**The Spring Rummage Sale is on June 5 and 6.** 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 a.m. -Noon and 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**The final meeting of WELCA before the fall is a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.** in Horn Hall. Please bring your special dish to share. Plates, utensils and beverages will be provided.



### Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Summer Bible Studies to be held:

**June 6, 2006** - St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg- presenter will be Ethel DeWitt. The topic is "Act Boldly with Kindness" (Bible Study material can be found in the January 2006 issue of Lutheran Woman Today). This Bible Study was cancelled back in January due to poor weather conditions. Coffee and danish fellowship at 9:30 a.m.; Bible Study at 10 a.m.

**July, 2006** - No Bible Study this month.

**August 1, 2006** - Buffet breakfast (cost \$8.00) at The Villa at Morlatton in Douglassville beginning at 9 a.m. and Bible Study at 10 a.m. The presenter will be Karen Baum, a parish nurse. Her topic will be women's health issues.

Please call either Mary Amt (610-323-6176) or Grace Schafer (610-326-4814) for carpooling and reservations for the buffet breakfast in

## SCRIP

Remember, when we have a summer worship schedule, we will be selling SCRIP at our normal location in Horn Hall after worship. You will be able to find certificate cards for any summer project, picnics, Father's Day, graduation, or daily grocery shopping. **Your continued support of this program is greatly appreciated.**

### Committee Night Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

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, and Stewardship.** 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.

*The task ahead of us is never greater  
than the power behind us.*

## Prayer Request From Pastor

In your personal prayers, please pray for the people from Darfur.

Darfur is a region in the country of Sudan, which is on the eastern part of Africa. For the past two years a civil war has broken out there. The government of Sudan has, at worst supported, and at best allowed, armed militia groups to ride into villages and murder and rape defenseless citizens. Since this began, it is believed that over 200,000 people civilians have been killed and over 2 million have been chased from their homelands and are living as refugees.

During this period, the world has mostly stood by and watched this horror, which the U.S. State Department has called "genocide." The United Nations has done little, with countries like China and Russia blocking any action. The African Union has sent a measly amount of troops that cannot do very much to help stop the bloodshed since they have insufficient amount of troops to cover a land area the size of Texas.

To his credit, President Bush has most recently taken a firm stand and spoken out to condemn the killing and the Sudan government's refusal to stop it. No other world government has endeavored to do the same.

Darfur is a place that holds no military, political or economic interest to the U.S. Yet, as Christians we ought to be concerned when other innocent human beings are systematically killed. There has been a fragile negotiated peace, but that may not hold up.

*(continued)*

Our church Council voted last month to send \$500 to help provide assistance to refugees through Lutheran World Relief, but **I ask the congregation to please pray for the victims and that the killing of these people will somehow be stopped.** Thank you.



## Prayer List

If you have anyone who you would like to add to the prayer list, or if a name should be removed from the current prayer list, please note this by using the yellow **communication cards found in the pews** or by contacting Suzanne Rigg at 610-970-4865.

*“Peace starts with a smile”*

# 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**

The baskets for donations to the Pottstown Cluster Outreach Center are **now located in Horn Hall** and not inside the door from the parking lot. Another basket for donations is by the lower level mailboxes located at the bottom of the stairs.

## **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.**

## From the Archive Committee

A reminder that if you have any memorabilia (pictures, newsclips, etc.) from any church related events that can be shared, please see that the Archive Committee receives a copy.

We are looking for both **past & future** events. Also, if possible, please try to identify the people in the pictures. Thanks!



### St. James Picnic July 23, 2006

The St. James Picnic will be held on "The Feast of St. James Sunday" at the Warwick County Park! More information to follow.



### Second Annual Reading Phillies Baseball Game June 25, 2006

Come join the fun and plan to attend the second annual Reading Phillies Baseball Game fellowship gathering on June 25. **Game time is 1 p.m. Tickets are \$7** and go on sale on June 4<sup>th</sup> after worship in Horn Hall. Please see Deb Hutchinson, Tracie Rheel or Jeff Leiby for tickets or more information.

## The Ministry Fair Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 9 - 10:30 a.m. in Horn Hall

This church-wide event will be on Sunday, September 10, 2006 when we return to two services. It will be held in Horn Hall from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The Fair is **an opportunity for you to learn more about the various ministries** that operate for the congregation and through the efforts of the members. St. James members can then decide how God is calling them to participate in the various ministries. This is an excellent opportunity for committees and groups to talk with individuals interested in their particular ministry. **Gifts of the Spirit commitment forms will be distributed** and should be completed and returned over the following two weeks with a formal blessing to be made on September 24 during both worship services.

All groups are encouraged to promote their ministry at this popular program. **Set up will be on Saturday, September 10.** Please **let Dave Garner know** if you want to reserve table space for the event (dgarner@comcast.net or 610-970-7560).

*"A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are for.*

*The same holds true for  
disciples of Jesus"*



## 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 Good Walk Can Make You Young**

*by Joseph Sating*

*from Update Independence Blue Cross, 2005*

**Walking offers so many benefits.** Starting at the age of 20, we lose about one percent of our aerobic fitness each year. A walking program can improve that fitness from 10 to 20 percent in three months. That is the same as 10 to 20 years of rejuvenation.

**Walking is one of the best and easiest** exercises someone can do. You do not need any equipment beyond a good pair of walking shoes. It is a great activity to do with others and it is safe. With almost all other types of physical activity there is some risk of complications involving bones, muscles, heart, or lungs. But there are almost no reports of complications in adults from walking. That makes walking a great way to fulfill the U.S. Surgeon General's recommendation that we spend at least 30 minutes a day in moderate physical activity. Moderated walking can extend longevity. **It can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.** It is also been associated with a **lower risk for certain cancers.** For many people, walking between 3 and 4 miles an hour would be moderate. But for people who have not been active 2 miles an hour would be fast enough to get benefits. The way you can tell whether you are at moderate level is that your heart rate will go up and you will sweat lightly. Thirty minutes a day may seem like a lot of walking if you are not used to it.

You do not have to do it all at once. Just a few minutes a day provides benefits.

The idea is to start slow at your own pace. Try to increase your time a little each week. Walk 10 percent farther or longer. Break up the time into 10 or 15 minute periods. It will give you the same benefits as one 30 minute period.

A pedometer is a device that will count the number of steps you take. You may want to invest in one. The more you move the better you will feel. If you would like to start walking, here are some things to help you get going and keep you safe.

- 1. Start slow** and use a comfortable pace.
- 2. Pay attention to your body.** As you feel stronger you can do more. If you feel light headed, have discomfort anywhere from the belly button up, or notice changes in your heart rhythm you should stop walking and talk with your doctor immediately. It would be best to talk to your doctor before you begin a walking program.
- 3. Walk with a partner.** Motivate each other.
- 4. Walk in an environment you like.** Walk where you **feel most comfortable.**
- 5. Keep track** of your progress. You may be pleasantly surprised by your progress.

**BLOOD DRIVE scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-7 p.m.** Giving blood is a special gift. If you are able to donate please call Marge Fegley at 610-323-3936.

The April blood drive was successful thanks to all those who scheduled to donate. Special thanks also to those who help make these drives possible; Pastor Hutchinson, Pam Lloyd, Suzanne Rigg, Larry Kehler, and Ted Baer.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** will be available on June 2<sup>nd</sup> after the 9 a.m. service.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to all who were present to celebrate with us the baptism of Jason Lewis on May 7. Your support and presence helped to make this even more memorable.

Lorraine Smith and Jason Matrone

Thank you to everyone for your support while Jack was sick. We appreciated all the prayers, thoughts, and visits.

Irene and Jack Dilks

To Our Fellow Members of Choir, Council, Handbells and the Men of St.James,

Thank you so very much for your kind and generous gift of the Babies R Us gift card and cash. We purchased a changing pad and covers, lap pads, a white noise machine, and a mobile for Dana. She is well outfitted!

In Christian love,  
Sherry and Don Clancy

Pastor and Debbie thank everyone who supported them in their walking in the Relay For Life event with their gifts and prayers.

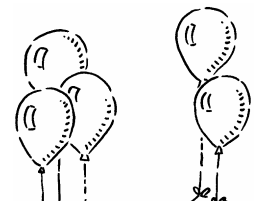
My sincere thanks to Pastor Hutchinson and the St. James "family" for all their prayers, cards, calls and visits. Your support throughout Bill's illness was just great. Thanks to Pat Baer, Marge Fegley, Mary Arnt, and Delores Mauger for helping at the luncheon after the funeral. Bill's memorials will be split between the Memorial Fund and the St. James Relay for Life - American Cancer Society Fund. Thanks again.

Barbara Thornton

I would like to thank the Pastor for his very moving funeral service for my father Lester Moyer. We got a lot of nice compliments for how beautiful the service was.

I would also like to thank the congregation for all the support and cards during my time of grief. It really helps me to get through my time of grieving.

Pattie Schaeffer



### June Birthdays

**1** – Michael Eshbach; **2** – Kathleen Degler, Thomas Mitchell, Peter Rheel; **3** – Charles Moore, Mary Vickerman; **6** – John Kochel; **7** – Virginia Ritner; **8** – Ashley Bush, June Henninger; **10** – Debbie Hutchison; **11** – Bob Rheel; **13** – Kirstin Gulotta, Anna Neiffer; **14** – Eric Sandoe; **15** – Martha Williams; **17** – Don Clancy, Bernice Lengel, Karl Moore; **18** – Margaret Bickel, Dot Nagy, Kristian Olock, Ashley Taylor; **19** – Bob Reber; **20** – Linn Bierman, Gladys Evans; **23** – Mary Kochel; **25** – Evan Kirsten, Phyllis Lengyel; **26** – Kim Culp, Linda Ferreri; **27** – Paul Casner; **28** – Robert DuBois; **30** – Mike Medvetz

~ HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! ~

## MEMBER NEWS

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### Baptism

We welcome into the Lord's family:  
**Jason Lewis Matrone**, son of Lorraine Smith and Christopher Matrone, baptized May 7, 2006.

### Congratulations



**Amy Lapreziosa** is a member of the 2006 graduating class of Owen J. Roberts High School. As part of her senior year, she participated in the Teacher Academy program of the Chester County Intermediate Unit. This program for local High School seniors allowed her to explore teaching as a profession, by providing various internship placements throughout the year. Amy will be attending Cabrini College in Radnor PA as an elementary education/special education major this fall.

*Do you know of any one else from the congregation who has or is about to graduate? If so, please provide their name and inform to Suzanne Rigg so we may wish them our congratulations in next month's The Spirit of St. James.*

### Deepest Sympathies



to the family and friends of William Thornton.

to the family and friends of Ruth Rank.

to the family and friends of Dorothy Stufflet.

### Memorial Contributions Given

In memory of Anna Fegley from:  
*George and Nancy Brodie*

In memory of William Thornton from: *Kathryn Geist, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. James Turner, George and Anna Neiffer, Gail Neiffer, Henry and Barbara Block, Paul and Millie Casner, Elaine Christman, Paul and Sandra Eshbach, Ray and June Henninger, Jim and Mabel Meloy, David and Annette Renn, Gerald and Elaine Richards, Ray Yocom, Herb and Helen Ziegler, Howard Snyder, St. James Relay for Life Team, The Lurio Family – David, Jackie, Samantha, Annika; Helen and Larry Delewski, Ben and Peggy Bean, Joan L. Goundry, Sherwood and Phyllis Yergey, Mr. and Mrs. David R. Hunsberger, Nancy Toothaker, Jennifer Sharp, Suzanne and Kenneth Bohner, Kay & David Dougherty and the Hill School Community, Wilbert and Cora Sharp, Jon and Martha Fink, Robert and Mindy DuVal, Pat and Ted Baer, Bob and Dot Wien, Betty Darocha, Elmer and Lois Panoc, Patricia Gibson, Tom and Carol Ortolani*

In memory of Dorothy Stufflet from:  
*Lisa Bealer, Robert & Ellen Ibach, Jeffrey & Mary Ibach, Joseph & Theresa Chessario*

In memory of Lester Moyer from:  
*Bernice Lengel*

In memory of Ruth Rank from:  
*Bruce and Jane Kurtz, Jim and Marcie McIntyre, Sandra and Andrew Wentzler, Diane Reinert, Marlene Hall, Dennis, Sharon, and Jessica Shollenberger, Marge and Ed Lindenmuth, Anna Nester and John, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schramm and Jason, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Baer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wien, Ladies Auxiliary Knights Templar Nativity Commandery #71*

## National Young Leaders Conference

A Report by **Jessica Mitchell**

As some of you may know, this past January I participated in a prestigious conference in Washington D.C. However, some of you may not know that Pastor Hutchinson was the man who nominated me for the event and that St. James sponsored me to partake in the conference. The National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) seeks to identify students with demonstrated leadership potential and a history of academic achievement, who will contribute to the strength and character of the organization. They search for outstanding individuals representing a variety of backgrounds and possessing a broad range of interests and goals. Nominations are extended to high school students who are sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have demonstrated these abilities as well as exemplifying themselves as the most mature from the designated age groups.

Through a six-day session in the nation's capitol, many "windows of opportunity" were opened for me. The theme of the conference was *The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today*. The conference offered me an opportunity to discuss current issues with the men and women who shape our policies and laws. People like our state senators and local representative, and other leaders, such as Ms. Kimberly Oliver and Rajeev Kasat, who have fought for something they believe in. NYLC challenged me to assess problems, contribute to group discussions and take on roles in educational simulations. These simulations included "If I Were President," "Testing the Constitution," and the Model Congress. Through these hands-on, one-of-a-kind experiences, I developed important leadership skills by learning to evaluate critical information, form and advocate positions and make decisions.

The conference also allowed me to meet with and talk with other young people who have the same passion for learning and leading as I do. I gained countless friendships there, and we still keep in touch. It was the highlight of my year, and I'm excited to report that I have been accepted into an even more prestigious conference run through the same organization.

It may sound like we did a lot of work, which we did, but don't think it was all work and no play. I had the opportunity of visiting famous sites, like the Lincoln and Vietnam Veterans Memorial as well as the Smithsonian and all the splendor of Capitol Hill. I participated in an active press conference with media correspondents like Mr. Mike Allen, Mrs. Barbara Bradley-Hagerty, Mr. John Diamond, Mr. Milton Jaques, and Mrs. Sandra Sobieraj-Westfall. The conference culminated at the end into a huge dinner and dance banquet that put it over the top for me.

All in all, it was an amazing week and I'm still in awe of the experience I had. Most of all, I want to thank everyone at St. James for their never-ending love and support. Without all of you, I wouldn't be the young woman I am today. Throughout the years, I've learned countless life lessons here, and I really do appreciate each and every one of you. By helping to send me to this conference, I am truly grateful to call you my brothers and sisters in Christ. I know that God is always watching over me, but I am blessed to have all of you as my guardian angels; always looking out for me.

Peace,

Jessica Mitchell

# CHURCH COUNCIL

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## Council Highlights

*from the Council Meeting  
held May 17, 2006*

- Approved the purchase of three round tables like those currently being used in Horn Hall.
- Looking for ideas as to how to sell or dispose of platforms, pews, and wooden chairs in the balcony and elsewhere and for anyone interested in discussing the reconfiguration of the chancel area.
- Approved donations of \$500 each from the endowment funds to Friendship House, Relay for Life – American Cancer Society, and Miller Keystone Blood Center.
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Lincoln Noecker.

## 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!

## 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  
Email: [Alison.C.O'Donnell@GSK.com](mailto:Alison.C.O'Donnell@GSK.com)  
[papodonnell@comcast.net](mailto:papodonnell@comcast.net)

**Dottie Smith** 610-323-8226  
Represents the Personnel Committee

**Pat Weber** 610-326-5421

**Mary Arnt** 610-323-6176

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

**Tracie Rheel** 610-323-7051  
Email: [tar403@yahoo.com](mailto:tar403@yahoo.com)

**Ron Schafer** 610-326-4814  
Email: [ronslibrary@aol.com](mailto:ronslibrary@aol.com)  
Represents the Christian Education Committee

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

**Jessica Mitchell** 610-970-4250  
Email: [irabbit23@comcast.net](mailto:irabbit23@comcast.net)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>April 2006</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$32,995.30	\$103,699.70
Expenses	<u>30,873.56</u>	<u>109,749.95</u>
Net Income	\$2,121.74	(\$ 6,050.25)
<u>REGULAR ENVELOPES</u>		
Received	\$22,199.03	\$76,773.84
Needed*	<u>20,034.76</u>	<u>40,069.51</u>
Over (Under)	\$ 2,164.27	(\$6,728.00)
<u>THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING</u>		
Beneficiary - Visiting Nurses Association Collected	\$ 441.00	
<small>*Each month includes \$14,653 actual pledged and \$5,382 needed growth to balance the budget.</small>		

## 2006 Synod Assembly Report

On May 5 and 6 was the nineteenth assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). **Attending the assembly from St. James were Tracie Rheel, David Hartzman, Suzanne Rigg and Pastor Hutchinson.** There were several items of business that needed to be taken care of at this assembly but the one receiving the most attention was the election of a new bishop.

At the opening worship all participants of the assembly were given a prayer stole which they were ask to wear throughout the assembly to reinforce the need for prayerful discernment in election of the bishop. **The stoles** were made by different members of congregations in the SEPA Synod and came in all varieties. Some were knitted, some sewn and other made of felt. The organizers for this project received so many prayer stoles that prayer stoles from this synod are being given to our two companion synods – The North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Silesia in the Czech Republic. These two synods held our synod in prayer during the time of the assembly knowing that we were electing a new bishop.

*(Synod Report continued)*

Each year there is always an ELCA representative at the assembly. This year that ELCA **representative was the presiding bishop of the ELCA, Mark S. Hanson**, who brought greetings from the greater church of the ELCA but also chaired the assembly during the balloting for bishop. It was truly a blessing to have him present at the assembly and to hear him speak.

The **balloting for bishop** occurred over a period of two days. It was on the fifth and final ballot that the assembly **elected Rev. Claire Burkat** as the new bishop of the SEPA Synod. Please see the article on the new bishop-elect for more information

The assembly also **elected several members to the Synod Council**. In addition the assembly **elected voting members** from the SEPA Synod to the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Chicago. **Our own John Ungerman** was elected as a voting member to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Congratulations to John!

The assembly **passed two resolutions**. The first involved the budget review process. The **budget for the synod will now be distributed prior to assembly** to allow for review, and a forum will be held at the assembly to allow for questions and discussion. The second resolution passed encouraged congregations to **send as one of their voting members a youth or young adult**. This resolution also asked that Synod Council to look at the implications of adding one additional voting member from each congregation to the assembly that would be a youth or young adult.

Another very moving and exciting part of the assembly was **the reception into the ELCA as a congregation the Spirit and Truth Worship Center** located in Yeadon, PA. Pastor Patricia Davenport is pastor of this congregation and she and its members came forward when the congregation was received. There was a standing ovation that went on and on with lots of dancing and singing for joy. Welcome Spirit and Truth!!!

The assembly learned that the SEPA Synod is **partnering with its companion synod, the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** to establish the Sebastian Kolowa University College – SEKUCo. This will be a college built in Tanzania and is the only University College in Tanzania focusing on special needs education. The offering taken at the opening worship was designated for this project with a total of \$5380 collected.

Every year two members on St. James (one male and one female) are selected to attend the synod assembly. It is a **wonderful opportunity** to see the church at work throughout the Southeastern part of Pennsylvania as well as around the world. **If you would like to be considered** as one of the members to attend this assembly in the future, please contact Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson.

## **Claire Burkat Elected Bishop of ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod** (ELCA News Service)

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Rev. Claire S. Burkat, mission director for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, was elected May 6 to a six-year term as the synod's bishop at the synod assembly in Franconia, Pa. Burkat, 54, will assume her new role July 1 and will be installed formally Oct. 14 at a site to be determined. Burkat will succeed the Rev. Roy G. Almquist, who has served as bishop of the synod since 1994. Almquist, 66, had announced that he would not seek re-election.

Her priorities as bishop will be "to plant new congregations, revitalize and renew existing congregations, raise up mission-minded lay and clergy leaders, and to equip leaders and congregations for the missional challenges of the 21st century," Burkat told the ELCA News Service.

Burkat was elected on the fifth ballot for bishop 307-252 over the Rev. Cynthia L. Krommes, St. John Lutheran Church, Phoenixville, Pa. On the fourth ballot for bishop, Burkat led with 227 votes, Krommes had 208 votes; and the Rev. James K. Echols, a Philadelphia native serving as president of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago -- one of eight ELCA seminaries -- received 134 votes and did not advance to the final ballot. Sixty percent of the total ballots cast, or 342 votes, were required for election on the fourth ballot. There were 101 names on the first or nominating ballot.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Burkat graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in education from City University of New York. In 1978 she earned a master of divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, an ELCA seminary.

After her ordination in the former Lutheran Church in America (LCA) in 1978, Burkat was assistant pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Abington, Pa. In 1983 she became assistant to the bishop, LCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

In 1988 the ELCA was formed through a merger of the LCA, American Lutheran Church and Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. She remained on the staff of the ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and in 1990 she assumed additional responsibilities as mission director. In 2000 she joined the ELCA Division for Outreach as mission director for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and ELCA New Jersey Synod. Since 2004 she has served in a dual role as mission director for the ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and as executive director for congregational advancement for the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. The synod and diocese serve congregations in the same five counties in the Philadelphia area.

Burkat, who resides in Ambler, Pa., is the parent of a son, Alex, a college student. She is a member of Holy Communion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia.

The ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod has 95,486 baptized members in 170 congregations. The synod office is in Norristown. Information about the ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod is at <http://www.ministrylink.org/> on the Web.

*\*Robert W. Fisher is director for communication and information, ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.*

