

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • JANUARY 2007

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.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Children's Music

9:30 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Communion Weekly



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

STAFF

Ministers

Each and Every Member of St. James

Pastor

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson
e-mail: pastorh@stjamespottstown.org
home 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

Suzanne Rigg
e-mail: srigg@thehill.org
office 610-326-2810
home 610-970-4865

Secretary

Pam Lloyd
e-mail: plloyd@stjamespottstown.org

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe
Email: sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net
Office: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Larry Kehler
home: 610-327-2238

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
newsletterstj@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

All room reservations, including committee meetings and private gatherings, should be made with 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 FEBRUARY '07 Edition: January 15, 2007

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org or placed in the "newsletter" mailbox the Sunday before the deadline. Also please note that articles may be edited for clarity and space conservation.



Holiday Office Hours

The office **will be closed** on January 1, 2007.

Snow Cancellations

Please watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or by checking their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC), listen to WPAZ radio (AM 1370), call the church for a message regarding cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather.

Weekly Bulletin Announcements the Website

Weekly bulletin announcements can be found on St. James' website under the section called News. This section will be updated weekly with new information available from week to week. Check it out for yourself at www.stjamespottstown.org.

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

Selfless Giving All Year Long

I heard someone ask the other day; “When are the twelve days of Christmas? Is it before Christmas or after Christmas?”

Well, as much as the culture around us tries to begin the Christmas season right after Thanksgiving (mostly for shopping purposes) the twelve days of Christmas are not, as many think, before Christmas. They are the twelve days from Christmas (December 25) up until the church day called ‘Epiphany’ (January 6). That has traditionally been the day that the church marked as the day to celebrate the wise men’s arrival with their gifts. In some cultures, the gift giving does not even begin until Epiphany and in other cultures and throughout history; gift giving has been spread out over the entire Christmas season. Thus, we have the familiar tune titled “The Twelve Days of Christmas”.

And so, during the Advent season leading up to Christmas, I hope that your hearts were filled with anticipation of the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. And during the twelve days of the Christmas season that followed, I hope that you have been able to share the love of God with others in your family and all others around you. But as we celebrate Epiphany (*which means the revelation of God*), and embark upon another year; I pray that our expectation of God’s coming to us does not diminish...that the love of God that he brings to us in Jesus does not fade....and that Christ’s spirit of selfless giving, continues to be our model for 365 days.

Merry Christmas and a blessed year to come!

PASTOR

EVERY CHURCH NEEDS GOOD LEADERS

(first of a series of articles)

Some people think that leadership is having strong opinions and ideas, being able to articulate them, and then convincing others to buy into their ideas. The problem is, we all tend to think that we look at things objectively and that how we see them, is how they are. When we open our mouths to describe what we think is true and real and right, we often reveal more about ourselves and our biases than anything else. Good leadership realizes that different people can and do see things differently much of the time.

A good leader is able to step back from their own view of things and set aside their pre-conceived notions and look at matters from an objective perspective...even from someone else’s vantage point. Good leadership exercises an ability to see the whole picture and not just what we want to see or things only from where we stand. It’s then, and only then, that they seek to take action that is appropriate to the situation at hand.

Consider the story of a battleship captain who on a foggy night stood on the bridge of his ship and saw a light off in the distance. He ordered, “*Signal that ship and tell them to change course 20 degrees!*” An almost simultaneous message came to the captain’s ship, “*Advise that you change course 20 degrees.*” Becoming irate and certain that he was in the right, the captain sent the next message, “*This is the captain! Change your course 20 degrees!*” Back came the signal from the opposing light, “*This is a lighthouse! Suggest you change your course 20 degrees.*”

Leadership is not always being sure that you are right and bearing your opinion upon others. It is considering all opinions and ideas and looking at the whole picture. Maybe you have more leadership skills than you think.



WORSHIP NOTES



We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at our December Rejoicing Spirits worship with almost 60 individuals in attendance. Special thanks to those who helped to make this evening special: Rob and Cyndi Krasley, Sharon MacCabe, Carol Keller, Alyssa Hartzman, David Hartzman, David Garner, Marge Fegley, Debbie Fisher, Joe Mittura, the children who decorated snowflakes, Pastor Hutchinson, and the many others who come out each month to support this ministry.

Our next Rejoicing Sprits worship will be on **Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 7 p.m.** As we start this new year we continue to ask for the congregation's support in this ministry. With the help of the Holy Spirit your prayers, attendance and service in helping with the different roles involved in doing this ministry have been so valuable. If you are interested in assisting in this ministry there are opportunities available on the second Wednesday night of the month as well as at other times helping with administrative responsibilities. Please complete the form located in Horn Hall if you would like to assist with this ministry or contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810.

Please help us to continue to get the word out to those who would benefit from Rejoicing Spirits. Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities, yet it is also open to everyone in the community. We hope you will consider joining us in the new year.

Congregational Meeting

On **January 28, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.** the second part of the annual congregational meeting will be held for the approval of the annual reports, the changes to the constitution, and discussion on building maintenance and renovations. At this meeting we will also be discussing the concept of a capital campaign. There **will be no Adult Education classes** that morning.

Renovations for Our Chancel Area

At our congregational meeting on December 17th proposed changes to the Chancel area of our Nave (Sanctuary) were introduced to the membership. Additional copies of these proposed changes are available in Horn Hall. The ideas behind those changes are the product of a committee that has been considering how we might make our worship experience better.

In the next month feedback and suggestions to either members of that committee or your Church Council members (listed on page) are welcome. Chancel Renovation Committee members are; Pastor, Suzanne Rigg, Sharon MacCabe, John Ungerman, Dave Garner, Laurie O'Connell, John Fink, Immy Moore, Andy Olock, Willard Bickel.

It is important that we have your input as part of any plans we might pursue. In addition, we will also make some temporary changes to the area for one day in January to give everyone an opportunity to come and visualize what the changes might look like. Gatherings where comments or questions can be shared will be held **Sunday, January 21 in between services, Monday, January 22 at 1 and 7 p.m., and Tuesday, January 23 at 1 and 7 p.m.**

An open discussion on the subject is planned for our **next congregational meeting, on January 28th.** Thank you for your interest and participation.

Third Sunday Offering

January Recipient The Community Meal

This month's Third Sunday Offering will be benefiting the Community Meal. St. James has been helping to prepare the community meals here in Pottstown for more than twenty years. Currently the Community meals are organized by the Cluster Outreach Center and held at both the United Methodist Church and at First Presbyterian Church. This meal is provided to anyone who is in need of a hot and nutritious meal.

Under the direction of Susan Cameron, St. James prepares and serves the community meal 5-6 times a year, usually on the fourth Thursday of every-other-month (*see 2007 schedule in article on page 7*). At each meal an average of 65 individuals are served and fed.

On days that St. James sponsors the meal, volunteers from St. James can be seen actively making sure this meal is available to the community. Volunteers help with this meal by preparing the food, serving it, cleaning up afterwards, picking up food and other supplies and donating desserts. Several of these volunteers have been helping with the meals for many years.

This month please pray and consider helping our neighbors in Pottstown who, without the Community Meal program, may otherwise go hungry. Support these people in need and the members of St. James who assist and serve them. Consider giving to the Third Sunday Offering this month.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

A new adult study entitled "Jesus, God's Epiphany to the World" **will begin on January 7th at 9:30 a.m. and meet in the Blue Room.** In the Christian faith, epiphany means the revelation or manifestation of God through Jesus. In "Jesus, God's Epiphany to the World," we will look at several biblical stories in which Jesus reveals the power and glory of God. Each story communicates God's transforming power to those who experience the events and to those in contemporary life who seek the power of God through Jesus. This study ends on February 18, 2007.

Seasons of the Spirit 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 meets weekly in the Adult Study classroom at 9:30 a.m. Individuals can **join this class anytime throughout the year.**

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light Bulletin Sponsorships



The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. 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.

Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. You must re-sign up for 2007 as no one is automatically reserved a date from the previous year.

Just a reminder that we do not put flowers on the altar during Lent (Sundays of February 25 - April 1). Please feel free to sponsor the eternal light or the bulletins during that time.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WELCA News

The next St. James meeting of the Women of the Evangelical Church of America will be held **January 15, 2007**. Join us at **7 p.m. in Horn Hall** for a special presentation by Barry and Kass Moyer.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown led by Ethel DeWitt on **Tuesday, January 2, 2007** at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30 a.m.

The February Bible Study will be at Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe led by Janet Luyben on **Tuesday, February 6, 2007**. All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies found in the Lutheran Woman Today Magazine. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling arrangements.

CROP Walk - Final Results

The final results are in for the 2006 CROP Walk. St. James raised \$1377!! We were the top fund-raisers for the community! Thanks again to all who walked or sponsored a walker. Special thanks goes to Earl Moyer whose effort helped us to be at the top.

Community Meal

In 2007, St. James is helping with the community meal on the following Thursdays: **January 25, March 22, May 24, July 26, September 27, and December 27**. 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.

Salvation Army Community Lunch Second Wednesday of Month

Volunteers are needed! Volunteers are needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to help with cooking, serving and cleanup. Please consider helping those in need. For additional information please contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Homelessness in Pottstown

Several county agencies, area churches, and other organizations have been meeting to address the problem of homelessness in Pottstown. The long-term goal is to have a permanent homeless shelter in Pottstown. The more immediate goals are to find shelter for Pottstown's homeless throughout the winter months. More information will be shared when it is available in regards to decisions made and resources needed for this effort.

Reports Due

All year-end committee and other reports are due into the Church Office by Sunday, January 7, 2007.

Committee Night Wednesday, January 3, 2007

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. and Worship and Planning.

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.

Reminder: Worship Planning Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 2 at 7 p.m.

FAITH PRACTICES What They Are and Do

What they are:

Followers of Jesus are inspired to develop practices and patterns for living that characterize a life that is devoted to daily discipleship. Seven common practices have been identified as key to model and nurture: prayer, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve and give.

These practices are God-shaped and God-shaping activities that add up to a way of life. Faith practices come out of Scripture, but are lived out in the world.

(continued next column)

For those who want to become a part of the way of life called "Christian," faith practices describe the kind of attitudes and actions that make up that life.

What they do:

Though practices seem to tell us what to do, in reality they tell us who to be. They confer identity. Approached by a group of young people who wanted to know what it meant to be a Catholic, Archbishop Rembert Weakland replied: "Go to mass every Sunday, and work in a soup kitchen every week for six months. Then you'll know what it means to be a Catholic." He did not recommend reading Thomas Aquinas or the latest papal encyclicals; he did not assign the Baltimore Catechism. He told these young people to commit themselves to a regular discipline, sticking to it whether they felt like it or not. He invited them to immerse themselves in those God-shaped and God-shaping activities that were central to the faith. This is how they would know what it meant to be a Catholic.

As God-shaped and God-shaping activities, faith practices both bring us into a tradition and serve as the face of that tradition in the world. Therefore, practices help us know who we are: we know ourselves as the people who do these kinds of things.



"What will these faith practices do for me?" More than doing something *for* us, living a set of faith practices over time and in a committed and disciplined way does something *to* us. Most important, our faith practices bring us into the way of life called "Christian." As we move more deeply into them, the Spirit uses these faith practices to mature our faith. Through practices, a tradition enters the heart, mind, soul and spirit. Practices provide the soil for our ongoing and lifelong religious experience.

*Taken from A Lutheran Perspective on Faith Practice
By Dr. Martha E. Stortz, Professor, Historical Theology and Ethics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California*

Spirituality and Health

submitted by Earl Moyer

It pulls you through crises, connects you with others, and gives your life meaning and purpose. **Spirituality is a vital component of health**, says Barbara Rutt, manager of pastoral care at Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network. But spirituality is not the same as religion, she notes: "Religion is a set of beliefs and rituals that helps people express their spiritual selves. Spirituality, on the other hand, is your personal relationship with a higher power." Among all the different religions, spirituality is the common bond, says Kamalesh Shah, M.D., a trauma surgeon at the hospital. "It's the positive, strong part of your psyche that gives you strength in tough times."

Health professionals play a vital role in helping people through such challenges. "Nurses are in the perfect position to offer support," says Eillen Fruchtl, R.N., who's worked in parish nursing. "We're trained to look at the patient as a whole person. By asking appropriate questions, we can bring in the spiritual aspect...and nurses are great listeners." Physicians like Shah are just as committed to their patients' spiritual health. The serenity he's gained from his Hindu upbringing helps him care for trauma patients and their families. "When someone is going into surgery, after explaining the whole procedure and promising to do my very best, I'll pray with the patient or just look into his eyes and make sure he's feeling calm and strong," he says. "I believe it helps in recovery."

Research has shown that **prayer does, indeed, have an impact on recovery**. In hospital-based studies nationwide, Rutt says, patients who prayed felt better, and those who were prayed for had better outcomes.

Sometimes, despite the best care and prayers, the illness worsens or the accident victim dies. Being in touch spiritually, Shah says, helps us "come to accept what we can't control."

When your spiritual life is off-track, you know it, Barbara Rutts says. "You feel stuck in your problems and the tension from this mind-body 'disconnect' can even affect physical health." Take time to nurture your spirituality.

Promoting Your Spiritual Health

- * Pursue what gives your life meaning. Whether it is religion or family, the things that fulfill you most should be at the top of your priority list.
- * Have a daily relationship with your higher power through prayer, a quiet walk or whatever works for you. Make it the last thing at night and first thing in the morning.
- * Be educated in healthful living. "Eat right, exercise well, keep your body healthy," Rutt says. "It is truly a temple for the spirit."
- * Choose the right caregivers. Seek out professionals with holistic approaches.
- * Share your spirit. When someone is ailing, send your thoughts and prayers. Reach out to the lonely and needy." A joyful life," Rutt says, "comes from helping others."

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Blood pressure checks to be held **January 7, 2007** following the 8 a.m. worship service and again prior to the 10:45 a.m. service.

BLOOD DRIVE

Schedule to donate **on January 8, 2007**. Give blood between **2 and 7:30 p.m.** when Miller Keystone will be here at St. James.

Scholarship Fund Applications Available

A \$1000 a year is available to be given to youth as scholarship monies for college or post high school education. Allocation of the scholarship money will be dependent on the number of approved candidates as determined by the Scholarship Committee. Applications are available from the office and **must be submitted completed no later that March 15, 2007.**

The following criteria will be considered when granting these scholarships:

- * Applicant must be an active member of St. James for a minimum of one year.
- * Applicant must be active in St. James' ministries.
- * Applicant must be a graduating Senior of their high school and are eligible to receive scholarship monies up to five years from their high school graduation date.
- * Applicant must graduate with a minimum 2.5 GPA or its equivalent.
- * Applicant must be accepted into or participating in a recognized program of studies (ex. college, junior college, community college, nursing school, trade school, etc.)
- * Applicant must have a satisfactory record of school citizenship and attendance.
- * Applicant may apply more than once for this scholarship if they met the above criterion.



If you have any questions about this exciting program, please contact the office for further details. **Don't forget to make the March 15th deadline.**

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.

Mike Lunn 610-367-8762
Email: sklunny@aol.com

Jeff Leiby 610-327-9454
Email: jefnrobn@yahoo.com

Vickie Kirsten 610-326-2410
Email: vjkirsten@comcast.net

John Ungerman 610-718-9368
Email: john.ungerman@thrivent.com

Alison O'Donnell 610-779-1119
Email: Alison.C.O'Donnell@GSK.com
papodonnell@comcast.net

Dottie Smith 610-323-8226

Scott Strichik 610-327-3108
Email: sstrichik@aol.com

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

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

Tracie Rheel 610-323-7051
Email: tar403@yahoo.com

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814
Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

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

Jessica Mitchell 610-970-4250
Email: jrabbit23@comcast.net

MEMBER NEWS

Change of Address

Alice Schindler, 104 River Creed Dr.,
Woodstock, GA 30188
phone: 678-445-0987

Nancy Schultz, Town Manor East, 2004 Old
Arch Rd., Norristown, PA 19401

Congratulations

to Christine Hoal and Robin Thomas Nye,
grandson of Flora Mae and Garnet Nye Sr.,
who were married on November 18, 2006.

Baptism

We welcome into the Lord's family:
Gracie Lynn Hefner, daughter of Kim and
Robert Hefner, baptized December 3, 2006.



January Birthdays

1 – Candy Koons; 2 – Suzanne Rigg;
3 – Kirk Detweiler, Pam Evans; 4 – Annette
Renn; 5 – Susan Cameron; 6 – Bob Wagner;
8 – Kerri Smith; 9 – Bradley Mazurek;
10 – Ginny Kerr, Wayne Kreider, David Miller,
Jr. ; 11 – George Neiffer; 13 – Susan Cocci,
Janet Kenney, Nathan Strichik; 14 – Esther
Garner, Jack Gunter, Daniel Hutchinson, Bill
Mauger; 16 – Kristin Mitchell; 17 – Willard
Bickel; 18 – Dawn Detweiler; 20 – Pete
Compton, Ray Henninger,; 21 – Don Weller;
23 – Velma James; 24 – Ron Fritz; 27 – Jack
Dilks, Irene Dilks; 28 – Melinda Mace, Avigal
Taylor; 30 – Mindy DuVal, Larry Kehler,
Chrissy Lamberton; 31 – Austin
Rothenberger, Rose Wagner

Deepest Sympathies

to the family and friends of Gen Boden.

Memorial Contributions

in memory of Genevieve Boden, received
from Olga Christman, Henry & Frances
Pollak, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Evans, Jr.,
Carolyn Saylor, Jane and Paul Ammon,
Robert C. Smith, Gloria D. Maack, Kathryn
Shelly, Maillie, Falconiero & Co., The
Ronald H. Reynier family, Charles and
Judith Rogers, and William and Jane
Hollenbach.

Treasurer's Report

	NOV-2006	Year to Date
Income	\$26,109.95	\$257,927.38
Expenses	<u>27,937.61</u>	<u>289,478.46</u>
Net Income	(\$1,827.66)	(\$31,551.08)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$20,108.15	\$198,028.49
Needed*	<u>20,034.76</u>	<u>220,382.32</u>
Over (under)	\$73.39	(\$22,353.83)

Third Sunday Offering

Collected	\$430.50	\$337.50
Beneficiary	Missionaries In Nepal	Ricketts Center

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

THANK YOU NOTES

We thank Larry Wert for setting up and maintaining the flower box outside the back door throughout the nice weather. What a joy to see those flowers from God's creation as we enter the church through the spring and summer (and even autumn) months. We look forward to seeing the beauty of the earth once again in a few months!

Pastor and Debbie and family wish to thank everyone for the Christmas cards and gifts and well wishes. We ask God to continue to bless each and every one of you and the ministry of St. James Lutheran Church

Del and Kit Weller called to thank us for the visits of members who came to see them, and for Eucharist Ministers from the congregation who brought them home Communion, as well as for pastor visits and for the flowers delivered after worship.

Dear Pastor Hutchinson and the members of St. James,

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers. It was very thoughtful and kind to be remembered. God bless you one and all.

Eleanor Hetrick

Thanks for the flowers. It is nice to be remembered!

Kathy Geiger

Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church for Christmas.

Thank you to all who helped to bring some joy to our shut-ins by Christmas Caroling on December 17.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for hosting the luncheon on December 17.

Thank you to those who helped with the Salvation Army kettle collection and bell ringing at Boscov's in December.

Thank you to all who donated gifts and made the Christmas Angel program a success.

Thank you to Tracie Rheel for her help in the design and placement of our Christmas Eve worship ad.

Ray Yocom called to wish everybody at St. James "season's greetings". Ray is now living in Massachusetts near his son and daughter-in-law.