

the Spirit of St. James



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

**See Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter
schedule, pages 4 and 6.*



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

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Each and Every Member of St. James

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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 May Edition: April 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.

A Reminder from the Archives Committee

If you have any photos from any church related events that can be shared, please see that the Archive Committee receives them. We are looking for past & future events. Also, if possible, please try to identify the people in the photos. Thanks!

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.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost for each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. **Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall** for anyone interested. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table. Cash or check payment can be placed in offering or turned in to the office.

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson



Preparing for what is sure to come

A few weeks ago, I began to see robins in the yard. They knew that warm weather was around the corner and on its way! However, in between that time and the rejuvenation of spring, it turned cold again, and we got a surprise storm. But the robins did not leave. They did not cease to take care of business, nor did they stop their preparation for what was sure to come. They still were busy getting ready to care for their little ones.

As we enter Holy Week and then into the celebration of the Resurrection, we journey to the cross with Jesus and share in the abandonment and suffering and death that he experienced. And he, in the same way every week of our lives, also shares with us our woes, and suffering, and yes, even our death.

In his resurrection though, God takes us through the cross and gives us a promise of good things to come. The

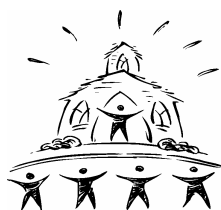
message of the cross and resurrection is that God does not ever abandon us, or leave us alone in our suffering, or fail to rescue us from death. Instead, the God who delivered Christ will also keep on protecting and delivering us, his little ones, from the evils of the world. Even when the cold storms of life surprise us or seem worse, Jesus keeps on taking care of us and preparing for us, what is sure to come.

“Rise, beloved Christ, like a dove rising high in the sky, its white feathers glistening in the sun. Let us see your purity of soul. Like a sparrow keeping watch over its nest of little ones, watch over us day and night, guarding us against all physical and spiritual danger. Like a turtle dove hiding its offspring from all attackers, hide us from the attacks of the Devil. Like a swallow, swooping down towards earth, swoop down upon us and touch us with your life giving Spirit.”

- *From St. Bonaventure (13th century)*

PASTOR

WORSHIP NOTES



The Church Needs Leadership Article Series

A passage of the bible in 1st Timothy tells us to
“be rich in good works”.

Did you ever think about the idea that we can build up a sort of bank account of good works? That each time we are courteous and kind and exhibit honesty and keep our commitments with others and act in a spirit of cooperation, those things can be like deposits in an account of good works. Not something that puts us right with God (Christ’s sacrifice enables us to have that), but something that enables us to gain respect from other people.

When we have an account full of good works, people will see us as persons of integrity, as people who are responsible, and as people who care. All of those things are important in leadership, but unless others around you recognize those qualities, they will not follow your leadership. At the same time, each time we are discourteous and unkind and disrespectful, its like making withdraws from our account. The less in our account of good works, the less people will put their stock and faith in our leadership. When we truly love others without strings attached, we continually make deposits that makes us rich in potential leadership...in a church, or anywhere else in life.

So what does your account look like?
Maybe you have more leadership qualities and potential than you think!

Special Palm Sunday Study Eco-Friendly Palms and Larger Issues of Justice in the Marketplaces **April 1, 2007 at 9 a.m.**

To go along with our use of eco-palms we will have a special study and discussion on Palm Sunday, exploring the Bible, the Small Catechism, and ELCA Social Statements to find answers as to how we as Lutherans can respond to issues of injustices related to trade and economics. **The study is in the Blue Room and will start at 9 a.m. and end prior to worship.** All are welcome to join in on the discussion and study.

Palm/Passion Sunday April 1, 2007 **One Worship at 10 a.m.**

This year we will be celebrating Palm/Passion Sunday with just **one worship service at 10 a.m.** with special music by our choirs. Also new this year is the use of eco-palms which are full palm branches. Because of the palm procession, we will **first gather for worship in Horn Hall and then proceed to the narthex.** Please come and worship on this special Sunday and invite your friends and neighbors.

FAITH PRACTICES

What They Are and Do - Part 4

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.**

Faith Practices Are Deeply Traditional

Faith practices are done together and over time; they presume community and history. As Christians, we do not need to walk into Holy Week or Advent wondering: “What shall we do this year?” The services follow a flexible pattern that believers have observed for centuries. Following in their footsteps, we join them across time and space.

In the background of faith practices is Scripture; in their foreground is the church’s teachings or doctrines. Each is critical in terms of informing and directing practices. **Scripture informs faith practices.** Christians trace the practice of baptism back to the command of Jesus; Scripture informs that practice. But if Scripture informs practices, teachings direct them. The church’s doctrines furnish a certain framework for faith; faith practices show us how to walk in that framework. **Practices allow us to live out a faith in word and deed.** There is a two-way relationship between doctrines and practices.

Without the church’s teachings, practices are empty and aimless. We might do them by rote or routine, but we have a hard time figuring out what they are about. Without practices, however, doctrines are merely “head trips.” We might give them lip service, but they have not entered the body of either the believer or the community. The interaction between teaching and Scripture may suggest some change of practices. Many Protestant churches found the customary practice of ordaining only men to be in opposition to their doctrine of the priesthood of all believers. Viewed in light of Paul’s clear statement in Galatians that in Christ “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female....” (3:23), that teaching forced a re-examination of the customary practice of ordaining men.

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



**Faith
in
Action**

Wednesday, April 4, 2007 Seder Meal at 6 p.m.

Come celebrate our Judeo-Christian roots at the Seder Meal. Passover is the oldest religious festival in Judaism, commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and his creation of the Israelite people. The focal point of Passover is a communal meal, called the Seder (which means "order," because of the fixed order of service), which is a time of rejoicing and celebration at the deliverance of the Hebrews that God accomplished in the exodus. The Seder ritual also has great meaning for Christians. It was the Seder Meal that Jesus was celebrating with His disciples when He instituted the Last Supper. **Please sign up in Horn Hall by April 1st if you plan to attend.** Also mark if you would like to contribute foods, help with set up, serving or cleanup. A free-will offering will be taken at the meal.

Maundy Thursday Worship April 5, 2007

There will be a Traditional Maundy Thursday worship service at 7 p.m., with laying on of hands for individual absolution announced and Holy Communion celebrated. At the end of the service, the Altar will be stripped to symbolize the stripping and humiliation of Jesus at the cross.



Good Friday Worship Friday, April 6, 2007

Two worship services will be held on Good Friday at 3 and 7 p.m. recognizing the day that Jesus was crucified.

Prayer Walk

On Good Friday, April 6, the Pottstown Clergy Association will again be sponsoring a **Good Friday Processional**. We will **gather at 10:30 a.m. at the green between Emmanuel and Zion's UCC Churches** on Hanover Street. The processional is about a mile long and lasts about an hour. We will stop at nine prayer stations and pray for various aspects of community life. For example, in front of the school district offices, we will pray for our children, and in front of the Cluster, we will pray for the poor in our community.

Come Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday, April 8



Worship at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion.

There will be **no adult education or confirmation classes** on this day.

An **Easter Egg Hunt with a devotion for children** will begin at 10:15 a.m.

A **potluck breakfast** sponsored by the Christian Education Committee and the Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes is between worship services. **Please sign up in Horn Hall if you plan to attend** the breakfast. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of coffee, juice, supplies, etc. Any offering collected beyond expenses will be given to the SEKUCo. If you would like to volunteer your time to set up, help serve, or clean up, please see Ron or Grace Schafer, Melinda Mace or Suzanne Rigg.

Jesus the New Way A Video and Discussion Class Starting April 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Jesus the New Way is a video study featuring Dr. N.T. Wright, Bishop of Durham in the Church of England. Dr. Wright is regarded as one of the leading New Testament scholars alive today. Wright's acclaimed scholarship is delivered in a winsome and understandable way, showing how Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's ancient hopes and humanity's deepest dreams. You will see Jesus as you have never seen him before in the context of his Jewish and Roman world. You will find explosive new meaning in his familiar words and deeds as Wright unfolds his incomparable life and shows how it remains an unavoidable summons to our world and way of thinking. The group will meet in the Blue Room. Below are the topics of discussion for this six week class.

April 15 - Getting the Kingdom Started: Into what kind of world was Jesus born? What do we learn from the Dead Sea Scrolls, John the Baptist, and the kingdom announcement of Jesus?

April 22 - Startling Surprises: How did the kingdom announced by Jesus parallel the expectations of the Jewish people that they derived from their study of Scripture? Why was Jesus' news shocking and offensive? What was he really saying?

April 29 - Longing for a King: In a Jewish world weird for the welcome and recognition of a Messiah, how did Jesus redefine what that should mean? What were the implications for the main symbols of Israel's life such as the Holy Temple?

May 13 - Why did Jesus die? What were the charges? What was the real and great battle being fought? How was history racing toward its climatic moment, and how did Jesus understand and undertake his role therein?

May 20- Who was Jesus? How do we begin to understand the meaning of Jesus by reexamining what we really mean by God? How did Jesus understand himself? How did the early church view Jesus? Was Jesus divine?

May 27 - The New Claim: Was Jesus really raised from the dead? What about all the skeptics' explanations as to why that is impossible? What did resurrection mean to first-century Jews? How does the resurrection of Jesus address our individual lives?

Note: There is a **no class on May 6** to accommodate a Thrivent workshop.

Learning My Bible Stories

The Christian Education class is sponsoring a class this spring **for children grades second through fifth** called "Learning My Bible Stories" as a follow up to the class that was offered in fall, "Learning to Use My Bible."

This class will teach some of the key stories of the Old and New Testament through learning centers. **Children will rotate through the different centers of art, games, music, food, etc.**

The dates for these classes will be **April 22, 29, May 6 and 13 starting at 9:30 a.m.** in the Main Sunday School Room. Children can **register for the class** by signing up in Horn Hall beginning on April 1, 2007 or by contacting Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810.



Vacation Bible School 2007

Are you looking for fathoms of fun this summer? Then head to Vacation Bible School for a net of adventures at the Great Bible Reef! At the Great Bible Reef you will hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy reef tunes, play super fun games, and make lots of new friends! Each day offers a new Bible story to explore through loads of fun activities. **Date and Time coming soon.**

A Note About A Hymn

On Sunday, March 18th, one of our hymns that day was "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing". The writer of the music, Robert Robinson, was sent to London by his mother to become a barber, but he enjoyed reading more than work and eventually became a minister and later wrote several hymns. The music was composed by John Wyeth, who at one time settled in Harrisburg, became a publisher and was later named by George Washington as our nation's first Postmaster.

But did you ever wonder when, in the second verse, it says "*Here I raise my Ebenezer...*" what the heck that means?

In the book of 2nd Samuel, 'Ebenezer' was a location where Israel suffered several defeats at the hands of the Philistines. At the time of the battles the place may have had another name, but later, when Samuel was victorious in another battle at the same place, he fashioned a stone there and called it "Ebenezer". The stone was erected to commemorate the event and to honor and give thanks to God for helping in vanquishing Israel's enemies. The reason he called his stone "Ebenezer" is because the word means "stone of help". So, to "*raise my Ebenezer*" is a symbolic way of saying 'I give thanks and raise my tribute to the God from whom my help comes'.



Piano Gift

St. James Church was recently blessed with a gift **from Mary Littlefield and her son, Eric**. A "baby" grand piano, that has been in their family for years, was donated for us to use and now sits proudly in the Chancel area of our church. The piano was purchased by Mary and her late husband, Myron, before they were married and has been played by many members of their family ever since.

The piano was produced by the Wm. Knabe Company, one of the oldest piano makers in America. Their pianos are distinguished and time-honored instruments that combine a rare degree of power and sweetness of tone, delicacy and poetic singing, along with beauty of design and finish that is not surpassed. Many of the great artists have used Knabe pianos in their public performances. It is truly a wonderful gift to our church.

Now, we will have this beautiful instrument to help us to sing praises and thanks to the God of all good gifts. **Many, many thanks** to Mary and to Eric for their generosity. **If you wish to thank** Mary by card or note, she is now living at the Hawthorne House, 1501 Mineral Springs Road, Reading, PA 19602

Second Concert of the St. James Concert Series April 22 at 4 p.m.

Timothy Shwartz, violinist, will be the featured musician, along with Sharon MacCabe on organ at the next concert of the St. James Concert Series. Romantic music will be featured with selections including *Ferdinand the Bull*, music and narrative for children, *Franck's Chorale No. 3* and *Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto*. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to this delightful afternoon of music.

Third Sunday Offering April Recipient

Visiting Nurse Association

The Visiting Nurse Association of Pottstown and Vacinity is part of a family of four voluntary, **non-profit, home health organizations** that provide services in Montgomery, Chester, Berks, Delaware, and Bucks Counties. They deliver a variety of services in primary nursing, infusion therapy, enterostomal therapy, psychiatric/mental health, home care, rehabilitation, medical social services, hospice care, maternal/child health, dietician services, in-home support, and other support groups.

If you need services, want to inquire about which services you may need, or would like an assessment visit (with no financial obligation), please **call 610-327-5700**. You can also access their website for more information at www.vnapottstown.org.

The Visiting Nurse Association does much needed and appreciated work in our community. Please consider supporting their efforts through this month's Third Sunday Offering.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

MAY - Manatawny Manor
JUNE - Salvation Army
JULY - Missionaries
AUGUST - School supplies for children
SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER - Cluster Outreach Center
NOVEMBER - Prison Fellowship
DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger



April's Rejoicing Spirits worship will be on the **Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m.** when we will be celebrating our second anniversary. This date is also our Easter Rejoicing Spirits worship when we will be learning new songs and celebrating The Resurrection of our Lord through worship, music and prayer.

Fellowship time will follow worship.

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 on this special night of celebration.

Also this month we have good news to share among the Rejoicing Spirits Host Churches. **The Rejoicing Spirits Ministry has won two awards.** Once again Rejoicing Spirits has been awarded the Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc. Christian Service Award for Volunteers. The award recognizes **outstanding and dedicated service in the field of developmental disability services** by Lutheran volunteers at the local, state, national or denominational level. The second award is from ARC of Chester County who gave Rejoicing Spirits the 2006 President's Award. Congratulations to all the Rejoicing Spirits Ministries!!

Caring for Creation: A Christian Responsibility



When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet. Psalm 8:3-6a

All of Creation—human and non-human—has been entrusted to us by God. We are called to care for and protect it. Just as our bodies are a temple, God has so ordered Creation that what we do to one part harms the whole. Being stewards of God’s resources means careful consideration of how our actions impact the planet and all its inhabitants. And as with our bodies, the results of our poor care may not be apparent today but will be clear in the future.

The choices we make and the products we buy test our commitment to care for creation. When we burn fossil fuels—such as oil, coal, and natural gas—to run our cars and light our homes, we pump carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the air. This thickens the heat-trapping blanket that surrounds the planet, causing global warming.

Thankfully, the situation is reversible—and many solutions are simple. Here are 10 simple things you can do and how much carbon dioxide you’ll save doing them. These steps will help curb global warming, save you money, and create a safer environment for the future!

Change a light. Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Drive less. Walk, bike, carpool, or take mass transit more often. You’ll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don’t drive!

Recycle more. You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.

Check your tires. Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3%. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of CO₂ out of the atmosphere!

Use less hot water. It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by installing a low flow showerhead (350 pounds of CO₂ saved per year) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds per year).

Avoid products with a lot of packaging. You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%.

Adjust your thermostat. Move your thermostat down just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer. You could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with these simple adjustments.

Plant a tree. A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

Turn off electronic devices. Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer when you’re not using them will save you thousands of pounds of CO₂ a year.

Spread the word. Check out climatecrisis.net.

Tips and information taken from climatecrisis.net and bgct.org.

Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? Ezekiel 34:18

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Cluster Outreach Center

Current Volunteer Needs:

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

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

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

Pantry Needs:

Juice, cereal, canned pasta, macaroni and cheese and tuna.

Clothing & Household Needs:

Children's socks, can openers, coffee makers, king and queen size sheets.

Baby Needs:

diapers 4,5,6 and newborn, stage 1 and 3 baby food.

Always needed:

Brown paper grocery bags, quart and gallon size Ziploc plastic bags (freezer and regular), empty water bottles with lids.

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.

Salvation Army Community Lunch

Each second Wednesday of the month a group of volunteers from St. James prepares and serves the community lunch at the Salvation Army. Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Community Meal

This month, volunteers are needed March 22 to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

Spaghetti Dinner



The Work Mission Group has scheduled a **Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser for Friday, April 13th**. The dinner will be in Horn Hall from **4:30 to 7p.m.** It is open to all, so bring friends and neighbors.

Tickets are currently available. The cost is **\$8 for adults and \$5 for children** under 12. Infants and children **under 2 are free**. Tickets are available from any of the Work Mission Group. They also will be available during coffee hour on April 1st and will be available after both services on Easter April 8. Get your tickets early, as there will be a limited number available at the door.

If you would like to participate in putting on the dinner, we are **also looking for people to help serve and work in the kitchen**. See Ted Baer if you would like to join the happy workers during the dinner.

WELCA News

The next meeting will be held **April 16th at 7 p.m.** and will be highlighted by a visit from the "Bee Lady". Come meet her in Horn Hall and learn how beeswax candles are created.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA UMC Bible Study will be at Grace Lutheran Church led by Barbara Lutz on Tuesday, **April 3, 2007 at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30 a.m.**

Next month's Bible Study will be on May 1st at St. James Lutheran Church, Limerick with the leader being Bobbi Hoffman.

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.

SCRIP

Our latest retailer joining Scrip is Dunkin Donuts! Cards valued at \$10, redeemable at any location, in any variable total sale can be purchased. A great Easter gift, or a good thought if you have coffee hour and no time!!

Blood Drive

The next blood drive is **Monday, April 9th from 2 - 7:30 p.m.** Please contact Marge Fegley at 610-323-3936 to make an appointment to give.

RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS

Thank you to Pottsgrove Retired Educators and Arlan & Sandra Burkert for donations of \$75.00 to Relay in memory of Lloyd Rheel.

Thank You to WELCA for donating gift cards to Home Depot & Cabella's for our raffles.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 21st - Downtown Pottstown

The Pottstown Rotary Club is sponsoring this event to benefit the Relay. There will be a 5Krun, a 1 mile Family Walk and a 1 mile Dog Walk. Pastor Hutchinson is blessing the dogs at 8:45 before the start of the walk. Our Relay team will be there selling baked goods, soft pretzels and chances on raffles. Check the poster in Horn Hall or ask someone on the Relay Team for more details.

May 12th - at St. James

The Relay Team is proud to sponsor a play called *Thirteen Things About Ed Carpolotti* presented by Nancy J. Dolan. Nancy is a local talent who has presented this play at the Skippack Playhouse and locally at Catagnus Funeral Home to benefit the Century Club. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring this play to the community.

It promises to be an exciting late afternoon event on **Saturday, May 12th at 4 PM** at the church. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are **\$15.00** donation to benefit the Pottstown Relay.

See Olga Christman or any Relay member for tickets or information.

June 2nd - Pottsgrove High School

THE MAIN EVENT - THE 10th POTTSTOWN RELAY FOR LIFE

Thank you, members of St. James, for your continued support to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Thrivent Retirement Income Optimizer

Want to Learn How You Can Make Your Money Last a Lifetime?

Please join me for an exciting new informational workshop where you will learn about a brand new, program called the **Thrivent Retirement Income Optimizer™**. This *cutting edge* program will show you strategies that can help you:

- Maximize your retirement income from your existing assets
- Create retirement income for life
- Ensure you will not outlive your retirement savings

As you have approached or entered retirement, you have probably done some saving through 401(k) plans, IRAs, or other vehicles. You may also have some supplemental income in the form of Social Security, pension, or other sources. But you are probably asking yourself many questions you don't know how to answer. How do I turn these assets into income? How much can I afford to spend each year? How will I know if I have enough? How should I invest my savings? What can I leave behind? The **Thrivent Retirement Income Optimizer™** will help answer these questions, and can help you lead the life you want to lead in retirement.

This free seminar will be held at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on April 19th at St. James, in the Adult Study Classroom. If you are interested in attending, please **contact my office at 610-970-4740**. Feel free to invite anyone you may know who could benefit from this information.

John A. Ungerman, CFP, ChFC, CLU, FIC
Senior Financial Consultant
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

**Please note that the Thrivent Retirement Income Optimizer service is a fee-based investment advisory service offered by Thrivent Investment Management Inc. the investment adviser. However, there is no charge or obligation for attending this informational event and no products will be sold.*

MEMBER NEWS AND INFO

April Birthdays



1 - Bob Jerdon; 3 - Jim Meloy; 4 - Mary Jane Bealer, Janet Miller; 6 - Cindy Bush, Connie Worrall; 8 - Joan Griffith; 10 - Jean Drauschak; 12 - April Taylor; 16 - Pat Weber; 17 - Joan Gardiner; 18 - Megan Mace; 19 - Diana Kuchenbrod, Earl Moyer; 20 - Bernie Roth; 21 - Duke Kinckiner; 22 - Joe Mittura; 24 - Kevin Wert; 25 - Audrey Maurer; 26 - Florence Gallino; 30 - Edmond Gallino, Amy Koons

Thank you notes

Thank you to all who made the delicious soups we ate at our Lenten suppers and to all who brought salad and bread to accompany the soup. These contributions were very much appreciated.

Thank you to those who helped with the Lenten Dinner, March 28th for WELCA.

Thank you to Church Council, the Choirs, the Evangelism Committee, the Rejoicing Spirits assisting ministers and all others who helped with the set up and clean up our Lenten suppers. Your work behind the scenes made this time of fellowship possible.

I would like to thank the entire congregation for their support during my hoagie sale. Between sales and donations I made over \$500 and I am now more on way to Europe this summer. I could not be more happy with the results and I just want everyone to know what their continued support and encouragement means to me. I am so lucky to have a flock of guardian angels looking out for me. Thanks again!

Jessica Mitchell

Dear St. James Lutheran Church,

Thanks so much for the donation for the Haiti Mission Society. We accomplished so much in Haiti on the orphanage. We are just about to open thanks to all of you. We drilled a well, installed the windows and exterior doors, hooked-up the septic system and a few other things. We are now trying to get the beds for the first children who will arrive. Help us pray that we can get the beds and give the children a nice place to lay their heads at night. May God bless all of you.

Mom Barb

Joel and I would like to thank all of our St. James family for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to us after Amy's death. While our family knew the outcome was not promising her extremely rapid downturn after her emergency appendectomy was not expected. It has been an extremely difficult time for us but receiving the prayers and cards from so many at St. James was truly heartwarming. Please know how much each and every card and prayer meant to all members of our family.

Judy Swanson

Ginny Davis wishes to thank the congregation for all the cards and letters and well wishes during her recent illness.

Thank you to John Ungerman and Thrivent for the cups we use for coffee fellowship.

“HOW DO NEW MEMBERS COME TO AND STAY AT A CHURCH?”

To the first part, the answer is – many ways. But to the second part of the question – there is a shorter and much simpler answer

A recent informal survey by our Evangelism team has revealed a few interesting things about how people come to and stay connected with a church.

For one thing, there are lots of doors to help enable people to enter and get involved with a church and, actually, the more the better. Some folks are simply looking for a Lutheran church. For others, it's the close proximity to where they live. In many instances, it's our numerous ministries such as Rejoicing Sprits, Relay For Life and Bible Studies that help make access to St. James that much easier. And of course, an equally important way to bring folks into church has to do with the fact that existing members have invited persons to come to St. James by telling them how much they enjoy being part of this community.

But when we asked what made it comfortable for people to be here and to want to keep coming back, there were basically two answers that were dominant. One was that they appreciated the pastoral care and the sermons delivered by the pastor. But just as important, and probably even more so, were the almost unanimous positive comments about the friendliness of the people and the feeling of being welcomed and accepted at St. James. And while it's great that we have plenty of opportunities to become involved in ministries once people begin to come here, unless someone pays attention to them at the start and says “hello” or “welcome”, most strangers in a church will likely not return no matter how good the sermon is.

So the next time you are in worship, ask yourself, “Who have I said hello to that I don't normally speak to?” ...or...”How can I

welcome someone who is a visitor worshipping with us?”. And when you go home that day, ask one more question; “Who can I invite to come and share the good news of Jesus here at St. James?”

Look Out Biloxi – St. James Is Coming

The 2007 Work Mission is in it's final planning stage. This year we are going to Biloxi, Mississippi. There we will be working on homes from Hurricane Katrina along with Habitat. This is a joint venture with Habitat and Trivent Financial for Lutherans

The trip is Saturday, April 21st to April 28th. Currently 10 members have committed to going on the trip. They are: John & Barbara Ungerman, David and Nancy Garner, Robert Rheel, Tracie Rheel, Larry Wert, Howard Snyder and Pat& Ted Baer.

The group will be housed at Bethel Lutheran Church in Biloxi. The type and scope of the work is still being worked out. The whole trip normally does not come together until two weeks before departure. More details on the trip and what was accomplished will be in future newsletters.

Address Changes

Alice Schindler 1540 Live Oak Drive, Silver Springs, MD 20910

Leonard Gitschier is the husband of the late **Jean Gitschier**, who was a member who passed away within the past year. He is living near his daughter Mary and can receive mail at:
Lutheran Home, Rm 3067, 7500 West North Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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.

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 President, Represents Christian Ed. Comm.
 Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

Vickie Kirsten 610-326-2410
 Vice-President, Represents Fellowship Comm.
 Email: vjkirsten@comcast.net

John Ungerman 610-718-9368
 Secretary, Represents Property Comm.
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TREASURER REPORT

	Feb-2007	Year to Date
Income	\$ 19,037.63	\$ 40,773.06
Expenses	19,825.52	42,293.64
Net Income	(\$787.89)	(\$1,520.58)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$14,399.00	\$30,577.00
Needed*	19,780.31	39,560.63
Over (Under)	(\$5,381.31)	(\$8,983.63)

Third Sunday Offering Collected
 \$303

Beneficiary: Seminary Support

*Figures for each month includes \$14,729 actual pledged
 and \$5,051 needed growth to balance the budget.