

the Spirit of St. James



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

OUR VISION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
"To Be, and to Become, a Worshiping, Caring, Teaching,
and Outreaching Congregation."

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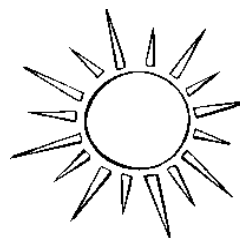
Summer Sunday Schedule

Worship
9 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship
10 a.m.

Children's Church
9 a.m.

Communion Weekly





OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Closed Friday

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

Darlene Jackson
e-mail:
secretary@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 Darlene in the office. Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, (extra chairs, tables) so proper preparations can be made.

Newsletter Deadline for September Edition: August 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.

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.

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

Be nourished, bear fruit!

With all that is going on in the summer months,...did you forget that the Church calendar reminds us that we are in the season of Pentecost? It's the longest season of the church year (about six months)! It begins right after Holy Trinity Sunday and goes until Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 25 this year). So now, in August, we are right smack-dab, in the middle of it.

The primary color for this season is green just like the plants this time of year. In fact, it could be called for us (just as with all of creation around us) our "growing season."

Of course, all seasons are times when we can grow as Christians. But having heard of the coming of Christ through Advent and Christmas, and reflecting on our need for forgiveness through a Savior, and accepting the truth that he has saved us through his death and resurrection....the quiet summer months are an excellent time to concentrate on the gifts of having been brought into God's grace through the Son, being tied to him through the waters of Holy Baptism, fed and nourished by him in the words of Scripture and through Holy Communion.

Take some time, not only to relax this summer, but to share time with Jesus; that we might grow, no matter how many seasons we've been through, into his likeness and bear fruit!

PASTOR



Fall Bible Study

So much of what we understand as Christians originates from the story of the great escape and miraculous rescue of God's people as told in the book of Exodus. So this fall we will continue our bible study gatherings with a closer look at the book of Exodus.

The Tuesday sessions begin on Sept. 11 and run through Oct. 16. Thursday sessions begin on Sept. 13 and run through Oct. 18.

We will meet Tuesday nights at St. James from 7-8 p.m. Thursday morning meetings will begin at 10 a.m. at Sanatoga Retirement Village with coffee and doughnuts served.

Please feel free to come and to bring a friend. No previous bible knowledge is necessary but after our study, you will know more than the average person!

WORSHIP NOTES

Confirmation Class Starting in September

Pastor will be starting confirmation classes in September. Classes **meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m.** and are open to all youth in grade 6 or above. Any parent who would like to enroll his or her child in this class should contact Pastor Hutchinson.

2007 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA

Congratulations and well wishes to John Ungerman who will be attending the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Chicago from August 6-11. John was elected as a voting member of the assembly from our synod at the SEPA Synod Assembly held in May 2006.

John will be one of 1,071 voting members from 65 synods and 10,585 congregations serving on behalf of the 4,930,429 baptized members of this church. This year is also the 20th Anniversary of the ELCA and a special celebration will take place at the churchwide assembly marking the occasion.



Faith and Leadership Academy

Our Synod's Faith and Leadership Academy is a six-week adventure in faith and discipleship. **Through lectures, discussions, prayer and mutual encouragement, participants discover new insights about their faith, their church and themselves.** Classes are led by seminary staff, pastors, and trained lay leaders.

The 2007 **session will run Saturdays, October 13 - November 17, at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia from 9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

If you would like more information or if you are interested in registering for the Academy, please contact Pastor Hutchinson or Suzanne Rigg. **There is no cost to any member who would like to attend.**

Grace Matters

Tune your radio to Grace Matters on **WNTF 990 AM, Sundays at 7 a.m.** For 30 minutes 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. Listen, and be renewed by God's amazing grace.

Third Sunday Offering

August Recipient
Our Missionaries in Nepal

Our Third Sunday outreach offering for August will be given to support the work of our missionaries in Nepal, Dr. Stephen and Becky Thorson. The Thorsons will be present with us on that Sunday, August 19, 2007. Dr. Thorson will be bringing us the message.

The Thorsons through The World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) have been missionaries in Nepal for more than ten years. Stephen is a missionary pediatrician who teaches theology and also works as a doctor. He has been the author of several bible commentaries. The Thorsons stay in touch with us through cards and e-mails and these messages are often included in the newsletter when received.

August 19 we will hear first hand from them as they share with us their experience of being Christian missionaries in a country that is 90 percent Hindu. Please consider being present in worship that Sunday and give generously to support the Thorsons and their extraordinary work.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER - Cluster Outreach Center
NOVEMBER - Pottstown Volunteer Home
Care
DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger



Next Rejoicing Spirits worship
at St. James
Wednesday, August 8, 2007
7 p.m.
All are welcome!

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



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 2007.

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 and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Cluster Outreach Center

Current Volunteer Needs:

Clothing and food sorters, servers for Community Meals

If you would like to volunteer, contact Regina or Dianna at the Outreach Center at 610-970-5995.

Pantry Needs:

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

Clothing & Household Needs:

Adult size diapers, sizes 4, 5, 6, new women undergarments, can openers, coffee makers, queen and king size sheets.

Baby Needs:

Similac Advance with iron formula, diapers sizes 5,6 and newborn, stage 1 and 3 baby food.

Always needed:

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

Donations 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. The Cluster is located at 137 Walnut Street.



Concert to benefit the 2007-08 St James Concert Series

A concert will be held Sunday August 19th at 4 p.m. It will feature the music of Brian Giebler, singing tenor and playing trumpet, Michael Ruhl on piano, and Sharon MacCabe, organ and piano. There will be a reception following.

Movie Nights Thursday Evenings in August

See full article on page 11.

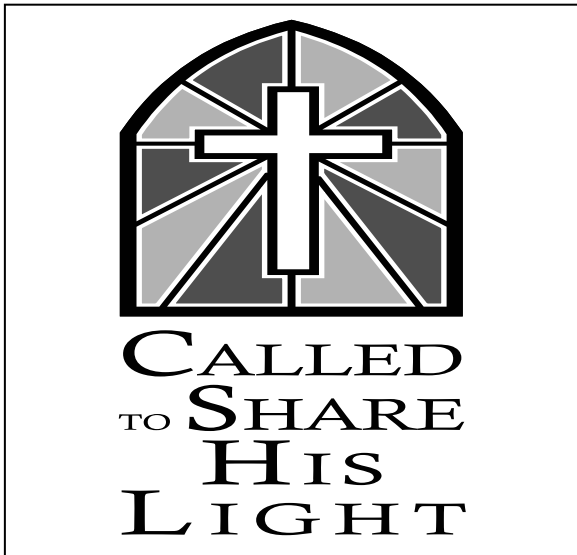
PA Charity Golf Scramble to benefit the Preeclampsia Foundation

This event will be held Monday, September 24th at Bella Vista golf course with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Men and ladies golfers of all skill levels welcome!

Features include raffles/auction items, gift bag and free t-shirt, BBQ lunch, hole-in-one prizes including brand new car.

Contact Dawn Detweiler at 610-258-9290 for entry form and more detail or visit preeclampsia.org.



Capital Campaign Update

- Close to 100 members have responded with pledges totaling \$302, 000.
- Follow up letters are being mailed to all members who have not responded.
- Letters are being sent to friends of the congregation or outside groups asking if they would like to contribute to the campaign.
- Despite delays work has commended on the outside projects.
- Thank you to all who have made a difference through your financial support and time.

Thank You

I want to thank everyone who has been involved in our Capital Campaign so far. We have been overjoyed to see so many who have stepped up to the plate and go to bat for St. James in her time of need.

The tireless work, the creative ideas, and the genuine care for this church and help in sustaining the ministries being done here, have been a testimony to God's grace reflected in us. But as I said,...thanks for the help "so far". There is still much to do, and so I pray that we ALL continue to help out in whatever ways we can.

Thank you all once again.
Pastor

A note from our Kairos Capital Campaign Consultant:

Dear Pastor Hutchinson and friends at St. James,

I will never be able to adequately express my gratitude for your prayers, support, compassionate words, and understanding during my father's illness and death. In a time of crisis and loss, there is nothing more powerful and precious than the love of Christ that we experience through Christian community. I am sorry that I was not able to be with you to share in all the joy of Mission Rally Sunday, but I look forward to continuing our partnership in the Gospel as we answer the call to share His Light!

Heartfelt thanks,
Pastor Renee

MEMBER NEWS

Change of Address:

Marian and William Rex
356 Village Heights Drive
State College, PA 16801
814-235-2102

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Blood pressures will be taken in Horn Hall on August 5th after worship.

August Birthdays

1 – Betty Darocha; 3 – Mary Littlefield;
4 – Warren Emery, Judy Kochel; 10 – Kyle Kirsten; 12 – Paul Eshbach; 13 – Dave Brewer, Taylor Rothenberger, Scott Strichik; 15 – Aaron Hoehne, Hank Hoehne, Josephine O’Neill, Alyson Taylor; 16 – Isabel DuBois, Eleanor Hetrick, Ron Schafer; 19 – Deb Geesey; 20 – Wayne Clark, Ruth Neiffer; 21 – Jackie Klaus; 22 – William Degler, Donald Erb, David Gehris; 23 – Cheryl Detweiler; 24 – Alisha Sandoe; 26 – Eva Kehler; 28 – Michele Hoffman, David Rothenberger; 29 – Chad Widmann; 30 – Rick Geesey, Noelle Hartzman, Jason Matrone; 31 – Herbert Kenney

Thank you notes

A sincere thank you to all who helped to bake, serve, set up and clean up for the “Super Koffee Klutch” on Commitment Sunday. What a great committee – too many to name!

Thanks and God bless,
Barbara Thornton

Thank you all who helped to make this year's picnic enjoyable for the rest of us. Thanks specifically to Debbie Hutchinson, Robin and Jeff Leiby, Vickie Kirsten, Ted Baer, Annette Renn, Marge Fegley, Debbie Fisher and Carol Keller.



Dear St. James,

I would like to sincerely thank the St. James congregation for the scholarship I was awarded. This scholarship will help with the cost of my continued education.

As you probably know, I will be attending DeSales University this fall majoring in Biology and Secondary Education. My goal is to become a High School Biology teacher.

I would also like to thank all the special people at St. James that have been a part of my life and have helped me grow and learn in my faith and life.

Sincerely,

Nicole A. Bealer

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.

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814
 President, Represents Christian Ed. Comm.
 Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

Vickie Kirsten 484-300-4915
 Vice-President, Represents Fellowship Comm.
 Email: vjkirsten@comcast.net

John Ungerman 610-718-9368
 Secretary, Represents Property Comm.
 Email: john.ungerman@thrivent.com

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

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

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

Dottie Smith 610-323-8226
 Represents Personnel Comm.
 Email: dsmith@whcgpa.com

Scott Strichik 610-327-3108
 Email: sstrichik@verizon.net

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

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

Tracie Rheel 610-323-7051
 Represents Stewardship Comm.
 Email: trheel@comcast.net

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

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

TREASURER REPORT

	<u>June 2007</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 17,529.19	\$ 138,121.94
Expenses	<u>23,802.487</u>	<u>140,204.72</u>
Net Income	(\$6,273.29)	(\$2,082.78)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$15,523.00	\$107,258.50
Needed*	<u>19,780.31</u>	<u>118,681.88</u>
Over (Under)	(\$4, 257.31)	(\$11,423.38)

Third Sunday Offering

Collected	\$226.00
Beneficiary	Salvation Army

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



Movie Nights on Thursdays in August

“Movie Night” at St. James continues this summer with four films shown on **Thursday nights at 6:30 PM** in the middle **Adult Sunday School room**. At each movie **popcorn and drinks will be served**. After the film we will talk briefly about where we saw God at work, evidence of God’s will, and images of the Cross of Christ as well as other theological impressions that might not be noticed by a casual viewing. Bring a friend or neighbor and come enjoy a hot summer’s evening in the cool of St. James.

August 2nd – ‘*Casablanca*’. This classic from 1941 is often listed as one of the top two or three films ever produced. It’s a great love story starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, but there is much more at stake than that. Taking place in part of Nazi-occupied Europe, the story reflects strong images of good and evil and of self sacrifice. If you have never seen the film, it’s a must that you do. If you have, you’ll know how much you’ll want to see it again.

August 9th – ‘*Lilies of the Field*’ (1963) This delightful movie tells the story of a traveling handyman (Sidney Portier) who comes upon a monastery of nuns who see him as a gift from God to help them in their ministry. He tells them ‘no way’....but it seems that things don’t go as he hoped or planned. The interaction between him and the nuns is priceless and will be enjoyed by all ages. This film will be sure to leave you smiling.

August 16th – ‘*Life is Beautiful*’ (1997) Voted as winner of Academy Awards for Best Foreign Film, Best Music, Best Original Dramatic Score, and Best Actor,...Roberto Benigni (pronounced Ba-nee-nee) will charm you, amuse you, and at times will have you crying with laughter. The oddity of all this is that the funny story takes place as the family is taken into a concentration camp during World War II. Temporarily separated from the mother, the father fears for the life of his young (and adorable) little son. He decides that the only way for the boy to survive is by devising a scheme in which he tricks the boy into believing it is all a big game and that if he plays along, they will win the prize at the end. In the end, the boy realizes that has happened and exclaims “We won!” This film will make you laugh and make you cry and you will be glad you saw it. Don’t let the subtitles scare you off. It’s a great film!

August 23rd – ‘*Hotel Rwanda*’ (2004) Based on a true story, a hotel manager who was never concerned with anything more than getting ahead in life, is thrust into a situation where he is able to save thousands of lives through his: ingenuity, wit, interpersonal skills, professional contacts, and favors owed to him. He risks his own life in an effort to save the lives of many in what was a holocaust in the African country of Rwanda. Don Cheadle gives a great performance of the real man who really did do such a brave thing. This film is rated PG-13 for some violence, but the incidents of that are few. Please don’t skip this one.

Refugee Resettlement Ministry

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" - Matthew 25:35

After much hard work, we have finally been able to locate a 5 bedroom house to rent in Pottstown so that the entire Kallon, Wolloh, Flahn Family can live together and continue their new life here in the United States supporting each other. The entire family consists of the refugees we are sponsoring Ike, Delvin, Winifred, Mercy and Etta and the extended family members that Grace Lutheran in Royersford have been sponsoring, Diana (sister to Ike and Delvin) and her children Georgia, Evon, and Betty, and Diana's half sister Hannah. Having everyone in Pottstown will have both its benefits and challenges as we begin to help this family become less dependent on us.

The family will still need our help for the next month or two so please consider helping where you can:

1. **Help move them** - August 11 we will be moving everyone into the house in Pottstown. Vans, trucks and muscle will all be needed to make this happen. If anyone can help with the move, please contact Pastor Hutchinson, Suzanne or the church office or sign up in Horn Hall. Also we need boxes to back kitchen and bath items and personal belongings. Boxes can be brought to the church and dropped off in Suzanne's office.
2. **Provide transportation** - Our refugees still need help getting to places such as doctor appointments, grocery shopping, work, etc. If you can help with transportation there is a sign up sheet in Horn Hall asking what days and times are best for you and the number of passengers that you can accommodate.
3. **Help with life skills** - especially with our newer refugees, help is needed in this area. They need to learn about the post office, bank, library, riding buses, shopping, etc. Each of these activities can be done according to ones own schedule. Please sign up in Horn Hall for any of the above.

Getting involved with these people is a very rewarding experience. Remember what Jesus said: 'If you do it unto the least of these my brethren, you do it unto me.'
Thanks ahead of time for your help and concern and prayers.