

the Spirit of St. James



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

OUR VISION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

In This Edition Look for...

Office Notes	<i>Page 2</i>
Pastor's Note	<i>Page 3</i>
Worship Notes	<i>Pages 4 - 6</i>
Discipleship, Fellowship, Service	<i>Pages 7 - 9</i>
Member News	<i>Pages 10-11</i>
Council Member List	<i>Page 12</i>

Sunday Schedule

September 2

Worship at 9 a.m.
with Children's Church

Starting September 9

Worship at 8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship at 9 a.m.

Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

Children's Church at 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly



OFFICE HOURS

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

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: September 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

Refugee Resettlement Thank You

I received an email the other day from the Director of Lutheran Children and Family Services thanking our Diaconal Minister, Suzanne Rigg, for all her hard work coordinating the resettlement of the refugee family. Through that organization there were ten members of a family from Liberia that the Lutheran churches in town helped to sponsor.

Some of you may not know about all the effort that Sue put into this. She overcame many challenges, obstacles and unexpected dilemmas and worked tirelessly herself as well as in coordinating the activities of others who helped these people get established in this country. Now, the family is reunited under one roof and several have secured jobs and they are on their way to self-sufficiency. **Many thanks go out to all those from our congregation and the other churches** whose efforts and generosity helped the family get set up with all the necessary essentials.

But I want to especially applaud Suzanne for her tenacity and faith in God and in the people of God, even when often it looked like that some of that faith may have been misplaced. She worked through adversity and dealt graciously with people problems to make it happen. It required a great deal of determination and perseverance on her part, but then, that is what discipleship is like. **Discipleship is part faith, part grace and lots of work and patience.** And the best way to promote discipleship amongst others, as with the promotion of anything, is to be a good example yourself. That is what Jesus did, and that is what Suzanne has done. So on behalf of St. James, **thanks again Sue!**

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

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

Starting on September 9, 2007 there will be two adult education opportunities on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Seasons of the Spirit – This 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 will meet weekly in the Adult Study classroom on the ground floor. Individuals can join this class anytime throughout the year.



Sing the Faith - *Sing the Faith* is a series of seven-session Bible studies focusing on common traditional hymns and their biblical roots, background, and application to daily life. **You do not need to sing to join this class.** The class will look at hymns that express the presence of God, the concept of grace and comfort, and on community and what it means to be in unity. Some of the hymns being studied include *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*, *Amazing Grace*, *How Firm a Foundation*, *Blest Be the Ties that Bind*, and many more. The class meets in the Blue Room located on the ground floor.

The New Children's Church



Starting September 9th we will have two **Children's Church classes.** Children's Church is a ministry for children preschool - grades 5 allowing them to worship God in age appropriate ways. Children begin their worship experience in community with the entire church family and then after the announcements, depart to one of two classes. The **first class is for children Preschool-Kindergarten** and meets in the nursery and **the second class is for elementary school children grades 1-5 and meets in Horn Hall.** During this time the children will hear a bible reading and lesson and do a craft or coloring page, a game or sing a song connecting with the message. Children return to worship at the time of the Sharing of the Peace.

Music will be a regular component of Children's Church. The **Preschool/Kindergarten Class will have music on the first Sunday of the month** as part of their curriculum for that day, and the **Elementary Class will have music on the third Sunday of the month** as part of theirs. Sharon MacCabe, our Minister of Music, will be leading the children during their music time.

Nursery Attendants Needed

Do you love young children? If so, please consider sharing some of that love by serving in our nursery on Sunday mornings. Additional nursery attendants are needed for the nursery during our 10:45 a.m. service in the fall, winter and spring. Please contact Suzanne (610-326-2810) for more information or to express your interest in helping.

Confirmation Classes

Any parents of children who will be the **sixth grade or older** who want their child to participate in Catechetical Class (Confirmation Class) should notify the pastor so that they may be included in this year's class.

The confirmation process is a three year obligation in which students learn more about the Christian faith through instruction following an outline designed by Martin Luther. It covers study of the Old and New Testaments, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion as well as a look at liturgy and worship throughout the church year.

We meet in the youth room off the Main Sunday school room on **Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 from the fall through the spring.**

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.**

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 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.**

Make a Joyful Noise!!

Music Opportunities at St. James

Bell Choir High School Teens - Adults Thursdays 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

The Bell Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 6:15-7:30 p.m. First rehearsal for the fall is September 6. High School aged young people are very welcome to join this group in addition to adults who are interested. Knowledge of music reading skills is NOT necessary. The only requirement is a love of music and a willingness to serve as a choir member. New members are always welcome!!

Chancel Choir Adults and Teens Thursday 7:30-9 p.m.

The Chancel Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.. First rehearsal for the fall is September 6. High School aged young people are very welcome to join this group in addition to adults who are interested. Knowledge of music reading skills is NOT necessary. The only requirement is a love of music and a willingness to serve as a choir member. New members are always welcome!



Third Sunday Offering

SEPTEMBER Recipient Lutheran World Relief

This month's Third Sunday Offering will go to Lutheran World Relief. Empowered by God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ, Lutheran World Relief envisions a world in which each person and every generation lives in justice, dignity, and peace.

Every day in 50 countries, **Lutheran World Relief (LWR) works to combat the causes of poverty** and the dignity it robs from people's lives. They advocate for fair trade that helps farming families earn a better income. (Our Fair Trade Coffee program at St. James is through LWR). **They teach people to better care for themselves their communities and the environment** and how to be less vulnerable to natural disasters. They advocate with and for them for policy change that more fairly represents them. LWR counsels them after manmade and natural disasters, and helps them recover with material aid. They do all of this exclusively with partners from the communities they serve. Their partners help them remain incredibly efficient and effective.

U.S. Lutherans, freed and empowered by God's grace in Jesus Christ and called to respond to God's love for all people and creation, **put faith into action** through the mission of Lutheran World Relief. LWR values the contribution of Lutheran theology to their understanding of faith active in love and cherishes their Lutheran heritage and identity. LWR acts on behalf of U.S. Lutherans, the ELCA, and the LCMS as a common expression of their faith through international relief and development.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

October - Cluster Outreach Center
November - Pottstown Volunteer Home Care
December - ELCA World Hunger



Next Rejoicing Spirits worship at St. James
Wednesday, September 12, 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.

SEMINARY DAY 2006
Saturday, September 29th
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Experience a day in the life of a seminarian. You'll get to know the Seminary campus and community while discovering new ways the Seminary can help you, your family, and your congregation on your own journey of faith. Enjoy a beautiful fall day on our historic campus. The day will open with a **Hymn Sing and morning lecture** by Seminary professors Rev. Dr. Katie Day and Dr. Erik Heen on "The Word and the World."

After **lunch**, will be a "**Bible Study** . . .How To", followed by a gathering on specific word and world topics such as healing/end of life, globalization and world hunger, peace and war, justice and politics, etc. A **special youth program** is available for grades 7-12. For more information please see the ELCA bulletin board in Horn Hall or contact Suzanne Rigg no later than September 16, 2007.

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.

WELCA

Come to our "kick-off" party for a new season of WELCA on Monday evening, **September 17th**, and bring a friend! Meet us in Horn Hall at 7 p.m. as we share summer moments, a special lesson, and refreshments.

Rummage Sale Update

Please watch your bulletins for an announcement regarding WELCA's Fall Rummage Sale, originally planned for October 1 & 2. **Due to the pending construction we'll be experiencing, if we are worshipping in Horn Hall at that time, we will NOT hold the Rummage Sale.** Since we do not have firm dates at this time from the contractors, it is impossible to be more precise. We'll see you in the spring, if not this autumn!

SCRIP

As we return to a fall worship schedule, we will again be selling Scrip weekly after the end of the first service until the beginning of the second service. The scrip table will be located to the rear of Horn Hall.

It's not too early to begin thinking about possible opportunities to use "Scrip" for the holiday season. These gift cards will not cost you any more than if you purchase them at a local store, AND you'll be helping someone who is hungry to receive a meal. Thank you to those of you who faithfully support this ministry. We welcome all to stop by for a list to take along and review, or an order form!



**CALLLED
TO SHARE
HIS
LIGHT**

Capital Campaign Update

- The Ginkgo trees were removed and the ground made ready for the planting of new trees.
- The kneeling pads have arrived and have been put in place.
- The exterior work on the stone is scheduled to begin the week of Labor Day.
- The accessibility study is complete so the work for the elevator can begin.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be September 2nd after the 9 a.m. worship.

BLOOD DRIVE October 1st is our next scheduled blood drive held from 2-7:30 p.m. We do four drives per year. Please set aside the date and plan to give.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference

Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Barbara Lutz, presenting *Count Your Blessings, Hold Fast to the Promise.*

The October Bible Study will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pennsburg, on **Tuesday, October 2, 2007,** with Ellen Gallagher presenting *Poor in Spirit, Rich in Blessing.*

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *Blessed to follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship.* This is the 23rd year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.

Community Meal

This month, **volunteers are needed on September 27** to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

Keep November 2nd Open

The next Spaghetti Dinner at St. James will be held November 2, 2007. Matching funds by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Upper Montgomery County Chapter #31392. More details to follow.

Relay for Life

On behalf of the 42 members of the St. James Relay for Life Team, I would like to send a big **THANK YOU** to each and every one of you for your support in helping not only our team, but the Pottstown Relay for Life as a whole. Thank you for your financial support, for baking and knitting, and supporting us in so many other ways. The heart of this congregation is so very big and I am proud to represent you in the Relay and in the fight of the American Cancer Society to eradicate this terrible disease.

The goal for Pottstown's Relay was \$1 million and on August 8th, the total amount raised was **\$1,014,000.00**. Our team raised **\$14,305.00**. We also collected **\$406.56** for the *Dimes make a Difference* collection.

Some of us are thinking ahead to next year's Relay and getting ideas for fund raisers. We welcome your ideas and also, consider joining the team next year!

Pat Baer
Team Captain

CROP Walk October 14, 2007

Come rain or shine, many individuals in the area are gearing up to join in the Pottstown **CROP WALK, on Sunday, October 7, 2007. The WALK will begin and end at First Presbyterian Church located at 750 N. Evans Street.** Registration is at 1:30 p.m. with the walk at 2 pm.

Organized by the Cluster Outreach Center, the Pottstown CROP WALK's goal is to help stop hunger here in our community and around the world, through self-help development initiatives. A portion of the funds raised here in Pottstown will go to the Cluster Outreach Center.

If you are interested in walking or would like to sponsor someone who is walking, please stop by the CROP WALK table in Horn Hall in the month of September or contact Sue Rigg at 610-326-2810

Latino Church of God

At the request of the Latino Church of God congregation who used our facilities just a year or so ago, St. James has agreed to restart the relationship we had with those brothers and sisters in Christ.

The previous arrangement was terminated after their pastor left and the congregation dispersed. They now have a new pastor who has helped to reorganize the congregation. They once again have asked for our graciousness in letting them use our building on Sundays after our worship time is over.

The Church Council has agreed to do this. A small fee will be collected towards offsetting any costs to us for use of the building. So let us rejoice in our sharing of our gifts and our beautiful building in the name of Christ our Lord, who continues to share himself with us on Sunday mornings and every day of our lives! Amen!

MEMBER NEWS

Meet Our Newest Members

Robert (Rob) and Cynthia (Cyndi) Krasley:

Rob was born in Allentown and grew up in Norristown where he graduated from Norristown Area High School. He has also lived in Whitemarsh, Eagleville and Audubon before moving to Stowe. He has two children Chelle and Christopher. He married Cyndi in December of 2004. He enjoys motorcycling, fishing and his grandchildren. Cyndi was born and grew up in Pottstown but has also lived in Gibraltar, Boyertown and Birdsboro. She is a graduate of Pottsgrove High School and Empire Cosmetology School Teacher's Training. She had two sons, David and Justin. She is a hairstylist at Mane Reactions and volunteers at the hospital cancer center. She enjoys reading, riding bikes and keeping her grandchildren. Rob and Cyndi come to us from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Stowe.

Chelle Krasley:

Chelle was born in Norristown, PA but grew up in Pottstown. She is a graduate of the Pottsgrove High School and has her CDA Certification through the Montgomery Early Learning Center. She is a teacher at the Goddard School in Sanatoga. She has three children Haley, Mercedes and Darius. Chelle enjoys going to the beach and playing with her three children. She comes to us from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Stowe.

Member transfer

Audrey Maurer has moved to Shannondell in Norristown and has requested a letter of transfer to St. Andrews Evangelical Lutheran Church in Audubon, PA.

Congratulations

On Saturday, July 28th, Pastor presided at the **wedding of Francis Lovett and Elizabeth Vickerman** in the Wonalancet Chapel in New Hampshire. Congratulations and God's blessings to them. Elizabeth is the daughter of Mary Vickerman. The couple resides in St. Louis.

On August 12, **Willard Bickel** was **presented with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award**. This award is given to persons whose lives model the kind of selfless service to community, nation, and humanity without regard to race, religion, or creed, so dramatically exemplified by the four army chaplains on board the sinking U.S.A.T. Dorchester on February 3, 1943. The chaplains sacrificed their lives to save the lives of others. Congratulations to Willard as the recipient of this award.

September Birthdays

2 – Ted Baer, Gerald Richards; 4 – Bob Wien; 5 – David Loughery, James Stott, Jeanette Wert; 6 – Haley Byers, Scott Shollenberger; 7 – Gary Hall, Laurie O'Connell, Amy Stein; 8 – Beverly Reber; 12 – Don Bilger, Alice Schindler, Troy Wagner; 13 – Alyssa Hartzman, Kristy Lapreziosa, Mike Lengyel; 15 – Amelia Kulp; 19 – Andy Olock; 20 – Joshua Irwin, Marlene Kinckiner; 21 - Yvonne Brewer; 23 – Mary Beth Kochel; 25 – Sandra Eshbach, Shira Schaeffer; 27 – Sandy Olock, Ernest Schultz; 29 - Earl Wilson

Refugee Resettlement Ministry

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

We are almost at the end of our formal sponsorship of the Kallon/Wolloh family. Later this month we will be having a graduation party for the family as we begin to separate from them and allow them to be self-sufficient and independent. More details of that to come as we try to neatly tie up things.

August was a full month. We moved the entire family (all ten) into a home on Cherry Street on August 11. Thanks to David Hartzman, Tracie Rheel, Scott Strichik, and Pastor Hutchinson for their help on that day. Thanks also to the many who continue to donate household items and clothes.

With the move finally completed, other members of the ministry team worked on some outstanding items. Some of these things included registering the children for school, taking care of medical issues and working with the Social Security Administration and with County Assistance making sure the family is getting all the aid that they are entitled to having.

As we conclude our sponsorship the four major issues to be resolved include: finding employment for one or more of the family members. (Only two are currently employed.); completing all the paperwork and requirements to obtain Supplemental Security Income for two of the family members; obtaining further medical attention for Mercy's epilepsy; and finally teaching them some financial literacy.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Gail Neiffer for supplying both the VBS snacks and the popcorn for Movie Night.

Thank you to all who volunteered with VBS this year. Your help was greatly appreciated.

To the people of St. James Lutheran Church:

I just wanted to thank you all for the kindness and the happiness you all brought to Lorraine Smith and her son Jason. They both loved going to your church and missed it terribly when they couldn't go. I want to thank Pastor Hutchinson for his kindness to me. I also want to thank all the members of St. James for the support you showed me. Lorraine was finally laid to rest on August 9 at St. Matthews Cemetery in Conshohocken. Again thank you. I will miss her very much and I am sure all of you will miss her too.

Sincerely,
Joseph Lewandowski



Deepest Sympathies

...to the family and friends of Lorraine Smith.

...to the family and friends of Evelyn Gromis.

...to the family and friends of Bob Lanz.

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>July 2007</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 23,199.20	\$ 161,321.14
Expenses	<u>21,568.62</u>	<u>161,773.34</u>
Net Income	(\$1,630.58)	(\$452.20)

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$16,436.00	\$123,694.50
Needed*	<u>19,780.311</u>	<u>138,462.19</u>
Over (Under)	(\$3,344.31)	(\$14,767.69)

Third Sunday Offering

Collected	\$334.00
Beneficiary	Salvation Army

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

