

# the Spirit of St. James



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

*Page 2*

Pastor's Note

*Page 3*

Worship Notes

*Pages 4 - 7*

Stewardship

*Page 7*

Discipleship, Fellowship and Service

*Pages 8-11*

Member News

*Page 12*

Council Member List

*Page 13*



## Sunday Schedule

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](http://www.stjamespottstown.org)

## STAFF

### **Ministers**

Each and Every Member of St. James

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson  
e-mail: [pastorh@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:pastorh@stjamespottstown.org)  
home 610-718-0313

### **Director of Discipleship**

Suzanne Rigg  
e-mail: [srigg@thehill.org](mailto:srigg@thehill.org)  
office 610-326-2810  
home 610-970-4865

### **Secretary**

Darlene Jackson  
e-mail:  
[secretary@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:secretary@stjamespottstown.org)

### **Director of Music Ministries**

Sharon MacCabe  
Email: [sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 December Edition: November 15, 2007**

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

### **Free Used Desktop Computer Monitors**

Three desktop monitors in the office have currently been replaced with new flat screen monitors. The replaced monitors are free to whoever would like them. They are several years old but in good condition. Please contact Darlene, our secretary, if you would like one ASAP; otherwise, they will be recycled.



### **Photos On Our Website**

Photos from recent events, such as the **Blessing of the Animals and the Friendly's night for Rejoicing Spirits** are now available on our website. Along with reminders of other current happenings you will find the following information on our website: **weekly announcements** (under News), parts of the **Guide to Daily Prayer** (under the Prayers/Daily Devotions), **Assisting Ministers' Schedule** (under Worship/servants), and **the newsletter** (under News).

# A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

---

## Grace-filled Endings

The prospect of the end of the church year is upon us as we celebrate All Saints Day on the first Sunday of November. And it made me think, just a bit, about the prospect of the end of life.

Nobody much likes to think about that, let alone talk about it, but a fact that we cannot escape or deny is that we will all die at some point. Thanks be to the God who has come to us in Jesus Christ to give us hope of resurrection by way of our faith when we face our inevitable death.

But I want to take this moment to tell you about something that is connected with death, but is also grace-filled. Something that you or someone you know might be able to take advantage of at the time when death approaches. It is called '**Hospice Care**'.

Hospice Care is a coordinated effort by loving caregivers to attend to the needs of a person for whom life is coming to an end. It enables the person to spend their last months or weeks, surrounded by their loved ones and in their own home. It involves the loving care and attention of nurses, social workers, chaplains and others who see to it that the individual is able to pass from this life in a comfortable and dignified manner. It is, in short, a good thing and a way of providing the grace of God through what we do.

*(continued next column)*

For some time now I have been a volunteer chaplain helping the Hospice Program at the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. It is my way of giving a little bit more of myself to God through a very worthwhile ministry. But my gift to you this month is to tell you about hospice (if you don't already know) and to encourage you to consider it, either for yourself, or for someone you love, should the circumstances ever warrant it. It is a grace-filled way to leave this world and to enter the grace-filled world to come. Amen.

*PASTOR*

## Fall Bible Study

Bible study continues this month with the study on Exodus. **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. The Tuesday sessions conclude on November 13 and the Thursday sessions conclude November 15. Please feel free to come and to bring a friend. No previous bible knowledge is necessary.

# WORSHIP NOTES

---



## All Saints Day

On **Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** we will once again be celebrating “**All Saints Sunday**” in worship. As part of our offering of prayers to God that day, we will lift up the names of all loved ones who have died in the last year. We hope that this act of remembrance on that day will be meaningful to you as we recall those who have gone to be with the Lord.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

This service will be held, **November 21<sup>st</sup> at St. John Lutheran Church, at 7 p.m.** St. John is located at 75 East Main Street, Pottstown. This is a joint worship service held with St. John, Emmanuel, St. James, and Grace Lutheran Churches participating. As we give thanks to God with and among our fellow Lutheran sisters and brothers here in Pottstown, let St. James make a noticeable presence of participation in this time of faith and fellowship.

## Worship in Horn Hall starting on November 11<sup>th</sup>

We will be worshipping in Horn Hall starting November 11<sup>th</sup> until possibly December 2<sup>nd</sup> (the first Sunday in Advent) due to the renovation and contract work scheduled to be done in the sanctuary. These dates may change as the work begins, so please check the bulletin or website ([www.stjamespottstown.org](http://www.stjamespottstown.org)) for any future updates.



## Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

### New adult study starting November 4<sup>th</sup>

It's really nothing new to have controversy within the church. The Christian Church has historically been confronted with it. **Starting at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Adult study class in the Blue Room will be looking at some significant controversies throughout Christian history and how the resolutions of those disagreements have led to the beliefs we espouse today.** Each week we will look at one of the turning points that helped to define the Christian faith as we have inherited it. Come and learn and enjoy the discussion **led by Pastor Hutchinson**

Also on Sunday mornings at the same time is **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.



## Annual Meeting – Part One

Please plan to attend Part One of the annual meeting **between services on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.** The agenda includes **the election of Council members and adoption of the 2008 budget.**

There will be no adult Sunday School classes this day. Because of the changes to the bylaws, there will not be a separate mailing notice for this meeting, so mark your calendar now!

**Part Two of the annual meeting will be held on January 27, 2008 at 9:15 a.m.**

*Have you invited anybody  
to church lately?*

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** Stay well!  
Blood Pressure checks will be November 4  
after the 8 a.m. worship and again prior to  
the 10:45 a.m. service.

## First Communion Instruction

If any parents feel that their children are ready (or even anxious) to receive Holy Communion, please contact either the Pastor or Suzanne. For a few weeks several short (15-20 minute) classes will be held after the 10:45 worship service to provide instruction for children. Once these students have been properly instructed they are invited to receive God's grace in that sign which we call the "Sacrament." There is no age limitation, so participation is up to the parents and child.

### **Property Work Day Help Needed *No special skills required***

The next property work day is on **November 10** when two important tasks need to be completed. First is **setting up Horn Hall for worship** and second is **raking leaves**. If you are able to move chairs, hymnals or rake leaves, your assistance would greatly be appreciated on this day. The work day begins at 9 a.m. so please come as you are able.

**Third Sunday Offering**  
**November Recipient**  
**Pottstown Area Volunteer Home Care**

Volunteer Home Care (VHC) is an interfaith outreach ministry offering assistance to individuals and families of all faiths through support of spiritually enriched volunteers. VHC has trained and caring volunteers who may be able to help someone through a difficult time in his or life at no cost by providing non-medical and non-professional services. Several members of St. James are volunteers for VHC.

Short-term, temporary assistance may be available with transportation, errands, light household chores, meal provision, outdoor chores, and minor repairs. Volunteers may also offer friendly visiting to a shut-in or telephone reassurance to someone living at home.

VHC may assist other professional and supportive services to provide care. VHC will join the network of family, friends, neighbors, and churches to help someone through a difficult time.

Pottstown Area VHC serves the communities of Pottstown Borough, Upper Pottsgrove, Lower Pottsgrove including Sanatoga, West Pottsgrove including Stowe, North Coventry, South Coventry, East Coventry, Spring City, Limerick and Royersford. VHC is an interfaith outreach ministry administered by The Lutheran Home at Topton, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Please consider a gift to VHC though this month's Third Sunday Offering.

**Third Sunday Offering Schedule**  
December - ELCA World Hunger



**Top Ten Reasons**

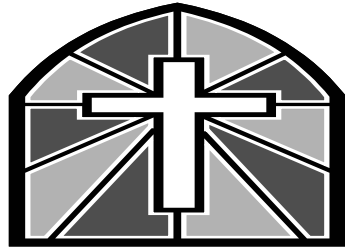
to try St. James' other style of worship.  
*Please join us.*

- #10 Feel the Holy Spirit in action in an environment where individuals are free to be themselves, as God intended.
- #9 See how St. James' is welcoming & hospitable to strangers no matter what "label" they have.
- #8 Worship provides opportunity for all to participate.
- #7 Confirm that love, faith and hope are not dependent on our cognitive abilities.
- #6 Sing along with the lively music.
- #5 Witness how everyone has gifts to share including those who are differently-abled.
- #4 Many enjoy praising the Lord with hand-held instruments.
- #3 Embrace 1 Corinthians 12:25, "*so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*"
- #2 Celebrate God's gift of diversity.
- #1 Leave feeling touched and blessed to be a part of an inclusive faith community.

*Rejoicing Spirits is a meaningful worship and fellowship ministry that welcomes individuals with developmental disabilities along with their family, friends and the local community.*

**Next Rejoicing Spirits Worship**

Wednesday, November 14 at 7 p.m.



**CALLLED  
TO SHARE  
HIS  
LIGHT**

### **Capital Campaign Update**

- The stone work is complete.
- The work on the roof began October 22, 2007.
- Work on the stained glass windows is nearing completion.
- Interior work to the sanctuary is scheduled to begin mid-November.
- The elevator was delayed due to permit problems, but should go in after January 1.
- Getting a quote for cutting out the top edge of the parking lot and adding soil to have trees planted.

### **Important Note about Memorial Contributions**

At the October Congregational Council Meeting, the council approved that all future memorial contributions will be used given to the capital campaign unless the family requests otherwise.

### **Refugee Resettlement Ministry**

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

We have officially concluded our sponsorship of the Wolloh/Kallon refugee family. At the family's graduation they shared their thanks and gratitude for all the help that they have received over the last several months. **St. James was presented with a certificate from Lutheran Children and Family Service for our commitment in sponsoring this family.** Counting everyone who either donated money, items or their time, there were at least 30 members (if not more) of our congregation contributed in some way. **Thank you to all who contributed to special ministry.** Graduated or not, the family remains very vulnerable as they struggling financially and with health issues, so **please continue to prayer for them that they may find a way to support each other just as so many of us have supported them through our sacrifice of time or money.**

# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

---

## Cluster Outreach Center

### Holiday Food Baskets

In November we will be collecting items for the Holiday Food baskets that the Cluster assembles and gives to families in need. This year they are planning on feeding at least 200 families.

#### **Below are the items being collected for the baskets:**

Boxed potatoes, cookies, gravy, stuffing, candy canes, corn, green beans, sweet potatoes, coffee, cranberry sauce, hot chocolate, and teabags. If you would like to donate any of these items, **please place them in the specially marked Holiday Food basket in Horn Hall.**

The Cluster is also wishing for gift cards and turkey certificates. Any gift cards will be used to purchase refrigerated items that need to be obtained at the last minute. If you would like to **donate any certificate or cards, please give your donation to Suzanne Rigg.**

**Other food items for the Cluster** can be placed in the basket located **by the lower level mailboxes found at the bottom of the stairs** closest to the parking lot.



### Christmas Angel Program

St. James will once again be participating with the Pottstown Salvation Army in their annual CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROGRAM. We have accepted 50 gift tags. **This year the tags do not designate specific gifts.** All the tags request a toy for a local child, age 14 or younger, for whom Christmas will be more special by someone taking the initiative to purchase him, or her, a gift. **You will know if you need to purchase a gift for a boy or girl from the tag itself.**

The **tags are available now and can be found hanging on the Social Ministry bulletin board in Horn Hall.** Please take one or as many tags as you think you are able to fulfill. When you have finished purchasing your gift, please hold onto it until November 18<sup>th</sup> when you will be able to deliver it to the designated area of Horn Hall. **All gifts should be UNWRAPPED with the tag securely fastened and need to be at the church no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December.**

Of course, if you do take a tag and find, for whatever reason, that you cannot make a gift purchase, please return the tag to the tree no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of November.

## WELCA NEWS

**November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. we will be packing the holiday gift bags**, and on December 17<sup>th</sup> we'll deliver them and share the spirit of the season with families at the YW. We did this last year and they enjoyed it so much, they've asked us to return, making their party on our regular meeting night this year. Plan to help us; we promise you **WILL** feel the "spirit" and know it is better to give.



### **Everyone can help us fill our YW Parent Network Group Holiday Gift**

Please consider providing some of these Personal Care items:

Shampoo, Q-Tips, throw-away Razors, Tablets, Comb, Toothpaste, Small pack of Tissues, Pens, Small Tablets, Powder, Toothbrush, Small calendars, Costume Jewelry, Caps for guys, Small Mirror, Small Plastic toothpicks, Dental Floss, Nail Polish, other items.

We normally use small personal sizes of the above. Some members who travel collect trial sizes they have not used during hotel visits. These items have even included small sewing kits, shoe polish cloths, and eye masks.

*(continued next column)*

The bags we fill are about 10" tall and 7" wide. We decorate the bags, then fill them at our November meeting and tie a handmade ornament on the handles. We also include an invitation to worship with our church family in the bag.

**There is a basket for your donations on the table in Horn Hall. We need the items no later than November 11.** Thank you for your ongoing support of this project! We have 20 bags for men and 35 for women to fill this season.

### **Something New**

*Could this be you?*

Do you like taking photos? Perhaps you enjoy shooting live action video. If so, please consider being apart of a **new ministry team that will be responsible for capturing the life and ministry of this congregation in photos/or video.**

The photos and video taken by this team will be used to promote St. James on our website, for advertising on PCTV, for providing a slideshow/video of the ministry and mission of the congregation at annual meetings, and as a record of what we have done and accomplished for the archives. **You do not need to own your own digital camera or camcorder to be a part of this team.** If you are interested in learning more, please contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810.



## New Recycling Effort

Saint James is now collecting used cell phones, ink jet and laser toner cartridges for recycling. A list of what can be recycled will be posted outside of the office and in Horn hall under the Stewardship bulletin board. A box for collection will be placed at the bottom of the stairs of the parking lot entrance. Let's do our part to keep these items out of our landfills and protect our planet for future generations.

## SCRIP and Holiday Plans!

Plan ahead and avoid the last minute shopping frenzy and "crunch" in the retail world. Help us help others eat during the coming year by purchasing these certificates. Grocers, retailers, even some web certificates are available. Don't wait until the last minute!!!

**After December 9<sup>th</sup> we will not be able to promise securing certificates that are not already on hand. PLEASE ask in advance even if you plan to purchase something we normally stock. When the stock is depleted, it may be too late to re-order the gifts.** We'll again be using forms for you to pre-order your gifts. We'll have the Scrip request ready for you the next Sunday.

Remember, we're in Horn Hall every Sunday after the close of the first service until the beginning of the second service. Scrip really IS the gift that gives! NEW - We have MICHAEL's Arts and Craft store scrip!! Visit us BEFORE you purchase your holiday craft items!

## St. James Relay for Life Nut-Roll Sale Fundraiser

In time for the holidays...delicious nutrolls, made locally by Nancy Christman, will be available for Thanksgiving with **delivery on November 18 at a cost of \$10.** Rolls available for Christmas as well with **delivery each Sunday in December.**

They make great hostess gifts or desserts for your holiday meals. Samples will be available one Sunday in October. Order forms will be ready or see Olga Christman for more details.

## Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference

### Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on **Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Kitty Pell presenting *Blessing in the Country of Mourning*.

**The December Bible Study will be held here at St. James Lutheran Church on December 4,** with Barbara Thornton presenting *Following with Tempered Strength*.

**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.

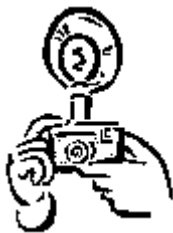
**Spaghetti Dinner**  
**Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
4:30 to 7 p.m.

The St. James Work Mission Team is holding a Spaghetti Dinner in Horn Hall. Prices are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. There will be a limited number of tickets available at the door. Matching funds provided by Upper Montgomery Chapter #31392 Thrivent for Lutherans.



**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!



**New Pictorial Member Directory**

Plans have been made for a pictorial member directory to be compiled and distributed in the new year. Sitting dates will take place on January 24, 25, 26, 2008. More information to follow.



**Applebee's**  
**Pancake and Sausage Breakfast**  
**Benefiting Cluster Outreach Center**

Again this year Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar is providing a pancake and sausage breakfast on **Saturday, November 10, 2007 from 7 to 11 a.m.** If you can come and support and worthwhile cause.

**Manatawny's Manor**  
**Annual Craft Show**  
**Saturday, November 24**  
**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Outside vendors as well as the residents provide the crafts that will be for sale at this annual event. Lots of food will be available to purchase for lunch. Manatawny Manor is a part of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries.

**CROP Walk Update**

Thank you to all who walked, raised money, or sponsored a walker for this year's CROP Walk. We had four individuals walk this year. No final number is available to date as to how much St. James raised, but it is estimated to be over \$500 to help fight hunger both locally and abroad!!! Thanks once again to all!

# MEMBER NEWS

---

## Baptisms



We welcome to the Lord's family:

**Brenna Michele Horger**, daughter of Timothy and Michele Horger.

## November Birthdays

**2** – Dot Wien; **4** – Elaine Christman, Marge McElroy, Barbara Updegrove; **5** – Jerry Fegley; **7** – Luther Swavely; **8** – Paul Rigg, Jane Trate; **9** – Betty Hatfield, Gladys Schott; **10**- Julie Hauck; **12** – Tom Cooper; **13** – Ryan Levan; **14** – David Garner, Ryan Olock, Dawn Richard; **15** – Martha Welsh; **16** – Martha Fink, John Kochel; **17** – Virginia Davis; **18** – Harry Keller; **19** – Gail Neiffer; **20** - William Gardiner; **23** – Jay Neiffer, Donna Rose; **24**- Babe Hillegass, Ruth Zimmerman; **25** – JoAnne Binsfeld, Margaret Cooper, Robin Leiby, Sara Jane Silver; **26** – Sarah Kochel, Helen Ziegler; **27** – Scott Reynier, Raymonda Valletta; **29** - Diana Kauffman



## Deepest Sympathies

To family and friends of David Gehris.

To family and friends of Dorothy Purnell.

To the family and friends of Thelma Longstreth

## Thank You Notes

Thank you to all who helped to host our Rejoicing Spirits night at Friendly's and for all who came out to eat. We raised \$233 for this ministry.

Thank you to all who worked our table and display at the Schuylkill River Art Festival. Your time and effort helped us to connect with so many folks and families from the area and allowed us to share with others the good things happening at St. James.

Thank you to John Ungerman and Howard Snyder for firmly securing the altar rail.

Thank you to the Property Committee for raking the first of the autumn leaves.

Thank you to Pat and Ted Baer for once again providing the setting and décor for our Blessing of the Animals.

Thank you to all who contributed to the rummage sale through donations and time.

## Memorial Contributions

Given for Dorothy Purnell  
*from Ellen Jameson, Alice Schindler*

Given for David Gehris  
*from Larry and Jeanette Wert*

## 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: lunns2@dejazzd.com

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

**Alison O'Donnell** 610-779-1119  
Email: acodonnell@aol.com

**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

**Sherry Clancy** 610-323-5977  
Treasurer  
Email: srclancy@comcast.net

**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

	Sept 2007	Year to Date
Income	\$ 25,655.53	\$ 207,275.84
Expenses	<u>21,176.59</u>	<u>205,635.87</u>
Net Income	\$4478.94	\$1639.97

#### *Regular Envelopes*

Received	\$22,468.50	\$163134.50
Needed*	<u>19,780.311</u>	<u>178022.82</u>
Over (Under)	\$2688,19	(\$14,888.32)

#### *Third Sunday Offering*

Collected	\$321.00
Beneficiary	Lutheran World Relief

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

