

the Spirit of St. James



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

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

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Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

December 30th one service only at 10 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

December 30th at 11 a.m.

Children’s Church

10:45 a.m.

No Children’s Church on December 30th

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

*No adult classes on December 9th and
December 30th*

Holy Communion Weekly



OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday
8 a.m. – noon
CLOSED Dec. 24, 25 and 31st
CLOSED Jan. 1, 2008

TELEPHONE

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STAFF

Ministers

Each and Every Member of St. James

Pastor

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home 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

Suzanne Rigg
e-mail: srigg@thehill.org
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Secretary

Darlene Jackson
e-mail:
secretary@stjamespottstown.org

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe
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Office: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Larry Kehler
home: 610-327-2238

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler

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 January '08 Edition: December 15, 2007

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



Holiday Office Hours

The office **will be closed** on December 24 and 25, 2007 and on December 31, 2007 and January 1, 2008.

Snow Cancellations



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

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

Christianity is largely “*counter-cultural*”

What I mean by that is, the practices and beliefs of the followers of Jesus Christ often do not (and should not) follow the trends and practices of the world around them. Since the culture around us has different motivators for conduct, it should not be our guide. Advent, then, is a time for us to be - even if it's just a little bit - *counter-cultural*. So while in the world around us we hear Christmas music in the malls and see people putting up lights and decorations even before Thanksgiving, we can begin to feel like we ought to “*get with it*” and start to “*get in the Christmas spirit*” ourselves.

But the Christian Church has historically considered Advent to be a time of preparation and of *getting ready* to celebrate Christ's birth when that holy day finally comes. The calendar of Christian Church designates the time of Advent (which means ‘*anticipated coming*’) for a reason. It may be a time of excitement, but it's also a time of patient reflection on the wonderful gift of grace of the God who came in Jesus to be with us.

Advent is supposed to help gradually move us to the grand celebration of the Nativity. When we begin to subscribe to the ‘I can't wait and I want it now!’ anxiousness of the present culture, we might as well throw Advent out the window and just consider Christmas as a glorious extended shopping period.

So Advent is a good time for Christians who are serious about the practice of their faith to be *counter-cultural*. You will see some evidence that, within the church, “Christmas” does not look like the world around us. But don't be afraid to have a different perspective and even maybe of being a little different about the coming of Christmas outside of the church either.

PASTOR



WORSHIP NOTES

Special Music on December 16th

On December 16th at the 10:45 a.m. service the Chancel Choir along with members of the Kimberton Waldorf School Chamber Choir will present "Hodie" by John Leavitt as part of a special Advent music service.

Decorating the Church December 23rd

Please stay after the 10:45 a.m. worship that day if you would like to help decorate for Christmas.



Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

December 24, 2007

3 p.m. - Family-oriented service
10:30 p.m. - Music and carols begin
11 p.m. - Candlelight worship service

December 30, 2007

One worship service at 10 a.m.



We will be celebrating the birth of our Savior at the next Rejoicing Spirits worship on **Wednesday, December 12 at 7 p.m.** We will begin with a Christmas hymn sing and some special music, followed by worship celebrating the nativity of our Lord, and ending with a festive fellowship time. This should be a special night for all. If you have not yet had the chance to worship with us, come and join us as we celebrate God's gift of Jesus coming to us. All are invited. All are welcomed.

Reports Due

All year-end committee and other reports are due into the Church Office **by Sunday, January 6, 2008.**

Offerings for 2007

All offerings and contributions to be accounted for in 2007 will **need to be in the office by Sunday, December 30, 2007.** Anything received after that will be accounted for in 2008.

Third Sunday Offering
DECEMBER Recipient
ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger improves the lives of people in need in the United States and around the world by:

- providing immediate **relief** for people affected by chronic hunger and poverty;
- assisting whole communities through long-term, sustainable **development** to help alleviate chronic hunger and poverty
- **advocating** for justice by changing laws and systems
- **educating** members of the ELCA in awareness of issues relating to hunger, poverty and justice

ELCA World Hunger works with a host of trusted partners, notably Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation, and builds on long-term relationships to do this work efficiently and effectively. Funded entirely by gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, ELCA World Hunger operates with lean administration costs under ten percent.

All money raised by the World Hunger Appeal comes through specially designated offerings and donations from ELCA members, congregations, and friends. ELCA World Hunger receives no benevolence (general budget money from general ELCA member offerings). Please prayerfully consider giving this month to support this very important ministry of our denomination.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

A St. James tradition continues as we once again will be helping The Salvation Army with their bell ringing and kettle collection. St. James will be ringing the bell at the kettle collection located at the Boscov's entrance (closest to Sears) of the Coventry Mall on **Saturday, December 15 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Please **sign up in Horn Hall** to volunteer a half hour to an hour of your time to help provide for the needs of others.

Blood Pressure Checks

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **December 2nd** after the 8 a.m. worship and again prior to the 10:45 a.m. service.

Blood Drive

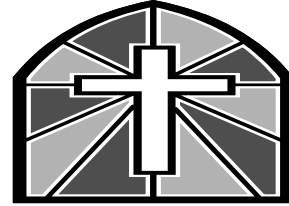
January 7, 2008 is a time when you can unselfishly give to your neighbor when they are in dire need. You can donate part of yourself by giving blood between **2 -7 p.m.** when Miller Keystone will be here at St. James. If you are unable to give, please send a friend or neighbor.

Annual Meeting – Part One

Please plan to attend Part One of the annual meeting **between services on Sunday, December 9th 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.



**CALLED
TO SHARE
HIS
LIGHT**

Capital Campaign Update

- The work on the bell tower has begun.
- Work on the stained glass windows is completed.
- Interior work to the sanctuary is underway with the floors being completed in January.
- The elevator work is still scheduled to begin after January 1.
- Work has begun outside in the parking lot where the top edge of the parking lot has been cut away to add additional soil to plant trees.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Oct-2007</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 19,901.83	\$ 227,452.74
Expenses	<u>18,646.41</u>	<u>223,942.98</u>
Net Income	\$1,255.42	\$3,509.76

	<u>Regular Envelopes</u>	
Received	\$16,897.75	\$180,047.25
Needed*	<u>19,780.31</u>	<u>197,803.13</u>
Over (Under)	(\$2,882.56)	(\$17,755.88)

<u>Third Sunday Offering</u>	
Collected	\$316.25
Beneficiary	Pottstown Cluster

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

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Community Meal

St. James is scheduled to help with the community meal on December 27. Volunteers are needed to cook, set up, clean up, and provide desserts. If you need more information, or would like to help, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.



Salvation Army Community Lunch 2nd Wednesday of Month

Volunteers are needed!

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

WELCA News

On December 17th at 7 p.m. we will pack the holiday gift bags for the YWCA Parent Network and deliver them sharing the spirit of the season with these 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.

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, December 4th at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Barbara Thornton presenting *Following with Tempered Strength*.

The January Bible Study will be held here at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg on January 8th, with Ginger Miller presenting *Follow Your Heart and Find the Heart of God*.

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.



Sign Up for Your Sitting Date for the New Pictorial Member Directory

Starting on December 9 you can sign up for your appointment to have your photo taken for the new pictorial directory. The dates that the photographer will be here at St. James are January 24 from 3 to 9:30 p.m., January 25 from 3 to 9:30 p.m. and January 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Vickie Kirstin at 484-300-4915.

SCRIP

The SCRIP program of St. James is celebrating its twelfth anniversary and we ask God's continued blessing on this ministry. SCRIP is used by St. James as a method of helping to feed the poor by way of "debit card" type vouchers that parishioners can buy and use as if money to purchase items from a variety of stores in our area, as well as website purchases. A percentage of the proceeds from each sale is used to help.

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.

CROP Walk Update

The final numbers are in for the CROP Walk. **St. James raised \$892.** Thanks to our special fund raiser, Earl Moyer and to our walkers Shira Schaeffer, Tracie Rheel and Suzanne Rigg for going the distance. Thank you again to all who supported the walk through your contributions and donations. Next year's date for the walk is October 12, 2008.

Thank You Notes

Many thanks to Ted Baer for disposing of the leftover glass not used to cover the stained glass windows.

Thanks to Debbie Hutchinson and Barbara Ungerman for covering the bulletin boards in the Blue Room.

Thanks to the many individuals who made our Reformation Sunday celebration a success. Special thanks to the musicians, the kitchen help, and all the cooks who provided the wonderful food.



Thank you to the Property Committee for raking the leaves.

Dear St. James Lutheran Church,
On behalf of the Preeclampsia Foundation Board of Directors as well as all our many constituents, I extend our sincerest thanks for the generous contribution of \$500.

We are committed to saving lives and eliminating the threat preeclampsia poses to safe pregnancies and healthy babies . . . your support brings us closer to those goals.

With all best wishes,
J. Thomas Viall
Executive Director

Thank you to all who worked to get Horn Hall set up for worship.

Thank you to everyone at St. James for being so welcoming to us over the past year. We enjoy attending services at St. James because of the friendly people. A special thank you to Pastor Hutchinson for spending time with us in preparation for our wedding ceremony. Thank you to Sharon MacCabe and Brian Giebler for also being a part of our special day. We look forward to continuing to worship with you all.

Kimberly & Caleb Weaner

Thank you for the flowers. They are beautiful. I watered them and they lasted for days. Thank you for remembering me.

Jay Neiffer

To the members of St. James Lutheran Church,

Kit and I wish to thank all of you for the beautiful flowers you sent us. And a "thank you" for the get-well cards you sent us. We miss you very much. Kit and I are separated now but hope we will be together soon. God has been good to us – we have lots of people praying for us.

Love to all,
Delmar Weller

MEMBER NEWS

Baptisms

We welcome to the Lord's family:



Ava Grace Fusco, daughter of David and Angela Fusco.

December Birthdays

1 – Alyssa Stein, Justin Stine;
2 – Ken Garner, Nicolas Gulotta, Betsy Jerdon;
3 – Derek Olock; 4 – Ronald Reynier;
5 – Garnet Nye Jr; 8 – Jeff Leiby;
9 – Annmarie Binsfeld; 10 – Kaitlyn Eisenhard;
11 – Joyce Bilger, Pam Irwin;
12 – Greg Hutchinson, Bill Jackson; Cynthia Krasley;
13 – David Hartzman; 14 – John Piorko;
15 – Amy Lapreziosa, Lois Welsh;
16 – Ronald Reynier, Jr.; 18 – Linda Neiman;
22 – Ashley Rose; 24 – John Richard, Robert Richard;
25 – Joe Ann Hillegass;
26 – Dottie Smith; 27 – Diane Mitchell, Gavin Wert;
28 – Sherry Clancy, Jessica Mitchell;
29 – Janis Lunn; 31 – Pat Baer

Change of address:

Jim Warner
1778 Ala Moana Blvd.
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Honolulu, HI 96815
808-945-7781
Cell Phone: 610-310-8565



Council Member Contact

If at anytime you have a question, concern, or suggestion that might help the church, contact one of the following elected Council members.

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814
President, Represents Christian Ed. Comm.
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Vickie Kirsten 484-300-4915
Vice-President, Represents Fellowship Comm.
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John Ungerman 610-718-9368
Secretary, Represents Property Comm.
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