

The St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

July/August 2011

“The Witness”

Issue 4

Schedule of Events at a Glance

Thursday, July 14

Church Council 7:00 pm

Sunday, July 17

Celebration Sunday

Worship 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Friday, July 22

Family Games Night 6:00 pm

(outdoors)

Sunday, July 31

Prayers for Healing

Sunday, August 7

Holy Communion

Thursday, August 11

Church Council 7:00 pm

Sunday, August 21

Celebration Sunday

Saturday, August 27

St. James Peach Festival

Sunday, August 28

Prayers for Healing

(last Sunday of summer worship schedule)

Church Art Glass, and there is a plan in place. After an absence of nearly 8 months, the Martin Luther window is coming home to St. James.

The workers at the studios are getting everything finished and packed up, and next Wednesday, July 13, they will begin their long trip from western Kentucky to western Pennsylvania, hoping to arrive in Ligonier that evening. On Thursday, July 14, they'll begin the process of removing the old framing from the boarded-up front wall of St. James, so that the new extruded aluminum framework can be installed. It will take several days to get everything ready and in place. I expect that they will begin placing the actual restored stained glass panels around July 18, so that the job will be completed by the end of that week. In the midst of it all, we may have a bit of mess or inconvenience to deal with on Sunday, July 17, but it will certainly be a welcome intrusion.

This really is a big deal! Certainly there have been other major projects in recent years. In 1999 and 2000, the kitchen and fellowship were completely renovated. During the 11 years that I have been Pastor of St. James, the entire roof has been replaced, the stained glass windows have been cleaned and repaired, the sanctuary has been

painted, and new carpeting installed. During these years, many other improvements have been steadily added to the list – the sidewalk, the office, the parlor, the nursery, the women's restroom. The list could go on... But, in terms of making a statement to the community, I see the completion of the restoration of the Luther window as being at the top of the list.

Over these months I have received many comments and inquiries about the work. The Ligonier Echo has run a feature article on the project. This is a very visible, very public undertaking. Literally, the Main Street presence of St. James has been made over. As a congregation, we should be pleased and proud! We have a striking church building, a beautiful and well-tended property and a prominent location. By caring for and sharing our building, by preserving this beautiful and historic piece of religious artwork, we are making an important contribution to the beauty and history of Ligonier. And, more than that, we are making a clear statement about our presence in the community and our commitment to the future.

There have been preliminary discussions about some way of celebrating the completion of this project, and I am certain

(continued on next page)

Pastor's Words

Dear Members and Friends of St. James;

Exciting news! We finally have the word... Brother Martin is about to return! We have been holding on the publication of this mid-summer newsletter for more than a week, awaiting word of his coming. Just yesterday (July 6), I spoke to Mr. Robert Hall, of

that as the summer ends we will be sharing plans. Meanwhile, I am hopeful that the creative folks who have been organizing our “Extra Strength Pane Relief” campaign will continue to help us in our efforts to proudly support and fund this undertaking. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about “God’s Glory Glass,” their most recent contribution to the process.

I hope that you will share my excitement. Come out during the next few weeks to see the work. Watch the craftsmen at work. Take lots of photographs. Tell your friends and neighbors. Attend church on July 17 so that years from now you can tell your grandkids, “I remember when ...” Help to make our enthusiasm for St. James something contagious!

God Bless, *Pastor Paul*



Spring Planting Thank you

Our thanks to our faithful “resident gardeners,” R. Campbell, C. Carnahan & S. Wolfe, who planted the Memorial Day flowers to beautify the church property during the summer months!

Another Graduate!

Our last newsletter featured an article in celebration of the recent graduates from St. James. Unfortunately, the issue was printed before we received this one last piece of good news.

R. Blistan

Daughter of Matt and Mary Ann, graduated early from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, in December, 2010 with honors with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics in addition to a Business Certificate. She is currently working at Marcus & Shapira LLP as an Administrative Assistant in downtown Pittsburgh. Congratulations for your fine work, and best wishes!



St. James Outdoors
Family Games Night

Family Games Night

will be held at **6:00 pm** on Friday July 22. We hope to take advantage of the summer weather and hold family games night in the beautiful churchyard, with games and activities for folks of all ages. Please bring your favorite summer style snack and games, or suggestions for games that will help us have fun outdoors. This will be a great opportunity for fellowship and a time to enjoy God’s beautiful creation. Hope to see you there!



(Pieces of stained glass from our original window)

“God’s Glory Glass”

As we come to the completion of the restoration work on the Martin Luther window, another exciting opportunity has presented itself! The process of refurbishing the stained glass requires that some of the damaged or broken sections be replaced. The artisans from Church Art Glass have saved all of those pieces of the original glass, and will deliver them to us when the window is re-installed.

Billie and John Humberger, members of St. James who are gifted with the ability to craft beautiful jewelry, are teaming up with Carol Lynn and Lois Luptak to create some special keepsake items from the glass pieces. Nicknamed “God’s Glory Glass,” these treasures will be available for purchase, with all proceeds being contributed to the Extra Strength Pane Relief project.

We’re certain that everyone will be proud to claim ownership of one of these mementos of our congregation’s heritage. These beautiful pieces will surely become heirlooms to pass along to future generations. Watch for more information on the latest developments in this exciting project!

Brunch and Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright House to Benefit the St. James Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

St. James members Bob and Linda have organized a unique event that includes Brunch at the beautiful Tree Tops Restaurant in Polymath Park Resort in Acme, PA, and tours of an original Frank Lloyd Wright home, and two homes designed by Wright's apprentices. The event is scheduled for Sunday, August 28th, leaving St. James Church immediately following the 10:00 am Sunday service. Following an elegant brunch buffet including crepes, an omelet station, mascarpone-stuffed French toast with strawberries, smoked salmon, sweet rolls and more, high among the trees at Tree Tops, visitors will experience the legendary work of Frank Lloyd Wright, one of the world's most celebrated architects, when they have a guided tour of the Duncan House located nearby, and the Balter House and the Blum House, designed by Wright's apprentice, Peter Berndtson. Nestled deep in the heart of the Laurel Highlands, Polymath Park Resort is situated on more than 100 tranquil and scenic wooded acres. This relaxing and unique event will help to defray the cost of repairing our "Luther Window". Guests will carpool to Acme 16 miles from downtown Ligonier. The price is \$55 per person which includes brunch and the tours. The event is limited to 30

people, so contact the church office now to save your place. Bob and Linda can attest to the exceptional experience of brunch at Tree Tops, and touring the three outstanding homes inspired by the genius of Frank Lloyd Wright. Additional information about Polymath Park and Tree Tops is available at <http://www.polymathpark.com/>. Please contact Linda with any questions.



Peach Festival

Save the date of **Saturday, August 27** for the annual St. James' Peach Festival. D. Kowatch is coordinating the flea market. Items can be brought to the church and put in the corner basement Sunday school classroom at any time. Candy Springer will organize the food in the kitchen. Donations of food, including; pork loin(s), ice cream, potato chips, hot dogs, baked goods, bottled water, and soda are needed. Workers are also needed to help prepare peaches, serve and help clean up, and man the flea-tique table. And, we need to borrow some picnic or umbrella tables. There are lots of ways to have fun and help! Sign up lists will be posted in August.

Welcome, Meals On Wheels!

Due to renovation work at Heritage United Methodist Church, the Ligonier Valley Meals on Wheels program has had to make an impromptu move to the kitchen and fellowship hall here at St. James. Since early June, daily meals have been prepared in our kitchen, and an uncommon level of activity has enlivened our normally quiet facility. What a blessing it has been for us to have an opportunity to host this very special ministry in our community! Following is a thank-you note from Fran Lynch, the chairperson of the Meals on Wheels board:

Dear Pastor Paul,
On behalf of the Ligonier Valley Meals on Wheels, (LVMOW), it's advisory board, volunteers, and meal recipients, I wish to extend our most sincere and heartfelt thank you to you and your congregation for allowing us the use of your superb kitchen facilities during this emergency period. If it weren't for the support of your church, our LVMOW would not have been able to successfully accomplish our mission to make available nutritious meals to the needy who are primarily confined to their home and are unable to cook adequately, and/or shop for themselves. Once again, our heartfelt thanks to you and your congregation. Sincerely,
Fran Lynch
President LVMOW

The Red Cross Blood Drive

Was held at St. James on Wednesday, June 1, and was quite successful. They have reported that 28 units of blood were donated, including several donations of "double reds." Thanks to everyone who rallied to support this effort by baking, serving, and donating blood. For those who were not able to participate in the June effort, mark your calendar now for our next drive, scheduled for September 15!

Donations For Personal Care Kits

Once again the social ministry committee is appealing to St. James' members to stretch your hearts and hands across the ocean to people in need by sharing tools for better health. Last year St. James provided 70 Personal Care kits for distribution through Lutheran World Relief and its partners. Our goal this year is to create 100 kits. Needed are donations of dark bath size towels, sturdy combs, and wrapped bath size bars of soap, (which we will be collecting year round). Monetary donations are requested to defer this cost, and also to cover the cost of shipment of the kits for distribution. These ordinary things become extraordinary when they alleviate suffering and literally save lives. We will begin taking items in early September. A box will be provided for your donations

General Fund Update

As of June 30, the General Fund is short of expenses \$4011.32. Summer is here which means lower attendance and reduce income. Monthly expenses will remain about the same. **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED!**

Extra Strength Pane Relief Update

Finance Secretary J. Miller reports that **\$45,576.00** has been given as of July 3. Thanks to everyone for your continuing gifts and pledges!

Graceful Aging Program

Bethlen Communities Graceful Aging Program will offer classes to reclaim your energy, vitality, and zest for living. Classes began June 21, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Mill Creek in Ligonier. For additional information, or you may contact Cathy Graham, Director of Graceful Aging at 721-238-2142.



Attention Married Couples:

Fall is the perfect time to fall in love with your spouse all over again! That is what couples overwhelmingly report is the result of attending a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend. Weekends run from Friday at 8 PM to Sunday at 5 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. Sign up now while there are still openings for one of the fall Weekends: Sept. 16-18 at the beautiful Olmsted Mansion & Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA, or Nov. 4-6 at the Radisson Hotel Sharon, in West Middlesex, PA (currently undergoing extensive renovation and being re-named "Park Inn by Radisson.") To register for either of the Weekends, simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and sign up using your credit card, or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net.