

The St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

May 2010

“The Witness”

Issue 3

Schedule of Events at a Glance

Sunday, May 9

Youth Sunday

Worship 8:00 am & 10:45 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Wednesday, May 12

American Red Cross

Blood Drive

12:00 - 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 13

Church Council 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 16

Celebration Sunday

Worship 8:00 am & 10:45 am

Thursday, May 27

Pork chop dinner

4:30 pm

Sunday, May 23

Day of Pentecost

Worship 8:00 am & 10:45 am

Last day of Sunday School

Sunday, May 30

Prayers for Healing

Worship 8:00 am & 10:45 am

Sunday, June 6

Holy Communion

Summer schedule begins

warmer and drier than normal, and now that May has arrived, the grass is a lush green – and is growing more quickly than we can keep it mowed! One day last week I stopped at the Lowe’s store on an errand, and the place was crowded with people, buying tools, fertilizer, plants, and all of those things necessary to ready their homes and yards for the coming of spring and summer. On Saturday, while I was in Pittsburgh for a Synod Council meeting, Kristin busied herself with washing windows and installing all the screens on the back porch of the parsonage. This is certainly an active time!

Likewise, it is a busy time in the community, and in our personal lives. Families with children or grandchildren find their calendars filled with activities and events such as track meets and ball games, dances and proms, field trips, awards assemblies, and graduations. And, this year, our family can add *weddings* to that list! May (and early June) marks a time of endings and good-byes, and yet in many ways, a time for new beginnings.

In the church we are coming to the end of the Easter season, and will soon be celebrating the festivals of Pentecost and The Holy Trinity. Sunday School classes will soon be in recess, and the summer worship schedule will begin the first Sunday in June. The faithful

workers for our Pork Chop Dinners will have a break following the season’s final dinner on May 27. And, in choir, we are practicing our final anthems, looking over some new music for fall, planning the annual choir picnic, and looking forward to a summer break.

Each year, as we come to the end of the festival half of the church year, and the “green” season of the Sundays after Pentecost arrive, we transition into our summer worship schedule. To take advantage of the cooler temperatures earlier in the day, and to allow more time for family activities on the Lord’s Day, the worship schedule at St. James changes. Sunday School classes take a summer break, and the “late” worship service moves to the 10:00 am hour. For a number of years – certainly before I came here 10 years ago – the summer worship schedule commenced on Memorial Day weekend, and continued through (and including) the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. However, that sometimes caused confusion, because those Sundays didn’t always come on the final Sunday of May or the first Sunday of September. (For example, in 2009, with Memorial Day being “early,” and falling on May 25, our schedule change came on the second-to-last Sunday in May, rather than the last Sunday of *(continued on next page)*

Pastor’s Words

Dear Friends in Christ:

Spring has arrived, and it is beautiful! In February it seemed like the winter weather would never end. But, it did end, and rather abruptly, too! During April it has been

the month. Likewise, in 2008, when Labor Day fell on Monday, September 1, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend was August 31, whereas in most years, we continued our summer schedule until the first Sunday of September!)

If you think that sounds confusing to you, you get my point! It also has caused confusion to others, and we have ended up having people arriving at the wrong time for worship services on those “transition” weeks. As a result, and in an effort to make the change more predictable, the Church Council voted at the September 2009 meeting, that the summer schedule will begin on the first Sunday of June each year, and end on the last Sunday of August each year. We are hopeful that this will eliminate the ambiguity and confusion, and make it easier to remember when we make the change. The first Sunday of our 2010 summer worship schedule will be Sunday, June 6. The final Sunday of our summer schedule will be Sunday, August 29. Please mark your calendar, and we’ll see you in church!

Blessings,

Pastor Paul

Summer Worship Schedule

Our final Sunday of our regular schedule will be May 30 Beginning Sunday, June 6, the hours for worship service change to 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Mark your calendars now!

Red Cross Blood Drive

For the Ligonier area will be held here at St. James on Wednesday, May 12, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm. If you are able to volunteer to support this important spring drive, please contact the church office during regular office hours or speak to C. Carnahan. Help will be needed to register donors, to serve as “walkers”, and to serve refreshments. Donations of cookies and cakes for the post-donation snack are also welcome!

A New “Crop” of Acolytes!

During the Sunday School hour on Sunday, April 11, head usher J. Miller joined Pastor Paul in conducting a preparation session for three new acolytes. The youth who are now newly trained as to serve in this special ministry are C. Cmar, C. Whitsel, and A. Weinman. We are excited to have them join in serving in our worship!

Volunteers For Shut-Ins Needed

St. James shut-ins are visited by church members but more volunteers are needed. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please see or call N. Rorabaugh or contact Pastor Paul. If you are presently visiting a shut-in, please let Naomi know so she can update her information. A meeting for those interested will be set at a later date.



The Festival of Pentecost

will be celebrated on Sunday, May 23. In keeping with tradition, the church will be decorated with red geraniums that Sunday. Following the celebration, those flowers will then be planted outside to beautify the church property during the summer months. As always, members are given the opportunity to donate to the purchase of geraniums and other flowers. A list of donors will be included in the bulletin on Pentecost. Please call the church office by noon on May 17 if you would like to donate in honor or in memory of a loved one.



Ligonier Valley Food Pantry

Our April food drive was answered with great success. Our congregation collected a total of 56 jars of peanut butter! Thanks to everyone who participated. For the May 22 distribution, the members of St. James have been asked to collect 40 *boxes of cereal*. As of May 3, twenty-six boxes have been received. Please have donations into the church by May 19. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

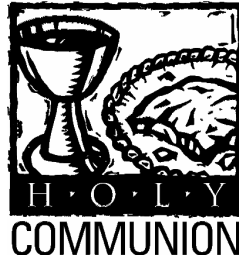


Spring Planting Time

Each year, on the Festival of Pentecost, the church is decorated with red Geraniums, symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Afterwards, they are planted in various flowerbeds and decorative planters to beautify the church property during the summer months. R. Campbell, C. Carnahan and S. Wolfe, our St. James "resident gardeners," are inviting you to help with this project. They plan to accomplish the outdoor planting on Monday, May 24, at 9:30 am. (weather permitting). If you are able to pitch in, please contact one of them, Thank you!

Peach Festival

Save the date of Saturday, August 28 for the annual St. James' Peach Festival. Items for the yard sale can be brought to the church and put in the middle basement Sunday school classroom after May 23. C. Springer will organize the food in the kitchen. Donations of food, including; pork loin(s), ice cream, potato chips, hot dogs, baked goods, and soda are needed. Workers will be needed to help prepare peaches, serve and help clean up, and man the flea-tique table. There are lots of ways to have fun and help! Sign up lists will be posted in August.



Welcome to the Lord's Table!

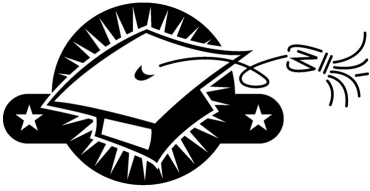
In keeping with a long standing tradition at St. James, youth of the congregation are invited, during the season of Lent, to participate in preparation sessions for receiving their First Holy Communion. On Maundy Thursday, a dinner is held in their honor, with family members and friends invited as guests of the congregation. The meal is hosted by the Education Committee and the Church Council, with Dorcas Class members serving. Following the dinner, the entire group joins with the rest of the congregation for the Maundy Thursday worship service. During that service, the young people join us at the Lord's Table and receive their first Communion. Those who attended the classes this year, and received the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time were N. Brickner, D. Huskey, N. Huskey, C. Miller, and D. Miller. We join in welcoming them to the fellowship of the Lord's Table! Also, a special word of thanks to P. Bearer, who helped Pastor Paul with the three class sessions, and to R. Labuda, who hosted the bread-making event during which the students baked the Communion bread for Maundy Thursday and the Sundays of the Easter season!

Donations For Health 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 56 health kits for distribution through Lutheran World Relief and its partners. Our modest goal this year is to create 60 kits. Needed are donations of dark colored hand towels and wash clothes, wrapped bath size bars of soap, sturdy combs, packaged adult size toothbrushes and boxes of band aids. Nail clippers are going to be purchased at cost in bulk. 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. A box is provided for your donations.

Congratulations to T. Graham

Wednesday, April 21, was a very special day in the life of long-time St. James member T. Graham. At a banquet held in celebration of National Volunteer Week, he received a special award from the Bethlen Home. He was recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" for all that he gives to the mission of the home. We congratulate him for receiving this award, and celebrate that he has made this mission a part of his Christian vocation in daily living!



Graduates

Sunday, May 16 will be our annual Senior Recognition Sunday where we'll be honoring students graduating from high school, college and beyond. Come, offer your congratulations and celebrate with them as we thank God for their gifts and talents.

S. Davies

S. Davies, M.D. is Chief Resident and will complete her third and final year of a three year residency program in Family Medicine at Fletcher Allen Health Center, The University of Vermont, College of Medicine in Burlington, Vermont on June 30, 2010. She has accepted a position of Family Physician at Green Mountain Family Practice in Northfield, Vermont and will begin in August.

S. is the daughter of Rus and Miriam Davies of Fairfield Township, a 1998 graduate of Laurel Valley High School. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of The Johns Hopkins University where she was awarded The Alexander K. Barton Cup. She graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 2007.

A. Johnson

A. Johnson will graduate from Greater Latrobe High School this June. A. is the son of D. Johnson and grandson of J. & R. Alexander. He was baptized at St. James and attended Sunday school here as a small boy.

R. Matson

The daughter of S. and L. Matson, will graduate from Laurel Valley Jr./Sr. High School in June. Some of her activities included: SADD, LEO Club, AFS, Theater Guild, Student Council, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, track, volleyball, cheerleading Quiz Bowl Team, Reading Competition, GAPP. R. will attend Washington & Jefferson College where she will major in Political Science.

S. McKeever

On May 8, 2010 S. will receive a Masters in Education with a concentration in curriculum and instruction from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. S. is the wife of T. McKeever and the daughter of T. and R. Labuda. She is an ESL Specialist for Westmoreland IU.

D. R. McLeary

D. R. McLeary, son of D. and A. McLeary, and grandson of R. and N. McLeary, will graduate from Los Angeles Recording Studio June 11, 2010. D. is currently doing an internship at NRG Studio, North Hollywood, California. Following graduation he will be pursuing a career in the music field.

D. Oswald

D. Oswald, son of C. Krisfalusi, received a PhD on December 14, 2009. He is a Doctor of Bio-Chemistry and Neuro-Medical Science. D. graduated from Keystone Oaks High School in Dormont, PA in June of 1989. He enlisted in the Army where he spent six months in Iraq during Desert Storm in 1991. After serving four years active duty, D. was accepted at the University of Pittsburgh, where he graduated from in May, 2001 with Bachelor of Science degrees in Bio-Chemistry and Molecular Biology. In June of 2003, Duane entered the Doctorate program at Boston University where he did research on the process of wound healing and how sensory neurons promote growth of new skin, not just pain. D. married Dr. L. Ngwena on April 24, 2010 and is residing in Columbus Ohio where he will be doing his post doctorate work at Ohio State University. He also retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of Sergeant First Class after 20 years of service. He was awarded the Order of St. Barbara Medal, the highest honor for the artillery.

S. Shirey

S. Shirey, daughter of C. and D. Shirey and granddaughter of R. Shirey, will graduate from Derry Area High School in June. During her senior year, S. was the drum major for the marching band, playing the clarinet, alto and tenor sax, French horn, euphonium, and mellophone. S. put her

musical abilities to good use as she was also a member of the jazz band, chorus and pit orchestra. A member of the academic quiz team and French Honor Society, S. will continue her education at Seton Hill University, majoring in music education.

J. Shirey

J. Shirey, daughter of C. and D. Shirey and granddaughter of R. Shirey, will graduate from Derry Area High School in June. She was in the chorus and also played the flute and piccolo in the band. A member of the Spanish and National Honor Societies, she was also honored as the Rotary and BPW student of the month.

During her senior year, J. participated in an allied health internship. J. will continue her studies in snowy Erie at Gannon University, majoring in occupational therapy.

J. Shawley

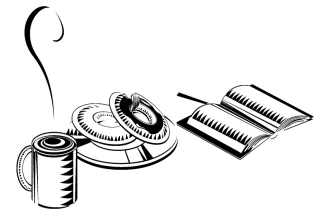
On May 8, 2010 J. H. Shawley will receive a Masters in Education with a concentration in curriculum and instruction from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. J. is the wife of D. L. Shawley and the daughter of the Rev. T. Erickson and M. E. Haines. She is a mathematics teacher at Derry Area High School and a member of St. James Council.

O. J. Yanits

O. J. Yanits, daughter of J. and B. Yanits, will graduate from Ligonier Valley High School in June. O. has been accepted into Saint Francis University and is planning to major in Social Work. She aspired to be a drug and alcohol addiction counselor. Olivia's activities at LVHS included being a member of Class Committee, SADD, Reading Team, track team, peer mentoring, and Interact Club. During her freshman and sophomore years she volunteered at the Ligonier Valley Library one afternoon per week. For the past four years she has enjoyed being a pole vaulter for her track team and hopes to break the school record this year. She was recently named Student of the Month for athletic achievements. In addition to school activities and schoolwork, O. has a part time job at Ligonier Giant Eagle as a cashier.

2010 Baccalaureate Service

Valley Youth Network will again be sponsoring a Baccalaureate Service for the 2010 High School Graduates! Family and friends are invited for this Worship Celebration at Millcreek, Thursday, June 3, 7:00 pm.



Men's Communion Breakfast

The Lutheran Churches of the Chestnut Ridge Cluster will once again have their annual Men's Communion Breakfast on Fathers' Day, June 20. A long-standing tradition among our local Lutheran congregations, the event was once held at Idlewild Park, but in more recent years it has been moved to the Legion Keener Park in Latrobe. The outdoor service begins at 7:00 am, and includes a guest preacher, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and a hearty breakfast prepared by volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church. The cost for the breakfast is a bargain, at \$4.00 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact the St. James church office. Should there be a steady rain that morning, the service and breakfast will be held indoors at Trinity Lutheran Church, 331 Weldon St., Latrobe.

Editorial Note: Early on Friday morning, January 29, C. Cardy left Ligonier in her tiny Toyota, venturing off on a solitary 1,800 mile journey. Her objective was to join other volunteers from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod as they gathered at “Camp Biloxi” to form a work team in the ongoing effort to assist residents along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in rebuilding their lives following Hurricane Katrina. We thank her for representing St. James in this mission “adventure,” and for sharing the following thoughts on her experience.

Mississippi Reflections

~ By C. Cardy

I’ve spent so much time thinking of what to write about. . .

Do I tell of my travels . . .

How I had never ever driven on interstates with that much snow. Knowing I couldn’t get off because I couldn’t get back on - - the ramps had never been plowed, let alone any of the roads surrounding the interstate. I was driving in a car that I had complained about having no traction in the winter.

Do I tell about seeing . . .

A hospital where they couldn’t evacuate in time and that there were no survivors.
An empty field where there once stood an elementary school used as a storm shelter. A small block building with no roof or windows but it was still standing.
Houses that looked like they were being lived in, but upon

closer observation looked like they had been abandoned. For Sale signs on houses and business that were boarded up, but someone may be living there because they have no where else.

Do I tell about the things I heard . . .

Nightmares so strong, that every time there is a storm they’re not sure if they should try to leave, only to come back to nothing.

About a body they found close by your house and they still have not identified it.

Finding people living in your house because it was standing and theirs wasn’t.

A boat resting in your back yard and the bay is miles away.

Being stranded without electricity, water, and with very little food at a place you thought was safe miles and miles away.

Wearing nothing but a flimsy nightgown, because it is so hot, and carrying a pistol with you at all times because you are so afraid of someone stealing what little you have.

After all this time, still not being able to make a decision, no matter how small.

Do I tell about some of the people I met and their stories . . .

People who had lived there all their lives and would continue to because that’s their home. They deal with it because that’s how it is.

Families getting evicted from their FEMA trailers with no place to go or live and now become homeless.

Contractors that would rip people off for their last dollar or

overcharge for work not even done.

Do I tell of my strong desire to go back again . . .

My dear Biloxi, where I lived for six months between basic training and my permanent base of Berlin, going to technical school. I was twenty-one, in the Air Force, had my car, fell in love, so many memories (good and bad).

The same place my mother, grandmother and I as a toddler went to say good-bye to my Uncle Tom going off to war. I really don’t remember that trip – old photos help me out there. Ever since Katrina I have felt a strong pull/drive to go back once again. I needed and wanted to give something back to this community for everything they had given me. I just wanted to help, if I could, in some small way.

Do I tell of the changes

I saw . . .

The high rise Casinos, are they ever booked up?
The ocean where it’s still not safe for boating and swimming. The remnants of the bridge left in the water maybe they will leave it there as a reminder. The Air Force Base, with all of its high security since 9-11 and all of its changes.

Still I want to go back again, and try to give a little once more, for some of their stories still haunt my sleep.