

Worship:

Tabernacle Worship Service

Every Sunday Evening

St. John's Lutheran Parish House

75 East Main St. South Pottstown 5:30 pm

Home Churches:

Hanover St. Home Church

Tuesday Evenings

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

Announcements:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Pastor Kork or Ron Caulk for details, and remember to thank God for our host churches!!

New Home Church Series every Tuesday evening at The Moyer's

Recycle Your Faith

Questioning God.



We all see through a glass darkly... Our misunderstandings and questions can make us feel as though we have little, or NO, faith. God is BIG enough to answer our doubts through simplicity and honest questioning. Join us in questioning our faith.

Your Prayer Notes:

Remember those prayer requests from last week and:

Please pray for; Toni in her break-up, for Lynn—a 20 year old who is diagnosed with a tumor on the pituitary gland, for April's broken heart, and some tough family decisions, Hank and Helen Hankens. Hank has been diagnosed with stage four cancer and has tumors in his lungs, and inoperable tumors in his brain. Let's help them all we can! Please pray for Ron's health, to keep him strong; for Patrice's thyroid treatments; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Jeff, who was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease, for Bruce's health, for the folks staying at the shelter, that they would find love and grace during their struggle, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation, for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and keep all of us in prayer, as we seek rest, and to be graceful to those who misunderstand us.

Please keep our church—the future of Still Waters, in prayer while trying to remain faithful to God's calling to the least around us.

Next Week's Scriptures:

February 27, 2011: Epiphany 8 (Year A)

Isaiah 49: 6-16, Psalm 131,
1 Corinthians 4.1-5, & Matthew 6.24-34

Get in touch with us at:

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256 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19465 Ph: (610) 970-2444

Ministry:

The Table

Suspended until the end of

Shelter Season in April

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

MAIN Street Shelter

Every evening at 10:00 pm

St Paul's UCC Grace & Franklin Sts.

There are many volunteering opportunities.

still waters
home churches & worship center

February 20 - 2011

Self Love



Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 6:30, St. John's Parish House



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Still Waters is a member church of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, P.O. Box 384 Winona Lake, IN 46590

[Service]

Tonight...

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Psalm 119.33-40

Worship Film ::

"Like God..."

Congregation Song Worship ::

*offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and
tell of his deeds with songs of joy*

Scripture Reading ::

Leviticus 19.1-2, 9-18

Focus Films ::

"Everybody Matters"

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Psalm 119.33-40, Leviticus 19.1-2, 9-18,
Matthew 5.38-48, & 1 Corinthians 3.10-11,
16-23*

The Scripture ~

Self Love

*Or, Learning to HATE the Way
Jesus Does*

Give to everyone who begs from you,
and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.
"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your
neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love
your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so
that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he
makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain
on the righteous and on the unrighteous. **Matthew 5.42—45**

Focus Films ::

"Love Who?"

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

[Journaling Worship
your talking points notes...
for this Week's Church Discussion]

≠ What is LOVE?

≠ What Love ISN'T!

≠ Love is ALWAYS having to say,
"I'm Sorry!"

“

Meditation:

*Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you
are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you
may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness
with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their
craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the
wise, that they are futile." 1 Corinthians 3.18-20*

Reflection:

"Holy fools are happily, but not naively, innocent of everything that the
rest of us take as self-evident. It is the last stage of the wisdom
journey: Jesus in his parables, Francis in his patches, and Dorothy
Day obedient to petty churchmen for paramount reasons. Reasonable
people will always be able to criticize such fools, but they bring to
every exile a whole new way of imagining -- and thereby usher in the
new age." —Richard Rohr, Holy Fools



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 119.33-40 [Worship]

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. 34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. 36 Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. 37 Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. 38 Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. 39 Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. 40 See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Consider:

[Words]

Paul sees that his congregation in Corinth is messed up because of arrogant pride among its members. The know-it-alls were perhaps zealous experts in the role of the church in society or in mission strategy. Maybe they had an axe to grind for the budget. Perhaps they were seeking to control according to their special insight or competence. All are common maladies in the church. Against that temptation to pride, Paul insists that all “belong to Christ” (vs 23). Belonging to Christ means to submit all of one’s “wisdom” to the gospel of self-giving love, a theme of Paul in the more famous chapter 13. The point is succinct in Corinthians 8:1: “Knowledge puffs up but love builds up.”

The reading in Leviticus calls us to “be holy” in a way that is commensurate with God’s own holiness (verse 2). The call is to a self-conscious difference in conduct, attitude, and life style. While Leviticus is filled with rules for holiness, many of which we commonly judge to be problematic in the extreme, our reading leads to the conclusion that authentic holiness, commensurate with God’s own holiness, consists in generous attentiveness to the poor (verse 10) and getting one’s mind off one’s self for the sake of the neighbor (verse 18). The call is away from self-preoccupation and from punctilious scruples often associated with “holiness” and toward the needs of the neighborhood. The psalmist prays that God would “give life” (119:37, 40). Abundant life is given to those whose conduct is in sync with the good purposes of God.

Matthew’s gospel is a summons to another kind of life. Jesus again radicalizes the old commandments. The old command is to limit vengeance to what is symmetrical (“eye for eye”), but Jesus breaks the cycle of vengeance by forbearance. Whereas Leviticus commands “love of neighbor,” Jesus pushes to “love your enemy.” Clearly the people around Jesus walk to a different drummer, in a generosity and graciousness that defies a world of fear and anger and hate. – Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture] Leviticus 19.1-2, 9-18

1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

9 When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. 11 You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. 12 And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. 13 You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. 14 You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. 15 You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. 17 You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Reread

Matthew 5.38-48 & 1 Corinthians 3.10-11, 16-23
