

## 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; Andrew, Kerri and their grandmother who is diagnosed with terminal cancer, for a glorious and rich time preparing for her home-going; 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:

April 10, 2011: Lent 5 (Year A)

**Psalm 130, Ezekiel 37.1-14, John 11.1-45, & Romans 8.6-11**

Get in touch with us at:

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## 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

Christ Episcopal High & Charlotte Sts.

There are many volunteering opportunities.

still waters  
home churches & worship center

April 3 = 2011

## Seeing Is Believing



Or, The Blessing of NOT Having the  
Time of Your Life

## Worship

Psalm 23

1 Samuel 16.1-13

John 9.1-41

Ephesians 5.8-14

## Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, 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 ::

*Ephesians 5.8-14*

Worship Film ::

*"Psalm 23"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

*1 Samuel 16.1-13*

Focus Films ::

*"Sloth"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Psalm 23, 1 Samuel 16.1-13, John  
9.1-41, & Ephesians 5.8-14*

The Scripture ~

**Seeing Is Believing**  
*Or, The Blessing of NOT Having the  
Time of Your Life*

Jesus said,

"I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

**John 9.39-41**

Benediction ::

*1 Thessalonians 3.11-13*

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

¥ *Born Blind*

¥ *Who is Healing Who..?*

¥ *Resurrected to LIFE*

“

**Meditation:**  
*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his  
parents, that he was born blind?" John 9:2*

**Reflection:**

The disciples ask an honest question: What is the cause of this man's suffering? Their query presumes a traditional explanation of illness, which saw it as a direct result of sin. The social dimension of sin is evident in Hebrew scriptures, but it does not have the final word. While the father's sins extend to "the third and the fourth generations," God's "steadfast love" is shown to "the thousandth generation" **Exodus 20:5-6**.



# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 23

[Worship]

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;  
3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.  
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

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### Consider:

[Words]

We live, from time to time, in “the valley of the shadow of death” (Psalm 23:4). That valley in many forms is marked by risk and threat. But in every such valley we are kept safe, because God has the capacity to guard, protect, and eventually make new. By the end of the psalm, the speaker is safe in God’s “goodness and mercy” (verse 6).

That transformative power of God—to make safe, to fill cups, to set tables (Psalm 23:4-5)—is evident in our two narratives. The prophet Samuel finds a new king for Israel, David, on whom God’s spirit rushes, an act that creates a new possibility for Israel. More spectacular is the healing of the blind boy in the gospel narrative. The boy bears witness to the power of God to overcome blindness and create new possibility.

Lent is a time to ponder the “valley” and to relish the goodness of God that makes all things new. As the valley in the psalm is also translated “darkest valley,” the epistle reading takes up the theme of “darkness” and witnesses to the light of the Lord in which the faithful may walk.

Paul’s teaching elsewhere details the “fruitful works of darkness” that disappoint God and damage the neighbor. Now the faithful are “children of the light,” who are to live differently in the world (Ephesians 5:8).

These texts trace the central plot of the gospel from darkness through God’s newness of life and sight, to a new ethic of what is “good and right and true” (Ephesians 5:9). Our life is in a society that has mostly lost its way in the darkness of what is not good, not right, and not true. Those who draw close to God’s goodness, however, are not fated to such an existence, but can live alternatively in the world. We are, in the gospel, summoned to “make the most of the time” (Ephesians 5:16). – Walter Bruggemann

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## [Scripture] Ephesians 5.8-14

8 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light- 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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Reread

1 Samuel 16.1-13 &  
John 9.1-41

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**Question:** Where does your blindness lie with regard to expecting blessing from God and others, while withholding those elements of God’s grace through your own hands on His behalf—His forgiveness? The blind beggar in John 9 is spoken about and not to; people feel free to use him as an object lesson. But John 9 is not a story about one man’s blindness, but rather what and whom the rest of us do not see.

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