

## 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

## 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.

## 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 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 13, 2011: Epiphany 6 (Year A)

Psalm 119.1-8, Deuteronomy 30.15-20,

Matthew 5.21-37, & 1 Corinthians 3.1-9

Get in touch with us at:

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still waters  
home churches & worship center

February 6 - 2011

## Exceeding The Law

Or, Thinking & Fulfilling  
God's Thoughts

## Worship

Psalm 112

Isaiah 58.1-12

Matthew 5.13-20

1 Corinthians 2.1-16

## 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 ::

*Psalm 112*

Worship Film ::

*"Salt & Light"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

*Isaiah 58.1-12*

Focus Films ::

*"Ghetto Safety"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Psalm 112, Isaiah 58.1-12,  
Matthew 5.13-20, & 1 Corinthians 2.1-16*

The Scripture ~

**Exceeding The Law**

*Or, Thinking & Fulfilling  
God's Thoughts*

"You are the salt of the earth;

but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 5.13—16, 20**

Benediction ::

*1 Thessalonians 3.11-13*

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

✚ Pass the SALT

✚ Flavorless Christianity

✚ Cleansing the Palate

**Meditation:**

*Now we have received not the spirit of the world,  
but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the  
gifts bestowed on us by God. 13 And we speak of these  
things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the  
Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.  
1 Corinthians 2.12—13*

**Reflection:**

"When Jean Vanier took two handicapped people into his house 20 years ago, he did something that many considered a waste of time and talent. But for him it was the concrete way from fear to love. He believed that by choosing the broken as his family, he followed the way of Jesus. Impractical, sentimental, naive? Would it not have been better for him to give his energy and talents to the burning issues of our time?

"He simply did what he felt called to do, but today, 20 years later, young men and women from France, Holland, Germany, India, England, Israel, the Ivory Coast, Honduras, Haiti, Canada, and the United States are working together in countless homes to care for the handicapped. It certainly is not a new world order, or the end of wars and violence, or the beginning of a new foreign policy. But it is a light 'put on the lampstand where it shines for everyone in the house' (Matthew 5:15)." —Henri Nouwen, "Living in Joyful Ecstasy,"





# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 112

[Worship]

1 Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments. 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. 4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. 5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. 6 For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. 7 They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD. 8 Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. 9 They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor. 10 The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

### Consider:

[Words]

Paul's meditation on the crucified Christ leads him to see that his death discloses "what is truly human," a humanity that contradicts the conventional way of the world (verse 11). Such human persons—grafted into the self-giving death of Christ—live differently in the world, according to "the Spirit that is given by God" with "gifts bestowed on us by God" (verse 12).

The other readings illuminate what that new humanity looks like and whom we are called in Christ to be. Psalm 112 outlines the conduct of a "righteous person" who is "happy" in a life of Torah obedience. Such persons are "gracious and merciful" (verse 4), "generous" in "justice," (verse 5), "not afraid" in the world (verse 8), and ready to give to the poor (verse 9). Such persons live a life given over to the well-being of community.

A specific dimension of such humanity is voiced in Isaiah 58. The chapter poses the question of "Who belongs?" This prophetic poem tilts completely toward inclusion of those most unlike "us." The new human person practices a large, embracing, notion of the neighborhood.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus designates his community of followers as "salt" (Matthew 5:13) and as "light" (verse 14), the ones who obey the Torah command to love God and to love neighbor. The "righteousness that exceeds" (verse 20) is not about punctilious moralism or self-enhancement through "goodness." Rather, it concerns a reach beyond the self to the neighborhood and the world.

Thus the righteousness of the psalm, the inclusiveness of the prophetic poem, and the new righteousness of Jesus add up to the "mind of Christ" in 1 Corinthians 2:16, the capacity to act and to give, even as Jesus gave himself for the world. Such a human person unmistakably lives against the stream in our society. Clearly the Jesus community is peopled by folk with energy and courage to live beyond "business as usual." – Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture]

## Matthew 5.13-20

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

*Reread*

**Isaiah 58.1-12 & 1 Corinthians 2.1-16**