

## **St. James Lutheran Church Staff**

**Senior Pastor:** Pastor David Lechelt

**Associate Pastor:** Pastor Jill Bergman

**Director of Family Ministry:** Shayna Anderson

**Financial Coordinator:** Lana Teigen

**Director of Communications:** Amanda Burns

**Youth Leader:** Ryan Walesch

**Director of Music Ministry:** Deanna Loken

**Ringing Praise Bell Choir Director & Organist:** Mary Brown

**Custodian:** Mike Harasyn

**Nursery Supervisor:** Casey Charging

**Sunday Morning Custodian:** Chris Knight

*Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal*

### **St. James Lutheran Church**

6700 46th Place North

Crystal, MN 55428

Phone: 763-537-3653

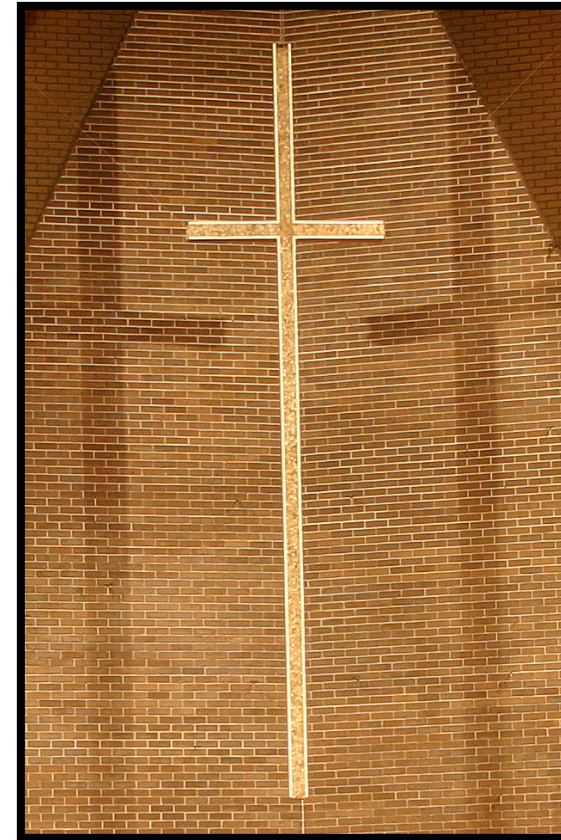
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# **St. James Lutheran Church**

*2010 Annual Report*



*Reflecting the Light  
of Christ in Crystal*

# A Word from Pastor David Lechelt

You may know the childhood church jingle played out with your hands... *see the church, see the steeple...open the doors and see all the people.* It's true within and without St. James. Witness the gathered community in this Annual Report, gathered at worship, fellowship, and all kinds of opportunities to grow in God's Word. Witness the sent community out in the neighborhood, on mission trips, and bringing God's love through service and outreach. The childhood jingle becomes truer for me as we see the doors of St. James more widely opened to the neighborhood, for the neighborhood to join our worshipful gathering and for us to confidently walk with new neighbors and immigrants. We have been called to reflect the Light of Christ, and it is a joy to see the reflection in these reports and pictures.



My thanks go out to all of you for 2010. During a time of economic downturn and anxiety, you have continued to make St. James your priority, and the mission of Christ our strong heartbeat. Fall cottage meetings were a great expression of thankfulness for this community, our passion for our young people, and an appreciation of our Council and staff leadership. I hear you say how much you like what's going on here at St. James. Thanks for saying that and let me quickly add, "I like it, too." I believe we have a very bright path before us and I look forward with you to our being stretched and blessed as we readily respond to God's calling today.

It's been great in 2010 to welcome Deanna Loken to our staff with her musical gifts and abiding vision for all generations joining together to sing the Lord's song. And we give special thanks to Joel Anderson who will step down this year after two terms as our Congregational President. Joel, your dedication, generosity, and passion for outreach have made a difference for all of us! You brought new meaning to cookie making!

Our thanks also go out to our Bonfire partners, First Lutheran and House of Hope. Through our mission and ministry collaboration, a Parish Nurse position was launched in 2010 for all three churches. Welcome Debbie Haney! We applaud your volunteerism and vision for our wellness. She's at St. James Tuesday afternoons and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. We are also grateful for the expansion of our confirmation and youth programs through Bonfire, including a very memorable youth mission trip in August to Toronto, Canada. 2010 joint worship included Good Friday at House of Hope and Pentecost Sunday at Cooper High School! Our hearts have been warmed through this partnership and we look forward to more tending of God's fire together.

God bless our life together as we reflect the Light of Christ. Thank you for this life-giving partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Fling wide the door in 2011!

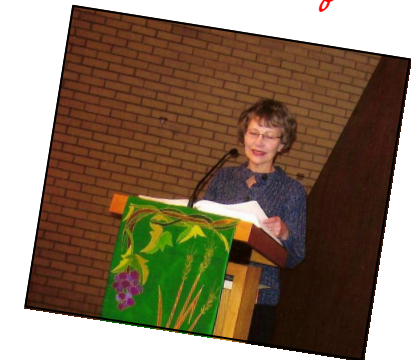
  
Pr. David C. Lechelt



*Reflecting  
the*



*Light  
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*Christ  
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*Crystal!*



Elk River; Swahili Congregation, Minneapolis; Jacob's Well Longfellow, Minneapolis; Public Safety Ministries, Inc., Excelsior; and Puerta Abierta, Shakopee.

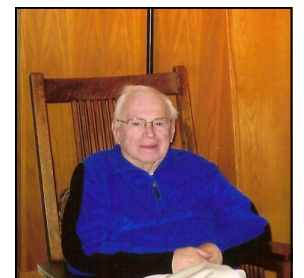
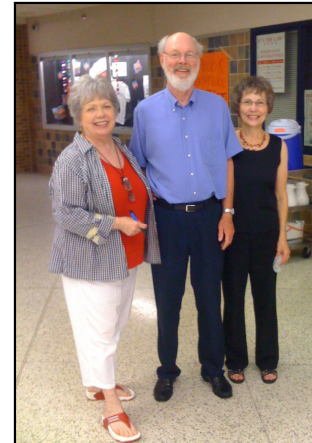
Many thanks to all the partner congregations who have a heart for mission and give mightily so that the Gospel is proclaimed in new places. More partners are always needed.

### The Immediate Future

I am mindful that my successor will be elected in 2013 and it is particularly important to begin preparing for that transition. I believe what would have been most helpful 10 years ago when I took office, is to have a flexible strategic plan for mission in place. With that in mind, we are beginning this year to create that plan. From my perspective, it is extremely important that this mission plan is not a top-down tool created uniquely by me, the synod staff or synod council. A plan that comes from shared leadership is important because stakeholders, lay and professional leaders in our synod can impart their input so that a broad spectrum of ideas will be homogenized and employed. To do this work we have retained with grant money (not from the budget), Dr. Mo Fahnestock of Authentic Leadership Inc., and he will be helping staff, council, deans, rostered leaders and lay leaders to begin this process. I look forward to this work with great anticipation and hope because we will be building our mission together with God's help.

*Blessings to you and your parish.  
Bishop Craig E. Johnson  
Minneapolis Area Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## Reflecting the Light of Christ



# Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

## Blood Drive

St. James held two Memorial Blood Center blood drives in 2010. Thank you for saving a life!

## Dinner At Your Door

St. James furnishes 22 drivers who spend 180 hours of their time delivering 864 meals for this worthy outreach ministry. Thanks to all who are willing to donate one and a half hours once a month to give to those who cannot cook for themselves.

We still have a need for more drivers. If you have a drivers license and can spare an hour and a half a month helping others, please sign up.

*Judy Olsen: Site Coordinator/Caller*

## Global Health Ministries

Global Health Ministries provides a gift of life through Lutheran health care work across the world. They provide financial support, recruit health care personnel, fund the training of national health care givers and locate, inventory and ship urgently needed medical supplies. In 2010, forty and twenty foot sea containers were sent to Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Cameroon, Tanzania, India, Bolivia, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Peru, Nigeria and Uganda. A total of 85 suitcases filled with medical supplies have been sent all over the world with travelers going to different countries. The faithful "Helping Hands that Heal" from St. James work on the sorting and inventorying of the medical supplies.

## Loaves & Fishes

St. James, in partnership with House of Hope Lutheran, has served at River of Life Lutheran Church ( 22nd and Fremont Ave. N.) since 1984. The guests are provided a hot meal prepared and served with loving, caring hands. The meal prepared is: au gratin potatoes/ground beef, green beans, wheat bread/butter, fruit cup, bars, milk, and coffee. St. James has 9 or 10 members who fix the meal at 2:00 p.m. They are always looking for others who would like to participate in this outreach.

These guests have their basic needs for food, dignity, and respect met by the team. House of Hope brings over 14 servers, and St. James also provides some. House of Hope members bake the treats.

There are seven other Loaves and Fishes serving sites in the Metro area. From May on, the River of Life counts have been around 200.

St James served 2,012 meals at a cost of \$.97 a meal in 2010. The funds for this outreach come from the two congregations. The need is at least \$1,000 per year. The congregation also provides quilts at Christmas time and small items for hygiene kits.

## Car Care Saturday

We continue to serve our neighbors by providing oil changes and maintenance checks for their vehicles. In both May and October, we serviced the vehicles of more than 40 families in need. Some return every six months and have become friends, while others find themselves newly on hard times. The people whom we help are so grateful; it makes Car Care a wonderful ministry.

# A Word from Bishop Craig E. Johnson, Minneapolis Area Synod, Evangelical Church in America

In this winter of 2010, as darkness envelops our wonderful Minneapolis area as it does every year, we are beginning to see flickers of light and hope as we begin to emerge from a long economic winter that began in 2008. Our church has been hit hard by this economic crisis, the likes of which only the elderly have seen before.

Even in these times our congregations have continued to follow the witness of Christ and served their neighbors and provided wonderful care for the people of God and for so many that come through our doors.

We continue to look forward to better times, for even as congregations are some of the last entities to suffer in a downturn, we are also some of the last to emerge from challenging economic times.

Last year, I reported to anticipate that about 5% of our congregations would leave our denomination. To date, nine congregations have left, of those congregations, all but one had a very marginal relationship with their denomination and I have noticed that the rostered leaders were also very marginally involved. I am deeply disappointed that we could not all live together with our differences, but our constitution gives our congregations the right to secede and we wish all churches well as we continue to serve our Lord and Savior.

## Leadership

One of the most satisfying parts of synod work is to assist congregations in calling new rostered leaders. In 2010 we completed 45 call processes, which comprised of 33 congregational calls and 12 specialized ministry calls. Currently, we have 35 congregations in the call process. I am thrilled to tell you that for almost every vacancy there are 10-15 candidates of remarkable talent and faithfulness who wish to serve. No other synod in this church has so many fine leaders to share with their congregations. A great thank you to Patricia Hansen, our call process administrator, who keeps track of so many candidates in our call process.

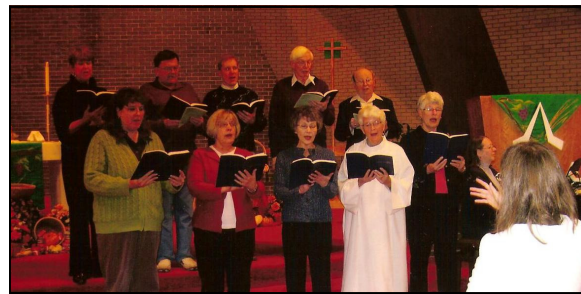
This last summer our candidacy program, which walks with people who wish to become pastors or lay professionals, has seen a surge in numbers with about 140 candidates to manage. My great thanks to Glenndy Ose, Kristin Raymakers, Doris Buerkle, and our candidacy committee for outstanding work and for making difficult decisions as they work for our whole church in raising up healthy leaders.

## Mission

Rev. Susan Tjornehoj, director of evangelical mission, is deployed staff supported by our churchwide organization. Susan has a great passion for ministry to those most vulnerable in our midst and for new communities emerging in the city, rural, exurban and suburban areas and congregations who are engaged in development asking how can we be the people of God in 2011. To date, almost 30 ministries are being supported, incubated, and nurtured in the Minneapolis Area Synod.

A gathering of leaders, "A Community of Leaders: Gathered by Christ, In Mission, for the Sake of the World," has been formed who work to sustain and encourage these mission outposts and imagine where the Spirit is leading. Examples of these new ministries are Elk River Lutheran Church,

# Reflecting the Light of Christ



## NEAR

NEAR stands for Northwest Suburban Emergency Assistance Response. The food shelf was created and named in May 1974 by the pastors of four churches: First Lutheran, St. James, Faith Lilac Way, and St. Raphael's. From those early days the need has constantly risen. In 2010 NEAR gained 300 new clients, plus maintained all of their past clients. Clients may come once every 30 days. Deliveries are made to clients who have a doctor's letter that they are handicapped.

The food shelf has a group of six plus volunteers each morning, stocking shelves and sorting donations. In the afternoon there are four volunteers packing groceries and waiting on the clients. There is also a volunteer answering the phone at home each day. Clients make an appointment to receive food between 1:30 and 4:30 each day. Besides the monthly food, extra boxes are given out at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Easter baskets for the children are provided by St. Raphael's. In the fall, 461 students were provided with school supplies. The volunteers try to find some toy and cake for each child who has a birthday. Each December there is a toy distribution at the Crystal Community Center for over 300 families.

The NEAR boundaries are 62nd Ave. N. to 42nd Ave. N. and Hwy.#169 to Victory Memorial Drive. NEAR has one half-time paid coordinator; all the rest of the staff are volunteers.

St. James has eight volunteers that work each week and many more for special projects. Any new volunteers would be appreciated. NEAR thanks St. James for their continued support .

## Power of One

Volunteers from St. James who truly care about children at our neighboring Forest Elementary School, volunteer on a one-on-one basis or work in the classroom helping students. The assignments are given by the teachers and the volunteers help the student or students for an hour or more. Scheduling the day, time and teacher the volunteer helps, is coordinated by the Power Of One liaison, Shayna Anderson, and the staff at Forest Elementary School. No special training is needed, just love for children and the desire to help! Anyone, young or older, can volunteer. There are many children in need of some help. Consider becoming a volunteer. Your reward is in the eyes and smiles of students when they accomplish another step toward success.

Call the church office (763-537-3653) and talk with Shayna Anderson if you are interested in becoming a volunteer and for further information.

## Lutefisk Dinner

The Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner held the Saturday before Thanksgiving was another huge success in 2010. From the humble beginnings of serving 100 people the first year, more than 450 hungry lutefisk and meatball lovers enjoyed the dinner this year (about 80% are non-members). To prepare and serve this great meal, many different groups of volunteers are needed. Preparations begin in late October and continue throughout November and include: preparing meatballs, white sauce, rice pudding, coleslaw and dressing, sauces, and peeling potatoes. Then there's the homemade lefse, requiring 200 pounds of potatoes to make 650 rounds of lefse. That's not even getting close to the preparation of the lutefisk. Other jobs are setting up, serving and cleaning up during and after the meal. In 2010, three seatings were offered for the first time at 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00.

## Street Dance

What fun for everyone at the fourth Annual Street Dance in September! It was well attended by many visitors as well as St. James' members. Young and old danced the night away to the music from a DJ. A photo booth, Bingo, face painting, cotton candy, popcorn, frozen treats, root beer floats, inflatables, snack walk and a silent basket auction ensured there was something for everyone! It was moved inside this year because of the weather conditions, and it worked very well to have everyone gathered together inside the walls of St. James.

Volunteers donated their time, talents, prizes and baskets, among other things. They truly made the street dance possible!

## Fine Arts Committee

The vision for our Fine Arts series began with the St. James Endowment Committee. Seed money was given in 2009 to support the sharing of our many fine arts gifts with the broader community, including our inspiring Holtkamp organ and Worship Center.

Connie Blom, Nancy Lohmann, Deanna Loken, and Pr. David served on the Fine Arts Committee in 2010, joining you in sponsoring a showing of John August Swanson serigraphs, the return of Cantor Rev. Marilyn Witte with soprano soloist Susan Palo Chervien, and an All Saints Hymn Festival with organ improviser Dr. David Chervien.

Thanks go out to all who helped with the best and most tasty receptions. Your financial support, ideas, and volunteerism in sharing the fine arts are always appreciated.

Plans for 2011 currently include a quilting show with master quilter Vicki Peterson on Sunday, February 13, 4:30 p.m. and a spring concert for young musicians in our community.

## Meet & Eat

Meet & Eat continued to be a huge success in early 2010. With the loss of our kitchen coordinator Ron Olson in May, Meet & Eat was pieced together for a few fall meals. The outlook of Meet & Eat in 2011 will depend on finding a passionate person willing to cook this weekly meal. Ron was a huge asset to St. James and is dearly missed.

## E-Bay Committee

The E-Bay Committee was established in December 2009 to provide another way for members to support the mission of St. James by donating new and vintage items to be sold on E-Bay, an online auction website. The committee began setting up the website and gathering items for sale in late 2009, but the first sales were not made until early 2010.

The months from January to May were spent learning to use E-Bay, making the congregation aware of the committee, collecting items, selling items online, and working out the "bugs." After a summer break in selling, but not collecting items, the committee resumed a full court press from September to Christmas which is the prime sales time online.

The finance committee set a goal of \$5,500 in additional revenue from E-Bay sales for 2010. Actual revenues for 2010 are estimated to be approximately \$4,500, which is wonderful!

The committee would like to thank the donors for their generosity in supplying us with so many unique and interesting items for sale.

## *A Word from Joel Anderson, Council President*

The year was 2010 – the year of the cookie at St. James. Yes, that's right, the *cookie!* The cookie was a symbol of our invitation to Jesus this year. As a congregation, we baked cookies together in the spring and delivered them to members we hadn't seen for a while. The thanks given from the people who received them made it a wonderful experience of sharing the Holy Spirit. And again in August, we canvassed the nearby neighborhood with an invitation, cookies included, to come celebrate our life in Jesus together at our now-annual street dance in September. And to complete the trinity (we are Lutheran, of course), members of St. James baked cookies to give to visitors at our bring-a-friend-Sunday in November. I'm a firm believer that continuing to be invitational to our neighbors will serve our congregation well in the future. What will be our cookie of 2011?

I am continually reminded of the compassion of our community at St. James. I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit within all of us will keep us reaching out to our neighbors and bringing Jesus to them in the future. I'm also overwhelmed by the commitment of our members. When help is needed, you are there – joyfully sharing your time and resources. Your faithful and cheerful giving in 2010 helped us eliminate the deficit we carried in our general fund from prior years. Our financial health is in better shape now than it has been in recent memory. Many thanks be to God!

And let us not forget that the pastoral leadership and staff we have at St. James is truly a blessing. They create an environment for the Spirit within all of us to flow more freely. When you get the opportunity, please tell them how much you appreciate their efforts. They do a phenomenal job!

As we turn the page to 2011, the council of St. James will have six new members on it, including four new officers. For me, and for the other outgoing council members, it has been a privilege to serve on the council. I couldn't be more excited for this new group of leaders to guide our congregation into the future. I'm confident they will do a great job. The six new members have decided to try something new at St. James. I hope that all of you will join me in taking their lead in trying something new at St. James in 2011. Maybe it's teaching Sunday School, volunteering at Forest, joining a committee, or something else you haven't done before. Didn't mom always say, "try it, you might like it!"

*May the Lord be with you.  
Joel Anderson*

# Reflecting the Light of Christ



# A Word from Pastor Jill Bergman

## Fruit Picked in 2010

Sometimes I imagine our church to be a field or a garden tended by God, the Master Gardener. We are constantly growing, changing, returning to the earth. We are constantly in need of nourishment and protection. We have a tendency to challenge our Gardener's plan. And, after being lavished with love and attention, we have the potential of producing some beautiful fruit. Some of the fruit I enjoyed in 2010 came from ...



### Our youth who ...

- Led our congregation in worship on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Created a band called Tangled Chords under the direction of Brian Spranger. Tangled Chords performed in worship every Wednesday during Lent and for our Bonfire Pentecost service. Not only did we have St. James high schoolers involved, they also brought in friends from outside the church.
- Served Jesus in Toronto in unity with youth from Elim, Holy Nativity, and House of Hope.

### Our Confirmation students who ...

- Are starting to reflect growing curiosity and faith struggles. Many of them are asking difficult questions and sharing life experiences in their journals.
- Actively participated in the Confirmation retreat at Gustavus with our Wildfire Confirmation group in March.
- Volunteered to lead a worship service on November 14.

### Our education programs where ...

- Surprise Sundays, large group time, and an engaging curriculum have engaged a greater number of children compared to the year before.
- First Communion classes were multi-age for the first time. We had 16 students spanning ages 5 through adult enrolled.
- Our contextual education students, Denise Fossen and Marilyn Crossfield were both recognized for their hard work and bright futures with Ruth Lund scholarships.

### Our community where ...

- I was invited to preach at two ecumenical services on Memorial Day. I was honored to preach in front of the vets, families, and state legislators.
- I was invited to pray at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast in New Hope. I was surrounded by diverse religious and governmental community leaders who all share similar goals within our community.

Even during difficult economic times, we cannot deny that we live in abundance – an abundance of grace and love lavished on us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

*Abundant blessings to all!*

*Jill Bergman*  
Pastor Jill Bergman

# Membership Statistics

## During 2010

<b>Baptisms</b>	16	<b>Confirmed</b>	4
<b>Weddings</b>	2	<b>Funerals</b>	13

## Membership Numbers

Year	Baptized Members	Confirmed Members
2010	1160	850
2009	1157*	857*
2008	1428	1015
2007	1418	1024
2006	1422	1031

\* Statistical adjustment made in 2009 to reflect more accurate membership.



# Reflecting the Light of Christ



# Faith Formation: Family Ministry

## Children and Family Ministry Highlights for 2010

### 9:57

**Sunday school has been a blessing.** Pastor Jill and I, along with the small group leaders are encouraged each week by the excitement and enthusiasm our children and youth have for coming each Sunday and soaking in the Word of God. Look for some new changes coming in the Fall of 2011 that will make 9:57 even MORE incredible!

### Day Camp

**The children and families welcomed Luther Park counselors back for another awesome week of day camp this year. Our theme was taking care of creation and what role we play in the big picture!** We loved the energy, enthusiasm, music, laughter, and joy that filled Wold Hall each day of day camp. We wish we could keep those counselors here all year long to keep the energy of camp going! We're looking forward to another week with them next June (27-30, '11), and sending a group of children and youth to camp in July (5-8, '11). Mark your calendars now for those Summer 2011 dates! Camp Sunday was held on January 9 when information was available about opportunities for Summer Camp in 2011.

### Family Activities

**We have had a fun year with families! One of our goals this year was to try something each month that would be inviting for families and friends of St. James to attend. This year we:**

...Went sledding at Lion's Valley Place Park in Crystal on a "warm" January day. Warmed things up in Wold Hall with a Tropical Party! We invited Costumed Kim (many of you may know her from events at the Crystal Community Center) to teach us the limbo, and give us crazy hair! What a blast. In March we went swimming at Grand Rios, April found us settling in for a movie night. After a summer break from monthly activities, Magician Brian Richards returned in September to the street dance to wow us with his humor, magic and faith. Pets were blessed and we had a fall festival party on Surprise Sunday in October. We're thinking of what's in store for next year! We always welcome your ideas and help to plan these great events. Many thanks go to all the volunteers who have helped with these events this past year.

### Children's Christmas Program

Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior. The Christmas program is always one of the highlights for family and friends each Christmas season. This year is no different! With a few weeks to pull the program together, the children and youth worked so hard to learn new music and create a memorable program. We hope you enjoyed this year's program!

*In Christ,*

*Shayna Anderson*

Shayna Anderson



# Praising God through Worship

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild continued to prepare the worship center for worship each Sunday by changing the altar paraments, preparing communion, and setting up flowers.

## Worship Assistant

Thank you to all of the faithful St. James members who so willingly and consistently serve as worship assistants Sunday after Sunday. In 2010, over 70 people participated to enhance our weekly worship experience. Assistant Ministers, Communion Assistants, Greeters and Lectors (Readers), gave of their time and talents to provide leadership in the realm of worship.

All are invited to consider becoming a part of this ministry to St. James. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board next to Pastor David's office or you may call or email Connie Blom (952-933-0906, crblom@comcast.net). You are invited to choose a Sunday and a worship service and participate as a worship assistant.

## Worship Underground Changed to Now the Feast & Celebration

Worship Underground, the second worship service on Sunday mornings held in Wold Hall, was discontinued in February. Gary Heil was laid off due to lack of funding to support that service.

Mary Brown, occasionally accompanied by Shayna Anderson on the flute, provides musical leadership for the new Now the Feast & Celebration worship service that was moved back into the worship center. This worship service now has a very faithful and dedicated group who worship at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

## Pentecost Worship

The Bonfire churches, St. James, House of Hope and First Lutheran of Crystal, combined for a joint Pentecost worship service at Cooper High School's auditorium. The geraniums sold by each church added splashes of color and the joint musical groups were wonderful. It was a wonderful service!

## Summer Worship

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, St. James changed its worship times. The Evangelical Lutheran Worship and Now the Feast & Celebration Worship services alternated each week at 9:00 a.m. This format gave attenders the chance to experience both types of worship services.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thanksgiving Eve brought a unique opportunity to join our other Bonfire churches for a joint worship service at First Lutheran. Even with the best planning intentions, it was called off due to a snowstorm.

## Year of Snow

Not only was the Thanksgiving Eve service canceled because of snow, 15 inches of snow also canceled the 8:45 a.m. worship service on December 19. A brave 35 people made it to St. James for the 11:00 service.

## *The Sound of Music at St. James*

### **Ringling Praise Handbell Choir**

Our faithful ringers had another active year in 2010. We have been providing special music and/or accompanying the choir, congregational hymns, and other instrumentalists at the ELW worship service at least once a month from January to May and from September to December. Ringing Praise also joined the bell choirs from the Bonfire churches for the special music opportunities planned for our joint services. We look forward to more large group ringing opportunities in 2011 with other area churches.

We have many handbells who would like to get acquainted with more ringers, since these bells are not getting a chance to ring. Our weekly rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the balcony. Please contact Mary Brown to find out about the ringing opportunities and the really good food at our parties!

### **The St. James Choir**

The St. James choir has undergone a transition this year with Brian Halaas leaving to go to school in New York, and Deanna Loken taking over as choir director. Although she had never been a member of the St. James Choir, Deanna has been a member of St. James for twelve years and had directed the Summer Sunday Singers the past two summers, so the transition was not difficult.

The choir performs at the first service about twice a month from September through May, and helps lead singing in worship during those services. They practice every Wednesday evening, and currently have nineteen members who practice on a regular basis. Some highlights of 2010 include singing with the Bonfire church choirs at the Pentecost service at Cooper High School and helping Dr. David Cherwien lead the congregational singing at the All Saints Hymn Festival.

### **Second Sunday Singers**

On the second Sunday of each month, any members of the congregation are invited to quickly rehearse a simple anthem at 8:15 a.m. to be presented that same Sunday during worship at 8:45 a.m. Accommodating to people's complicated schedules, it has been an exciting way to welcome members into music ministry at St. James.

## *Faith Formation: Senior High*

As 2010 comes to a close and I look over the calendar on what we did, I am surprised to be reminded of all the things the youth did this year. Jam packed with trips to the Science Museum, Minnesota Zoo and Nickelodeon Universe. Fundraisers like a spaghetti dinner, craft sale and the ever aromatic Lutefisk Dinner. Throw in the usual lock-ins and Feed My Starving Children and you would think that there could not be room for more. Well, think again!

I want to share with you two more outstanding events that took place in 2010. One being our multi-church, 55 participant Youth Works mission trip to Toronto, Canada. We had adults and youth from St. James, House of Hope, Holy Nativity and Elim. The trip was very successful and I feel safe to say that every participant made a positive difference in someone's life. The wide range of age and experience of the adult leaders was also instrumental in making a positive impact on the youth who participated in the trip. I have never taken youth to another country; I don't want to say I was nervous but the van was silent (mostly) when the border guard was looking through our paperwork. Our group was divided up into teams allowing us to work in various locations throughout Toronto. We worked in nursing homes, halfway houses, soup kitchens, assembly lines and shelters. We also took a walking tour of downtown Toronto which showcased the beauty and diversity of the city, as well as the unfortunate reality of homelessness. It was a well-rounded trip and my only complaint was that while the boys' room was around 85 degrees, the girls had to be IN their sleeping bags because it was too cold. The other event I want to highlight was our annual ValleyScare outing in October. The thing that made it more unique was that the 57 people who went were made up of youth and adults from 5 different churches. I hope that 2011 can bring more events that have youth from multiple churches.

Of course we still had Youth Night every other Wednesday night. It is nice to see our youth get along so well and consistently come. I truly enjoy working with the youth and look forward to 2011. As always, I thank you for the opportunity to work with them.

*Sincerely,*

*Ryan*

*Ryan Walesch*

# Faith Formation: Adults

## Mary Circle

The Mary Circle used the Lutheran Women Today magazine as the source for their monthly Bible study led by Pastors David and Jill in 2010. In August, the circle had the pleasure of meeting at a lovely backyard garden in Champlin that had been featured in the Star Tribune Garden Section; it was indeed God's Garden. Again in early December, they hosted another enjoyable Women's Christmas Brunch. They also continue to support NEAR with their offering. They welcome anyone who is interested to join Mary Circle.

## Rebecca Circle

The Rebecca Circle meets September through May on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. Pastor Jill or Pastor David lead a Bible study each month based on the Lutheran Womens Today magazine. In addition to the Bible study, the Rebecca Circle provides fellowship, friendship, coffee and treats. New members are always welcome!

In April the Rebecca Circle had their annual Spring Luncheon. In 2010 the theme was *Hats Off to Spring*. Those attending were asked to wear a hat to the luncheon. Carolyn Oakes, The Hat Lady, presented a program about her collection of vintage hats.

## Adult Education

Every Sunday between services you will find faithful seekers in the Peter and Paul room ready to dig into God's Word, engaging speakers and presenters, reading the latest books regarding the Christian journey, and simply asking the core questions of God's gift of faith. If you haven't checked out Adult Education on Sunday mornings at St. James, please do; it's always engaging, full of laughter, and supportive of "growing with the questions."

Presenters for 2010 included Kaitlyn Ferguson, who invited us to look at the Sunday texts together, and Randy Bergman who powerfully engaged us in an overview of Biblical Prophecy. Professor Sarah Henrich of Luther Seminary in St. Paul also joined us for a Sunday, offering a comprehensive overview of the Book of Acts.

Pr. David led studies of Sunday texts, Acts of the Apostles, "Conversations about Science and the Human Spirit" (with Krista Tippett's book *Einstein's God* in one hand and the Scriptures in the other). He said, "I absolutely loved the questions that were raised in our study *with* the preaching and biblical story telling in worship; it was a most inspiring synergy!"

The year finished up with a study of Barbara Rossing's book *The Rapture Exposed*.

Adult Education will continue to embrace a high emphasis on studying our Sunday texts together in 2011. It's a great way to grow in God's Word and the invitation to join both long-time and new seekers Sunday mornings in the Peter and Paul room is an open door for all.

## Property Committee Accomplishments

The Property Committee helps maintain the church's grounds, including the building structure and its environment.

This year we completed/sponsored the following:

- Spring and Fall Clean-Up Days: clean windows (inside and outside), change furnace filters, check emergency lights, clean light fixtures and replace light bulbs, yard work (planting, weeding, sidewalk edging, etc.)
- New CD/SD Digital Recorder for the sound system
- Installed banner poles with lights
- Landscaping around the new sign on 47th & Hampshire Ave
- Maintain the heating and cooling systems
- Major kitchen cleaning: painting, washing all dishes, washing shelving
- Koinonia & Montessori area: maintain and repair furnaces, repaired sidewalk going down to Montessori's main door.

The Property Committee would like to thank all those who helped fund and volunteered hours toward keeping our facilities welcoming to others.

## Endowment Fund

St. James has four separate endowment funds totaling \$90,965. They are the Ruth Lund Scholarship Fund, the Children's Education Fund, the St. James Endowment Fund (SJEF), and the Una Lamb Fund. The SJEF includes a capital and benevolent account of approximate equal value. In 2010, St. James received \$2,183 in donations to these funds.

These endowment funds were also the source of \$7,500 in scholarships awarded to Luther Seminary for Kaitlyn Ferguson, Denise Fossen, and Marilyn Crossfield, a \$500 grant to the Driveway Banner Project, and \$66 used to purchase materials for parenting ministry.

We are thankful for the donations received and encourage continued support of these funds. They provide a source of funds for community outreach, certain capital projects, and seminary education for members and other qualified persons.

The Committee also introduced a Legacy Partner program in 2010. This program encourages members to consider St. James in their estate planning and to advise Church Management of such plans as an aid to future planning. We encourage member participation in this program.

## Marketing Team

The marketing team had a very busy and eventful year in 2010. The team of five volunteers accomplished the following:

- Three cookie events: one aimed at inactive members of St. James with homemade cookies, another with store-bought cookies to our neighbors featuring fall events, and the last with homemade cookies for Bring a Friend Sunday in November.
- Street Dance promotion with yard signs, neighborhood flyering, Farmers Market flyering and newspaper advertising.

## Library

January was the kickoff for the “Read a Book a Month” program. Seventeen people participated, with Joyce Held reading the most books from the St. James library.

In the spring and fall, the library participated in Car Care Saturday by supplying donated books and welcoming participants. This service is an outreach of the library and is well received by the clients.

In April., the library held a book sale. Since the library does not receive money from the church budget, the money earned helped keep the library collection current.

In May, the library featured a display honoring our veterans. Featured was Alf Larson’s story “Footprints in Courage: A Bataan Death March Survivor” by Kristine Gilpatrick.

The library continues to support the Stamps for Bethel program, thanks to donations of used stamps from the congregation.

For everyone wishing to do their small part in keeping non-biodegradable foam cups out of the landfill, the library offers a spot to keep your personal cup. Kudos to those participating.

The St. James library is accessible both via internet and email. It is possible to access the book catalog via the St. James homepage / get involved / library. Use the email address [library@stjamesincrystal.org](mailto:library@stjamesincrystal.org) to send suggestions, reviews and requests.

Starting at the Lutefisk Dinner and continuing through Christmas, the library sells Scandinavian calendars with profits supporting the library.

During December, the library displayed nativity scenes.

The library is fortunate to have a faithful committee to catalog books and staff the library throughout the whole year. Many thanks to the volunteers!

The library Board would like to acknowledge the passing of Edna Hawkins– a dedicated volunteer in the library.

## Office Helpers

A wonderful group of helpers gathered each Friday morning to assemble a total of 9,622 bulletins during 2010. This group also gladly stapled the NEAR flyers to the grocery bags, stuffed cookies/flyers into door bags, assembled the Annual Report and funeral bulletins, along with anything else that was asked of them. And all of this with a smile—and some wonderful treats!

During summer 2010, St. James moved to mailing the Herald newsletter on a quarterly basis as a way to save on postage, paper and ink. The Herald is continued each month on an email and print (for pick up) basis. We thank the volunteers that continue to assemble them and take the mailing to the bulk mail center.

Nancy Lohmann was gracious enough to continue to proofread the bulletins and Pews News each week and the Herald each month.

Thanks to everyone who helped make St. James run smoothly in 2010. We couldn’t do it without you!

## Men’s Group

The St. James men faithfully gathered on the third Thursday of each month for breakfast, prayer, and fellowship. And it was good! St. James is full of good cooks and the men showed their chops for cooking at these monthly gatherings.

Programs for the year included Dale Stenseth, who joined the March 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday meeting and shared the story of his trip around the world on a container ship. Regional men’s gatherings and programs included a Turkey Dinner on March 7<sup>th</sup> at Holy Nativity with the Rev. Don Weisner sharing fishing stories in Idaho and our calling to be environmental stewards. On September 19<sup>th</sup> a chicken dinner was enjoyed at HOH with Pr. Kevin Doely wowing the group with his ventriloquism. Not to be outdone, the St. James men pulled out the stops with smoked pork chops and all the trimmings on Pentecost Sunday evening, May 23. The guest speaker was architect Paul Johnson of the new Twins Ballpark.

The Men’s group is also pleased to report that nearly \$1,000 was raised through their gatherings in 2010 to the support of summer camp scholarships for our elementary aged youth.

Thanks to Roland Smith who is our St. James representative for our regional men’s gatherings. And thanks to all the men who have participated throughout the year and made the third Saturday of the month a very special gathering time.

## Young Adults Group

The 2010 Young Adults year was fun. We did events like bowling, Comedy Sports and a bonfire. Although we were not able to get together every month, the events we had showed good turnouts and were enjoyed by all. There was a large influx of post high school young adults that added a different and fun dynamic to the group. We topped off the year with a potluck Christmas party at church. There was a good turnout and fun was had by all as we ate and played games.

I am certain that 2011 will see the Young Adults group grow and am excited to be a part of this ministry.

*Ryan Walesch*

## Fellowship, Prayer & Support

### Over 55's

St. James congregational members who are 55 years "young" meet the fourth Monday of each month. The members gather for fellowship, programs, entertainment, trips, potlucks, picnics, or plays. Individual members plan the monthly program. The annual dues are \$5 per person. The entire group decides on which charity to donate monies to in the community. New members are always welcome. Ideas for the coming year are discussed at the January meeting at the Old Country Buffet. Some interesting activities that were attended in 2010 are: Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, a Hindu Temple, Lord Fletchers, and the Old Log Theater.

### Quilting

Twice a month, the St. James quilters gather to make quilts for overseas and local charities. More than 200 large and baby quilts are made each year, in addition to many lap robes for hospice and nursing homes. Quilts are also for sale at any time by contacting the church office. Proceeds go toward buying supplies for more quilts. In 2010 quilts were donated to Home Free, NEAR, Loaves & Fishes, North Ridge Care Center, and Ambassador Good Samaritan Nursing Home.

Fabric is available for volunteers to use to sew and donate tops, which the quilters will complete and distribute. Donations of fabric, yarn, sheets (new and used), blankets and antique satin drapes are welcome. Volunteers are also invited to join the quilters on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month between 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Shawls...symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God." Have you ever wondered what a prayer looks like? It is the soft, warm, loving embrace of a prayer shawl wrapped around a recipient's shoulders. St. James has been involved in the Prayer Shawl Ministry since December 2002. Faithful knitters, crochet-ers, and those delivering the shawls have been touching many lives through this loving ministry of craft and prayer. The group meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. All skill levels are welcome to attend.

During 2010, 26 shawls were delivered to those in need of comfort and solace, including 6 shawls to Home Free Crisis Shelter. We welcome your suggestions if you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving a prayer shawl.

Contact Linda Judge (763-533-4081; judgelinda@msn.com) or Sandy Johnson (763-557-9858; sandyrmm@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Prayer Line

Caring people, praying for people! Prayer requests are made by calling the church office (763-537-3653) during business hours, talking with our pastors or by calling Sandy Johnson (763-557-9858) in the evening and on weekends. Your prayer requests are given to dedicated pray-ers on the Prayer Line via telephone or email. The requests are then held in pray by the Prayer Line pray-ers. We have 34 compassionate pray-ers and welcome anyone who wishes to join. There isn't any training, just love and concern for our neighbor and the belief in the power of prayer. For further information call the church office or Sandy Johnson.

## Celebrating St. James

### Archives

The mission of the St. James Archives committee is to research, collect, and organize the historical records and materials meaningful to St. James. In February, the committee put a display in the case in the narthex featuring the painting "Madagascar" and photos of Patricia Bentsen, a missionary nurse in Madagascar who was sponsored by the St. James Mission Committee and the congregation in the 1970s. She gave the painting to the Mission Committee and the members of St. James. It is now stored in Archives. The Bonfire Parish Nurse is now using the Archives room as a place to meet clients.

### Page Turners Book Club

"A book is like a garden carried in the pocket" (Chinese proverb). The Page Turners Book Club meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Peter & Paul room, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. It is an open book club, so new members are welcome at any time, as well as one-time "drop-ins" for certain book discussion. The book choices cover a wide range of interest, both fiction and nonfiction. Good books, good discussion, lots of laughs and great refreshments! 2010 was especially exciting as the group touched many topics including our driving habits and what they say about us, one man's mission to fight terrorism and build nations— one school at a time in Pakistan, the scandal that rocked architect Frank Lloyd Wright's life, the true story of "illegal" Jewish immigrant prisoners at the Atlit Internment Camp in Palestine and a touching story of family love and loyalty told with the voice of Enzo the dog, "a philosopher with a nearly human soul." The group really enjoyed their time in a Starbucks "coffee shop" complete with a barista and Starbucks pastries as they discussed the warm, funny, and uplifting book "How Starbucks Saved My Life." Good books, good discussion, lots of laughs and great refreshments! Book lovers of all ages, middle school and up, men and women, are always welcome. Watch the *Pews News* and *Herald* for the current book choice each month.

### Holiday Craft Fair

The Holiday Craft Fair had a very disappointing year in 2010 because of a huge snowstorm. There were a number of vendors and shoppers who ventured out. It was extended to Sunday morning in hopes of gathering more customers. We look forward to a great 2011 craft fair.