

April 2014

St. James Herald

Electronic Edition

What's INSIDE

An email publication of St. James Luthern Church of Crystal, Minnesota

- 2-3 Happenings
- 4 Children & Youth
- 5 Important Info
- 6 Thank You Notes
- 7 Bonfire News
- 8 Other News
- 9 Calendar

Pastoral Reflection

Emptiness in the Western World is not something easily embraced. Empty stomachs, empty bank accounts, empty hearts all have negative connotations. Here in the West we often see these as issues that need to be fixed by a good TV commercial campaign.

Even Jesus talks about helping the hungry, poor and those poor in Spirit. Seemingly the things or those who are empty need fixing. Or do they?

My dad recently took a trip to Israel. As they were traveling they passed by on the side of the road an empty tomb with the stone placed next to it. This empty thing is not like the rest. It's not something that needs to be fixed. Instead the empty tomb is something to be celebrated.

Easter is about celebrating the emptiness. Celebrating that death doesn't have the last word. Jesus was raised. The tomb is empty. He is not here. He is Risen!

This Easter we celebrate emptiness. The emptiness of a specific tomb thousands of years ago; that gives us hope today. Hope that all of our problems, all of our fears, all of our concerns about tomorrow and the worries of what will be, are held in the hands of a Risen Savior. Thanks be to God for emptiness.

Pastor Kristen Brechler



Church Office Hours

The church office is open:
Mon.-Wed. 7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Thurs., 7:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
Fri. 7:30—10:00 a.m.

St. James Lutheran Church

6700 46th Place North
Crystal, MN 55428
Phone: 763-537-3653
Fax: 763-537-3828
office@stjamesincrystal.org
www.stjamesincrystal.org



Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 13
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 17
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 18
7:00 p.m. (at House of Hope)

Easter Sunday

April 20
8:45 & 10:00 a.m.

St. James' Staff

Pastor Dave Valen

dvalen@stjamesincrystal.org

Pastor Kristen Brehler

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Youth Ministry Assistant

Deanna Loken

Choir Director

Mary Brown

Ringing Praise Bell Choir

Director & Organist

Ron Skalicky

Custodian

Amy Jermstad

Sunday Morning Custodian

St. James Website Accepts Donations

The St. James website now accepts one-time and recurring donations via checking, savings or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover). Click on the "Donate Now" button located on the left side of the homepage.



Over 55's

The Over 55's will enjoy a gourmet meal at Hennepin Technical College (9000 Brooklyn Blvd.) on Mon., Apr. 28 with serving starting promptly at 11:30 a.m. Choose from two entrees: Walleye or New York Strip Medallions. Each entrée is served with house salad and dressing, potato, vegetable, dinner rolls and butter, dessert and choice of beverage.

Price of \$19 includes tax and gratuity/service charge. Checks should be made out to Over 55's. Reservations and payments need to be given to Ozzie Hellen (763-533-3543) or Carol Koosmann (763-533-1356) or placed in the Over 55's box in the church office by April 14.

Hot Dishes-Hot Pads-Hot Flashes Lutheran Style: Springtime Tea Tickets Now Available

Mary Circle will host their annual springtime dessert tea on Sat., April 5. Seating and punch will be at 12:15 p.m., the dessert buffet will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the program will start promptly at 1:30 p.m.

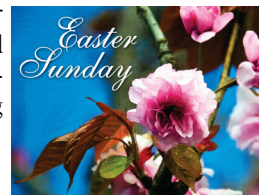
Hot Dishes, Hot Pads, Hot Flashes—Lutheran Style! presented by Janet Letnes Martin, co-creator of Church Basement Ladies.

You may purchase tickets for \$7 from the church office through the end of March.

Mary Circle would like to provide transportation for the St. James women who would like to attend this spring tea but have no way to get to and from St. James. If you can drive for this one day event, contact Judy Olsen at 763-533-4868.

Easter Morning Worship Time

Please make note that the worship services on Easter morning, April 20, will be at 8:45 and 10:00 a.m. The second service was moved to an earlier time since there will be no education hour that day. We hope you can join us in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Fore! It's Time for Golf Leagues

It's time to commit to playing in a St. James golf league for the 2014 season.

Men's nine-hole-play is scheduled for Tuesday evenings at Theodore Wirth Golf Course, May 6 to July 22. If you are interested in some great fellowship and want to play golf with some fellow St. James members, contact Stan Tikkanen before April 30 (763-546-8155 or sacltikkanen@hotmail.com). Friends, co-

workers or relatives are welcome to join as well.

The women's golf season will begin on Wed., May 7 at French Lake Golf Course at 9:00 a.m. and will continue all summer on Wednesday mornings. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Carol Koosmann at 763-533-1356.

April's Outreach Partner: Feed My Starving Children

Every day 18,000 children die from starvation. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), along with nearly 600,000 volunteers, has packaged over 100 million meals for starving children in nearly 70 countries all over the world. Each Feed My Starving Children meal provides the key nutrients a starving child needs to survive and thrive.

Founded in 1987, FMSC is a Christian nonprofit that provides nutritionally complete meals for starving, malnour-

ished and hungry people. The prepackaged dry meals—costing less than a quarter each to make—are funded and assembled by donor-volunteers in the U.S. Their in-country partners use the food to prevent starvation and curb malnourishment in children and families worldwide.

All monetary donations collected through the special offering in April will support FMSC. Please make checks payable to St. James and write FMSC on the memo line.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is Sat., April 19 at 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's (36th Ave. & Winnetka Ave).

Lenten Worship

Lenten worship continues each Wednesday through April 9 at 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. All are invited to *bring your own lunch* and eat together in Wold Hall at 12:00 p.m. prior to the daytime worship service at 12:30 p.m.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Easter Monday, April 21.

Usher Schedule

April 6

8:45 a.m. Vern Christensen, Junior Kautz
11:00 a.m. Ken Lutz

April 13

8:45 a.m. Terry Teigen, George McClure, Roger E. Johnson
11:00 a.m. Ken & Phyllis Nelson, Pat Ferguson, Judy Berney

April 20

8:45 a.m. Mike Stanchfield, Jim Olsen, Stan Tikkanen, John Lindstrom
10:00 a.m. Wayne Rierson, Don & Deb Edmondson

April 27

8:45 a.m. Marv Berke, Jim Hauan, Becki Smith, Clarence Peterson
11:00 a.m. Tim Buck



Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed at both worship services. Volunteers are assigned one Sunday a month at their preferred worship time. Please contact the church office or Stan Tikkanen if you are interested, or would like more information.



Youth on Sunday Mornings

The St. James youth (9th grade after confirmation Sunday through 12th grade) will be getting together on Sunday mornings at 9:57 in the youth room.

Youth Nights at St. James

This month's youth nights are Wed., April 2 and 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Questions can be directed to Ryan Walesch at 763-537-1702 or ryan.stjamesyouth@gmail.com.

First Communion Class

Participants need to attend both classes: Sat., April 12, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and Wed., April 16, 6 – 8 p.m. at House of Hope Lutheran Church (4800 Boone Ave N). Cost is \$5 per registrant to cover materials. Parents attending with their child are free. *Registrations are due by Sunday, April 6 to Shayna or Pastor Kristen.*

We will celebrate First Communion on Thurs., April 17, 7:00 p.m. at St. James' Maundy Thursday service.

Youth Bake Sale

The St. James youth will hold a bake sale on Sun., Apr. 6 between worship services.

Baked goods donations can be brought to church on Sat., Apr. 5 at 7:00 p.m. when the youth will be getting ready for the sale.

Day Camp for Kids Age 5 Through 5th Grade

June 23-26 at St. James
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. each day
\$20 per child

Registration forms are due in the church office by Sunday, June 8th. We are considering before and after camp childcare if there is enough interest. See registration packet for all the info. Contact Shayna or Pastor Kristen with any questions!

Summer Camp at Camp Onomia, August 3-8

The early bird deadline has passed (April 1 – no fooling!), but there's still time to register for camp – please get those registrations and deposits to camp by May 1. Information on all camp opportunities are posted on the Children's Ministry Bulletin board outside the main office, or online. If you need to raise some money for camp, there's still time to sell flowers with the flower fundraiser. Check out the fundraising info below. If you need help with any camp costs, or have any camp questions, please contact Shayna.

Flower Fundraiser

Order forms are still available on the Children's Ministry bulletin board. Make note of these dates:

- **April 6 and 13** -- Table Sales – kids (and a parent) are needed to collect orders and money from the congregation these two Sundays. Sign up on the Children's Ministry bulletin board.
- **Sunday, April 13** – Order forms due today!
- **Saturday, May 3** – Flower delivery
- **Sunday, May 4** – Distribution to congregation

9:57 Schedule for April:

April 6 – The Last Supper

April 13 – The Last Supper

No 9:57 on Easter Sunday, April 20 -- We will resume on April 27.

Butter Braid Sales

If you ordered Butter Braids from the youth, they will be available to pick up on Sun., Apr. 13.

Middle School and High School Movie Night

All middle school and high school youth are invited for a movie night in Wold Hall on Sat., Apr. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Communion Alternatives

St. James has gluten-free communion wafers available for those with gluten, wheat, dairy, corn or soy allergies, as well as grape juice. Just ask for one of these alternatives when receiving communion.

“Gospel E” Weekly Email Newsletter

St. James has a weekly email newsletter, the “Gospel E,” which is sent each week to St. James members who want to receive this newsletter. It features an article from Pastor Dave and a few upcoming events each week.

To sign up for the Gospel E, please email Amanda Burns at aburns@stjamesincrystal.org.

Borrowing Items from Church

St. James’ policy is not to lend or rent out items (including tables and chairs) to anyone; unfortunately this includes members. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Funeral Dishes

Thank you to everyone who donated a cake or salad for funeral lunches in 2013. The food is always well received by the families.

Just a reminder that salads (vegetable, fruit, jell-o, pasta, chicken, tuna, etc.) need to serve approximately 15 people. The cake needs to be able to serve 24 (does not need to be pre-cut) in a 9x13 pan.

Book Club Meets April 1st

April’s pick: [Beyond Belief: my secret life inside Scientology and my harrowing escape](#) by Jenna Miscavige Hill.

Jenna Miscavige Hill was raised to obey. As the niece of the Church of Scientology’s leader David Miscavige, she grew up at the center of this highly controversial and powerful organization. But at 21 Jenna made a daring break from Scientology. Now she speaks out about her life, the Church, and her dramatic escape. [Beyond Belief](#) is an eye-opening exploration of the limits of religion and

the lengths to which one woman went to break free. [from barnesandnoble.com]

Join “Page Turners” this month in reading the book [Beyond Belief](#). The group meets Tues., April 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Peter and Paul room. All are welcome!

For more information on the book club, contact Linda Judge (at 763-533-4081 or judgelinda@msn.com).

May’s pick: [Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See](#) by Juliann Garey.

New On The St. James Bookshelf

[A Bittersweet Season: Caring for Our Aging Parents – and Ourselves.](#) Whether you are the aging parent or a son or daughter, this book will be helpful.

From the book jacket: “An intelligent guide to handling the onset of old age, An invaluable and complete

primer on what most Americans will face soon, A guide through one of the most difficult of all life transitions, practical as well as entertaining.”

This book is also available on a CD from the Hennepin County Library.

Sonya Lodahl’s Faith Journey

I grew up in a Lutheran home, mostly in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. When I was 17, I did something that was against my moral code that affected me for many, many years. It wasn’t a crime, but I intensely regretted that deed and my self-perceived transgression caused me to feel unworthy of God’s love.

I tried many ways to get past this. I read self-help books. I became a Catholic. Nothing helped. I cried at every church service. My first marriage ended– another failure. My poor self-image led me to more poor decisions, including marrying an alcoholic.

After over 20 years of family drama, I divorced my second husband. Two years later he decided to go to alcoholism treatment and asked me to stand by him through treatment. I agreed, and we became heavily involved in aftercare, AA and Al-Anon, and remarried.

The Twelve Steps of Al-Anon became a pivot point for me, although certainly not overnight. When the time came to go through the 5th of the 12 steps, which is: “Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs,” I met with the pastor of the church in Rice Lake. The pastor at that time had come late to the ministry after having been a successful salesman.

When I left the church that day, after receiving Pastor Phil’s counsel and benediction, I felt as though I had been reborn. I finally understood that God’s love is unconditional and included me, no matter how unworthy I had thought myself for so long.

Every time I receive the sacraments and hear the words “the body of Christ, given for you” and “the blood of Christ, shed for you,” tears spring to my eyes at this wondrous gift that was given for me and for all of God’s children.

Sonya Lodahl

Thank You

Letters of Thanks

Friends of Home Free,

I am writing to express our appreciation for your donation to the Missions Inc. Home Free program for battered women and their children. Your donation in the amount of \$558 is so appreciated. Our ongoing effort to provide services is possible only with the generous support of individuals and organizations in our community. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Mary Monteon, Program Director, Missions Inc. Home Free

In appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the members at St. James for the cards, calls and visits during my convalescence from shoulder surgery.

*Thank you,
Arlyn Brock*

Sunday Altar Flowers

The 2014 Altar Flower Sign-Up Sheet is now available. If you would like to purchase flowers in honor, memory or celebration of someone, a sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside Pastor Dave's office. Please indicate if you would like the \$30 smaller bouquet or the \$40 larger bouquet when signing up.



Prayer Concerns

Hospitalizations

- Cody Lindstrom
- Tom Janowiec

Sympathy

- Sandy Johnson, on the death of her sister
- Chris McLellan, on the death of her husband Jack

Births

- Courtney Jacobs, boy, Liam

Memorials

Endowment Fund in memory of Jack McLellan from Ken & Phyllis Nelson, Bill & Eunice Kistner, Dan Smith. In memory of Eleanor Florey, Bob Amundson from Dan Smith.

Kid Pack in memory of Jack McLellan from Peg Tuttila, Jim & Judy Olsen.

Memorial Fund in memory of Jack McLellan from Connie Blom, family and friends, Don & Lorraine Benson.

Music Fund in memory of Jack McClellan from Nancy Lohmann.

Gifts

NEAR in honor of Dean & Ruth Hauan's 70th wedding anniversary from Jim & Emily Hauan.

Sunday Mornings

8:45 a.m. —Evangelical Lutheran
Worship setting

9:57 a.m. — Education hour— all ages

11:00 a.m.— “Now the Feast and
Celebration” worship by Marty
Haugen

Change of Address

Dennis & Ellen Forkey
3501 Xenium Lane Apt 322
Plymouth, MN 55441

Brad & Laura Teale
13474 Big Sandy
Lake Dr
Rogers, MN 55374

Deanna Forkey
21931 Hillside
Beach Rd
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Respite Care

Respite Care is held at House of Hope the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The caregivers support group is held there from 10:00 to 11:45 a.m. those same days.

This is a ministry of Bonfire's Health & Wellness team and is open to any family, member or non-member.

There is a nominal cost for the program, that can be negotiable if necessary. Lunch is served each time the program is run.

Grief Support Volunteers

The Bonfire Health & Wellness team is working on putting together some grief support groups, but volunteers will be needed to help plan it. Two volunteers are needed from each congregation.

This is still very much in the planning stages, so details are still being worked out.

If you are interested, please contact the church office at office@stjamesincrystal.org or call 763-537-3653.

New Support Group for Family & Friends of Domestic Abuse Victims

Do you have a friend, family member, or co-worker who is experiencing domestic abuse and you're not sure how to help? Feeling concerned, frustrated, scared for their safety? We know it's very hard to watch someone you care about experience domestic abuse. A new group facilitated by SafeJourney, *The Healing Journey*, is now available to help learn ways to support your loved one and also get support for yourself. This seven-week, confidential group begins April 7 at Maple Grove Hospital. Each week an educational topic is presented, including how domestic abuse is defined, boundaries, and communication, emotional struggles, sharing our personal stories and self-care. For more information and to register, please contact Suzy at 763-581-3942.

Dinner at Your Door Drivers Needed

Drivers needed for Dinner at Your Door Program. Regular and substitute drivers are needed. Regular drivers can expect to volunteer about one hour each month. Substitute drivers are called as needed. This is a very small amount of time to give to a program that means so much to so many people. Having a meal delivered each day allows many people to remain independent. You will find volunteering for this program to be very rewarding. For more information call Barbara Parsons at 763-227-2282.

Craft Retreat

Mark your calendar for the spring craft retreat on Sat., May 17.

More information will be available in the May *Herald* and upcoming *Pews News* newsletters.

Parish Nurse Availability

Bonfire Parish Nurse Debbie is happy to check your blood pressure, and visit about health concerns and planning. Feel free to contact her at any location. You may also contact her at 612-408-2049.

St. James: the 4th Sunday of the month, and Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Her office is in the archives room, across from the Montessori coat racks. If the few steps are a problem to get there, go around outside; there aren't any steps to tackle!

House of Hope: the 3rd Sunday of the month, and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

First Lutheran: the 2nd Sunday of the month, and Tuesdays 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Kid Pack

This month's packing event is Tues April 29, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Emergency Food Network (8501 54th Ave N- New Hope).

Contact Melodie Hanson 763-504-4981 if you are able to help.



Save the Date: Garage Sale

Start saving items for the Garage Sale held at Tim & Becki Smith's home on May 30-31.

Items should be brought to the Smith's

home beginning on Tues., May 27. Please make arrangements for drop-off with Becki by calling her cell phone: 612-812-2022.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to help provide plants for the worship center on Easter, please complete this form and return it to the office no later than Sun., Apr. 6. Plants may be taken following the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday.

Type	# ordered	total
Hydrangea	_____ x \$14	= \$ _____
Azalea	_____ x \$13	= \$ _____
Lily	_____ x \$9	= \$ _____
Mum	_____ x \$8	= \$ _____
Rieger Begonia	_____ x \$8	= \$ _____
Bulb Garden Mix	_____ x \$8	= \$ _____
Tulip, Daffodil, or Hyacinth	_____ x \$8	= \$ _____

(Plants delivered may be any one of these three bulb plants)

Total # Plants Ordered: _____ **TOTAL PAID: \$** _____

Plants are given in (please circle one) **honor** or **memory** of: _____

Given By: _____

Additional Plans in Works for The Over 55's

Let Emily or Ruth know if you want to go to the Old Log Theater in May (either the 8th, 14th or 15th). The play is "Steel Magnolias." Let us know so reservations can be made. The cost is \$24 for the play only.

In either April or May, an extra meeting will be added at 1:00 p.m. to hear a speaker about the early signs of Alzheimer's. Watch for more information in the Pews News once a date is set.

Spring Clean-Up Day

Mark your calendars for the Spring Clean-Up on Sat., May 3 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please come and help with a variety of cleaning projects. Come for as long as you are able. Lunch will be provided.

Books for Car Care Saturday

Even though Car Care is not until May 31, it is not too early to drop off books at the library. You may drop off books at any time.

Return Lenten Offering Cans

Please return your Lenten Offering cans beginning Easter Sunday.

Money collected will go to Lutheran Social Service.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Caring adults and youth are needed to serve at each worship service in our Nursery. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office or Shayna Anderson.



Donations for Flower Garden

Donations are needed to purchase all the beautiful flowers for the flower garden and planters located around the St. James property this spring. Any amount is greatly appreciated!

April 2014

April 2014

May 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:45am Traditional Worship 9:57am Adult Ed/9:57* 11:00am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Property Committee</p>	<p>5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Ringing Praise 7:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Kung Fu</p>	<p>12:00pm BYO lunch 12:30pm Worship 6:00pm Youth 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Gamblers Anonymous 7:00pm Worship 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>9:00am Archives 10:00am Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Kung Fu</p>	<p>9:30am Bulletin Stuffers 4:00pm Violin lessons</p>	<p>12:15pm Spring Tea</p>
<p>8:15am Second Sunday Sinners 8:45am Traditional Worship 9:57am Adult Ed/9:57* 11:00am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>9:30am Quilting 10:30am Dinner At Your Door 6:30pm Altar Guild 6:30pm Ringing Praise 7:00pm Kung Fu</p>	<p>12:00pm BYO lunch 12:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Gamblers Anonymous 7:00pm Worship 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>7:00pm Kung Fu</p>	<p>9:30am Bulletin Stuffers 4:00pm Violin lessons</p>	<p>9:00am 1st Communion (@ HOH) 6:30pm Youth Movie Night</p>
<p>Easter Sunday 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Worship</p>	<p>Office Closed 10:30am Dinner At Your Door 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Church Council</p>	<p>9:30am Quilting 6:30pm Ringing Praise 7:00pm Kung Fu</p>	<p>10:00am Mary Circle 12:30pm Thirvent 6:00pm Youth 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Worship 7:00pm Kung Fu</p>	<p>Good Friday 9:30am Bulletin Stuffers 4:00pm Violin lessons 7:00pm Worship (@HOH)</p>	<p>8:00am Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>8:45am Traditional Worship 9:57am Adult Ed/9:57* 11:00am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>11:30am Over 55's 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>4:00pm Kid Pack 6:30pm Ringing Praise 7:00pm Kung Fu</p>	<p>6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>9:00am Archives Work Day 7:00pm Kung Fu</p>	<p>9:30am Bulletin Stuffers 4:00pm Violin lessons</p>	

St. James Lutheran Church