

April 2015

St. James Herald

What's INSIDE

A publication of St. James Lutheran Church of Crystal, Minnesota

Happenings

Children & Youth

Important Info

Thank You Notes

Bonfire News



Office Hours

The church office is open:
Mon.-Wed. 7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Thurs. 7:00 a.m.—noon

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Education for all ages
11:10 a.m. Contemporary Worship

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

Pastoral Reflection



Dear Friends in Christ,

Praise the Lord, Amanda is back from a wonderful maternity leave made possible by our generous congregation. We celebrate her faithful ministry within our congregation and on our staff, and rejoice in her return. She returns to an energized congregation which has been busy listening for God's direction for our congregation and its ministries.

The Council used the ideas our congregation generated through the Discovery Gatherings in January and early February at its annual retreat on March 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kroenig Retreat Center, North Mississippi Regional Park, Minneapolis. Together, the Council established priorities and engaged in visioning work for God's mission at St. James.

The Council Retreat theme was "A Day of Discovery." We discovered many things about ourselves, fellow council members, our congregation and our ministry. John Lindstrom, our council president, summarized our discoveries:

1. St. James is open and welcoming with a purpose.
2. Council will work to create connections between council and the many ministries of the congregation.
3. We are committed to outreach in our community – God's people are worthy!
4. Asking and inviting are key elements of our culture and ministry.
5. We are growing in attendance, faith and youth ministry.
6. Our inviting ministry is a priority and will become a strength.
7. Strength Finders will continue shaping and informing our relationships and ministry.
8. We will set goals and measure accomplishment of our goals.
9. We always welcome visitors.
10. We are committed to enhancing our community's awareness of our congregation's ministry.
11. We will review and update our congregation's visitor packets.
St. James is "United and Excited!"

Please prayerfully consider how God is at work in our congregation, and how your gifts may best fit within the life and ministries of St. James Lutheran. God bless you with joyful discoveries!

*Love in Christ,
Pastor Randy*



Holy Week Worship Schedule

- **Palm Sunday**, March 29, 9:00 a.m. & 11:10 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 2, 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday**, April 3, 7:00 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday**, April 5, 9:00 a.m. & 11:10 a.m.

St. James' Staff

Pastor Randall Romsdahl
rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org

Pastor Kristen Brechler
kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org

Lana Teigen
lteigen@stjamesincrystal.org
Financial Coordinator

Amanda Burns
aburns@stjamesincrystal.org
Director of Communication

Ryan Walesch
intern@stjamesincrystal.org
Director of Youth Ministry

Deanna Loken
Choir Director

Mary Brown
Ringin' Praise Bell Choir
Director & Organist

Ron Skalicky
Custodian

Amy Jermstad
Sunday Morning Custodian /
Sunday School Coordinator

St. James Website Accepts Donations

The St. James website 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.



New Alternative Worship Service

A new, Alternative Worship service began at St. James on Sun., Feb. 22 at 11:10 a.m. The attendance at this service continues to grow each week.

All are welcome! Come, and please bring your family and neighbors! This worship service is designed as an invitation to our worship life for anyone looking for a welcoming church home.

We will share in an encouraging, experiential worship through uplifting, contemporary music; generative prayer; and an inclusive welcoming spirit. Please come at 10:00 a.m. to join in fellowship with the 9:00 a.m. worshipping community for fellowship, treats and coffee!

Over 55's Schedule

- **April**—Hennepin Technical College
- **May**—Open
- **June**—Cruise Mississippi River on Minneapolis Queen. Cost \$16. Date TBD.
- **July**—Minnesota Pops Orchestra
- **August**—Lord Fletcher's on Lake Minnetonka. Lunch on the wharf at noon.

Easter Decorations

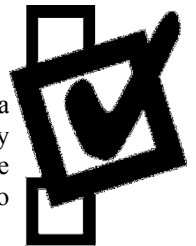
A few volunteers are needed to help put up Easter decorations on Sat., Apr. 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Congregational Vote

The St. James Lutheran Church Council has voted to hold a special meeting of the congregation on Sun., April 12 immediately following both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. worship services for the sole purpose of voting on whether to call Pastor Kristen Brechler to serve as Associate Pastor at St. James Lutheran.

The call committee of the congregation has unanimously recommended that the congregation call Pastor Kristen Brechler to serve as Associate Pastor at St. James Lutheran. Both the Executive Committee and the Council have voted unanimously to endorse the call committee's recommendation that the congregation call Pastor Kristen.

Please attend worship on April 12 and stay for the special meeting immediately following worship, so that you may cast your vote regarding this very important decision



New Member Classes

New member classes will be held Sundays April 12 and 19 at 10:10 a.m. in the Peter and Paul room. New members will be received in worship on Sun., April 26.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Randy Romsdahl at rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org.



Loaves & Fishes

Brunswick United Methodist has recently started a Loaves & Fishes program.

They are looking for volunteers on Wednesday and Thursday nights, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

To volunteer call Ali at 612-326-3673 or sign up online at www.loavesandfishesmn.org.

Brunswick is located at 6122 42nd Ave in Crystal.

In 2013, St. James discontinued serving at the River of Life Loaves & Fishes location due to lack of volunteers to take leadership of St. James' meal each month.

Please help support this local program by volunteering!

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is Sat., April 18 at 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's (36th Ave. & Winnetka Ave).

Second Sunday Singers

Join us on April 12 at 8:30 a.m. to prepare a piece to sing at that morning's service. All ages and all abilities are welcome!

Usher & Financial Assistant Schedule

April 5

9:00 a.m. *Ushers:* Junior Kautz, Vern Christensen, Roger A. Johnson, Ken Lutz
Financial Assistants: Capt. Ozzie Hellen, Becki Smith, Jackie Harlow

April 12

9:00 a.m. *Ushers:* George McClure, Terry Teigen, Roger E. Johnson, Rick Jones, Judy Berney, Pat Ferguson, Ken & Phyllis Nelson
Financial Assistants: Capt. Stan Tikkanen, Dawn Skare, Lorraine LaFontaine

April 19

9:00 a.m. *Ushers:* Mike Stanchfield, Jim Olsen, Stan Tikkanen, John Lindstrom, Wayne Rierison, Don & Deb Edmondson
Financial Assistants: Capt. Rich Pearson, Dee Burrington, Joyce Held

April 26

9:00 a.m. *Ushers:* Marv Berke, Jim Hauan, Becki Smith, Clarence Peterson, Tim Buck
Financial Assistants: Capt. Gary Peterson, Frode Jespersen, Lillian Jespersen



Lenten Offering

Please start returning your Lenten Offering cans. Money raised will benefit Families Moving Forward.

Recycling

Please place your paper, plastic, cardboard or can recycling in any of blue bins throughout the building. This is kept separate from the trash.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Mon., April 6 for Easter Monday. In case of an emergency, contact Pastor Randy at 612-803-2879.

Sunday School Schedule

- **March 29** – Palm Sunday Family Fair
- **April 5** – Easter (no Sunday School)
- **April 12, 19 & 26** – Sunday School
- **May 3** – Teacher Appreciation & Last Day of Sunday School



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 Pastor Kristen Brechler.



Donations of Children's Books

When you find books your children no longer read, please donate them to the library for Car Care this spring.

Just drop them off in the library. The Car Care clients really appreciate this ministry.

Wildfire VBS "Crocodile Dock"

This year we are partnering with other churches in the community to provide an evening VBS for students (current age 3-5th grade) in our community. Other Wildfire churches will join us onsite here at St. James for a fun filled week learning about Jesus as we explore "Crocodile Dock," June 22-25 from 5:45 to 8:00 p.m.

Fill out a yellow registration form (available outside the office or online at www.stjamesincrystal.org/camping.htm) and return to the church office. Friends are always welcome. Space may be limited, so sign up today! Cost: VBS is our gift to you! (*We will accept donations to offset costs.*)



Faith Milestones: Connecting Families with their Faith

Faith milestones help parents carry out the promises they made at their child's baptism and gives them tools to incorporate faith into the daily life of their family. Important faith concepts are taught through child/parent workshops, worship experiences and classroom lessons. For more information contact Pastor Kristen.

Upcoming Milestone/Blessing Events:

- April 2 – Holy Communion Milestone
- May 3 – Teacher Appreciation
- June 7 – Graduation
- July 12 – Sr. High NYG Commissioning
- August 2 – Summer Camp Milestone

Summer Camp for Children & Youth

Students and friends of St. James are going to camp! Church camp proves to be a transforming experience for children and students. Join us for camp the first week of August at Camp Onomia or Camp Wapo. Pr. Randy and Pr. Kristen will rotate between the two camps.

Reserve your spot with a \$100 deposit. Fundraising information is available. Contact Pr. Kristen for more information.

Camp Onomia

Pioneers (grades 1-3) on August 3-6, 2015. Cost: \$215.

Explorers (grades 3-6) on August 3-8, 2015. Cost: \$420.

Register online at www.camponomia.org.

Camp Wapo

Youth camp (grades 6-8)* on August 2-7, 2015. Cost: \$400.

Register online at www.campwapo.org.

*Middle school students are encouraged to attend Camp Wapo.

Confirmation Schedule

- April 8 – Wildfire- Feed My Starving Children Service Event (offsite)
- April 15 – Session 13
- April 22 – Session 14
- April 29 – Session 15
- May 6 – Wildfire @ Cross of Glory

New Worship Leader Schedule

There will be a new worship leadership schedule coming out soon for the summer months. If you will be away please contact other confirmation families to find a replacement. Contact Pastor Kristen for additional information.

VBS Staff

Sr. High students and Middle School students are invited to participate as staff of VBS this year. Fill out an application form, found outside the church office, and return by April 15. There are a number of paid positions available.

This is a great way to get service hours, learning credit for school, or leadership opportunities to put on scholarship requests.

All Sr. High students will be given an adult mentor to provide help/guidance as we prepare and throughout the VBS week.

Contact Pr. Kristen for more information at kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org.

Flower Fundraiser

Students going to camp are raising funds for camp. Checkout the beautiful flower options from Lynde Flowers. Orders are due Sunday, April 12th. Contact Amy Jermstad or Kristi VonDeylen for more information.



Youth Nights at St. James

This month's youth nights are Wed., April 8 and 22 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Youth Forum

On Sunday mornings during the school year, middle school and High school youth will gather together for a youth forum during the education hour (10:10 a.m.). This will be a time of discussion, speaker or video led conversation. Join us Sunday mornings during education hour in Ryan's office. For more information contact Ryan Walesch or Pastor Kristen.

National Youth Gathering

The ELCA Youth Gathering takes place every three years, where peers from across the US and the world who share a common faith in Christ, gather for worship, fellowship, study, service and fun!

The Trip will be July 14-20th in Detroit, Michigan. This trip is open to all 8-12 graders (2014-2015). Both Pastor Randy and Pastor Kristen will be attending with the St. James youth.

There will be a variety of fundraisers before the trip to help offset the costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Walesch.

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 Randy 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.

Missing DVD

Check your DVD players for *Benchwarmers*. It was returned to the library with no DVD in the case.

Women’s Spring Tea Set for April 25

Mary Circle will host its annual Springtime Dessert Buffet Tea on Sat., Apr. 25 at 12:15 p.m.

Goodies and tea sandwiches will be served at the brunch.

Tickets are \$8.00. Advance ticket sales only on Sunday mornings or from

the church office. Make checks payable to Mary Circle. Reserve your tables of 8 today.

Entertainment is being provided by the *Looney Lutherans* and is sure to be full of laughs!

Book Club News

April’s pick: [My Promised Land: the triumph and tragedy of Israel](#) by Ari Shavit.

Israeli journalist Shavit presents a history of and meditation on Zionism’s successes and failures since his great-grandfather’s arrival at Jaffa in 1897. This work attempts a personal, political, intellectual, and cultural history of Israel through dozens of interviews with those who participated in the Zionist enterprise, asking and answering the important questions: Can Israel fully integrate its Arab citizens, do justice to the Palestinians, and assure security in the face of looming military and demographic threats? Long a critic of the “Occupation,” Shavit argues that Israel’s future depends not only on giving up that land but on coming to terms with those displaced by Zionism. [from Library Journal]

Join “Page Turners” this month in reading the book [My Promised Land](#). The group meets Tues., April 7 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).

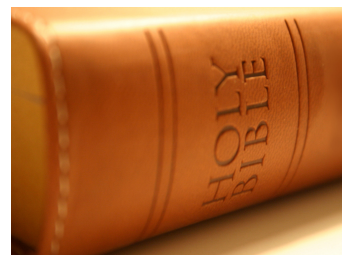
May’s pick: [The Samurai’s Garden](#) by Gail Tsukiyama.

Spring Work Day—Oct. 11

It’s time to do a little spring cleaning at St. James! The Spring Clean Up Day will be on Sat., May 16 beginning at 8:30 a.m. A light brunch will be provided. Come for as long as you are able! Many hands make light work.

Bibles, Bibles, Bibles

There is still time to add your Bible to the Bibles already on display in the library. Please stop in to see the exhibit of mostly very old Bibles, hymnals and prayer books.





Families Moving Forward

Our St. James Church Council has voted to support our congregation's involvement in Families Moving Forward (FMF). FMF is a non-profit dedicated to helping families who are homeless to become housing secure.

We will participate by hosting a group of homeless families from our community every night for one or two weeks each year. We will want to form a FMF support team of about 30 to 40 people to support this ministry. Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry. Many different gifts are needed, from preparing the evening meal and breakfast to go, to helping children with homework, to being a compassionate listener to adults going through a rough patch in their lives.

An overall coordinator, or small team of coordinators, will especially be a blessing! Please contact John Lindstrom or Pastor Randy for more information. No hosting weeks have been scheduled yet for St. James. However, in the coming weeks, we will be moving forward with FMF!

The Lenten Can Offering will be used to support Families Moving Forward (FMF). Look for the basket in the narthex where you can pick up a can. Please support this ministry.

Caring for Each Other in Christ

Sunday Morning Cards: Who receives them? Members of St. James who have been ill, hospitalized, shut-in, welcomed a new baby. We also do sympathy cards for members who have lost a parent, child or sibling. Unfortunately, in-laws are not included in this policy. If someone you know falls into these categories, please let the church office know. Sometimes the staff is unaware of such instances and therefore a heads-up is very much appreciated so we can do a card for the following Sunday.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer shawls knit by the Prayer Shawl Ministry group are given to members and non-members alike, who are in need of extra prayers and comfort, most often when recovering from an illness or surgery.

Prayer Chain: Anyone can request to be put on the prayer chain. We do ask that, if you are putting someone else on the prayer chain, that you first have the person's permission. An email and phone line request prayers for all kinds of occasions such as healing, recovery, strength, and comfort. To request to be put on the prayer chain, contact the church office at 763-537-3653 or email office@stjamesincrystal.org.

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, malnourished 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.

Dinner at Your Door Drivers

Drivers are needed for the 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.

Fore! It's Time for Golf Leagues

It's time to commit to playing in a St. James golf league for the 2015 season.

Men's nine-hole-play is scheduled for Tuesday evenings at Theodore Wirth Golf Course, May 5 to July 21. 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 stikkanen@q.com). Friends, co-workers or relatives are welcome to join as well.

The women's golf season is still up in the air. Please contact the church office if you would like information once it is available.

Change of Address

Vivian Benrick

6288 Louisiana Ct N Apt 324
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428-2596

Amanda & Andy Burns

763-458-8068– Andy’s cell
612-208-8151– Amanda’s cell

Nancy Dahlquist

nancydahlquist13@gmail.com

Tom & Bev Gale

8315 West River Rd.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444-1427

Helen Hollingsworth

4600 41st Ave N Apt 202
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Deanna Lien

7050 Magda Dr. Apt 204
Maple Grove, MN 55369-5635

Patricia Moore

7838 Hearthside Ave S Apt 108
Cottage Grove, MN 55016-4770

Dean & Marsha Olson

4deanmarsha@gmail.com

Russ Sondrol

Steeple Point
625 Central Ave #120
Osseo, MN 55369

Arlys Swentek

5500 Boone Ave N Apt 19
New Hope, MN 55428-3641

Charles & Rita Tostenson

1168 78th St. NE
Benson, MN 56215-1395

Prayer Concerns

Hospitalizations

- Jo Olson
- Nancy Horberg

Sympathy

- Susan Lindstrom on the death of her father, Jim
- Miles Stromback on the death of his brother, Wayne
- Kristie Eklund on the death of her mother
- Jim Valentine on the death of his sister
- Beverly and Tim Jacobs on the death of their mother, Evelyn

Births

- Amanda & Andy Burns, boy, August
- Joel & Shayna Anderson, boy, Joshua
- Ruth Gbalenchey, boy, William

Funerals

- Theodore Marth
- Carol Olson
- Evelyn Jacobs

Baptisms

- Alexander Torralba Renze, son of Rosalynn Torralba & John Renze
- August Arnold Burns, son of Andy & Amanda Burns

Memorials

Endowment Fund in memory of Don Raether from Stan & Connie Tikkanen, Marv & Sue Berke, Dan Smith. In memory of Arnie Johnson from Ozzie Hellen. In memory of Evelyn Jacobs from Ken & Phyllis Nelson, Ozzie Hellen, Frode & Lillian Jespersen, Marv & Sue Berke, Bill & Eunice Kistner. In memory of Dale Ruff from Marv & Sue Berke.

KidPack in memory of Don Raether from Terry & Lana Teigen. In memory of David Hanson from Connie Blom, Mattie Erdahl. In memory of Arnie Johnson from Lorraine LaFontaine, Carol Koosmann.

Memorial Fund in memory of Evelyn Jacobs from Connie Blom, Oda Keske, Mary Brown.

Motorhead Ministry in memory of James Gross from Roger & Sandy Johnson.

Music Fund in memory of Don Raether from George & Orla McClure, Bob & Diane Michaelson, Joanne Clausen, Nancy Lohmann, Marilyn Overland, Bill & Eunice Kistner, Mary Brown, Sue, Shane, Duncan & Beck Petrie, family and friends, Connie Blom, Roger & Sue Eggen. In memory of Evelyn Jacobs from Ruth Stanchfield, Carol Koosmann, Peg Tutila, Jim & Judy Olsen, Nancy Lohmann.

NEAR in memory of Don Raether from Jim & Emily Hauan.

Quilting in memory of Evelyn Jacobs from Jacquelyn Harlow, Joyce Held, Mary Circle

Youth Fund in memory of Evelyn Jacobs from Tim & Becki Smith.

Gifts

Adopt-A-Student in honor of Devin Pearson, grandson, from Marsha Pearson

Letters of Thanks

On behalf of the school board of ISD 281, I wish to express our sincere thanks for your generous donations of \$823 to support Forest Elementary School. Every gift makes a difference in the quality of education that we can provide our students, and for each one, we are truly grateful.

*Sincerely,
Aldo Sicoli, Superintendent, Robbinsdale Area Schools*

Thank you for your recent gift of \$548.54 to Global Health Ministries. We are grateful.

*In Christ's Service,
Kim Dickey, Director for Mission Development*

Thank you for your recent donation of \$415 to Missions Inc. Home Free shelter for battered women and their children.

*Sincerely,
Jane Flanders, Development Associate*

Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door would like to thank you for providing 8 drivers every month to drive for our organization. Thanks to your support, 25,265 meals were delivered by volunteers in 2014.

*Our Sincere Thanks!
Board Members of Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door*

The NEAR Food Shelf would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity during the year of 2014. Your year-end totals for food are 1,091 lbs. and \$9,950. Thank you again for all the generosity that you have shown to our client families.

Jan Monroe, NEAR Food Shelf

Thank you for your amazing giving this past year. You gave a total of \$254.36 to FMSC in 2014, which enabled us to provide 1,156 nutritious meals that helped bring hope to those in desperate need.

*In awe of God's goodness,
Mark Crea, Executive Director/CEO of Feed My Starving Children*

Thank you very much for your prayers, visits, cards and notes, and your calls while I was at North Ridge. God Bless you all.

Ozzie Hellen

Thank you to the members of St. James for your support of the KidPack Soup and Chili Fundraiser on January 30. Thanks to you it was a very successful evening and will help in providing KidPacks for the students at Forest and Meadow Lake Elementary Schools, and the children of the Adult Literacy Program. Without you we couldn't have done it.

KidPack Subcommittee

Thank you for your donation of \$435 for the River of Life Loaves & Fishes site. They were pleased with the quilts and warm clothes from St. James in December.

Emily Hauan

Sunday Altar Flowers

The 2015 Altar Flower Sign-Up Sheet is 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 Randy's office. Cost is \$30.



Thank you to Lana Teigen, Connie Blom, Sonya Lodahl, and everyone else that helped in some way while I was on maternity leave. I so appreciate being able to take the time to spend with August and adjust to being a family of five. I am so grateful to be on staff here!

*Amanda Burns
Director of Communications*

I want to extend my thanks for the card I received from St. James. Your thoughtfulness and prayers were comforting after Arnie's passing.

Blanche Johnson

Thank you for your recent gift of \$529.45 to Ebola Outbreak Response. Gifts like yours make it possible for our church to continue its effective and efficient response to disasters.

In Christ's service,

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.



GriefShare Support Ministry

Bonfire Ministry is continuing to host a Grief Support Group entitled GriefShare in 2015, with different topics during the 13 week program. New sessions start May 24 and September 13, but you are welcome to begin attending at any point. Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. It is being held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the Peter & Paul room.

The sessions remaining in 2015 are listed below:

- Session 1: May 24 & September 13
- Session 2: May 31 & September 20
- Session 3: June 7 & September 27
- Session 4: June 14 & October 4
- Session 5: June 21 & October 11
- Session 6: June 28 & October 18
- Session 7: July 5 & October 25
- Session 9: July 12 & November 1
- Session 10: July 19 & November 8
- Session 11: March 29, August 2 & November 25
- Session 12: April 12, August 9 & November 29
- Session 13: April 19, August 16 & December 6

Contact Bonfire Parish Nurse Debbie Haney for more information, 612-408-2049.

KidPack Packing Days 2015

KidPack packing days begin at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Food Network (8501 54th Ave N, New Hope). Please wear comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes.

The dates for the remainder of the school year are as follows:

- March 31
- April 28
- May 26 (KidPack Gives Back to EFN)

To volunteer contact Melodie Hanson at 763-504-4981.



Bonfire Exec. Director's Message

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What a wonderful start we have had to 2015! The KidPack Soup and Supper Fund Raising Dinner was a huge success that exceeded the expectations of the planners. Thank you for your tremendous support. Without you the children in our community would not have food to eat on the weekend. We are still in need of your continued participation in the Adopt-A-Student program for this school year. We are going to be very close financially, even with the proceeds from the dinner, in completing our commitment to the students in our community for weekend food snacks. We do not want to have to cut back on the number of snacks we provide for the students and without you and your support we may have to cut back. Please consider making a donation to KidPack.

We want to extend a HUGE Thank You to Thrivent Financial for the matching funds we received for the Soup and Chili Dinner. Thrivent gave KidPack \$1,600 as a match for the roughly \$2,000 we netted at the dinner. Thanks Thrivent and thanks to all who supported the dinner.

KidPack takes place on the fourth Tuesday of each month from August to May from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. At each packing time, we pack approximately 4,000 snack bags for the children in our community. Each bag costs Bonfire Ministry \$2.00. That equates to almost \$8,000 per month or \$72,000 per school year. Your support is vital and very much appreciated.

On other fronts, Bonfire Ministry is currently sponsoring a GriefShare

Ministry. This ministry of grief support is held each Sunday evening from 3:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church. If you have experienced the death of a loved one or know of someone who has, you/they are welcome at this ministry of healing. Pre-registration is not required, just show up. There is a \$10 fee for this 12-week course. If you are unable to afford the \$10, scholarships are available. You can start this course at any time; you don't have to start only at the beginning.

The Bonfire Ministry Respite Care Ministry is open to the community. If you are a caregiver and need some time of respite, time just for yourself, please give Debbie Haney, the Bonfire Ministry Parish Nurse as call. If you are able to volunteer your time to help with this ministry, please give Debbie a call. She is most in need of males to help with the program. The Respite Care program meets twice a month at House of Hope Lutheran Church.

Thank you for all the ways you support this ministry of outreach that is really a vital part of the mission work of each congregation. Bonfire Ministry is your congregation reaching out in your name with the good news of the Gospel.

For more information, check out the Bonfire web site at <http://www.bonfireministry.org>.

*Blessing to you and Peace,
Pr Daniel Babine
Bonfire Ministry – Executive Direct*

CPR and AED Training

The next CPR/AED Training session on is set for Sat., April 11, 9:00 a.m. to noon in Wold Hall.

To sign up, please contact Bonfire Parish Nurse Debbie Haney at 612-408-2049 or John Lindstrom at 612-669-5962.

“Living Better Longer”

Bonfire Parish nurse, Debbie Haney, and the Bonfire Health and Wellness committee invite you to a free senior event entitled *Living Better Longer* on Thurs., Apr. 23, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the North Memorial Outpatient Center (3435 Broadway Ave., Robbinsdale, MN 55422).

This is a free event (and free parking), but pre-registration is required: northmemorial.com/events or call 763-581-2410

Speakers on senior wellness, advance care planning, and funeral celebration planning. There also will be representatives from various community resources for seniors.

As an added bonus, there will be treats, raffles and free advice!

Parish Nurse

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.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
6700 46TH PLACE NORTH
CRYSTAL MN 55428

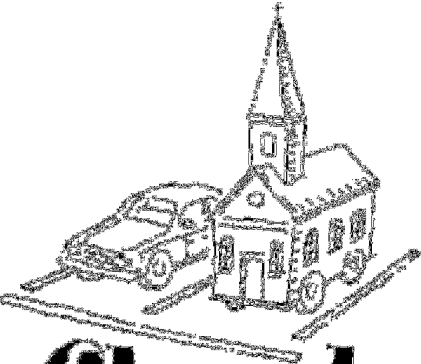
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No Parking on St. James' Drive-Up

The drive-up in front of St. James has been re-classified as a 15-minute loading zone only. This means that there will be no day parking allowed on the drive-up to St. James. We will offer valet parking during worship services; stay tuned for that announcement.

When coming to church on Sunday mornings, please be mindful of those who need to park closer to the church entrance.



Church Parking