

August 2014

St. James Herald

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

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Summer Office Hours

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

St. James Lutheran Church

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Phone: 763-537-3653
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Pastoral Reflection

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ at St. James,

Thank you for calling me to serve our Lord as your senior pastor! Thank you for entrusting me with the ministry of Word and Sacrament. I am writing this letter to you on July 15, 2014, so that it will appear in the *Herald* and am looking forward to my first Sunday as your new senior pastor on July 27. However, I have already been privileged to know your call committee and have met many in the congregation after worship at St. James on July 13. You have warmly welcomed me with grace and excitement about what God's mission is for us at St. James.

The call to serve as your senior pastor is a call to "exercise among us the Ministry of Word and Sacrament which God has established and which the Holy Spirit empowers: To preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; to administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead us in worship; to proclaim the forgiveness of sins; to provide pastoral care; to speak for justice in behalf of the poor and oppressed; to encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; to impart knowledge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its wider ministry; to endeavor to increase support given by our congregation to the work of the whole church; to equip us for witness and service; to guide us in proclaiming God's love through word and deed." *Letter of Call to an Ordained Minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Your call to me is to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. However, we are each called by God through Jesus Christ to "come follow me" and you have accepted the call of our Lord Jesus to follow him. In the Body of Christ at St. James, we share a great joy, privilege, and responsibility. We find the words to the call we share in our baptismal promises: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. These promises describe what we do as followers of Jesus, those who have accepted Jesus' call to discipleship.

When we meet someone new, we may ask, "What do you do?" expecting that our new acquaintance will respond by telling us about the work they do. I will be asking many questions in the coming months and I encourage you to ask questions as well. My goal is to know every member of our congregation by name, and so I will keep asking for your name until I know it! Together, we are called to know one another's faith as well, and to know the heart of God, which is revealed in Jesus Christ through God's Holy Spirit. What a blessing and adventure we share!

So, the next time someone asks you, "What do you do?" consider a response which includes your life in Christ as a member of St. James, for it is a part of what you do, but more importantly, it is a testimony to who you are. And isn't that the greatest calling in life, to know who we are? And isn't it the Good News of God we receive in our baptisms, that we are God's own children, marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever, the best place to begin as we consider who we are?

Thank you again for your faithful witness to God in the past, your faithfulness today, and for the ministry to which God is calling us through God's mission for St. James in the future!

*Love in Christ,
Pastor Randy*



St. James' Staff

Pastor Randall Romsdahl
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Deanna Loken
Choir Director

Mary Brown
Ringin' Praise Bell Choir
Director & Organist

Ron Skalicky
Custodian

Amy Jermstad
Sunday Morning Custodian

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.



Over 55's To Dine at Lord Fletcher's

The Over 55's group will meet at Lord Fletcher's on either Mon., Aug. 11 or 18 on Lake Minnetonka for lunch on the wharf. The \$5 meal includes hamburgers, cheeseburgers, or chicken breasts from the grill and is cash only. Meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. to car pool. You will receive a call to confirm the date. Come out and enjoy the summer!

School Supplies for Forest Elementary

St. James is collecting school supplies of all types for the neighboring Forest Elementary School during the month of August. Teachers will then be able to provide school supplies to students who need them. Watch for the sales at the local stores and help St. James provide much needed supplies for the teachers.

When purchasing supplies, please keep in mind that it is for elementary school aged children.

Any monetary donations during August will go to Forest to allow them to purchase additional supplies. Please put Forest on the memo line of your check.

Registrations Begin for 7th Annual Holiday Craft Show in November

Registration forms for artists and crafters are now available in the narthex for the Holiday Craft Show on Sat., Nov. 8, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Wold Hall.

Cost is \$30 for a 9x10 space. Electricity is \$2; table is \$2. Checks can be made payable to St. James and mailed along with contact information and craft description to Kristi VonDeylen 6913 52nd Ave N, Crystal, MN 55428. Register by October 31.

Event is a fundraiser for the Senior High Youth.

Questions and for more information, contact Kristi VonDeylen at 612-590-3072 or atvbabe@comcast.net.

Power of One Volunteers Needed for 2014-2015 School Year

The Power of One is a partnership between St. James members and Forest teachers, who work together to build developmental assets of children. Through the Power of One, teachers are able to pair a caring adult with students they identify as needing help building skills such as reading, writing, math and relationships.

Could you give one hour per week to help a child with reading, math or other subjects? Talk with Pastor Kristen Brechler today about what you need to do to become a volunteer!

Garden Bounty

You are more than welcome to share your garden bounty such as cucumbers, green beans, tomatoes, and squash with the NEAR Food Shelf.

Items may be dropped off in the morning at 5209 West Broadway, bring to church with NEAR written on it, or call Emily Hauan (763-533-1929) for a pick-up.

When they weigh it at the food shelf, be sure to have them mark it down for St. James. Thanks for sharing God's goodness.



Scripture Readings

August 3

Lesson: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

August 10

Lesson: Romans 10:5-15
Gospel: Matthew 14:23-33

August 17

Lesson: Romans 12:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

August 24

Lesson: Romans 12:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

August 31

Lesson: Romans 12:9-21
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Usher & Financial Assistant Schedule

August 3

9:30 a.m. *Ushers:* Junior Kautz, Vern Christensen, Roger A. Johnson, Ken Lutz
Financial Assistants: Capt. Ozzie Hellen, Becki Smith, Jackie Harlow

August 10

9:30 a.m. *Ushers:* George McClure, Terry Teigen, Roger E. Johnson, Rick Jones, Judy Berney, Pat Ferguson, Ken & Phyllis Nelson
Financial Assistants: Capt. Stan Tikkanen, Carol Koosmann, Lorraine LaFontaine

August 17

9:30 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

August 24

9:30 a.m. *Ushers:* Marv Berke, Jim Hauan, Becki Smith, Clarence Peterson, Tim Buck
Financial Assistants: Capt. Gary Peterson, Frode Jespersen, Lillian Jespersen

August 31

9:30 a.m. Team III



Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is Sat., August 16 at 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's (36th Ave. & Winnetka Ave).

Second Sunday Singers Continues

Join us on August 10 at 9:00 a.m. to prepare a piece to sing at that morning's service. All ages and all abilities are welcome!

Sunday Mornings

9:30 a.m.—Worship
10:45 a.m. — Adult Ed

Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed for the worship service. Volunteers are assigned one Sunday a month. Please contact the church office or Stan Tikkanen if you are interested, or would like more information.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Mon., Sept. 1 for Labor Day. In case of an emergency, contact Pastor Randy at 612-803-2879.

Sunday Mornings

Rally Day is September 7; watch for more information about children and youth programming next month!

Youth Nights at St. James

This month's youth nights are Wed., Aug. 13 and 27 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 Potluck

St. James youth are invited for a potluck at the Walesch home on Sun., Aug. 24. Please see Ryan for more information.

Valleyfair Trip

The St. James youth are planning a trip to Valleyfair on Fri., Aug. 15. Meet at church at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Ryan for more information.

Summer Youth Trip

Summer Youth Trip – August 6-11 – Youth and adult leaders from St. James are going on a summer mission trip up north near Duluth/Grand Marais to serve and grow in faith.

Please keep this group (Ryan Walesch, Pastor Kristen Brechler, Adam McGary, Nathan Nelson, Ashley Weiland, Morgan Bey, Emily Valentine, Stephanie Charging) in your prayers as they prepare for this trip and also as they journey sharing God's love.

Camp Onomia

Please keep the St. James children attending Camp Onomia August 3-8 in your prayers: Alissa VonDeylen, Sophia Jermstad, Hannah Perkins, Noah Perkins, Catherine VanWey, Erika Eastlund, Kendra Walesch, Daisy Har, Piper Harms, Sidona Kautz, Alexis Perna, and Erin LaMotte.

Confirmation News

Confirmation season is almost here! Confirmation at St. James starts in 6th grade and ends the fall of their 9th grade year. These years are incredibly formative in the faith that will carry them for the rest of their lives. Here's what you need to get ready

1. Confirmation registration will be available at church and online the first week of August. The price is \$70. <http://www.stjamesincrystal.org/confirmationyouth.htm>
2. Orientation meetings are as follows. 6-8th Graders – Wed., Sept. 10, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Wold Hall. 9th Graders – Sun., Sept. 14, 9:57 a.m. in Pr. Kristen's office.

Students and one parent are expected to attend the orientation meeting. All forms and payment will be due at that time.

Current confirmation students: All make-up work needs to be done by Mon., Sept. 1.

Rally Day Kickoff for 9:57

Sunday, September 7 at 9:57 a.m.

We are getting ready to kick off a brand new year with you! 9:57 is our Sunday morning education time for children ages 3 through 5th Grade. Registration is currently open. Go to <http://www.stjamesincrystal.org/957.htm> to download the registration form. Forms may be turned in to the church office at any time.

All ages are invited on Rally Sunday, Sept. 7 to meet small group guides, workshop leaders, see familiar faces, play some games and get to know what you'll be doing at 9:57! We promise it will be a LOT of fun! If you have any questions, contact Kristen Brechler.

Registration for 9:57 is Open!

From 9:57 a.m. until 10:15 a.m., children age 3 through 5th grade meet as a large group to sing, play games, see a skit and hear a message. From 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., they break into smaller age groups to dig deeper into the Bible story of the day. Caring adults lead the small groups. We also have fun surprises and outreach opportunities planned during the year. We have a blast and would love for you to join us! Information and registrations can be found on the bulletin board outside the office, or on the St. James website: <http://www.stjamesincrystal.org/957.htm>

Protect our Children Training

We will have a Protect Our Children (POC) Training event on Wed., Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m. for ALL 9:57, Confirmation, Power of One, and Nursery volunteers/leaders. Please put this important training on your calendar and make every attempt to be there. This (POC) training is valid for three years. Those who completed the training prior to 2011 are expected to participate in order to remain current on policies and expectations. If you are unsure when you were trained or have other questions please contact Pr. Kristen.

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.



Library News

Parents with school age children, “we hope you enjoy reading together this summer to keep your child’s reading skills up to his or her level.”

The St. James Library is an education resource that enhances the many ministries of the church, providing appropriate reading material for children, teens, and adults. The library is a partner in several ministries such as Sunday School story time, outreach– Stamps for Bethel, and

books for Car Care parents and children in the spring and fall. All church services are on CD in the library for your convenience (as well as on the website). Come on in and visit with the staff while checking out an interesting book!

Library workers meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 for a workday. The library is staffed by volunteers and is always looking for more. It would be great to have you come and join this ministry.

Orla McClure’s Faith Journey

“The day I was born” was Orla McClure’s response when asked when her faith journey began. Orla grew up on a farm in a faith centered family. Being a part of church was “just what we knew.” Regular church attendance, participation in Sunday School and Luther League, and involvement in church events such as potlucks was the norm. In fact, Orla said because they didn’t have baby sitters, she attended more funerals as a kid than most people do in a lifetime.

At age 18 Orla left home to go to school and she added that she was away from the church for awhile. She had a grueling confirmation experience that included four times in one year when the class had to appear in front of the congregation and be prepared to answer any question from Luther’s Small Catechism. That meant many, many hours of study and memorization. She was kind of “churched out.”

In 1981, she and her husband, George, were on an evening walk when they saw a huge building that seemed kind of out of place. They were surprised to discover it was a church – St. James Lutheran. After visiting one Sunday, Pastor Hoekstra came to their home and invited them to join. George commented that he would rather sleep late on Sunday morning and Pr Hoekstra said “I would too.” In the fall of that year, they started a new member class and Orla remembers Jerry and Betty Sultvedt and John and Susan Lindstrom were also part of that class.

In the mid-80’s Orla joined the St. James choir and has been a member ever since. She said her faith became stronger after her dad’s triple bypass. She was so grateful he survived and came through the surgery. Her dad always talked about his faith, was always singing hymns, and when a child, Orla’s whole family was in the choir so it was very natural for her to become an active choir member once again.

Orla’s faith has impacted others. When she and George were married, George had a four year old daughter, Kim, from a previous marriage, who was subsequently not raised in the church. Through the influence of George and Orla, Kim has made a total change and is now an active member of a Lutheran church in Texas.

Orla feels strongly about generous giving to the church. For Orla, giving is a way of life and she approaches giving with a grateful heart. “When I do that, everything else falls into place,” Orla said. She also added, “How can somebody not contribute when we have someone who loves us unconditionally. We have to share what we have.” She has given thought to a legacy gift to St. James but has not made specific plans at this time.

Orla would like to see St. James grow. She was a member of the former Hospitality Committee and visited prospective members who had attended a service and brought them a gift of bean soup mix along with the recipe. She said, “I loved doing that.” She wonders if once again it will take knocking on doors to bring more people to worship with us.

Thank You

Letters of Thanks

Dear friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$565.90 designated to Global Health Mission Operations. GHM has active projects today in more than twenty countries around the world. We are committed to continuing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by enhancing and sustaining the health care systems of our Lutheran Church partners in developing countries. With your help we are able to help our partners grow in their ability to deliver lasting, measurable improvements in community health. We are truly grateful for your partnership with us in this ministry.

*Blessings
Kim Dickey*

Director of Mission Development, Global Health Ministries

Thank you for the items that were collected for Home Free. We really appreciate all the support from St. James

Karri Hitchcock, Home Free

Box Tops for Education, Milk Caps and Campbell's Soup Labels...

What do those three things have in common?

They've been able to purchase gym equipment, educational videos, books and other items to help enhance learning at Forest Elementary! Even during the summer, St. James continues to collect them in the drawers near the front door. Milk caps must have a sticker on them (please rinse the caps!), and Campbell's needs only the UPC barcode with the logo on it. Thank you.

Car Care

Save the date for the next Car Care Saturday on September 13. A volunteer sign-up sheet will go up outside Pastor Randy's office soon!

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.



Sunday Altar Flowers

The 2014 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 Dave's office.



Summer Watering

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for keeping the St. James flowers looking spectacular!! Please consider doing this.

Summer Worship Continues at 9:30 a.m.

We've made the switch to one service in the summer. It will continue each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. through August 31. Come check out this unique service this summer!



Sponsor a Student Through KidPack

KidPack is a collaborative effort to fight local weekend hunger for children in our neighborhoods. One in five children in Minnesota live in poverty households, and over 40% of the people served at food shelves are children. Within the Robbinsdale School District, nearly 1/2 of our students (48%) qualify for free or reduced lunch (one indicator of poverty). Free and reduced lunch figures at Forest Elementary (near 70%) and Meadow Lake Elementary (near 90%) are even higher. For many children in our community, a school breakfast and lunch are the only nutritional meal of the day. These children are faced with non-nutritious food options or they simply go hungry on the weekend. KidPack exists to address this need.

Bonfire Ministry has adopted both Meadow Lake and Forest, serving 1,400 students with a healthy bag of food to bring home over the weekend. Volunteers pack snack bags that are then delivered to these schools on Fridays and given to everyone regardless of need. Our philosophy is to avoid any shame or guilt with receiving this gift of food, no strings attached and no questions asked.

With your help, we have successfully funded KidPack through foundation grants, community organizational gifts, congregational donations, Clubs, Circles, the annual KidPack Tennis Tournament as well as other fundraisers and individual donations.

Thank you for your generous contributions and commitment to serving the children in our midst this past year!

Bonfire's KidPack program distributes snack packs 3 out of 4 weeks each month during the school year. With 1,400 students served each week, that is nearly 40,000 snack bags for students at Forest and Meadow Lake alone! Doing some

simple math (each pack costs approximately \$2) we have a goal to raise \$80,000 to continue this program for the 2014-2015 school year.

Will you consider Sponsoring a Student this school year? A donation of \$54.00 adopts a child for the ENTIRE school year. A donation of \$1,350 will provide weekend snacks for a classroom of 25! Monetary donations can be made directly to your congregation with "KidPack" in the memo.

Give to the United Way at your work place? You can designate your pledge to the KidPack program by writing in, Bonfire Ministry -- KidPack (*Designate which school you would like your donation to go to*) under the Community Shares non-profit 501(c)3 section of your pledge form.

We appreciate your continued support, and welcome any donation large or small. You are also invited to help assemble KidPack bags with us on the last Tuesday of each month.

More information is available at www.bonfireministry.org or by contacting our Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney, at 612.408.2049.



SPARC Series: Children and Grief

Bonfire Ministry is pleased to sponsor the next SPARC series for area parents, educators, and community members. This session will be centered around children and grief and will be held Mon., Sept. 8, 7:00 –8:30 p.m. at House of Hope (4800 Boone Ave N, New Hope)

Participants will be able to identify key factors that influence one's grief process, understand the typical grief reactions based on one's chronological age and developmental stage, explore helpful tips and tools to support grieving kids and families.

Please RSVP to Melodie at 763-504-4981 with name and number attending. Free childcare available— please reserve your spot and child(ren)'s age when you register.

KidPack Fundraiser

Frattallone's Ace Hardware (and manager Mark Jennings and wife Dorothy Tischer) on 36th & Winnetka in New Hope will donate \$1 each or \$2 for every \$10 or more of purchases made on **Sunday, August 17, 2014** to the Kid-Pack Program.

All we have to do is go into Frattallone's, buy \$10 or more (pre-tax), the store will keep track of the sales and let us know the results. We do not have to keep any receipts; just go to the store on Sunday, August 17th and shop!

At Frattallone's Ace Hardware, it doesn't take much to purchase up to \$10 with their large garden center and paint departments. The store hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, please contact Al Anderson of First Lutheran Church of Crystal at 763-537-1876.

Thank you for your support of the KidPack Program.

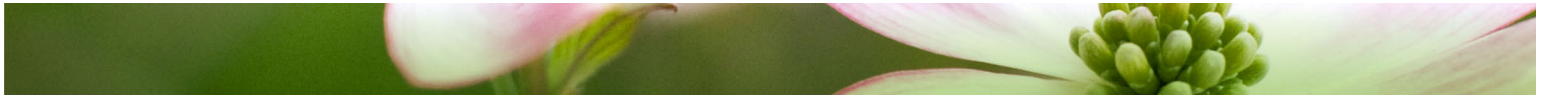
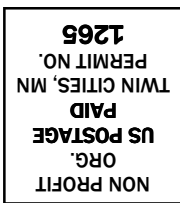
Bonfire Ministry Bonfire

The next will be Sun., Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at House of Hope. We hope you can make it for some s'mores and singing.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Pastor Randall Romsdahl's Installation Service

Please join the worship service on Sun., Aug. 10 at 9:30 a.m. as we install our new Sr. Pastor, Randall Romsdahl. Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be presiding.

There will be a reception in Wold Hall following worship.
Donations of bars are needed and can be brought to the kitchen that morning.

Please continue to give Pastor Randy a great big St. James welcome!