

July 2014

St. James Herald

What's INSIDE

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

Happenings

Children & Youth

Important Info

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Bonfire News



Summer Office Hours

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

Pastoral Reflection

Dear St. James Friends,

The words of an old song play in my head: “Oh the days dwindle down. To a precious few. And these few precious days I’ll spend with you.”

My last day, last time to preach, last time to be with you, will be July 20. I am so grateful for these past months, for your unfailing kindness to Ardie and me. You have made it easy to love the ministry—a vocation God called me to 56 years ago.

I am thankful for the privilege of working with a wonderful staff. Each and every one of them contributed to the most satisfying year. I will never forget you. I feel the same about all of you.

Now you are about to embark upon a new and exciting chapter. I firmly believe that with Pastor Randy St. James will flourish and continue to partner with God in the reclamation of the world. God bless us, everyone.

*Til we meet again,
Pastor Dave*

Pastor Dave's Farewell Potluck Picnic

We will celebrate Pastor Dave Valen's interim ministry at St. James on Sun., July 20 at 10:45 a.m. with a potluck picnic in Wold Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Hotdogs, buns and dessert will be provided.



Pastor Dave at The Coach's desk during a Buffalo Wild Wings commercial shoot at St. James.

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!



St. James' Staff

Pastor Dave Valen

dvalen@stjamesincrystal.org

Pastor Randall Romsdahl

rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org

(beginning July 21)

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

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

July 10 (2:00 p.m.) Covenant Village of Golden Valley is presenting a free sing-along. Baibi Vegners and Dan Wascoe will perform jazz and pop standards, Gershwin, show tunes, and ragtime favorites. RSVP 1-877-485-1035

July 23 (12:00 p.m.) Covenant Village of Golden Valley is having a delicious BBQ to meet residents and explore the campus.

The Minneapolis Pop Orchestra will again be performing on Nicollet Island. The date is Wed., July 16th. Those planning to share rides please meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. If you have questions you may call Sharon Strombeck 763-424-9886. Enjoy.

It's Directory Photo Time!

St. James will be creating a new directory!

When: July 21-25, 2-9 p.m. at St. James.

Sign Up: You can sign up for sessions online via the St. James website, or on Sunday mornings in June/July. There is a FREE 8x10 for each family participating and a free directory when they arrive.

Invite Others: Feel free to invite extended family or friends to have their photograph taken too, with the Lifetouch Outreach Program. It's a great way for them to have a professional family portrait and get a free 8x10! Another great idea would be a generational photograph with grandparents, parents and kids!

Dates don't work for you? If the July 21-25 dates don't work, contact Amanda Burns to get the listing of other locations where you can have your picture taken and still be in the St. James directory. You may also submit your own family photo.

Volunteer: This project will require some volunteer effort. If you would be willing to volunteer a few hours of your time, please contact the church office at office@stjamesincrystal.org. We are looking for people to help with portrait sign-ups on Sunday mornings in June/July and greeting our families during photography the week of July 21-25. This would be a great opportunity for student community service hours!

Changes: Please notify us of any changes to address, phone, or email so the directory can have the most updated information!

Questions: Contact Amanda Burns at 763-537-3653 or aburns@stjamesincrystal.org for more information.



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.

Bonfire Celebration to Meet Pastor Randy

Come meet St. James' new Senior Pastor Randall Romsdahl at the Bonfire Ministry bonfire on Sun., July 27, 6:30—8:00 p.m. at St. James. Join the fun for some s'mores, stories and singing.

As Pastor Randy begins his ministry here on July 21, please give him a great big St. James welcome! We are so excited to have him!



Scripture Readings

July 6

Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 13

Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 20

Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 27

Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Usher & Financial Assistant Schedule

July 6

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

July 13

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

July 20

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

July 27

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



Men's Breakfast

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

Second Sunday Singers Continues

Join us on the second Sunday of every month to sing in worship. On July 13 and August 10, we will gather 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.

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., July 2, 16 & 30 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Car Care

Thanks for all the books donated for the Car Care. Our guests really appreciated them. You may want to start saving for the Sept. Car Care.

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 in your prayers as they prepare for this trip and also as they journey sharing God's love.

Splash Palooza

Splash Palooza - July 16, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Come join in on the splash party for a fun-filled water experience Wednesday evening on the front lawn of St. James. We'll have water games galore, relays, snacks and crafts. Ages 3 on up are encouraged to attend. We will be joining with the youth to have a fun-filled event for all ages. There will be relay and challenges with/against the youth. Come and have fun as we make a "splash" in summer. Event is free.



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.



Parents, Help Cultivate A Reader in Your Child

Want to cultivate a love of reading in your children? Stop by the library and ask for a pamphlet entitled Raising Readers. Readers don't just happen – they need to be encouraged. One way to encourage reading this summer is to enroll your child in Half Price Books Summer Reading Program. Read 300 minutes in July and be eligible for a \$20 gift certificate. Stop by the library for a form. Children 14 years-old and younger are eligible.

School Supplies for NEAR Students

It is time again for the St. James congregation to help get NEAR students ready for the start of school in Sept. Many supplies are needed, The Caring Tree Org, has been asked to help but more is needed. Caribou Partners will help bag supplies on Aug. 7th. The supplies will be distributed to the clients Aug. 25-29. Help is always needed at this time. If you choose to donate money, it will be used for items needed- please make your check to St. James with NEAR- School on memo line.

In 2013 NEAR served 170 families with 434 students. The totals were: 216 elementary, 103 middle school, and 115 high school students. The plan is to do-75—K/1st, 75—2nd/3rd, 75—4th/5th, 120—Middle School, and 100—High School for the 2014/2015 school year.

These items are needed: backpacks, loose leaf paper (wide and college rule), pencils, erasers, colored pencils, glue, many two-pocket folders (red, yellow, blue, green), pencil sharpeners (with closed container), markers (fat/thin tip), pencil boxes-pouches, scissors (blunt), highlight pens

The schools NEAR serves are: Forest, Lakeview, Meadow Lake, Plymouth Middle, Robbinsdale Middle, and Cooper High School.

Thanks for your help in getting the students in your community ready for school!

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.



Faith Journeys– What Are They?

The short answer is they are initiated by the St. James Endowment Committee. The long answer is, more than a year ago, Pastor Richard Anderson, Director of Congregational Relations from Lutheran Social Service visited with The St. James Endowment Committee.

At that meeting Pastor Anderson introduced us to the concept of “One-to-One” visits with members of our Church called a “Faith Journey.” The purpose of the visit is to build relationships within the congregation, to appreciate the journeys members have taken, and to share the contributions made in many different ways. With this in mind, the visits help members focus on their commitments to St. James and to the future for our Church.

The Endowment Committee agreed to give the concept a try. Pastor

Anderson’s approach was to train many visitors and to visit all members in a short period of time. We have chosen to use a very deliberate pace. We first interviewed our Endowment board members. We are now visiting with staff members and council persons.

Thus far, we have been doing about one visit a month and sharing our conversations in the monthly Herald. If any member would like to be visited in the near future, we would be happy to meet with you. Call the Church office or contact Marv Berke @ 763-559-5136 to let us know you would like to be interviewed. Please note that these are one-on-one, not family visits.

Submitted by Endowment Committee

Mary Brown’s Faith Journey

Mary is the daughter of a pastor and a musician, which explains a lot! In addition to pastorates, her father served as chaplain for Lutheran Social Service in Dayton, Ohio for a number of years. Her mother stopped teaching music in schools when she married, but continued to be involved in music with private students and as part-time organist. Mary’s other brother earned a degree in music but did not make a career of it. Mary received some training but also learned on her own.

Mary’s faith journey is hard to describe. It is necessary to disclose some unusual facts to get to today. Backing up to the period in which she was married, she sensed early on that her husband seemed discontent, always thinking that things would be better later on, sometimes yearning to obtain some material object. But it was more than that. He eventually got counseling and came to realize that he was born in the wrong body. He is now living as a woman somewhere in California.

Well, this left Mary in a pretty bad place. She spent years in a kind of fog, alternating between wondering where God was in all this and being certain that God was indeed with her. Unfortunately, a major coping mechanism was to go shopping and spend money beyond what was actually available. This led to severe consequences, but she has fought her way back to financial health and is now doing okay. In the future Mary would love to be in a position to include a monetary legacy in her estate. For now, sharing her music is indeed a tremendous gift to St. James.

During the years of fog and trouble, Mary kept a particular hymn in her mind: *Send Us God, of new beginnings, humbly, hopeful into life. Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.* (ELW 603, vs. 4 Text: Fred Kaan)

Mary’s children, Katie & Nick, are both doing well. And by the way, although Mary is of German heritage, she has become quite adept at rolling lefse!

Thank You

Letters of Thanks

As St. Paul wrote "I (we) give thanks in my (our) every remembrance of you." Joanne and I are deeply grateful for the invitation to hold our golden wedding anniversary party at St. James. Beautiful Wold Hall is a wonderful setting and the easy parking facilitated attendance. The creativity, planning and hard work of many St. James members created an afternoon we will never forget. The opportunity to greet so many of you that afternoon filled our hearts with gratitude. It all brought back wonderful memories of the many years we spent at St. James. Friends from far and near have complimented the beauty and elan of the setting, tables, serving table and all. The food was superb with even lefse and Krunsakaka. So, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for a marvelous afternoon.

Pastor Al & Joanne Negstad

To my wonderful church family of St James: Thank you for your cards, phone calls, emails, and concerns during my recent medical hospital stay for a Pacemaker. Each and every one was appreciated.

Jim Olsen

To all the wonderful volunteers at St James Motorhead Ministry,

Thank you so much for providing this service for my family. Words cannot express how grateful we are for all you have done. We really enjoyed our morning with you.

Pascal Darbonne & family

St. James Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you for the oil change and car care I received at your church last Saturday. Your kindness means a lot to me. Being a disabled senior citizen and living on a very tight budget, the extras in life are sometimes impossible for me to afford. Now I can drive my car and feel safe. I appreciate this more than words can say.

Sincerely,

Maralee Albrecht

Memorials

Capital Fund in memory of Irene Anderson from David Anderson

Endowment Fund in memory of Robert Rotz from Ozzie Hellen

Kid Pack in memory of Jessie Heyen from Arlin & Vicky Butcher

Memorial Fund in memory of Charles LaPierre from Connie Blom

Music Fund in memory of Irene Anderson from Nancy Lohmann

Gifts

Capital Fund in honor of Al & Joanne Negstad's 50th wedding anniversary from Gary & Barbara Petersen

Endowment Fund in honor of Al & Joanne Negstad's 50th wedding anniversary from Stan & Connie Tikkanen, Dan Smith, Ken & Phyllis Nelson, Bill & Eunice Kistner. In honor of George McClure for all the charity work he has done from Eunice Kistner.

Global Health Ministries from Mary Circle

Kid Pack in honor of Al & Joanne Negstad's 50th wedding anniversary from Jim & Judy Olsen

Kid Pack and Mission & Ministry in honor of Al & Joanne Negstad's 50th wedding anniversary from Bob & Diane Michaelson, Dean & Marsha Olson, Peg Tuttila, Deb Ost, Kim Akre, Jim & Michelene Verlautz, Clarence Peterson, Roger & Sandy Johnson, Mary Brown, Don & Mary Roening, Terry & Lana Teigen, Dale & Agnes Berger, Andy & Amanda Burns, Connie Blom, George & Orla McClure

Sunday School in honor of Shayna Anderson from Nancy Lohmann, Connie Blom

Youth Ministry from Mary Circle

Sunday Altar Flowers

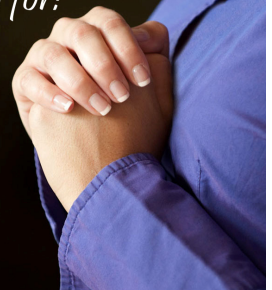
The 2014 Altar Flower Sign-Up Sheet is available. If you would like to purchase flowers in honor, memory or celebration of someone, a sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside Pastor Dave's office.



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.

Please pray for:



Hospitalizations

Tom Janowicz

Eunice Kistner

Fran LaMotte

Birth

- Amy Walesch, son, Brycen Scott

Change of Address

Sara Zuelow

9123 Upland Lane North

Maple Grove, MN 55436-8452

Phone Change

Troy Loken: 612-940-1780

Deanna Loken: 612-308-9126

A Note from Bonfire Executive

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Can you believe it? Summer is here!!! YIPPEE!! Summer is full of lots of activities and planning for the fall. The Bonfire Ministry collaboration between First Lutheran, House of Hope and St. James is no different. I want to invite you to five different activities that you will enjoy through Bonfire Ministry. The first is the three Bonfire Bonfires that will be held on the last Sunday of each summer month. The first was at First Lutheran on June 29. These Bonfire Bonfires will start at 6:30 p.m. and end around 8:00 p.m., or whenever the fire goes out and the last persons leave. PLEASE consider attending the Bonfire Bonfires that are taking place at each church; they are for EVERYONE. These bonfires are an opportunity to get to know the members of the other Bonfire congregations, with whom you are serving through Bonfire Ministry. The second bonfire is at St. James on July 27, and will give us an opportunity to welcome St. James' new pastor and the third bonfire will be on August 24 at House of Hope. I look forward to fellowshiping with you around a bonfire. Remember to bring a lounge chair or bag chair to sit upon.

Next, just a heads up; there are some changes coming in the way we fund Kid-Pack. You will be hearing about the Adopt-a-Student program throughout the summer, and we will need your gifts to make sure this ministry continues. In short you will be invited to adopt one or more students for the school year. The cost for the adoption is not final, but it will be in the \$55 range. You can, if you wish adopt more than one student and if you really want to you could adopt a whole classroom of children. Each Bonfire congregation will be asked to adopt 350 students. This is VERY DOABLE. We will need the funds to start arriving in August

because our first Kid-Pack packing date is August 26 @ 4:00 p.m. @ EFN. Come and join us, again for the fellowship and the service we do in Jesus' name.



I have mentioned the Grief Support Ministry that Bonfire is establishing. Our tentative calendar is set and we plan to begin our first 12-week session/course in mid-September. This Grief Support Ministry is for anyone who has or is experiencing grief from any source; the death of a loved one or friend, loss of a job, divorce, illness, etc. All are welcome; come yourself and invite friends you know who have or are experiencing grief.

Finally, mark Sept. 6/7 on your calendars for the Second Annual ELCA Day of Serving, God's Work-Our Hands. The specific tasks we will be doing have not yet been firmed up. We will be serving with the other Wildfire congregations and I have heard suggestions that we might have a cookout at the end of our serving. Again, God is giving us an opportunity for fellowship and serving in one package. What could possibly be easier?

See you at the Bonfires and at the ELCA Day of Serving, and have a great summer.

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 Director*

Blood Drive at Holy Nativity

The Memorial Blood Mobile will be at Holy Nativity on Aug. 7 from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. Summer is a time of particular need for blood donation as there are many elective surgeries and traumatic accidents. Please consider giving blood on Aug. 7. Holy Nativity has a desperate need for new donors. You may sign up by emailing Karen at kadamson56@gmail.com.

CPR Training at St. James

Bonfire Ministry will host a CPR/AED training on Sat., July 26 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Wold Hall.

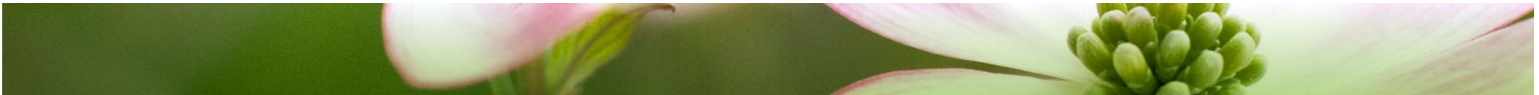
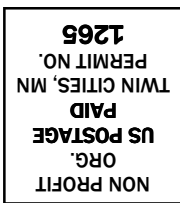
To register, please contact Bonfire Parish Nurse Debbie Haney at 612-408-2049.

Bonfire Ministry Bonfire

The next will be Sun., July 27 at 6:30 p.m. at St. James. Our new Sr. Pastor, Randy Romsdahl, will be here to greet everyone! We hope you can make it for some s'mores and singing.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Introducing Pastor Randall Romsdahl

Both Diana and I were raised on small farms in southwest Minnesota near Butterfield (between Mankato and Worthington – home of the world-famous Threshing Bee). We grew up in the same country Lutheran church, and our parents are close friends. We have been married for 37 years and have two sons, Isaac and Lee. Isaac is married to Paula and they have two children, Magnus and Amelia. Both sons live in the metro area and we are blessed to see them often (and of course our two beloved grandchildren). We both graduated from Iowa State University after having farmed for 13 years, and then moved to Belmont, Massachusetts so I could attend Harvard Law School. After graduating in 1992, I began practicing law in the Cargill Law Department located in the corporate offices in Wayzata. We moved to Eden Prairie and then to Minnetonka where we've lived since 2000. I experienced a call to become a pastor in August, 2002, and began studies at Luther Seminary in February, 2003, while continuing to practice law at Cargill. I was called to St. John's Lutheran in Shakopee in December, 2007 where I served as senior pastor until my call to St. James. I am grateful to God for the variety of work I've been called to enjoy throughout my life, and especially love serving God as a pastor. I will begin work at St. James on July 21, and will be installed at the 9:30 a.m. worship on August 10. Thank you for calling me to serve our Lord with you as your senior pastor at St. James!



Pastor Randy