



St. James Lutheran Church

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

May 6, 2015

Devotion

The former things shall not be remembered. (Isaiah 65:17)

If we knew that heaven were much like earth, would it lose its appeal? There is something within us that yearns for more than the best this world can offer. This passage in Isaiah uses beautiful symbols to express the continuity of our lives now and our lives as they will be in eternity. An important feature of the prophet's words are all the negative things that will not be part of God's new creation. According to Isaiah, the limitations that were placed upon human existence after the disobedience of Adam and Eve will be removed. Death, disease, fruitless toil, injustice, and sin will all be removed. This is summarized in Revelation 21:4: "Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

But Isaiah's vision of hope goes further still. The division between humankind and God will be removed. The intimacy our first parents enjoyed with their Creator will be restored. Animals will no longer kill and prey upon one another. God's salvation will come to every part of creation.

Let us pray: Mighty Creator, let your vision of the future lead us to work for peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(From Christ in Our Home, May 5, 2015 based on Isaiah 65:17-25 © Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.)

Summer Worship Begins on May 24

We will move to one worship service for the summer beginning on May 24 at 9:30 a.m. May 24 is also Pentecost, so please wear red to worship.

Step To It Challenge

Get your feet moving during the month of May for the Bonfire Step To It Challenge (May 3-30). This program is put on by Hennepin County Public Health for the purpose of getting people moving and going green. Bonfire has signed up as a group for the competition. You enter activities (cleaning, washing the car, going for walks, etc.) or your total step count if you wear a pedometer already, through the website as a friendly challenge.

To sign up: Visit www.steptoit.org. Sign in using your own address and city. After you do that you will be able to join groups, so find Bonfire and click it.

Spring Work Day

It's time for some spring cleaning! Spring work day will be held Sat., May 16 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Please come for as long as you are able. A continental breakfast for volunteers will be served at 10:30 a.m.

Mark your Calendar

5-10 *Sunday School kids sing in worship at 9:00 a.m.*

5-16 *Spring Work Day at 8:30 a.m.*

Pastor Randy on Vacation

Pastor Randy is on vacation through May 12. He will return on May 13 and answer any emails at that point. In an emergency, contact Pastor Kristen at kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org or 651-307-6563.

Contact Us

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