

St. James Herald

November 2014

What's INSIDE

An email 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.—12:00 p.m.
Fri. 7:00—9:30 a.m.

St. James Lutheran Church

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Pastoral Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Sometimes, we take the familiar, trustworthy, reliable, and the tried-and-true in our lives for granted. We don't think much about the plumbing as long as it works. We may not fully appreciate those we love until a change in a relationship reminds us of what our loved ones mean for our lives. As a relative new-comer to St. James, I have the benefit and blessing of seeing our congregation with new sight and hearing with new hearing. So after three months as your new senior pastor, what do I see and hear?

We are a congregation which remembers a history of astounding growth, but is not stuck in its past. We are a congregation open to a future renewed by the power of God's Holy Spirit. We are a congregation blessed with many long-standing members who have helped build and now sustain our congregation through generous contributions of time, talents and money. We are a congregation which is embracing and celebrating the new spirit and vitality of our Sunday morning worship service. We are a congregation which celebrates the children in our midst and welcomes with open arms our new members. Our strengths are essential, and those who have built up our congregation are key to its renewal.

Our congregation has already undertaken initiatives focused on renewal. We are key members of both the Bonfire (House of Hope, First Lutheran of Crystal, and St. James) and Wildfire (Bonfire plus Valley of Peace, Holy Nativity, Faith Lilac Way, and Cross of Glory) collaborative ministries. Rather than serving as a means to ease the pain of decline, these ministries are tools for renewal. They are serving to help each congregation renew and grow in ministry, membership and vitality. The good news of Jesus Christ has never been more needed or more relevant to our community than it is now. That is why God's Holy Spirit is empowering and equipping us to grow, renew and revitalize.

Based on what I have seen and heard, and my deep desire to know the people of St. James better, we will be holding a series of 12 cottage meetings during January and early February. The two objectives of the cottage meetings are: (1) to strengthen our relationships within the congregation through faith-based conversations; and (2) to share in conversations about God's mission for St. James today and for the future.

We are already at work at some basic steps for renewal in our congregation. Youth and children are now engaged in more worship leadership roles. We are working to create more ministries focused on youth and families. We are engaged in vital Bible studies at 10:10 on Sunday mornings following worship, to which all are welcomed, and in our monthly Mary Circle Bible studies. We are committed to support our KidPack ministry, both financially and with many volunteers, in order to support children in our community who otherwise would be undernourished. We have initiated a grief support ministry, a parish nurse ministry, a respite care ministry, and a CPR ministry.

During September, we focused on the worship theme "Making Friends." In October, we focused on "Making Disciples." On the middle three Sundays of November, we will be focusing on "Making a Difference." The stewardship, or faithful use, of all that God has given us does indeed make a difference. Making a difference is both how and why our congregation will be renewed and will grow. On Sunday, November 23, we will be invited to make a difference by pledging our financial support to the life and ministries of our church for 2015.

(Continued on page 2)

Happenings

St. James' Staff

Pastor Randall Romsdahl
rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org

Pastor Kristen Brehler
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Lana Teigen
lteigen@stjamesincrystal.org
Financial Coordinator

Amanda Burns
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Director of Communication

Ryan Walesch
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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

(Continued from page 1)

We are also working to build a new worship service designed to attract those who are looking for something new or who may be new to the Christian faith. We will be working on ministries focused on young families, which support and encourage strong marriages, and help parents share the faith with their children. Please hold these ministries and ministry opportunities in your prayers and open yourself to lead or participate as you are called. Thank you, faithful members in the Body of Christ at St. James.

*Love in Christ,
Pastor Randy*

Lutefisk Dinner

St. James' Lutfisk Dinner is set for Sat., Nov. 22 with seatings at 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Tickets are now available for \$18. Advance sales only.

Listen to old time music while enjoying: Lutefisk with cream sauce and melted butter, Swedish meatballs and gravy, boiled potatoes, homemade lefse, coleslaw, rice pudding with lingonberries, coffee and milk.

Many volunteers are needed for this event; sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Matching funds for NEAR Food Shelf are provided by Thrivent Northwest Minneapolis Chapter.

Craft Retreat

Calling all crafty people! The youth will be holding another craft retreat Sat., Nov. 15, 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. Come and get an early start on those holiday projects and gifts, or catch up on some unfinished projects.

The cost is \$35 and includes at least 4 feet of work space, lunch, dinner, refreshments, and door prize drawings. All proceeds benefit the youth group.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex; deadline is Nov. 8.

Contact Amy Jermstad with any questions, 612-868-3411 or ajermstad@gmail.com.

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.—Worship

10:10 a.m.—Education (Age 3 through adult)

It's Time to Fall Back

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Sat., Nov. 1.



Advent Decorating

Many hands are needed to help put up the advent decorations on Sat., Nov. 1 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Super Herald Deadline November 1

Please start looking ahead if you are planning an event for your group. We will be having a Super Herald covering the months of December, January, February and March. Articles must be submitted by November 1 to be included in this newsletter. Please email to Amanda at aburns@stjamesincrystal.org.

Quilts Available for Purchase

Beginning November 2, you will notice quilts hanging in the worship center. These quilts were made by the St. James quilters and are available for purchase (all year long). Quilts not purchased by December are donated to a number of different organizations. Proceeds are used to purchase materials to continue this ministry.

Quilters meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Wold Hall. Coffee and treat breaks are always taken. New members are always welcome

Usher & Financial Assistant Schedule

November 2

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

November 9

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, Carol Koosmann, Lorraine LaFontaine

November 16

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

November 23

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

November 30

Team IV



Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is Sat., Nov. 22 at 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's (36th & Winnetka). All men are welcome to attend for some good food, fellowship and fun!

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thanksgiving Eve worship will be held at First Lutheran Church this year on Wed., Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Donations of pies are needed for the pie social following the worship service. Watch for the sign-up sheet next week in the narthex!

Office Closed

The church office will close at noon on Wed., Nov. 26 and be closed all day on Nov. 27 & 28 as the staff celebrates Thanksgiving with their families.

All Saints' Day

We will celebrate all the saints who have left us this past year, as well as the new saints who have joined us through Holy Baptism on All Saints' Day, Nov. 2 during our 9:00 a.m. worship service.



The Lutheran Magazine

If you would like to receive *The Lutheran* magazine, please fill out an order form (found in the narthex) and return to the church office by Mon., Nov. 17. The cost is \$11.75 for a yearly subscription.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you have a Thrivent policy, please remember to designate Choice Dollars before the end of the year. To make your donation, simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." St. James is one of the approved organizations that you may designate your Choice Dollars to; please note that it is listed in Minneapolis, not Crystal.



Women's Christmas Brunch

Tickets are on sale for the Women's Christmas Brunch *A Nordic Noel* on Sat., Dec. 6 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$8.

This brunch is put on each year by Mary Circle and always includes delicious food and great entertainment.

Commitment Sunday is November 23rd

All members will be asked to prayerfully consider their financial contributions during the month of November and make that commitment on Commitment Sunday, Nov. 23.

Pledge cards and stewardship information will be mailed out in early November, so watch your mailbox!



COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Youth Nights at St. James

Sr. High Youth meets from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights (bi-monthly) every other week. Events and focus of the evening rotates. Some events are on site; others are offsite. Contact Ryan Walesch for more information.

National Youth Gathering

Plans for the National Youth Gathering are in full swing. There are a number of fundraisers coming up: Helping with Craft Sales, the Craft Retreat and the Lutefisk Dinner. If you would like to go to the National Youth Gathering, contact Walesch for more information.

Parent Connect

A new group, Parent Connection, will meet Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. in the Wally Krahn area (outside Wold Hall). Parents will meet for support and connections. All are invited to participate. For more information contact Pastor Kristen.

Youth Forum

Youth Forum meets on Sunday mornings at 10:10 for fellowship, topical focus and small group discussion. Middle school students meet in the old youth room and Sr. High students meet in Ryan's office. For more information contact Pr. Kristen or Ryan Walesch.

Confirmation Celebration

Congratulations to Emma Fountinelle, Cameron King, Madison Nygord, and Gwen Smith who were confirmed on Sunday, October 26th. We welcome you as full voting members of this congregation.

Moonlight Madness

When: Friday, November 14 – Saturday, November 15 (9 p.m.-7 a.m.)

Who: Middle School Students

Cost: \$35

Moonlight Madness is a city wide youth event with open gym, dance, Grand Slam, movies and bowling. This is a fun way to meet new people at St. James and around the Twin Cities. It's a Blast! Cost is \$35 per person. We have limited spots (8-10) for this fall event. Completed Registration forms with payment will reserve your spot. A waiting list will be created if necessary. Deadline to register is Sunday, November 2nd. Contact Pastor Kristen for more information.

Milestones

On November 16th there will be a "blessing of the keys", in worship for all those HS students with their permit or who are currently driving. Join us in worship for this special blessing and prayer. Contact Pastor Kristen for more information.

Lighthouse Sunday School

In November we have a number of fun events:

- On November 9th we will have a Rotation Fair where you will get a chance to be involved with hands-on learning involving, art/crafts, cooking and other ways to make the week's lesson come alive.
- On November 30th we will have an Advent Fair for the whole family. Come and start the season of Advent together with fun crafts, activities and special treats. This is a memory maker each year; come and share together this fun event. All are welcome!
- We are getting ready for our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 21st. We are learning songs and getting parts of the program organized. Look for more information to come about this – Rehearsal for the Program will be Sunday, December 14th at 10:10 a.m.



Be sure to invite your friends and family to be part of Lighthouse Sunday School. All are welcome! Contact Amy Jermstad or Pastor Kristen for more information!

Family Movie Night

All families are invited for a family movie night in Wold Hall on Fri., Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. Come watch *Planes: Fire & Rescue* and enjoy some fellowship, snacks and fun!

Important Info

Book Club News

November's pick: The Singing Wilderness by Sigurd F. Olson

"The singing wilderness has to do with the calling of the loons, northern lights, and the great silences of a land lying northwest of Lake Superior. It is concerned with the simple joys, the timelessness and perspective found in a way of life which is close to the past." Thus the author sets the theme and tone of this book of discovery about one of the great primitive areas in our country. But Mr. Olson is not content merely to describe; he probes for meanings that will lead the reader to a different and more revealing way of looking at the out-of-doors and to

a deeper sense of its eternal values. Superbly illustrated by Francis Lee Jaques, it is a book that no lover of nature will want to be without. [from the Publisher]

Join "Page Turners" this month in reading the book The Singing Wilderness. The group meets Tues., Nov. 4 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).

December's pick: The Paris Wife by Paula McLain.

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.

Memorials & Gifts

Adopt-a-Student in honor of Corey Loken from Connie Blom. In memory of Allen Povlick from Mary Brown.

KidPack in memory of Arnold Maki from Connie Blom, Terry & Lana Teigen, Roger & Sandy Johnson.

Scripture Readings

November 2

Revelation 7:9-17
Matthew 5:1-12

November 9

Amos 5:18-24
Matthew 25:1-13

November 16

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Matthew 25:14-30

November 23

Ezekiel 24:11-16
Matthew 25:31-46

November 30

Isaiah 64:1-9
Mark 13:24-37

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.

Please Pray For:

Hospitalizations

- Sue Eggen

Sympathy

- Delores Hanson on the death of her son
- Les Lamb on the death of his sister

Craft Show November 8th

The Annual Holiday Craft Show will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 8th. Please bring your neighbors, friends and family!

Registration forms for artists and crafters are now available in the narthex. 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. Event is a fundraiser for the Senior High Youth.

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

Thank You

Sunday Altar Flowers

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.



The 2015 sheet is now available!

Loaves & Fishes

Still want to help out at Loaves and Fishes? You can at Brunswick Methodist on Wednesdays--helping prepare at 3:30 or serving at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Pastor is Bart Fletcher. The representative at Brunswick is Mary Hagen. You may call her at 763-546-2669 when you want to volunteer, or email her at hagendav@juno.com. It is soo close to home, let's help out in our own community.

DAYD

Drivers needed for Dinner at Your Door. If you have a car and an hour a month to spare, you can help our elderly, disabled, shut-ins and those recovering from surgery by delivering a hot nourishing meal.

Meals are picked up at Crystal Community Center around 10:30 a.m. and delivered to 6-8 homes in the area. You may be a regular or substitute driver.

Volunteering for this ministry is very rewarding. Be a DAYD driver. Please contact Barbara Parsons at 763-228-2272 for more info or to sign up.

Letters of Thanks

As graduation pulls me through the next part of my life, I wanted to thank you all for the support you've given me over the years. This church has molded me and guided me though thick and thin, and the people here have had my back all the way. Your guidance is greatly appreciated and I will forever hold this place in my heart.

*In Christ,
Emily Valentine*

Thanks for the philatelic material you sent in September. Once again, we want to express our appreciation for the time and effort you've taken to gather up and mail the stamps to us so that we can continue to carry on our work with Stamps for a Living at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. This program provides some wonderful therapy for our residents here. Keep up the good work. A special thanks to Susan Lindstrom for making this happen and another thanks to all who have contributed the stamps.

*Sincerely,
June Heinz,
Stamp Collection Volunteer*

St. James,

Thank you for allowing me to do my Eagle Scout Project at church. Your support and guidance were greatly appreciated.

*Thank you again,
Duncan Petrie
Troop 3542*

Outreach Partner: NEAR Food Shelf

It is once again time for the November Food Drive for the NEAR Food Shelf. You may pick up a grocery bag by the front door for your donation. NEAR is an emergency food shelf that serves the northern part of Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale. Last year the St. James congregation donated over \$2,000 and bags of food. These donations helped serve the clients with food for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For the past year NEAR has served an average of 301 families with 1,351 individuals per month. The new client average is 21 families each month. An extra box of food was given to families with school-age children this summer and they also received school supplies. During the months of November and December, the clients will again receive an extra box of food.

Here is a heads up for the Christmas distribution at the Crystal Community Center on Saturday Dec. 13; set up will be on Friday Dec. 12. Your help will be greatly appreciated. You may want to start saving gently used sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, coats, and Christmas decorations.

If you would like to know more about NEAR, you might talk to Nancy Dahlquist, Emily-Jim Hauan, Ruth Stanchfield, Chuck Schneider, Mary Roening, Joyce Held, Connie Blom or Martha Thompson. More information will be in the display case by the front door.

If you choose to give a monetary donation, you may make your check to St. James with NEAR on the memo line. Thank you for your continued help in serving those in need in our community. If everyone helps just a little, it will turn into a great food drive for NEAR.



Bonfire Executive Director's Note

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

First of all, let me say a huge Thank You to you for your support of Bonfire Ministry. Without you and your support this collaboration in ministry could not happen at all. Because of your commitment to Bonfire new ministries are taking place and those already established are touching the lives of people around our community. You may not realize it, but the Bonfire Ministry model of cooperation and collaboration is being watched by lots of people, and it is really the model for the Wildfire Ministry collaboration that is also involving our congregations. Together we can do more than we can possibly do alone.

Your Grief Support Ministry is up and running now. There are a number of participants and the Lay Leaders are doing a wonderful job. If you are experiencing grief because of the death of a friend or a loved one, you are welcome and invited to join the Grief Support Group at any time. This is not a program where you have to start at a "beginning" place in order to participate. The program is designed so that people can enter into it at any time. The Grief Support Program is held every Sunday evening at St. James Lutheran Church from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There is a nominal registration cost, but beyond that there is no cost to you for the program, and if you need it, scholarships are available. One additional thing is that this ministry is open to anyone in the community. It is another way you are reaching out as the hands, feet and heart of God into the community.

I recently heard the comment that the Church is always asking for money.

The best response I have heard is "that is true, and the need is very great." We do not ask you to give when there is no need. We do give you the opportunity to support the ongoing ministry of God through your gifts. When you consider how blessed most of us are, with a roof over our heads, food to eat, the ability to stay warm in the winter, clean running water, stable electricity, and the ability to travel around in our own vehicles, you begin to realize you are far better off than most of the people in the rest of the world. That is why we give you the opportunity to give. In our own community there are many in need. This is reflected by the number of students who qualify for Free and Reduced cost meals at school. The KidPack program is in place to help offset the nutritional needs of our children. The Adopt-A-Student program was created to help you, through Bonfire Ministry, meet this need. Your gift of \$54 will assure that one student will have food for three weekends each month, where they might go hungry otherwise. Our goal at St. James is to support 350 students each year through the Adopt-A-Student program. That's just over \$1.00 per week. If you have not already done so, please consider your gift to this ministry of caring for the least among us. Your gift is necessary and very much needed.

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*

GriefShare Support Group

Bonfire Ministry will be hosting a Grief Support Group with different topics through mid-December. It is being held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the Peter & Paul room.

You are welcome to begin attending at any point. Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence.

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

Adopt-A-Student Challenge

KidPack Adopt-A-Student update: St. James has lovingly adopted 96 students at \$54.00 for the KidPack Adopt-A-Student challenge. Thank you for the support of our youngest citizens. Our goal at St. James is to adopt 350 students for the 2014-2015 school year KidPack initiative.

If you are able to adopt a student, please consider making a donation as part of your workplace charitable giving (simply enter under Community Shares Bonfire Ministry nonprofit and write "KidPack Adopt-A-Student"). Thanksgiving and Christmas memorials are also a consideration for KidPack Adopt-A-Student. Thank you to all for giving of your time and resources to support children living with weekend hunger in our own back yards.



Bonfire Women's Retreat

Bonfire is having a Women's Retreat this fall with the theme "Getting to Know You!"

The retreat is Sat., Nov. 15, 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Camp Ihduhapi in Loretto, MN. A carpool will leave from House of Hope at 8:30 a.m.

It will be a day of fun, laughs and action as we get to know each other.

The cost is \$35 for the day, including lunch and dinner. (\$30 extra if you'd like to do the zip line!) Checks can be made out to House of Hope.

Space is limited so register and pay now with either Deb Mans at 763-525-1324 or Karen Brehmer at 612-799-7069.

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Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias are now for sale for Christmas for \$8.00 each. You may take your plant home after the 10:00 p.m. service on Dec. 24. The names of the honorees will be included for the Christmas Eve services. Orders must be received in the church office by Sun., Dec. 7.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Please indicate how many of each color you would like.

_____ Red _____ White _____ Jingle Ball (Red & White Mix)

Total number of poinsettia plant(s) _____ x \$8.00 each Total Due: _____

In (circle one) memory / honor of: _____

In (circle one) memory / honor of: _____



**ORDER YOUR
Poinsettias**