

September 2014

St. James Herald

What's INSIDE

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

Happenings

Children & Youth

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Office Hours

The church office is open:
Mon.-Wed. 7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Thurs. 7:00 a.m.—noon
Fri. 7:00 —9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

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



Our beautiful summer continues, the garden has produced abundant amounts of green beans, sweet corn, beets, zucchini, tomatoes and cucumbers. We live in peace and enjoy the good life our community, state and nation provide. We know that every blessing, every good thing in life is from God, for our blessing, and entrusted to our care, our faithful stewardship. And we know that our congregation, St. James Lutheran in Crystal, is a blessing, a good thing in our lives which is also entrusted by God to our care.

After serving as your new senior pastor for one month, it seems appropriate to offer my first impressions of our congregation, about how God is at work in our church and some thoughts about the direction of God's mission for us. First of all, we are blessed with a community of dedicated, generous, faithful, and compassionate people.

Our congregation will be celebrating sixty years of ministry during 2015. The only two constants during those sixty years are God's faithfulness and change. We have come this far by faith, which is God's gift to us, and by living out God's mission for us in a world of constant change and diversity. Our mission statement says we are "Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal." I am deeply moved and very excited about the many ways our congregation is at work in our community and in the world making a difference for Christ and for God's glory! Yes, it is the light of Christ shining brightly through this church!

My family, friends and visitors from our neighboring ELCA Wildfire churches all have commented about the warm, welcoming reception they received on August 10 when they can for our installation service. Yes, the light of Christ indeed shines brightly at St. James!

And my own, personal experience ratifies and verifies the witness of these visitors to our church. Your have welcomed me in the kindest, warmest way possible! I am grateful to God for you, and for the life we share in Christ at St. James Lutheran.

The church staff at St. James are hard-working, dedicated in their efforts, and have also welcomed me with a spirit of cooperation, encouragement, and excitement about working together for the sake of God's mission at St. James.

Our congregation faces great challenges, and how God intends that we meet them will only be known as we walk together in faith. But our mission is one that is not static, but is lived and shared from generation to generation. This fall, I will be preaching a series of sermons on the core elements of what it is to be the Body of Christ, at St. James, or at any Christian church. The series will focus on: (1) making friends; (2) making disciples; and (3) making a difference. Please plan to attend worship every Sunday this fall, and be renewed and dedicated in all three of these movements of faith.

*Love in Christ,
Pastor Randy*

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
Ringing 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.



Change by Not Changing: Worship Service Decision

At our congregation's council meeting on Monday evening, August 18, the worship committee's recommendation that our worship life continue into the fall with one worship service at 9:30 a.m. was accepted and considered carefully. The council also considered the valuable feedback which it had received in the two listening sessions it sponsored on Wednesday night, August 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 17 following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. After thoughtful conversation in which many perspectives and preferences were shared, the council voted to adopt the worship committee's recommendation with the following changes and additions:

1. Beginning on Rally Sunday, September 7, 2014, the St. James worship schedule will be worship at 9:00 a.m.
2. A task force will begin immediately to gather the information and resources needed to create and implement a new worship service at St. James. This worship service will be held at a time and day to be finalized by the council upon receiving the recommendations of the New Worship Task Force.
3. Emily Valentine and Pastor Randy have begun this process at a meeting on Tuesday, August 18. Please contact Pastor Randy (763-537-3653) or Emily Valentine if you are interested in working on the New Worship Task Force.

Over 55's

The Over 55's are looking for someone to plan something for September. If you are interested, plan something and let the church office know so we can get the word out!

Pastor Kristen Contract Extended

At our congregation's council meeting on Monday evening, August 18, the council voted to offer Pastor Kristen Breckler, as our Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry, an extension of her contract through the end of June, 2015. I am delighted to share with you that Pastor Kristen has accepted the council invitation to continue serving here at St. James. Pastor Kristen and I have worked to create a job description for her ministry which fits the staffing priorities of our congregation within the parameters of her half-time position. Pastor Kristen will be preaching about one Sunday per month, and will be assisting with worship leadership about one additional Sunday per month.

The council also committed to further conversations with Kristen next spring about her ministry here at St. James going forward. During the month in which I have been privileged to serve as your senior pastor, many in our congregation have shared their deep respect for Pastor Kristen and her ministry leadership with me. Since my arrival, Pastor Kristen has been a wonderful partner in ministry, and my appreciation and admiration for her gifts, her faith, her effectiveness and her work ethic has only grown. I am delighted by this council decision, which was recommended by both our executive committee and our finance committee, and look forward to working closely with Kristen in the coming year. Please share your appreciation and support for Pastor Kristen with her as we celebrate the opportunity for continuing in ministry together.

Pastor Randy

Car Care Saturday

The next Car Care Saturday has been scheduled for Sat., Sept. 13, 8:00 a.m. –noon.

Volunteers are needed to help with changing oil, cleaning cars, registration, hospitality, and child care. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Car Care is a ministry of St. James that provides oil changes to people in need in our community.



Scripture Readings

September 7

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Matthew 18:15-20

September 21

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Matthew 20:1-16

September 14

Genesis 50:15-21
Matthew 18:21-35

September 28

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Matthew 21:23-32

Usher & Financial Assistant Schedule

September 7

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

September 14

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

September 21

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

September 28

9:00 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., Sept. 20 at 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's (36th Ave. & Winnetka Ave).

Second Sunday Singers

Join us on Sept. 14 at 8:30 a.m. to prepare a piece to sing at that morning's service. All ages and all abilities are welcome!

Directory Pictures

If you had your photo taken for the new directory and did not place an order, your free 8x10 is in the office!

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., Sept. 1 for Labor Day. In case of an emergency, contact Pastor Randy at 612-803-2879.

Sunday School Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help with Lighthouse Sunday School this year. This includes teaching, helping with special activities among other things. Please contact Pastor Kristen if you are willing to help out in any way with our Sunday School program.

A Family & Children's Ministry team has been formed and new members are always welcome.

Power of One

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? Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Donations of Children's Books

When you find books your children no longer read, please donate them to the library for Car Care on September 13.

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

Sunday School Shift

On Sept. 7, we will be starting a "New Season" with exciting new changes in our Children's Ministry. We are building upon a strong foundation of 9:57; we will continue with a similar formation but at a different time.

We will focus on fully reflecting our light and will do this with the image of a Lighthouse guiding our way. Lighthouse Sunday School will be at 10:10 a.m. from Luke 9:57 "we will follow you wherever you go" and fully moving into embracing the theme of 'reflecting our light'. We will do this through the image of a LIGHT House.

This year the leaders will be Amy Jermstad and Pastor Kristen, along with the Children's Ministry team that will help shape the ministry as we move forward. Because of these new roles we are inviting many people to share their gifts. We are expecting a significant volunteer effort this year.

We want you to be part of Lighthouse! Register and get ready for a great year. If you know of any families who are looking for a place to belong, have them check out www.stjamesincrystal.org

Orientation will be Sun., Sept. 7 at 10:10 a.m. in Wold Hall. All families are expected to attend. For more information contact Amy Jermstad or Pastor Kristen.



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:

September 7 – Back to School Blessing

September 14 – 6th Grade: Entering Confirmation

September 28 – 3rd Grade: "Bible"

October 5 – Blessing of the Animals

3rd Grade Bible Milestone

3rd Grade families are invited to a Bible Workshop on Sat., Sept. 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., to discover more about the Bible and how it impacts our faith and daily life. This workshop will be followed by a milestone celebration on Sunday, September 28th during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. For more information contact Pastor Kristen or the church office to register.

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.



Confirmation

Confirmation gives students tools to understand their life in the midst of God's Great ongoing story. It's an intense time of spiritual discernment and spiritual growth that involves relationship building, service, and learning. *We invite all 6-9th grade students to be part of our Confirmation experience, where students learn about and "confirm" the promises made at their baptism.*

6-8th Grade Orientation – Wed., Sept. 10th 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Wold Hall)

9th Grade Orientation – Sun., Sept. 14th – 10:10 a.m. (Pr. Kristen's Office)

At these meetings we will talk about expectations, calendar items, collect registration fees/forms and answer any questions you may have. These are mandatory meetings and at least one parent is expected to attend with their student. For more information contact Pastor Kristen or Pastor Randy.

Sunday School and Confirmation Small Group Leader Training

Wed., Sept. 3, 6:15-7:45 p.m. for Sunday School Leaders/volunteers

Wed., Sept. 3, 7:00-8:30 p.m. for Confirmation Small Group Leaders

We will go over materials, what to expect, child safety and information about the upcoming year. All those serving are expected to attend the training. Please contact Pr. Kristen if you have questions or concerns.

Confirmation

Affirmation of Baptism Celebration is Sunday, October 26th at 9:00 a.m.

Sr. High Mission Trip

The Sr. High Youth went on a Mission Trip to Grand Marais August 6-11. The group worked two days in service in Grand Marais, first dismantling and hauling out a

bridge in Cascade State Park and the second day picking rock out of a horse training field for the Grand Marais community center. We stayed at the city campground in Grand Marais, where we set up our own tents, cooked our own food and told stories at night. We even swam in Lake Superior. The highlight of Grand Marais was climbing on the rocks. After that we toured Duluth one day and stayed on Canal Street. We completed a photo scavenger hunt of the area, ate at Grandma's and toured many



sights. The highlight was the Alpine Slide. We had a great time, made good connections, worked really hard and all returned safely back home. A great trip!!

Youth Nights at St. James

This month's youth nights are Wed., Sept. 10 & 24 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 middle school and High school youth will gather together for a youth forum during the education hour (10:10am). 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).

An informational meeting for parents and students is scheduled for Sun., Sept. 7 @ 10:10 a.m. Cost of the trip, fundraising opportunities, and other important information will be covered at this meeting. Registration form along with your \$200 deposit is due Sept. 30th. For more information contact Ryan Walesch or Pastor 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

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!

Book Club News

September’s pick: Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson

Ruth, the young narrator of Housekeeping, is taken with her sister, Lucille, to the small Idaho town of Fingerbone to live with their grandmother. The girls are raised by a series of relatives, and finally come under the care of Sylvie, their aunt, an elusive transient who agrees to return to Fingerbone to make a home for them. At first her eccentricities seem unimportant to the girls, but as time goes on, her behavior becomes increasingly erratic. The novel is a haunting and unforgettable work of art about the transitory nature of love and the impermanence of all things. [from barnesandnoble.com]

Join “Page Turners” this month in reading the book Housekeeping. The group meets Tues., September 2 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).

October’s pick: The Eighty-Dollar Champion: Snowman, the horse that inspired a nation by Elizabeth Letts.

Fall Work Day—Oct. 11

It’s time to get St. James sparkling clean before winter! The Fall Work Day will be on Sat., Oct. 11 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.

Activities will include cleaning light fixtures, replacing furnace filters, checking emergency lights, washing windows, cleaning the stove, parking lot, wiping down chairs and tables, replacing light bulbs, and defrosting freezers.

Choir Rehearsals Begin Sept. 3

St. James Choir will be starting rehearsals for the fall on Wednesday, September 3 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us! We welcome all ages and all abilities. Contact Deanna Loken with questions: deannaloken@aol.com or 612-308-9126.

Ringling Praise Bell Choir Begins Sept. 2

It's OK to be a ding-a-ling when you're part of Ringling Praise!

Ringling Praise bell choir rehearsals begin Tues., Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the balcony. Share the fun by bringing a friend. No experience necessary!

If you have any questions, please call Mary Brown at 612-462-0729.

Outreach Partner: KidPack

KidPack is a collaborative effort to fight local weekend hunger for children in our own backyards. Weekend snacks are assembled and delivered to schools on Fridays for children to bring home.

Volunteers put the packages together the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Food Network (8501 54th Ave N- New Hope). The next packing date is September 30. Volunteers can sign up to help by calling Melodie Hanson at 763-504-4981.

One in five area households with children are food insecure. Children in those households simply do not get enough to eat- they have to cut the size of their meals, skip meals, or even go whole days without food at some point during the school year. Hungry children face unnecessary barriers as they strive to become healthy, productive, and engaged members of society. Hunger contributes to poor academic performance and disruptive behavior in the classroom. Missed meals also increase tardiness and visits to the school nurse.

Can't volunteer? You can contribute financially at any time, but all special offerings during the month of September will be given to KidPack to help fund the program. Any amount will help. Please make checks this month payable to St. James with KidPack in the memo line.

Please note that KidPack is also doing an Adopt-A-Student drive. More information can be found on page 10.



Prayer Concerns

Hospitalizations
Kendal Weiland

Memorials

Endowment Fund in memory of
Walter Johnson from Marv &
Sue Berke

Gifts

ELCA Benevolence in honor of Pr.
Randy's installation from Connie
Blom

KidPack in honor of Pr. Dave from
George & Orla McClure

Mission & Ministry in honor of Pr
Dave & Ardie Valen from
Connie Blom



Save the Dates

- Sun., Oct. 5: Blessing of the Animals
- Sat., Oct. 11: Fall Work Day
- Sun., Oct. 26: Confirmation Sunday
- Sat., Nov. 8: Craft Sale
- Sat., Nov. 22: Lutefisk Dinner
- Wed., Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Eve Joint Worship at First Lutheran

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.

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.

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

Protect Our Children Training: Nursery & Power of One Volunteers

All who plan to work with children this year in the nursery or volunteer with Power of One at Forest Elementary School should attend the 45-minute Protect Our Children Training on Wed., Sept. 3 at 7:00 p.m.

If you have attended a Protect our Children training last year, you do not need to attend this year. If it's been longer than one year, please plan to join us!

Sunday School leaders will come early at 6:15 p.m. and then stay through the end of the POC training at 7:45 pm.. Confirmation Small Group Leaders will arrive for the POC training and then stay for the leader training.

If you have questions or can't attend, please contact Pastor Kristen Brechler at 763-537-3653 or kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org.

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.

Letters of Thanks

Dear friends and family and St. James,

Thank you so much for all the cards and notes I received for my 99th birthday. I will never forget any one of you, as long as I live.

*Love to all,
Frances LaMotte*

Dear friends,

Summer is Twin Cities Habitat's busiest building season; this summer we have more work to do than ever. On any given day we have 20 or more sites active in 12 different cities across the metro. Thank you so much for your gift of \$439.61 to support the Thrivent Builds home in Crystal. This gift will help us continue to make a difference in 2014 and beyond. We are so grateful for your commitment to Twin Cities families and for your support of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity as we work toward providing affordable housing for all.

*Sincerely
Stephanie Nelson
Faith Community Relations Senior Associate
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity*

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 Randy's office.



Boy Scout Does Project to Earn Eagle Scout Award

Boy Scout and St. James member, Duncan Petrie, is working toward his Eagle Scout Award by creating a solution to the water run-off problem at St. James.

Duncan has worked with an area landscaper and presented two options to the St. James Property Committee, with one of the options being approved.

Duncan, leading other boy scouts, will create a five foot hole and fill with river rock. This will create a channel for run-off underground. Everything will be ground level for ease of mowing and will be edged with larger rock.

With the completion of this project by the end of September, Mr. Petrie will be ready to receive his Eagle Scout Award.

Loaves & Fishes

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

They are looking for volunteers on Wednesday 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!

God's Work. Our Hands.

All across the country, member churches of the ELCA will be spending a day serving their communities. The eight Wildfire churches are joining together for a day of service, fellowship and worship. This is a family event!

We will participate in two service projects the morning of Sat., Sept. 6 and then gather at Northwood Park on 38th & Boone Ave. for food, fellowship and worship. You (and your family) can choose to serve at Second Harvest Heartland from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., or join the group at Holy Nativity to tie fleece quilts for Camp Noah. Remember—this is a family event, and members of all ages are encouraged to participate. (There is a minimum age of 8 at Second Harvest).

Even if you are unable to participate in the service projects, you are encouraged to join everyone at the Wildfire potluck picnic and worship at Northwood Park at noon.

People participating in the service events are encouraged to purchase a t-shirt for \$7. Sizes S-XXL. St. James is getting only 25 shirts, so get yours while your size is still available!

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.

KidPack Tennis Tournament

Once again, Corey Loken of St. James will be hosting a tennis tournament to raise money and awareness for Bonfire KidPack. This program packages "snack packs" for kids at Meadow Lake and Forest Elementary and the Family Lit. program where poverty rates are between 70 and 90 percent. Many children in these schools simply don't get enough to eat, especially on weekends when they do not have access to free or reduced-priced lunches. This contributes to poor academic performance, disruptive behavior, increased tardiness, and increased visits to the school nurse. These kids need your help to end their weekend hunger!

We're trying something new this year: a doubles tournament! So grab your partner (or let us find one for you) and head out to the courts! It will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at the Cooper High School tennis courts. The entry fee is \$20/person, which includes a t-shirt if you sign up by September 6th. Play will be 8 game sets, with no-ad scoring, and everyone is guaranteed at least two matches. All abilities are welcome!

Don't play tennis? You can still help support Corey's tournament by making a donation. All the money raised will go to Bonfire KidPack. You can make a donation by cash or check: be sure to make your check out to Bonfire KidPack and put "tennis tournament" on the memo line. Or you may go online to make a donation: <http://www.razoo.com/story/Serving-Up-Weekend-Snacks-2014>

Questions? Contact Corey at coreyloken@aol.com or 763-234-7838.

Grief Support Ministry

Everyone experiences grief many times during their lifetime. Sometimes that grief is easily dealt with and other times the loss is very deep and the grief is very intense. The congregations of the Bonfire Ministry have seen the need for a Christian, Spiritually based Grief Support ministry and have moved forward to establish this caring opportunity. We have chosen to begin using the GriefShare program, which is a 12-week program, using a video to stimulate discussion. The program will be held at St. James Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoons, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., beginning September 14 and continuing through December 14. Those who have participated in the GriefShare program have given it high marks for helping them through their losses.

If you have experienced grief, from any source, and would like to receive some assistance working through your feelings and thoughts, please consider participating in this renewing program. If you would like to participate, please give the church office a call and let them know you are interested, or just show up at St. James Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 14, at 4:00 pm. You will be most welcome.

KidPack Packing Days 2014-2015

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 2014-2015 school year are as follows:

- September 30
- October 28
- November 25
- January 6 & 27
- February 24
- 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

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Where did the summer go? It's fall already and we are ready to get into our fall schedules. Bonfire Ministry is no exception. KidPack starts on August 26 @ 4:30 p.m. @ EFN. We will be packing snack bags for children at Forest and Meadow Lake Elementary Schools and the Robbinsdale Family Lit Program again this year. It looks like it will be another grand year of caring for these children and their families. Come and join us, again, for the fellowship and the service we do in Jesus' name. I want to remind you that we have changed the funding model for KidPack this year. You will be hearing more about the Adopt-A-Student program during worship announcements and we hope you will be generous and Adopt at least one and perhaps more students for KidPack. There will be donation envelopes in the church pews soon and a couple of thermometer graphs to help you know how we are doing at reaching our goal. It costs Bonfire Ministry approximately \$80,000 per year to fund the KidPack ministry we do together.

The cost to adopt a student is \$54. 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, along with Holy Nativity Lutheran Church will be asked to adopt 350 students. This is VERY DOABLE.

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 Min-

istry 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. See the GriefShare article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, mark Sept 6 on your calendars for the Second Annual ELCA Day of Serving, God's Work-Our Hands. We will be dividing into two groups with one group working at Second Harvest Food Shelf and the other tying blanket edges at Holy Nativity for children attending Camp Noah; a camp for children who have experienced severe trauma in their lives. Following our time of service we will all gather, along with those who couldn't work but would like to experience the fellowship, at Northwood Park on Boone and 38th Ave., around noon for a picnic and fellowship. Watch your Sunday Church worship bulletins for more information. We will be serving with the other Wildfire congregations. Again, God is giving us an opportunity for fellowship and serving in one package. What could possibly be better or easier?

See you at KidPack packing and the ELCA Day of Serving, and perhaps at GriefShare.

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

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.

CPR and AED Training

First Lutheran Church will host the next CPR/AED Training session on Mon., Sept. 15 at 1:00 p.m.

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

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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Rally Sunday, September 7

Please plan on joining our congregation for a festive, Rally Sunday worship at our new worship time of 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 7! Following worship, Sunday school families are encouraged to register their children for Sunday School and then join the congregation for hotdogs and a potluck picnic on the east deck and lawn. Please bring a dish to pass and your own beverages to the picnic. Hotdogs and buns will be provided. There will be a bounce house and games for the children (and young at heart)! Also come to find out more about the many ministries of our church.

Sunday School
Orientation

Potluck Picnic

Youth
Gathering
Information

Involvement
Fair

Bounce House