

St. James Herald

Super Herald Edition
December 2014– March 2015

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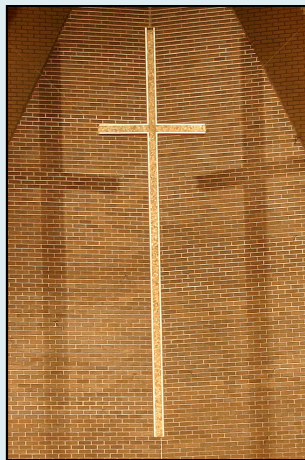
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Office Hours

The church office is open:

Mon.-Wed. 7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Thurs. 7:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Fri. 7:00—9:30 a.m.

(These hours are through December 17— see page 3 for hours after that)

St. James Lutheran Church

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

Pastoral Reflection

Followers of Christ at St. James Lutheran,

During these winter months of longer nights and deepening cold, there are days when we may want to hibernate or flee south to warmer weather. For most of us though, neither hibernation nor moving south is an option. Perhaps one blessing of winter is that it forces us to expand our planning horizons beyond the present day. The inevitable coming of winter imposes urgency upon our preparations.

We remember the autumn preparations for the long winter ahead – farmers and gardeners harvesting their crops and tilling the soil in preparation for the planting season next spring; making sure our vehicles are properly equipped with antifreeze and tires suitable for snowy conditions; and preparing our homes with tight doors and windows to keep out the cold and conserve energy.

Our Lord invites us to experience and enjoy both short-term (live for today), and longer-term (prepare for the coming day of the Lord) perspectives in our lives. Winter is a time to slow down a bit, even as we are mindful of the urgency of each day. It is a time to engage in prayerful, thoughtful discernment and planning for the future. For example, after months of prayer, discernment and meetings, we expect that our alternative worship planning team will be bringing a new worship service to life at St. James. Also, our annual meeting on Sunday, January 25 will present an opportunity for our congregation to reshape and grow our ministries at St. James.

We are also engaged in planning conversations with our sister Bonfire and Wildfire churches about how together we can help each congregation grow stronger and extend the Good News of Jesus Christ into the life and vitality of our communities. In this season of planning, we are called by God to live faithfully and courageously. We are called to practice the spiritual disciplines which will exercise our hearts, minds and souls in order to strengthen our faith: weekly worship, daily Bible study, daily prayer, inviting others to faith, encouraging others in their faith, serving in the name of Christ and giving our financial resources, time and talents to God.

God has called us to live the best life possible, an abundant life pleasing to God. We find many descriptions of such a life in scripture. In the Gospel of John, Jesus encourages his followers to attach themselves to him and to depend on him. In doing so, we will bear much fruit. The Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatian church describes the fruit of God's Holy Spirit this way: "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." In these dark days of winter, let us grow together in our relationship with Jesus, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. May each of our plans and our lives be united by "Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal."

I am grateful to serve our Lord with you as your senior pastor, and excited about the plans God has for us to bear fruit and make a difference for God's glory in our families, our community, and the world.

*Love in Christ,
Pastor Randy*

St. James' Staff

Pastor Randall Romsdahl
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Pastor Kristen Brehler
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Deanna Loken
Choir Director

Mary Brown
Ringin' Praise Bell Choir
Director & Organist

Ron Skalicky
Custodian

Amy Jermstad
Sunday Morning Custodian /
Sunday School Coordinator

Nursery Plans

St. James plans to have a staffed nursery before the end of 2014, rather than rely on volunteers on Sunday mornings. It will help to have a consistent person that the children will come to recognize.



Visitations

At St. James, we generally have about 15 people on our visitation list. Pastor Randy tries to visit each person on the visitation list at least once per month. His visits include a short worship service which includes prayer, scripture reading, often a hymn or two, and Holy Communion. We also are blessed to have two members of our congregation, Eunice Kistner and Peg Tutila, who make regular visits to those on our visitation list. In addition, our parish nurse, Debbie Haney, visits those on our visitation list and others as the need arises. Pastor Randy also visits those who express a desire for a visit, such as those who are hospitalized or who are otherwise experiencing challenges in their lives.

If you are interested in joining our visitation ministry, wish to have a visit, or know someone who does, please contact Pastor Randy by email at rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org or the church office at office@stjamesincrystal.org.

Alternative Worship Service Update

At the church council's meeting last August, the council voted to accept and implement our congregation's worship committee recommendation that the summer worship format of one blended worship service on Sunday morning continue through the program year, September through May. It also supported the formation and work of a team to explore creating a new worship service which would help our congregation attract worshippers who seek a worship experience different from what we now offer. An alternative worship team formed early in September and has been at work ever since. The current members are Dee Burrington, Denise Compton, Betty Sultvedt, Jeannette Valentine, Sarah Valentine, Emily Valentine and Pastor Randy. However, anyone who is interested in this project is welcomed to join. As a team, we have visited the contemporary/alternative worship services at seven or eight churches in the metro area in order to gather new ideas and experience what other congregations are doing. We have also developed an internship position description for a contemporary Christian worship leader, and are sending this position description to Christian colleges in the metro area with the goal of creating an internship which will provide valuable worship music leadership experience for qualified college students and also help us implement a worship service featuring contemporary Christian music.

The most difficult issue we are grappling with is when our new, alternative worship service should be offered. Most folks on our team favor an 11:00 a.m. worship service for a number of very good reasons. However, we recognize the vitality, unity and life which the single Sunday morning worship has brought to our congregation and the very positive feedback which has resulted, both from members and visitors. The key tasks remaining are to secure the services of one or more contemporary Christian musicians, implement a worship planning team to design and support this worship service, and make the very difficult decision about when the service will be held. **Please join the team at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday morning, December 7 for a brunch and an opportunity to share your thoughts about our current worship schedule and about a new, alternative worship service. Please hold the work of this team in your prayers and feel free to contact any of its members with questions or suggestions!**

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.— Worship

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

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfasts are held the third Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's (36th & Winnetka). All men are welcome to attend for some good food, fellowship and fun!

Usher & Financial Assistant Schedule

First Sunday

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

Second Sunday

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

Third Sunday

9:00 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

Fourth Sunday

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

March 29 (Fifth Sunday)

Team I



Pledge Cards

It's not too late to turn in your pledge cards for 2015. Please just put them in the offering plate on Sunday morning or bring them to the church office. 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!



Amanda Burns Will Be On Maternity Leave Through March 23

Why is there such a big Herald this month? Why so many months lumped together? Well it's almost time for the second Baby Boy Burns to arrive (sometime the end of December)! That means that Director of Communications, Amanda Burns, will be out of the office on maternity leave. She will return on Mon., Mar. 23.

While she is away, there are a few things you may want to know:

- **Prayer Requests** can be directed to Lana Teigen (lteigen@stjamesincrystal.org or 763-537-3653).
- **Pews News articles** will be collected by Lana Teigen (lteigen@stjamesincrystal.org or drop off in the church office) and will be put together by Connie Blom and Sonya Lodahl. The deadline is every Monday at noon for the following Sunday's Pews News.
- **Bulletins** are going to be run for the beginning parts of the leave and then printed by Deanna Loken the second part. So there may be announced changes during worship. *Thank you for being flexible!*
- **Gospel E** will be sent out by Pastor Randy. *Please be patient with him!*
- **Website** will be updated upon Amanda's return.
- **Office coverage** will mostly be done by the amazing Lana Teigen. *Office hours will change (Mon.-Thurs.: 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.; closed on Fridays).* Volunteers will fill in as needed. *Thank you all!*
- **Herald newsletter** will consist of this Super Edition that covers the months of December, January, February, and March. Separate editions will not be produced. The next newsletter will be the April Herald. Articles for this are due by noon on March 23 (Amanda's return date).
- **Other issues or concerns** can be directed to any of the St. James staff members.

Thank you for being so understanding and for all the planning ahead, while the Burns family adjusts to three kids!

“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.

Please contact the church office to sign up for this newsletter.

Parent Connection

A new group, Parent Connection, meets Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. in the Wally Krahn area (outside Wold Hall). Parents 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.

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.

Lighthouse Sunday School



Come join us as we journey in faith together as we seek to be a Lighthouse to our community and world, reflecting the light of Christ to those around us. Lighthouse Sunday School meets at 10:10 a.m. downstairs in the classroom gathering area. Come join us, all are welcome! For more information contact Amy Jermstad or Pastor Kristen.

Advent Fair

Join us Sunday, November 30th at 10:10 a.m. for a family friendly Advent Fair. This event will focus on getting ready for the season of Advent. It will be an opportunity for all ages to participate, learn and grow together through crafts, activities and snacks. Join us! For more information contact Amy Jermstad.

Christmas Program

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Children will lead worship sharing the Gospel Story through music and readings on **Sun., Dec. 21 at the 9:00 a.m. worship service!**

Rehearsal for the program will be on Sun., Dec. 14 at 10:10 a.m. For those interested in reading, singing, playing an instrument or being part of an ensemble, other practices may be held. Contact Amy Jermstad for more information.



Children's Christmas Program

Family Ministry Events

There are a number of family events that will happen over the next few months. There will be a movie night, sledding and other fun events to gather and share together with others from the St. James community. Look for more information to come. Contact Amy Jermstad or others on the Children's Ministry Team for more information.

Confirmation Ministries

Through St. James' confirmation experience, students "confirm" the promises their parents made in faith at the time of their baptism. It is an intense time of spiritual discernment and spiritual growth. We understand that Middle School years are filled with transition and our goal is to support students in their faith journey and help them know they are not alone. During confirmation we give them the tools to understand their lives in the context of God's great ongoing story.



Wildfire Events

Wildfire is a group of eight churches that pool resources to provide concerts, service projects and learning opportunities that encourage spiritual growth for confirmation students in a larger community.

Wildfire meetings happen once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. On these nights families will meet and pick up at the specific Wildfire location.

Upcoming Wildfire Events

- December 3rd – Holy Nativity – Advent Celebration
- January – 7th – St. James – KidPack Service Event
- February 4th – First Lutheran – Creativity Corner
- April 8th – Faith Lilac Way - Service

Sr. High Youth

Sr. High ministries at St. James welcomes all students 9-12th grade to an opportunity to explore what it means to be disciples in faith by: building relationships, serving in the community and together growing in faith. We do this through regular Wednesday youth nights, special events and trips/events. For more information about Sr. High Ministries, contact Ryan Walesch or Pastor Kristen.



Youth Nights:

Every other Wednesday from 6-9pm. Usually meets in the youth room at St. James.

Events:

Youth events are special activities and events. This is a great way to get to know other students and build relationships. Come join us for a youth event. For more information contact Ryan Walsech.

- Lock-in – December 19 6 p.m.-9 a.m.
- Snow Tubing – January 31, 8 a.m.—6 p.m. at Badlands Snow Park
- Dinner @ Dave & Busters in March

Service:

New this year: There will be quarterly Service events at Feed My Starving Children. These events are open to the entire congregation. Join us as we serve together! Contact Ryan Walesch for more information.



December 13th – 11:30-1:30 p.m. – Coon Rapids Location

February 7th – 2:00-4 p.m. – Coon Rapids Location

April 25th – 4:30-6:30 p.m. – Coon Rapids Location

Trips:

National Youth Gathering – July 15-20 – Detroit, MI
Theme: Rise Up, Cost: \$1,100 per person.

Registration for the National Youth Gathering is underway. We are in the process of building community and planning fundraisers. For more information contact Ryan Walesch.



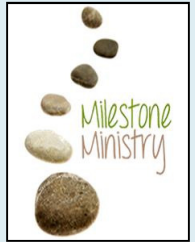
Fundraisers:

In order to raise congregational support and build connections with all of St. James, the youth will be hosting the following fundraisers to help offset costs of the National Youth Gathering. Your support makes a difference!

- Bake Sale
- Murder Mystery
- Butter Braids
- Dinner & Silent/Live Auction

Milestones

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:

- January 11 – 1st Grade – Lord's Prayer
- February 1 – 3-4 year olds - My Church
- April 2 – Welcome to the Table (Holy Communion)



December

Women's Brunch

Tickets are now on sale for the Women's Christmas Brunch *A Nordic Noel* on Sat., Dec. 6 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$8. You may purchase tickets on Sunday mornings or from the church office through December 2.

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

End of Year Contributions

End of year contributions are due in the church office by noon Wed., Dec. 31.

Holiday Office Schedule

The church office will be closed for holidays and staff vacations the following days:

Wed., Dec. 24

Thurs., Dec. 25

Wed., Dec. 31 (at noon)

Thurs., Jan. 1

In case of an emergency, contact Pastor Randy at 612-307-6563.



Celebrate Christmas at St. James

We hope you have a very merry Christmas and that you are able to celebrate this joyous season at St. James.

December 21: Children's Christmas Program during worship at 9:00 a.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve worship at 4:30 & 10:00 p.m.

December 28: Lessons & Carols worship at 9:00 a.m.



Christmas Decorations

Volunteers are needed to help change Advent decorations over to Christmas decorations in the worship center on Sun., Dec. 21 at 10:15 a.m. (following worship).

Outreach Partner: Home Free

St. James will be collecting items for Home Free Women's Shelter through the end of December.

Items needed include: full size deodorant, full size conditioner, full size bar soap and baby wipes.

The winter wear (new hats, mittens, scarves for women and children) can be placed in the Christmas tree shaped holder in the narthex. Let's fill it so the women and children at Home Free will stay warm this winter!

St. James also collects used cell phones for Home Free all year long. Donations of cell phones can be placed in the plastic drawer by the main entrance.

Home Free has been providing services to battered women and their children since 1980. Their services include a shelter, 24-hour crisis line, and community advocacy.

The mission of Home Free is to provide battered women and their children with safety, support, and information so that they have an opportunity to explore alternatives to living with a violent partner. They are also committed to developing effective community responses to the needs of battered women and their children.

Please consider a gift to Home Free during the month of December. Donations can be placed in the special offering envelope.

Over 55's

Veterans are special to this group. If you would like, you may send a Christmas Card to a veteran. The address is ---A Recovering American Soldier: 6900 Georgia Avenue Northwest, Washington DC. Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Many of these veterans have been forgotten.



December Book Club

December's pick: [The Paris Wife](#) by Paula McLain. A deeply evocative story of ambition and betrayal, [The Paris Wife](#) captures the love affair between two unforgettable people: Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley. Following a whirlwind courtship and wedding, the pair set sail for Paris, where they become the golden couple in a lively and volatile group - the fabled "Lost Generation" - that includes Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Though deeply in love, the Hemingways are ill prepared for the hard-drinking, fast-living, and free-loving life of Jazz Age Paris. A heartbreaking portrayal of love and torn loyalty. [from The Publisher, Random House]

Join "Page Turners" this month in reading the book [The Paris Wife](#). The group meets Tues., December 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).

January's pick: [The African Queen](#) by C. S. Forester.

Library

The library has a large assortment of Christmas books for children. Make reading Christmas stories together a part of your holiday tradition. Try these books: *The Carpenter's Gift* (a compelling story about the Rockefeller Center tree that will appeal to readers of all ages), *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Christmas Treasury for Kids* (this book offers a story a day from December 1 through Christmas), *A Secret Gift* (by Ted Gup. "This is the true story of an anonymous benefactor who helps scores of desperate people, in the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930's." This is a wonderful adult Christmas story recommended by John Nymoen), and *The Christmas Carol* (A lovely, illustrated copy suitable for adult reading).

NEAR

Thank you, St. James members, for your donations during the November Food Drive for NEAR. Watch the Pews News for updates on the totals.

Many hands can be used on December 12th, setting up for the toy distribution. Remember the Toy Distribution on December 13th at the Crystal Community Center. Please tell one of the volunteers if you can work. The afternoon shift is most needed (11:30-closing).

You may still donate gently used outerwear, sweaters, sweatshirts, and Christmas decorations, as well as gifts for teens (which we get so few).

The Church Photo Directory is HERE!

If you had your picture taken for the new church photo directory, please pick it up today in the narthex. (*One per family photographed.*)

Interested in a New Alternative Worship Service?

Come join the discussion at a Sunday morning brunch on December 7th, starting at 10:15 a.m. in Wold Hall following the morning service! A small group of people have been discussing what it would look like to bring back Wednesday evening community meals, fellowship, and an open invitation to our Crystal neighbors to experience the Light of Christ.

We would like to present the congregation with our ideas and make YOU a part of the conversation! Topics discussed will include the format of this new Alternative Worship Service, how everyone can be involved with the success and continuation of the service, and how we hope to bring in new members of the surrounding community to share the Gospel in an exciting and fresh way.





Office Closed

Please note that the church office is closed Thurs., Jan. 1 for New Year's Day and Mon., Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Please contact Pastor Randy at 612-803-2879 in case of an emergency.

Decoration Change

Volunteers are needed to take down Christmas decorations on Sat., Jan. 10 at 9:00 a.m. All help is welcomed!

Offering Envelopes

The 2015 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in the narthex. Thank you!

Bake Sale

The Sr. High Youth will be holding a bake sale on Sun., Jan. 11 following worship to raise money for their National Youth Gathering trip in 2015.

Donations of baked goods can be brought to church that morning.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. James will be on Sun., Jan. 25. Please watch the Pews News and for posters coming in December for more information and time.

CPR Training

A certified CPR/AED class is being offered on Sat. Jan. 10 at 9:00 a.m. in Wold Hall.

Please RSVP to Bonfire Parish Nurse Debbie Haney at 612-408-2049.

Outreach Partner: Loaves & Fishes

Loaves and Fishes mission statement is to provide nutritious meals to people who are hungry in the Twin City Metro in an atmosphere of hospitality. Sites are located in areas where most needed. They develop joint ventures with like-minded organizations to assist guests with other basic needs and help them to become self-sufficient.

Timeline for Loaves and Fishes (Looking Back)--St. Stephen's and Dorothy Day Jan. 1982: Holy Rosary Mpls. Oct. 1982: River of Life North Mpls. Apr. 1983: Faith Lutheran St. Paul Oct. 1988: Creekside Community Center Bloomington Dec. 1991: St. Matthew's St. Paul Apr. 2001: Hope Presbyterian Richfield Oct. 2005: Summer Food Service May 2009: St. Mark's Shakopee Sept. 2009: Salvation Army Harvest Corps Coon Rapids Mar. 2012: Lunch Salvation Army Temple Corps Mpls June 2013: Lutheran Church of the Master Brooklyn Center Nov. 2013: Esther's Kitchen Marshall Mar. 2014: Hopkins, Crystal, Eagan 2014.

St. James' donation goes to space sharing cost of Loaves and Fishes at River of Life. That church can no longer absorb the costs of water, garbage, light and heat. Thank you for your continued support to help feed the hungry!!

Thank you, quilters, for your gifts of quilts for the homeless at River of Life.

Discovery Meetings

During January and early February, 2015, our congregation will be joining in a series of Discovery Meetings. The meetings are for two purposes: (1) help Pastor Randy become more acquainted with our congregation; and (2) provide a forum for sharing in conversation about God's mission for our congregation. The discovery meetings will be held on the following dates and times: each Sunday afternoon in January, except January 25 (which is our annual meeting day) and February 1 and 8, all at 1:00 p.m. We will also have cottage meetings on Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. during January and early February. Please consider hosting a meeting. They can be held in your home or at the church. The primary responsibility of the host is to invite a group of about twelve people to attend the meeting you are hosting and recruit a recorder who will be responsible for taking notes about the meeting. Guest lists will be supplied for you. There will be one planning meeting for discovery meeting hosts so we all have a chance to share ideas and learn about the process and desired outcomes.



To volunteer as a discovery meeting host, please contact either Pastor Randy at rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org or call his cell phone at 612-803-2879, or Sonya Lodahl at sglodahl@comcast.net.

January Book Club

January's pick: [The African Queen](#) by C. S. Forester. First published in 1935, C. S. Forester's classic romantic adventure is a tale of opposites attracted. Allnut and Rose, a disreputable Cockney and an English spinster missionary, wend their way down a river in Central Africa in a rickety, asthmatic steam launch, and are gradually joined together in a mission of retaliation against the Germans. They fight against time, heat, malaria and bullets. This tale of unlikely love is thrilling and funny and ultimately satisfying. [The African Queen](#), was the basis for the famous film starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn. [from [barnesandnoble.com](#)]

Join "Page Turners" January 6 at 7:00 p.m. for discussion of the book [The African Queen](#). The group meets 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).

February's pick will be noted in the "Pews News" in the weeks before the book club meeting.

Library

If you haven't read the best seller *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand, now is the time. "This is a WWII story of survival, resilience and redemption." This is a book that will appeal to almost everyone.

The Good Funeral: Death, Grief and the Community of Care by Thomas Long and Thomas Lynch. This book was recommended by our former pastor, Dave Valen, "for anyone who plans to die or knows someone who does."

Over 55's

Over 55's will meet at Old Country Buffet in Crystal on Monday Jan. 26 at 11:30. Please bring ideas for activities for 2015. Please be prepared to make arrangements for one month's activity. Watch for coupons in the mail.

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.

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.

January Calendar

You may pick up the January calendar from the display stand near the main entrance at the end of December.



Lenten Decorations

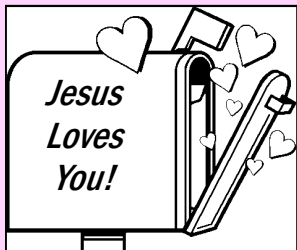
Volunteers are needed to help put up Lenten decorations on Tues., Feb. 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Over 55's

Please think of an activity and run with it for February and March. Thank you.

Loaves & Fishes

Thank you for supporting Loaves and Fishes. Watch the Pews News for totals on donations from January.



Murder Mystery Night

Save the date of Sat., Feb. 21 for *A Knight of Murder*. The Murder Mystery Dinner benefits the St. James Youth as they prepare to attend the National Youth Gathering. Bring your friends. All are welcome for a knight of medieval fun. Watch for more details in the Pews News in January.

Contact Ryan Walesch with any questions at 763-537-1702.



Ash Wednesday & Lenten Worship

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 18) with the imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m. There will be a meal held at 6:00 p.m., prior to worship.

Don't let driving at night keep you away! Anyone who would like a ride to church for these worship services should contact the church office at 763-537-3653.



Outreach Partner: Car Care

Car Care Saturday is a part of St. James' Motorhead Ministry, in which volunteers change vehicle oil for persons in need in our community. This event is typically held in the spring and fall. Clients receive an oil and filter change and a vehicle inspection free of charge. Clients are referred from an approved local social service agency.



St. James sets aside the month of February to raise funds for this outreach program; all outreach donations collected will fund this program. Please help support the continuation of Car Care with a special offering gift this month.

Book Club

February's book choice will be noted in the "Pews News" in the weeks before the February book club meeting.

The "Page Turners" book club meets February 3 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).



Feed My Starving Children

The entire congregation is invited to join the youth to package meals at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids on Sat., Feb. 7 at 2:00 p.m. Contact Ryan Walesch for more information 763-537-1702.



February Calendar

You may pick up the February calendar from the display stand near the main entrance at the end of January.

Library

The library has many books for Black History Month. Stop by the library to see the display. Check out a DVD *The Pursuit of Happiness* about a black father's determination to make a life for his young son.



March Happenings

Over 55's

The Over 55's group and guests will enjoy a gourmet meal at Hennepin Technical College on the last Monday of April. Serving will start at 11:30. Checks may be made out to Over 55's. Please make your reservations and payments to Ozzie Hellen (763-533-3547) or Carol Koosmann (763-533-1356) by the middle of April.

Upcoming events might be--May a play; June Picnic; July Summer Pops; August Lord Fletcher's.

Butter Braids

The youth will be selling Butter Braids on Sunday mornings in the narthex, or you are welcome to contact one of the youth or the church office to place your order. Watch the Pews News for details on varieties and cost.

Butter Braids will be available for pick-up the Sunday before Easter. Have family coming into town? This is a great breakfast treat for guests!

The Butter Braid fundraiser is held annually just before Easter. So now is the time to stock up until next year.



Spring Ahead!

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Sat., Mar. 8 for Daylight Saving time.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday worship will be held Sun., Mar. 29. with a palm procession into worship.



Outreach Partner: NEAR Food Shelf

Help provide warm nutritious food items for families that have fallen on hard times by donating to the March Food Drive. This will be the 41st year that St. James has supported the NEAR Food Shelf. NEAR serves the north half of New Hope, Crystal, and Robbinsdale. In a twelve month period, NEAR distributed an average of 39,112 pounds of food each month to an average of 381 households. Each week new clients are added who are having trouble feeding themselves and their families.



The food shelf stocks shelves, accepts food, and sorts this food each morning (with 8-10 volunteers). Each afternoon from 1:30-4:30 at least 21 families receive their monthly distribution (with 5 or 6 volunteers). In March 2014 St. James donated over \$5,000 and 240 pounds of food. It is a great time to give since there is a match from The Feinstein Corporation. If you choose to give a monetary donation, please write your check to St. James with NEAR on the memo line. Check out the display case to see what NEAR pays for items at EFN and Second Harvest.. Especially needed are green beans, peas, fruit, tuna, tomatoes, pork and beans, pasta, tomato sauce and cereal. Thank you for supporting the families at NEAR.

Book Club

March's book choice will be noted in the "Pews News" in the weeks before the March book club meeting.

The "Page Turners" book club meets March 3 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 judge-linda@msn.com).]

Library

Thinking of spring housekeeping? The library is always collecting books for Car Care Saturday. We welcome all kinds of books. Drop them off at the library at any time.

If you knew Don & Lorraine Raether's family, you might be interested in reading their son David's book, *Tell Me Something, She Said*. It is both a funny and heartbreaking memoir about his life as a successful comedy writer, his fall into economic disaster and his recovery.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to help provide plants for the worship center on Easter, please complete this form and return it to the office no later than Sun., Mar. 22.

Plants may be taken following the worship service on Easter Sunday.

Type	# ordered	total
Hydrangea	_____ x \$14	= \$ _____
Azalea	_____ x \$13	= \$ _____
Lily	_____ x \$9	= \$ _____
Mum	_____ x \$8	= \$ _____
Rieger Begonia	_____ x \$8	= \$ _____
Bulb Garden Mix	_____ x \$8	= \$ _____
Tulip, Daffodil, or Hyacinth	_____ x \$8	= \$ _____

(Plants delivered may be any one of these three bulb plants)

Total # Plants Ordered: _____ **TOTAL PAID: \$** _____

Plants are given in (please circle one) **honor** or **memory** of: _____

Given By: _____



Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m.

March Calendar

You may pick up the March calendar from the display stand near the main entrance at the end of February.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Please join the community at Sandburg Learning Center to enjoy yummy, yummy soup donated by local businesses. There is also an opportunity to purchase handmade bowls and listen to various kinds of music. This program supports the unfortunate in our community and funds will be split between NEAR/PRISM. St. James members Nancy Lohmann and Joanne Clausen will be performing with the Showtime Chorus.



Office Closed April 6

The church office will be closed Easter Monday, April 6.

Easter Decorations

Volunteers are needed to help put up Easter decorations on Sat., Apr. 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Youth Dinner & Silent Auction

The St. James youth will hold a dinner and silent auction on Sat., Apr. 18. Watch for details in the Pews News the beginning of March!

Spring Tea Set for April 25

Save the date of Sat., Apr. 25 for the Springtime Dessert Buffet Tea. Bring your daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, neighbors, and friends for a fun-filled afternoon of genuine fun and laughter. Sponsored by Mary Circle.

Please Pray For:

Hospitalizations

- Ozzie Hellen
- Evie Jacobs
- Marion Cornelius

Sympathy

- The family of Don Raether
- LaVonne VanBockel on the death of her brother

St. James Library Collects Stamps

What is the Stamps for a Living Program, also known as Stamps for Bethel? This is an organization that collects, processes and sells used postage stamps. It was started in Germany before World War II as a way to provide a vocation for handicapped adults and is still in existence. There is now an American organization doing the same function for the handicapped in Washington D.C. We have a book in the church library that shares the history of this organization in Germany and if you would like to see what they are doing today, just Google "Stamps for a Living Program".

What can you do? Save your stamps. With the holiday season coming up you'll probably be getting more stamps than usual so it's a good time to start saving. Cut the stamp off of the envelope leaving AT LEAST ¼" of envelope around the stamp. Drop them in the Stamps for Bethel box in/near the library at church. The rest will be taken care of. Thanks so much for your help.

Thank You Notes

St. James,

Thank you so much for your love, support, and prayers throughout my faith journey. I am the person I am today because of the relationships established here, and I thank God for that every day. Thank you for hosting my celebration into ordained ministry and the opportunity to celebrate with you. May God bless your ministry in the world, today and always.

*God's Peace,
Rev. Kaitlyn Ferguson*

Thank you for your gift of hospice kits. We are truly grateful for your partnership with us in this ministry. We are committed to continuing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ be 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.

*Blessings,
Kim Dickey, Director for Mission Development
Global Health Ministries*

Memorials & Gifts

Archives in memory of David Hanson from Jackie Harlow.

Endowment Fund in memory of Don Raether from Frode & Lillian Jespersen, Ken & Phyllis Nelson.

KidPack in memory of Charlene Stelck from Ken Lutz.

Music Fund in honor of Kaitlyn Ferguson's ordination from Nancy Lohmann. In memory of Ken Pritchett, Nancy Waxdahl from Nancy Lohmann.

Youth Fund in memory of Don Raether from Wayne & Karon Looft.

Change of Address

Gary (Barbara) Petersen email: gnp44@aol.com

Bonfire Executive Director's Note

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's the end of the year. What a year it has been. You can measure the year in many ways, the way I choose to measure it is in ministry done. Just think of all that we/you have done together. Through KidPack you have provided almost 35,000 weekend snack bags for the children in our community. This ministry of feeding the hungry in Jesus' name is amazing. You have supported the start of a Grief Support Ministry. This ministry of caring for those who grieve, in Jesus' name is bringing comfort and consolation to many. You have supported our Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney. This ministry of healing brings comfort to many. You have supported the Respite Care program, where those who are constant caregivers can find some support and rest. You have supported the SPARC program, bringing the church, schools and parents together for conversation and information. YOU have done all these in Jesus' name because you care and because you know that the Gospel of Jesus comes alive, not at worship, but as the saints of God are sent out from worship, into the world to use their gifts of time, talent and treasure for the good of the neighbor and to the glory of God. Thank you!!

The Bonfire Board is looking to the future, even as our congregations look to the future. We are looking to see how and where God is calling us to serve our neighbors in Jesus' name. As the new year begins, keep your eye out for new ministries you will be doing through Bonfire, in Jesus' name. Please keep in mind, too, the opportunities to support these ministries we do together. Perhaps you would be able to make a year-end gift to the Adopt-A-Student program for funding KidPack. Just \$54 funds weekend snack bags for one student for the 2014-2015 school year. Perhaps you would like to give a Memorial in honor of someone or in memory of one who has died. Those gifts will be used to continue the ministries listed above. Perhaps you would consider including Bonfire Ministry in your estate plan. We would cherish and appreciate your gift.

Above all, thank you for the work and ministry you have done this year. You are living out the Gospel and you are being "little Christs" to your neighbors and to this community by your willingness to care and serve in Jesus' name.

Thank you, and may God bless you as this year draws to a close and as a new year, full of opportunity and promise begins.

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



KidPack Packing Days

The next KidPack packing days are January 6 (in place of December), January 27, February 24 and March 31. Please note that packing begins at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Food Network (8501 54th Ave N– New Hope).

Please wear comfortable clothing and close-toed shoes.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Melodie Hanson at 763-504-4981.

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.

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St. James Herald



This newsletter covers the months of
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January, February, & March 2015.

*Please note separate monthly newsletters
will not be produced during these months.*