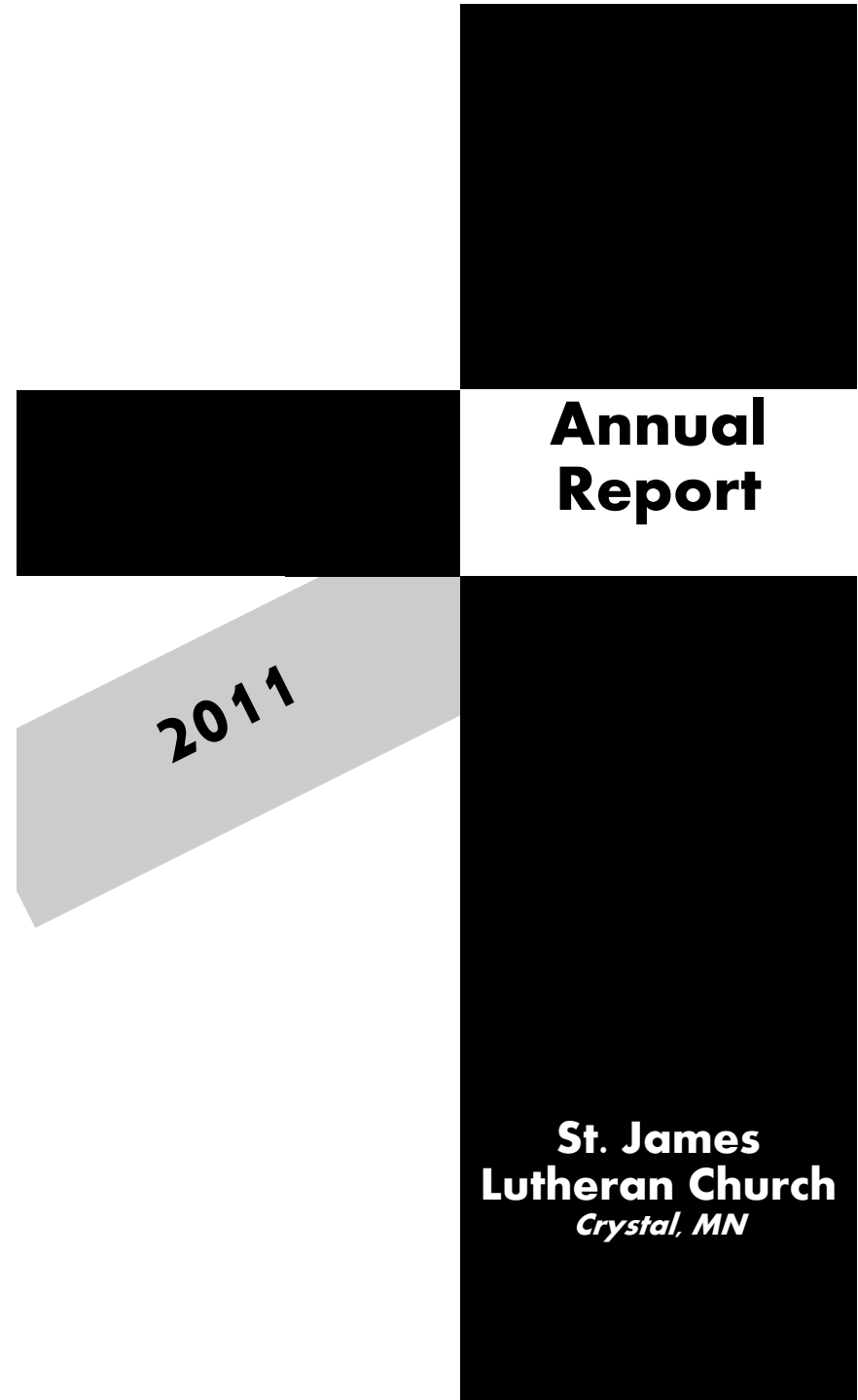


*Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal*

**St. James Lutheran Church**

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David Lechelt, Pastor  
Jill Bergman, Pastor



**Annual  
Report**

**2011**

**St. James  
Lutheran Church**  
*Crystal, MN*

## A Note from Sr. Pastor David Lechelt

### **St. James 2011 Staff**

**Pastor David Lechelt**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Pastor Jill Bergman**  
*Pastor*

**Shayna Anderson**  
*Director of Family Ministry*

**Lana Teigen**  
*Financial Coordinator*

**Amanda Burns**  
*Director of Communications*

**Ryan Walesch**  
*Youth Director*

**Mary Brown**  
*Ringing Praise Director  
and Organist*

**Deanna Loken**  
*Choir Director*

**Mike Harasyn**  
*Custodian*

**Casey Charging**  
*Nursery Staff*

**Chris Knight**  
**Sarah Charging**  
*Sunday Morning Custodians*

Do you ever just marvel at all the uplifting songs we get to sing together throughout the year? One of my favorites to sing with you is *Rise, Shine, You People!* Witness the risen St. James community in this Annual Report, gathered at worship, friendship, and all kinds of opportunities to grow in God's Word. Witness the sent community out in the neighborhood, on mission trips, and bringing God's love through service and outreach. We have been called to reflect the Light of Christ, and it is a joyful song to shine together with Jesus in these reports and pictures.

My thanks go out to all of you for 2011. With the continuance of a very up and down economy, YOU have continued to make St. James your priority, and the mission of Christ our strong heartbeat. I've heard you give thanks for our renewal of outreach and vibrant children's and youth programs, and I've heard visitors to St. James speak to our warmth and regard for all. You've introduced me to family, friends, and neighbors that you are proud to bring to 9:57, Sunday services, Men's Breakfast, Circle Bible Studies, Adult Ed, golfing leagues, Fine Arts programs, Neighborhood Dance, and Lutefisk Dinners. I believe we have a very bright path before us and I look forward to stretching and celebrating Jesus with us as we respond to God's call to us today.

We give thanks to John Lindstrom and our Council, for their abiding passion for our mission in Christ and for setting before us God's "hospitality without partiality." Thank you to all St. James volunteers; we are a vibrant reflection of God's love here because of you!

And we give thanks for our St. James staff. One St. James member sent us the following card at the end of the year:

together to address those needs.

Hebrews 10:24-25 states: "*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...*" Bonfire is certainly stirring up one another to love and do good works! We invite you to join us in expanding our Bonfire outreach. For more information, please contact John Swartchick at: (763) 634-1571

### **Annual Report to Minneapolis Area Synod Congregations**

I began my work as interim bishop on August 1, 2011. I have been working hard catching up with all of you. Obviously, I will never get to know everything about the Minneapolis Area Synod in this short period of time. However, what I have learned about you is very impressive. Here are a few things I have learned:

- You are the largest synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (192,000 members in 159 congregations).
- You collectively give \$123,000,000 every year through your congregations.
- You worship about 30% of your members at weekly worship.
- You have 38,000 of your children attending weekly Christian education classes.
- You worship in nine different languages.
- You provide support for all the rostered leaders (there are more than 700, including 300 retired pastors).
- You assist congregations in the call process and when congregations are experiencing conflict.
- You establish new congregations, renew congregations, and assist new ministry starts.
- You provide program support for congregations and provide training for lay leaders.
- You have many global mission connections, especially your companion synods in Nigeria and Leipzig.
- You support the young people with training, mission trips, camping opportunities, and youth gatherings.

All of this and much more is what the Minneapolis Area Synod is doing in mission and ministry.

I commend all of you, the Minneapolis Area Synod, for all you do in Christ's name. There is much for which to be thankful. In particular, I thank Bishop Craig Johnson for his excellent service as bishop of this synod for the past 10 years. I thank the synod's officers and council for their faithful work on our behalf this past year. I thank the synod staff for their excellent and faithful work this past year, and especially their service during this interim time. I thank all of you for welcoming me and offering your support during my ministry as your interim bishop. Soon there will be a new bishop elected at the Synod Assembly on February 17-18, 2012. I invite you all to hold in your prayers the Minneapolis Area Synod bishop's election. I know you will join me in giving your full support to our new bishop. Let us press on with hope and joy.

*Interim Bishop Glenn Nycklemoe*

*Minneapolis Area Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## **Bonfire Ministry** *(a joint collaboration with House of Hope and First Lutheran)*

Bonfire Ministry certainly caught fire in 2011. Now officially recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Bonfire is set to move forward with our outreaches to our communities. Here are some of the highlights from 2011.

### **Responding to Weekend Childhood Hunger**

The decision was made to help end childhood weekend hunger in our community by providing weekend snack packs. Over 5,600 weekend kid snack packs were assembled and delivered to students at Forest and Meadow Lake Elementary schools.

Additional Bonfire partnerships expanded to include Emergency Food Network, local food shelves, student volunteers from Cooper High School, local community volunteers, Reinhardt, Kellogg and Kraft!

### **Health and Wellness**

Bonfire was awarded a three-year grant from the Fairview Foundation for our Parish Nurse program. Our Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney was able to:

- Conduct 201 individual blood pressure checks conducted between the Bonfire congregations and 3 events at the New Hope Farmers Market
- Made 15 Parish Nurse home visits
- Had 17 individual office visits by congregation members seeking advice and assistance
- Visited our North Ridge Senior Living residents 55 times; visited our North Ridge Nursing home residents 17 times
- The Health and Wellness Committee through a training grant from the Fairview Foundation sponsored: Two Alzheimer's Educational Sessions with over 30 participants at each session "Powerful Tools for the Caregiver" series. Held bi-monthly Caregiver Support Group meetings at House of Hope Lutheran Church

### **Joint Worship**

Joint worship celebrations were held for Good Friday (at First) and Thanksgiving (at St. James).

### **Wild Fire**

Youth from eight different congregations continue to meet monthly and grow in their relationships with God and one another.

Between 100 and 150 men gathered quarterly for dinner, inspired by speakers and programs.

### **Looking Toward the Future:**

We are in a unique position to be an even bigger impact in our communities: Launch of our Respite Care Program, seek to expand our Kid Pack Program for the 2012/13 school year, redesign BonfireMinistry.org website to be a central point for information, continue to research and identify the needs of our communities, foster sustainable means to bring individuals and organizations

*Dear St. James staff,  
Many thanks to all of you who work so hard for all of us! We appreciate your dedication to your jobs which you do so very well. St. James runs like a fine tuned machine because of all of you!  
We are so blessed and looking forward to 2012!*

I would certainly second that and say that our staff is the best I've known and on behalf of our staff, I would say to all of St. James, ***the feeling about you is mutual!***

Our thanks also go out to our Bonfire partners, First Lutheran and House of Hope. Through our mission and ministry collaboration, the ministry of our Parish Nurse Debbie Haney has expanded. We celebrate the reception of a Fairview Foundation grant for this ministry received at the end of 2011. Collaborative confirmation opportunities continue to flourish with seven congregations in our area (*Wildfire!*). And did I say Kid Pack? The weekend snack outreach for 1,400 elementary children at Forest and Meadow Lake has surged out of our Bonfire, revitalizing community relationships and giving witness to the Spirit stirring and moving us today.

The song I like to sing with you says it best, "Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. Tell how the Spirit calls from every nation God's new creation, with grace unbounded" (ELW #665).

It's my profound joy to be your pastor and to sing God's story with you!

*Pr. David Lechelt*

### **Highlights of 2011**

- Professional Quilt Show
- Monday night religion study
- Ladies Spring Luncheon
- Murder Mystery Party
- Car Care Saturdays
- Easter Breakfast
- First Communion
- Caregiver Sessions
- EBay Garage Sale
- Youth Recital
- Summer Potlucks
- Day Camp
- Youth Quilting Class
- Youth Camping Trip
- Street Dance
- Cosmic Bowling
- Pet Blessing
- 3rd Grade Bibles
- Confirmation
- Kid Pack Outreach started to help end kids' weekend hunger in our community.
- Lutefisk Dinner
- Craft Sale
- Moonlight Madness for Confirmation youth
- Women's Christmas Brunch
- Christmas Program

## **A Note from Council President John Lindstrom**

If 2010 was the year of ‘the Cookie’, then 2011 was the year of ‘the Rookie’. As many of you knew when I was elected, I had never served on the Church Council. I must thank my predecessor, Joel Anderson, for handing over the presidency during a period of relative calm and financial stability. I credit the members of the Church Council (many of them were rookies, too) as well as the Finance Committee for seeing to that.

This was a year that saw some important improvements at St. James. Through the dedicated efforts of the Property Committee we were able to upgrade the heating and air conditioning system in the Lifetime Learning Center and start the process of replacing our energy management system with a much needed, more efficient, system. We also saw the installation of the handicap-access door at the main entrance. It was through the generous donations of so many people that we were able to meet these needs.

In keeping with our theme, “Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal,” 2011 saw St. James continue an active role in the growth of the Bonfire Ministries. Fueled by the passion of many of our members, the Parish Nurse program was funded. This is an important part of our community outreach as well as providing an important service to many members of our congregation. The establishment of the Kid Pack program is also a sign of our commitment to those around us who live every day in need. What I have seen is that there are many, many people within our who serve others.

I also learned that there are many levels of leadership within our congregation, and many people who demonstrate great leadership, even though they don’t carry a title. One of my goals for this year was to begin finding and developing the next generation of leaders who will take our congregation ahead in the coming years. Many of our young members, and especially those recently confirmed, have shown a great potential through their active church lives and their personal beliefs.

Perhaps what I appreciated most this year was being able to spend time with both our Pastors, and through our discussions I began to see myself and my role here at St. James, in a very different light. I realized that life is not about waiting for Christ to return, but living with Christ every day. I see him in the faces of our congregation; by the way we greet each other and welcome strangers into our church. His voice can be heard in the stories we share. His hospitality without partiality is the heart of St. James.

As I look back over the year I have to say that I was truly blessed to be the President of the St. James congregation. I want to thank all of you for your support. As I look ahead to 2012, my plan is to remain aboard as an active member of the Council. I also want to reach out to our youth and young adults and help them discover their leadership talents. I see in them a bright future for

The *Herald* was mailed out on a quarterly basis in 2011. The *Herald* assemblers put them together while a driver brought them to our new drop-off facility in Fridley. The *Herald* is still produced each month and is available through email, from the church website, or pick-up in the narthex.

A number of office volunteers also covered the church office for vacation time, maternity and sick leave during 2011. We are so grateful for their willingness to cover the phones when our office staff is away.

### **Marketing Team**

The marketing team had a quiet year in 2011. The Bonfire Ministry website was redone and publicity for the Neighborhood Dance were their major undertakings.

### **Finance Committee**

The finance committee continued to meet the second Monday of the month during 2011.

### **Church Council**

The church council continued to meet the third Monday of the month in 2011. The council came up with creative new ways to raise funds having volunteered to color their hair to raise money for the new HVAC system. Pastor David sported purple hair, Pastor Jill had streaks of green put in, John Lindstrom had blue, Brad Teale and Penny Janowiec both had red. Members of the property committee also joined the fun: Tom Ritter had red hair and George McClure had yellow hair. What a colorful way to raise money!

### **Property Committee**

In 2011, the property committee met the first Monday of each month. They hosted a spring and fall clean-up with great attendance. Some other projects included:

- Evening out the sidewalk around to the Montessori entrance
- HVAC for Life Long Learning Center replaced
- Flowers for entrance and rose garden
- Automatic door opener installed for entrance
- Replaced the gutter above the carport
- Energy Management System enhanced
- New carpet in Pastor Jill and main church offices (Lana & Amanda).

enlarged our DVD collection. Every effort is made to follow up on requests.

The library offers on-line access to the library catalog through the St. James Home Page “Get Involved” icon. You can use this feature to see if a book is available.

Board members attended Twin City area library workshops for new ideas for library promotion.

## Endowment

St James maintains several Endowment Funds where members continue to make gifts such as memorials, distributions from their estates, etc. The earnings on these funds make it possible for St James to do mission beyond what is done through our Mission and Ministry budget.

A gift from the Ruth Lund Scholarship Fund was made to Kaitlyn Ferguson again in 2011. This scholarship gift assists Kaitlyn as she studies at Luther Theological Seminary preparing for Ministry.

Earnings on money in the St. James Endowment Benevolence Fund made it possible to provide start-up funds for the Forest and Meadow Lake Elementary Kid Packs (weekend snack packs). The outreach will include establishment of many partners in order to regularly provide Friday snack packs (kid packs) for the weekend. The packs include applesauce, ready Mac, crackers and cheese, and dried fruit. This is a case of our Endowment Funds bearing much fruit throughout the neighborhood.

## Archives

The mission of the St. James archives committee is to research, collect, and organize the historical records and materials meaningful to St. James. At the Oct. 8 fall clean up, the archives room was cleaned. A copy of the marvelous 2012 Bonfire Ministry calendar was purchased for the collection.

## Office

The office continued to operate smoothly with the help of many volunteers. A huge thank you to each and every one!

Each Friday morning, the bulletin staffers assemble the bulletins for Sunday morning. In 2011, they also put together the annual report, neighborhood bags promoting the fall schedule, and NEAR bags. This is a dedicated bunch that we couldn't do without, plus we suspect they enjoy each other's company and the yummy treats.

Nancy Lohmann continues to proofread the bulletins and newsletters each week, a huge undertaking that she has graciously continued to do to make sure we have as few bloopers as possible.

St. James. I pray that 2012 will be a year of peace, health, and hope.

*With Christ's Blessings,  
John Lindstrom*

## **St. James 2011 Church Council**

**John Lindstrom**  
*President*

**Melodie Hanson**  
*Vice President*

**Penny Janowicz**  
*Secretary*

**Andrea Nelson**  
*Treasurer*

**Tom Janowicz**

**Junior Kautz**

**Roland Smith**

**Brad Teale**

**Jeannette Valentine**

**Maria Weiland**

*Thank you all for your  
commitment to St. James  
in 2011.*

## Children & Family Ministry

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### 9:57 – Sunday school for age 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

*What a year.* To the many volunteers who have made this program what it is – THANK YOU! Small group leaders, large group leaders, maternity leave leaders... they have all made 9:57 what it is! This past fall we made the switch from the curriculum we were using (FaithWeavers) to BibleSong from Faith Inkubators, and it has been a hit with the kids and parents. The children and youth enjoy a very interactive large group time, and still get to spend some in-depth time with their small group leaders. 9:57 is also enjoying a larger group than ever before – with many new families checking out what's happening here! If you're curious about what happens at 9:57 in Wold Hall on Sundays – come and visit us!

### Day Camp – at Bassett Creek Park!

**This year St. James teamed up with House of Hope and First Lutheran** to host the very first Bonfire Day Camp! As in past years, Luther Park counselors led the children in all the activities, but instead of being indoors at church, children were outdoors all day at beautiful Bassett Creek. It was the perfect setting for the group, and felt much more like a real camp experience. The kids played games, sang camp songs, made crafts, tied fleece blankets for our neighbors in North Minneapolis who experienced the tornado, and played in the sunshine every day. What a wonderful week, and a great partnership with the churches. Day camp 2012 will be coming to a park near you! Mark your calendars for the last week of June!

### Pet Blessing

On a beautiful October afternoon, dozens of furry, friendly companions were blessed! To commemorate St. Francis of Assisi Day, we celebrated our pets with a brief worship service, walk around the block and refreshments. God does indeed love all creatures great and small! (and so do we!)

### Third Grade Bibles

For the second year, St. James and House of Hope Lutheran Third Graders got together to learn how to use their new Bibles. Everyone met at St. James on a September Saturday morning and enjoyed digging into God's word. What a joy to have their parents and families present them with those Bibles!

## For the Good of the Order

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### Funeral Lunch Ministry

A ministry of hospitality to a family in their time of need. Members are called and asked to furnish salads or cakes for meals following funerals or memorial services. Others are needed to help on the day of the service to set up, prepare food, serve and clean up. Volunteers are needed to help with this ministry. At this time, three people are calling to ask for food donations. Two or three more volunteers are needed to alternate for this responsibility. More helpers are also needed to set up, serve and clean up on the day of the service. Please contact the church office if you would like to serve in this important ministry.

### EBAY Committee (EBC)

In 2011, the EBC sold over 195 items, donated by St. James members, for more than \$2,580. Sales were made to customers in 37 states and 9 foreign countries. We also participated in the Victory Memorial Neighborhood sale held the first weekend in June. Our thanks to Tim and Becki Smith who permitted the EBC to use their home to display the items we offered for sale. Proceeds from this sale were \$1,128, more than twice the amount earned in the prior year sale. We believe this sale offers an opportunity for further sale increases with broader congregational participation.

After paying all related fees, the neighborhood and ebay sales provided over \$3,380 for use by the congregation for church operations. Our thanks to all the donors and to those who helped us with the neighborhood sale. We also ask for your continued donation of items to sell on ebay. This is an additional source of revenue for church use.

### Library

A thank you to the faithful library committee members who staff the library every Sunday morning year round: Emily Hauan, Joyce Held, Susan Lindstrom, Marilyn Overland, Joanne Palmquist, Mary Roening, Barb Samways and Fern Schneider.

Twice a year the library participates in Car Care Saturday by collecting and distributing books to the parents and children of the participants. This is an ongoing outreach ministry of the library. Book donations for Car Care are welcome at any time throughout the year.

Children are especially welcome in the library and there is an extensive collection of children's books. Parents, please bring your children to the library as library visits are no longer a regular part of the Sunday School program.

The library continues to add new books to the collection. We have also

## **The Page Turners Book Club**

“Books are a uniquely portable magic” (Stephen King). The Page Turners Book Club meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Peter and Paul room, from 7 to 9 p.m. It is an open book club, so book lovers of all ages -- middle school and up, men and women -- are welcome at any time, as well as one-time “drop-ins” for a certain book discussion. The book choices cover a wide range of interest, both fiction and nonfiction. Good books, good discussion, lots of laughs and great refreshments! Watch the [Pews News](#) and [Herald](#) for the current book choice each month.

Contact: Linda Judge (763-533-4081; [judgelinda@msn.com](mailto:judgelinda@msn.com))

## **Fine Arts at St. James**

The Fine Arts Committee was formed in 2009, with the support of the St. James Endowment Committee. The year of 2011 began with a delightful Quilt Show in February, presented by Vicki Peterson, a professional quilter from Carver, Minnesota. In April, the Fine Arts Committee hosted a community youth recital, giving young area musicians an opportunity to perform solo and ensemble pieces which they had prepared for spring contests. What an amazing array of talent! Thanks to all those who participated and those who assisted with these events.

Some exciting plans have been made for the coming months. The National Lutheran Choir, under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, will perform a benefit concert at St. James on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free-will offering will go toward the Kid Pack Outreach. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m., Dr. Cherwien will return to St. James for a hymn festival, featuring hymn improvisations and audience participation. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., the Minneapolis Area Synod Senior Band will present a concert.

## **Children’s Christmas Program**

This year, Foretold was the theme. Once again, anything could happen – and ‘anything’ did. The 3-K’s were adorable in their angel costumes, the readers of all ages did wonderfully with some difficult-to-read Bible passages. Our narrators helped cue us into the story and we enjoyed singing the familiar Christmas songs, even in Norwegian! Always a treat to present, we hope everyone was blessed who came to see our program!

## **Youth Quilting**

New this past summer was a quilting group that met eight times, learning basic quilting. Four girls ages 9 to 13 participated in this class and each finished a quilt for her own bed.

Looking forward to see what God is up to in 2012!

*In Christ,  
Shayna Anderson*

## Confirmation Youth Ministry

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This year our church council asked us the question, “What is God doing among us?” I’d like to share with you some of what I’ve seen in 2011.

### **What’s God doing in Confirmation?**

Yes, Confirmation is more than dusty old facts and irrelevant teachings! In Confirmation, St. James students are presented with a living God who is intimately involved in their daily lives. They develop relationships with strong small group leaders and parent volunteers who want to build up our faith community. They flourish under the abundant spiritual attention they receive. We witness God growing in our Confirmation students as they accept greater leadership roles through their years in the program. We now have young people who are confident in their ability to contribute to the faith conversations and practices of our church and community and we are blessed by their participation. Look for them in worship, in children’s education, in our outreach programs and you will see God in action.

### **What’s God doing in our youth programs?**

Leadership skills and spiritual growth that was nurtured in the early years is bearing fruit as the abilities of the students grow. Our youth are now comfortable sharing their skills and leadership with the congregation. They are not satisfied with maintaining programs, they want to make them better. They are working very hard to get to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2012 and are building lasting relationships with each other, our congregation, and the greater community as they work. They asked for more opportunities for their age group on Sunday mornings and they received it. They asked for more ways to contribute to the congregation and they received it. They are sharing their energy and vision for the future with us and we can’t help but be hopeful as we see God in action in them.

### **What’s God doing in the world through St. James?**

This entire annual report will testify to the countless ways God blesses the world with the people of St. James. Three areas I participated in were: an Interfaith Seder at Temple Israel in Minneapolis; the ELCA National Assembly in Orlando, Florida; and the New Hope Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast in New Hope. In each of these instances I was invited into a conversation about the activity of our living God in the world and felt empowered to testify to the truth that God is busy! I was reminded that what we do and what we believe matters as we are one of the venues God uses to create, redeem, and bless this creation.

## For Fun in 2011

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### **Neighborhood Dance**

Another fun time was had by many St. James members and visitors at our fifth Annual Neighborhood Dance. We had a DJ, Bingo, mini-donuts, popcorn, root beer floats, ice cream, inflatables, snack walk, silent auction, and lunch. New this year was the Pirates’ Treasure Chest and almost 200 people walked the plank to prizes. It was held inside and there was something for everyone to see and do and eat. Thanks to all who donated their talents, time, prizes, baskets, and knowledge to make this possible.

### **Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner**

Held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Coming November 17, 2012 - the 19th year; seatings are 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.)

The mission of the Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner is to get to know others better while working on a fun project, and form a stronger church community. This is a great opportunity to open St. James to non-members and serve a Heritage dinner. About 80% attending are non-members invited by friends and members of St. James. Many have commented that St. James’ Lutefisk dinner is the best they have attended (and some have attended many!) Profits are used to support kitchen and Wold Hall improvements and for supplies such as coffee.

From the humble beginnings of serving 100 people the first year, more than 475 hungry lutefisk and meatball lovers enjoyed the dinner in 2011. To prepare and serve this great meal, many different groups of volunteers are needed. Preparations begin in mid-October. Volunteer opportunities include: preparing meatballs, white sauce, rice pudding, cole slaw and dressing, sauces and peeling potatoes. Then there’s the homemade lefse- requiring 200 pounds of potatoes to make 650 rounds of lefse. That’s not even getting close to the preparation of the lutefisk! Other jobs are setting up, serving and clean-up during and after the meal.

Through all of this, there is a lot of fun and laughter to be shared, building friendships. A committee of 6-8 begins planning in September and would welcome new members and new ideas.

### **Cosmic Bowling**

As a fundraiser for Kid Pack Outreach, an all-ages cosmic bowling event was held at New Hope Bowling in October. The cost was \$10. Everyone had a great time competing with Pastor David for the high score!



needle and tie a knot please consider joining us. We have a lot of fun and treats with coffee each time.

In May, Vicki Peterson of *Make It Sew* held a class for the quilters based on her Fine Arts Quilt Show in February.

### **Car Care Saturday**

The semi-annual Car Care Saturdays went off well in both May and September of 2011. The clients who needed service work were very appreciative of maintenance work done and of other needs brought to their attention. Some of the people did receive more follow-up repairs afterwards. This is a great program and we will continue with it in the future. More volunteers of all ages are welcome to make this program better.

### **Global Health**

Global Health Ministries provides a gift of life through Lutheran health care work across the world. They provide financial support, recruit health care personnel, fund the training of national health care givers and locate, inventory and ship urgently needed medical supplies. The faithful “Helping Hands that Heal” from St. James again in 2011 worked on the sorting and inventorying of the medical supplies.

### **Home Free**

Home Free Shelter for battered women and children is an outreach partner for St. James. Money was collected during the month of December to go to this cause. Diapers, toiletries and used cell phones were also collected for them during 2011.

### **Micah Award**

In November, Ruth Stanchfield became the 13th Micah Award for Discipleship recipient. Ruth’s dedication both at St. James and in the community displayed Micah 6:8, where it says “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

### **What is God doing among us?**

God is LIVING among us.

*To Life!*  
*Pastor Jill Bergman*

### **Some Highlights of 2011 for the Confirmation Youth**

- Lock-in at St. James in February
- Confirmation retreat to Gustavus Adolphus College in March
- Roller skating at Roller Garden in May
- Feed My Starving Children in October
- Moonlight Madness in November
- Monthly Wildfire events
- Assisting in worship

## Senior High Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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### Youth

2011 started off with an always popular youth event...snow tubing in Hudson, Wisconsin. For some reason hurtling down an icy hill six inches of the ground at what seems to be 100 miles per hour is appealing to the youth of St. James. I have to admit though, I also love it! Beyond that, the first half of the year with its snow tubing, Comedy Sportz, Bonfire, Como Zoo, Murder Mystery night, and the ever successful (aka botched) Sky Zone trip was a great beginning to 2011. Top that off with a 5-day camping trip to the North Shore, and I feel confident in saying that the departing Seniors went out on a good great note. This summer's camping trip to Lake Crescent, "Legit Camping" as the kids called it, was a great time of outdoors, fun, exploration and gathering. I really felt the youth come together that weekend.

As the summer started to wind down, I was hit with a wave of energy and excitement that I knew was coming, but was not fully prepared for. Enter stage left...the 9th graders. This year's 9th graders are like none other that I have experienced before. Very close, very excited and always wanting to be...heard! With their energy, our every other Wednesday Night Youth kicked it up a notch. No longer did they want to stay still to talk or play games. They wanted to walk around the church, play hide-n-seek, throw the ball. (which I think is still stuck in the light...George help!) Move, move, move...go, go, go. The biggest complaint during Wednesday night youth is "When is confirmation going to be over so we can have the whole church to ourselves?" - Open up your house Lord, and they will come!

There was still plenty of youth fun to be had in the last half of 2011. We went to Valley Scare, had the craft sale, worked at the Men's supper and the ever aromatic Lutefisk dinner. We also had two new (and successful) fundraisers this year, Butter Braids and a dining fundraiser at the California Pizza Kitchen. We started getting the senior high kids together during 9:57 on Sunday mornings and topped off the year with an ever popular Lock-in. I think they would have a lock-in every month if we let them.

I would like to throw in a word of thanks to Roland and Louise Smith for hosting a Golf fundraiser at Brookview golf course followed up with dinner at their house. Not only was the event a marvelous time, it was also a fundraising success! Thank you to everyone who participated.

As we move forward into 2012 we have a clear mission in sight, the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. This trip is guaranteed to be a trip of a lifetime and I am proud to say St. James is going with 12 youth and 3 adults. This will be the largest endeavor the St. James Youth have taken on, and I am confident in saying that we will succeed.

As always, I am thankful and honored to be able to work and play with the

Frode-Lillian Jespersen, Dan Smith, Carla Spring.

### NEAR Food Shelf

NEAR (Northwest Suburban Emergency Assistance Response) is a food shelf created and named in May 1974 by the pastors of First Lutheran, St. James, St. Raphael's, and Faith Lilac Way.

In 2011 NEAR registered 230 new families plus continuing to help all other families. Clients may come once every 30 days. Deliveries are made to clients with a doctor's handicap letter.

The food shelf has a group of six-plus volunteers each morning, stocking shelves and sorting donations. In the afternoon there are four volunteers packing groceries and distributing them to 20-24 clients. There is also a volunteer answering the phone from her home.

Food is distributed from 1:30 to 4:30 and on Thursday until 6:00 by appointment only. Besides their monthly food the clients receive an extra box during the summer for school age children, and at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Easter baskets are made for the children by St. Raphael's. In the fall 473 students were provided with school supplies. Birthday bags are prepared for the children. Each December there is a toy distribution at the Crystal Community Center for 293 families.

The NEAR boundaries are 62nd Ave. N. to 42nd Ave. N. and Hwy #169 to Victory Memorial Drive. NEAR has one half-time paid coordinator. All the rest of the workers are volunteers.

All new volunteers would be appreciated. NEAR thanks St. James for their continued support. Chuck Schneider, Jim-Emily Hauan, Nancy Dahlquist, Joyce Held, Mary Roening, Connie Blom, Martha Thompson, Ruth Stanchfield work each week and also work on special projects.

### St. James Quilters

Quilters meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. More than 200 large quilts and baby quilts are made each year. In addition many lap robes are made for hospice and nursing homes. They are donated to Global Health Services, Loaves and Fishes, N.E.A.R. food shelf, Home Free battered women's shelter, North Ridge Masonic Care Center, and North Memorial Hospice.

Quilts are for sale at any time by contacting the church office. They are on display in church in November, for the Lutefisk Dinner and Christmas Brunch. Proceeds go toward buying supplies for more quilts.

Fabric is available for volunteers to use to sew and donate tops, which the quilters will complete and distribute. Donations of fabric, yarn, sheets (new and used), blankets, and antique satin drapes are welcome. If you can thread a

## Outreach

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### Power of One

Volunteers from St. James who truly care about children volunteer on a one-on-one basis or work in the classroom helping students at our neighborhood Forest School. The assignments are given by the teachers and the volunteers help the student or students for an hour or more. Scheduling the day, time and teacher the volunteers help, is coordinated by the Power Of One liaison, Shayna Anderson, and the staff at Forest Elementary School. No special education is needed, just love for children and the desire to help! Anyone, young or older, can volunteer. There are many children in need of some help, so please consider becoming a volunteer. Your reward is in the eyes and smiles of students when they accomplish another step toward success.

Call the church office (763-537-3653) and talk with Shayna Anderson if you are interested in becoming a volunteer or for further information.

### DAYD

St James furnishes up to 15 drivers a month to deliver hot noon meals to those who are homebound. They spend 180 hours in this outreach ministry. We delivered almost 900 meals this year. New drivers are always needed. It only takes 90 minutes once a month to do one route. We retired five drivers by the end of 2011 and five more are snow-birding in the south. Could you give up one and one-half hours a month to drive a route? You are needed.

### Loaves and Fishes

St. James, in partnership with House of Hope Lutheran, has served at River of Life Lutheran Church (22nd and Fremont Ave. N. in Mpls) since 1984. The guests are provided a hot meal prepared and served with loving caring hands. The meal is: au gratin potatoes/ground beef, green beans, wheat bread/butter, fruit cup, bars, milk and coffee. St. James has nine members who fix the meal at 2:00 on the third Thursday of each month. House of Hope brings 12 servers.

St. James provides six. House of Hope members bake the treats. All guests have their basic needs for food, dignity, and respect met by the team.

St. James served 1,930 meals at a cost of \$.73 a meal in 2011. Three hundred dollars was also given for the kitchen remodel. The funds for this outreach come from the two congregations. The need is close to \$1,000 per year. Thank you for supporting this very necessary program.

The congregation also donated quilts in December. In February small hygiene items will also be donated.

Chuck-Fern Schneider, Jim-Emily Huan, Ozzie Hellen, Russ Sondrol, Nancy Horberg, Shirley-Carroll Anderson, Nancy Dahlquist, Carol Koosmann,

youth of St. James. Sometimes I think to myself, "Is youth for the youth or is youth for me?" I have come to the conclusion that it would not work unless it was for both of us!

*Thank you for the opportunity you give me to serve.  
Ryan Walesch*

### Young Adults

The young adults made a sporadic showing in 2011, but when we got together we had a great time. We made it to three events this year. Comedy Sportz is always a good laugh, Dave & Busters had a really good turnout and Scream Town was an experience I have never had before. With our young adults getting to be ever increasingly busy, I hope that 2012 will show an increase in interest.

## Adult Ministry

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### Adult Education

Every Sunday between services you will find faithful seekers in the Peter and Paul room ready to dig into God's Word, engaging speakers of the most relevant topics, presenters of Christian books with bite, and all of us simply asking the core questions of God's gift of faith. If you haven't checked out Adult Education on Sunday mornings at St. James, please do; it's always inspiring, full of laughter, and supportive of "growing with the questions."

Presenters for 2011 included Rev. Hollie Holt-Woehl who invited us into what's needed to be caring communities for people with mental illness and developmental disabilities, Matt Gladue who invited us to give support to our prophetic voice with the faith-based organizing group *Isaiah*, and Debbie Haney, our Bonfire parish nurse who engaged us in our collaborative work of health in wellness in Christ. We also heard from guests on the Christian Mission in China today and the work of our local shelter for women and their children, Home Free.

Pr. David tended to the desire for a high emphasis upon studying the Sunday texts together as well as a special Reformation and All Saints focus upon God's grace in the work of Rob Bell. 2012 opportunities will continue to make the invitation to all for grace-filled and "where the rubber hits the road" studies.

The year finished up with vibrant Advent stirring with Tony Campolo: Carpe Diem! Tony invites Christians to party more with Jesus and we made the most of it!

Long-time participant Floyd Florey says, "Adult Ed is the best part of Sunday morning and I never want to miss it." Please let Floyd's words be your invitation for 2012. Let's join him in seizing this opportunity to grow in Christ.

A special adult ed offering was a Monday night series on religions presented online through Luther Seminary. A dedicated group met at Joel & Shayna Anderson's home February through April to learn about different faith backgrounds.

### Over 55's

St. James congregational members who are 55 years "young" meet the fourth Monday of each month. The members gather for fellowship, programs, entertainment, trips, potlucks, picnics, or plays. Individual members plan the monthly program. The annual dues are \$5.00 per person. The entire group decides on which charity to donate monies to in the community. New members as well as guests are always welcome. Ideas for the coming year are discussed at the January meeting at the Old Country Buffet in Crystal. Some programs that continue to have interest are the Old Log Theater, Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, Lord Fletcher's, the picnic, and lunch at Hennepin Technical College.

### Prayer Shawl

"Shawls...symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God." Have you ever wondered what a prayer shawl looks like? It is the soft, warm, loving embrace of a prayer shawl wrapped around a recipient's shoulders. St. James has been involved in the Prayer Shawl Ministry since December 2002. Faithful knitters, crocheters, and those delivering the shawls have been touching many lives through this loving ministry of craft and prayer. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. During 2011, 18 shawls were delivered to those in need of comfort and solace. We welcome your suggestions if you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving a prayer shawl.

Contacts: Linda Judge (763-533-4081; [judgelinda@msn.com](mailto:judgelinda@msn.com)) or Sandy Johnson (763-557-9858; [sandyrrmm@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyrrmm@yahoo.com))

### Decorating Committee

A dedicated group has outdone themselves again! This group ensures that St. James is decorated for each season including: Lent, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

The outside banners lining the driveway also change color with the seasons and add some welcome color to the long winter snowscape.

## **Second Sunday Singers/Summer Sunday Singers**

On the second Sunday of every month, anyone who is interested can gather half an hour before the first worship service to prepare a song to sing with the Second Sunday Singers. This is a fluid group that changes every month and is a great opportunity for those who like to sing but have difficulty committing to the practice schedule of the St. James Choir. During the summer, we switch our name to the Summer Sunday Singers, and provide music every Sunday.

## **Ringling Praise, St. James' Handbell Choir**

Our faithful ringers had another enjoyable, active year in 2011. We provided special music and accompanied congregational hymns at the ELW worship service at least once a month from January to May and from September to December. Our highlights for 2011 included accompanying the St. James Choir on All Saints Sunday and joining with the other bell choirs of the Bonfire churches to perform special pieces at the Good Friday and Thanksgiving Eve services.

More ringers are very welcome, since there are still many handbells in our 3-octave set that are not getting a chance to ring very often! (We've had some help this year from two of our ringing friends from First Lutheran.) Our weekly rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the balcony. Please contact Mary Brown (at 612-462-0729) to find out about the ringing opportunities and the great food and fun at our parties!

## **Prayer Line: *Caring for people by praying!***

Prayer requests are made by calling the church office (763-537-3653) during business hours, talking with our pastors or by calling Sandy Johnson (763-557-9858) in the evening and on weekends. Your prayer requests are given to dedicated pray-ers on the Prayer Line via telephone or email. The requests are then held in prayer by the Prayer Line pray-ers.

We have 40 compassionate pray-ers and welcome anyone who wishes to join.

There isn't any training, just love and concern for our neighbor and the belief in the power of prayer. For further information call the church office or Sandy Johnson.

We all can continually pray for:

- The ministries of St. James
- The leadership of St. James
- That the people of St. James will seek out intercessory prayer and be comfortable using the prayer line
- That the Holy Spirit would stir up excitement and enthusiasm for prayer in our faith community.

## **Men's Group**

The men's group meets for breakfast the 3rd Saturday of the month. It is usually held at St. James, but in December the breakfast was held at Papa's Café in New Hope. The purpose of getting together is fellowship and comradeship. There is no agenda or program. It is a time to get to know each other better in a casual setting. All men of St. James and friends are invited to join us!

Every three months or so there is a dinner and program with the men's groups of First Lutheran, House of Hope, Elim, St. Olaf, Holy Nativity and Faith Lilac Way. St. James hosted the last dinner in November with over 100 men in attendance. The dinner and program were excellent.

The men's group also hosted the Easter breakfast to raise funds for camp scholarships.

## **Rebecca Circle**

The Rebecca Circle continued to meet in 2011 on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. (not during the summer months) in the church library. Pastors led Bible studies each month. Currently, the group is using the "Gather" (The Lutheran Women Today). In addition to the Bible study, the Rebecca Circle provides fellowship, friendships, coffee and treats. There are currently 6-8 members, but new members are always welcome!

The Rebecca Circle hosted a spring luncheon in April with the theme *Dolls of My Childhood*. The presenter was Dr. Demi Gilbertson from Demi's Doll Studio and Hospital. Everyone had a wonderful time!

## **Mary Circle**

The Mary Circle continued to meet in 2011 on the third Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. Pastors led Bible studies each month. In addition to the Bible study, the Mary Circle provides fellowship, friendship, coffee and of course treats. New members are always welcome!

The Mary Circle hosted their annual Christmas Brunch in December with over 100 in attendance. Jumpin Jehoshaphats provided entertainment.

## Worship & Prayer

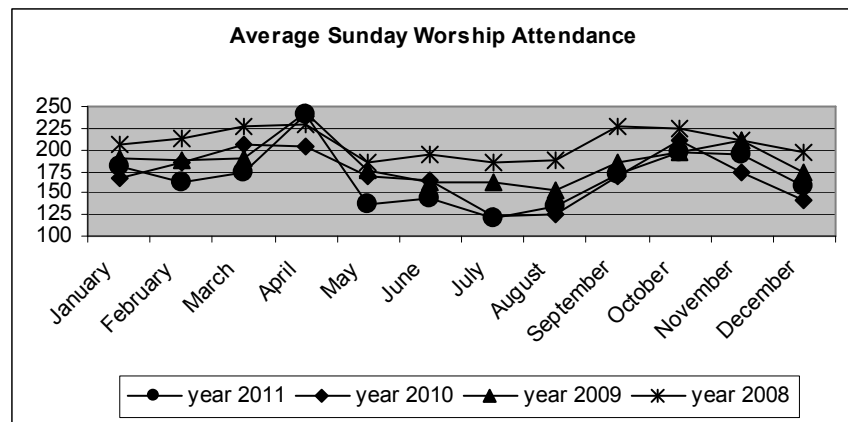
Worship was held during 2011 at 8:45 (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*) and 11:00 a.m. (*Now the Feast & Celebration*). During Lent, St. James had worship at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Maundy Thursday worship was held at 7:00 p.m. only, and Good Friday was a joint service with the other Bonfire congregations at First Lutheran. Easter worship was at the regular times with a breakfast held in Wold Hall between services.

During the summer, worship moved to one service at 9:30 a.m. using the Holden Evening Prayer worship format. A potluck meal was held after worship the last Sunday of the month during the summer. What a great way to start the week!

On Thanksgiving Eve, a joint service was held with the bonfire churches at St. James. A pie social was held in Wold Hall following worship and had 139 in attendance.

The Christmas season brought worship at 4:30 and 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day (a Sunday morning).

Sunday morning worship attendance continued on the same trend it has in the past, with a dip during summer months and peaks at Easter and Confirmation. Please note that Christmas Eve did not boost attendance in December since it wasn't on a Sunday morning, but there were 337 worshippers with us that evening.



## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a wonderful group of women who are dedicated to serving God by caring for God's house.

Our accomplishments in 2011 included purchasing additional hymnals, and having the flagon re-plated. The old green paraments, which were used for many years at St. James, are now displayed for all to enjoy. A big Thank You goes to Don Raether, who built the frames. During the Holiday Season, the Altar Guild donates gifts and gift certificates to Home Free, an organization that helps mothers and their children.

Even though our membership has declined in recent years....we hung in! and look forward to serving St. James in 2012.

## Worship Committee

There are many opportunities for St. James members to participate in the ministry of hospitality and worship. Every Sunday, lay leaders are involved in welcoming people to worship, facilitating the smooth running of the worship service, and participating in the worship service itself.

Greeters welcome each of us as we come on a Sunday morning.. At the 8:45 service there is an assisting minister who is responsible for the prayers of the people and assisting with other aspects of the service including serving communion. At both services there is a lector, a layperson who reads the Bible lessons for the day, and communion assistants who distribute the wine.

All members are encouraged to volunteer by signing on the bulletin board next to Pastor David's office.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who is so willing to take an active part in the hospitality and worship of our congregation. Thank you for cheerfully saying yes when I call and for giving of your time and your talent.

*Connie Blom, Worship Coordinator*

## St. James Choir

The St. James Choir had a great year in 2011. As always, we attempted to enhance worship at St. James by singing meaningful anthems and leading the congregation in Psalms, liturgy and hymns. Hopefully, you've noticed that we've started moving around; in order to make use of the outstanding piano in the front of the worship center, we occasionally sing in the front instead of in the balcony.

A highlight of this past year was a collaboration with the Wildfire church choirs in a Wildfire Choral Festival. On a Sunday afternoon in March, the six choirs from Elim, Faith Lilac Way, First Lutheran, Holy Nativity, House of Hope and St. James gathered to give a concert. It was a wonderful chance to make music with a group of around 100 singers!