



# Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

April 15, 2015

## Pastoral Devotion

Friends in Christ,

This week, I'm confessing to being a Minnesota Twins fan. As you may know, the Twins have had four very bad seasons in a row and have begun this year on a trajectory to be even worse. Why would anyone be foolish enough to care about grown men playing a game for which they are paid millions by billionaires in stadiums paid for by taxpayers, many of whom have nothing? As is the case about many things, I don't have an answer.

Perhaps a good clergy person would get up on a soapbox and rant about the inherent evil of professional baseball, sports in general and any other non-utilitarian activities which draw interest and resources from concerns which really do matter. However, the church may have far too often taken an unrealistically snobby approach to such questions. Perhaps it time for us to accept our culture, context and neighbor for who they are and where they are. So what good are the Twins? Well, not very, at least not now!

But this horrendous beginning to the season has given an opportunity for Twins fans and our community to lament. Lament is a powerful outlet when we are heartbroken. The pages and pages of lament now being posted on the Twins website testify to the place the Twins hold in our community. We could say "It's only a game, get over it" but doing so denies rather than acknowledges the deep feelings that many are experiencing. Such feelings of loss are an inevitable part of any fully developed human experience. Perhaps the loss we share now, as baseball fans with the Twins, will empower us to use lament in a helpful way when our personal losses are more significant. May our Twins and our community also grow strong and wise through this time of trial, and may their future inspire us all to persevere with integrity and abiding hope. We are never forsaken, we are never forgotten, and we are never alone.

*Love in Christ,*

*Pr. Randy*

## Women's Spring Tea

Mary Circle will host its annual Springtime Dessert Buffet Tea on Sat., Apr. 25 at 12:15 p.m. Goodies and tea sandwiches will be served at the brunch.

Tickets are \$8.00. Advance ticket sales only on Sunday morning or from the church office. Make checks payable to Mary Circle. Reserve your tables of 8 today.

Entertainment will be provided by **The Looney Lutherans**, a trio of wacky gals— Ginger, Bella, and Lois. The Looney Lutherans were born in a basement in 2006 when the founding members were appearing in the cast of the hit musical "Church Basement Ladies." All original material is comedic, family-friendly and interactive. You won't want to miss it!

## Congregational Vote Results

The St. James Lutheran Church voted to call Pastor Kristen Brechler to serve as Associate Pastor at St. James in a special congregational meeting on Sun., April 12. Pastor Kristen has been serving as the Interim Associate Pastor since September 2013.

### Mark your Calendar

- 4-18 *Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m.*
- 4-25 *Spring Tea, CPR Training*
- 5-16 *Spring Work Day at 8:30 a.m.*

### New Member Class

New member classes will be held Sunday at 10:10 a.m. New members will be received in worship on Sun., April 26. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Randy via email at [rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org](mailto:rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org).

### Contact Us

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