



## St. James Lutheran Church

*Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal*

# Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

April 29, 2015

## *Pastoral Devotion*

Friends in Christ,

Monday Diana and I joined the "Over 55" group from St. James Lutheran for a delicious, gourmet meal at Hennepin Technical School in Brooklyn Park. "Over 55" doesn't mean that this is a club for habitual speeders, but rather is a Christian fellowship group folks in our congregation who have surpassed the age of 55. The meal was great, and so was the fellowship. For desert, we had "Fallen Chocolate Dessert." Eating such a sinfully rich, fallen dessert seemed a bit risky with a church group, especially being the pastor and all, but each bite of the chocolate perfection embodied in the dessert reminded me of the foolishness of any religion or faith tradition which tries to scare or guilt people into being new, improved people with a bunch of rules against whatever.

Yes, there are many good and helpful practices, rules and disciplines that we can employ to live the abundant, healthy lives for which God has created us; but ultimately the richness of God's intended life for us does not come from the moral force we bring to following rules, but rather comes from what God has given us, and our recognition of God as the source of life and all that we have received. Yes, we are fallen. We sin by turning from God and harming ourselves, our neighbors and the creation. However, the greatest, best truth is that the love of God has re-created us and is redeeming all people, and all creation, whether we know it or not.

In this season following Jesus' resurrection, let us celebrate the redeeming of all creation through the loving grace of God. Savor the moment, cherish your family and relationships, care for the creation, and give freely to your church and your community, for the love of God and from the love of God.

*Love in Christ,*

*Pastor Randy*

## *VBS Staff Applications for Youth*

Sr. High students and Middle School students are invited to participate as staff of VBS this year. Fill out an application form, found outside the church office, and return to Pastor Kristen. There are a number of paid positions available.

This is a great way to get service hours, earning credit for school or leadership opportunities to put on scholarship requests.

All Sr. High students will be given an adult mentor to provide help/guidance as we prepare and throughout the VBS week.

Contact Pr. Kristen for more information at [kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org](mailto:kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org).

## *Spring Work Day*

It's time for some spring cleaning! Spring work day will be held Sat., May 16 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Please come for as long as you are able. A continental breakfast for volunteers will be served at 10:30 a.m.

### **Mark your Calendar**

5-3 *Teacher Appreciation / Last Day of Sunday School*

5-16 *Spring Work Day at 8:30 a.m.*

### **Pastor Randy on Vacation**

Pastor Randy is on vacation through May 12. He will return on May 13 and answer any emails at that point. In an emergency, contact Pastor Kristen at [kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org](mailto:kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org) or 651-307-6563.

### **Contact Us**

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