

Pews News

August 24, 2014

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

St. James Lutheran Church, 6700 46th Place North, Crystal, Minnesota 55428

www.stjamesincrystal.org

St. James Council Decides on One Service

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

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

Lighthouse Sunday School

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

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

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

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

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

Adopt-A-Student Challenge

Bonfire is challenging each congregation to raise enough funds for 350 students through the KidPack Adopt-A-Student program.

\$54 provides weekend KidPacks for one student for the entire school year. \$675 for half a classroom, and \$1,350 for an entire classroom of 25 students. There are pew envelopes available specifically for this cause. Please help KidPack fund the 2014-2015 school year.

The first KidPack packing day for the school year is Tues., Aug. 26 at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Foodshelf Network.

Prayer Concerns:

(Prayer slips are available in the pews. Please fill out and place in the offering plate. Names will be listed in the following week's Pews News.)

Arnold	Kristine
Jim & family	Ryan K, for a job fitting his likes and talents
Richard's family	
Thank you for blessings of this past week	Sarah & her family
Jackson	Kevin
Bob Leinonen	Naomi
Tom Ritter	Wendy
All immigrants	The people in West Africa dealing with ebola virus
All who hunger	Everyone seeking employment
My Jewish neighbors	Our children as they begin the school year
All caregivers	Susan in her new job
My Muslim neighbors	

Worship Information

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. O God,

C: with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Service Participants:

Preaching: Pastor Randy Romsdahl

Presiding: Pastor Kristen Brechler

Musician: Emily Loken

Assisting Minister: Corey Loken

Cantor: Deanna Loken

Lector: Sandy Johnson

Altar Guild: Margaret Thomsen

Greeters: Emily Hauan, Karen Looft

Communion Assistants: Ruth Stanchfield, Peg Tutila

Ushers: Marv Berke, Jim Hauan, Becki Smith, Clarence Peterson, Tim Buck

This Week's Events

Sunday, August 24:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Adult Ed
4:00 p.m. Grief Support Training
6:30 p.m. Bonfire bonfire (@HOH)

Monday, August 25:

Tuesday, August 26:

9:30 a.m. Quilting
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Wednesday, August 27:

8:30 a.m. Herald Assembly
11:30 a.m. Power of One Teacher Lunch
6:00 p.m. Youth
7:00 p.m. GA

Thursday, August 28:

9:00 a.m. Archives
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Friday, August 29:

4:00 p.m. Violin

Saturday, August 30:

Sunday, August 31:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Adult Ed

Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$4,066
Received to date: \$222,935
- Capital Fund: \$987
Received to date: \$58,574
- Special Offering (*Forest Elementary School*) \$530
- Attendance: 124

Office Hours

Summer Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parking Information

When coming to church on Sunday mornings, please be mindful of those who need to park closer to the church entrance.



Next Week's Texts

Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:21-28

Directory Pictures

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

St. James Staff

Pastor Randy Romsdahl (612-803-2879)
Pastor Kristen Brechler (651-307-6563)
Lana Teigen, Financial Coordinator
Amanda Burns, Director of Communications
Ryan Walesch, Senior High Youth
Ron Skalicky, Custodian
Mary Brown, Organist and Bell Choir Director
Deanna Loken, Choir Director
Amy Jermstad, Sunday Morning Custodian

Contact St. James:

6700 46th Place North
Crystal, MN 55428
763-537-3653 (phone)
office@stjamesincrystal.org
www.stjamesincrystal.org

Forest School Supplies

During the month of August, St. James is collecting school supplies for our neighboring Forest Elementary School. All money collected for the Special Offering will go to Forest to help them purchase additional supplies. Please write Forest Elementary on the memo line of your check.

Confirmation News

Confirmation season is almost here! Confirmation at St. James starts in 6th grade and ends the fall of their 9th grade year. These years are incredibly formative in the faith that will carry them for the rest of their lives. Here's what you need to get ready

1. Confirmation registration is available at church and online. The price is \$70. <http://www.stjamesincrystal.org/confirmationyouth.htm>
2. Orientation meetings are as follows. 6-8th Graders – Wed., Sept. 10, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Wold Hall. 9th Graders – Sun., Sept. 14, 10:10 a.m. in Pr. Kristen's office.

Students and one parent are expected to attend the orientation meeting. All forms and payment will be due at that time.

Current confirmation students: All make-up work needs to be done by Mon., Sept. 1.

Sunday School and Confirmation Small Group Leader Training

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

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

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

God's Work. Our Hands.

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

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

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

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

Bonfire Ministry Bonfire

The next bonfire will be TODAY at 6:30 p.m. at House of Hope Lutheran Church. We hope you can make it for some s'mores and singing.

The Page Turners Book Club

September's pick: Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson. This is the story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who grow up haphazardly, first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of two comically bumbling great-aunts, and finally of Sylvie, their eccentric and remote aunt. Ruth and Lucille's struggle toward adulthood beautifully illuminates the price of loss and survival, and the dangerous and deep undertow of transience. [from barnesandnoble.com]

September's Book Club Meeting: Tues., Sept. 2 at 7:00 p.m. In the Peter and Paul room. Join us! All are welcome.

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

For more information, contact Linda Judge (at 763-533-4081 or judgelinda@msn.com).

Mpls. Area Synod Moment

Did you know that St. James Lutheran in Crystal is a leader both in our synod and the ELCA by engaging in our collaborative ministries known as Bonfire and Wildfire? Curious? Please contact our congregation president, John Lindstrom, or Pastor Randy for more information. Through our collaborative ministry initiatives, we are opening our future in Christ with a spirit of openness to God's provision and guiding, rather than a frightened spirit focused on what no longer exists.

ELCA Moment

ELCA – Please join others in our congregation for the God's Work; Our Hands celebration on Saturday, September 6. We will be joining tens of thousands of other ELCA congregation members on this celebration weekend in which we together declare that God is not dead, and God's church is not dying, but rather is the source of life and hope for a broken and hurting world. Please sign up to buy a T-shirt (\$7) and sign up to participate in the gathering space today! We have 25 t-shirts on order. The T-shirts are getting printed this week. 32,000 and counting across the ELCA!

Rally Sunday

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