

Pews News

August 31, 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.

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.

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. ***We are at \$1,662.***

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.

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	My Jewish neighbors
Our children as they begin the school year	My Muslim neighbors
Sarah & her family	Dan, as his new career progresses
Everyone seeking employment	Thanks for blessings of the past week
Kevin	Rose, with a broken hip
Naomi	Tim & James W.
Wendy	The Bauer family upon Phil's deployment to Afghanistan
The health workers of West Africa dealing with Ebola	Erin, for a great school year
Kristine	All caregivers
Tom Ritter	Susan, in her new job
Bob Leinonen	Jim & family
Jackson	

Worship Information

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. O God,

C: we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Welcome Easley & Sylvia!

Today we joyfully welcome through Holy Baptism Easley Renee Elbert, daughter of Adam & Tonia Elbert. Her godparents are Nathan & Joanna Tessum.

We also joyfully welcome through Holy Baptism Sylvia Dee Sewalson, daughter of Eric & Jessica Sewalson. Her godparents are Jana Plafcan and Chris Sewalson.

This Week's Events

Sunday, August 31:

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

Monday, September 1: Office Closed

7:00 p.m. Property Committee

Tuesday, September 2:

6:30 p.m. Bells
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu / Book Club

Wednesday, September 3:

6:15 p.m. Sunday School Leader Training
7:00 p.m. GA / Choir / POC Training / Confirmation Leader Training

Thursday, September 4:

9:00 a.m. Archives
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Friday, September 5:

4:00 p.m. Violin

Saturday, September 6:

Sunday, September 7: Rally Day

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Rally Day Celebration / Sunday School Orientation

Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$4,036
Received to date: \$226,971
- Capital Fund: \$608
Received to date: \$59,182
- Special Offering (*Forest Elementary School*) \$683
- Attendance: 144

Office Hours

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday,
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Thursday 7:00
a.m. to noon; Friday 7:00 - 9:30 a.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

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Matthew 18:15-20

Directory Pictures

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

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

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.

God's Work. Our Hands.

The eight Wildfire churches are joining together for a day of service, fellowship and worship. 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 to 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).

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!

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.

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.

Service Participants:

Preaching: Pastor Randy Romsdahl
Presiding: Pastor Kristen Brechler
Musician: Sandy Saliny
Assisting Minister: Dick Olson
Lector: Jo Olson
Altar Guild: Kathleen Clemens
Greeters: Mary Roening
Communion Assistants: Stan & Connie Tikkanen
Ushers: Mike Stanchfield, Jim Olsen, Stan Tikkanen, John Lindstrom, Wayne Rierson, Don & Deb Edmondson

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).

ELCA Moment

Our ELCA is responding to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. More than 1,800 people have been killed and nearly 10,000 injured – with most of the victims reported to be civilians and children. Our brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land have asked for our help. One way Lutheran Disaster Response responding is through Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, a place that provides medical services regardless of race, gender, religious or political affiliation. Your gifts, designated for Gaza Humanitarian Assistance, will be used – 100 percent – in response to this crisis. We continue to monitor the situation closely and walk with our brothers and sisters affected by the crisis. - See more at: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Gaza#sthash.2aYIvWuE.dpuf>

Choir & Bells Begin

St. James Choir and Ringing Praise Bell Choir rehearsals begin this week! All ages and abilities are welcome. Bells are Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and choir is Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Tennis Tournament

Once again, Corey Loken of St. James will be hosting a tennis tournament to raise money and awareness for Bonfire KidPack. We're trying something new this year: a doubles tournament! So grab your partner (or let us find one for you) and head out to the courts! It will be held on Sat., Sept. 13 at the Cooper High School tennis courts. The entry fee is \$20/person, which includes a t-shirt if you sign-up by September 6th. Play will be 8 game sets, with no-ad scoring, and everyone is guaranteed at least two matches. All abilities are welcome! Questions? Contact Corey at coreyloken@aol.com or 763-234-7838.