

Pews News

December 14, 2014

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

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

www.stjamesincrystal.org

Christmas Caroling Today!

Everyone is welcome for a potluck today at 11:00 a.m. with Christmas caroling at different care facilities in the area following the meal.

Tis the Season

'Tis the Season to Remember to hang the Christmas lights and decorate the tree.

'Tis the Season to Remember to get everyone's Christmas list and shop & shop & shop.

'Tis the Season to Celebrate with Friends and Family and St. James.

'Tis the Season to Celebrate Advent and the wonderful story of Jesus' Birth.

'Tis the season to Remember St. James' Mission & Ministry Programs through Worship, Adult Education, Youth programs, Congregation life gatherings, Pastoral visits and Outreach into our Community.

'Tis the Season to Remember that our current Mission & Ministry deficit is \$13,000, an annual tradition at St. James.

'Tis the Season to Remember that our extra giving in Nov. and Dec. has eliminated our past deficits, another tradition at St. James.

'Tis the Season to Remember our individual, extra Gifts to St. James last year and the year before and many years before that.

'Tis the Season to Remember to do it all Again!!

'Tis the Season to Celebrate what the Lord has given us and to say Thank You.

Thank you Lord and thank you St. James!

St. James Finance Committee

Outreach Partner: Home Free

St. James will be collecting items for Home Free Women's Shelter through the end of December.

Items needed include: full size deodorant, full size conditioner, full size bar soap and baby wipes.

The winter wear (new hats, mittens, scarves for women and children) can be placed in the Christmas tree shaped holder in the narthex. Let's fill it so the women and children at Home Free will stay warm this winter!

St. James also collects used cell phones for Home Free all year long. Donations of cell phones can be placed in the plastic drawer by the main entrance.

Home Free has been providing services to battered women and their children since 1980. Their services include a shelter, 24-hour crisis line, and community advocacy.

The mission of Home Free is to provide battered women and their children with safety, support, and information so that they have an opportunity to explore alternatives to living with a violent partner. They are also committed to developing effective community responses to the needs of battered women and their children.

Please consider a gift to Home Free during the month of December. Donations can be placed in the special offering envelope.

Final Meeting of Grief Support Group Today

Tonight is the final meeting of the Grief Support Group. It is being held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Peter & Paul room.

Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence and are welcome to come just one time.

Contact Bonfire Parish Nurse Debbie Haney for more information, 612-408-2049.

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.)

Joanne, for healing

Karen

Phillip Bruer

Sarah & her family

Ozzie

Everyone seeking employment

Our grandchildren as they face the future

The health workers of West Africa

Les Lamb

Ryan K, for appropriate employment

Thank you for Dan having found an appropriate job

Bob Leinonen

Tom Ritter

Kathy & Jim dealing with unexpected issues

All immigrants

All who hunger

Thank you for blessings of the past week

Mike, for healing

All those struggling with depression

More patience

All who are homeless

For us all to remember the true meaning of Christmas this season

Christmas Cookies

During Advent, different groups within St. James will be providing Christmas cookies for fellowship time following worship. This week our cookies are provided by the St. James Council.

Christmas Program

Mark your calendars for the Children's Christmas Program—Sun., Dec. 21 at 9:00 a.m.

Rehearsal will be today at 10:10 a.m.

Christmas Worship

Celebrate Christ's birth on **Wed., Dec. 24 at 4:30 and 10:00 p.m.**

We will have a Lessons & Carols service on Sun., Dec. 28 at 9:00 a.m. Please bring your leftover Christmas cookies to this service for our coffee time treat.

Discovery Meetings

During January and early February, 2015, St. James will be joining in a series of Discovery Meetings. The meetings are for two purposes: (1) help Pastor Randy become more acquainted with St. James; and (2) provide a forum for sharing in conversation about God's mission for our congregation.

Please sign up in the narthex to attend one of the Discovery meetings that will best fit your schedule.

Pledge Cards

It's not too late to turn in pledge cards. Place them in the offering plate or in the church office.

Christmas Decorating

Volunteers are needed to change the Advent décor over to Christmas following worship on Sun., Dec. 21. Please consider staying after worship to help deck the halls of St. James.

Pews News for 21 & 28

Pews News articles for Dec. 21 and 28 are due by noon tomorrow, Mon., Dec. 15. Please email them to office@stjamesincrystal.org.

Holiday Office Hours

The church holiday office hours will be as follows:

Wed., Dec. 24: closed

Thurs., Dec. 25: closed

Wed., Dec. 31: close at noon

Thurs., Jan. 1: closed

Additional hours can be found on the reverse side.

This Week's Events

Sunday, December 14:

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Adult Ed / Sunday School
2:00 p.m. Violin Recital
4:00 p.m. Grief Support

Monday, December 15:

10:30 a.m. Dinner at Your Door
6:30 p.m. Scouts
7:00 p.m. Council

Tuesday, December 16:

1:00 p.m. Library
5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Wednesday, December 17:

10:00 a.m. Mary Circle
6:00 p.m. Youth
6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. GA / Choir

Thursday, December 18:

7:00 p.m. Kung Fu / Prayer Shawl

Friday, December 19:

4:00 p.m. Violin
6:00 p.m. Youth Lock-In

Saturday, December 20:

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, December 21:

9:00 a.m. Worship (Christmas Program)
10:10 a.m. Adult Ed / Christmas
Decorating

Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$11,986
Received to date: \$335,234
- Capital Fund: \$2,352
Received to date: \$77,508
- Special Offering (*Home Free*) \$75
- Adopt-A-Student: \$6,134
- Attendance: 174

Office Hours

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday,
7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Thursday 7:30
a.m. to noon.

Parking Information

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



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
and Sunday School Coordinator

Contact St. James:

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

KidPack Packing Day

The next KidPack packing day is Tues., Jan. 6 at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Food Network (8501 54th Ave N- New Hope). Please note: There is no packing day in December!

Please contact Melodie Hanson for more information at 763-504-4981.

Prison Ministry

On Thurs., Dec. 4, at 7:35 p.m., St. James Lutheran began a collaborative worship ministry at the Minnesota State Correctional Facility for women in Shakopee, MN. We are collaborating with other congregations and pastors in our Minneapolis Area Synod with the goal of holding weekly Lutheran worship services at the prison which welcome all who come to share in the Good News of Jesus Christ in worship, and in the Lord's Supper.

We will hold another worship service at the women's prison on Thursday evening, December 18. Our goal is to build this worship ministry into a weekly worship service. Please hold this ministry in your prayers, and please contact Pastor Randy if you are interested in volunteering to accompany him to the prison to assist in this prison worship ministry.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to care for children in the Nursery Sunday mornings during worship from 8:45-10:00 a.m. Please sign up on the clipboard outside the nursery door the days you are able to serve. This is one of the key ways we welcome people to this community. It's an important ministry in our congregation.

If you have questions about the nursery or your ability to serve, please contact Pr. Kristen.

ELCA Moment

In response to the St. Louis County grand jury decision Nov. 24 not to indict Darren Wilson in the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), offered a word of prayer and hope.

"As a nation, we are struggling with and divided by the decision. It has affected so many of us in so many different ways. We want the assurance that all of this means something. We want to know that someone cares. Has not God created all of us to have inherent dignity, value and worth. ... Despite the anger, violence and injustice connected with this sad and horrible tragedy, we should not abandon our hope or our neighbors. Let's join Michael Brown's father and call for peace. The reconciliation we have with God in Christ leads us to our neighbors with the hope that we can engage one another in a common cause. ... We come together at the cross. It is our only hope. And, resting in the conviction that we are redeemed, we can begin the hard work of confronting the reality of systemic racism in our country. Because of the cross, we have peace; we have hope; we are loved. I join with you in prayer for the Brown family, Officer Wilson and his family, the prosecutor and his family, the grand jurors and their families, the community of Ferguson and all who work for justice and peace," Eaton said.

See more at: <http://elca.org/News-and-Events/7709#sthash.VjLS4Q01.chOaA9iU.dpuf>

The Page Turners Book Club

January's pick: [The African Queen](#) by C. S. Forester. As World War I reaches the heart of the African jungle, Charlie Allnut and Rose Sayer, a disheveled trader and an English spinster missionary, find themselves thrown together by circumstance. Fighting time, heat, malaria, and bullets, they make their escape on the rickety steamboat *The African Queen*...and hatch their own outrageous military plan. Originally published in 1935, this is a tale of unrelenting suspense, reckless heroism, impromptu military maneuvers, near-death experiences — and a good old-fashioned love story to boot. [from [goodreads.com](#)]

January's Book Club Meeting: Tues., Jan. 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Peter and Paul room. Join us! All are welcome.

February's pick: [Subterranean Twin Cities](#) by Greg Brick.

Next Week's Texts

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Adult Ed

Everyone is welcome to attend Adult Ed in the Peter & Paul room on Sunday mornings at 10:10 a.m. Grab a cup of coffee or lemonade on your way!

Parent Connection Group

A new group, Parent Connection, will meet Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. in the Wally Krahn area (outside Wold Hall). Parents will meet for support and connections. All are invited to participate. For more information contact Pastor Kristen.

Christmas Décor Take Down

Volunteers are needed to help take down all the beautiful Christmas decorations on Sat., Jan. 10 at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make light work, so come for as long as you are able.

Loaves and Fishes

Brunswick Methodist is now serving every Wednesday and Thursday night. To volunteer, call 763-533-1661.

NEAR Food Drive Update

The NEAR Food Shelf thanks you for your generous gift of \$2,000 and 300 pounds of food. This will greatly help in serving the clients during the winter months.

Your continuing support is really appreciated.

2015 Offering Envelopes

2015 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in the narthex.