

# Pews News

December 21, 2014

*Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal*

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

www.stjamesincystal.org

## 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.



## 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 quilters.

## 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.

## NEAR Toy Drive Thank You

The NEAR Food Shelf wants to thank the 20 volunteers from St. James who made the Christmas toy distribution a huge success. Many children will be happy this Christmas because of your giving attitude.

## Prayer Concerns:

*(Prayer slips are available in the pews. Please fill out and place in the offering plate. Names will be listed in the Pews News on January 4—no Prayers of the People on December 28.)*

Karen  
Joanne G., for healing  
Philip Bruer  
Sarah & her family  
Everyone seeking employment  
Kevin  
Wendy  
Naomi  
The health workers of West Africa  
Carrie, as she braves the cold and shortages  
of water in Jordan  
All caregivers

All traveling this week  
Safe travels for Susan & family  
The homeless  
Everyone dealing with depression  
Our Sunday School children  
My family  
All who hunger  
Les  
Doris  
Evie  
All who are homebound

## 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 today. Please consider staying after worship to help deck the halls of St. James.

## Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given by Duane & Joyce Halvorson in honor of Lainie Rose Schumacher, born July 20, 2014, our granddaughter (parents Jackie & Charlie Schumacher).

## 2015 Offering Envelopes

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

## End of Year Offering

All offering for 2014 needs to be in the church office no later than noon on Wed., Dec. 31.

## Holiday Office Hours

The church holiday office hours will be as follows:  
Wed., Dec. 24: closed  
Thurs., Dec. 25: closed  
Wed., Dec. 31: closing at noon  
Thurs., Jan. 1: closed

*Additional hours can be found on the reverse side.*

## This Week's Events

### Sunday, December 21:

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

### Monday, December 22:

### Tuesday, December 23:

9:30 a.m. Quilting  
5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

### Wednesday, December 24: Office Closed

4:30 p.m. Worship  
10:00 p.m. Worship

### Thursday, December 25: Office Closed

### Friday, December 26: Office Closed

4:00 p.m. Violin

### Saturday, December 27:

### Sunday, December 28:

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:10 a.m. Adult Ed

## Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$6,374  
Received to date: \$343,552
- Capital Fund: \$2,212  
Received to date: \$79,720
- Special Offering (*Home Free*) \$200
- Adopt-A-Student: \$6,188
- Attendance: 175

## 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

## 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!

## Parking Information

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



## Office Hours

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

## Contact St. James:

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

## Loaves and Fishes

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

## 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.

## Dinner at Your Door Drivers

Drivers are needed for the Dinner at Your Door Program. Regular and substitute drivers are needed. Regular drivers can expect to volunteer about one hour each month. Substitute drivers are called as needed. This is a very small amount of time to give to a program that means so much to so many people. Having a meal delivered each day allows many people to remain independent. You will find volunteering for this program to be very rewarding. For more information call Barbara Parsons at 763-227-2282.

## Altar Flowers Sign-Up Sheet Outside Office

If you would like to purchase flowers in honor, memory or celebration of someone, a sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the church office. Cost is \$30.

## 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.

## 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.

## GriefShare

If you personally have experienced the death of a loved one or a friend, you are invited to attend the upcoming GriefShare ministry seminar series.

GriefShare is a 12 week course that uses a series of videos to stimulate conversations to help participants work through their grief. GriefShare seminars are sponsored by Bonfire Ministry and are open to anyone who is experiencing grief.

The GriefShare ministry seminars are held at St. James on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Peter & Paul room. The next GriefShare series begins on Sun., Jan. 18, 2015.

There is a \$10 fee for the GriefShare seminars, and scholarships to cover this fee are available.

For more information, please call Bonfire Ministry Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney, at 612-408-2049.

## 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](http://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.

## Parent Connection Group

A new group, Parent Connection, will meet Sunday mornings (when Sunday School is in session) 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.

## St. James' Website Accepts Donations!

The St. James website accepts one-time and recurring donations via checking, savings, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover). Click on the "Donate Now" button located on the left side of the homepage, [www.stjamesincrystal.org](http://www.stjamesincrystal.org). It's never been easier to make a donation to St. James!

## Respite Care

Respite Care is held at House of Hope the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The caregivers support group is held there from 10:00 to 11:45 a.m. those same days.

This is a ministry of Bonfire's Health & Wellness team and is open to any family, member or non-member.

There is a nominal cost for the program, that can be negotiable if necessary. Lunch is served each time the program is run.

## Next Week's Texts

*Lessons & Carols service:*

*Micah 5:2-5a*

*Luke 1:26-35, 38*

*Luke 2:1-7*

*Luke 2:8-16*

*Luke 2:21-35*

*Matthew 2:1-11*