

Pews News

December 28, 2014

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

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

www.stjamesincrystal.org

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.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of St. James will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sun., Jan. 25. Immediately following the annual meeting there will be a special meeting to elect a call committee for the specific purpose of calling Pastor Kristen Brechler for a permanent, part-time position as Associate Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church.

Annual reports are now available in the narthex. Financial information will be available on January 18.

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 leave in the church office.

End of Year Giving

All end of year giving is due in the office no later than noon on Wed., Dec. 31.

Office Closed

The church office will close at noon on Wed., Dec. 31 and be closed all day on Thurs., Jan. 1.

Offering Envelopes

2015 offering envelopes are now available in the narthex. Please take yours home today!

Prayer Names

Prayers of the people will not be offered during this morning's worship service. All prayer names submitted last week will appear in next Sunday's Pews News. Please feel free to fill out the prayer slips located in the pew holders and place in the offering plate.

This Week's Events

Sunday, December 28:

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

Monday, December 29:

Tuesday, December 30:

7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Wednesday, December 31:

12:00 p.m. Office Closes
7:00 p.m. GA

Thursday, January 1: Office Closed

7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Friday, January 2: Office Closed

4:00 p.m. Violin

Saturday, January 3:

Sunday, January 4:

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Adult Ed / Sunday School
3:00 p.m. Discovery Meeting

Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: NA
Received to date: NA
- Capital Fund: NA
Received to date: NA
- Special Offering (*Home Free*) NA
- Adopt-A-Student: NA
- Attendance: NA

Next Week's Texts

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Office Hours

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

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

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.

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]

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.

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.

Parking Information

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

If the parking lot is slippery, people will be able to assist with parking your car for you (kind of like valet parking) just pull up under the car port and let someone know that you need help.

