

Pews News

December 7, 2014

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

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

www.stjamesincystal.org

Interested in a New Alternative Worship Service?

Come join the discussion at a Sunday morning brunch today, starting at 10:15 a.m. in Wold Hall following the morning service! A small group of people have been discussing what it would look like to bring back Wednesday evening community meals, fellowship, and an open invitation to our Crystal neighbors to experience the Light of Christ.

We would like to present the congregation with our ideas and make YOU a part of the conversation! Topics discussed will include the format of this new Alternative Worship Service, how everyone can be involved with the success and continuation of the service, and how we hope to bring in new members of the surrounding community to share the Gospel in an exciting and fresh way.

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.

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 G., for recovery

Karen

Carrie, as she adjusts to living in Jordan

Healing for Joann W.

Phillip Bruer & family as he leaves for Afghanistan

Sarah & her family

Kevin

Naomi

Wendy

Everyone seeking employment

The health workers of West Africa

Doris Torkkola

Ryan K, for suitable employment

Dan M.

Ozzie Hellen

Tom Ritter

All immigrants

Bob Leinonen

All who hunger

Thanks for the blessings of the past week

All seeking employment

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 Mary Circle.

Christmas Program

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

Rehearsal will be Sun., Dec. 14 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.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given by Vi Hansen in memory of Paul Hansen for Pearl Harbor Day.

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 Caroling

Mark your calendar for Sun., Dec. 14 for a potluck at 11:00 a.m. with Christmas caroling at different care facilities in the area following the meal. All are welcome!

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.

This Week's Events

Sunday, December 7:

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Adult Ed / Sunday School /
Alt. Worship Brunch
4:00 p.m. Grief Support

Monday, December 8:

12:30 p.m. Endowment / Thrivent
6:30 p.m. Scouts
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Tuesday, December 9:

9:30 a.m. Quilting
10:45 a.m. Dinner at Your Door
5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
6:00 p.m. Bells / Altar Guild
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Wednesday, December 10:

6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. GA / Choir

Thursday, December 11:

7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Friday, December 12:

4:00 p.m. Violin

Saturday, December 13:

11:30 a.m. Youth FMSC

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

Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$7,922
Received to date: \$323,248
- Capital Fund: \$311
Received to date: \$75,156
- Special Offering (NEAR) \$2,006
- Adopt-A-Student: \$6,080
- Attendance: 136

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Pews News for 21 & 28

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

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.

Grief Support Group

Bonfire Ministry is hosting a Grief Support Group with different topics through December 14. It is being held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the Peter & Paul room.

You are welcome to begin attending at any point. Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias are now for sale for Christmas for \$8.00 each. You may take your plant home after the 10:00 p.m. service on Dec. 24. The names of the honorees will be included for the Christmas Eve services. Orders must be received in the church office by **TODAY!**

Name: _____

Phone _____

Please indicate how many of each color you would like.

_____ Red _____ White _____ Jingle Ball (Red & White)

Total number of poinsettia plant(s) _____ x \$8.00 each Total Due: _____

In (circle one) memory / honor of: _____

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