

Pews News

July 27, 2014

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

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

www.stjamesincrystal.org

Welcome Pastor Randy!

Please give Pastor Randy and his wife, Diana, a warm St. James welcome on his first Sunday as St. James' new senior pastor. Please wear a name tag this Sunday and for the next few months to help them leave names!

We will install Pastor Randy during the worship service on Sun., Aug. 10 at 9:30 a.m. Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be presiding. There will be a reception in Wold Hall following worship. Donations of bars are needed and can be brought to the kitchen that morning.

Kidpack Fundraiser

Shop at Frattalone's Ace Hardware and help KidPack! Mark Jennings, manager, and his wife, Dorothy Tischer, at Frattalone's on 36th and Winnetka, will donate to the KidPack program for purchases made on **Sunday, August 17th** (store hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

They will donate \$1.00 for any purchase, or \$2.00 for a purchase of \$10.00 or more (pre-tax). There is no need to keep any receipts; the store will keep track of sales and inform KidPack of the results.

At Frattalone's large garden center and paint department, you are certain to find things you need.

If you have questions, please contact Al Anderson of First Lutheran Church of Crystal at 763-537-1876. Thank you for your support of the KidPack Program.

Bonfire Ministry "Bonfire"

The next bonfire will tonight at 6:30 p.m. at St. James. Our new Sr. Pastor, Randy Romsdahl, will be here to greet everyone! We hope you can make it for some s'mores and singing.

Please Pray for Kids Going to Camp Onomia

Please keep the St. James children attending Camp Onomia August 3-8 in your prayers: Alissa VonDeylen, Sophia Jermstad, Hannah Perkins, Noah Perkins, Catherine VanWey, Erika Eastlund, Kendra Walesch, Daisy Har, Piper Harms, Sidona Kautz, Alexis Perna, and Erin LaMotte.

Second Sunday Singers

On August 10, we will gather at 9:00 a.m. to prepare a piece to sing at that morning's service. All ages and all abilities are welcome!

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)

Arnette	Joyce, recovering from a tick bite
Arnold	Troy Hargreaves family
Lauren & Ben, on their upcoming wedding on August 3	Chad Z. family
All travelers	All immigrants
Jessie	All homeless
	All those looking for employment

Service Participants:

Preaching: Pastor Randy Romsdahl

Presiding: Pastor Kristen Brechler

Musician: Mary Brown

Assisting Minister: Thomas Becker

Lector: Emily Loken

Cantor: Deanna Loken

Special Music: Kendra Walesch

Altar Guild:

Greeters: Emily Hauan, Karon Looft

Communion Assistants: George & Orla McClure

Ushers: Marv Berke, Jim Hauan, Becki Smith, Clarence Peterson, Tim Buck

Worship Information

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God,

C: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

[Jesus] put before [the crowd] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

This Week's Events

Sunday, July 27:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Adult Ed
6:30 p.m. Bonfire Ministry bonfire

Monday, July 28:

Tuesday, July 29:

5:15 p.m. Men's Golf
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Wednesday, July 30:

9:30 a.m. Women's Golf
6:00 p.m. Youth
7:00 p.m. GA

Thursday, July 31:

7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Friday, August 1:

4:00 p.m. Violin

Saturday, August 2:

Sunday, August 3:

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

Last Sunday's Statistics

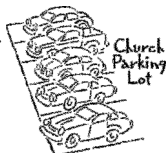
- Mission & Ministry: \$5,974
Received to date: \$200,209
- Capital Fund: \$990
Received to date: \$55,116
- Special Offering (*NEAR School Supplies*) \$308
- Attendance: 170

Office Hours

Summer Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.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

Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is Sat., Aug. 16 at 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's (36th & Winnetka Ave).

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

Nursery Volunteers

Even though things slow down in the summer, we still need caring volunteers to help with childcare during the worship service. Please consider the time you can give, and sign up on the sheet outside the nursery, or call the church office. Thank you!

Financial Statements

Second quarter financial statements are available. If you would like a copy of yours, please see Lana Teigen in the office.

NEAR School Supplies

NEAR school supplies are distributed to 170 families with 434 students. These students attend the following schools: Forest, Lakeview, Meadow Lake, Plymouth Middle School, Robbinsdale Middle School, and Cooper High School. Many families have more than four school age children, so we would like to give out more than one backpack per family. Your help would be appreciated. The supplies will be distributed the last week in August.

There is always a need for folders, colored pencils, markers, pencil boxes, and loose leaf paper-wide and college ruled. If you chose to give a monetary donation you may make the check to St. James with NEAR school on the memo line.

Thank for your support for this ministry in your community.

Over 55's

Over 55's members will be getting a call to see if you want to eat at Lord Fletcher's on Mon., Aug. 11 or Mon., Aug. 18 for the \$5 hamburgers/chicken on the wharf. Check your calendars!

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 will be available at church and online the first week of August. 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, 9:57 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.

Blood Drive at Holy Nativity

The Memorial Blood Mobile will be at Holy Nativity on Aug. 7 from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. Summer is a time of particular need for blood donation as there are many elective surgeries and traumatic accidents. Please consider giving blood on Aug. 7. Holy Nativity has a desperate need for new donors. You may sign up by emailing Karen at kadamson56@gmail.com.

The Page Turners Book Club

No book club in July or August.

September's pick: Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson.

For more information, contact Linda Judge (at 763-533-4081 or judgelinda@msn.com).

Ushers Needed

We need you! Ushers are assigned one Sunday a month. Please contact the church office or Stan Tikkanen (763-546-8155) if you are interested, or would like more information.

Mpls. Area Synod Moment

Our synod's website states that "the Minneapolis Area Synod supports congregations and ministries as together we share God's love in Jesus Christ. We provide encouragement for leaders, resources for communities of faith, and strategic investment in areas where we are 'better together' – such as ministry with and outreach to racially diverse communities and people in their first third of life. We also work to strengthen connections among congregations, justice ministries, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and the global church." We are joined in God's mission with our sister churches in both the ELCA and our Minneapolis Synod!

ELCA Moment

As the conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip further escalates, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), expressed her profound concern for members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land in a July 17, 2014, letter to that denomination's bishop, the Rev. Dr. Munib A. Younan: "Our hearts are heavy as we read about and see images of the violence being inflicted on both Israelis and Palestinians. This suffering and loss of life are inexcusable before God. As followers with you of the Prince of Peace, and as children of God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life, we long for peace and a just resolution to the escalating conflict between the State of Israel and the Palestinian people," Eaton wrote, adding that she is responding directly to Younan's call to participate in interventions and actions "to create hope in a hopeless situation."

In a July 16 public statement, Younan asked that Christians and "all people of good will intervene in the present situation of unacceptable violence and bloodshed." He said, "If we cannot take steps towards peace, we will continue to be held hostage by extremism. Please do not leave us alone in this moment of struggle. The whole Middle East is boiling. We need your prophetic voice and support so that peace built on justice and reconciliation built on forgiveness will prevail."