

# Pews News

November 16, 2014

*Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal*

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

www.stjamesincrystal.org

## November Food Drive

The NEAR Food Shelf's mission is: "To serve the unemployed, disabled, homeless, needy, and seniors in our area by distributing food and holiday gifts to sustain the body, mind, and spirit. NEAR will not discriminate as to race, creed, gender, or religion."

St. James was one of the churches that originally started NEAR. Pastor David Olson suggested the name Northwest-Suburban Emergency Assistance Response (NEAR). Many members of the congregation have been active at this food shelf since its beginning 40 years ago. NEAR was organized on March 20, 1974 with St. Raphael's Catholic Church, St. James Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church of Crystal, House of Hope Lutheran Church, and Faith Lilac Way. These churches also support NEAR: Church of the Epiphany, Peace Lutheran Church, Praise Christian Center, King of Grace Lutheran Church, Elim Lutheran Church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and Brunswick Methodist Church.

In July 37,447 pounds of food were distributed, in August 43,765, and in September 38,550. Many of these food items need to be purchased each month, then with November and December, each family receives an extra box of food to help with the holidays.

Your help in this effort is greatly appreciated. NEAR shops around at several agencies to get the best price for food. If you choose to give a monetary donation, you may make a check out to St. James with NEAR on the memo line.

Please remember the toy distribution is on Dec. 13 at the Crystal Community Center. Many hands make light work!

Thank you for your continuing support.

## Adopt-A-Student Challenge

KidPack Adopt-A-Student update: St. James has lovingly adopted 99 students at \$54.00 each for the KidPack Adopt-A-Student challenge. Thank you for the support of our youngest citizens. Our goal at St. James is to adopt 350 students for the 2014-2015 school year KidPack initiative.

If you are able to adopt a student, please consider making a donation as part of your workplace charitable giving (simply enter under Community Shares Bonfire Ministry non-profit and write "KidPack Adopt-A-Student"). Thanksgiving memorials are also a consideration for KidPack Adopt-A-Student. Thank you to all for giving of your time and resources to support children living with weekend hunger in our own back yards.

## Lutefisk Dinner

St. James' Lutefisk Dinner is set for Sat., Nov. 22 with seatings at 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Tickets are now available for \$18. Advance sales only.

Listen to old time music while enjoying: Lutefisk with cream sauce and melted butter, Swedish meatballs and gravy, boiled potatoes, homemade lefse, coleslaw, rice pudding with lingonberries, coffee and milk.

Many volunteers are needed for this event; sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Please consider helping in any way you can!

Matching funds for NEAR Food Shelf are provided by Thrivent Northwest Minneapolis Chapter.

## 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.)*

Karen  
Carrie, as she struggles to adjust to living in  
Jordan  
Arnette, for healing  
Phillip Bruer & family, as he leaves for  
Aghanistan  
Evelyn Jacobs  
Ozzie Hellen  
Thank you for bringing Pastor Randy to us  
Kevin  
Naomi  
Wendy  
Everyone seeking employment  
The health workers of West Africa

Ryan & Rachel, as they begin their life  
together  
Sarah & her family  
JoAnne W., for healing  
Mardi, for healing  
Two young men seen filling out job applica-  
tions  
Dan M.  
Bob Leinonen  
Tom Ritter  
All who hunger  
All those struggling with addiction  
Joanne G., for recovery

## Blessing of the Keys

We will bless the keys of Sr. High youth drivers today during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

## Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given in memory of Erv Tuttila from Peg Tuttila.

## Advent Decorating

Advent decorating will be held Sat., Nov. 29 at 9:00 a.m. Many hands are needed to help get all the decorations out.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thanksgiving Eve worship will be held at First Lutheran Church this year on Wed., Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Donations of pies are needed for the pie social following the worship service. Watch for the sign-up sheet next week in the narthex!

## Commitment Sunday

Sun., Nov. 23 will be Commitment Sunday at St. James. Please bring your pledge cards this day.

## The Church Photo Directory is HERE!

If you had your picture taken for the new church photo directory, please pick it up today in the narthex. *(One per family photographed.)*

If you were unable to get your photo taken, we will announce when the books will be open for all St. James members to take home. Watch the Pews News for more information!

## Women's Christmas Brunch

Tickets are on sale for the Women's Christmas Brunch *A Nordic Noel* on Sat., Dec. 6 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$8. You may purchase tickets on Sunday mornings throughout November or from the church office.

This brunch is put on each year by Mary Circle and always includes delicious food and great entertainment.

## This Week's Events

### Sunday, November 16:

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:10 a.m. Adult Ed / Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Alt. Worship Planning  
4:00 p.m. Grief Support

### Monday, November 17:

10:45 a.m. Dinner at Your Door  
6:30 p.m. Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Council

### Tuesday, November 18:

1:00 p.m. Library Work Day  
5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts  
6:00 p.m. Bells  
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

### Wednesday, November 19:

9:00 a.m. Worship Planning  
10:00 a.m. Mary Circle  
6:00 p.m. Youth  
6:30 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. GA / Choir

### Thursday, November 20:

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

### Friday, November 21:

Lutefisk Prep

### Saturday, November 22:

Lutefisk Dinner

### Sunday, November 23:

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

## Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$4,243  
Received to date: \$308,188
- Capital Fund: \$608  
Received to date: \$72,177
- Special Offering (NEAR) \$516
- Attendance: 151

## Next Week's Texts

*Ezekiel 24:11-16*

*Matthew 25:31-46*

## 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

## 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.

## 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 763-533-3933.

## Stuffed Animal Update

Stuffed animals are no longer needed for Advent. Thanks!

## ELCA Moment

In this month's Lutheran magazine, our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, offers this encouragement, "As a church we need to engage in basic spiritual practices: prayer, silence, corporate worship, Scripture study, giving, service. These are ways God comes to us. These disciplines create a space in us, an openness, for God's Spirit. They chip away at our willfulness. They make us aware of God's presence in our lives. These spiritual practices aren't magic or a kumbaya fad. They have been part of the Christian tradition for millennia. They are part of the Lutheran tradition. Martin Luther's morning and evening prayers are precious models of spiritual practice (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 1166). Unfortunately, we've lost this part of our tradition. We've become religious, not spiritual. There is strong evidence that tending the spiritual life is what millennials are longing for. I think the rest of us are too. However, the intention must be there also. We are such active, useful people. We are "distracted by (our) many tasks" ([Luke 10:40](#)). We might mean to practice spiritual disciplines, but there is real work to do. Attending to God is our real work. Set aside the time. Mark it on the calendar. Then show up. Show up with our whole selves. Give God our complete attention. Practicing these disciplines is not about productivity — it's about being fully and expectantly present to God. Spiritual life is not multitasking."

## Synod Moment

Our synod is working on a new vision statement, "The Minneapolis Area Synod works together so that all people experience gracious invitation into life-giving Christian community and live in just and healthy neighborhoods." What do you think? What would your personal mission statement say? Our current mission statement at St. James is "Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal." Does this describe what God is calling our congregation to be and do?

## 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.

## The Page Turners Book Club

December's pick: [The Paris Wife](#) by Paula McLain.

Chicago, 1920: Hadley Richardson is a quiet 28-year-old who has all but given up on love and happiness — until she meets Ernest Hemingway. Following a whirlwind courtship and wedding, the pair set sail for Paris, where they become the golden couple in a lively and volatile group - the fabled "Lost Generation" - that includes Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. A deeply evocative story of ambition and betrayal, captures the love affair between Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley. [from The Publisher]

December's Book Club Meeting: Tues., Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Peter and Paul room. Join us! All are welcome.

January's pick: [The African Queen](#) by C. S. Forester

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

## Grief Support Group

Bonfire Ministry is hosting a Grief Support Group with different topics through mid-December. 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.

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

## 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 Started

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.

## KidPack Packing Day

The next KidPack packing day is Tues., Nov. 25 at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Food Network (8501 54th Ave N— New Hope). Please contact Melodie Hanson for more information at 763-504-4981.

## Tangens Receive Award

Arnold & Marlene Tangen won the RAVE! Award for General Property Maintenance in the city of New Hope. Congratulations!