

Pews News

November 30, 2014

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

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

www.stjamesincrystal.org

Interested in a New Alternative Worship Service?

Come join the discussion at a Sunday morning brunch on December 7th, 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

November Food Drive

Did you know that St. James members have served in many ways at NEAR over the years? They served as: two secretaries, printer, designer of the logo, board members, alternate board member, auditor, visual presenter, and four have been NEAR Presidents. As you see, this congregation has a long loving relationship with the NEAR Food Shelf. Let us continue with this mission with love and prayers.

If you choose to give a monetary donation you may write the check to St. James with NEAR on the memo line.

Please consider volunteering at the Toy-for-Tots Distribution on Dec. 13 at the Crystal Community Center. You may work at a table, shop with a client, or push the carts and load them for the client. Set-up is on Fri., Dec. 12 at 8:30 a.m. On Saturday the first shift is 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the second shift is 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and cleanup. It would be great if you could work all day. Please park on the pool side and leave all valuables at home. You may still drop off warm clothing, decorations, and any gifts that you choose at church.

Thanks to all who have already given food, money, or other items.

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 with Christmas caroling at different care facilities in the area following the meal. All 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 News.)

Karen
Arnette, for healing
Joanne G., for recovery
Dan M., for appropriate work
The man seen filling out job application
Ozzie Hellen
Tom Ritter
Everyone seeking employment
Bob Leinonen
All who hunger
Ryan K, for employment
All immigrants
Thanks for the blessings of the past week

Kevin
Naomi
Wendy
Sarah & her family
Sharon
Evelyn Jacobs
Phillip Bruer and family, as he leaves for
Afghanistan
Carrie, as she adjusts to living in Jordan
Healing for JoAnn W.
Rebecca
Mike Stanchfield
Heather & baby

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 St. James Choir.

Advent Family Event

Kick off the Advent season with games, activities and some cool things to take home. Come to Wold Hall today at 10:10 a.m. with your family and find out all that is in store!

Christmas Program

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

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 today or from the church office.

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

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.

Host: Please consider hosting a meeting. They can be held in your home or at the church. The primary responsibilities of the host are to recruit a recorder who will be responsible for taking notes about the meeting and provide a light snack. There will be one planning meeting for hosts so we all have a chance to share ideas and learn about the process and desired outcomes. To volunteer as a discovery meeting host, please contact either Pastor Randy at rroms-dahl@stjamesincrystal.org or call his cell phone at 612-803-2879, or Sonya Lodahl at sglodahl@comcast.net.

Attend: Please sign up in the narthex to attend one of the Discovery meetings that will best fit your schedule.

This Week's Events

Sunday, November 30:

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Adult Ed / Advent Fair
4:00 p.m. Grief Support

Monday, December 1:

6:30 p.m. Scouts
7:00 p.m. Property Committee

Tuesday, December 2:

5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
6:00 p.m. Bells
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu / Book Club

Wednesday, December 3:

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

Thursday, December 4:

9:00 a.m. Archives
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Friday, December 5:

4:00 p.m. Violin

Saturday, December 6:

10:00 a.m. Women's Brunch

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

Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$3,106
Received to date: \$315,327
- Capital Fund: \$896
Received to date: \$74,845
- Special Offering (NEAR) \$1,386
- Attendance: 149

Next Week's Texts

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

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.

ELCA Moment

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and others have contributed \$13 million to the ELCA Malaria Campaign in their effort to raise \$15 million by the end of 2015. Through the campaign, ELCA members have joined with companion Lutheran churches and partners in 13 African countries to prevent and treat malaria, educate communities about the disease and more.

"Together, ELCA members and Lutherans in Africa are making malaria history," said Jessica Nipp Hacker, ELCA Malaria Campaign coordinator. "Generous Lutherans have now given more than \$13 million to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, putting us just \$2 million shy of our ultimate fundraising goal of \$15 million by the end of 2015. These generous gifts have funded Lutheran malaria programs that are now educating, providing critical resources and changing lives in 13 countries in Africa."

Adopt-A-Student Challenge

KidPack Adopt-A-Student update: St. James has lovingly adopted **100** 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. Thank you to all for giving of your time and resources to support children living with weekend hunger in our own back yards.

Synod Moment: New Worshipping Community

Building bridges across cultures is just what Pastor Melissa Melnick does. Pastor Melissa lived a multicultural life in every aspect except one – church.

"My church life didn't reflect my multicultural life," she said. So now, she is starting one. She named it Tapestry, and right now, she's cultivating a core group of leaders who are working together to create a multi-cultural dinner church. They meet on Sundays at 5 p.m. at Woodlake Lutheran Church in Richfield. People from many different cultures come to share a meal and then sing, worship, and create relationships," says Pastor Melissa.

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

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).

Christmas Worship

Celebrate Christ's birth on Wed., Dec. 24 at 4:30 or 10:00 p.m.

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.

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 **Sun., Dec. 7.**

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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