

Pews News

November 9, 2014

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

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

www.stjamesincystal.org

November Food Drive

The Star Tribune stated, "Many in Minnesota need food assistance". NEAR appreciates all that the St. James congregation does to help the hungry in your community. The more the government cuts food assistance, the more people turn to other community resources like NEAR. NEAR averaged 381 households a month (21 of these are new to the food shelf) which is 1,351 individuals. As you might expect, this takes a lot of food each month, which averaged 39,112 outgoing pounds. Clients come for food once every 30 days; the food shelf is used for emergency food.

St. James gave over \$2,000 last year and 300 lbs. of food. If you choose to write a check, put NEAR on the memo line. All canned vegetables and fruit can be used as well as grocery bags. Keep in mind the Toy Distribution on Dec. 13th. Any decorations, toys, or gently used warm clothes would be useful.

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the food shelf; mornings to sort donations, afternoons to pack groceries for clients, or any day to answer phones at your home.

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.

Adopt-A-Student Challenge

KidPack Adopt-A-Student update: St. James has lovingly adopted 98 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.

Bonfire Women's Retreat Registration Deadline Today

"Getting to Know You!" Bonfire Women's Retreat is coming up Sat., Nov. 15, 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m. at Camp Ihduhapi in Loretto, MN. Deadline to sign up is TODAY.

Join other women from Bonfire churches for a day of fun as they get to know each other through games, conversation, and Laughter Yoga.

\$50 for the day, includes lunch and dinner. You get to choose between doing the zip line or the "tamer" group initiatives. Checks can be made out to House of Hope.

Carpool from House of Hope will leave at 8:30 a.m.

Space is limited, so register and pay now with either Deb Mans (763-525-1324) or Karen Brehmer (612-799-7069)

Women from all three churches have signed up to go!

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
Evelyn Jacobs
Betty & Leeann
All those dealing with Ebola
Kevin
Naomi
Wendy
Sarah & her family
Everyone seeking employment
The health workers of West Africa

Carrie, as she struggles to adjust to living in Jordan
All caregivers
Betty
Jim, for strength
Butch Kesler, with health issues
Phillip Bruer & family as he leaves for Afghanistan
Arnette, for healing

Youth Craft Retreat Fundraiser

Calling all crafty people! The youth will be holding another craft retreat Sat., Nov. 15, 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. Come and get an early start on those holiday projects and gifts, or catch up on some unfinished projects.

The cost is \$35 and includes at least 4 feet of work space, lunch, dinner, refreshments, and door prize drawings. All proceeds benefit the youth group.

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office; deadline is TODAY.

Contact Amy Jermstad with any questions, 612-868-3411 or ajermstad@gmail.com.

Special Music Today

Today's special music is provided by Rebecca Bithow.

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.

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.

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 go on sale today 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 9:

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

Monday, November 10:

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

Tuesday, November 11:

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, November 12:

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

Thursday, November 13:

7:00 p.m. Kung Fu / CPR (@HOH)

Friday, November 14:

4:00 p.m. Violin
7:00 p.m. Family Movie Night

Saturday, November 15:

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Craft Retreat / Bonfire Retreat

Sunday, November 16:

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: \$10,625
Received to date: \$303,945
- Capital Fund: \$1,776
Received to date: \$71,569
- Special Offering (NEAR) \$198
- Attendance: 192

Next Week's Texts

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Matthew 25:14-30

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. Care to volunteer, contact 763-533-3933.

Stuffed Animals Needed

The decorating committee needs stuffed animals for the Advent and Christmas season this year. If you have something to share, please bring it to church labeled with your name on it by Sat., Nov. 29. It will be kept in the area behind the altar.

Check with Sandy Johnson or Judy Olsen for more information.

The stuffed animals will be returned the first part of January.

ELCA Moment

Our ELCA website notes that "A congregation is a diverse community of believers who gather for worship, exploring God's word together, mutual care and support, and equipping one another to live and serve in the world. More than 4 million members of the ELCA gather in nearly 10,000 congregations across the 50 states, Caribbean and U.S. Virgin Islands." Together, we make a great impact for Christ in our congregations, communities, nation and world. Through our shared identity within the ELCA, we are better able to collaborate with our sister churches in such ventures as Bonfire and Wildfire.

Synod Moment

Our Synod has reached its goal of raising \$450,000 to help eliminate malaria in Nigeria. We have received the following letter of thanks from our sisters and brothers in Christ in Nigeria. "Dear Brothers, Sisters and Colleagues in Christ, Very hearty Congratulations to you and thanks be to God Almighty who touched hearts to give for His ministry in Nigeria, Africa. Thanks for your efforts in [raising the money needed for Health Ministry in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria](#). I pray the money realized will be used in the best way for God's glory on earth. May He bless all who used their resources to raise the amount needed for this project. In the Mighty Name of Jesus. Amen. Well done and may God bless you and give you more wisdom for future services wherever such is needed. Amen. Yours in His Service,
*Dick Mbodwam, Director/Consultant,
Comm. & Liaison Services,
Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria.*

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.

Commitment Sunday

Sun., Nov. 23 will be Commitment Sunday at St. James. Watch for stewardship information in your mail in the coming weeks.

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).

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!

Family Movie Night

Everyone is welcome for a fun evening on Fri., Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Wold Hall for the movie *Planes: Fire & Rescue*.

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!

Blessing of the Keys

We will bless the keys of Sr. High youth drivers on Sun., Nov. 16 during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.