



St. James Lutheran Church

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

December 2, 2014

Pastoral Devotion

In last Sunday's Adult Bible study at St. James, we engaged in a lively conversation which included personal experiences of the supernatural power and presence of God, confrontations with evil, and God's redeeming love. As I reflect on our conversation in this season of Advent, an axiom I've heard several times comes to mind, *"The Gospel is not a fire insurance policy for the next world, but a life assurance policy for this world."* We need not look far to see evil at work in this world. In fact, John the Baptist encourages us to look closely, in our own hearts to find it. "John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Mark 1:4. Repentance is the spiritual practice of self-reflection on the ways in which we have turned from God, and then asking God to forgive us for our departures from God. In doing so, we prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts, relationships, and in our lives. May we live together in the Way of the Lord, the Way of love.

Pastor Randy

Christmas Caroling & Potluck

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, so invite your family and friends to come too!

Alternative Worship Service Brunch

Come join the discussion at a Sunday morning brunch this Sunday (Dec. 7), 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.

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.

Mark your Calendar

- 12-6 *Women's Christmas Brunch*
- 12-14 *Christmas Caroling & Potluck, 11:00 a.m.*
- 12-21 *Christmas Program, 9:00 a.m.*

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve worship will be held Wed., Dec. 24 at 4:30 and 10:00 p.m.

A Lessons & Carols worship service will be held Sun., Dec. 28 at 9:00 a.m., during our regular worship time.

Contact Us

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