



St. James Lutheran Church

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

September 9, 2014

Pastoral Devotion

Honest, compassionate forgiveness, given out of grace and love, is perhaps the greatest gift a friend can share. And it works both ways, both as the forgiver and the forgiven. But what about forgiveness in other contexts, or relationships? This coming Sunday, Jesus invites us to practice forgiveness without limit, unless you consider seventy-seven times a limit! How might we define the kind of forgiveness to which Jesus invites us? Martin Luther King, Jr. said that, "Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude." Why would we want to practice such an attitude in life? C.S. Lewis taught "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." In my prison ministry, I've heard many Christians share that the hardest person to forgive is themselves. That is true in my experience as well. A friend shared this quote about forgiveness, "Forgiveness is letting go of the hope that the past can be changed." I would add that forgiveness is also an act of faith that the present can be changed for the sake of a better future.

Pastor Randy

Lighthouse Sunday School

Lighthouse Sunday School begins Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. in Wold Hall. All children age 3 through 5th grade should report to your classroom downstairs.

If you have not yet registered, it's not too late! Registration forms and information sheets are available on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you have questions, please see Pastor Kristen or Amy Jermstad on Sunday morning.

Adopt-A-Student Challenge

Bonfire is challenging each congregation to raise enough funds for 350 students through the KidPack Adopt-A-Student program.

\$54 provides weekend KidPacks for one student for the entire school year, \$675 for half a classroom, and \$1,350 for an entire classroom of 25 students. There are pew envelopes available specifically for this cause. Please help KidPack fund the 2014-2015 school year. **We are at \$3,878.**

Grief Support

Bonfire Ministry will be hosting a Grief Support Group with different topics for the next 12 weeks. It will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings (beginning Sept. 14) in the Peter & Paul room. Contact Bonfire Parish Nurse Debbie Haney for more information, 612-408-2049.

Confirmation Orientation

Orientation for 6-8th graders and their families is tomorrow, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Wold Hall. 9th grade orientation is Sunday, Sept. 14 at 10:10 a.m. in Pastor Kristen's office. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kristen at kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org.

Mark your Calendar

- 9-10 *Confirmation Orientation*
- 9-13 *Car Care / Tennis Tournament*
- 9-20 *Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's*

KidPack Tennis Tournament

Corey Loken is hosting a tennis tournament to raise money for KidPack on Sat., Sept. 13. For information about playing, contact Corey at 763-234-7838. Donations are accepted at: <http://www.razoo.com/story/Serving-Up-Weekend-Snacks-2014>

Contact Us

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