



# Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

April 9, 2014

## Weekly Devotion: 'The Blessing'

*We bless you from the house of the Lord. (Psalm 118:26)*

The word blessing comes from Latin and means "a good saying." When we bless, we pronounce a good word over someone. God's blessing plays an important role in our lives. We hear it in worship when the pastor speaks the blessing at the end of the service. We hear it in Baptism with these words: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." In that moment, the pastor proclaims the blessing that the one baptized is a child of God forever.

We pronounce a blessing when we say "God bless you!" to someone. This is a way of living into the priesthood of all believers. In the book of James, we read about the power of the human tongue: "From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so" (James 3:10). Each day, we choose whether to bless or to criticize. We have the power to edify the body of Christ with good words or to diminish our witness with negative words.

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (v. 26). This verse is speaking about you and about me. Let's claim it and bless someone today!

**Holy God, I bless you for making me your child in baptism, through Christ. Amen.**

*(From Christ in Our Home, April 8, 2014 based on Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 © Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.)*

## Holy Week at St. James

- Palm Sunday**      April 13, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday** April 17, 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday**      April 18, 7:00 p.m.    *A joint Bonfire service at House of Hope (48th & Boone)*
- Easter Sunday**    April 20, 8:45 & 10:00 a.m.



## Kid Pack Needs Your Help

Kid Pack is running out of money and needs your help to continue. There will be serious fundraising going on over the summer to try and fund the 2014-2015 school year, but next month's packing needs your help today. If each Bonfire congregation raises \$1250 by April 15, a matching donation will be given. Every donation counts. Thanks in advance for giving so generously to help the area school children.

## Flower Fundraiser

St. James children will be selling hanging baskets and pot fillers in the narthex on Sunday morning, April 13, as a fundraiser for summer camp. Flowers will be here on Sun., May 4.

### Mark your Calendar

- 4-12    *First Communion Instruction*
- 4-17    *Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm*
- 4-20    *Easter Worship, 8:45 & 10:00*

### Butter Braids Delivered

If you placed an order for Butter Braids, they will be available for pick up on Sunday morning!

### Contact Us

6700 46th Place North  
Crystal, MN 55428  
763-537-3653  
www.stjamesincrystal.org