



St. James Lutheran Church

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

August 12, 2014

Pastoral Devotion

Friends in Christ,

Devotional writers can be a great blessing. One of my favorites is Frederick Bueckner, who offers us the following: "It is well to remember what the ancient creeds of the Christian faith declare credence in."

"God of God, Light of Light... for us and for our salvation came down from heaven... born of the Virgin Mary... suffered... crucified... dead... buried... rose again... sitteth on the right hand of God... shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead." That is not a theological idea or a religious system. It is a series of largely flesh-and-blood events that happened, are happening, will happen in time and space. For better or worse, it is a story.

It is well to remember because it keeps our eyes on the central fact that the Christian faith *always* has to do with flesh and blood, time and space, more specifically with your flesh and blood and mine, with the time and space that day by day we are all of us involved with, stub our toes on, flounder around in trying to look as if we have good sense. In other words, the truth that Christianity claims to be true is ultimately to be found, if it's to be found at all, not in the Bible, or the church, or theology — the best they can do is point to the truth — but in our own stories.

If the God you believe in as an idea doesn't start showing up in what happens to you in your own life, you have as much cause for concern as if the God you don't believe in as an idea does start showing up.

It is absolutely crucial, therefore, to keep in constant touch with what is going on in your own life's story and to pay close attention to what is going on in the stories of others' lives. If God is present anywhere, it is in those stories that God is present. If God is not present in those stories, then they are scarcely worth telling.

*Love in Christ,
Pastor Randy*

Worship Recommendation

The worship committee has made a recommendation to the St. James Council that we continue with our 9:30 a.m. worship service in the "blended" worship format we have enjoyed this summer and which has brought a new energy and vitality to our worship life. The council will vote on the recommendation Aug. 18.

We would not be giving up on a second service, but will be focusing on creating a new, contemporary worship. A task force will be formed to pursue possibilities in format, time, day of the week and needed resources to make a very high-quality, engaging contemporary worship experience.

The council will be holding two listening sessions to allow for feedback and input regarding this proposed change. The first will be **Wed., Aug. 13 at 7:00 p.m.** The second will be **Sun., Aug. 17 at 10:45 a.m.**

KidPack Fundraiser on August 17

Shop at Frattalone's Ace Hardware and help KidPack! Mark Jennings, manager, and his wife, Dorothy Tischer, at Frattalone's on 36th and Winnetka, will donate to the KidPack program for purchases made on **Sunday, August 17th** (store hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

They will donate \$1.00 for any purchase, or \$2.00 for a purchase of \$10.00 or more (pre-tax). There is no need to keep any receipts; the store will keep track of sales and inform KidPack of the results.

At Frattalone's large garden center and paint department, you are certain to find things you need.

If you have questions, please contact Al Anderson of First Lutheran Church of Crystal at 763-537-1876. Thank you for your support of the KidPack Program.

Mark your Calendar

- 8-13 *Listening Post, 7:00 p.m.*
- 8-16 *Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.*
- 8-17 *Listening Post, 10:45 a.m. /
Fundraiser at Frattalone's*

Forest School Supplies

During the month of August, St. James will be collecting school supplies for Forest Elementary School. Please watch for sales and bring donations in by August 31. Thanks for helping prepare these kids!

Contact Us

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