



## St. James Lutheran Church

*Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal*

# Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

August 20, 2014

## Pastoral Devotion

Friends in Christ,

Have you ever been confronted with the words, "Who do you think you are?" The words may have come from the anger, or disappointment, or hurt of a loved one, or perhaps a stranger. But perhaps this question can be a question asked by a friend, a loved one. And so I ask you today, "Who do you think you are?" It's an important question because what we believe about ourselves shapes our lives. Our identity governs our lives, and dictates the person we will become in the future. If we believe that we are no good, do we have a realistic opportunity to become something more? God encourages repentance both for the freeing power of confessing the broken sinfulness of who we are and also for the freeing power of receiving the new identity which God has given us in our baptism; a new creation, redeemed, completely forgiven, a beloved child of God.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Randy*

## Worship Recommendation Decision

At our congregation's council meeting on Monday evening, August 18, the worship committee's recommendation that our worship life continue into the fall with one worship service at 9:30 a.m. was accepted and considered carefully. The council also considered the valuable feedback which it had received in the two listening sessions it sponsored on Wednesday night, August 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 17 following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. After thoughtful conversation in which many perspectives and preferences were shared, the council voted to adopt the worship committee's recommendation with the following changes and additions:

1. Beginning on Rally Sunday, September 7, 2014, the St. James worship schedule will be worship at **9:00 a.m.**
2. A task force will begin immediately to gather the information and resources needed to create and implement a new worship service at St. James. This worship service will be held at a time and day to be finalized by the council upon receiving the recommendations of the New Worship Task Force. Emily Valentine and Pastor Randy have begun this process at a meeting on Tues., Aug. 18. Please contact Pastor Randy (763-537-3653) or Emily Valentine if you are interested in working on the New Worship Task Force.

## Rally Sunday Celebration

Please plan on joining our congregation for a festive, Rally Sunday worship at our new worship time of 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 7! Following worship, Sunday School families are encouraged to register their children for Sunday School and then join the congregation for hotdogs and a potluck picnic on the east deck and lawn. Please bring a dish to pass and your own beverages to the picnic. Our congregation is providing hotdogs and buns. There will be a bounce house and games for the children (and young at heart)! Also come to find out more about the many ministries of our church.

## Bonfire Ministry Bonfire

Bonfire Ministry will hold the final bonfire at House of Hope Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 24. We hope you can attend for some fun and fellowship!

### Mark your Calendar

8-27 *Power of One Forest Teacher Lunch*

9-1 *Office Closed*

9-13 *Car Care / Tennis Tournament*

### 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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