



Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

August 6, 2014

Devotion: Silence

A sound of sheer silence. (1 Kings 19:12)

The Lord speaks to Elijah, but not in wind or earthquake or fire, violent sounds of nature. Elijah experiences the voice of God in the "sound of sheer silence." God announces that the nation of Israel, in spite of being slaughtered by warring tribes, will survive as "seven thousand in Israel" (v. 18).

How hard it is to encounter silence in our lives! Even in worship, there is rarely a time when music or words do not fill the air. Sometimes, for a precious few moments, the soft footfalls of the faithful and the quietly spoken words, "The body of Christ broken for you; the blood of Christ shed for you" are the only sounds in the silence. "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10). In the hush, we may listen for God's voice.

It is hard to find "sheer silence" in our world— however, the gentler sounds of nature— mountain breeze, rain on the prairie, waves on the beach, bubbling brooks— need not interfere with the hearing of God's voice. It is possible, indeed, to listen carefully for God speaking to us when we are accompanied by these sounds of creation, reminding us of our Creator.

Help me to be still, O God, and to hear your voice in the silent moments. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(From Christ in Our Home, August 7, 2014 based on 1 Kings 19:9-18 © Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.)

Pastor Randy's Installation

Pastor Randy Romsdahl will be installed at St. James Senior Pastor this coming Sunday, August 10 during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be presiding.

There will be a reception in Wold Hall following worship. Donations of bars are needed and can be brought to the kitchen that morning.

We hope that you will be able to join in this celebration in the history of St. James.

Worship Service 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.

Mark your Calendar

- 8-6 *Youth trip leaves*
- 8-10 *Pr. Randy Installation service*
- 8-16 *Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.*

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

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