



St. James Lutheran Church

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

February 18, 2014

Weekly Devotion: Growing in Christ (Matthew 7:1-12)

First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly. (Matthew 7:5)

Jesus holds up one of the enduring truths of human relationships: we are often more concerned about fixing others than working on our own spiritual and emotional health. We seem to believe that because we're in a relationship with Christ, nothing more is required of us except to live out our faith by doing good works. Jesus, though, wisely highlights our need for continual personal transformation.

None of us lives alone. One way or another we are in community. This means how we relate to others influences the community for good or ill. Jesus wants to make certain we are spiritually sound and as emotionally healthy as we can be. That way, we're in the best position to make the love of God a reality in the world.

Taking the logs out of our own eyes means we learn to understand ourselves, but hopefully this will be done in a compassionate way. We'll then be able to feel that same compassion for others as we companion them on their journey of growing in grace. If we genuinely want to grow as deeply as we are able, all we need to do is ask, search, and knock; God will do the rest.

Lord Jesus, help me see the truth about myself and others with compassion. Amen.

(From Christ in Our Home for 2/19/14)

Family Skating and Sledding Party

Let's get moving and have some fun! All families are invited to meet at St. James on Sun., Feb. 23 at noon for a soup lunch and then go to Lion's Valley Place Park for an afternoon of sledding and ice skating. Cost for lunch is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Questions can be directed to Shayna Anderson at sanderson@stjamesincrystal.org.

Butter Braid Sales Begin on Sunday

The youth will be selling Butter Braids on Sunday mornings in the narthex, or you are welcome to contact one of the youth or the church office to place your order. Orders will be accepted through noon on Sun., Mar. 16. Cost is \$12 each. Money is due upon ordering. Varieties include strawberry cream cheese, apple, cinnamon, blueberry cream cheese, almond cream, raspberry, or caramel rolls.

Butter braids will be available for pick-up on Sun., Apr. 13 (the Sunday before Easter). Have family coming into town? This is a great breakfast treat for guests!

The butter braid fundraiser is held annually just before Easter. So now is the time to stock up until next year!

Proceeds benefit youth summer camp and trips at St. James.

Mark your Calendar

- 2-23 Family Sledding Party, noon
- 2-24 Over 55's Pizza and Bingo, noon
- 3-5 Ash Wednesday worship, 12:30 & 7:00 p.m.

Statements for Taxes

End of year giving statements are not mailed out, so if you would like it as you prepare your taxes please stop in to get it in the narthex.

Contact Us

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