



St. James Lutheran Church

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

June 2, 2014

Weekly Devotion: 'To Be a Priest'

You shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. (Exodus 19:6)

Moments of sweet intimacy sometimes happen in prayer. Exquisite silence settles over the soul, filling us with utter assurance of God's loving presence. The sheer goodness of being alive and human washes over and fills us with loving gratitude. Sometimes we try to share the delight that spills from the heart. It is hard to put it in words. Even so, linking another human heart with knowledge of God is a beautiful, priestly act.

This was God's special call to Israel after they were delivered from Egyptian bondage. They were to be a priestly people. The meaning of the ancient Hebrew word for priest might have meant "to bow." Other evidence suggests it meant "to stand erect." Either way, the people were given a privilege— to stand or bow before the Holy One, intimately near, so they might know and share God's heart as a beacon to the nations. They often failed to live out this calling; but even in unholy moments they were a priestly people. God's judgment, forgiveness, and restoration revealed the diving will to save and bless even the unfaithful.

Grant gentle courage, blessed Christ, so that we may share our knowledge of the heavenly Father. Amen.

(From Christ in Our Home, June 2, 2014 based on Exodus 19:1-9a © Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.)

Summer Worship Continues

St. James will continue with one worship service on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Adult Ed will be held at 10:45 a.m. This schedule will continue through August 31.

Graduate Recognition Sunday

This coming Sunday, we will recognize the 2014 graduates and have a cake reception in their honor in the narthex following worship.

Updated Church Directory

St. James will be creating a new directory! This project will require some volunteer effort. If you would be willing to volunteer a few hours of your time, please contact the church office at office@stjamesincrystal.org. We are looking for people to help with portrait sign ups on Sunday mornings in June and greeting our families during photography the week of **July 21-25**. This would be a great opportunity for student community service hours!

Please notify us of any changes to address, phone, or email so the directory can have the most updated information!

Photo session sign-up is now available online at www.stjamesincrystal.org.

Mark your Calendar

6-8 *Pentecost Sunday*

6-21 *Men's Breakfast*

6-23 *Day Camp Begins*

Pentecost

Sunday, June 8 is Pentecost Sunday.
Please wear red to worship!

Contact Us

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