



# Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

June 24, 2014

## Weekly Devotion: 'John the Baptist'

**Who can endure the day of his coming?** (Malachi 3:2)

OK, call me crazy, but I have been known to say that I look forward to God's judgment— and God's punishment. When I was on a bishop's staff, I slipped into a worship service unannounced and listened to a sermon that included an account of my yearning for God's judgment. I'm on record.

I think the worst punishment would be to have the Lord show me how I've sinned against God, my neighbor, and myself in thought, word, and deed, by things done and things left undone. What is behind this craziness? I've figured it out. I want to know that God is truly aware of my "yucky-ness" and still loves me. I yearn for God to purify me even more completely than John the Baptist's water for repentance. I want to be rid of the unholy parts of my life's story.

Malachi's words are beautiful, especially when sung by the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah*. Yet, I know that facing the Lord of hosts may be something I can't endure. Judgment could slam me to the ground just as Saul (later called Paul) was thrown into the dust on his way to Damascus.

**May I rise up, O God, and become an offering that is pleasing to you. I seek you, Lord Jesus, and want to live in relationship with you. Amen.**

*(From Christ in Our Home, June 24, 2014 based on Malachi 3:1-4 © Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.)*

## Pastor Randy To Begin July 21

St. James has voted to call Pastor Randall Romsdahl as the next Senior Pastor. He will begin in the office on Mon., July 21. There will be a Bonfire Ministry bonfire at St. James on Sun., July 27 at 6:30 p.m. Please come welcome him to St. James and introduce yourself!

## It's Time To Get Your Picture Taken!

St. James will be creating a new directory! Photography will be July 21-25, 2:00—9:00 p.m. Book your session on Sunday mornings in the narthex or by following the link online at [www.stjamesincrystal.org](http://www.stjamesincrystal.org). Everyone will receive a **FREE** 8x10 and directory for participating.

This would be a great opportunity for an extended family or generational picture. Please book a separate session from for these photographs. Pets are welcome at all sessions because they are part of the family too!

If you are unable to attend this particular week, there are other churches photographing this summer that you could visit and still be in St. James directory. Homebound? We can arrange for a photographer to come to you! Contact Amanda at 763-537-3653 (M-W) for more information.

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](mailto:office@stjamesincrystal.org). We are looking for people to help greet our families during photography the week of July 21-25. This would be a great opportunity for student community service hours! All volunteers will receive a **20% off** coupon for any portrait session purchases.

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

Questions? Contact Amanda Burns at 763-537-3653 or [aburns@stjamesincrystal.org](mailto:aburns@stjamesincrystal.org), Monday-Wednesday.

### Mark your Calendar

6-29 *Bonfire's bonfire at First 6:30 p.m.*

7-16 *Splash Pooza, 6:30 p.m.*

7-20 *Pastor Dave's Farewell Picnic*

### Farewell Picnic

St. James will hold a Farewell Picnic for Pastor Dave Valen as he ends his interim ministry at St. James after worship on Sun., July 20. Hotdogs and dessert will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

### Contact Us

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