



November 2017



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## St. James' Welcoming Statement

"St. James Lutheran in Crystal welcomes all who seek God's love and grace, each a beloved child of God, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health or abilities, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything else which could be used to divide us. Our unity is in Christ; in Christ, we are one."

*(Adopted by a continuing resolution of the St. James Church Council.)*

## Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:10 a.m. Education Hour  
11:10 a.m. Worship

### St. James Lutheran Church

6700 46th Place North  
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A publication of St. James Lutheran Church of Crystal, Minnesota

Beloved in Christ,

During the past few weeks, I've reflected a great deal upon our Lutheran heritage and tradition, more than since I affirmed my baptism back at Kansas Lake Lutheran in rural Butterfield, MN in May of 1970. The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, nailed to the Wittenberg Castle door, will do that sort of thing. Upon such reflection, we can appreciate the complexity of issues which confronted God's people of that time, and how fundamentally the world was changing with the advent of an information age made possible by the printing press and the radical ideas about personal freedom and choice unleashed by the Enlightenment and reformers of the Roman Catholic Church, such as Martin Luther.

Today, we also live in a time which shares many similarities with Martin Luther's time. The internet has created a new information age, in which an almost limitless amount of information is available through any computer connected with the web. However, this unlimited access to information has fostered a growing distrust of information sources and institutions. Accountability for truthfulness and accuracy has disintegrated at the sound of voices which pander to our deepest fears, fears which we may deny or fail to acknowledge.

But for those who hold Christ at the center of life, hope abounds. We see God at work in our daily lives, in the blessings of daily food, housing, family and work. In Martin Luther's Small Catechism, "daily bread" means,

"Everything included in the necessities and nourishment of our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, livestock, money, property, and upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

From Luther's perspective, in this and in his commentaries on the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed and the Ten Commandments, God is a source of hope, strength and blessing. God's commands are meant for our blessing and flourishing, for good and orderly society, healthy, nurturing relationships and community, and the well-being of all creation. Could this be what Jesus means by "abundant life" in his teaching at John 10:1-10?

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Jesus makes the claim that he is the gateway to abundant life. In the Gospel of John, he also asserts that he is the way, the truth and the life. So, dear friends, we have a question to ask, and a decision to make each day. Will I live this day with Jesus as my gateway to abundant life?

I am deeply grateful to God that we are chosen and called by God and equipped by God's Holy Spirit to live in a family of faith at St. James who are empowered to answer YES. Yes to repentance, yes to God's grace, yes to our neighbor, yes to reconciliation, and yes to Jesus' way, truth and life.

*Love in Christ,  
Pastor Randy*

## St. James' Staff

**Pastor Randall Romsdahl**  
rromsdahl@stjamesincrystal.org

**Pastor Kristen Brechler**  
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**Amanda Burns**  
aburns@stjamesincrystal.org  
Director of Communication & Finance

**Ryan Walesch**  
ryan.stjamesyouth@gmail.com  
Director of Youth Ministry

**Deanna Loken**  
Choir Director

**Mary Brown**  
*Ringin' Praise* Bell Choir  
Director & Organist

**Dan Stackhouse**  
Custodian

**Amy Jermstad**  
ajermstad@gmail.com  
Sunday School Coordinator

**Julie Rose**  
Sunday Morning Hospitality

### Office Hours

The church office is open:  
Mon.-Wed. 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 9:00 a.m.—noon

### Wi-Fi

Guest Wi-Fi at St. James can be  
accessed with the following:  
St James  
Blessed children



## Lutefisk Dinner

St. James' Lutefisk Dinner is set for Sat., Nov. 18 with seatings at 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Tickets (\$18 each) are now available in person during office hours or by leaving a message on the Lutefisk Hotline (763-537-3653 ext. 888) . Advance sales only.

Many volunteers are needed for this event; sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

A joint Wildfire Thanksgiving Eve worship will be held at St. James on Wed., Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Donations of pies are needed for the pie social following the worship service. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the main entrance.

## Office Closed

The church office will close at noon on Wed., Nov. 22 and be closed all day on Nov. 23 as the staff celebrates Thanksgiving with their families.

## Advent Decorating

Many hands are needed to help put up the Advent decorations on Sat., Dec. 2, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

## Stewardship October 2017 Report

Our Mission & Ministry Deficit continued to get **LARGER** in September. Although our spending remains comparable to last year, our giving is falling **SHORT**. We look to you for **HELP!!**

For the first nine months of 2017, our Total Mission & Ministry receipts from Offerings and Other Income were \$265,411. Our total spending on Mission & Ministry programs was \$279,442. Our General Operating Funds' actual deficit for the first nine months of 2017 was \$14,031 and resulted in the General Fund having to internally borrow from other St. James' Dedicated Funds as of September 30, 2017.

The Finance & Stewardship Committee encourages you to **INCREASE** your giving to our general operating fund for Mission & Ministry programs in the last three months of 2017.

## All Saints' Day

On All Saints' Day, Nov. 5, during our 9:00 and 11:10 a.m. worship service, we will celebrate all the saints who have left us this past year, as well as the new saints who have joined us through Holy Baptism.

## The Lutheran Magazine

If you would like to receive *The Lutheran* magazine, please fill out an order form (found in the narthex) and return to the church office by Mon., Nov. 13. The cost is \$11.75 for a yearly subscription.

## Directory Update

If you got your photo taken for the church directory, please pick up your copy from the church office.

Unfortunately we only received enough directories for those that had their photo taken. Paper copies are available in the church office for anyone interested. Just stop in and get one.

## Advent Devotional

There will be an Advent Devotional booklet available on Sun., Nov. 26 that will feature faith journeys of St. James members. This project is coordinated by the Endowment Committee.

## Pledge Cards and Budget Requests

Please turn in your 2018 pledge cards during worship on Sun., Nov. 26. Pledge cards will gladly be accepted after this via mail, leaving in the office or placing in the offering plate during worship.

## It's Time to Fall Back

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Sat., Nov. 4.



## Page Turners Book Club

November's pick: Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

Somewhere in South America, at the home of the country's vice president, a lavish birthday party is being held in honor of the powerful businessman Mr. Hosokawa. Roxane Coss, opera's most revered soprano, has mesmerized the international guests with her singing. It is a perfect evening—until a band of gun-wielding terrorists takes the entire party hostage. But what begins as a panicked, life-threatening scenario slowly evolves into something quite different as terrorists and hostages forge unexpected bonds, and people from different continents become compatriots. Friendship, compassion, and the chance for great love lead the characters to forget the real danger that has been set in motion...and cannot be stopped. [from the Publisher]

Join "Page Turners" this month in reading the book Bel Canto. The group meets Tues., November 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Peter and Paul room. All are welcome!

For more information on the book club, contact Linda Judge ([judgelinda@msn.com](mailto:judgelinda@msn.com) or 763-533-4081).

December's pick: Night Over Water by Ken Follett.

## John Preaching

Wonder why John Renze has been preaching so much on Sunday mornings? John is actually getting his Master of Arts degree from Luther Seminary. He is doing his contextual ed work at St. James through preaching and leading Adult Faith Formation.

## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfasts are held the third Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at Fat Nat's (36th & Winnetka). All men are welcome to attend for some good food, fellowship and fun!

## Supper at Six

Meals will be served each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. If you'd like to volunteer to help prepare a meal, please contact Pastor Randy.

## Lefse Making

Come and help bake lefse on Sat., Nov. 4, beginning at 8:00 a.m. If you have a lefse pan, please bring it. Never made lefse before or don't have a pan? Come and find out how it's done!

Prep work for the bakes will be done the Friday prior, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The lefse will be served at the annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner on Nov. 18.

## Last One In the Building

If you are the last one in the building, please be sure that the door is locked and lights are turned off. Please check before you leave.

# Children & Youth

## Upcoming Milestone Events

November 12 & 19 – My Church Milestone for 3-5 year olds. An introduction and tour of the worship space, during the education hour. The workshop will be Nov 12, with the milestone prayer during worship on Nov 19.

## Christmas Program

We are getting ready for our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17th. We are learning songs and getting parts of the program organized. Look for more information to come about this. Rehearsal for the program will be Sun., Dec. 3 & 10 at 10:10 a.m.

## Prayground

We have incorporated a “prayground” into our worship space. The intention is for space for families with small children to sit in the front of the church. This way children are able to see what is happening in worship, better participate and parents are able to better attend to their needs. We want families to feel welcome and an integral part of our worship life.

If you have questions or concerns about the prayground, please contact Pr. Krisen or Pr. Randy.

## Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry is here to partner with families to nurture and grow the faith of children! We believe as parents, you are the primary faith nurturers for your children and our goal is to help you in inspiring that faith!

We believe in pointing children to God, teaching them about who God is and how to develop a relationship with Jesus. Our Children's Ministry programs include opportunities for worship, fellowship, learning, service, and outreach.



## Sunday School

Students age 2 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade learn God's Word in individual classes, based upon age or grade level. Each class has caring volunteer teachers that stay with the group throughout the year. We would love to have your family join us! Everyone is welcome. Information and registration materials are found on the bulletin board outside the office or on the St. James website.

When: Sundays 10:00-10:50 a.m.

Where: Lower level Gathering Space & Classrooms

Age: 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> grade

Cost: Free

Contact: Amy Jermstad [ajermstad@gmail.com](mailto:ajermstad@gmail.com)

## Usher & Financial Assistants

### November 5

*Ushers:* 9:00 a.m.: Roger A. Johnson, Rick Jones, Terry Teigen

11:10 a.m. *Please contact Amanda Burns.*

*Financial Assistants:* Capt. Becki Smith, Tim Smith, Jackie Harlow

### November 12

*Ushers:* 9:00 a.m.: George McClure, Roger E. Johnson, Judy Berney, Ken & Phyllis Nelson

11:10 a.m. *Please contact Amanda Burns.*

*Financial Assistants:* Capt. Stan Tikkanen, Dawn Skare, Thomas Becker

### November 19

*Ushers:* 9:00 a.m.: Mike Stanchfield, Jim Olsen, Stan Tikkanen, John Lindstrom, Wayne Rierson

11:10 a.m. Don & Deb Edmondson

*Financial Assistants:* Capt. Rich Pearson, Dee Burrington, Joyce Held

### November 26

*Ushers:* 9:00 a.m.: Jim Hauan, Becki Smith, Clarence Peterson, Marv Berke

11:10 a.m. *Please contact Amanda Burns.*

*Financial Assistants:* Capt. Bob Michaelson, Jerry Anderson, Karon Looft



## Confirmation

Through St. James' confirmation experience, students "confirm" the promises their parents made in faith at the time of their baptism.

It is a time of spiritual discernment and spiritual growth. We understand that Middle School years are filled with transition and our goal is to support them in their faith journey and help them know they are not alone.

During confirmation we give them the tools to understand their lives in the context of God's great ongoing story.

Our program is designed to help students better understand their relationship with God and how to keep their Baptismal promises and walk as a disciple/follower of Jesus Christ.

### 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> grades (fall of 2017)

When: Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. AND once a month on Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

Where: Peter & Paul (upstairs)

Age: 7-9<sup>th</sup> grades

Tuition Cost: \$70

Contact: Pr. Kristen Brechler [kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org](mailto:kbrechler@stjamesincrystal.org)

### Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 1	Session 6 – On-Site
<b>Nov. 5</b>	<b>Confirmation Reformation (1-4pm) – Nikomis Heights</b>
Nov. 8	Youth Event
<i>Nov. 11/12</i>	<i>Moonlight Madness (optional)</i>
Nov. 15	Session 7 – On-Site
<i>Nov. 22</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Worship—(worship with family)</i>
Nov. 29	Session 8 – On-Site

## Confirmation Celebration

Congratulations to .... Nicole Fountinelle, Nyadoar Gach, Piper Harms, Sidona Kautz, Faith King, and Victoria Tue ... who were confirmed on Sunday, October 22nd. We are thankful for your witness of faith and welcome you as full voting members of this congregation.

## Zumba Class

The international dance fitness craze has returned to St. James on Sunday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Wold Hall . Wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes (the less traction, the better), and bring water. All fitness levels are welcome to attend the calorie-blasting, high-energy dance party! Licensed Zumba Instructor, Amanda Burns, will be leading class, so please connect with her if you have any questions.

## ELCA National Youth Gathering

(Houston, June 25-July 2, 2018)

Every three years high school (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade) students from all over the U.S. gather together for a Youth Gathering. It is a ONCE in a lifetime experience and one that YOU won't want to miss. We will be joining others from Minneapolis and spend 8 days together celebrating life and faith at the Astrodome. The cost of this trip is \$1,250.00+ (this includes transportation, hotel and registration costs). We will work together as a team to fundraise the majority of the cost. Reserve your spot NOW with a \$100.00 deposit. If you are interested there may be space available. Contact Ryan Walesch for more information.

## Moonlight Madness

**When:** Friday, November 11 –  
Saturday, November 12 (9pm-7am)  
**Who:** Middle School Students  
**Cost:** \$35

Moonlight Madness is a city wide youth event with open gym, dance, Grand Slam, movies & bowling. This is a fun way to meet new people at St. James and around the Twin Cities. It's a Blast! Cost is \$35 per person. We have limited spots for this fall event. Completed Registration forms with payment will reserve your spot. A waiting list will be created if necessary. Deadline to register is Sunday, October 29th. Contact Pastor Kristen for more information

## Important Info

### Telephone Changes

If you have changed your phone number (or made the switch to cell phone only), please be sure to update your information with the church office. Thanks so much!

### Prayer Concerns

#### Hospitalizations

LaVonne VanBockel  
Fern Schneider

### Worship Center Decorating Groups

Without a decorating chair, we have been scratching our heads as to how we go about decorating the worship center for all the church seasons. We are going to try out a new approach starting this fall!

If your family or church group (i.e. – small groups, friends, committees, etc.) would consider signing up for ONE specific season to take charge of decorating (and taking down decorations), we would really appreciate it. There will be a sign up on the bulletin board.

Questions? Contact Amanda Burns or Pastor Randy.

### Women's Christmas Brunch

Tickets are on sale for the Women's Christmas Brunch on Sat., Dec. 2 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10.

This brunch is put on each year by Mary Circle and always includes delicious food and great entertainment.

### NEAR: November's Outreach Partner

It is once again time for the November Food Drive for the NEAR Food Shelf. You may pick up a grocery bag by the front door for your donation. NEAR is an emergency food shelf that serves the northern part of Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale. Families are still having a hard time making ends meet so sometimes food is scarce. Too many Minnesotans lack the quality jobs that would allow them to support themselves and their families. Last year the congregation gracefully donated over \$2,000.00. You can make out a check if you wish and put NEAR in the memo line.

There is more information about NEAR in the display case. You may also ask members that volunteer: Rick Jones, Martha Thompson, Ruth Stanchfield, Chuck Schneider, Jim-Emily Hauan, Mary-Don Roening, Joyce Held, Connie Blom, Margaret Thomsen, Jim Dudley, or Nancy Dahlquist. Extra boxes of food will be distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas with their monthly order. An extra box was given to families with school-age children all summer and they also received school supplies.

Here is a heads up for the Christmas Toy Distribution. Set up will be Friday Dec. 15 and the distribution will be Saturday Dec. 16th. Please mark this on your calendar. All help is needed. We will be collecting gently used sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts and Christmas decorations. Thank you for your continued help in serving those in need in our community. If everyone helps just a little, it will turn into a great food drive.



### Some Tips from St. James' Care of Creation Team

**How to prepare your wildlife garden for winter:** Autumn is a key season for the wildlife garden. Take a few simple steps now and you can help a host of animals to find plenty to eat and safe hiding places for the coming winter. In addition to providing habitats for a host of overwintering residents, a good wildlife garden will attract flocks of birds. In fact, the harsher the weather and the less food there is in the countryside, the more important gardens become for animals and birds.

**Things to do in Autumn:** Most people tend to tidy their gardens in autumn, but often take this to the extreme. They blitz them, removing most of the shelter for wildlife and leaving overwintering invertebrates homeless in the process. You can help wildlife by leaving as much tidying up as possible until the end of winter, and doing so can make your garden look more attractive, too.

#### 6 Top Wildlife Gardening Tips

- Spread fallen leaves over your flowerbeds.
- Leave dry plant stems standing in the garden – all kinds of insects will crawl inside to spend the winter. When you do cut them in spring, leave them in a stack until May to allow all of the overwintering insects to emerge.
- Avoid cutting hedges until the end of winter to provide valuable shelter for birds and give them more time to eat the berries.
- Resist the urge to cut back ivy growing on walls and fences. Wait until March so the berries are available to birds and the foliage can provide a foraging habitat for insect-eaters such as tits.
- Clear your pond out between October and early January – this is when wildlife activity is lowest.
- Put a few clay (not concrete) roof tiles in the pond to provide cover for overwintering frogs and other aquatic wildlife. If there is a cold snap and your pond freezes over, do not leave the ice or the water will become deprived of oxygen. Melt it by placing a pan of hot water on the surface.

## Parish Nurse

Bonfire Parish Nurse Debbie is happy to check your blood pressure, and visit about health concerns and planning. Feel free to contact her at any location. You may also contact her at 612-408-2049.

**St. James:** the 4th Sunday of the month, and Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Her office is in the archives room, across from the Montessori coat racks. If the few steps are a problem to get there, go around outside; there aren't any steps to tackle!

**House of Hope:** the 3rd Sunday of the month, and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**First Lutheran:** the 2nd Sunday of the month, and Tuesdays 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

## Wildfire Women's Event

**Wildfire Women's Lunch.** This salad luncheon will be held on Sun., Nov. 12 at 12:00 p.m. Women of all ages are welcome to the program with a theme of Women in Leadership. Schedule includes: arrival at noon, Intro & Prayer, lunch catered by Crowning Touch at 12:15 p.m., Bishop Ann Svenningson will speak at 12:30 p.m., Dessert at 1:00 p.m. and Conclusion at 1:30 p.m.



## Endowment Corner

### How to Give Property or Gifts to Your Children

There are many reasons that parents give gifts to their children. A parent must first be self-sufficient in planning for their own remaining time before they can provide gifts to them. These gifts will provide two types of education; first the children learn how to manage and invest these gifts. Secondly, the parents understand how their children will use these gifts and better prepare for future gifts.

#### There are many different ways that gifts can be made to children

**Cash gifts:** You can simply write a check. You can give an annual amount that can be tax free up to a set amount. If this is given annually, a child may become accustomed to living at that level. A gift of property may make more sense.

**Stock gifts:** This can be set up by setting up a brokerage account for a child and transferring the stock. For tax purposes, the cost basis at the time of sale is the price paid for by the parent.

**Mutual funds:** An account can be set up and money put into it. The tax basis is similar to that of a stock gift.

**Gifts of Land or Home:** This can be done using a warranty or grant deed. In some states a quitclaim deed is used. To keep the gift under the maximum allowed for tax purposes, a partial transfer can be done over a number of years.

**Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (UTMA):** Under this umbrella, you may transfer assets to a custodian of a minor child to manage. When the child reaches legal age, they take ownership of the assets.

**Trust for children:** These can be very flexible and state an age when the child can receive the assets.

**Tax-free Trust for children:** If the parent has appreciated property, it can be transferred to a charitable remainder trust with annual payments made to the child. There are several options and can get quite involved.

The above mentioned are ways in which assets may be distributed before death. It is not meant to offer legal advice. As always, consult a professional in the field to determine what may be the best approach for you.

## Letters of Thanks

Dear friends,

What a blessing it was to receive your gift in the mail. Thank you so much for your check in the amount of \$125 designated for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Your gift will provide new life and hope to the 1 in 65 Minnesotans who utilize the services of LSS of MN each year.

*Rev. Kathryn Tiede  
Director of Church  
Partnerships  
LSS of MN*

To our friends at St. James,

We cannot thank you enough for your generous gift of baby supplies. It is a beautiful thing to be able to partner with groups like yours, to better welcome our new Minnesota neighbors. Please know how much we appreciate your support. Big thank you from all of us at LSS Refugee Services.

*Lutheran Immigration  
and Refugee Services*

## GriefShare

All are welcome to participate in as many sessions of GriefShare as you find helpful. Each session begins at 4:00 p.m. in the Peter & Paul room. Remaining topics include:

Nov. 5 - Lessons of Grief

Nov. 12 - Surviving the Holidays

Nov. 19 - Heaven

Nov. 26 - OFF for Thanksgiving

Dec. 3 - What Do I Live For Now?

## Project Tree

The project tree effort is working well. Thank you to those that have completed a task. Some of the items that have been accomplished are:

Courtyard painted (trim, soffit and fascia)

Outside offices window trim painted

Car port pillars painted

Downstairs classroom wall repairs (ceiling, wall, duct box).

All this could not have been completed without the help from our congregation. THANK YOU!

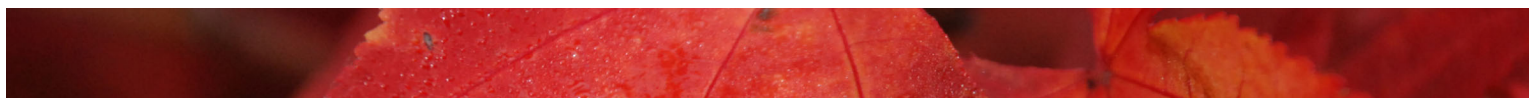
Updated items will be added to the tree shortly.



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
6700 46TH PLACE NORTH  
CRYSTAL MN 55428

NON PROFIT  
ORG.  
**US POSTAGE  
PAID**  
TWIN CITIES, MN  
PERMIT NO.  
**1265**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Congratulations  
Confirmands**

*(Pictured L-R)*

Nyadoar Gach  
Nicole Fountinelle  
Piper Harms  
Victoria Tue  
Sidona Kautz  
Faith King