



What's INSIDE

A publication of St. James Lutheran Church of Crystal, Minnesota

Happenings

Children & Youth

Misc. Info

Bonfire News

Office Hours

The church office is open:
Mon.-Wed. 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Thurs. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Wi-Fi

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

St. James Lutheran Church

6700 46th Place North
Crystal, MN 55428
Phone: 763-537-3653
Fax: 763-537-3828
office@stjamesincrystal.org
www.stjamesincrystal.org

Pastoral Reflection

Friends in Christ,

Diana and I are and will always be grateful for the opportunity you gave us to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. We experienced a rich time of rest, reading and renewal. In the past, our anniversary celebrations have been very low key. Forty years together called for an unforgettable experience. We intentionally created a get-away with far more unplanned time than planned activities and events. Our three planned experiences were a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, a five-day cruise, and a week stay at a condo in Alabama on the shore of the Gulf of Mexico.

We decided to drive rather than fly because it is cheaper and we enjoy driving together. Our stop in Memphis at the Civil Rights Museum was a tremendous blessing. The Museum is housed in the former Lorraine Motel, where the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. When we arrived at about 12:30 pm on a Saturday morning, the line to enter was about 100 yards long, comprised of perhaps 75% African American people. I knew that I was in a holy place and about to experience something deep and important.

Five hours later, I emerged with a clear sense that the struggle for justice, equality and respect for African American people in our nation is tragically far closer to the beginning than the end. However, through the power of Jesus Christ working through God's Holy Spirit, God's Easter people of the resurrection will join the movement of Dr. King and a countless host of faithful people to change the world forever for God's glory. God's Holy Spirit movement through God's Easter people will end racism and all of the other manifestations of sin, death and the power of the devil. During our time on this Earth, we are privileged and blessed when we join in God's great movement of salvation and renewal of all creation.

After the museum visit, we finished our drive to Mobile, Alabama and enjoyed a quiet day of walking through this very old and historic city. On Monday morning, we boarded our cruise ship for a five day cruise, with no phone or internet connections in the beautiful Gulf of Mexico. On the two cruise stops, Progreso and Cozumel, both in Mexico, we toured Mayan ruins and enjoyed beautiful vistas of the Gulf. We were able to enjoy significant time reading while on the cruise, with no distractions. During our anniversary celebration, Diana read five novels and I re-read the New Testament, which was a genuine delight.

Our week at the condo in Gulf Shores Alabama included daily walks on the beach, which is comprised of miles of white sand stretching from Mississippi to Florida, and much time for conversation, naps, and activities such as a visit to a quilt shop (I read the paper) at a woman's house on the outskirts of Gulf Shores and an evening sail boat excursion in which we saw dolphins swimming and leaping from the water. The weather was perfect, and the consistent, soothing sound of the waves crashing onto the brilliant, white sand of the beach nurtured much reflection on God's beautiful creation, and God's timeless, beautiful faithfulness in an ordered, ever-changing creation. Our lives on this earth are a spectacular, but very brief moment of blessing in eternity.

Our lives are a loving gift from our creator, an opportunity to share in the history of creation, to make a difference for God's glory through our care for creation and our love for our neighbors. We have an example in Jesus of how we can make a difference. You have made such a difference for Diana and me through the anniversary celebration we shared. Thank you!

Summer Worship 9:30 a.m.

*Beginning on Sun., May 21
and continuing through Sept. 10,
St. James will have one worship
service at 9:30 a.m.*

*Love in Christ,
Randy*

St. James' Staff

Pastor Randall Romsdahl
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Mary Brown
Ringing Praise Bell Choir
Director & Organist

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Amy Jermstad
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Sunday School Coordinator

Julie Rose
Sunday Morning Hospitality

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."



Directory Photos

It's time to sign up for the church directory photos that will be taken May 16-20. You can sign up on Sunday mornings in May, by calling Amanda in the church office (763-537-3653) or online via the link on the St. James webpage.

Volunteers are also needed to help host during photography. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board.

Spring Cleaning

Save the date for the Spring Clean-Up on Sat., May 6, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. A light brunch will be provided. Come for as long as you are able! Many hands make light work.

Work list includes: cleaning light fixtures, replacing furnace filters, replacing emergency lights, washing windows, cleaning the stove and ovens, defrosting freezers, painting stage, dusting cob webs, cleaning gas grill, general yard clean up, scraping and painting the 3 car port pillars, sidewalk edging, painting parking lot chain post, gluing chairs, and removing moss from roof.

Please let Lois Selle know if you plan on coming so they can prepare enough brunch food and work supplies (loselle@msn.com or 612-710-8492).

If there is a large enough crew, the property committee would love to work on the cedar roof on the south side of the church. We need to carefully remove the moss so as not to damage the roof and so as not to fall off the roof, treat the roof with a diluted bleach solution, and then install zinc strips.

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!

Pastor Educational Travels

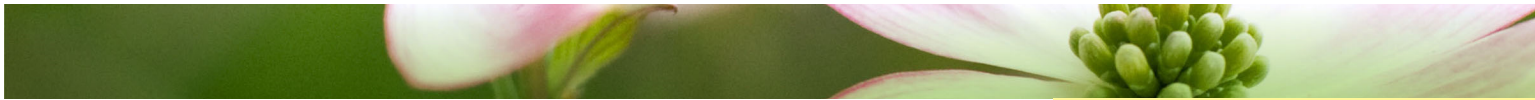
Pr. Randy will be traveling to Israel at the end of April to early May with a cohort of pastors. The group is sponsored by Macedonian Ministers. This is Pr. Randy's first trip to the Holy Land. He will be traveling with Mark Vinge from House of Hope. This trip is a time of spiritual renewal, rest and experiencing the Bible first hand. Please keep Pr. Randy in your prayers as he travels.

Over 55's

The Over 55's will attend the Daytrippers Theatre in Bloomington on Thurs., May 25 for *Wife Begins at Forty*. This play is a laugh-a-minute farcical afternoon when housewife Linda, fans the flames of passion with her mild-mannered, ordinary husband, George, along with neighbors, family and friends.

Cost is \$39.75 for buffet luncheon at 12:15 p.m. and the show at 1:15 p.m. It will conclude at 3:20 p.m. A car pool will leave St. James at 11:45 a.m.

Questions? Contact Judy Olsen at 763-5334868.



Estate Planning Seminar

Almost every adult benefits from a basic estate plan. A basic estate plan includes a will, power of attorney, and health care directive (and for some people a trust, too). Together these documents can provide you with peace of mind, provide direction for your medical decisions when you are unable to do so, protect your assets, and provide for your loved ones and the ministries about which you are passionate during your life and/or after your death. An estate plan is an expression of your stewardship for the blessings God has entrusted to your care.

Andrew Carlson of Carlson Law Office will be at St. James on May 8 at 10:00 a.m. to share information about why a basic estate plan is beneficial for you and your loved ones.

Refreshments will be provided. This event is brought to St. James by the St. James Endowment Committee.

Supper at Six

We will begin again in the fall. Thanks to all who helped make this meal possible!

St. James Garage Sale

The St. James Garage Sale 2017 has been set for August 3-5, with item drop-off on July 30—August 2. Mark your calendars!



Book Study

Join Troy Loken in 2017 for a 6-month series (started in January) using Jim Wallis' book, *America's Original Sin*, as our guide. From Amazon.com: In *America's Original Sin*, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians--particularly white Christians--urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.



The next meeting will be on Mon., May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lydia room at St. James. All are invited, so invite any friends or neighbors who might be interested in this book study.

Key List

The St. James Staff is trying to compile a list of anyone who has a key to the building. If you have one, please contact Amanda with your name (and if possible the number that is on the front door key) at aburns@stjamesincrystal.org or call 763-537-3653. Thanks for your help in creating a complete list!



Pentecost Geraniums

Geranium plants may be ordered to help decorate for Pentecost Sunday on June 4. Your geranium orders need to be placed by noon on May 1. Plants can be picked up following the 9:30 a.m. Pentecost Sunday worship service.



Number of plants ordered	Amount paid
_____ dozen @ 31.00 =	_____
_____ half dozen @ \$ 18.00 =	_____
_____ single plant @ \$3.75 =	_____

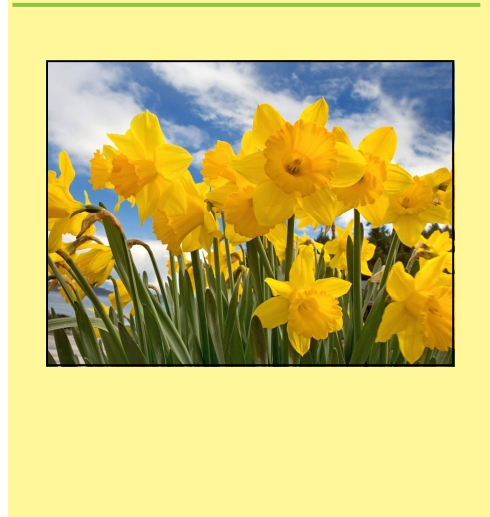
Given in MEMORY / HONOR of: _____

Given by: _____

I'd like to donate _____ (indicate #) of my plants for planting outside at St. James.

Bible Study Series

Join John Renze in a series of Sunday Evening Bible Study sessions the first Sunday of each month (through May) at 6:00 p.m. in Wold Hall. The next session will be Sun., May 7. Please contact John with any questions you may have.



Flower Fundraiser Pick-up is on May 13 & 14.

Flowers will be delivered the morning of Sat., May 13th. Time TBD. Sellers will deliver flowers on Saturday and Table sales / congregation orders can be picked up on Sunday. Thank you for supporting Summer Camping Ministry!

Teacher Appreciation

May 21st is Teacher Appreciation and Celebrating our Elders Sunday. During Education hour we will hold an appreciation event for all generations, especially our Sunday School teachers, Confirmation leaders and mentors, and all who shape the faith of children in our congregation.

VBS Decorating Events

There will be key dates to help with decorating or set up for VBS. June 7th from 5-8pm and Friday June 9 from 9-noon. We need lots of hands to help set up. Most jobs are easy and done with a partner/team. There also may be some take home projects or other needs. If you interested or are able to help create, build, collect items for VBS. Please contact Pr. Kristen

Scholarships

We are in need of scholarship funds for many of our students to attend VBS, Summer Camp, Youth Trips and other Events. Scholarship gifts can be given to the church office with Scholarships in the memo.

Summer Camp for Kids

Students and friends of St. James are going to camp! Camp proves to be a transforming experience for children and students. Join us for a great week growing in faith, discovering new relationships and enjoying the outdoors.

1-6th graders have the option of going to Camp Onomia in Onomia, MN.

There are two great camp options for students. The Pioneers camp (completed grades 1-3) and the Explorers camp (completed grades 3-6).

Register online at www.camponomia.org and pay a \$100 deposit to reserve your spot.

Camp Onomia, Onomia, MN

Pioneers (1-3 grades) - August 6-8, 2017

Cost: \$240 (3 p.m. Sunday-7 p.m. Tuesday)

Explorers (3-6 grades) - August 6-11, 2017

Cost: \$460 (3 p.m. Sunday-1 p.m. Friday)

Pr. Randy & Pr. Kristen will rotate between the camps. Be sure to note St. James Lutheran Church in the memo/church portion. We will hold a flower fundraiser in the spring to help offset costs of camp. For more information contact Pr. Kristen or Amy Jermstad.

Summer VBS Two Options in 2017!

We have two great VBS options for growing in faith this summer:

Camp Out—Weekend VBS at St. James

June 9-11, 2017

Friday – 5:30-7:30pm (meal at 5pm)

Saturday – 9:30-11:30am

Sunday – 9:30-10:45am (Campfire Worship)

Friday will begin with a meal at 5:00pm. With the session starting at 5:30pm. We will have a campfire afterwards on Friday night as well. Then will meet again on Saturday morning and then again on Sunday morning for our closing campfire worship.

Come join us as we “Get Smore of Jesus” This is a weekend Vacation Bible School. Right after school gets out. Come join us for a camp out at St. James! Registration forms are available outside the church office and online. Register by May 21 so we have enough supplies for everyone. VBS is our free gift to you, if you would like to make a donation to cover costs we suggest at \$15 donation.



Maker Fun Factory—Wildfire VBS at Faith Lilac Way

July 24-27 (Monday-Thursday evenings) for 3 yrs—5th grade

Come join us as we discover how God has created us. “Maker Fun Factory” Vacation Bible School. This summer we will host a Wildfire evening Vacation Bible School July 23-27th. It begins with a meal at 5:00 p.m. and the program goes from 5:45-8:00 p.m. Wildfire VBS will be hosted at Faith Lilac Way. Registration forms are available on the church website.

Leaders and Volunteers are needed for both of these amazing and impactful ministries. Contact Pr. Kristen for more information.



Youth Summer Camp Opportunities

Summer camp is one of those don't miss experiences. It's one we know that you will be changed by.

6th Grade: Students have the opportunity to choose between two great camps!

Camp Onomia (Onomia, MN): Camp Onomia has two weeks as options this year (July 9-14 or August 6-11). Each week has a different program. Adventure Club or Explorers. Check out their website for more information about Onomia's camp weeks.

Camp Wapo (Amery, WI): This is an opportunity to attend camp that is in conjunction with other Wildfire churches. We are attending Wapo, August 6-11. Camp Wapo is a confirmation camp that is in conjunction with other Wildfire churches.

Pick the site you prefer or the week that works for you.

Check out the camp websites www.camponomia.org or www.campwapo.org for additional information. Reserve your spot with a \$100 deposit.

Confirmation CrossWalk (6-8 grade)

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.

CrossWalk meets Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Wold Hall (unless otherwise noted). It involves a meal, short worship and then small group interaction. There are small groups for students, parents and children which will meet simultaneously. Families are strongly encouraged to attend CrossWalk together! Parent involvement is key to Crosswalk. Questions? Contact Pr. Kristen for more information.

Upcoming Dates

May 3 Wildfire Event @ First Lutheran

Youth Events

Middle School and Sr. High Youth gather for fellowship, service and growing in faith. Many events are for both Middle School and Sr. High. However, there are a few Sr. High only events throughout the year. Ryan Walesch and other volunteers lead this important ministry.

Key Events:

- May 3 Youth Night 9th-12th Grade 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- May 17 Youth Night 9th-12th Grade 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- May 20-21 Duluth Trip 6th-12th Grade 6:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

VBS

Leadership VBS Leadership Positions

Students are encouraged to take leadership roles during VBS this summer. VBS is happening June 9-11 and July 23-27 in the evening. These are volunteer positions that come with great benefits. You are needed to make a difference in the lives of children in this community. All Volunteers must apply for a position. Contact Pr. Kristen for more information.

Thank You!

A big thank you to all the Lenten Mentors who made connections with the young people of St. James. We are grateful for your time and involvement with these amazing young adults. Thank you!

Milestones

Graduate: Please turn in your information sheets by Wednesday, May 17th. We want to recognize you and lift you up in prayer. Graduate Recognition is Sunday, June 4th.

Change of Address / Phone

Cindy Typra
763-439-1330

Hospitalizations

Judy Olsen

Funerals

Greg Reinking
Gordon Bergquist
Lorraine LaFontaine
Jim Gronlund

Library News

The library has acquired several new DVDs both for adults and children: *Amazing Grace*, *About Miracles*, *Home Run*, *Life Time Tuned*, *Like Dandelion Dust*. The library also has many children's books that are looking for kids to enjoy them. Please introduce your children to the love of books by stopping at the St. James library.

The library is also collecting books for Car Care Saturday. Please bring by any donations you have laying around at home not being read.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Mon., May 29 for Memorial Day. In case of an emergency, contact Pastor Randy at 612-803-2879.

Synod Assembly

Synod Assembly will be May 5-6 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey.

Book Club News

May's pick: **The Witches: Salem, 1692** by Stacy Schiff

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Cleopatra* unpacks the mystery of the Salem Witch Trials. It began in 1692, over an exceptionally raw Massachusetts winter, when a minister's daughter began to scream and convulse. It ended less than a year later, but not before 19 men and women had been hanged and an elderly man crushed to death. The panic spread quickly, involving the most educated men and prominent politicians in the colony. Neighbors accused neighbors, parents and children each other. Aside from suffrage, the Salem Witch Trials represent the only moment when women played the central role in American history. *The Witches* is Stacy Schiff's account of this fantastical story - the first great American mystery unveiled fully for the first time. [from the Publisher]

Join "Page Turners" this month in reading the book *The Witches*. The group meets Tues., May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Peter and Paul room. All are welcome!

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

June's pick: *Rez Life: an Indian's journey through reservation life* by David Treuer.

Car Care Saturday

The next Car Care Saturday has been scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Volunteers will be needed to help with changing oil, cleaning cars, registration, hospitality, and child care. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office!

Car Care is the outreach ministry during the month of May. All special offerings will help provide oil changes to people in need in our community.

Evergreen Montessori Now Enrolling for Fall 2017

The Evergreen Montessori School is now accepting applications for fall 2017.

Evergreen Montessori is a preschool for children age 33 months—5 years. They offer a variety of scheduling options including 3-5 half, mid and full days.

St. James members receive a discount, so be sure to check it out when searching for a preschool. (Evergreen Montessori rents space in our building.)

For more information visit www.evergreenmontessori.org.



Ever learning, Ever growing...
Evergreen Montessori

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.



Honoring Our Elders Sunday

St. James is planning a special Sunday to honor the elders of the congregation on Sun., May 21 at 9:30 a.m. (first week of the summer worship time). We will honor Sunday school teachers during worship, as mentors and elders to our Sunday school students. We will also pray for the teaching, mentoring, nurturing and responsibility for those who are younger than us. Don't think you're considered an elder? Of course you are! We are all teaching and passing on the faith to the younger generations.

Following worship there will be a brunch in Wold Hall to celebrate this passing on of the faith.

We would like to create a photo montage of people in our church engaged in the ministry of teaching, mentoring, nurturing and responsibility for those who are younger than us to be played during the brunch. If you have any photos to contribute, please send via email to Amanda Burns (aburns@stjamesincrystal.org) by May 10.

Zumba Class

There are two sessions of Zumba left for the program year... May 14 and 21 at 3:30 p.m. in Wold Hall. Zumba will start back up in the fall.

Shop Amazon Smile

Do you use Amazon for online shopping? Did you know that Amazon has a specific website Amazon Smile that you can use and they will donate a small portion of select purchases to an authorized organization at no cost to you?

St. James is now a registered Amazon Smile organization. To make purchases through Amazon Smile, visit www.smile.amazon.com and continue with your account as you normally would shopping on Amazon. You will need to designate an organization – put in St. James Lutheran Church Crystal MN and we should come up!

Questions? Contact Amanda Burns at aburns@stjamesincrystal.org.

Picnic Coordinator Wanted

A volunteer is needed to help coordinate the summer potluck picnics this summer (typically the last Sundays of June, July & August). This person would order hotdog and buns, make sure someone is lined up to set up, grill hotdogs, make beverages and clean up. If interested, contact Pastor Randy.

Memorials

Altar Guild in memory of LaVerne Mead from Ron & Elaine LaMotte.

Bell Choir in memory of Lorraine LaFontaine from George & Orla McClure, Ken & Phyllis Nelson, Terry & Lana Teigen.

Endowment in memory of Lorraine LaFontaine from Jackie Harlow, Carole Thoe, Frode & Lillian Jespersen, Arlin & Vicky Butcher.

KidPack in memory of LaVerne Mead from Nancy Horberg. In memory of Miles Stromback from Ruth Stanchfield.

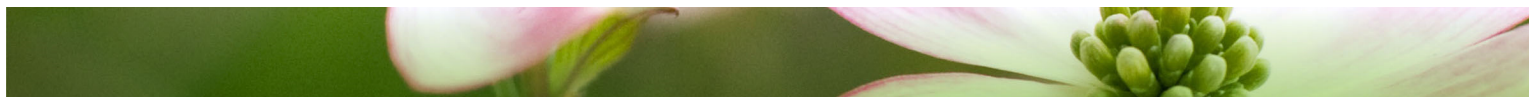
Music Fund in memory of Lorraine LaFontaine from Eunice Kistner.

Worship Fund in memory of LaVerne Mead from Eunice Kistner.

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CRYSTAL MN 55428

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1265

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Usher & Financial Assistant Schedule

May 7

Ushers: 9:00 a.m.: Roger A. Johnson, Rick Jones, Terry Teigen
11:10 a.m.: *(contact church office if interested)*
Financial Assistants: Capt. Becki Smith, Tim Smith, Jackie Harlow

May 14

Ushers: 9:00 a.m.: George McClure, Roger E. Johnson, Judy Berney, Ken & Phyllis Nelson
11:10 a.m.: *(contact church office if interested)*
Financial Assistants: Capt. Stan Tikkanen, Dawn Skare

May 21

Ushers: 9:30 a.m.: Mike Stanchfield, Jim Olsen, Stan Tikkanen, John Lindstrom, Wayne Rierson, Don & Deb Edmondson
Financial Assistants: Capt. Rich Pearson, Dee Burrington, Joyce Held

May 28

Ushers: 9:30 a.m.: Jim Hauan, Becki Smith, Clarence Peterson, Marv Berke
Financial Assistants: Capt. Bob Michaelson, Jerry Anderson, Karon Looft