

Pew's News

January 29, 2012

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

St. James Lutheran Church, Crystal, Minnesota

www.stjamesincrystal.org

Worship Note

"Food will not bring us close to God" (I Corinthians 8:8). Bummer! I would quickly debate the beloved Apostle Paul (yes, he was speaking to a congregation in conflict over a bad combination of kosher food laws, Christian liberty, lack of regard for neighbor, and the human persistent penchant for self-righteousness), "But what about the food that is Jesus Christ?"

And Paul would say, "Yes, of course, but I was talking about everything else!"

"Even a Saint James Annual Meeting Potluck?"

"Okay, you got me there."

Yes, the food that is Jesus Christ does bring us closer to God, and to a fuller appreciation of all God's gifts given for the love of neighbor and the worship of God.

Come, let us celebrate our life together in Christ at the altar and at the round Wold Hall tables of giving thanks for each other, 2011, and the promise of the year ahead. And let us shine forth in our "fishing for people" with God's call to St. James to keep setting a table for all of "hospitality without partiality."

Pr. David Lechelt

Annual Meeting Today

The annual meeting of St. James Lutheran Church will be today. A potluck meal will be held at noon, with the meeting beginning at 12:30 p.m.

If you plan to attend the potluck, please sign the sheet in the narthex indicating a main dish, salad, or dessert. Volunteers are also asked to help with set-up.

Worship Participants Training Sessions

Wouldn't you like to be the person who gives that warm St. James welcome to a first-time visitor.....or greets that long-time member who comes every Sunday and looks forward to a hand-shake at the front door? Greeters are needed for both services.

Have you ever thought you would like to be a lector and read the scripture lessons for the day? But you're not sure you know exactly what needs to be done? You haven't used the microphone before – or you've heard strange sounds coming through the sound system. Help is on the way!

Holy Communion is such a meaningful experience – for the server as well as the one being served. Consider volunteering to help serve the wine.

All who have ever volunteered as worship participants, and all who would like to volunteer in the future are invited to the following sessions:

"Welcome to Greater Training" – Sat., Feb. 11, 9:00 a.m. in the library

"Lector Training" – Wed., Feb. 8 in the Worship Center; Youth at 6:00 p.m., Adults at 6:30 p.m.

"Communion Assistant Training" – Wed., Feb. 15, 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center.

An Invitation to "Shaping the Future with Hope"

We are invited with 100 other congregations from the metro, St. Cloud, and Rochester areas to a Leadership Summit with state commissioners and Gov. Dayton, convening with the promise of establishing "a path towards shared prosperity through racial and economic equity." It's Sunday, February 12, 2012, 3-5 p.m. at Progressive Baptist Church in St. Paul (1505 Burns Avenue).

I'd love to have you join me and you're welcome to share a ride with me, too.

If you would like to attend, please e-mail me (dlechelt@stjamesincrystal.org) or call 763-537-3653 by January 31 and I will register us. The event is limited to 600 people. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this invitation.

Pr. David Lechelt

An Invitation to Our 2012 Lenten Journey

Our Lenten journey to the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ begins this year on February 22. We would love to engage our whole St. James community around questions like, "What is God up to in the world, at St. James, and in my life?" We'd love to reflect together at soup lunches and suppers and through our Wednesday mid-week services. It would be great to have a way to gather and display our responses. We could use a volunteer or two who would be willing to take the plunge and offer us a mural or long horizontal poster invitation in our narthex. If you could help, please contact the pastors or a member of the Church Council. Thank you!

Confirmation

Confirmation on Wed., Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. will be at St. James!

Adult Ed Schedule

Adult Ed is held on Sundays at 9:57 a.m. in the Peter & Paul room. The topic in January is studying the texts together.

Statements

End of the year Financial Statements are available in the narthex. Please pick yours up today.

Men's Gathering

All men are invited to the quarterly men's gathering at First Lutheran Church on Sun., Feb. 12 at 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$10. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office if you plan to attend.

This Week's Events

Sunday, January 29:

8:45 a.m. ELW worship
9:57 a.m. Adult Ed / 9:57
11:00 a.m. Now the Feast worship
12:00 p.m. Potluck
12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting

Monday, January 30:

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesday, January 31:

4:00 p.m. Kid Pack Packing
5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
6:30 p.m. Bells
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Wednesday, February 1:

6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Choir / G.A. / Gam-Anon

Thursday, February 2:

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl
1:00 p.m. Archives
5:15 p.m. Yoga
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Friday, February 3:

9:30 a.m. Bulletin Stuffers
4:00 p.m. Violin
5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu

Saturday, February 4:

Sunday, February 5:

8:45 a.m. ELW worship
9:57 a.m. Adult Ed / 9:57
11:00 a.m. Now the Feast worship

Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$8,441
Received to date: \$30,804
- Capital Fund: \$1,377
Received to date: \$6,415
- Special Offering (*Loaves & Fishes*): \$323
- Attendance: 152

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Mon-Thurs. 7:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m. and Fri. 7:30-10:00 a.m.

St. James Lutheran Church

6700 46th Place North, Crystal, MN 55428
763-537-3653 (phone)
763-537-3828 (fax)
office@stjamesincrystal.org
www.stjamesincrystal.org

Outreach Partner: Loaves & Fishes

Quote from a client: "Thank God you have this program for seniors, handicapped and low income families. We can't make it without you."

Loaves & Fishes sites are: River of Life, N. Mpls.; Dorothy Day, St. Paul; Faith Lutheran, St. Paul; Holy Rosary, S. Mpls.; Creekside Community Center, Bloomington; St. Stephens, S. Mpls.; St. Matthews, St. Paul; Hope Church, Richfield; Church of St. Mark, Shakopee. There are 300 serving teams with 110,000 volunteering hours. The number of meals served in a year is 340,000.

St. Stephens has a shelter. When that is full River of Life takes 50 men and makes room for them in their gym. They are also eating at this site. The need is great for men's gently used clothing. Please help, drop off at church before February 16.

Thank you for your support in the past and your continued support. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated by the clients at the River of Life serving site. They always ask for seconds and more so you know they are hungry. If you would like to help, please write check to St. James and put Loaves & Fishes on the memo line.

Summer Camp 2012

Many families begin to plan their summer plans early in the year, so we wanted to help you get a jump start with dates for camp.

Day Camp – Mark your calendars for June 25-28. Age 5 through 5th grade are welcome. More details to come!

Camp at Luther Park in Danbury, WI – Registrations and the camp schedule are available *now* on the bulletin board outside the church office. Children as young as 1st grade can attend overnight camp! Costs, dates and times vary. Sign up by March 31st and get an early bird discount from St. James!

Time & Talent Sheets

Please fill out the Time & Talent sheets in the February Herald and return them to the office or place them in the offering plate. Extra copies are located in the narthex.

St. James Staff

Pastor David Lechelt (952-913-0852)
Pastor Jill Bergman (651-269-0266)
Shayna Anderson, Family Ministry
Lana Teigen, Financial Coordinator
Amanda Burns, Dir. of Communications
Ryan Walesch, Senior High Youth
Mike Harasyn, Custodian
Mary Brown, Organist and Ringing Praise Bell Choir Director
Deanna Loken, Choir Director

The Page Turners

February's pick: Freakonomics: a rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner.

Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do school-teachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? How much do parents really matter? These may not sound like typical questions for an economist to ask. But Steven D. Levitt is not a typical economist. He studies the riddles of everyday life and reaches conclusions that turn conventional wisdom on its head. Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, Levitt & Dubner show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives – how people get what they want or need. [from The Publisher]

February's Book Club Meeting: Tues., February 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Peter and Paul room. Join us! All are welcome.

March's pick: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

For more information, contact Linda Judge (at 763-533-4081 or judge-linda@msn.com).

Camp Sunday is Feb. 12

Joel Legred, Director of Luther Park's ministries, will be here on Sun., Feb. 12 to answer your questions and tell you more about what Luther Park has to offer you and your family.

9:57 Update

We meet each Sunday in Wold Hall at 9:57 a.m. for large group! Today is the last day of the "Books of Moses." Get ready for a new adventure with the ever-interesting Israelites. Hope you will join us!

Kid Pack Packing Day

Our next packing day for the weekend Kid Packs is Tues., Jan. 31, 4-7 p.m. We pack at Emergency Food Network: 8501 54th Avenue North in New Hope. (On 54th between Boone and Winnetka Avenues.)

Volunteers are needed! Please contact Cassie Marino (763-504-4980 or cassie_marino@rdale.org.) if you are available and would like to assist with packing. Please wear comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes.