

Pew News

January 8, 2012

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

St. James Lutheran Church, Crystal, Minnesota

www.stjamesincrystal.org

Worship Note

Mystery stories, well-told, keep me up well past my bedtime. They keep me on the edge of my seat in a movie theater. I love the adrenaline rush of the hunt for the truth. I love the mental gymnastics of trying to figure out the answer.

One mystery has perplexed people since the beginning of time, however, and leaves many confounded. As Paul writes to the believers in Ephesus, "Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to ... make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known..." (Eph. 3:8-10). This mystery is not so much of a 'whodunit' since we know the 'who' is God. It's not really a 'why dunit' either since the answer of course is 'love.' The real mystery for me is believing it since I can't fully understand it. Really? God did all this creating and redeeming and forgiving and starting over because of love?

Perhaps because my capacity for love is so stained and frail next to God's capacity for love, I have a hard time even imagining the answer is true. How could God possibly love me this much? How could God be treated so tortuously and still love the world so much? No amount of adrenaline or mental gymnastics will ever be enough for me to comprehend the answer. It's a good thing I'm not God because I probably would have given up a long time ago!

I guess it's okay that I can't wrap my mind around God's love. If I could, it would be too small to accomplish all the goals God has for this world, and us, and me. This is one mystery I have to make peace with not solving. This is one mystery I can rejoice will always be bigger than me.

*Mysteriously yours,
Pastor Jill*

Make a Donation, Receive a Free 2012 Calendar!

Make a donation to Bonfire Ministry (that supports Kid Pack weekend snack packs, the parish nurse, and other joint collaborative efforts) and receive a 2012 calendar FREE! Suggested price of calendars are \$10, but any donation is welcome! Make a larger donation, and take a few calendars for family and friends!

Youth Fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings Jan 16

On Mon., Jan. 16, Buffalo Wild Wings (5590 West Broadway-Crystal) is hosting a fundraiser for the St. James youth from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.

You must present a ticket (*located on the name tag table or from the St. James website events page*) to your server for St. James to get credit.

Buffalo Wild Wings will donate 10% of all pre-taxed food sales (less alcohol and promotional discounts) from any guest who presents the fundraising ticket. Please support our youth and enjoy some wings at the same time!



Decoration Change

Volunteers are needed to take down Christmas decorations on Sat., Jan. 14 at 9:00 a.m. All help is welcomed!

Annual Meeting January 29

The annual meeting of St. James Lutheran Church will be held on Sun., Jan. 29. 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.

9:57 Update

9:57 (children and youth) meets this morning! We have a very fun morning planned for you and your friends. Join the group in Wold Hall at 9:57 a.m.!

CPR Training Jan 14

A CPR and AED training session will be held Sat., Jan. 14, 9:00 a.m.—noon. Contact John Lindstrom if you would like to attend: john3990@hotmail.com.

Welcome Nickolas!

Today we joyfully welcome Nickolas James Lang, son of Kelly & Gregory Lang. His godparents are Pete & Heather Schuller, Jenny Lang, and Amanda Foust. His congregational sponsors are Marv & Sue Berke.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given by Erv & Peg Tutila in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary.



Over 55's

Over 55's will meet at Old Country Buffet in Crystal on Mon., Jan. 23 at 11:30 a.m. Please bring ideas for the activities for 2012 and be prepared to call and make arrangements for one of the months.

All seniors are also invited to a senior ministry luncheon at First Lutheran on Wed., Jan. 11 at 11:30 a.m. A free-will offering will be taken. Lunch will be followed by a game or two of Bingo.

This Week's Events

Sunday, January 8:

8:15 a.m. Second Sunday Singers
8:45 a.m. ELW worship
9:47 a.m. Adult Ed / Surprise Sunday
11:00 a.m. Now the Feast worship

Monday, January 9:

5:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Girl / Cub Scouts
7:00 p.m. Property / Finance Committee

Tuesday, January 10:

9:30 a.m. Quilting
10:45 a.m. Dinner at Your Door
5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
6:30 p.m. Bells
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu / Altar Guild

Wednesday, January 11:

11:00 a.m. Worship Committee
6:30 p.m. Confirmation (*at Holy Nativity*)
7:00 p.m. Choir / G.A. / Gam-Anon

Thursday, January 12:

9:30 a.m. Deans' Meeting
5:15 p.m. Yoga
7:00 p.m. Kung Fu
7:30 p.m. Kid Pack Planning

Friday, January 13:

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

Saturday, January 14:

9:00 a.m. CPR Training

Last Sunday's Statistics

- Mission & Ministry: \$7,212
Received to date: \$7,212
- Capital Fund: \$1,047
Received to date: \$1,047
- Special Offering (*Loaves & Fishes*): \$45
- Attendance: 68

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

St. James Lutheran Church

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Thank You

To Eaglebrook Church of Lino Lakes. They generously donated tables, chairs and stools, lamps and artwork to our children and youth ministries! Check out the new tables and chairs downstairs in the education wing.

Outreach Partner: Loaves & Fishes

The mission of Loaves & Fishes, and the people who make it work, seems simple: to serve those who are hungry, no questions asked.

Loaves & Fishes participates in the Summer Food Service Program. This is a necessity to get grant money for all programs. These summer meals meet the minimums of a child's size portion of the food groups. These USDA requirements are 2 oz. of protein, 3/4 cup of fruit/veggies from two sources, 1 serving of grain, and 8 oz. of milk.

St. James members make a difference in the Twin Cities community through their support of time and money. Thank you for your continued support of Loaves & Fishes. For the kitchen remodel, St. James gave \$300. The new stainless steel kitchen is a clean pleasant area in which to work.

Offering Envelopes

2012 offering envelopes are now available in the narthex. Please take your set of envelopes today.

Summer Camp 2012

Many families begin to make their summer plans early in the year, so we want 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!

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.

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).

An Invitation to Fund New Church Tables

Have you ever tried to lift one of our rectangular tables? They are solid and the kind of heavy that is really hard on the lower back. So, how good would it be for our collective lower backs to have new, light but incredibly strong, tables for all of our church events?

Our projected need would be 20 tables @ \$200 apiece for a total of \$4,000. Dollar for dollar matching funds have already been designated for this fundraiser through our Street Dance funds. Checks may be written to St. James with designation of "new tables."

Thank you for your generous and back relieving support!

The Finance Committee

Adult Ed Schedule

Adult Ed is held on Sundays at 9:57 a.m. in the Peter & Paul room. All are welcome to attend! The topic in January will be studying the texts together.