

## Gospel “E” Newsletter

January 5, 2012

### Reflection from Pastor David

While zealously biking (in one place) this morning with New Year resolution, spurned on by the competitive spirit and entertainment of *Chopped* on the Food Channel, I was taken by the question that is often asked of the contestants before a final judgment is made: “why did you want to do this today?” One chef said, “I’m doing it for my father who taught me to believe in myself.” The other chef said, “To challenge myself and to see if I could do it.” To which one of the judges quickly said, “Do you doubt yourself that much?”

They were both very creative and excellent chefs. I would love to dine in both their restaurants. And the mix of their motivation is right at the heart of our 2012 circulatory system: confidence, doubt, challenge, and affirmation.

It seems to me that for us, too, belief and doubt need to live together, and challenge and affirmation. If we are only full of doubt, we will be chopped (most likely by ourselves), and if we are so believing in ourselves (puffed up), what room is left for us to be moved by others, by God, and to grow as God would have us grow all our days?

Tomorrow is the day of Epiphany. We celebrate the arrival of the wise men, the treasure they brought, and the transformation of their motivation. They left the manger powerfully stirred, embracing the gift of Jesus, and bearing light for the world. They walked with sure step home, recognizing the darkness that is still a part of us, but buoyed by the light that shines in and with and for us, a light that will not be overcome by the darkness. They came longing to believe and they returned tasting God’s faith, hope, and love for the entire world.

The star shines! Let’s go forth to reflect the light and offer the taste of Jesus.

*Happy New Year!*

*Pr. David C. Lechelt*

### CPR Training

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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of St. James will be Sun., Jan. 29 at 12:30 p.m. in Wold Hall. A potluck will be held at noon.

### Men’s Breakfast

The next men’s breakfast will be held at Fat Nat’s on Sat., Jan. 21 at 8:00 a.m.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [office@stjamesincrystal.org](mailto:office@stjamesincrystal.org) or call 763-537-3653.

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