

# St. James News

Volume 57 Issue 2

Rev. Michael Nirva – Rev. Martin Schenfeld, Pastors

February 2012

[CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG](mailto:CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG)

Deacon Dave Taylor

[SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG](mailto:SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG)

320-543-2766

Web site: [www.stjameshl.org](http://www.stjameshl.org) [secretary@stjameshl.org](mailto:secretary@stjameshl.org)

320-543-2630

## Twelve Months of CELEBRATION and CHALLENGE

As I was recently contemplating the ministry here at St. James, it became abundantly clear to me that God has richly blessed us in many ways. In discussion with the Elders it was therefore decided that this year we would focus upon the blessings from God that we can celebrate and the challenges He puts before us. Each month we will focus on one aspect of ministry that is taking place here at St. James. It is our prayer that all of us will be filled with a positive attitude of excitement over the good mission work that is taking place here and that we will be further challenged in our participation, service, and support of it. These ministries will be brought forth in a variety of ways over the next months. Each one of these is truly mission work here on a local level. To God is all the glory for the good that He is accomplishing using our work, our prayers, and our offerings.

Last month we began with the Divine Service. This is an important starting point because ministry can only happen as God comes to us sinners and serves us His Word and Sacraments. Let's review some of the aspects of celebration and challenge that we considered last month.

You may not always think of the Divine Service as mission work but it truly is. In the Divine Service the Divinity comes to serve us. He brings to us His Word and His Sacraments. Through the Scripture readings, the sermon, the liturgy, and the hymns God brings to us a message. Sometimes that Word may be harsh, other times gentle, sometimes creative or lighthearted, other times dry and ordinary, but always life changing.

Furthermore, God is at work in the Sacraments. At the baptismal font and at the communion rail, God comes to us and brings to us the gifts of forgiveness and salvation. Additionally, when we gather to confess our sins God is at work through the words of absolution as He brings to us the forgiveness Christ has earned for us on the cross. When we come before the Lord in prayer, the Lord is at work hearing and answering prayer.

When the liturgy is followed, the hymns are sung, and music is enjoyed, God is at work in our lives. Sometimes you may feel God's presence in the service, other times not so much, but either way God is at work in your life and the lives of others through His Word and Sacraments in the Divine Services.

Clearly we can celebrate as each week hundreds of people are ministered to through the Divine Services and by extension the cable TV and video tapes that go out. God is further at work as we gather for weddings, funerals, and other special services as well.

We may have a tendency to take this ministry for granted. But we can celebrate anew this year the fact that mission work is happening here each and every week. Just think of how many sermons have been preached in this church, how many baptisms have been done, how many people have received the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, how many hymns of been sung, and how many people have confirmed their faith. Just think how many families have gathered for funerals and how many couples have been united in marriage in our church.

Twelve months of *Celebration and Challenge*. Now let's consider the CHALLENGE part.

- ❖ **First** of all that by God's grace you follow the Holy Spirit's lead and you participate in these services yourself.
- ❖ **Secondly**, by the working of the Spirit you bring your family each week and invite others to attend with you.
- ❖ **Thirdly**, you encourage others and speak positively about the services.

**God is the one who gives His grace to us  
but by your participation,  
your support,  
your prayers,  
and your offerings,  
YOU are a part of this ministry.**

May God enable us to enjoy the celebration and face the challenge He places before us.

Pastor Schoenfeld

## OUR CHURCH RECORDS

### Church Attendance

Wednesday, December 28	18
Saturday, December 31	43
Sunday, January 1	104 & 120
Wednesday, January 4	21
Sunday, January 8	188 & 228
Wednesday, January 11	21
Sunday, January 15	157 & 228
Wednesday, January 18	33
Sunday, January 22	152 & 151

### Communion Attendance

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31	38
New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1	76 & 72
Wednesday, January 4	21
Sunday, January 8	150
Sunday, January 15	119
Sunday, January 22	91

### Adult Confirmations

Jacob Hoffman, Amy Kortisses, Thomas Kortisses, Jr., Amanda Koethe and Scott Salmela on December 18, 2011 by Pastor Nirva.

### Transfers IN

Andrew, Tricia, Madison and Marit Gueningsman from St. John's Lutheran Church, Howard Lake, Minnesota.

### Funeral

Lillie Hass on December 26, 2011 at the Funeral Home. She had died on December 21, 2011 at the age of 74 Years, 9 months and 18 days.



## \*\*\* SCRIPTURE QUIZ \*\*\*

(see answers below)

1. Which prophet was fed by ravens in the wilderness?
2. Who pushed down the pillars of a temple killing thousands of Philistines and himself?
3. Which mountain did Noah's ark rest on after the waters receded - Sinai, Everest, Ararat or Nebo?
4. To whom did Jesus say, "It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord your God."
5. Who said the following, "He who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me"?

Answers: 1. Elijah (I Kings 17:4-7) 2. Samson (Judges 16:29-30) 3. Mt. Ararat (Genesis 8:5) 4. Satan (Matthew 4:7) 5. Jesus (Matthew 10:37)

## *Lutheran Women's Missionary League*

Our first meeting of 2012, started with Norma Koosman giving a timely devotion on beginnings. Pastor Schoenfeld led us in a Bible study entitled "The Blessing of Stress." He also presided over the installation of officers. We received the programs for this year and it looks like another good year full of lots of projects and interesting topics.

The February meeting will feature our parish nurse, Darlene Lind. She will be talking about "heart health." With heart disease remaining a top cause of

death in this country, keeping informed is extremely important. Even more important is the spiritual condition of our hearts and she will address this also. All ladies of our congregation are welcome, as always, to join us.

This year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Ladies Aid of St. James. It was established in November of 1912, under the direction of Pastor A.L. Oetjen. It is the longest existing auxiliary group in our congregation. In upcoming newsletters we hope to include a little of this group's history.

Happy Birthday to the following St. James Seniors born in February: Shirley Klammer (1), Varona Seth (2), Marie Kliche (9), Lucille Lahr (10), Donald Westphal (13), Ardell Roepke, Glenn Diers, Helen (Mrs. Gordon) Gruenhagen (16), Donald Horsch (25), and LaMae Pettit (26).

## **St. James Night Fish Fry**

**Come Wednesday,  
February 15, 6:00 PM  
Food, Fun, Fellowship**

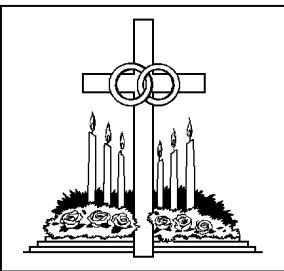
## *The Real St. Valentine*

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us; He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us... I John 4:7-10.*

There is something very special that happens to the world in the month of February. Despite the cold air and snow covered lands around us, the world blossoms with symbols of love. We see the images of red hearts in the windows of homes and stores, with people buying candy and flowers for their beloved. Valentine's Day soon arrives on February 14<sup>th</sup>, where these gifts along with poetry-laden cards are given out.

But just who was St. Valentine? The world needs to be reminded that he was originally known as "Valentinus the Presbyter" in the early church. Valentine was a Christian priest who had a very gently nature, was bold for the Word of Christ, helped others in persecution, performed many marriages of young couples into the faith, and even tried to convert the emperor of Rome when arrested for being a Christian.

Valentine grew up in Rome, but was sickly as a child and was thought to have been crippled. He walked among the people with a limp, but was very much liked by those he met, Christians and non-Christians alike. Valentine brought many people to Christ and it was clear that he loved the Lord and showed it to those around him.



He was martyred in the year 269 AD, after being arrested for openly professing Christ to the people. Valentine would officiate marriage ceremonies to young lovers, both blessing their unions and bring them to faith

in Jesus. He would help Christians at a time when doing so was considered a serious crime against the government of Rome.

Eventually "Valentinus" was arrested and brought before the Emperor, Claudius the second. Because of the gentle nature of the priest, Claudius took a liking to

this man of God even though Valentine had refused to honor the Roman "gods."

Incredibly, Valentine used the audience with Claudius to profess Jesus as our Savior, and even made a public attempt to convert the emperor in front of his court. This did not sit well with Claudius, who then ordered Valentine to be clubbed, stoned and beheaded for his faith Christ. Just before his execution, Valentine healed a blind girl in the name of Jesus.

So on the date of his death, Valentine is remembered every February 14<sup>th</sup> in both Catholic and Lutheran Calendars. For his work of bringing young couples to Christ in Christian marriage, he is especially remembered for this witness to young lovers and as a man whose

first love was Jesus.

Deacon Taylor

## **THE LUTHERAN HOUR**

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on

KRWC-1360 Buffalo. The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO-830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public market place. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions. Hear Reverend Gregory Seltz speaker of the Lutheran Hour.

**February 5-*God Is Faithful. Get Busy And Wait On The Lord***-We can wait on God-joyfully, expectantly, hopefully-because we can trust Him. (Isaiah 40:28-31)

**February 12-*You Can't Muzzle True Joy***-Joy is rooted in a relationship with God. You can't muzzle joy when that joy is connected to Jesus. (Mark 1:40-45)

**February 19-*A Resurrection Glimpse to Empower Your Faith***-Can you fathom what it means that it required the sacrifice of God's own Son in order that you might live, forgiven and redeemed? (Mark 9:2-11)

**February 26**-guest speaker and topic TBA

We love Him because He first loved us.

## Highlights from the Voters' Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2012

Board reports were given with the following highlights:

**Cemetery**-3 graves and 1 cremation site sold in 2011.

**Elders** are continuing with the EMV (Every Member Visits). In 2011 our pastors performed 21 infant baptisms, 11 children's baptisms and 1 adult baptism; 19 juniors were confirmed and 8 adults; 5 marriages; 13 funerals; 17 members were received by Transfer and 2 by Profession of Faith; 13 members transferred out resulting in a total membership of 1,295 baptized members and 1,009 confirmed members.

**Parish Ed.** continues to work with the Youth Program.

**Elementary Ed.** continues to work with the principal and teachers in our ministry of teaching the children.

**Social Ministry** is working on the DVD Ministry Outreach. The Benevolence Fund reported on their yearly expenditures of \$25,296.39 with the following breakdown: 43.10%-Housing, 16.60%-Utilities, 7.98%-Food Certificates, 6.79% Fuel, 3.07%-Auto Repair, 18.33%-Other, 2.15%-Medical and 1.98% Petty Cash.

**The Trustees** continue to maintain and upkeep property. The shingling project of the 5<sup>th</sup> avenue parsonage was completed last fall. A claim was filed with the CertainTeed Shingle Co. due to the rapid deterioration of the shingles put on in 1997. A check for almost \$1,000 was received.

**Finance** continues to work with the Treasurer to keep expenses within the budget. Year-end Giving Statements for 2011 have been completed and have been placed in the church mailboxes.

**Election results** were **President:** Randy Heuer;

**Elders:** Mark Narum, Merlyn Schmiege, Wally Krienke; **Trustees:** Jeff Diers, Mark Burau;

**Elementary Ed.:** Jed Zander, Laura Heuer;

**Evangelism:** Jacob Diers, Jody Utne; **Social**

**Ministry:** Ruth Oestreich, Sandra Diers, Loren Wegner; **Finance:** Dawn Kliche **Stewardship:** Paul Lindahl.

Lay Delegates were elected. Randy Heuer for the upcoming Circuit Forum, January 29, Alan Montgomery Delegate and Tom Johnson Alternate for the District Convention June 14-16.

## Youth News

**SUPER BOWL SUBS ARE BACK.** The order deadline will be Sunday, January 29. Please complete an order form for each sub to be made. You can choose from a variety of meats and toppings. Order blanks are in the narthex and boxes for the completed order forms are provided as well.

Our youth will make each sub according to your order to be ready for pick up on Sunday, February 5 from 9:15 to 12 noon in the school kitchen.

**Teen Fun Night, February 8**

= Food, Devotion and Fellowship

**Ash Wednesday, February 22**

**COME**, join us for  
Soup Suppers in the  
school cafeteria before  
the evening Lenten  
Worship services  
Feb. 22-March 28.  
Serving 5 to 6:30 PM.

## Sunday School

Jesus loves me, this I know because I learned it in Sunday School and of course from my family. Reinforce the Christian love you teach at home by bringing your child to Sunday School giving them the opportunity to experience His love with others.

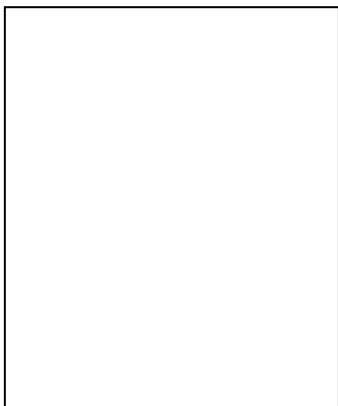
**A list of 2012 St. James Officers and Board Members is included with this Newsletter.**

**Please keep it for reference throughout the year.**

# school News

The month of January brought us to the end of second quarter. Where has the time gone? The students in grades 3-8 had a presentation by Jonathan Friesen on bullying. He had a lot of stories that helped students visualize how words and actions affect people. Jonathan also spent time in the classrooms with a writer's workshop.

It was paraprofessional week in the middle of January and we would like to commend Carol Moorhead and Janice Schoenfeld for all the hard work and help they offer the students at St. James. Please tell them how much they are appreciated the next time you see them.



The halls and classrooms were a showcase for all of the art work done by the students at the ART THROUGH THE AGES exhibit at the end of January. There was an amazing display of talent done by the students. Art was on the walls, tables and suspended from the ceilings. What a

fun night to display some talents.

Pizza sales were started in January. This fund raiser is a great opportunity to help with needed items for the school, such as tuition aid, tuition easement, and supporting school projects.

Orders will arrive at school on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Look forward to some good eating.

Congratulations go out to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball team for finishing First at the Chaska Tournament in January. The girls and boys teams also participated in the Excelsior Tournament in January. The month of February brings the MLAA

Tournaments at Lutheran High School and the State Tournaments at Concordia in St. Paul. Good Luck to both teams. A big "THANK YOU" to all the coaches for their time and dedication.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball teams will start this month. Have a fun season!

In February we have a four day weekend to look forward to coming up the 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. It will be a nice time to spend with family and take the opportunity to be with God in devotions, prayer and Bible study. Enjoy!

At the end of the month the school will host Kindergarten round up. If you know of anyone looking for a great Lutheran school send them our way.

## February Events:

- 08 No AM Public School Bussing
- 17 No School
- 20 No School
- 22 Ash Wednesday-Lenten worship begins
- 25 Pizza Sales Delivery
- 28 7:00 P.M. Kindergarten Round-Up

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7

Kindergarten & Preschool Round-Up  
February 28 and March 13

# Sharing God's Love

A message from the Board of Evangelism

*My Child,*

What a surprise – a letter for you from Me! I just wanted to take a moment to tell you what you mean to Me. After all, I've known you for quite some time (since before you were born!) and I keep up with your every thought and action every day of your life. You see, I created you. I created you to be unique...to be special...to be like no one else – ever! You are My most precious creation.

I am with you all the time. I take you in My arms when you are sad. I lead the angels in song when you celebrate an accomplishment. I give you forgiveness for Jesus' sake when you make a mistake. I love you. I want the best for you.

You belong to Me. I share you with your family and friends, but when it comes down to it, you wear My baptismal mark. The mark that says no matter where you go or what you do, you are My representative. People see Me in you and through you, even when you don't want them to. I appreciate you being My light. You are an important part of My work.

As I bring this letter to a close, don't forget I am thinking of you always. There is always room for you in My house. When you feel alone and rejected, when you feel happy and joyous, when you feel ashamed and confused, come home. Come home to Me in My Word, and let Me hold you in My arms and touch you with My love. You will always be important to Me and worth every moment I have spent and will spend with you throughout the course of your life. I love you more than words can express.

*God*

## Stewardship

*I love you!*

One of the best known days in February is Valentine's Day. Some people are tempted to call February 14<sup>th</sup> "Hallmark Holiday." Little wonder because in our country over 7,000,000,000 valentine cards are purchased each year. Most of these cards say "I love you" in one way or another. But what does "I love you" mean?

Some would say that "I love you" refers to being physically attracted to a person of the opposite sex. While

it is true that physical attractiveness can draw people together we need to remember that physical attractiveness changes over time. Yes, it is an important kind of love, but it does not have the same lasting power as other forms of love.

Others would say that "I love you" means you are my special friend. Good friends are sweet blessings in this life as we find things that we enjoy doing with certain people we like and with whom we have so much in common. A friendship kind of love is very special but, sadly, we know from experience that friends come and go.

There is a deeper understanding of what it means to say "I love you." The word that comes to mind for many Christians is "**agape**" which we call God's kind of love. It is unconditional and keeps reaching out to other people even when they may not return this kind of love. That is certainly true of God's love for us sinners. Even when we say and do sinful things God's love reaches out to us. As the Scriptures teach, "**while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.**" (Romans 5:8 NIV). Jesus Himself said in John 15:13 (NIV): "**Greater love has no one than that he lay down his life for his friends.**"

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV) describes agape love in this way: "**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.**"

The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:1 (NIV): "**How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!**" Good and godly children imitate the positive characteristics of their good and godly parents. As the children of God through Jesus Christ we imitate the love of our Father in heaven. "**We love because He [God] first loved us.**" (1 John 4:19 NIV) What does our Father in heaven delight in doing? John 3:16 (NIV) says it so well: "**For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**"

God delights in loving and giving. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are God's children, God's disciples, God's stewards. There is no better witness to what it means to be a child of God than for us to use all of life and life's resources in a way that brings glory to God and blessings to those whose lives we touch. May our "I love you" always be God's kind of love, God's agape love.

# From Our Parish Nurse

*Above all else guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.* Proverbs 4:23, NIV.

February has been the month that focuses on Heart Health primarily because Heart Diseases and deaths from Heart Attacks are the number one cause of deaths in the United States. It remains #1 - even though we know so much about how to prevent many of the symptoms that relate to heart disease. However, shocking is the fact that 40% of those who have a heart attack have NO symptoms at all! So what are some of the risks that make us at high risk for heart disease of an attack? Surprising, denial is an obstacle that prevents us from getting to a doctor when exhibiting certain symptoms. Experiencing tightness in the chest, having to stop to catch one's breath, tired all the time, even when we have had a good night's sleep, stress level is high, out of shape, eating on the run are some of the main symptoms.

Women experience atypical symptoms such as: tightness across the shoulders, arm or jaw pain, indigestion, sudden nausea or vomiting. Also the feeling of just not "top-notch," also dizziness. Unfortunately, the typical response is to brush these symptoms aside and say "I've just been working too hard." These signs should be checked -out, especially if there is a history of heart disease in your family. Heart attacks have almost nothing to do with your heart, and everything to do with your heart's circulation. Heart attacks begin in the blood supply to your heart muscle. Your heart is approximately the size of your fist and its own blood supply that are small coronary arteries that are each about the diameter of a strand of spaghetti. Should one of these tiny arteries become blocked- that part of the heart muscle does not receive blood and it dies. Plaque, the built-up deposit of fat and cholesterol, in the walls of your arteries accumulate until the artery becomes clogged and then causes a heart attack.

## What can we do to prevent the heart diseases and attacks?

There are a number of things that we can and should do. First and foremost we need to take an inventory of our health - be honest and identify the areas that need change and then start slowly making the changes necessary. John H. Knowles, MD, former President of the Rockefeller Foundation has said- "The next major advances in health of

the American people will come from the assumption of individual responsibility for one's own health and a necessary change in life style of the majority of Americans." Do you have a history of heart problems in your family? Be aware of your numbers- cholesterol, blood pressure, pulse, weight, etc. Poor eating habits, smoking, inactivity, elevated stress levels, lack of sleep, stressed family relationships, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, overweight and family history. The only one of these that you cannot change is the family history- the rest can all be changed, it is up to you. Most of us know these things- it is just a matter of deciding that we want a healthier lifestyle. Find a buddy that can help you get on track and stay on track. There are lots of programs and helps available- if we want to make the changes. Proverbs 2:10 says, *For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.* Let us allow the wisdom and knowledge direct our ways and make us healthier people.

Here is a healthy, delicious, immune system builder that can help you fight off cold and flu germs this winter:

### CHICKEN, PEPPER AND BROCCOLI STIR-FRY

¼ cup low-sodium broth	1 cup chopped broccoli florets
1 Tbsp. reduced sodium soy sauce	1 cups thinly sliced bell peppers (red is colorful)
1 Tbsp. lemon juice	2 garlic cloves, minced
1 Tbsp. honey	1# boneless skinless white-meat chicken, bite sized pieces
1 Tbsp. grated ginger	4 cups baby spinach
¼ tsp. black pepper	½ cup unsalted nuts, like cashews or walnuts
1½ Tbsp. cornstarch	
1 Tbsp. canola oil	
1 onion, chopped	

#### DIRECTIONS:

Whisk together the first 7 ingredients and set aside

Heat 1 Tbsp. oil in a stir-fry pan over high heat. Stir-fry the onions and broccoli for 2 minutes. Add peppers and garlic, stir fry for another 2 minutes. Remove vegetables from pan and set aside. Heat remaining Tbsp. oil and stir-fry chicken 5 minutes or until cooked through and lightly browned. Add spinach and stir-fry until just beginning to wilt, about 1 minute, add sauce, vegetables and nuts and stir-fry until lightly coated with sauce.

Serve over brown rice or combination of wild and brown rice that has been previously cooked. Serves 6

## Reminder:

Wash your hands frequently during the cold and flu season. Also, please watch your step when walking outside, it is easy to slip and fall, especially when we have ice.

Don't forget your valentine this month. Why not send a card to someone just to make their day!

Wishing you a healthy February,  
Your Parish Nurse,  
Darlene Lind

Once again during Lent the Youth will serve Soup Suppers Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Homemade Soup, a variety of sandwiches, desserts and beverage will be served for a free will offering. The following are the soups for each week-

**February 22**

Chicken Rice or Chili

**February 29**

Beefy Noodle or Cheeseburger

**March 7**

Chicken Noodle or Bean 'n Ham

**March 14**

Chicken Dumpling or Cheese

**March 21**

Vegetable Beef or Potato

**March 28**

Vegetable or Wild Rice