

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**Sept. 7:** Thrivent Builds Repairs with Habitat for Humanity, 8:00am to 3:00pm. Details to follow. Light lunch included.

**Sept. 8:** Sunday school kick-off, 9:30am.

**Sept. 14:** Diakonia program starts at Christ the King.

**Sept. 18:** Senior Health Fair, Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center. For more information call 786-596-3812.

**Sept. 28:** Miami-Dade Conference picnic at Crandon Park, Shelter #6, from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

**Sept.28:** Thrivent Family Night at the Marlins. Tailgate starts in West Lot 2 at 5:00pm. Game starts at 7:10pm. Tickets are \$20 for Thrivent members and \$30 for non-members. Price includes BBQ dinner from Shorty's.



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**September 2013**

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**St. James worships every Sunday at 10:30am, with a bilingual service mostly in English but with some Spanish.** The entire liturgy is presented in both languages on the screen above the altar, so that one may follow along in the language one prefers. Pastor Boudon preaches the sermon in English, followed by a brief summary in Spanish.

**GREEN FAITH.** St. James is participating in a two-year certification program with Green Faith, which will provide the church with a holistic, well-supported and structured program to “green” our worship, education, facilities and outreach. The program will include ecology-focused activities and will showcase the Garden of Our Lord. When completed, St. James will be the first green church in Miami.

**Sunday School.** St. James offers a full Sunday School program for adults and children at 9:30am every Sunday morning before worship. There is Bible study for adults and Christian education for children.

**Monthly Healing.** St. James offers a healing liturgy as a part of our normal worship service on the third Sunday of the month, replacing the Prayers of Intercession.

## FROM THE PASTOR

**In his second letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul wrote:** “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” Now I know that Paul was writing about what happens to us when we are baptized and become children of God, but I think the sentiment applies to the church today, as well. Throughout the Christian church people are rethinking what it means to be church as attendance declines. We here at St. James have been trying to increase our attendance for several years now and, despite some temporary boosts, we remain at roughly the same level of members. So when my initial three-year term as your pastor drew to a close, I proposed some major changes to way we do church here. The centerpiece of those changes is our commitment to Green Faith. Over the next two years we will work together to make St. James the first green church in Miami, but it will require contributions from each and every one of you, the current members. We will work together to reduce our use of energy, make our garden more sustainable, and become advocates for environmental justice. I believe that if we do these things and can publicize our work, that we will be able to attract new members who share our commitment to restoring and protecting God’s creation. This will happen because we will be demonstrating what it means to put our faith into action, making our faith relevant to people in our community who are concerned about the growing threats to our environment, both locally and globally. We here in Miami are blessed with a local environment that includes beautiful beaches, pristine wetlands, and one of the world’s most unique natural features: the Everglades. God gave us humans dominion over his creation but he expects us to take care of it so that it will be there for future generations. Through Green Faith we will become good stewards of God’s creation and make a meaningful contribution to the current debate on what it means to be the church in today’s world. As the recent synod assembly proclaimed: Always being made new!

## ECO-TIP OF THE MONTH

**Energy:** If every US household replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star rated compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), it would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars. A CFL uses ¼ of the energy of an incandescent light bulb and will pay for itself within 6 months (Energy Star). Start small by installing Energy Star rated CFLs when a light blows out, or make a big change by installing CFLs in all of your lights.

### **LSF Continues to Expand Ministry**

Lutheran Services Florida continues to expand its ministry. In just the past two months, LSF has started operating all 12 Head Start centers in Pinellas County and opened the doors to a new elementary charter school in Belle Glade, Florida. By providing economically disadvantaged children with the tools they need to succeed, those who support this ministry with their gifts and their prayers are fulfilling the mission of bringing God’s healing, hope, and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ. For information on how you can be involved in these ministries, email [scecchetti@lsfnet.org](mailto:scecchetti@lsfnet.org).

### **Diakonia is coming to Miami this Fall!**

The diakonia Program is a two-year lay education process of spiritual formation and theological study for those who are interested in deepening their faith life and preparing for Christian service (see more about the program at [www.thediakoniaprogram.org](http://www.thediakoniaprogram.org) ). Classes start September 14. For more information please contact Callie Howland at [callie@ctkmiami.org](mailto:callie@ctkmiami.org) or 305-665-6063 ex. 213.