

June Events

June 15: Father's Day. Breakfast for the dads at 9:30am.

June 19-22: Synod Assembly, Orlando.

June 22: ELCA and LCMS congregations will celebrate Refugee Sunday on June 22 to mark the 75th anniversary of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Here in Florida, LIRS sends refugees to Lutheran Services Florida for resettlement and other services. Both LIRS and LSF are joint ministries of ELCA and LCMS congregations.

LSF has refugee resettlement programs in Miami, Orlando and Tampa. In 2013, LSF resettled 675 refugees – many of them women and children – who have spent years living in refugee camps before arriving in the United States.

If your congregation would like to get involved with helping these refugee families, please contact Steve Cecchetti at LSF at scechetti@lsfnet.org or [407-878-8397](tel:407-878-8397). Volunteers are needed to help families in adjusting to life in the United States, and donations of household items are always needed to furnish the apartments where refugees are resettled.

June 29: The Rev. Jaime Dubon, assistant to the bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, will be presiding and preaching.



St. James Lutheran Church
Newsletter **Vol. 1, No. 10**
June 2014

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.

Sunday school. St. James offers a full Sunday school program for adults and children immediately after worship every Sunday morning. 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](#)

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians, 5:17).

On May 18, 2014, the members of St. James voted unanimously (with one abstention) to make me the called pastor, ending more than four years of service here as a “transition pastor.” In some ways, I see this as the logical next step, but in others I see it as a fresh start; hence the above quote from Paul. Together we have accomplished a lot over the past four-and-a-half years. The church is viable financially due mostly to the revenues we receive from renting out our space to Crystal Academy and to three other congregations. But as a congregation we have not grown and, recently, we have shrunk. This trend mirrors what is happening elsewhere in our conference, our denomination and, indeed, Christendom as a whole. More and more people identify themselves as unaffiliated with any particular religion and some of these refer themselves merely as “spiritual.” As a result, we who are church-ed face the daunting task of trying to get these people back into our pews on Sunday morning. Thus far we have not come up with a solution, but we must not stop trying. We who are baptized are called by God to spread the good news. The old way was to do this in church, in Sunday school, and in well-defined ministries. But the old way is no longer working, so maybe we need to heed St. Paul’s words, that “everything old has passed away.” As your pastor I will work with you to find new ways of doing ministry. Some of these new ways may come from within St. James, but some of them may come from outside sources, such as our Florida-Bahamas Synod, and the ELCA. I will not

stop trying and I ask you to join me in a new mission, which we will define together over the coming months and then carry out together. Meanwhile, I ask you to pray about it so as to enter into a period of discernment of what it is that God is calling us to. The Spirit is blowing!

ELCA News

[‘Time for Israeli-Palestinian peace is now,’ say ELCA bishop, U.S. religious leaders.](#)

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- More than 30 U.S. Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders -- including the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop -- have declared that "the time for Israeli-Palestinian peace is now." In a May 21 letter to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, the leaders also wrote that "achieving peace needs your continued, determined engagement."

[Lutherans and LSF Put Faith into Action](#)

Florida Lutherans in partnership with Lutheran Services Florida make a big difference in the lives of many. Our work together is molding the future Church by transforming lives through loving, serving and putting our faith into action. We answer prayers every day. Each year, we serve more than 120,000 people. Won't you join us? Our communities need you! Learn more by writing to Lutheran Services Florida, attn.: Advancement, 3627A W. Waters Ave., Tampa, FL 33614, calling [407-878-8397](tel:407-878-8397), or visiting our website at www.lsfnet.org.