

program at www.thediakoniaprogram.org). Classes began Sept. 14. For more information please contact Callie Howland at callie@ctkmiami.org or 305-665-6063 ex. 213.

October Events

- Oct. 6 Environmental-themed worship, including blessing of the animals.
- Oct. 20 Bread for the World Sunday
- Oct. 27 Reformation Service, Grace Lutheran Church, 4pm. Dinner to follow.
- Oct. 28 Civic Chorale of Greater Miami concert.



St. James Lutheran Church
Newsletter **Vol. 1, No. 2**
October 2013

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](#)

A couple of weeks ago we were treated in the lectionary to one of the most obscure entries in the Bible, Paul's short letter to Philemon. It is so short that if one were to look for it in the Bible, one might miss it unless one looked it up in the index. The letter has just 25 verses, 21 of which appeared in the lectionary. Since I did not preach on it yet mentioned it before my sermon, I thought I would offer some commentary on it in the newsletter this month. The basic "plot" of the letter is that Paul, who is imprisoned, is sending Onesimus back to Philemon. Paul describes Onesimus as "my child," "my own heart," and "a beloved brother," and yet it is clear that Onesimus is a slave who may have run away from Philemon to be with Paul during his time in prison. Paul pleads with Philemon to "welcome him as you would welcome me." He also says that if Onesimus has wronged Philemon in any way, that Philemon should charge it to Paul's account with him.

We do not know many of the details surrounding Onesimus and Philemon. What we do know is that Paul now considers Onesimus to be a brother in Christ, equal in that sense to both himself and Philemon. We also do not know if Philemon did what Paul asked him to do, even though Paul writes that he is "confident of your obedience." According to one theologian: "Paul is *not* indifferent to Onesimus' plight. He uses his vast rhetorical skill to secure a release for his fellow believer in Christ." What is unfortunate is that this letter was used in the 19th century as a defense for slavery even though it is quite clear that Paul was seeking freedom for Onesimus even though he was sending him back to Philemon, his master.

[Eco-tip of the Month](#)

Food: A typical carrot travels 1,838 miles to reach your dinner table. Support your farmers close to home and reduce your carbon footprint by visiting farmers' markets or participating in community Supported Agriculture: www.localharvest.org.

[LSF Can Help Your Church Find Outreach Opportunities](#)

More and more congregations and groups within congregations are now using Lutheran Services Florida as the conduit to link their social ministry outreach with the people who need it most. Some groups are putting together layettes and others are gathering toiletries. A few are making children's clothes while some are putting together backpacks filled with school supplies. As Lutherans, we all understand the importance of bringing God's healing, hope and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ, but we aren't always sure who those people are or where to find them. Lutheran Services Florida works with people in need every single day. Last year we worked with more than 52,000 of them. We would be honored to deliver your offerings to them on your behalf. For more information, please contact Steve Cecchetti at scecchetti@lsfnet.org or call [407-878-8397](tel:407-878-8397).

[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