



St. James Lutheran Church
Newsletter **Vol. 1, No. 6**
February 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.

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

February is the shortest month of the year, but it also is one of the busiest in terms of special days. Of course, my birthday falls in February, but the month also brings commemorations of two of our more notable presidents – George Washington and Abraham Lincoln – as well as the day dedicated to love: Valentine’s Day. Many a romance has blossomed on Valentine’s Day and some of those romances have led to marriage, over which I have presided more than a few times. Perhaps it is not surprising that the most commonly read scripture passage at weddings is from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. The relevant passages begin with “Love is patient; love is kind...” Most of us have heard this read dozens of times. And while the words certainly apply to the love between a man and a woman, if it were read in its original Greek, we would all know that what Paul is writing about is the love of God, for the word he uses is *agape*, one of three words in Greek that all mean “love” in English, the other two being *eros* and *phileo*. Understood in this way, the reading in its greater context makes much more sense, for it speaks of the kind of love is self-sacrificing, the kind of love that God showed for us all when he sent his only Son to live among us, die for our sins, and be resurrected from the dead, bringing us the promise of eternal life. This kind of love certainly can be present in a marriage, but it is unusual to say the least. For this reason, perhaps, Valentine’s Day is not a day celebrated in the church, though we can celebrate the love of God each and every day. We also can share God’s love with others and we do not need special days to do so. God’s love is unconditional and when we share it, we contribute to the building of God’s kingdom.

Eco-tip of the Month

Food: Nearly 70% of commercial fishing grounds are depleted or recovering from overfishing (Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization). Before ordering seafood, reach for your Seafood Watch pocket guide: www.seafoodwatch.org, which will give you the 'red' light or 'green' when deciding what to choose. Eco-tip provided by GreenFaith: www.greenfaith.org

Help LSF Make a Difference in 2014

Lutheran Services Florida is your social and human care ministry. LSF gathers support from across the state and delivers it to those in need ... refugees, abused and neglected children, youth in shelters, seniors who need guardianship, and disadvantaged children who are helped by our educational programs, just to name a few. We are good stewards with nearly 95 cents out of every dollar we receive going directly to services. Make a difference in 2014 by joining with LSF to bring God's healing, hope and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ. For more information, visit www.lsfnet.org or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

February Events

Feb. 10-20: Pastor Boudon on pilgrimage trip to Holy Land. Rev. John Nganga will lead worship on Feb. 16.

Feb. 20: Prayer Service, 8:00pm

Feb. 23: Conference Meeting, St. Thomas by the Bay, 3:00pm