

## April Events

**April 2:** Lenten Midweek Worship, St. James Lutheran Church, Dinner 6:30pm, Worship 7:15pm.

**April 5:** WELCA Spring Gathering, Zion Lutheran Church, 959 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Av., Deerfield Beach.

**April 9:** Lenten Midweek Worship, St. John Lutheran Church, 10390 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Av., Miami Shores, Dinner 6:30pm, Worship 7:15pm.

**April 13:** Palm Sunday.

**April 16:** Holy Land Presentation, 7:00pm

**April 18:** Good Friday Service, TBA

**April 20:** Easter Service in the Garden, 10:30am



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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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](#)

While I am still digesting my trip to the Holy Land, I can say at this point that most of it fell into one of two categories: spiritual experiences and historical lessons. Many of the holy sites in Israel are marked by churches, most of which were built at least a millennia ago and many of which have been renovated and/or rebuilt since. The largest of the churches can be found in Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Jerusalem. In Bethlehem, three different Christian denominations take care of the Church of the Nativity, which encloses the grotto (cave) where it is believed Jesus was born. In Nazareth, a more modern church sits atop an archeological site believed to have been the home of the Holy Family. Finally, in Jerusalem the massive Church of the Holy Sepulchre guards what many believe were the spots where Jesus was crucified, prepared for burial, and buried. I felt that these and other similar churches provided more of a spiritual experience than an historical one, since the actual sites were either symbolic markers on the floor or were heavily encased in protective structures. Most of the time we read from scripture and often sang a relevant hymn, both of which reinforced that spiritual experience.

We also visited a number of sites that enhanced our historical understanding of biblical times. As examples, we visited the ruined towns of Korazin, Capernaum, and Bethsaida, all of which had synagogues dating from the first century. We were able to see how these synagogues were used both for community meetings and for religious worship, the latter occurring only when the Torah was brought into the building. We also could see remains of small pools used by the Jews for their ritual purification. I will continue with this next month.

## [Eco-tip of the Month](#)

**Toxics:** Pesticides are designed to be harmful, and have been linked to many severe illnesses in both humans and wildlife (Beyond Pesticides). Children are especially susceptible to these chemicals since they are frequently touching surfaces, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults. Search for the least toxic methods for controlling pests in your home: <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/alternatives/factsheets/index.htm>. Eco-tip provided by GreenFaith: [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org)

## [LSF: Love, Service and Faith](#)

Alyssa is 12. Alyssa is being abused at home. Alyssa runs away. Alyssa has nowhere to go. Alyssa is living on the streets. LSF brings Alyssa to the youth shelter. Alyssa is safe and cared for. Alyssa gets counseling and returns to school. Alyssa is placed in a home that will care for her. LSF is Love, Service and Faith. LSF is Lutheran Services Florida. LSF is you. For more information, visit [www.lsfnet.org](http://www.lsfnet.org).