

## May Events

**May 1:** National Day of Prayer.

**May 11:** Mother's Day.

**May 31:** Pastor David Imhoff's Retirement Celebration on 6 p.m. at Embassy Suites, 3974 NW South River Dr, Miami, FL 33142

Ticket information will be forthcoming via email.



**St. James Lutheran Church**  
**Newsletter**      **Vol. 1, No. 9**  
**May 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 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**

As a former journalist and professor of political science, I could not overlook the current political situation in Israel in relation to the Palestinians. At several points on our trip we saw the wall that is being built by Israel to separate it physically from what may eventually become a Palestinian state, and on two occasions we passed through check points. The Israelis will tell you that the wall is being built in response to the second “intifada” uprising that occurred from 2000 to 2005, claiming the lives of some 3000 Palestinians and about 1000 Israelis, many of whom died from so-called “suicide bombers” who blew themselves up in public places. The Israelis also will tell you that, since they began building the wall, the number of suicide bombings has dropped to zero. The Palestinians, meanwhile, will tell you that the wall is a not-so-veiled effort to take over more of the land that is in dispute. Indeed, the wall often cuts through the middle of Palestinian communities, dividing families and making it difficult for them to commute to work. As I discovered during my time in Israel, the conflict with the Palestinians is not a simple one. On the one hand, our visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial confirmed for me the need for Jews to have a nation-state that can offer some protection. On the other hand, a map on display in the main square of Bethlehem showed graphically the shrinking territory in which the Palestinians hope to create their own nation-state. What seems to prevent agreement between the two sides are extremist factions that say “all is mine.” Meanwhile, the Israelis continue building settlements in Palestinian territory and the Palestinians continue resisting, violently at times. What is needed is an international commitment

to an equitable and just settlement. The Israelis need to stop taking over disputed land and the Palestinians need to recognize Israel’s right to exist. In the meantime, Palestinian Christians are caught in the middle, embraced by neither side while suffering from the ongoing conflict.

## **Eco-tip of the Month**

**Water:** Only 1% of the water on Earth is drinkable, with more and more water sources drying up each day (UN Environment Programme). Reduce your water usage and your water bill immediately by installing a low-flow showerhead and aerators on all water faucets.

Look for devices that are EPA Water Sense labeled: <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/Eco-tip> provided by GreenFaith: [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org)

## **Pray for the Children LSF Serves**

Last year Lutheran Services Florida brought healing, hope and help to more than 60,000 children here in Florida. Please pray for these children. You may not know their names, but God does.