

January Events

Jan 4: Third Annual Epiphany Bonfire, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 5:00-7:30pm. All are welcome!

Jan 25: Annual Miami-Dade-Monroe Conference Meeting, Grace Lutheran Church, 3:00pm.



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 in the weekly bulletin, 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

As we begin a new year, my thoughts often turn to new beginnings; that is, what we can do differently as a church. But I am not only talking about St. James. I am referring to the larger church, the Christian church, the body of Christ. In a recent article in the Huffington Post, Steve McSwain¹ pointed out that, between 2010 and 2012, more than half of all Christian churches did not add a single new member. Moreover, as many as 7,000 churches close their doors for good every year. At this point, less than 20% of the American population attends church on a regular basis. So clearly, we who are church-ed are failing to get the word out. What worked in the past is not working in the present.

So as we make a fresh start in a new year, once again let us ponder what it means to be “church.” As I have said repeatedly in my sermons, church is not a building. Church is the collection of individuals who believe in Jesus Christ and who strive to follow him. If we are true to that generic mission, we should quickly realize that we need to spend less time in the church building and more time in the real world, just as the early followers of Jesus did.

In another article a colleague posted on Facebook, Thom S. Rainer² points out some of the differences between

¹ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-mcswain/why-nobody-wants-to-go-to_b_4086016.html

² http://thomrainer.com/2014/07/26/11-differences-college-football-fan-church-member/?fb_action_ids=10205761577344050&fb_action_types=og.likes&

college football fans and church members. One of the most damning is that football fans regularly invite someone over to watch a game whereas church members rarely invite someone to come to their church. So as we make a new beginning in a new year, I invite all of you to think about what we can do to reach out to that 80% of the American population that does not attend church.

ELCA NEWS

ELCA leaders welcome renewal of diplomatic relations between U.S., Cuba

CHICAGO (ELCA) – The White House announcement that the United States will renew diplomatic relations with Cuba, as well as take steps toward the long-standing U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, came as welcome news for some members and leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

A Dec. 18, 2014, statement from the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director for ELCA Global Mission, said the announcement may allow for "the reunification of families and for the two nations. For more than 25 years our church has supported steps such as these toward normalization of relations with Cuba and urged our members to support interdependent efforts and relationships among the churches and peoples in the Caribbean region."