

## March Events

**March 13-20:** Pr. Boudon will be in Cuba as part of a Global Mission team.

**March 21:** Bishop's Lenten Visitation and Discipleship Day, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10:00am to 1:30pm.

**March 21, April 11, May 23:** Thrivent Builds and Habitat for Humanity volunteers needed.

**Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule** (Meal begins at 6:30pm, followed by worship at 7:15pm)

**Feb 25:** Immanuel Lutheran Church

**March 4:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**March 11:** St. John's Lutheran Church

**March 18:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**March 25:** South Miami Lutheran Church



**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

By now we all know that Lent is about resisting temptation, engaging in self-examination, making sacrifices, and preparing ourselves for Holy Week. But if you are paying attention to the lectionary this year, another theme is present: the various covenants God has made with us over time. We began on February 22 with God's covenant to Noah following the great flood: "I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth (Gen 9:11)." So far, God has kept that promise. Then in week two of Lent, we hear about God's covenant with Abraham: "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations (Gen 17:4)." Indeed, much of humanity can ultimately trace its roots back to Abraham. So again, God kept his promise.

The third and fourth Sundays in Lent focus on Moses and the covenant with him and the Israelites. We first hear the Ten Commandments, which may not seem like a covenant, but are if we consider them to be the basis of our relationship with God and each other. For as Jesus will later make clear, they boil down to just two: love God and love your neighbor. The following Sunday also may not appear to be a covenant. In the reading from Numbers (21:4-9), God punishes the Israelites for complaining but, when they repent, he heals them by means of a bronze serpent on a pole, the symbol used today by the medical profession.

Finally, on the fifth Sunday in Lent, God makes yet another covenant with the houses of Israel and Judah: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on

their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." This covenant looks forward to Jesus, who comes to dwell in us through baptism, making the law no longer necessary. For if Christ truly lives in us, we will love God and we will love our neighbor. So as we go through Lent, we ought to remember the many covenants that God has made with us along the way, reminding us that he is trustworthy and deserving of our love.

## ELCA News

### ELCA youth workers gather for renewal, education and connection

CHICAGO (ELCA) – Seeking to renew and revitalize their ministry, youth and family workers from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gathered in Detroit Jan. 30 – Feb. 2 for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's 19th-annual Extravaganza.

Through "renewal, education and connection," the ELCA Youth Ministry Network aims to empower adult leaders who work in youth ministry at ELCA congregations and in other areas of the church

- See more at: <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7722#sthash.YJordhek.dpuf>