

April Events

April 3: Good Friday Service, 7pm

April 5: Easter in the Garden Service, followed by lunch, 10:30am.

April 11: Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity.

April 17-18: Dean's Retreat, Tampa.



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

Our Lenten devotional this year drew its scriptural passages entirely from the letter to the Ephesians. With that in mind, I felt it important to share some background on that letter. First, many scholars do not believe that Paul actually wrote it. Important theological statements appear in both Ephesians and Colossians that differ from Paul's other letters. To give just one example, in Ephesians 2:20 the author says the church's foundation consists of the apostles and prophets, with Christ as the cornerstone. In Paul's undisputed letters, Christ is the sole foundation. In addition, the author of Ephesians writes as if he does not know the church (e.g. 1:15), whereas Paul spent two years in Ephesus and would have known them well. Consequently, most scholars believe Ephesians was written by one of Paul's disciples in the late first or early second centuries.

The other interesting aspect of Ephesians is that it closely mirrors Colossians, both structurally and thematically. Most scholars also believe that Paul did not write Colossians for reasons similar to those given for their doubt about Ephesians. They believe that the two letters had separate authors, with Ephesians being drawn from Colossians.

All that said, we should not merely dismiss these two letters as fakes or forgeries. Both clearly bear the mark of Paul and his teachings and both have important things to say about our faith. But we should not, perhaps, see either of them as having the same authority as Paul's undisputed letters.

Lutheran Services Florida

Love – Service – Faith...three words that describe the ministry of Lutheran Services Florida. We are Lutherans in Florida working together to ease the pain and suffering of children and families by providing protection, nourishment, and shelter. To become more involved with any of our 100 programs please visit www.lsfnet.org or our "like" Facebook page for frequent ministry updates.

ELCA NEWS

ELCA Conference of Bishops recommends unifying lay rosters, considers other business

ITASCA, Ill. (ELCA) – The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gathered here March 5-10 to continue their conversation and consideration on this church's proposals to form one unified roster of Word and Service. The conference also considered an array of topics ranging from theological education to mission support, from immigration reform to the means of grace, from the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 to *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* and more.

The conference is an advisory body of the ELCA that includes 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and secretary. It gathers at least twice a year for worship and study, sharing and to conduct business.

- See more at: <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7729#sthash.tlxiiMdN.dpuf>