

MAY EVENTS

May 3: Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1770 Brickell Av., 11:00am, followed by lunch. We will meet at St. James at 10:00am in case anyone needs a ride.

May 10: Mother's Day.

May 21-27: Pastor Boudon will be in Boston. Pr. Bud Klippen will lead worship on May 24.



St. James Lutheran Church
Newsletter **Vol. 2, No. 9**
May 2015

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

At the recent deans' retreat at Synod House in Tampa, we talked about the need to attract younger people to the church. We heard a statistic (which I have been unable to corroborate) that 70% of the so-called Millennials (people born after 1980) have never been in a church. While this may or may not be true, the Pew Research Center found in a national survey that only 18% of this generation attend church on a regular basis. On the other hand, almost half (45%) of Millennials believe that religion is important and many of these refer to themselves as "spiritual."¹ So the question posed to all of us is: what, if anything, can we do to attract the younger generations?

In another study by the Barna Group,² five areas were identified that could help to not only attract Millennials to church, but also to keep them there. First and foremost was their need for meaningful relationships. Church is supposed to be a community and young people are craving the kind of personal connections they don't find often in the world around them. Other areas included helping Millennials discover ways they can contribute to society through the church, making connections between their vocation and God's call, providing them with opportunities serve the poor, and strengthening their spiritual connection to God through Jesus Christ. If our churches today can begin

¹ <http://www.pewforum.org/2010/02/17/religion-among-the-millennials/>

² <https://www.barna.org/barna-update/millennials/635-5-reasons-millennials-stay-connected-to-church#.VTU7ZMYNDL>

focusing on some of these areas, we might find more young people sitting in our pews on Sunday morning but also present for activities during the week. If the Christian church is to not just survive but thrive, it needs to focus on attracting the younger generations.

Lutheran Services Florida

Nearly four million Syrian refugees have had to flee their country. Time and again Syrian Christians must renounce their faith or die. Many refugees have been living in a tent for more than five years with little food, no work, and no hope. Lutheran Services Florida in partnership with LIRS and congregations across the state help these families begin a new life in America. Let God use your hands to bring healing, hope, and help to these innocent victims of war. For more information please contact Steve Cecchetti, at [407-878-8397](tel:407-878-8397) or scecchetti@lsfnet.org.

ELCA NEWS

ELCA Church Council considers new mission funding approach and more

CHICAGO (ELCA) – The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) took action on proposals designed to examine and explore new opportunities to fund the mission of this church. The council also considered proposals on the formation of a single ELCA lay roster and more when it met here April 9-12, 2015. The council serves as the ELCA's board of directors. [- See more at: <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7735#sthash.rLv0JJUs.dpuf>]