

## September Events

**Sept 12:** Thrivent Family Night at the Marlins, 5:00pm

**Sept 13:** “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday at St. James.

**Sept 20:** “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday at Christ the King.

**Sept. 20:** Bible Study/Sunday School resumes.

**Sept 26:** Miami-Dade-Monroe Conference annual picnic, AD “Doug” Barnes Park, 11am-3pm.



**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

In his one known epistle, the apostle James wrote that, “faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead (2:17).” Later on in the passage, he also writes that, “you see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone (2:24).” This sentence seems to contradict the cornerstone of our Lutheran belief that “a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law (Romans 3:28).” So which one is right?

I am addressing the topic of works this month because on two successive Sundays we have opportunities to do God’s work. On September 13 we have the synod-wide “God’s work, our hands” Sunday, and on September 20 Christ the King is engaging in a number of work projects. As baptized children of God we are called to do God’s work in the world. But we do good works not as a pre-requisite for salvation but as the result of our salvation. That is the key here. Martin Luther was right in saying that we are justified by grace through faith alone because Christ’s death on the cross reconciled the world to God. God’s grace is free of charge and there’s nothing we can do to earn it. However, if we then say that we believe in Jesus as the Son of God and are baptized into his death and resurrection, good works should be the result of that action. The point that the apostle James is trying to make is that if we say we are Christians and do not love our neighbor, our confession of faith is mere lip service. For we not only are to love God with all our body, heart, and mind, but also our neighbor as ourselves. Only when we do both is our faith complete. So there is no contradiction. We *are* saved by God’s grace but our faith is completed by our works.

## Lutheran Services Florida

As the children prepare to return to school it is important to know that you are part of a ministry (Lutheran Services Florida) that provides Head Start and Early Head Start programs to more than 6000 children in various locations. These children live in economically depressed areas and it is only by giving them opportunities to learn in a safe and nurturing environment that we are able to provide them with the tools they need to break their cycle of poverty. You are LSF – a ministry of Love, Service, and Faith. [www.lsfnet.org](http://www.lsfnet.org).

## ELCA News

### **ELCA chaplains convene for education and training**

**CHICAGO (ELCA) 8/6/2015** – Traveling from as far away as Hawaii and Germany, 70 chaplains from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened in Chicago for the annual Chaplain Education and Training Event July 26-30. The chaplains, some of whom have recently returned from deployments in Afghanistan, Colombia and Djibouti, serve in the U.S. military, Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals and federal prisons.

In her opening remarks to the chaplains, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton said the church could learn a lot from the chaplains and their ministry among people of different faiths and cultures.