Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2006

We are children of earth, created from the dust, yet filled with the breathe of God. On Ash Wednesday we face our morality and the limits of our earthborn existence. Ashes are smeared on our foreheads as we hear the same words spoken first by God to Adam and Eve following their disobedience: *You are dust and to dust you shall return.*. It is hard not to make the connection with the words said at the rite of committal as we bury the dead: *Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*—from Sundays and Seasons, p. 112

We are dust and to dust we will return. Yet, during the season of Lent we remember our baptism, that we are washed clean by the fresh, pure, holy water of life. The dust is washed away. Our sins are cleansed, our lives are made new. Lent is a beautiful season of reflecting on the meaning of our baptism into the life of Christ.

During the forty days, remember that you were baptized into Christ Jesus, that your sins were washed away, and that you are inheritors of God's kingdom of love. During these forty days remember to worship God, giving all that you are and that you have to God. During these forty days read the word of God and ingest it into your heart, soul, and mind. During these forty days pray the spirit would be with you, guide and lead you deeper into the mystery of our Lord.

During this Lenten season consider inviting and bringing a friend with you to our Wednesday evening meals and worship. It will be a wonderful opportunity to have fun, enjoy a meal, and sit with your friend during our beautiful Lenten worship.

May your hearts and minds be at peace as you remember that your sins have been washed away and your life has been made new.

Pastor George

Pastor George's cell #-: 619-971-0399

Sunday Worship:

Traditional (1st & 3rd Sunday)	9:00 am
Contemporary (2nd & 4th Sunday)	9:00 am
Sunday church school	9:15 am
EHCC Sunday School	9:00 am
Sunday Adult Forum	10:30 am

Tuesday

Women's Bible Study 2nd Tuesday	9:30 am
Council meeting 4th Tuesday	7:00 pm
Women's Bible Study	7:00 pm

Wednesday

Ash Wednesday service	7:00 pm
Lenten soup supper	6:00 pm
Lenten service	7:00 pm

Thursday

Choir	7:30 pm

Council Members:

Stephen Dietrich	Chair
Glenda Holsbo	Vice Chair
Pat Cowan	Treasurer
Vicky Gay	Secretary
Mona Anderson	
Rod Cravens	
Bill Martin	
Paul Sofranko	
Laura Stephens	
Miria Stephens	

Financial Secretary—
Mona Anderson

St. John's Mission Statement:

St. John's is a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit into a community of faith and love to be God's instruments of love and grace.

St. John's Home Page

Happy Birthday

2 Paula Pazo
4 Mildred Meyer
5 Justin Clark
6 Lois Kruger
11 Anita Sofranko
12 Patty Persiani
13 Florida Lupachini
19 Bill Conrad
18 Mike LaValle
21 Linda Ross
23 Judy Dietrich
Sherie Mucia

Happy Wedding Anniversary

26 Paul & Anita Sofranko

If we are missing your birth, or anniversary date please let the office. Also, if you need a directory, please contact the church office, 444-1272.

We're collecting:

Box Tops for Education, used ink cartridges, old reading glasses and travel size hygiene items.

You can leave the glasses and hygiene items in the boxes, that are in the kitchen and drop the cartridges and Box Tops by the office.

Lenten soup dinners will be on Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 at 6 pm. Don't rush home and make dinner, come over to the Fellowship Hall and enjoy a delicious soup and salad meal. If you are interested in being a cook for a night, (we need 3) please contact the coordinator, Pat Cowan, 443-2312 or if you just want to help out.
Cooks: Brian Cowan, Laura Stephens, and ???.

A Thank You note from Interfaith Network Shelter:
Dear Pat,
Thank you for your continued support of the shelter. With all the events that occurred in 2005 and the donations that went to them, I didn't have the heart to add Interfaith Shelter to the list of those in need of monetary donations. Fortunately I saved money from the previous year, but by the end of our two weeks we were running low and I wanted you to know that your donation of food helped us stay in the black.
Our INS Kick-Off meeting is in September and I hope to see your coordinator there. Again, Thank you for all your help.
Sincerely, Kimberly

And a Thank you note from Salvation Army Back Country: To all of you who have supported us through the years with generous donations of blankets, clothing and food, we Thank You. We want to give a special thanks to those that made the beautiful blankets.
from, Bonnie and Betty

In our little way we help out those in need.

If you are still collecting blankets, and warm clothing for Back Country, you can drop them by the office. The items will be delivered to them, at the end of March.

March 2006

Monthly Planner

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	2 7:30 PM Choir	3	4 9:00 AM Cleaning Angels
			set up Rummage Sale			
5 9:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:15 AM Sunday church school 10:30 AM Adult Forum	6	7 9:30 AM Women's Bible study	8 6:00 PM Lenten supper 7:00 PM Lenten service	9 7:30 PM Choir	10	11 7:00 AM Rummage Sale
		set up Rummage Sale				
12 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:15 AM Sunday church school 10:30 AM Adult Forum 1:00 PM SHARE sign up	13	14 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Council meeting	15 6:00 PM Lenten supper 7:00 PM Lenten service	16 7:30 PM Choir	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 9:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:15 AM Sunday church school 10:30 AM Adult Forum	20 **Newsletter deadline**	21 9:30 AM Women's Bible study	22 6:00 PM Lenten supper 7:00 PM Lenten service	23 7:30 PM Choir	24	25 6:30 AM SHARE pick up
26 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:15 AM Sunday church school 10:30 AM Adult Forum **Newsletters delivered**	27	28 8:45 AM Women's Bus. mtg 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	29 6:00 PM Lenten supper 7:00 PM Lenten service	30 7:30 PM Choir	31	

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News from the Council Chair:

This time, the President's Desk article is from only one half of the desk: it is with great joy that we announce the election of a new president, Steve Dietrich, and that of course, means that I have stepped down from the post. I didn't step very far, in fact, I only moved over one chair, to that of treasurer. Steve had been filling that post for the last year with great enthusiasm, but was relieved to hand over those responsibilities in favor of leading the council. So I'm back to the books!

And that means this is my last column as president. It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to represent St. John's, and to write this little column, and lead the council. We've had a wonderful and tumultuous couple of years and I hope I was able to add Spirit-led leadership and His wisdom combined with my own whacky sense of humor over that time.

As I'm writing this, it sounds as if I'm going away to some far-off and exotic place, rather than just switching chairs with Steve. Let's not get carried away with the dramatics: this is a smooth transition and hopefully nothing will change in the management of the church.

I am looking forward very much to our newest project, that of creating a rock garden, garden of the Cross, highlighted Cross, whatever we're going to call it, in our front lawn. The council voted to actively work on the project, and we'll be getting out the pencils and crayons to get started on the dreaming very shortly. Stay tuned for details. We hope to have everyone in the congregation involved in the project – if you can't haul rocks, you can still dream of where you think they'd look best, and if you don't have an artistic bone in your body, you can still haul rocks. And if you can't haul rocks or dream, maybe you can open up your pocketbook for those rocks. Or maybe you can just drop by one day while there are some very hot and very busy people hauling rocks and give them a glass of iced tea. There's jobs for everyone, and we all have a hand in this great statement from St. John's to the world: We're here and we're going to be here forever!!

Pat Cowan

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ. This is a somewhat different position I find myself. After being on the Council for the last couple of years, under the superb leadership of Pat Cowan, I am honored to have been selected to serve as Council President this year. I hope that I can measure up to the excellence that you have come to know during the tenure of Pat. I would also like to welcome our new Council members: Mona Anderson, Laura Stephens, Miria Stephens, and Paul Sofranko. I am sure that we are going to have a very productive year.

We have a lot of things coming up this month. We start off with Ash Wednesday on March 1 and Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings in preparation for Easter next month. We also have the Cleaning Angels on March 4th. We will also be renegotiating with East Hills for their continued use of the facilities. We will provide more information about that as it becomes available.

I am going to keep this short this month. I'm sure that I will have plenty to tell you about over the next year and I look forward to serving St. John's in this new position.

God's Blessing's,
Steve Dietrich

Council Committee chairs:

Property— Rod Cravens, Bill Martin
Worship and Music— Miria Stephens
Evangelism— Glenda Holsbo
Stewardship— Glenda Holsbo
Negotiating—Pat Cowan
Christian Education and Youth—
Social Ministry—
Mona Anderson, Vicky Gay, Paul Sofranko and Laura Stephens were undecided.

Community Events

Spring Home & Garden Show
March 3-5
Admission:
$12.00 for over 12 years
Discount after 3 pm- $6.00
Hours:
3/3 12-7 pm
3/4 10 am-7 pm
3/5 10 am-5 pm
Parking $8.00
Del Mar Fairgrounds

California Friendly Plant Sale
March 18
The Garden at Cuyamaca College
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive, El Cajon.
9 am—3 pm
Free admission.

St. Patrick's Day Parade
March 11
Flag raising: 10:30 am
Parade: 11:00 am starting at 6th and Juniper, proceeding west to 5th Avenue, continuing north to Upas Street, east to 6th Avenue ending at 6th and Laurel.
An Irish Festival will be held here from 9 am—5 pm. Admission is free. Enjoy food, entertainment, music, a children's area and a beer garden.

March 18-19
Signature I County Quarter Horse Show
8 am—5 pm
Located at The Horse Park, 2 miles east of I 5 at Via de la Valle and El Camino Real, Del Mar.
Free admission.

March 18-19 & 25-26
Botanical Shows
Room 101
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Free admission.

Country Club Classic Dog Show
March 24-26
8 am—5 pm
O'Brien & Bing Crosby Halls
Del Mar Fairgrounds.
$8.00 parking.
Free admission.

March 30—April 2
Spring Classic Quarter Horse Show
Located at The Horse Park, 2 miles east of I 5 at Via de la Valle and El Camino Real.
Free admission.

Doggie Dash 2006
March 26
Kit Carson Park, Bear Valley Parkway, Escondido
A free 5 K walk/run will start at 8:15 am or you can do a casual mile at 9 am.
Free pancake breakfast from 7:30 –10:30 am. Vendors and doggie/owner contest to partake in. Need more info call: 858-268-1250. Your donation will benefit the Escondido Humane Society.

March 31–April 2
San Diego Interior Design & Landscape Expo
Hours:
Friday: 12– 9 pm
Saturday: 10 am—7 pm
Sunday: 10 am—5 pm
Adults & over 12 years old- $10.
San Diego Convention Center Halls G & H

San Diego Gulls Hockey Games are back, at the ipayOne Center (formerly the Sports Arena)
Call 619-224-4171 for prices, and dates.

"Growing for Christ"

Women of the ELCA

Do you wonder what other women do that belong to WELCA? Find out by subscribing to the Lutheran Women Today. Each month you receive a magazine filled with information about what women do in the world. There is health wise info and a Bible study (this is the one that is used at the Women's evening Bible study on the fourth Tuesday of each month) . The magazine is only $2.50 a month. Call to subscribe — 800-328-4648.

Passing on the Faith Conference will inspire, inform and equip your congregation to build an effective ministry partnership with home and community.
Registration fees before April 1: $60 per person, or $180 for 3 members of your congregation, $20 for each additional person.
After April 1 the fee goes up to $70 per person or $200 per 3 members of your congregation.
Many workshops, small group reflections and keynote speakers.

Registration forms are available in the church office.

Friday Conference: 9 am— 9 pm.
Saturday Conference: 8:30 am— 4:15 pm

APRIL 28-29

Hope Lutheran Church
29141 Vallejo Ave.
Temecula
951-676-6262

St. John's Events

March's Events

1— Ash Wednesday

4—"Cleaning Angels"

8, 15, 22, 29—Lenten soup dinners at 6 pm and services at 7 pm

11— Rummage Sale

5— Lenten soup dinner at 6 pm and service at 7 pm

9— Palm Sunday

13—Seder meal

14—Good Friday service

16— Easter Sunday
Easterbreakfast at 10:15 am

Are You 80 + ?

If you are 80 or more, please call the church office so we can note your birthday in the monthly newsletter and on Sunday.
The Bible encourages us to honor those who are faithfully following the Lord in their later years. May the Lord draw nearer and dearer to you with each passing day.

A reflection of observing Lent by Inez Torres Davis.

Instead of giving up something, try observing this time by replacing one thing with something else. Consider sitting in total silence for 15 minutes every day or each evening writing a journal reflection on God's grace in your life.

Open your ears and heart to God's grace. His grace can help each of us as we go through our daily

Rummage Sale
Saturday,
March 11
7 am — 12 pm

Come, stop and shop. Bargains, bargains especially the last hour, when everything will be half price.

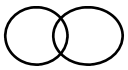
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Pacific South Coast Chapter
MS walk

Saturday, April 29
Carlsbad Night Walk at
LEGOLAND California
Opening ceremonies: 6 pm
Walk starts: 7 pm
Walk festivities: 6 –10 pm

Sunday, April 30
San Diego Day Walk at the Embarcadero
Marina Park South
Opening ceremonies: 8 am
Walk starts: 8:30 am
Walk festivities: 8:30 am—12 pm

Become part of a team or you can go it alone.
The church office has registration forms for all interested parties or you can call 800-486-6762 for voice registration.

"Step by step...closer to a cure"



Lutheran Marriage
Encounter Weekend
March 24-26
Kings Inn, Hotel Circle South

This weekend will start at 7:30 pm on Friday and end at 6 pm on Sunday. Please register by March 15 with a non-refundable fee of $45. Call Gary or Mary Ann Harms at 619-972-7113 for more info or to register.

Second Annual Lutheran High School Golf Classic

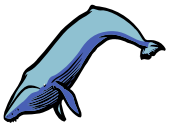
Saturday, April 29 1 pm

Carlton Oaks Golf Club

9200 Inwood Drive Santee

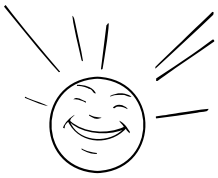
Register by April 14

need more info or to register call: 262-4444



This is the last month to watch the Gray Whales go south. You can get a long distance view from Point Loma . Bring binoculars and wander through the Cabrillo Monument and enjoy the Gray Whale display. You can also get closer to the whales, on a Hornblower Cruise. Call 686-8700 for more info on cruises.

"Peace starts with a smile"



March Worship Assistant's Schedule		
	9:00 am	
CANTOR	Miria Stephens	**5 & 19**
READERS		**SNACKS**
3/5	Vicky Gay	Kristine Hurtado-B.
3/12	Vicky Gay	Mona Anderson
3/19	Mona Anderson	Glenda Holsbo
3/26	Mona Anderson	Kim Stephens-Doll
ASSISTANTS		
3/5	Vicky Gay	The Worship Assistant's Schedule is posted until August.
3/12	Vicky Gay	
3/19	Mona Anderson	
3/26	Mona Anderson	
USHERS		
3/5	Rene Brown	
3/12	Rene Brown	**Please be prepared to light**
3/19	Maxine Mattson	**and extinguish candles.**
3/26	Maxine Mattson	
ALTAR GUILD	Connie Reck	

Our California Lutheran University student, Wendy Stephens, is taking an International Business Seminar (a school major requirement) from May 20 – June 13. She will be visiting numerous sites: Rome, Florence, Innsbruck, Munich, Lausanne, Paris, and London. But before she leaves for that tour, she will also be involved in the 2006 CLU Choral Ensembles Scandinavian Tour, visiting Norway and Sweden, from May 14 – 25. You wonder why I'm telling you this info, it's simple, she can't afford all of it herself and really needs our help to get there. Not many student have $7,000 in their back pockets. Needless to say this is a wonderful educational opportunity for her. She will be doing fundraising and will gladly accept any donations given. If you would like to contribute to her trip, you can leave a check for her in the office or give it to one of her parents, John and Miria Stephens. THANK YOU.

Volume 4 Issue 3

ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1430 Melody Lane El Cajon, CA 92019

Address service requested

Phone: (619) 444-1272
Fax: (619) 444-1353
Email: secretary@sj.sdcoxmail.com
Website: http:/www.stjohnslutheranelcajonorg

Staff:

George Ekeren-Moening	Pastor
Laura Stephens	Secretary
Katherine Stephens-Doll	Choir Director
Jeane Lawrie	Accompanist
Drew Peterson	Accompanist
Beth Stephens & Corie Stephens	Youth
Cynthia Cooley	Sunday School Director

Weekly Group Building Usage

Monday-Friday	7:30 am	A.A.Coffee Clutchers
Monday-Friday	12 pm	A.A. EC Noon Group
Tuesdays	7 pm	Women's AlAnon Clsd
3rd Wednesdays	7 pm	4H Beef
1st & 3rd	6 pm	G. S./Brownies
2nd	6:30 pm	G.S. Leaders
2nd	7 pm	4H/ Golden Clover
Thursdays	6 pm	DBSA (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance)
	8 pm	NA Speakers
Every other Fridays	6 pm	G. S./Brownies
	9 am	License 2 Freedom
	7:30 pm	AlAnon Open
Saturdays 4th	6:30 am	SHARE pick up
2nd Sunday	1 pm	SHARE sign up