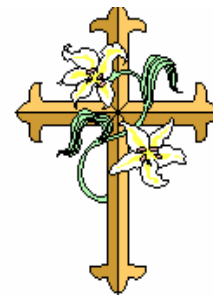


**ST. JOHN'S GOODNEWSLETTER**  
**"Growing for Christ"**



**Volume 3**  
**Issue 3**

**March 2005**

*Sunday Worship:*  
*Traditional 9:00 am*  
*(1st & 3rd Sunday)*  
*Contemporary 9:00 am*  
*(2nd & 4th Sunday)*

*Children's Sunday School*  
*9:15 am*  
*Sunday Adult Forum*  
*10:30 a m*

*Wednesday* 7:00 pm  
*Lenten service*

*Thursday* 7:30 pm  
*Choir Rehearsal*

*Reverend Gene Holtz*  
*Interim Pastor*

*Council Members:*  
*Pat Cowan* President  
*Glenda Holsbo* Vice President  
*Denise Lemler* Secretary  
*Stephen Dietrich* Church treasurer

*Rod Cravens*  
*Vicky Gay*  
*Bill Martin*  
*Patty Persiani*

**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.*

*Our Holy Days*

Wednesday Services

March 2, 9, and 16 at 7 pm- James, Pontius Pilate, & Caiaphas bring the events of the Passion close to home.

Palm Sunday - March 20

Sunday worship at 9 am. We recall the triumphant procession & welcome our King.

Maundy Thursday - March 24

Thursday at 6 pm, the Seder Meal recalls that solemn night, the night he was betrayed, the evening of Gethsemane.

Good Friday - March 25

Friday at 7 pm, we listen to the Seven Last Words from the Cross and meditate on the love that knows no bounds.

Easter Sunday - March 27

We celebrate the day of days, the Resurrection of our Lord. Worship at 9 am followed by Easter breakfast.

**GOD MAKES DAYS SPECIAL**

It was my brother's 60th birthday, and she made it so special for him. "Surprise" they called when he walked



*From Pastor Gene*

in. Family from nearby. Friends from 300 miles away. She made it special. He felt cared for and loved.

God makes days special for us. **Surprise** that he would come from so far - from heaven to earth. **Surprise** that he could heal and speak the powerful truth and even raise the dead. **Surprise** that it would end in such a cruel way, such a painful death. **Surprise** that death could not hold him.

In March we remember some of those special days. It's worth the short trip or a long

trip to share in God's surprise.

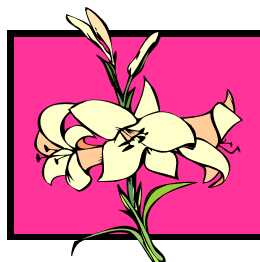
**Palm Sunday** we remember his coming to the Holy City & the beginning of Holy Week. **Maundy Thursday** is the night he celebrated Passover and instituted Holy Communion. **Good Friday** is the day of atonement - he atoned for our sins so we can be free. **The Day of Resurrection** is the best day of all. We understand what his dying was about. He conquered sin and death and opens to us his eternal kingdom.

And God makes your days special. You know you are cared for and loved. No doubt about it.

**Let's celebrate!**

May God bless your days and your celebrations.

*Pastor*





# March 2005 Monthly Planner



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<p>6</p> <p><b>9:00 AM Traditional</b> 9:15 AM Children's S. S. 10:30 AM Adult Forum</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00 PM Transitional team mtg.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM Lenten Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM "Cleaning Angels"</p>																																										
<p>13</p> <p><b>9:00 AM Contemporary</b> 9:15 AM Children's S. S. 10:30 AM Adult Forum 1:00 PM SHARE sign up</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 PM Council</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM Lenten Service</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM "Cleaning Angels"</p>																																										
<p>20</p> <p><b>9:00 AM Traditional</b> 9:15 AM Children's S. S. 10:30 AM Adult Forum <i>Newsletter deadline</i> <b>Palm Sunday</b></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM Lenten Service</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir St. Pat's Day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM "Cleaning Angels"</p>																																										
<p>27</p> <p><b>9:00 AM Contemporary</b> 9:15 AM Children's S. S. 10:00 AM Easter Breakfast <b>Easter</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM Women's Business mtg.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Eye Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 PM Seder Meal</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 PM Good Friday Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 AM SHARE pick up</p>																																										
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## Directory changes:

The following people have new address information. Please contact the church for details.

Lorene Darland  
Ed Schimmel  
Earle Grender's  
Doris Hartman

## **Welcome new members:**

Phillip Anderson

Phil is a parts consultant for Saturn of San Diego. He grew up with a love of sports and is a lifelong Charger fan. He was baptized at St. Kieran's Church, attended skyline the Rock, and settled on St. John's as his home church.

Abigail Byrd

She is a chaplain with Sharp hospice and works with "a wonderful group of people." She loves gardening and dogs. Abby will be singing in our choir until her move to Tucson., where most her family lives. She has 2 daughters.

Ruth Hazelebach

Ruth has worked in customer service/dispatch for the last 10 years. She loves animals and has 6 cats, 2 dogs, fish, etc. She enjoys off roading in the desert with family. Ruth has 5 members in her family. "I was born and grew up in San Diego as a Catholic and have happily turned to the Lutheran Church to further my relationship with God."

## *Our Ministries of Prayer & Visiting*

To make us more effective and caring during the interim as well as in the long term, Pastor Gene has met with the group we are calling our Telephone Prayer and Information Team and our Visitation Ministers.

The Telephone Team wants to assure all members that they are prayed for and make sure that they are aware of special events and the general ministry of the church. They will be phoning every member about once a month. If you did not receive a phone call in February, please call the church office.

Pat Persiani is our Lead Caller. Our phone team consists of Mary Swanbeck, Judy DeLong, Maxine Mattson, Marilyn Litsheim, Rene Brown, and Florence Stephens. Alternates are Mona Anderson and Anita Sofranko.

The Visitation Ministers are Luella Cravens, Marilyn Litsheim, Charles Meyer, and Ernie Burkleo. If we are aware of members who are homebound either long-term or short-term, they will offer to visit and bring Holy Communion to them. They will also make hospital visitations. The pastor will also do private communions and hospital visitations, but we want to make sure we are available for the spiritual needs of our members. We also want to make use of the spiritual gifts God has given to our members for this kind of ministry. If you are homebound and would appreciate receiving Communion, please call the church office, 444-1272.



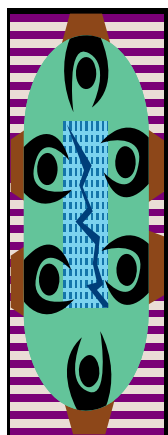
## Happy Birthday

Mildred Meyer  
Bill Conrad  
Anita SoFranko  
Patty Persiani  
Judy Dietrich  
Sherie Mucia  
Florida Lupachini



## Happy Wedding Anniversary

Paul & Anita SoFranko



**Church Council News:**

*Our new officers:*

*President—*

*Pat Cowan*

*Vice President—*

*Glenda Holsbo*

*Secretary—*

*Denise Lemler*

*Church treasurer—*

*Stephen Dietrich*

*If you are interested in being on a committee, or are already on one please contact:*

**PROPERTY—**

*Rod Cravens & Bill Martin*

**CHRISTIAN ED. & YOUTH—**

*Vicky Gay*

**EVANGELISM & STEWARDSHIP—**

*Glenda Holsbo*

**SOCIAL MINISTRY—**

*Patty Persiani*

**WORSHIP & MUSIC—**

*Denise Lemler*

**NEGOTIATING—**

*Stephen Dietrich*

**BUDGET & FINANCE—**

*Stephen Dietrich*

*Committee meetings are the first*

*Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.*

*Call the appropriate council member to make sure of the day.*

From the President's Corner

I am so happy to report that the congregation overwhelmingly voted to approve sharing our facilities with East Hills Christian Church. It will be wonderful to have our hallways full again with people of all ages, from the little tots up to the seniors. I really believe this is God's work happening in our midst: they were a people without a place, and we were a place without people, and the mix of us all will enable all of us to do a better job for the Lord. We can supply them with a constant home, a place where they can establish their worship and fellowship services, an office where they can conduct the business of their church, a place where they can build memories. They can supply us with much needed financial assistance and most of all, with their spirit and energy. I thank God that we who have so little are able to share so much.

I'm also very pleased with the outpouring of congregational support in all the areas of ministry of St. John's. We've known that if we didn't step forward and do things ourselves, they simply wouldn't get done, and it's so refreshing to see so many hands reaching out to help and work. The Transition Teams are busy completing their assigned tasks with a deadline of March 2 looming ahead. After we complete these initial stages of preparation, we will be ready to involve the congregation in various studies and projects. The Council members are organized and preparing for the year of work. The Committees are humming along. We even seem to have an enthusiastic initial response to the March Cleaning Angels calendar.

A small note of caution: in light of all our responses, let's remember that it wouldn't be prudent if all of us decided to interface with all of the East Hills folks right away. We have a committee set up and we have made provisions for formal communications between the two churches, and therefore, we respectfully request that if you notice something which needs to be brought to their attention, that you would bring it first to me or to Steve Dietrich or to Pastor Gene.

Speaking of Steve: he's making a new St. John's website which is really fantastic. Stay tuned for the grand unveiling! It's a wonderful work of art, and he's put a lot of effort into it – be sure to stop by and thank him for sharing his time and talents. I pray that the spirit of the journey of rebirth be with you all as we go through this Lenten season.

**Thank you**  
**for your generosity:**

In January, members donated \$345 to the Ault family to support their Aviation Ministry in Brazil. And \$800 was received and sent on for Tsunami Relief. Both amounts will be doubled through Thrivent.



**Our 50th  
Year anniversary is  
coming on April  
10th . If you have**

**any info about the church's  
history, please contact Charlie  
Meyer or bring it into the office  
or contact a committee member.**

Our 50th committee members are Charlie Meyer, Luella Cravens, Patty Persiani, Marilyn Litsheim, Laura Stephens, Pastor Gene Holtz

## **Bishop to Address Us for 50th Anniversary**

Bishop Murray Finck will be the preacher for the 50th Anniversary of St. John's Lutheran on April 10.

The celebration service will be at 9 am. Following the service you will be invited to visit displays telling the history of St. John's, and then take part in the Celebration Banquet in the Fellowship Hall.

## **EASTER BREAKFAST**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27  
8:30AM—11AM**

**Come and enjoy a delicious  
breakfast featuring:  
EGG DISHES, FRUIT  
TRAYS, PASTRIES, JUICES  
AND COFFEE**



**A FREE WILL  
OFFERING WILL BE  
TAKEN**

## **East Hills Christian Will Share Facilities**

At the special congregational meeting on February 20, the people of St. John's voted to share our facilities with East Hill Christian Church.

Beginning probably in April, they will have Sunday School & Bible class while we worship at 9 am. Our children are invited to attend their Sunday School. Then about 11 am they will use the Worship Center for their service, and following our 9 am service we will have use of the Fellowship Hall.

They will have daily use of the room that was the preschool office and the meeting room next to it. They will also have use of other rooms through the week for youth events and meetings.

We want to welcome them warmly as brothers and sisters in Christ. Where there are questions or schedule problems the Council work to resolve them.

We look forward to increased use of the facilities God has given us and to the financial assistance they will provide us. We hope that together we can better serve the Lord and his people.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**GULLS HOCKEY NIGHT**  
80'S NIGHT / FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

**GULLS VS. FRESNO  
MARCH 19, 2005**

GAME STARTS AT 7:00PM  
AT THE SAN DIEGO SPORTS ARENA

**LOGE LEVEL TICKETS  
ARE ONLY \$15**

SONIC FLOOD WILL BE PLAYING A PRE-GAME  
CONCERT AT 4:30PM SPONSORED BY



MUST HAVE A GAME TICKET TO ATTEND CONCERT!

**IT'S 80'S NIGHT  
SO DRESS THE PART!**

**FREE 80'S TANK TOPS  
FOR THE FIRST 6,000 FANS!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
TICKETS FOR THIS NIGHT,  
PLEASE CONTACT

**STEVE DIETRICH**  
STEPHEN.J.DIETRICH@SAIC.COM  
(858)826-2303





Come and join us for our Seder Meal on **March 24 at 6 pm** RSVP- **444-1272**



Want to be a kid again and go to camp? Here's your chance.

Lutheran Retreats, Camps Conferences of Southern California need:

- Camp Counselors
- Staff in Training
- Day Camp Coordinators
- Beach Camp Food Directors
- Health Coordinators/ Camp Nurse
- Camp Pastors, Craft, Leaders & other Volunteers

For more info on what to do, contact:

Luther Village

Christina Beecher, 39136 Harris Rd.

Oak Glen, CA 92399

909-797-9183

beecherchristina@aol.com

Or

El Camino Pines

Chris Smith or Matt Brothers, 11900 Frontier Rd.

Frazier Park, CA 93225

661-245-3519

chrissmith@lrccsa.org

mattbrothers@lrccsa.org



Attention:

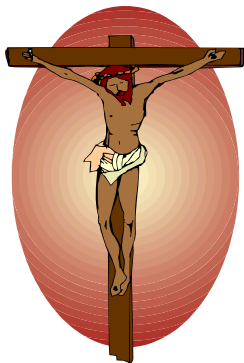
We would like to commission our Phone Callers and Visitors on Sunday, March 6, at our 9 am service. We deeply appreciate their ministry on behalf of the entire congregation.

**March's Coming Events**

March 24  
Maundy Thursday Seder Meal 6pm

March 25  
Good Friday Service 7pm

March 27  
Easter Service & Breakfast



April 10  
50th Anniversary Celebration



## March Assistants Schedule

	9:00 am	
<b>CANTOR 6 &amp; 20</b>	Miria Stephens	
<b>READERS</b>		<u><b>SNACKS</b></u>
3/6	Luella Cravens	Pat Cowan
3/13	Luella Cravens	Mona Anderson
3/20	John Stephens	Kristine Hurtado-Bergstrom
3/27	John Stephens	EASTER BREAKFAST
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b>		
3/6	Luella Cravens	
3/13	Luella Cravens	
3/20	John Stephens	
3/27	John Stephens	
<b>USHERS</b>		
36	Charlie Meyer	<b>Please be prepared to light</b>
3/13	Charlie Meyer	<b>and extinguish candles.</b>
3/20	Mona Anderson	
3/27	Mona Anderson	
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>		
	Laura Stephens	



**We need our “ Cleaning Angels “ once again to help on Saturdays, March 5, 12, 19 at 9 am. Jobs to do:**

**Clean carpets in Offices, Conference Room and Main Hallway  
 Clean kitchen, Wash windows in Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and offices ,  
 Wash blinds in Fellowship Hall, Dust furniture and chairs in Sanctuary and  
 Conference Room, Pull weeds in planters, Spot clean walls and doors for  
 marks everywhere, Clean light globes in Sanctuary, Wash down outside of  
 building, High dust for cobwebs everywhere, Clean tile floors in Fellowship  
 hall, kitchen, bathrooms and entry ways,  
 Sign up sheet is on the double doors. Write down here you want to help out**

