



August 2007

# Goodnewsletter

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor George was in South Dakota at press time. We wish his family a safe and restful trip.



from Pastor George

John. In the 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra is the alphabet.

Some Bible facts...

Did you know that the Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 733,746 words, 31,163 verses, 1,189 chapters and 66 books. The longest chapter is the 119th Psalm; shortest, the middle chapter, the 117th Psalm. The middle verse is the 8th of the 118th Psalm. The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah. The word "and" occurs 46,227 times; the word Jehovah 6,855 times. The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of the 2nd Book of Kings are alike. The longest verse is the 9th of the 8th chapter of Esther; the shortest verse is the 35th of the 11th chapter of

The finest piece of reading is the 26th chapter of Acts. The name of God is not mentioned in the Book of Esther.

The Bible contains 2 testaments. The *Old* is Law, The *New* is Love. The *Old* is the Bud, The *New* is the Bloom. In the *Old*, man is reaching up for God. In the *New*, God is reaching down for man. In the *Old*, man is in the valley but can see the sun shining on the mountain tops. In the *New* he is on the mountain top basking in the sunlight of God's infinite love.

Take a look in the Bible and see what you find.

**Sunday Worship:**  
Traditional (1st & 3rd Sunday) 9:00 am  
Contemporary (2nd & 4th Sunday) 9:00 am  
Children's Sunday school 9:15 am  
Adult Forum 10:30 am

**Tuesday:**  
Women's Bible Study 9:30 am  
2nd Tuesday: Council meeting 7:00 pm  
4th Tuesday: Women's Business mtg 8:45 am  
Women's Eve. Bible Study 7:00 pm  
**Wednesday:**  
Confirmation class 6:00 pm  
Bible study 6:45 pm

**Thursday:**  
Choir 7:30 pm

**Council Members:**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Pat Cowan      | President      |
| Glenda Holsbo  | Vice President |
| Vicky Gay      | Secretary      |
| Mona Anderson  | Treasurer      |
| Rod Cravens    |                |
| Mike LaValle   |                |
| Bill Martin    |                |
| Paul Sofranko  |                |
| Laura 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

11 Mary Swanbeck  
18 Gilberto Pazo

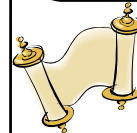


## Happy Wedding Anniversary

12 John & Miria Stephens  
16 Larry & Mona Anderson

## September

9/3 Labor Day  
9/9 Grandparents Day  
9/11 Council meeting  
9/16 Dead Sea Scrolls  
9/23 Fall begins



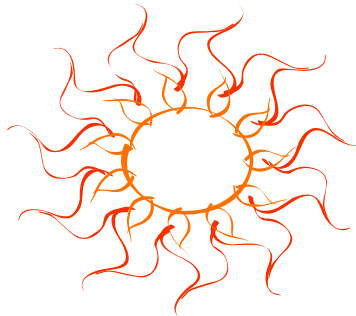
## Dead Sea Scrolls

If you are interested in going to see the Dead Sea Scrolls, contact the church office, 444-1272. There are few tickets remaining, at \$24 each.



## Our Social Ministry Outreach is collecting:

- Box Tops 4 Education for the Navajo Lutheran Mission
- Used eye glasses
- Personal hygiene products
- School supplies for Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry
- Items for Salvation Army Back Country - diapers (any size), adult underwear protection, blankets, coats
- Used cell phones for Secure the Call Foundation



Contact the church office, 444-1272.

1. If we missed your special day.
2. To order flowers for your special occasion.



Our sympathies go out to the Robert (Bob) Horst family. Florence, his mother, died July 21, at the age of 96 in Kanab, Utah. Florence was an active member of St. John's for many years, until her back made her curtail some of her activities. She always had a great spirit, a great faith and put her trust in the Lord.

## From the President's Desk

Hello again! It's hard to be cheery during this time when we're missing our pastor. He knows we miss him and wish him all the best as he and his daughters go through their time of mourning.

I'm so proud of our little church and how we manage during times of topsy-turvy happenings. We had Pastor Melissa Lundquist lead us for 2 Sundays. We not only welcomed her into our service, but we've been truly blessed by her presence. And let's not forget those times when I've been up in the pulpit teaching the lesson! Notice I said "teaching", not "preaching". There's a big difference, and I'm definitely a teacher, not a preacher! But we have fun, and we emphasize the unity of the family of faith, worshipping together and continuing in our walk with the Lord, regardless of who's leading the service.

Our last council meeting was very productive. We finalized decisions on 2 key issues facing St. John's:

1. We voted to hold our annual congregational meeting on the first Sunday of every December, from now on. This will put us in alignment with our new constitution, and will also make practical sense, as we will be able to decide on our budget for the following year before it actually begins.
2. We voted to move one half of our Thrivent Money Market funds into the stock market. We appointed Vicky Gay to be our Thrivent representative, and authorized her to invest our funds in moderately conservative mutual funds, in the hopes of having resources available so we may continue our scholarship program. We also authorized putting \$200 a month into the account.

Those two steps will have long lasting effects on St. John's, so we pray we have acted responsibly and appropriately.

Enjoy your summer vacation!

Til next month,  
Your Sister in Christ,  
*Pat*



To receive your newsletter via E-mail, contact Stephen Dietrich at: [sjdietch@cox.net](mailto:sjdietch@cox.net) and he will get back to you.

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### Council Committee chairs:

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

If you need to contact a council member, please leave them a note in their mailbox.

## Lutheran Laryngitis

What is Lutheran laryngitis and how can I get rid of it?

More than once I've heard it said that the average Lutheran invites someone to church once every 23 years. My defensive side wants to respond that at least half of our regular "member" hardly come at all and shouldn't be held against the rest of us. Then I do the math and we only improve to about 1 invitation every 10-12 years. Since it's easier to invite someone to church than to tell someone what trusting Christ means to me, I don't even want to guess how infrequently we talk to others about Jesus.

Contrast this with Martin Luther's dream. He believed "all Christians have the authority, the command, and the obligation to *preach*...."

How is it that a movement founded on an idea that every Christian would be a preacher in the midst of their daily work ended up being so silent?

Along with others, I'm discovering that renewing the church isn't likely to happen unless we give attention to renewing the Christian life—reclaiming discipleship as a way of life.

### 10 Ways to practice faith-sharing

1. Provide questions each week related to the sermon theme for people to think about or discuss with other.
2. Meet in small groups after Lenten, Advent or other services to discuss questions.
3. Don't serve the food right away when you gather for a picnic, potluck or other meal. Have leaders facilitate mingling with a question that encourages all to share a faith story. Talk to people you don't know really well. Finally, ask a lay-person to lead the mealtime prayer.
4. Match Sunday school or other group topics with preaching texts so people not only hear the message but also process it. People remember almost all of what they hear.
5. Ask people questions about times in their lives that relate to the theme of the text (healing, reconciliation, etc...). Consider providing crayons so people can draw pictures of the incidents before they share. This prep time can

help many people share more easily. In groups of two, ask people to share their stories or drawings. Together pray, thanking God.

6. Encourage people to turn to their neighbor during sermons and spend a few minutes sharing what they think about the topic. (maybe after service would work better)
7. Consider having some "team" sermons, where a preacher assembles a panel of members who sit up front in a talk-show format. By acting as an interviewer, the preacher can help others share in a safe, effective way.
8. Videotape interviews of members telling their stories in a safe spaces. Edit them into clips of helpful things people said. Use these during worship, sermons or other aspects of church life.
9. Create accountability times where people check in weekly with partners. Have them share how they did this week at speaking about the faith. What can't they celebrate? Did they miss any appropriate opportunities? Have them pray together and send them out again for the next week or month.
10. Start council, committee or other meetings with a check-in time that is faith-based conversation. Have the leader ask people to share significant events in their lives and what they think God was doing. Close this time with a prayer that gathers the stories and lifts them to God before moving on to business.

Rather than just listening to a professional speak, congregations that are curing laryngitis find that sermons now start faith conversations, rather than replace them.

Excerpts from article written by David Daubert, in [The Lutheran](#), August 2007.

If you would like to read [The Lutheran](#); there is a copy of in the church office.



# Support LRCC in San Diego

**Saturday August 25, 2007**

**Shotgun Start 1:00 P.M.**

**Scramble Format**

**\$100 Fee**

**(Practice balls, Prizes, Banquet)**

**Bonita Golf Course**

**5540 Sweetwater Road**

**Bonita, CA 91902**

**<http://www.bonitagolfclub.com/>**

## **CONTACTS:**

**Myrt Niesley, 619-670-1342, [myrt@cox.net](mailto:myrt@cox.net)**

**Richard Palmer, (858) 576-1740, [RLPalmer@umich.edu](mailto:RLPalmer@umich.edu)**

## **CALLING ALL HACKERS, WHACKERS AND GOLFERS**

How could you possibly not want to enjoy a half day of golf, eat a banquet dinner, and maybe get a prize or two at the raffle. What a great way to have fun in the sun. Check out the LRCC flyer. Don't know what LRCC is, well it stands for Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences. There are 2 sites; El Camino Pines in Frazier Park, and Yoliywa & Luther Glen Conference Center in Oak Glen. Need more info, check out their web site:

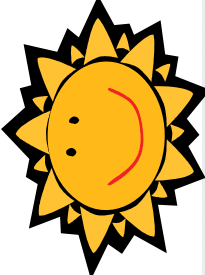




[www.LRCCHome.com](http://www.LRCCHome.com)

If you're not a golfer and want to attend the banquet the price is \$25 per person. Let them know by August 19, if you're attending the banquet.

If you would rather make a donation to LRCC, just put it in our Offering basket on any Sunday until August 19.

# August 2007

## Monthly Planner

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                           | Wednesday                         | Thursday  | Friday                                 | Saturday                                       |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 5<br>9:00 AM Service                           | 6<br> | 7<br>9:30 AM Women's Bible study  | 8<br>6:45 PM Evening Bible study  | 9<br>7:00 PM Choir/<br>Music practice<br>    | 10<br>7:00 PM Choir/<br>Music practice | 11<br>1:00 PM Frank Alexander Memorial service |
| 12<br>9:00 AM Service                          | 13   | 14<br>9:30 AM Women's Bible study | 15<br>6:45 PM Evening Bible study | 16<br>7:00 PM Choir/<br>Music practice<br>   | 17                                     | 18   |
| 19<br>9:00 AM Service                          | 20<br>Newsletter articles due  | 21<br>9:30 AM Women's Bible study | 22<br>6:45 PM Evening Bible study | 23<br>7:00 PM Choir/<br>Music practice<br>  | 24                                     | 25<br>6:30 AM SHARE pick up                    |
| 26<br>9:00 AM Service<br>Newsletters delivered | 27   | 28<br>9:30 AM Women's Bible study | 29<br>6:45 PM Evening Bible study | 30<br>7:00 PM Choir/<br>Music practice<br> | 31                                     |  |

# August Worship Assistant's Schedule

|                    | 9:00 am                            |                             |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>CANTOR</b>      | Susan Shaddox                      |                             |
| <b>READERS</b>     |                                    | <b>SNACKS</b>               |
| 8/5                | Luella Cravens                     |                             |
| 8/12               | Luella Cravens                     |                             |
| 8/19               | Pat Cowan                          |                             |
| 8/26               | Pat Cowan                          |                             |
|                    |                                    |                             |
| <b>ASSISTANTS</b>  |                                    |                             |
| 8/5                | Luella Cravens                     |                             |
| 8/12               | Luella Cravens                     |                             |
| 8/19               | Pat Cowan                          |                             |
| 8/26               | Pat Cowan                          |                             |
|                    |                                    |                             |
| <b>USHERS</b>      |                                    |                             |
| 8/5                | Judy DeLong                        | Please be prepared to light |
| 8/12               | Judy Delong                        | and extinguish the candles. |
| 8/19               | Rene Brown                         |                             |
| 8/26               | Rene Brown                         |                             |
|                    |                                    |                             |
| <b>ALTAR GUILD</b> | Laura Stephens                     |                             |
|                    | <b>Thank you for all your help</b> |                             |



## St. John's Women's News

There will be NO Business meeting or Tuesday Evening Bible Study in July and August.

If you interested in going to the WELCA Assembly in Anaheim, from November 2- 4 look in the WELCA mailbox for more information. (It's located on the western end of the congregation mailboxes, marked WELCA.)

## CHOIR NEWS



All members are welcome to join the choir. Choir practice is on Thursdays starting at 7:30 pm. Please contact the church office and leave your name and phone number, so our choir director can get back to you.

*“Sing unto the Lord”*



Volume 5 Issue 8

**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

Pastor's George's E-mail:

pastorgeorge100@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.stjohnslutheranelcajon.org>

Staff:

George Ekeren-Moening

Laura Stephens

Breena Loraine

Jeane Lawrie

Drew Peterson

Pastor

Secretary

Choir Director

Accompanist

Accompanist

Office hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8 am—4 pm

**Weekly Group Building Usage**

**Monday-Friday** 7:30 am A.A.Coffee Clutchers

**Monday-Friday** 12 pm A.A. EC Noon Group

**Tuesday** 7 pm Women's AlAnon

3rd 7 pm 4H Beef

**Wednesday**  
2nd 6:30 pm G.S. Leaders

3th 7 pm 4H Beef

4th 7 pm 4H/ Golden Clover

**Thursday** 6 pm DBSA (Depression  
Bipolar Support Alliance)

8 pm NA Speakers

**Friday** 7:30 pm AlAnon Open

**Saturday**  
4th 6:30 am SHARE pick up

**1st Sunday** 1 pm SHARE sign up