



August 2008

Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

'He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' (Matthew 13:31-32).



from Pastor

John's Lutheran seem small and insignificant. The little acts of love and kindness you do as a Christian appear of little conse-

quence, especially when viewed next to the great forces of evil. Yet, behind this human view point lays the might of the kingdom of heaven. Behind your every act of love and mercy, behind each of the ministries of St. John's is the strength and might of the kingdom of heaven.

I often think of a mustard seed when I think of St. John's. I want us to be larger, having more Sunday worshippers, more members, and doing more and greater ministries than we currently are. Yet, it's through our small, loving acts of kindness and mercy that the kingdom of heaven immerses and we can see it for what it is: a big, strong, mighty oak tree. This is not an excuse to stay a small congregation and fail to grow. But it is reassuring to know that what we do, what we say, and what we think as Christians is backed by nothing less than the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor George

The kingdom of heaven may seem so small and weak in our society. The forces allied against it seem so numerous, so strong, and so overwhelming. How can the kingdom possibly stand up against such forces?

Jesus' parable of the mustard seed inspires us. Jesus imagines the small mustard seed growing beyond all expectations, past its normal height of four to six feet, to become a mighty tree standing against the elements as the source of protection and comfort. This is like the kingdom of heaven. The values and practices of the kingdom of God seem so small and so weak. Yet, they are the strongest, most powerful forces in the universe. But we need to use our imagination to see beyond initial appearances and see what Jesus' sees, the reality of the power of love, the mighty tree of faith.

Often the ministries at St.

Cell # 619-249-5224

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 meeting	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
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Council Members:

Stephen Dietrich	chair
Brian Cowan	vice-chair
Vicky Gay	secretary
Mona Anderson	treasurer
Rod Cravens	
Bill Martin	
Paul Sofranko	
Laura Stephens	
Miria Stephens	

Financial Secretary: Judy Dietrich

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

PROPERTY NEWS

Cross/Rock Garden
We have received 3 bids; 1 with a concrete walkway, 1 with a paver walkway, and 1 with a compacted decomposed granite walkway. On August 17, after service, a short meeting is planned to discuss these options and the plant options.

Altar Repair
The altar platform has been repaired and the new carpet will be laid on Tuesday, July 29.

Memorial Garden
We'll start working on the Memorial Garden (you know the patch of dirt by the parking lot) in the fall. The plan includes raised flower beds and a bench or 2. Pastor George had mentioned a pergola as well.

Of course we'll need plants and trees for all the beautification, so watch for more details on how you can help out.

Happy Birthday



11 Mary Swanbeck
18 Gilberto Pazo



Happy Wedding Anniversary

12 John & Miria Stephens
16 Larry & Mona



from

Florence Stephens, Ernie Burkleo, John Collins and Pat Persiani. Florence says "thank you for your love, prayers and cards." Florence had her gall bladder removed in June. She feels a lot better. Ernie says "thank you for your prayers, concern and cards." Ernie had a blood pressure problem these last few weeks that put him in the hospital. He is home and doing OK. John says "thank you for your cards and prayers. He had knee surgery July 7th and is already home. Pat says "thank you for preparing Louise Anway's Memorial luncheon. I am usually the one preparing, not the one receiving."



Unlike the 'Horn of Plenty' our emergency food pantry could use a 'plentiful' refill.

Please consider picking up a few extra items when you're out getting groceries. The people that stop by are very appreciative.

Please let us know of any concerns, illness', triumphs, or ??????. If you don't say anything, we won't know. We want to be there for our members and friends, so talk to each other. Spread the news.

From the Council Chairman's Desk

Greetings,

I would first like to thank Brian Cowan for providing the article on Stewardship as a substitute for the Chair message when I was on vacation. I had been talking at the Council meetings about having the Council members provide a brief article about their area, so that you can know more about what we are doing in our various committees. In this newsletter, Vicky Gay has provided information that will follow my section.

The work has started on the next phase of the Cross garden. The Cross has been repainted and the grass, in the area where the path will lay, has been treated to allow for it to be removed. While it has taken some time to get to this point, it should start coming together now.

I am sad to report that Miria Stephens has tendered her resignation from Council, in conjunction with the Stephens' planned move. We wish them well and hope to stay in touch with them in the future. Let's keep them in our prayers during their travels and as they begin in their new home.

God bless and take care,

Steve

From Vicky Gay - Council Secretary & Youth Christian Education chair

The Council Secretary is responsible for recording the minutes from each of the meetings. Since I have access to a computer and the Internet, it has been my routine to type the minutes according to the format that was provided to me and then email them to the church secretary. It usually requires about an hour per month to complete the task. I will be retiring from the Council at the end of 2008. I have enjoyed the time I have been the secretary and I would be happy to provide guidance to the next person.

This year I have also been the Youth Christian Education chair. This entails assigning the volunteers to teach the Sunday School lesson each week and providing them with copies of the curriculum ahead of time so they can review it before their assigned Sunday. The kids so enjoy the Sunday School lessons, it has been rewarding to help in this way.

Council Committee chairs:

Youth Christian Education — Vicky Gay
Evangelism — Paul Sofranko
Negotiating — Stephen Dietrich
Property — Rod Cravens, Bill Martin
Social Ministry — Laura Stephens
Stewardship — Brian Cowan
Worship & Music — Brian Cowan for now



To receive your newsletter via
E-mail, contact Stephen
Dietrich at sjdietrich@cox.net

To contact a council member please leave them a note in their mailbox.

Summertime is a time to kick back , relax and live simply.

The ELCA has a 'Living Simply with God: A 40-day hunger calendar. It's not what you think, so read on.

- DAY 1— Put a prayer list (use pictures of real people) on your refrigerator and use it.
- DAY 2— Keep a journal about the struggle to live simply.
- DAY 3— Contribute 1 dollar for every pound you fell you're overweight to ELCA Hunger Appeal.
- DAY 4—SMILE because your glass is half-full, not empty!
- DAY 5— Give your blessings specific names. Prayer is powerful, when specific.
- DAY 6— Memorize Scripture passage about hunger. Pray for those without food.
- DAY 7— Save all your trash today and find ways to reduce.
- DAY 8— Turn off air-conditioning or lower heat today. Contribute a \$1 every hour you live in this environment to a Global Warming Fund.
- DAY 9— Stop saving items to "read later." You WON'T.
- DAY 10— Teach your children how to fix things.
- DAY 11— Drink water instead of soft drinks; eat smaller portions of food.
- DAY 12— Think of a gift you would like for yourself and purchase it for someone else.
- DAY 13— For each angry or sad person you encounter help another one laugh.
- DAY 14— Every time you drive your car today, put \$1 in a collection

- bank to combat global warming.
- DAY 15— Don't worry about small things. Try to do something about the bigger ones.
- DAY 16— Think about the first person or thing you touch today. What value does it have compared to others?
- DAY 17— Hand wash dishes for an entire week, starting today. Contribute the money saved (electricity and water of a dishwasher) to ELCA World Hunger Appeal.
- DAY 18— Take time to walk with friends or family after dinner. "Walk with God."
- DAY 19— For dinner or snack, eat a food (vegetable/fruit) from another country.
- DAY 20— Pray for others to understand your simply living.
- DAY 21— Weigh what you throw away Is today. Is it unusable or just discard?
- DAY 22—Buy used clothing from thrift shops. Put the money saved; comparatively to a regular store; into a bank for hunger appeal.
- DAY 23—Plan a sabbatical, with a rest-to-work ratio of 1-6.
- DAY 24— Write notes to encourage your loved ones to contribute to children's savings or a college fund.
- DAY 25—Save water.
- DAY 26—Plan how you'll decrease your budget with fewer expenses.
- DAY 27— Talk together about the size of your garbage can. How can you cut back?
- DAY 28— Telephone a friend or someone you haven't seen lately. Find out how they are.
- DAY 29—Organize or participate in an Alternate Giving Fair.
- DAY 30—Begin this day in prayer. Ask God to help you share his love with someone else.

- Day 31— Prepare a cold meal and use candles for light. No electricity.
- DAY 32—Go for a walk with your family or friends and pick up trash.
- DAY 33— For 1 week, don't take "free" things at places you visit.
- DAY 34—Today extend small kindness to others.
- DAY 35— Commit to find others in your work place, school, etc. who will recycle.
- DAY 36—At 10 am today– weather permitting– go outside, take off your shoes and for 15 minutes, look for God's created beauty, small and large.
- DAY 37— The next time you go to the mall, talk about what you see; interactions. Don't shop.
- DAY 38—With your family or by yourself, watch the sun rise and witness God's splendor.
- DAY 39— Determine how you will live for 1 more year with old appliances.
- DAY 40— For one 24-hour period this week, have your family live in only 1 room of your home.

Now some of these are easy, while others are difficult. But with God helping you they all can be a little easier to do. I told you it wasn't your normal 40-day hunger calendar.



East Hills Christian Church
 Vacation Bible School
 August 11-15
 6:30—8:30 pm

Kindergarten—5th grade

Christian Education
 Activities
 FUN

Call 444-1621 x 201

Our Social Ministry Outreach is collecting

- Box Tops 4 Education
- Used eye glasses
- Hygiene products
- Used ink cartridges and cell phones
- Items for Salvation Army Back Country-adult underwear protection, blankets, clothing

You can drop any of these items off at the church office.

August 2008

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Pastor on vaca..
3 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pastor on vacation						
10 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class	11	12	13	14	15 7:05 PM Padre Fellowship night	16
Pastor on vacation						
17 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class	18	19	20	21	22	23 6:30 AM SHARE pick up
24 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class						

August Worship Assistant's Schedule

CANTOR	8/3 & 17	Susan Shaddox
READERS		SNACKS
8/3	Connie Reck	NO scheduled person
8/10	Connie Reck	
8/17	Stephen Dietrich	
8/24	Stephen Dietrich	
8/31	Matthew Dippolito	
ASSISTANTS		CHILDREN'S SUNDAY
8/3		
8/10		
8/17	Stephen Dietrich	
8/24	Stephen Dietrich	
8/31		
USHERS		
8/3	Rene Brown	Please be prepared to light
8/10	Rene Brown	and extinguish the candles.
8/17	Mike LaValle	
8/24	Mike LaValle	
8/31	Mike LaValle	
ALTAR GUILD	Connie Reck	
	Thank you for all your help	



St. John's Women's News

We are taking a summer break, so there is NO business meeting and evening Bible study in August. See you on September 23. We'll have quick meeting on Sunday, August 10; after service to discuss the WELCA Assembly. Please meet in the Conference Room.

Come and join us to learn the word of the Lord and to share the work of the Lord.

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 director, Breena, can get back to you.

"Sing unto the Lord"

Choir practice is taking a summer break; join us in September.



Volume 6 Issue 8

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Website: <http://www.stjohnslutheranelcajon.org>
pastorgeorge100@hotmail.com

Staff:

George Ekeren-Moening	Pastor
Laura Stephens	Secretary
Breena Loraine	Choir Director
Jeane Lawrie	Accompanist
Drew Peterson	Accompanist

Office hours: Tuesday—Thursday
8 am—4 pm

Pastor George is in the office on Tuesdays and
Wednesdays.

Weekly Group Building Usage

<u>Sunday</u>	6:00 pm	A.A.—Sober Sunday	<u>Thursday</u>	6 pm	DBSA (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance)
<u>Monday-Friday</u>	7:30 am	A.A.- Coffee Clutchers		8 pm	NA Speakers
<u>Monday-Friday</u>	12 pm	A.A.—EC Daytime Group	<u>Friday</u>	7:30 pm	AlAnon Open
<u>Monday</u>	6:30 pm	A.A.—Monday Steps	<u>Saturday</u>	4th	6:30 am SHARE pick up
2nd	7 pm	4H Beef			
<u>Tuesday</u>	7 pm	Women's AlAnon			
					Sign up for SHARE during church office hours.
<u>Wednesday</u>					
2nd	6:30 pm	Girl Scout Leaders Circle			
3rd	4 pm	License 2 Freedom			
4th	7 pm	4H Golden Clover			