



December 2006

Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;
 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

Luke 3:4a-6

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

"Prepare" and "Rejoice", along with "Await", are major themes for Advent. We prepare for Christ's coming, knowing that the promised Messiah is on his way. This leads to rejoicing "in the Lord always" because of life-giving salvation which is to come. And then we wait...wait for his coming into our lives and into our world. But a word of caution: Advent in no passive time. It is a time of action – preparing and rejoicing

are very active activities. Even though we celebrate and acknowledge Advent just prior to Christmas, the themes are important anytime of the year. We must always be preparing for Christ's coming, making all humanity's crooked, sinful ways straight and smoothing the rough edges of our sinful existence. We need to always be rejoicing in the Lord, because, although this destructive world can heap mounds of suffering upon us, we need not worry since our hearts and minds will be shielded by the "peace of God."

Savor this Advent. Take care not to rush into Christmas too soon and miss the beauty of the Advent season. Preparing, rejoicing, and waiting upon the Lord are serene, peaceful times that contain their own rewards. The next season of the church year will be here all too soon. Amen

Pastor George

Cell: 619-971-0399

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

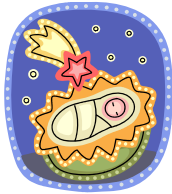
Council Members:
 Stephen Dietrich Chair
 Glenda Holsbo Vice Chair
 Pat Cowan Treasurer
 Vicky Gay Secretary
 Mona Anderson
 Rod Cravens
 Bill Martin
 Paul Sofranko
 Laura Stephens
 Miria Stephens

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



Sister's in Christ Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 2
11 am

Jamacha Bar & Grille
777 Jamacha Road
El Cajon
\$15.00

Meet your '06 secret sister and pick a new one for '07.

Come and join us, even if you don't want a secret sister, because we are going to have holly-jolly good time.



Our food pantry needs a REFILL. Please leave your food donation in the kitchen.



Happy Birthday

- 1 Megan Stephens
- 4 Luella Cravens
- 5 Katherine Stephens-Doll
- 9 Judy DeLong
- 16 Walt Brown
- 17 Hanley Ekeren-Moening
- 25 Ruth Gunther



The church office is updating their files, PLEASE contact us, if any information about you has changed; that would be in the phone directory.

We are reviewing ways to do a new picture directory, for the spring. If we are still missing your special day(s), let us know.



Happy Wedding Anniversary

Milt & Maxine Mattson

Shannon Ekeren-Moening sends her "Thank You's" for our support, cards, and prayers.



December

- 2 — Sister's in Christ Christmas luncheon
- 12 — Council meeting
- 24 — Continental breakfast
- 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 25 — Christmas



January

- 6 — Epiphany
- 7 — Epiphany potluck & White Elephant Gift Exchange
- 9 — Council Meeting
- 21 — Annual Congregational Meeting



Greetings from the Council Chair:

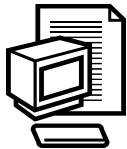
I hope you all had a wonderful and happy Thanksgiving. I know I personally had a lot to be thankful for this year. As a congregation, we have much to celebrate as well. We are in better financial shape and we continue to make progress on paying down the loan, we remain in fellowship with each other and with East Hills, and have some fun things in store this holiday season.

The special congregational meeting was held on November 19th and the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were discussed. They were carried forward to be presented for approval at the annual congregational meeting in January. I would like to thank Paul Stephens and Mona Anderson for all their hard work over the past year on researching and coming up with the changes we will be approving at that meeting.

The committee on the "Rock Garden" continues to work on developing the design. Once the plans have been fully developed, they will present it to the congregation. If you would like to assist with this process, please contact Pat Cowan.

I wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Steve



To receive your Newsletters via the E-mail, contact:
sjdietrich@cox.net.

This will give Stephen your E-mail address



We're collecting:

- *Box Tops 4 Education for the Navajo Lutheran Mission*
- *Personal hygiene items for Rachel's house*
- *Diapers and Warm Clothing for Salvation Army Back Country*
- *Used ink cartridges*
- *Greeting cards for our Shut-ins*
- *Canned goods for our emergency pantry*

Council Committee chairs:

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

If you need to contact a council member, please leave them a note in their mailbox. Which are located by the congregation's mailboxes.

Ethical Religion

BY
M. K. GANDHI

Printed & Published by Navjivan Press, Ahmedabad - 380
014, India

(This is an interesting little book that still has great implications for today. It is timeless and urgently needed in today's world. There are other, more current, books on this topic. Perhaps we'll explore those as well. Yet, this is a wonderful starting point. We'll publish parts of this book each month. The book is divided as follows: Introduction, Beginning, Ideal Morality, What is Moral Action?, Is There a Higher Law?, Morality As a Religion, Religious Morality or Moral Religion, Social Ideal, Personal Morality, and Seven Deadly Sins of Intolerance. Enjoy, Pastor George.)

Social Ideal

It is sometimes said that all morality involves social relations. This is well said; for instance, if the judge has a proper sense of justice, men who go to court obtain satisfaction. Similarly love, kindness, generosity and other qualities can be manifested only in relation to others. The force of loyalty can be demonstrated only in our relations with one another. Of patriotism, nothing need be said. Truly speaking, there is no aspect of morality the benefit of which accrues to the practitioner alone. Sometimes it is said that truthfulness and other virtues have nothing to do with the other person and are entirely personal. But we must admit that by telling the truth we prevent harm to another, otherwise we do him an injury.

In the same way, when a man disapproves of certain laws or customs and withdraws from society, even then his acts affect society. Such a man lives in a world of ideals. He does not worry that the world of his ideals is not yet born. From him the mere thought that the prevailing standard is not good enough is sufficient to impel him to resist it. He will constantly try to change other people's way of life to his own. This is how prophets have caused the world's wheels to change their course.

So long as man remains selfish and does not care for the happiness of others, he is no better than an animal and perhaps worse. His superiority to the animal is seen only when we find him caring for his family. He is still more human, that is, much higher than the animal, when he extends his concept of the family to include his country or community as well. He climbs still higher in the scale when he comes to regard the human race as his family. A man is an animal or imperfect [as a human being] to the extent that he falls behind in his service to humanity. If I feel my wife's injury or that of my community, yet have no sympathy for anyone outside the circle, it is clear that I do not have any feeling for humanity as such; but I have, simply out of selfishness or a sense of discrimination, a certain feeling for my wife, my children or the community which I hold as my own.

That is to say, we have neither practiced nor known ethical religion so long as we do not feel sympathy for every human being. Now we know that the higher morality must be comprehensive; it must embrace all men. Considering our relation to mankind, every man has a claim over us, as it our duty always to serve him. We should act on the assumption that we have no claim on others. He is merely ignorant who would here argue that the man acting in this manner will be trampled in the world's scramble. For it is a universal experience that God always saves the man who whole-heartedly devotes himself the service of others.

According to this moral standard all men are equal. This is not to be interpreted to mean equality of position and function for all. It only means that, if I hold a high place, I also have the ability to shoulder its duties and responsibilities. I should not therefore lose my head and believe that men with smaller responsibilities are my inferiors. Equality depends on the state of our mind, and until our mind reaches that state, we shall remain backward.

Continued on page 5

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According to this moral standard no nation can rule another for selfish ends. It is immoral of the American people to reduce the aborigines to an inferior status and run the government. A civilized race coming into contact with a savage one owes it to the latter to raise it to its own level. The same standard rules that the king is the servant and not the master of his people and that officers are not there to enjoy power but to make the people happy. If the people in a democratic State are selfish, that State comes to no good.

Moreover, according to this law, the stronger members of a State or community have to protect, not oppress, the weaker ones. Under such a government there can be no starvation; nor can they be happy while our neighbors languishing in misery. The man following this high moral standard will never amass wealth. He who would be moral need not be scared away by the thought that few follow this ideal morality; for he is master of his morality, not of its results. He will be considered guilty if he does not practice morality.



Community Events

- 11/23-1/1 *Holiday of Lights*
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
Sun—Thurs hours: 5:30 –10 pm
Fri—Sat hours: 5:30 –11 pm
\$13 a car with 5 people
- 12/1 & 2 *December Nights*
Balboa Park, San Diego
1st hours: 5 –10 pm
2nd hours:12 –10 pm
- 12/3 *“Let Heaven & Nature Sing”*
Clairemont L. C.
4271 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
7 pm
- 12/3 *Handel’s Messiah*
Point Loma Nazarene University,
3900 Lomaland Dr., San Diego
7 pm
- 12/6 *Cajon Cruise Classic
Parade of Lights*
Downtown El Cajon
5-8 pm
- 12/8—12/23 *Traditions of Christmas*
ECPAC call for tix: 588-0206
- 12/9 *Mission Bay Boat Light Parade*
6-9 pm
- 12/10 *St. John’s L. C. Living Nativity*
1430 Melody Lane, El Cajon
6 pm
- 12/10 & 17 *San Diego Bay Boat Light
Parade*
5:30 –8:30 pm
- 12/13 *Las Pasadas Luminaries*
Old Town, San Diego
6-9 pm

November's Worship Assistant's Schedule

	9:00 am	
CANTOR	Miria Stephens	3
READERS		SNACKS
12/3	Susan Shaddox	Laura Stephens
12/10	Susan Shaddox	Kristine Hurtado-Bergstrom
12/17	Susan Shaddox	Glenda Holsbo
12/24	Vicky Gay	Continental breakfast
12/31	Vicky Gay	Kim Stephens-Doll
ASSISTANTS		
12/3	Susan Shaddox	
12/10	Susan Shaddox	
12/17	Susan Shaddox	
12/24	Vicky Gay	
12/31	Vicky Gay	
USHERS		
12/3	Carole Nelson	Please be prepared to light
12/10	Carole Nelson	and extinguish the can-
12/17	Marilyn Litsheim	
12/24	John Stephens	
12/31	John Stephens	
ALTAR GUILD	Laura Stephens	
	Thank you for all your help	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

(Readers, Service Assistants, Ushers, Cantors, and Altar Guild)

A new year will start soon. Please turn in your Time & Talent sheet to the church office by December 15. This will assist us on how to schedule our volunteers. You make the difference and we appreciate you.

SUNDAY SNACK MAKERS



Please contact the church office about being a Sunday snack maker. We welcome anyone who wants to fill our sweet tooth up. Many thanks for taking the time to “treat” us.

December 2006 Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<p>3 9:00 AM Traditional 10:30 AM Adult Forum 1:00 PM SHARE sign up</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:30 AM Women's Bible study</p>	<p>6 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study</p>	<p>7 7:00 PM Choir/ Music</p>	<p>1 11:00 AM Sister's in Christ Christmas lunch</p>	<p>2 11:00 AM Sister's in Christ Christmas lunch</p>																																																																																											
<p>10 9:00 AM Contemporary 10:30 AM Adult Forum</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Council meeting</p>	<p>13 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study</p>	<p>14 7:00 PM Choir/ Music</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Choir practice</p>																																																																																											
<p>17 9:00 AM Traditional 10:30 AM Adult Forum</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM Women's Bible study</p>	<p>20 Newsletter articles due</p>	<p>21 7:00 PM Choir/ Music</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>16 6:30 AM SHARE pick up 10:00 AM Choir practice</p>																																																																																											
<p>24 9:00 AM Contemporary 10:15 AM Continental breakfast 7:00 PM Christmas Eve service</p>	<p>25 Merry Christmas</p>	<p>26 Church Office closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:00 PM Choir/ Music</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>																																																																																											
<p>31 9:00 AM Contemporary 10:30 AM Adult Forum New Year's Eve Newsletters delivered</p>	<table border="1" style="float: right; margin-right: 20px;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">November 06</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="float: right;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">January 07</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>						November 06							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17		19	20	21	22	23	24		26	27	28	29	30		January 07							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		14	15	16	17	18	19		21	22	23	24	25	26		28	29	30	31		
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Volume 4 Issue 12

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
1430 Melody Lane El Cajon, CA 92019

Address service requested

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Email: secretary@sj.sdcoxmail.com
Pastor's E-mail: pastorgeorge100@hotmail.com
Website: <http://www.stjohnslutheranelcajon.org>

Staff:

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

Office hours:

Tuesday—Thursday 8 am—4 pm

Weekly Group Building Usage

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