



February 2007

Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, which means "spring," the time of the lengthening of days. At first Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism on Easter Eve. They were taught the gospel message and the Lord's Prayer. They prayed, fasted, and did penance. Eventually, Lent became a time of reflection and self-examination for all Christians.

In our busy, secular world, Lent is a time of renewal, a time to remember Jesus – to walk with him in study, prayer, and service to others, to engage in personal and family worship. However, during Lent Christians as the body of Christ also need to come together to worship and study with others.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 21st this year) and ends on the Saturday (April 7th) before Easter. Lent lasts forty days, not counting Sundays. Sundays aren't counted because Sunday always celebrates Jesus' victory over sin and death. Even during Lent, Sunday is a "little Easter."

We'll begin our Lenten season early with a Strove Tuesday (February 20th) Pancake Dinner

followed by a festive worship service jointly held with East Hills Community Church.

Ash Wednesday worship is on February 21st.

Lenten worship services will be held on the next five Wednesdays. We'll start with a Soup & Salad supper followed by a Lenten worship using the Holden Evening Prayer Service. All worship services will start at 7:00 p.m.

Remember, Lent is a time of renewal, a time to remember Jesus. St. John's Lutheran will walk with Christ in study, prayer, and worship. Plan to spend this time with him this Lenten season.

Pastor George

Cell: 619-971-0399



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

Mona Anderson
Pat Cowan
Rod Cravens
Vicky Gay
Glenda Holsbo
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



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

February, 20
5 – 6: 50 pm

Come to the Fellowship Hall and enjoy all the “non fat” pancakes you can eat. Drink some coffee and indulge in those fattening sausages. That’s why it’s called “Fat Tuesday.”

A Free Will offering will be taken.



Happy Birthday

- 9 — Paul Stephens
- 14 — Ernie Burkleo
- 21 — Corie Stephens
- 23 — Phil Anderson
- 27 — Rod Cravens



To all those “clean sweepers”

Have we got a deal for you.

The Annual Church Rummage is coming up on March 24. After March 11, you can bring all those “treasurer” you want to get rid of, to the church hall.



Happy Wedding Anniversary

- 3 — Brian & Pat
Cowan
- 22 — Rod & Luella
Cravens

We will be setting up the sale starting on March 20 and having a final set up on March 23. Give us a few moments of your time, because we could use a lot of HELP in set up, at the sale and during clean up on March 25, after service.

February

- 2 — Ground Hog Day
- 4 — Super Bowl Game
- 13 — Council meeting
- 14 — Valentine's Day
- 19 — President's Day
- 20 — Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner
- 21 — Ash Wednesday



March

- 11 — Daylight
Savings time
begins
- 13 — Council mtg.
- 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- 21 — First day of
Spring
- 24 — Rummage Sale

Greetings from the Council Chair:

Greetings,

The new year is in full swing and by the time you read this, we will have just had our Annual Congregational Meeting. We voted on our new budget and on accepting the amended Constitution. With the upcoming maintenance on the property that we discussed, we will have many challenges during this year. But with God's help, we will overcome these difficulties and be able to perform all the needed work. I know that God will provide for his people as long as we remain faithful to Him.

As I indicated at the meeting, my time on the Council is drawing to a close and I am unable to accept another term on Council, at this time. It has been a great pleasure to have been to have served God and St. John's as a Council member and as Chairperson this year. I have really enjoyed working with Pastor George and the other Council members over the last 3 years.

While this year's meeting has passed, I would highly recommend that you consider serving on Council in the future. While it takes some effort and time commitment, it is very rewarding and valuable endeavor in helping to establish the direction our Church is headed. I guarantee that you will find that it is time well spent.

Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to seeing you all at Church.

God Bless,

Steve



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



To all those soup cookers:

The Lenten soup suppers are approaching. The dates are: February 28, March 7, 14, 21, and 28. If you would like to

cook on any day please fill in the calendar, posted in the kitchen by the phone. Write in what kind of soup you're cooking.

Dinner is from 6– 6:50 pm.
Lenten service is at 7 pm.

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.)

Seven Deadly Sins of Intolerance

Recalling Gandhiji's memorable summary of seven deadly sins, the following is a summary in similar style of a brief reflection on intolerance given at the Trivandrum conference on a Gandhian Alternative to a World Without Terrorism and War in February 2002.

1. Intolerance is a personal failure to accept reality
2. Intolerance is a failure of intelligence
3. Intolerance is an error of judgment about Ultimate Truth
4. Intolerance is an error which breeds psychological disorder
5. Intolerance is an error which breeds social disorder
6. Intolerance is an error which breeds political disorder

Intolerance is a pragmatic failure: it doesn't work. If these characterizations of intolerance are accurate, it follows that intolerance in the name of religion is a deep betrayal and perversion of authentic religion. In short, intolerance is unacceptable and is a sign of weakness and not of strength.

Intolerance is a personal failure to accept reality

Intolerance is a failure or refusal to accept reality. No matter how hard you may try to live in your own little world there always remain those persons who live outside your world. You may call them outsiders. You may call them infidels for not accepting your view of the world. You may try to persuade them to accept your views and your way of life. Sometimes you may even try to force them to become like you but they resist even to their death. They do so because reality is made up of many different individuals having many different experiences and different viewpoints. Nothing will

change this, not even your intolerance.

Tolerance accepts reality. Intolerance rejects reality. Tolerance is strong. Intolerance is weak. Tolerance is strong because it has total confidence in its conviction that there is nothing so safe as truth nor so persuasive as honesty. A person of a strong conviction is not afraid of differences. The truth is secure amidst all the differences in thinking and behaving. Gandhi said there are as many different religions as there are individuals. If you are convinced of the truth of your religion and your way of life there is nothing to fear. Live and let live can be your motto. And your best witness to your faith will be your accepting reality and your respecting its many differences.

Intolerance is failure of intelligence

Intolerance is a failure of intelligence. It acts upon conclusions without acknowledging the process which produced the conclusions. The Truth taught by the various religions of the world are conclusions. They have been arrived at and transmitted through human experience. The intolerant person neglects the process and proclaims his or her view as the only Truth. But in reality all Truths are products of inductive reasoning. You may start at the beginning of the process or at the end but the process is universal. If you start with the conclusion you use a deductive approach and may claim your Truth as beyond reasoning and thus a revelation. The claim of the intolerant person may, of course, be true but intelligence sees a problem. The Truth proclaimed by the intolerant person is only one of many such claims which differ among themselves. What does one do in this case? To say there is only one Truth-claim is to deny reality. It is unintelligent to do so.

Intolerance is an error of judgment about Ultimate Truth

Intolerance is a deadly sin because it is an error of judgment about Ultimate Truth. The Ultimate Truth is beyond the ability of any individual or institutional religion to comprehend. The wise person accepts this. The intolerant person does not. The intolerant person declares his particular way of thinking and acting as superior to all others. In effect, the intolerant person is insulting the God he says he is defending. This is a truly deadly sin because it poisons every aspect of life.

The wise person is tolerant of different understandings of God. Accepting the reality of an Ultimate Truth beyond our comprehension, the tolerant person lives in the world of relative truths. Mahatma Gandhi's words on this matter are helpful. He wrote:

As a matter of fact, we are all thinking of the unthinkable, describing the indescribable, seeking to know the Unknown, and that is why our speech falters, is

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4 -

inadequate and even often contradictory. That is why the Vedas describe Brahman as 'not this, not this.' But if He or It is not this, He or It is.

The tolerant person not only accepts the diversities of understanding but welcomes them as a prisoner in the dark welcomes a window to the light. M. P. Mathai notes that for Gandhi what Radhakrishnan called "The bewildering polytheism of the masses and the uncompromising monotheism of the classes" were expressions of the same urge to realize the same power, God, at different levels.

Intolerance is an error which breeds psychological disorder

Intolerance breeds psychological disorder. An intolerant person intentionally closes his mind. Thus he loses the stimulation, challenges, and benefits gained from interacting with persons holding differing views. Intolerance leads to a hardening of the psychological arteries which need the lifeblood of diversity.

The intolerant person ignores what has been called the law of the forgotten breakthrough. This refers to the fact that religious movements begin with a founder who breaks through the accepted ways of thinking and behaving. But eventually the movement which the founder inspired becomes rigid and institutionalized itself. The intolerant person is often focused on matters which are far from the spiritual centre of the original founder's example and teachings. He desires that every person conform to his way of thinking and acting. Intolerance is not a sign of the strength of one's conviction but rather it is a sign of weakness of person and teachings. He desires that every person conform to his way of thinking and acting. Intolerance is not a sign of the strength of one's conviction but rather it is a sign of weakness of personal character.

Intolerance is an error which breeds social disorder

Intolerance is a deadly sin because it breeds social disorder. Every day in every community around the world there are countless reports of tragedies caused by acts of intolerance. Violence is seen as a major problem but what is it that provokes the violence? Intolerance. An intolerant husband unable to tolerate the slightest deviation from his authority over his wife or his children. Intolerance between individuals from different castes. Intolerance culminating in communal violence. If you examine closely the social problems throughout the world, you will find at their roots the presence of intolerance

Intolerance is an error which breeds political disorder

Intolerance is an error of thought and action which breeds political disorder. The inability of political parties and of heads of government to tolerate alternative views lies at the root of tyrannical regimes. It is at the heart of corruption, abuse of power, and untold human suffering. A dramatic occurrence like the destruction of the World Trade Center is only one of an endless number of tragedies caused by the truly deadly sin of intolerance.

Intolerance is a pragmatic error; it does not work

Intolerance is a failure because it does not work. Intolerance breeds resentment. It breeds opposition. If there is anything certain in life, it is that intolerance ultimately fails. Human history is a record of failed attempts of political and religious tyrants to establish their own systems as absolute authority for everyone. The most effective way to achieve respect and authority is the way of tolerance.

If these characterizations of intolerance are accurate, it follows that intolerance in the name of religion is a deep betrayal and perversion of the noblest teachings of religion. In short, intolerance is unacceptable in any form and is a sign of weakness and not of strength.

Our Outreach *Ministry is* *collecting:*

- *Diapers, any size, for Salvation Army Back Country*
- *Blankets for women and children located at Set Free Ministries*
- *Box Tops 4 Education for the Navajo Lutheran Mission*
- *Greeting cards for Shut-ins*
- *Used eye glasses*
- *Personal hygiene products*

February's Worship Assistant's Schedule

	9:00 am	
CANTOR	Brian Cowan	4 & 18
READERS		SNACKS
2/4	Pat Cowan	Laura Stephens
2/11	Pat Cowan	Mona Anderson
2/18	Glenda Holsbo	Kristine Hurtado-Bergstrom
2/25	Glenda Holsbo	Glenda Holsbo
ASSISTANTS		
2/4	Pat Cowan	
2/11	Pat Cowan	
2/14	Glenda Holsbo	
2/25	Glenda Holsbo	
USHERS		
2/4	Marilyn Litsheim	Please be prepared to light
2/11	Marilyn Litsheim	and extinguish the can-
2/18	Maxine Mattson	
2/25	Maxine Mattson	
ALTAR GUILD	Pat Cowan	
	Thank you for all your help	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
















For those that want to know far off dates; the rest of the 2007 year has been posted, in the Sanctuary backroom. Please make any changes needed to fit your schedules, on the posted sheets. Thank you for all your help with the worship service.

Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry (LBCM)

If you are interested in being on the board for LBCM, please contact Manny Cruz by 2/15, at 670-9514. LBCM Board meets 3-4 times a year, on Saturdays from 9-10:30 am at LBCM office located in the Calvary Lutheran Church complex ,3060 54th Street, San Diego. Call Manny, if you need more info.

February 2007

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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Volume 5 Issue 2

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

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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
Breena 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