



# Goodnewsletter

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2009

*It is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.*

2 Corinthians 8: 13-14



from Pastor

This morning I have been staring at these words of Paul's while thinking about this newsletter article. St. John's has been blessed for over 55 years by serving and ministering to the people of El Cajon through our abundance. It would be interesting to know just how many people St. John's has ministered to during our 55 years.

In the middle of my meditating on these beautiful words of Paul, I received a phone call from a man who said he was a heart patient who desperately needed gas money to get back home to his family in North Carolina. He asked for assistance from everyone else. We were his last hope. Then, two hours later a mother visited, accompanied by her two young children, who also had a desperate need for money for gas, food, etc.

The needs are endless; the abundance isn't. Although I'm quite aware St. John's has far more abundance than most of us think, our abundance is limited and turning people away who are in need is personally painful for me (as I'm sure it is for them). Yet, it is our responsibility to practice good stewardship. We need to prioritize our giving and have a well-rounded approach to our ministry. So reluctantly, yet necessarily, I turned away these two individuals in order to focus our ministry on a greater need that St. John's wrestle with: giving food to the hunger. But to build a well-rounded ministry we need to expand our given in a variety of ways. Three new realistic possibilities for us are: developing a relationship and ministry with Miracle Ranch Orphanage in Tecate, Mexico; starting a community garden on our property in order to teach sustainable vegetable

gardening, thus reducing grocery bills, promoting sound ecology, and encouraging relationships with our neighbors; and restarting our preschool to help our local children gain a head start in their education.

Expanding on these three, we are planning a one day trip to Tecate, Mexico lead by Pastor Bill Bruggeman of Transformational World Opportunities. My daughter Hanley and I went to Tecate with Pastor Bill last March, and had a wonderful experience. It only costs \$45, which includes transportation and lunch.

The set up costs for a community garden would be a chain link fence, boards to build 4x8 foot raised beds, and soil (possibly some pvc pipe for water). These and any other costs could be offset from donations for usage of the raised beds.

I and two other St. John's members have spent the last few weeks exploring the viability of restarting our preschool. We have been exceedingly encouraged and would like to report our findings to you. We have planned two meetings after worship - July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>. At one of the meetings, Ron Blake, director of Shepherd of the Valley Preschool, will be here to speak to us. After worship Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a formal Congregational meeting to vote on our proposals.

These three ministry possibilities are not the only ones we will contemplate, but they are a very strong summer beginning. My prayer is that you will participate in one or all of these, and continue to grow in the love of God, of neighbors, and one another.

Pastor George  
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

### Wednesday :

### Thursday:

Choir practice	7:30 pm
4th Thursday: Women's PM Bible study	1:00 pm

### Council Members:

Stephens Dietrich	Chair
Brian Cowan	Vice Chair
Mona Anderson	Treasurer
Laura Stephens	Secretary
Stuart Lindstrom	
Bill Martin	
Susan Shaddox	

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



## WOMEN'S NEWS

Hello, we are taking a summer break and will return on September 24. Our Silent Auction is on October 18, watch for details.

## CHOIR NEWS



All members are welcome to join the choir. Please contact the church office (444-1272) and leave your name and phone number, so our director, Breena, can get back to you. Choir practice is on Thursdays, starting at 7:30 pm.

*"Sing a glad song to the Lord"*

## July

4 Independence Day Celebration

21 Council meeting



## Happy Birthday

- 3 Paul Sofranko
- 7 Harvey Holsbo
- 8 Olivia Ekeren-Moening
- 15 Katy Gay
- 22 Rene Brown
- 22 Vicky Morris
- 25 Charles Meyer
- 26 Antonio Pazo
- 31 Susan Shaddox
- Roberto Hurtado-Robles



## Happy Wedding Anniversary

- 20 Hurtado-Robles, Roberto & Hurtado-Bergstrom, Kristine
- 20 Brown, Walt & Rene

### **Council Committee chairs:**

Christian Youth Ed.— Mona  
 Evangelism — Brian  
 Negotiating — Stephen  
 Property — Laura, Bill  
 Social Ministry — Stuart  
 Stewardship — Brian  
 Worship & Music — Susan  
 To contact a council member:  
 either speak to one of them or leave a note in their mailbox.



Independence Day celebration

Saturday, July 4

6 pm

We' re having a BBQ. Hot dogs are the main course. Provided by the church: dogs, drinks, condiments, and eating necessitates. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Fireworks are at 9 pm.

See you there.



## !Save the Date!

San Diego Padre  
Fellowship Night Friday

August 21

\$18 tickets

Upper field seats

Call the office, 444-1272

ASAP before 7/21

## Council Chair Message

Greetings,

This month I will not only be doing this message, but also will be providing information on the Negotiations Committee activities. I will endeavor to keep both of them relatively short.

During this past month we had the pleasure of having Pastor Bill Brueggemann speak during our service on June 21<sup>st</sup>. He brought a wonderful message about how we can support his ministry south of the border and how we can build relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters. If you are so inclined, please consider being a part of a future trip to Mexico.

Your council has been looking into various possibilities for our congregation. We will be providing you with more information as time goes on. We ask you to prayerfully consider the options that will be discussed over the next month or two.

Judy and I will be out of town on vacation for the next three weeks or so. We are going to see Mount Rushmore and to Yellowstone National Park. There is no truth, however, to the rumor that Judy is going to bring back Yogi the Bear. In my absence, Brian Cowan will be handling any council matters that arise. I look forward to seeing you all on our return to church on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

If any of you are also traveling during this period, I wish you safe travels.

Steve

## Negotiations Committee Report

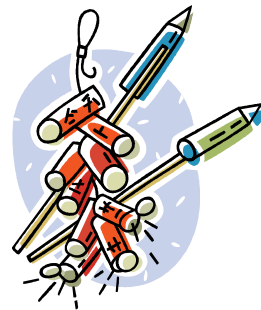
This month, we will be covering some of the information concerning the activities of the Negotiations Committee. It has been a somewhat eventful period. During this year, we have included the Family of God as congregations worshipping here at St. John's. They are a very small group and needed a church home to worship at. I am glad we are able to help them with their ministry.

We have worked with East Hills in their continued sharing of our facilities. Due to the reduced size of their congregation, they have had to scale back their activities and their financial obligation for use of our church property. We met with their Elders and have set up a schedule for ongoing meetings. They remain committed in remaining at St. John's and we will continue to work with them. We will soon begin to work on the contract for the 2010 calendar year.

We have the potential of another congregation that may want to have services here at St. John's. This is in the very early stages of discussion, so I don't have a lot of information yet to share, but they would meet after East Hills' service is done. I will provide more on this if it progresses forward.

That brings you up to date. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Steve





Volume 7 Issue 7

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1430 Melody Lane El Cajon, CA 92019

Address service requested

Phone: (619) 444-1272

Kitchen phone: (619) 328-1994

Fax: (619) 444-1353

Email: secretary@sj.sdcoxmail.com

georgeekeren@live.com

Staff:

George Ekeren-Moening

Laura Stephens

Breana Loraine

Jeane Lawrie

Drew Peterson

Pastor

Secretary

Music Director

Accompanist

Accompanist

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

**Churches that meet here**

East Hills Christian Church (Sunday - 10:30 am ) (shares building)

Jesus Mi Senor (Sunday - 1 pm & Thursday - 6 pm)

Family of God Community Church (Sunday - 11 am)

**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 Daytime  
Group

**Monday** 6:30 pm A.A. Monday Steps

6:30 pm A.A. Woman/s

3rd 7 pm 4H Beef

**Tuesday** 7 pm Women's Al-Anon  
Closed

**Wednesday**

Every Other 5:30 pm Brownie troop

2nd 6:30 pm G. S. Leaders Circle

3rd 2 pm License 2 Freedom

4th 7 pm 4H Golden Clover

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

8 pm NA Speakers

7:30 pm Al-Anon Open

**Friday**

**Saturday**

3rd / 4th 6 am SHARE pick up

Sign up for SHARE during church office  
hours.