



June 2006

Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience" Romans 8:24-25

I believe we live on a continuum between Fear and Hope. Both fear and hope exist in everyone's lives, yet often we lean towards one end or the other. In today's world, we are heavily leaning on the side of fear. Everyday we can find the Terror Alert color of the day (it's never "green"). We take the stance that we must strike our enemies before they strike us. We fear the immigrants coming across our borders and taking over? You might be afraid you don't have enough resources to last your lifetime. Do you fear losing your job? Do you fear for your health?

On the other side of the continuum is hope. Many times a message of pure hope, kindness, and love is said to be "unrealistic" thoughts and behavior. I was told in my previous congregation that I was unrealistic concerning the finances of that church. They carried a \$25,000 debt while worshipping about 65 people each week. I believed that if we were faithful disciples the future looked bright. They feared they wouldn't have enough money and talked about closing.

But what a different attitude at St. John's! You had a \$125,000 debt and worshipped fewer people each week than they did. So, how did you make it? Why is your debt under \$80,000 one year later and your worship attendance up? How come you have a bright, positive spirit and a very encouraging future? What has made you so much different that my congregation in Denver, which was in a much better situation than you

were this time last year? Let me tell you—you were Unrealistic! You had hope! You had faith! You had a positive attitude! You had a uplifting spirit! It was the choice you made. You made the choice to be hopeful, faithful, and positive, despite the circumstances that you were in. You simply chose HOPE! (I'm beginning to love people calling me "unrealistic!")

For in hope we were saved. No congregation ever has enough money or enough worshippers or enough helper or enough leaders. And no congregation ever will. Hope is not wondering how we are going to make it, but what we will make with the gifts God has given us. Hope is loving those whom we would rather not love, because God first loved us. Hope is trusting in the promises that God loves us even though we fall short. Hope is trusting that we can love others and show them kindness, gentleness, and care without worrying that they might take advantage of us. Hope is being faithful even in doubt.

At St. John's we are marching forward in hope to love our God, our neighbors, and our enemies. We are hopeful and hope-filled because Christ died on the cross for us. It is this hopeful message that we carry to one another and to our neighbors.

So remember, be unrealistic, hopeful, kind, considerate, compassionate, and loving!

Pastor George

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 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

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

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

7— J.R. Stephens
12— Bonnie Walters
14— Matthew Dippolito
17— Pat Cowan
18— Jeanne Kenney
25— Denise Dippolito
27— Brian Cowan



Congratulations to Katherine Stephens-Doll for graduating from middle college/high school. Katherine's commencement will be on Wednesday, June 7 at 5:30 pm., Grossmont Junior College Quad. We wish her well on her endeavors.



The Fourth of July Community Event is quickly approaching. Our planning meeting on May 21st had many ideas exchanged. **The next meeting will be on Sunday, June 4th, right after service, in the Fireside Room.** Come and be a part of this wonderful fellowship and of course have a lot of fun doing it. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be supplied. More info on the food to follow. We'll have our infamous cake walk, and play horse-shoes and badminton and ??? All the fun and activities will start at 4 pm. Fireworks are at 9 pm.

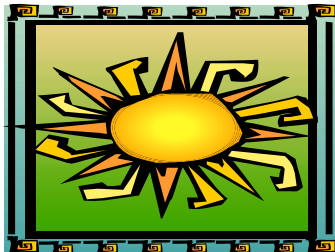


Happy Wedding Anniversary

4— Harvey & Glenda Holsbo
12— Charles & Mildred Meyer
15— Tom & Susan Shaddox
29— Dave & Pat Persiani



To order flowers for a special occasion, you can call the church office.



June's Events

4 — Pentecost Sunday
WEAR RED
11 — Trinity Sunday
WEAR WHITE
18 — Father's Day
21 — Summer begins



4 — Independence Day Community Event starting at 4 pm

Greetings from the Council Chair:

We have turned another page on the calendar and are starting into the summer period. We have continued to work on paying down the loan and our finances continue to improve. We continue to thank God for his blessings and his providence. As long as we continue to abide in Him, we can be assured that he will provide for our needs.

Speaking of blessings, we continue to look forward to signing a new agreement with East Hills to extend their usage through another year. We, both as a congregation and individually, have been blessed with having the opportunity to provide them with a place to worship. I realize that this hasn't always been easy or convenient, but we have grown from the experience.

We had a meeting this past week with representative from the East Hills Woman's group about the July 4th celebration, as we did last year. That event was very successful and everyone had a great time. This year, we will be requesting people to sign up to bring side dishes or snacks. We will again be having the bar-b-que going to cook up hot dogs or other goodies. We will be meeting with them to finalize the activities this Sunday. If you have any suggestions, please let either Glenda Holsbo or myself know. If you are interested in helping, please come to the meeting after services.

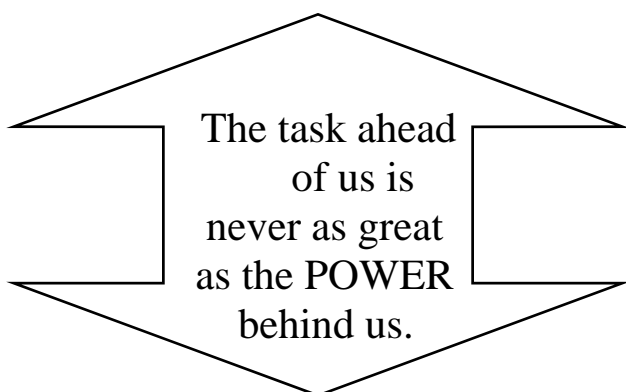
I will leave you with a story that I saw a couple of days ago in the Union Tribune. A federal Judge issued a ruling that prevented a public high school in Russell County, Kentucky from reciting a prayer at their annual graduation ceremonies. This ruling was the result of a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on behalf of a single student, who objected to the prayers.

As the principal was giving his speech, some 200 students interrupted him by reciting the Lord's Prayer. This drew applause and a standing ovation from the people attending the event. Additionally, one of the student speakers, Megan Chapman, told the audience that she had been guided by God since childhood and for her classmates to trust Him as they go out into the world. This also brought loud cheers. The school district's Superintendent, Scott Pierce, stated he was pleased with the student's response to the ruling.

My heart was warmed to read that some students still value prayer and are willing to express their beliefs, regardless of what is "politically correct". Their actions should be an example to all of us.

May God's peace be with you during this coming month and throughout your lives.

Steve



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*.)

Beginning

It is the moral nature of man by which he rises to good and noble thoughts. The different sciences show us the world as it is. Ethics tells us what it ought to be. It enables man to know how he should act. Man has two windows to his mind: through one he can see his own self as it is; through the other, he can see what he ought to be. It is our task to analyze and explore the body, the brain and the mind of man separately; but if we stop here, we derive no benefit despite our scientific knowledge. It is necessary to know about the evil effects of injustice, wickedness, vanity and the like, and the disaster they spell where the three are found together. And mere knowledge is not enough, it should be followed by appropriate action. An ethical idea is like an architect's plan. The plan shows how the building should be constructed; but it becomes useless if the building is not raised accordingly. Similarly, an ethical idea is useless so long as it is not followed by suitable action. There are many who memorize moral precepts and preach sermons, but they neither practice them nor do they mean to do so. There are some who believe that moral principles are not intended to be practiced in this world; they are meant for the other world- the world which lies beyond death. A great thinker has said, " If you wish to attain perfection,

you must begin from this very day to live according to the laws of morality at any cost." We need not be scared away by such thoughts; on the contrary we should be glad to live up to them, considering our responsibility in the matter. "Certainly, cousin," said the gallant Earl of Pembroke, on coming up to the Earl of Derby before Aubercoche and finding the battle already won, "you have neither been courteous nor behaved honorably to fight my enemies without waiting for me". Only when there is such readiness to accept moral responsibility will men tread the path of virtue.

God is omnipotent, He is perfect. There are no limits to His mercy, to His goodness and to His justice. If this is so, how can we, His bond slaves, stray at all from the moral path? It is no fault of the ethical principles if one following them should fail. However, those committing a breach of morality have only themselves to blame.

In the path of morality there is no such things as reward for moral behavior. If a man does some good deed, he does not do it to win applause, he does it because he must. For him doing good is but a higher kind of food, if one may compare food and goodness. And if someone should give him an opportunity to do a good deed, he would feel grateful just as a starving man would be grateful to the giver of food and bless him.

This ethical religion, of which we have spoken, does not mean the cultivation of gentlemanliness. It does mean that we should become a little more diligent, a little better educated, a little cleaner and neater, etc. All this is no doubt included in it, but it touches only the fringe of ethical religion. Many more things have to be done by man if he would walk along this path; and he has to do them as a matter of duty, knowing them to be a part of his nature, not for gaining any worldly benefit.

Thanks Dad

As Father's Day approaches, how do we thank a man that has fathered you through the good times and the bad. The man that has been a teacher, a playmate, a friend, a conscience and a man above all else, has shown you love. Your actions dad, were subtle and without fanfare; there is more to you than meets the eye. You are rugged, but you've got style, though I sometimes wonder about how you dressed. You went through your day's work providing for me, not asking for anything in return and that makes me feel guilty, because you weathered the storms of my defiance, my anger and my hurting words and yet you still loved me. How could you, I was a brat, but you did unconditionally. Your years of experience tried to save me some grief, but did I listen, usually not. I responded "leave me alone or let me do it myself or I know how to do it" and most of the time I didn't and fell flat on my face. You were willing to gently pick me up after my failures and not say "I told you so" though I'm sure the thought was tempting. You congratulated me on my achievements and were proud of me on my success. You treated me like a child when I was one and an adult when I became one. You raised me up to be the person that you knew I could become. You held me in the palm of your hand and showed me the world. My admiration, gratitude and respect go out to you and I thank God you are in my life for the duration.

How do you thank a dad like that? Do you buy him a "cutesy gift", a "man's tool", or take him out to breakfast, lunch or dinner? As you ponder these options on how to show your dad your gratitude, maybe just say "I LOVE YOU." This action may take dad back a step or two, because you know he's a macho guy. Now don't get all mushy, because that will definitely send him running. Just a simple I love you will do, though I'm sure the gift won't be denied.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

June's Worship Assistant's Schedule

	9:00 am	
CANTOR	Brian Cowan	4 & 18
READERS		SNACKS
6/4	Charles Meyer	Glenda Holsbo
6/11	Charles Meyer	Kim Stephens-Doll
6/18	John Stephens	Father's Day
6/25	John Stephens	Maxine Mattson
ASSISTANTS		
6/4	Charlie Meyer	
6/11	Charlie Meyer	
6/18	Paul Stephens	
6/25	Paul Stephens	
USHERS		
6/4	Maxine Mattson	Please be prepared to light
6/11	Maxine Mattson	and extinguish candles.
6/18	Marilyn Litsheim	
6/25	Marilyn Litsheim	
ALTAR GUILD	Laura Stephens	



Would you like to make Knitted or Crocheted Bandages for Tropical Ulcer Patients? Global Health Ministries has this simple pattern.













Knitted— With size 8 needles cast on 14 (smaller size) or 18 (larger size) stitches. Knit both sides until bandages measures 4 feet. Cast off. Tie ends of yarn.

Crocheted— With H hook chain 13 or 17. Double crochet in third chain from hook. Double crochet to end. Chain 2. Double crochet to end. Continue until bandage measures 4 feet. Fasten ends of yarn. Attach a large safety pin to each bandage.

Use white or natural cotton yarn, Peaches & Cream or Sugar & Cream. Cotton yarn can be washed easily and sterilized for re-use. You can buy the large cones at Wal-Mart for around \$7. If you can't knit/crochet and would like to buy the yarn, that's great. Contact the church office for more info, 444-1272.

June 2006

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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Volume 4 Issue 6

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
1430 Melody Lane El Cajon,
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Email: secretary@sj.sdcoxmail.com
Website: <http://www.stjohnslutheranelcajonorg>

Address service requested

Staff:

George Ekeren-Moening Pastor
Laura Stephens Secretary
Katherine Stephens-Doll Choir Director
Jeane Lawrie Accompanist
Drew Peterson Accompanist
Beth Stephens
& Corie Stephens Youth

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
2nd	7 pm	4H/ Golden Clover	<u>2nd Sunday</u>	1 pm	SHARE sign up