



March 2007

Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. Amen.

Thank You

I'm so grateful to be here at St. John's with you during my wife's illness. Too often I need to be absent from St. John's to accompany Shannon to doctor and hospital visits, but you've been very patient and kind with me and I wish to thank you for that. I'll again need to be absent on Tuesday, February 27th to take Shannon to the UCSD Medical Center for a treatment on her liver. Hopefully things will settle down soon and I'll have a more regular and predictable schedule. Yet, again, thank you for your patience and kindness.

Day of Theological Reflection

On February 15th the Pacifica Synod hosted its annual Day of Theological Reflection for rostered clergy. Bishop Murray Finck, as our presenter, talked about the Mission of the Church Through the Eyes of Luke, using the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts as his references. This mission is so vital for the church in today's world and for today's churches. I'm getting his notes to use for our own discussion on

mission here at St. John's later this spring.

The Front Lawn

On Sunday, February 25th we will decide on a cross to be erected on the front lawn. I believe this is an important step for St. John's. Why? Appearances are important to guests and visitors to make them feel welcome and comfortable. With a little money and time St. John's can be spruced up to make our little congregation look a bit more pleasant and inviting. A nice cross on the front lawn is a start.

But let's remember – no everyone will ever agree on everything. What the cross is made out of, how large it will be, where it is placed, etc., etc., -- there will not be a consensus. Even I as your pastor am not expecting to have everything my way. But the only thing that is truly important is sharing the gospel, serving in mission and ministry, and demonstrating God's love to those who need it. All else is just trying to get us to these truly important things!

Look What You Have Done Now!

Our tithing was \$4,000 higher than our expenses for January.

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:

Pat Cowan	President
Glenda Holsbo	Vice President
Vicky Gay	Secretary
Mona Anderson	Treasurer
Rod Cravens	
Mike LaValle	
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.

continued on page 4

St. John's Home Page

Our Lenten season is here. Prepare the way for the Lord.



Come to a soup supper on March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 5:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall and starting at 6:30 pm, there will be a Holden Evening service, in the sanctuary.



Happy Birthday

2 — Paula Pazo
4 — Mildred Meyer
5 — Justin Clark
6 — Lois Krueger
11 — Anita Sofranko
12 — Patty Persiani
13 — Florida Lupachini
18 — Mike LaValle
21 — Linda Ross
21 — Shannon Ekeren-Moening
23 — Judy Dietrich



We have received a note from Ione Sykes:

She misses us and wishes us all well. Had a very busy Christmas trying to "beat" Santa and visit her family that were in Texas. She thanks us for the fond memories she has of St. John's.

Watch for the Shut-in and out of area people next card mailing; we send one out to Ione. All our receivers are appreciative of them.



Happy Wedding Anniversary

26 — Paul & Anita Sofranko

March

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



April

1 — Palm Sunday
5 — Maundy Thursday
6 — Good Friday
8 — Easter
13 — Council meeting



The Pacifica Synod Assembly is in early May, in Hawai'i. St. John's is going to raise funds to assist Pastor George & Shannon, our 2 delegates- Brian & Pat Cowan to get there; needless to say the travel cost has increased. The registration is higher this year as well, because it includes more packaged activities. Help support these fundraisers, but don't forget the business of the church goes on as well. This church is GREAT and that means you.

1. The RUMMAGE SALE on 3/24.
2. The VOLCANO. Pastor George came up with the volcano idea, so it will be available each week to help us get to the erupting total of \$3,500.
3. ???
4. ???

What do you know about the Pacifica Synod?

ELCA?

You can go to the Pacifica Synod or the ELCA's web site to learn more.

They each have multiple links to other sites to find what you want to know. Try it out.

www.pacificasynod.org

www.elca.org



continued from pastor's article

Adult Forums

Beginning Sunday, March 4th we will spend five weeks studying Galatians and Christian freedom. This is a wonderful Lenten theme and will aid you in your Lenten journey. I hope many of you will dedicate yourselves to this 30-40 minute study and commit yourselves to reflecting on Christ and prayer.

Remember, you are loved. God bless.

Pastor George

Cell # 619- 971-0399



WORK DAY PROJECTS

As you all know it takes a village to raise a child...well it takes a congregation to maintain a church.

Project dates:

March 3, Saturday: install new plexi-glass in the Melody street sign.

March 4, Sunday: strip clean the white fence after service. A BBQ lunch will be served at 12:30 pm.

March 10 & 17, Saturdays: Spring clean the buildings. A work list is available on the office door.

The Saturday projects start at 9 am.

The more help we get, the less amount of time ... (I think you get the idea.)

Call the church office if you need more info, 444-1272.



The Annual Church Rummage Sale

Saturday

March 24

7 am—12 pm

Fellowship Hall

Now that you have finished cleaning out your closets and have nowhere to send it, the rummage sale is a great place; but if you donate we have one catch - we would appreciate a little of your time to help us. We will be setting up the sale starting on Tuesday, March 20 and having a final set up on Friday, March 23. Please, please give us a few moments of your time, because we can use a lot of HELP in set up, at the sale and during clean up on March 25, after service. Call the church office for set up times, 444-1272.

You can drop off your donations to the northwest corner of the Fellowship Hall (by the big desk.) Thanks.

Greetings from the President's desk:

Greetings! I'm baaack! It's been a year since I wrote this little column and now I'm back at it! The Council has voted on the roster of officers for 2007, and I'm President again. Glenda Holsbo is continuing as Vice President, Vicky Gay as Secretary, and Mona Anderson has stepped up to the post of Treasurer.

I re-read my last article for the newsletter, exactly one year ago, and guess what I was writing about: the rock garden! So, let's not let this dream go away. We've had some very good work starting it, and I really want to get going on the garden now. By the time you read this article, we will have finalized our plans for the cross, to be located inside the circular driveway on the Melody Drive side of the church. It appears we will decide on treated wood for the material, and it will probably stand about 16 feet high.

We'll have some rocks as adornments for a start, and then we'll consider where we can go from there: we have several exciting options. I'm really looking forward to beautifying the front of our church and working with all of you on this project. I'll repeat what I said last year: if you can't haul rocks or hoist the cross, you can certainly come and make iced tea for those who are hauling rocks!

Our other project is to scrape and paint the preschool fence. Evidently it wasn't primed from the manufacturers, and the paint is chipping badly, enough that we might be endangering the children who play in there. So we'll be taking a few Sundays in March right after fellowship to go outside and scrape as much as our arms will allow, and then we can prime and paint afterwards. I'm still hoping Rod Cravens will let us paint it pink ...

Another exciting project on our horizon is the Synod General Assembly in May at Waikiki Beach, Hawaii. Brian and I, as well as Pastor George and his family, will be attending. This is going to be expensive: even the registration fees are very high, so dig deep and help finance this wonderful adventure.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, let's make 2007 a banner year for St. John's!

In Christian Love,



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

Council Committee chairs:

Christian Education/ Youth—Mona Anderson
Evangelism— Glenda Holsbo
Negotiating—Pat Cowan
Property— Rod Cravens, Bill Martin
Social Ministry— Vicky Gay
Stewardship—
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; by the courtyard entry.

Our Outreach Ministry is collecting:

- Diapers, any size, for Salvation Army Back Country
- Box Tops 4 Education for the Navajo Lutheran Mission
- Used eye glasses
- Personal hygiene products
- Greeting cards for our Shut-ins

March 2007

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class 10:30 AM Adult Forum SHARE sign up	9:30 AM Women's Bible study	9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Council meeting	5:30 PM Lenten soup supper 6:30 PM Lenten service	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class 10:30 AM Adult Forum Spring ahead with Daylight Savings Time	9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Council meeting	9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Council meeting	5:30 PM Lenten soup supper 6:30 PM Lenten service	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice	St. Patrick's Day 
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class 10:30 AM Adult Forum	9:30 AM Women's Bible study Newsletter articles due	9:30 AM Women's Bible study Newsletter articles due	5:30 PM Lenten soup supper 6:30 PM Lenten service First day of Spring	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice	6:30 AM SHARE pick up
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class 10:30 AM Adult Forum Newsletters delivered	8:45 AM Women's Bus. mtg 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	8:45 AM Women's Bus. mtg 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	5:30 PM Lenten soup supper 6:30 PM Lenten service	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice	7:00 PM Choir/ Music practice

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

March's Worship Assistant's Schedule

	9:00 am	
CANTOR	Miria Stephens	4 & 18
READERS		SNACKS
3/4	Marilyn Litsheim	Kim Stephens-Doll
3/11	Marilyn Litsheim	Maxine Mattson
3/18	Charlie Meyer	Marilyn Litsheim
3/25	Charlie Meyer	Rene Brown
ASSISTANTS		
3/4	Paul Stephens	
3/11	Paul Stephens	
3/18	Charlie Meyer	
3/25	Charlie Meyer	
USHERS		
3/4	John Stephens	Please be prepared to light
3/11	John Stephens	and extinguish the can-
3/18	Carole Nelson	
3/25	Carole Nelson	
ALTAR GUILD	Laura Stephens	
	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's Acolyte room. On the posted sheets, please make any changes needed to fit your schedule.

Thanks for all your help with the worship service.

If you would like to be involved in your worship service and are not, please call the church office at 444-1272 and we will get you on the schedule.

Worship news for Easter

4/1 — Palms will be adorning our church. We could use help setting them up on 3/31, at 9 am.

4/5 — Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm.

4/6 — Good Friday service at 7 pm.

4/8 — Easter service at 9 am. Please bring in fresh cut flowers; as we will be decorating our wood cross. Lily donations are appreciated to beautify our sanctuary, as well.

4/8 — Easter breakfast at 10 am.

Sign up for a food donation on 3/18 or 3/25; sign up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary.



Volume 5 Issue 3

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

Address service requested

Phone: (619) 444-1272
Alternate phone number: (619) 328-1994
Fax: (619) 444-1353
Email: secretary@sj.sdcoxmail.com
Pastor's George'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