



November 2006

Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

All Saints' Sunday

Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." (John 11:44)

All Saints' Sunday is a very special day in the church year, in that it is our day to remember and celebrate our dearly departed over the past year.

Our loved who are obviously precious to us and we miss them badly. Yet, All Saints' Sunday is our day to remember where they are and whose they are.

It is a day to give thanks to God for not forgetting us or leaving us on our own. God came down to earth for us, for you and me and our dearly departed loved ones.

Jesus enters the house of Mary and Martha, whose brother Lazarus has died. After giving thanks to the Father for having heard him, Jesus asked Lazarus to come out of his tomb. Lazarus comes out still wrapped in his burial clothes. Jesus tells others to "unbind him, and let him go."

It would be wonderful if Jesus came to us and called our

loved ones from their graves. But he has. Jesus has called our loved ones out of their graves as well. He has unbound them from their burial clothes and has freed them from death and into eternal life. The story of Lazarus' rising is a metaphor for us. We also will be unbound and set free from sin, death and the devil. We also will be freed to live in eternity in the kingdom of God.

Unbound and free. That is why God came down to earth. You are so special to God that the incarnate Lord sacrificed his life on the cross for you. As Lazarus was raised from death to life, your loved ones were raised from death to life. And so will you.

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:
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

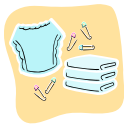
St. John's Mission Statement:

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



Greeting cards are needed for our shut-ins. If you have any blank cards, please leave them in the office.



Packaged baby diapers are needed at Salvation Army Back Country. Please bring your donation to the church office.



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



Happy Birthday

2 Nolan Stephens
 16 Jeanne Lawrie
 19 Marilyn Litsheim
 22 Mona Anderson
 25 Drew Peterson
 26 Stephen Dietrich
 26 Arlene Fowler
 26 Ruth Hazelebach



A note of Thanks from the Mucia family: Sherie expresses a heartfelt Thank you to all who sent cards, said prayers and helped with Tony's memorial.

Are You 80 + ?

If you are 80 or more, please let us know. The Bible encourages us to honor those who are faithfully following the Lord in their later years. May the Lord draw nearer and dearer to you with each passing day.

Jeane Lawrie has admitted she's 80 + will you?



Ruth Gunther says "Hello, that she is doing well, and misses us."

November

2-5 — Pacifica Synod WELCA Assembly in Hawaii
 5 — All Saint's Sunday
 7 — Voting Day
 14 — Council meeting
 18 — SHARE pickup
 19 — Congregational meeting
 19 — Mother Goose Parade
 23 — Thanksgiving
 26 — Christ the King Sunday



December

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

Greetings from the Council Chair:

Another month has come and gone. We are now getting into the holiday season. In just a few short weeks, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and then it is only a hop, skip and jump until Christmas! Where has the year gone?

We have finally got the ceiling fans installed in the Sanctuary, the fellowship hall and in the fireside room. Many thanks are due to all those who helped with getting this project completed.

The rock garden continues in the planning stages. The committee has looked at the various drawings that you have provided and are discussing what they believe will be the best design. They have contacted the City of El Cajon and have obtained information on the requirements of the city. This is going to be a fairly long process, but will be something that we can all enjoy in the future.

We continue to work with East Hills in the sharing of our facility. We hope that they will be worshipping at St. John's for many years to come. East Hills has a Men's Prayer Breakfast on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's at 7:30 AM in the fellowship hall. They have invited any interested men from St. John's to join them as their guests.

We will be having a special congregational meeting on November 19th, after service in the fellowship hall, to go over the recommended changes to the Constitution and By-laws of the Church. These need to be provided to all members at this time, so we can vote on them at the Annual Meeting of the congregation. More information will be provided in the Sunday bulletin's over the next couple of weeks.

Until next month, take care and may God bless.

Steve



To receive your Newsletters via the E-mail, contact:

sjdietrich@cox.net

This will give Stephen your E-mail address



Help those that need warm clothing, by donating your extra coats, jackets, sweaters or a blanket to the Salvation Army Back Country. Please leave them at the church office. Thank you.

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.)

Religious Morality Or Moral Religion

Gandhi wrote the following prefatory note to this Chapter under the caption of "Darwin's Views on Ethics".

[Before summarizing this Chapter, it is necessary to give an account first of Darwin himself. Darwin was a great Englishman of the last century who made great scientific discoveries. His memory and his power of observation were amazing. He has written some books which deserve to be read and pondered. With a mass of evidence and arguments, he has shown how man came into being; how he has evolved from a particular kind of monkey. After a large number of experiments and much sifting of evidence, he realized that there was not much difference between the anatomy of man and that of the ape. Whether this conclusion is correct or not has not much to do with ethics. Besides this, Darwin has also shown how ideas of morality affect mankind. And as many scholars have faith in Darwin's writings, our author has dealt with his views in Chapter VI]

Nevertheless, we ought to know the direction in which our environment disposes our instincts. We know that we are not in every way masters of our own life; there are conditions outside of us to which we have to adjust ourselves. For instance, in a country where Himalayan cold prevails, we

have to put on adequate clothing, whether we like it or not, in order to keep the body warm. That is, we have to act with prudence.

The question now arises: Does the influence of environment lead us to be moral? Or can it be that the forces that surround us are indifferent to morality?

At this point it becomes necessary to consider Darwin's views. Though Darwin did not write as a moral philosopher, he has shown how close the connection is between morality and environment. Those who think that morality is unimportant and that physical strength and mental capacity are the only things that matter should read Darwin. According to him, there is an instinct of self-preservation in men as in other creatures. He also says that those who survive the struggle for existence may be regarded as successful, that is, those who are unfit tend to extinction, but that the issue of the struggle does not depend on mere physical force.

Comparing man with the bear or the buffalo, we find that, in physical strength, the bear and the buffalo are superior to him; in a tussle he will surely be worsted. Nonetheless he is their superior by virtue of his intelligence. Similarly we can compare with the largest numbers or with the hardiest soldiers that wins, but the side with the ablest generals and the best strategy, though its soldiers may be fewer or less hardly. In these examples we see the superiority of intelligence.

But Darwin shows further that moral strength is even superior to physical and intellectual strength; and we can see in various ways that a man who has moral qualities lasts longer than one who is devoid of them.

Some hold that Darwin taught that strength is enough; that is, those who are physically strong ultimately survive. Superficial thinkers may believe that morality is of no use. But this is not Darwin's view at all. We find from the evidence of the early history of man that races without morality have completely disappeared. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were extremely immoral and they are now therefore completely extinct. We can see even today how races without morality are steadily declining.

Continued on page 5

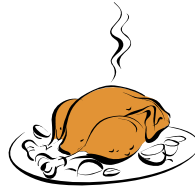
- Continued from page 4 -

Let us now take some simple illustrations and see how at least common morality is necessary for sustaining the human race. A peaceful disposition is one element of morality. At first sight it may appear that people with a violent disposition rise in life; but a little reflection will show that, when the sword of violence falls, it may be on one's own neck. Freedom from bad habits forms another element of morality. Statistics have proved that, at the age of thirty, intemperate persons in England are not likely to live beyond another thirteen or fourteen years, while the teetotaller's expectation of life is seventy years. Yet another element of morality is chastity. Darwin has no children, or if they have any, they are weak. The profligate become feeble of mind, and in course of time look like idiots.

If we consider the morals of various communities, we find the same state of affairs. Among the Andaman islanders the husband looks after his wife only until their child is weaned and begins to move about, and he then abandons her. That is, they do not have the quality of altruism, and utter selfishness prevails. The result is that the race is gradually dying out.

Darwin shows that the altruistic instinct is present, to some extent, even in animals: timid birds display strength in defending their young. This shows that, if there had been no selflessness among animals, we should have in the world scarcely any life other than grass and poisonous flora. The main distinction between man and other animals is that man is more selfless than the animals. He has sacrificed his life for others in proportion to his strength, that is, for his offspring, for his family, his community and his country.

Darwin clearly shows that moral strength is supreme. The ancient Greeks had greater intelligence than the Europeans of today, but when the former gave up morality, their intelligence became their enemy, and no trace of them remains today. Nations are sustained neither by wealth nor by armies, but by righteousness alone. It is the duty of man to bear this truth in mind and practice altruism, which is the highest form of morality.



T'was the night of Thanksgiving,
but I just couldn't sleep
I tried counting backwards,
I tried counting sheep.
The leftovers beckoned -
the dark meat and white
but I fought the temptation with all of my
might

tossing and turning with anticipation
the thought of a snack became infatuation.

So, I raced to the kitchen,
flung open the door
and gazed at the fridge,
full of calories galore.

I gobbled up turkey and
battered potatoes,
pickles and carrots,
beans and tomatoes.

I felt myself swelling
so plump and so round,
'til all of a sudden

I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling,
floating into the sky
with a mouthful of pudding
and a handful of pie.

But, I managed to yell
as I soared past the trees...

"Happy eating to all -
pass the cranberries, please."

May your stuffing be tasty,
may your turkey be plump
may your potatoes 'n gravy have
nary a lump,

May your yams be delicious,
may your pies take a prize,
May your Thanksgiving dinner
stay off your thighs.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

November's Worship Assistant's Schedule

	9:00 am	
CANTOR	Miria Stephens	5 & 12
READERS		SNACKS
11/5	Mona Anderson	Marilyn Litsheim
11/12	Luella Cravens	Rene Brown
11/19	Luella Cravens	Pat Cowan
11/26	Mona Anderson	Mona Anderson
ASSISTANTS		
11/5	Mona Anderson	
11/12	Luella Cravens	
11/19	Luella Cravens	
11/26	Mona Anderson	
USHERS		
11/5	Judy DeLong	Please be prepared to light
11/12	Judy DeLong	and extinguish the candles.
11/19	Maxine Mattson	
11/26	Maxine Mattson	
ALTAR GUILD		
	Thank you for all your help	



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. Please bring a gift to exchange and your lunch money. Come and join us, even if you don't want a secret sister, because we are going to have holly-jolly good time.

November 2006 Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <table style="font-size: 8px; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="7">October</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	October							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	31							<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <table style="font-size: 8px; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="7">November</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	November							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	31								
October																																																																																																															
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	31																																																																																																													
November																																																																																																															
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	31																																																																																																														
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																									
9:00 AM Traditional 10:30 AM Adult Forum 1:00 PM SHARE sign up <i>All Saint's Sunday</i>	Pacifica Synod WELCA	9:30 AM Women's Bible study <i>Voting Day</i>	6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study	7:30 PM Choir/Music	Pacifica Synod WELCA Assembly in Hawaii	<i>Veteran's Day</i>																																																																																																									
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																									
9:00 AM Contemporary 10:30 AM Adult Forum		9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Council meeting	6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study	7:30 PM Choir/Music		6:30 AM SHARE pick up																																																																																																									
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																									
9:00 AM Traditional 10:30 AM Adult Forum	Newsletter articles due	9:30 AM Women's Bible study	6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study	<i>Thanksgiving</i>																																																																																																											
26	27	28	29	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="font-size: 8px; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="7">December</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		December							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	31																																																						
December																																																																																																															
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	31																																																																																																														
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																									
9:00 AM Contemporary 10:30 AM Adult Forum <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> Newsletters delivered		8:45 AM Women's Bus. mtg 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study	7:30 PM Choir/Music																																																																																																											



Volume 4 Issue 11

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

Address service requested

Phone: (619) 444-1272
Fax: (619) 444-1353
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