



Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2008

'Luther Decade' Significant for All Lutherans, Says Lutheran World Leader

This article appeared on
the ELCA website

www.elca.org). I believe the Luther Decade is important because, although the Lutheran Church is growing in Africa, U.S. and European Lutheran churches are declining. The Lutheran Church has the vital, biblically-based theology of the cross teaching heritage, which is a strong counter to the distorted messages of today's prosperity theology and rapture theology.

We at St. John's Lutheran Church will attempt to participate in as many Lutheran Decade events as possible, while dedicating ourselves to re-familiarizing ourselves with basic theology of the cross teachings and outreach to our community.

LUTHERSTADT WITTENBERG, Germany (ELCA) -- The Sept. 20-21 kickoff of the "Luther Decade" here was significant for all Lutherans because it offered opportunities for evangelism and "deep theological conversation" among Lutherans and ecumenical partners, said the Rev. Mark S. Hanson. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), made the comments Sept. 21 during a news conference here.

Hanson participated in a series of events marking the arrival here 500 years ago of Martin Luther, a German monk, whose writings were instrumental in the Lutheran Reformation. The Luther Decade is expected to be a series of events and observances leading to 2017.



from Pastor

In that year Lutherans will mark the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation, when Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church.

"The Luther Decade is very important for Lutherans throughout the world because what began in Germany is clearly now a global movement," said Hanson whose LWF role includes leading 68.3 million Lutherans worldwide.

The rapid increase of the numbers of Lutherans in Africa is testimony that the Lutheran Church continues to be an evangelical movement, he said. "Yet we must confront the challenges that prosperity gospel preaching are for us who proclaim a radical cruciform gospel of God's grace in Christ through faith," Hanson said.

Through the Reformation, Lutherans have contributed many gifts to the entire Christian church, Hanson said. He noted that in an age of religious extremists and the growth of fundamentalism, descendants of the Lutheran Reformation live with convictions that may seem to be contradictory to others -- such as the belief that the creation is both good and at the same time fallen, that people are saints and sinners, and that the Word of God is both law and gospel.

"Those are deeply held teachings for us, but they are difficult to communicate in a world that doesn't seem to want to live with ambiguity and paradox," Hanson said.

Lutherans offer other gifts to the world, such as ecumenical cooperation, diaconal ministry in service to others, and work for justice and peace

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 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
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Council Members:

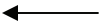
Stephen Dietrich	chair
Brian Cowan	vice-chair
Vicky Gay	secretary
Mona Anderson	treasurer
Rod Cravens	
Bill Martin	
Paul Sofranko	
Laura Stephens	

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



"We also must be attentive in this decade to how we live as Christians with people of other faiths," Hanson said. "This is a time for us to engage in dialogue so that extremists of any religion don't dominate the world or don't become the only face of people who are religious to the world." He said Lutherans are working in places such as the Middle East to achieve peaceful resolution of historic conflicts.

Human beings need to be reformed in how they treat creation, Hanson said, noting that the first of Luther's 95 Theses is about repentance.

Hanson also preached at a nationally broadcast Castle Church service here Sept. 21, attended by German government officials and church leaders.

Pastor George

Cell # 619-249-5224

Happy Birthday



- 5 Beth Stephens
- 5 Wendy Stephens
- 9 Barbara Helm
- 18 Emily Gay



Wondering what is going on with the Pictorial Directory?

It's in the 'works.'

The address information is being set up and soon the pictures will be added. Hope to have the directory ready for distribution by the end of November, if not sooner.

Take a look at our new wood



planter box.

Thanks to the Girl Scouts

Emerald El Cajon Service Unit;

they meet here monthly on the 3rd Wednesday.

Right now it's in the mailbox entry.



October

- 14 Council meeting
- 23 Women's business meeting
- 25 SHARE pick up
- 26 Silent Auction & Chili cook-off
- 28 Women's evening Bible study
- 31 Halloween



November

- 3 Election Day
- 7-9 Pacifica Synod WELCA Assembly
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 11 Council meeting
- 22 SHARE pick up
- 25 Women's business meeting & evening Bible study
- 27 Thanksgiving

From the Council Chairman's Desk

Greetings,

For some reason, the message I sent for the September newsletter got lost in the email ozone. So I am including Breena's update on the choir happenings this month. Please see what she has been working on for us here at St. John's. It is such a blessing to have such a wonderful choir.

The work on the Cross garden has begun! The path was dug out and the Decomposed Granite was placed, along with the planter areas. We will begin working on the getting the plants and trees. We look forward to having the garden completed soon. It will be a great to finally have this project finished so we can enjoy the garden.

This year, we will be losing several members of the Council due to their completing two terms on the Council, as well as those who are not seeking re-election. We will be looking for members to come forward to serve on this important Church board. We would love to have your participation in providing this service for St. John's. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to serve on the Council and let one of the existing Council members know of your interest. We will be having our annual meeting and election of Council members on December 7.

Until next month, God bless and take care,

Steve

Dear members of St. John's Lutheran,

As the summer is coming to an end, the choir looks forward to a new season. In the two years that I have worked as the Director of Music at St. John's, I have seen great growth in the choir. All their hard work is really paying off! I have primarily concentrated on the choir's unification. By focusing on implementing straight tones, and making sure each member sharpens their consonants and creates identical vowel shapes, the choir members have achieved purer tones, vowels, and consonants, and they are blending and sound as one voice.

They continue to employ the breathing techniques, breath support, and breath control methods that I have taught them. Instructing the choir in music theory, musical notation, musical terms, and vocal and breathing techniques taught by internationally acclaimed conductors is helping them to develop their gifts.

I have extended the choir's musical repertoire, literature, and library by introducing choruses from Handel's Messiah, 15th century carols and anthems, old Basque carols, and Gregorian chants. Incorporating traditional French and Dutch carols and other pieces for holidays makes the occasions even more special. Every Sunday I get so blessed to see the congregation singing the hymns (with beautiful sacred text set to music by gifted composers) that I chose that correlate to the Bible readings and sermon topics.

It has been such a blessing to work with the Pastor's daughter, Hanley. Seeing her voice develop is an exciting experience for all of us. God has truly gifted her, and we are so blessed to have her share this gift with us.

We look forward to new things while staying focused in bringing the music ministry of our Lord to the congregation. St. John's is blessed to have such a dedicated choir and gifted accompanists, Jeane and Drew. A special thank you to Jeane, who is present at every rehearsal with a smile on her face, and is so devoted and faithful to St. John's.

God bless and keep you all,
Breena Loraine

Psalm 118:14

"The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. "

Many thanks to all who have volunteered their time to teach our young people.

Children's Sunday School Teacher schedule-

10/5/08	Vicky Gay
10/12/08	Pat Cowan
10/19/08	Vicky Gay
10/26/08	Cindy Cooley
11/2/08	Connie Reck
11/9/08	Judy Dietrich
11/16/08	Judy Dietrich
11/23/08	Pat Cowan
11/30/08	Marilyn Litsheim
12/7/08	Cindy Cooley
12/14/08	Mona Anderson
12/21/08	Connie Reck
12/28/08	Laura Stephens
1/5/09	Mona Anderson

We will be using sundaysandseasons Kids Celebrate for class. The lessons are placed in the Sunday school room a month at a time; October is done. Let Laura know, if you would like to get your November, December, January lesson sooner.

If you need to change your day, please do so; we want everyone happy. The list is also posted in the classroom.

Please look for the lessons on the side table, by the door.



What's happening October 26 ?

Out Bid



The Silent Auction and Chili Cook-off. Get ready for some good food, a lot of excitement and a fun way to shop.

Chili cooks, please have your chili to the kitchen by **10:30 am**, for judging.

There'll be salad, cornbread, rolls, and desserts available, and of course something to cool off that chili blazed mouth and naturally the Lutheran drink of choice, coffee.

At **11 am** we start eating and bidding. The auctions ends at **12:15 pm**. So watch out for those last minute bids.

Look for the help out sign-up sheet at service time. C U there.

If you are still doing or have finished your Fall cleaning, the women would appreciate useable items for the Silent Auction. If you find something, please drop it off at the office, thanks.



<p><u>A Special Event Inspirational</u></p> <p>Saturday, October 4</p> <p>Clairemont Lutheran 4271 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. SD Lutheran World Relief Ambassador, Amanda Berg</p> <p>10 am-Program</p> <p>12 pm-Ethnic soup luncheon & dessert</p> <p>There will be a display of Fair Trade items. Fair Trade coffee and dark & light chocolate bars will be sold.</p>	<p>Council Committee chairs:</p> <p>Youth Christian Ed. — Vicky Gay Evangelism — Paul Sofranko Negotiating — Stephen Dietrich Property — Rod Cravens, Bill Martin Social Ministry — Laura Stephens Stewardship — Brian Cowan Worship & Music — Brian Cowan until 12/7</p> <p>To contact a council member please leave them a note in their mailbox.</p> <p>Have you consider being on Council or know someone that would?</p> <p>Think about it. We'll have at least 3 vacancies.</p>
<p>St. John's is hosting the</p> <p><u>SONSHINE/WEST CLUSTER</u> <u>FALL EVENT</u></p> <p>Saturday, October 11</p> <p>9:30 am</p> <p>Registration \$5 Continental breakfast</p> <p>Program: Carmen Warner-Robbins "Women Believing in Women... The Journey through Re-entry</p> <p>Love Gifts for Welcome Home Ministries: Spiritual Books, Stamps & Writing materials, Coffee Cups, Underwear, Bras, Hygiene Products, Hair & Make -Up products, Perfume & Nail polish</p> <p>Call Joyce Boutte 619-463-6734 by 10/7 to make a reservation.</p>	<p>Our Social Ministry Outreach is collecting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box Tops 4 Education • Used eye glasses • Hygiene products • Used ink cartridges and cell phones • Items for Salvation Army Back Country: adult underwear protection, blankets, clothing <p>You can drop any of these items off at the church office.</p>

October 2008

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study Pastor in office	2 7:30 PM Choir	3	4
5 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class	6	7 9:30 AM Women's Bible study Pastor in office	8 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study	9 7:30 PM Choir	10	11
12 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class	13	14 9:30 AM Women's Bible study Pastor in office	15 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study	16 7:30 PM Choir	17	18
19 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class	20	21 9:30 AM Women's Bible study Pastor in office	22 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study	23 7:30 PM Choir	24	25 6:00 AM SHARE pick up
26 9:00 AM Service 9:15 AM Children's Sunday class	27	28 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 6:30 PM Women's Business mtg. Pastor in office	29 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible study	30 7:30 PM Choir	31  Halloween	

October Worship Assistant's Schedule

CANTOR	10/5 & 19	Brian Cowan	
READERS			SNACKS
10/5		Susan Shaddox	Kristine Hurtado– Bergstrom
10/12		Susan Shaddox	Glenda Holsbo
10/19		Pat Cowan	Doris Hartman
10/26		Pat Cowan	
ASSISTANTS			CHILDREN'S SUNDAY TEACHER
10/5		Susan Shaddox	Vicky Gay
10/12		Susan Shaddox	Pat Cowan
10/19		Pat Cowan	Vicky Gay
10/26		Pat Cowan	Cindy Cooley
USHERS			
10/5		Matthew Dippolito	Please light
10/12		Matthew Dippolito	and extinguish the candles.
10/19		Sherie Mucia	
10/26		Sherie Mucia	
ALTAR GUILD		Judy Dietrich	
		Thank you for all your help	



St. John's Women's News

CHANGE OF DATE ~~Our next business meeting is on Thursday, October 23 at 9 am . Join us in the Conference Room to organize the auction items. The evening Bible study will be on October 28 at 7 pm, still.

Come and join us to learn the word of the Lord and to share the work of the Lord.

CHOIR NEWS



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

“Sing unto the Lord”



Volume 6 Issue 10

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

Address service requested

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Fax: (619) 444-1353
Email: secretary@sj.sdcxmail.com
Website: <http://www.stjohnslutheranelcajon.org>
georgekeren@live.com

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

Pastor George is in the office on Tuesdays and
Wednesdays

Churches that meet here

East Hills Christian Church (shares building w/ St. John's)
Jesus Mi Senor (Thursday night & Sunday afternoon services)
Centro Cristiano Amigos (M-F morning prayer meeting & Monday night band practice)

Weekly Group Building Usage

<u>Sunday</u>	6:00 pm	A.A.—Sober Sunday	<u>Thursday</u>	6 pm	DBSA (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance)
<u>Monday-Friday</u>	7:30 am	A.A.- Coffee Clutchers		8 pm	NA Speakers
<u>Monday-Friday</u>	12 pm	A.A.—EC Daytime Group	<u>Friday</u>	7:30 pm	Al-Anon Open
<u>Monday</u>	6:30 pm	A.A.—Monday Steps	<u>Saturday</u>	6 am	SHARE pick up
2nd	7 pm	4H Beef			
<u>Tuesday</u>	7 pm	Women's Al-Anon			
					Sign up for SHARE during church office hours.
<u>Wednesday</u>					
2nd	6:30 pm	Girl Scout Leaders Circle			
3rd	4 pm	License 2 Freedom			
4th	7 pm	4H Golden Clover			