



Goodnewsletter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2006

By George

Wow! There are so many things happening this coming month that I've decided to dedicate my newsletter article to them. Please read through all of them and mark each activity and event on your calendar.

1) On September 10th we will begin our five-week sermon series on the Four Keys to Nurturing Faith In the Home and In the Congregation based on the book Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear. If you want to follow along in the book you may purchase one for \$16.

2) In conjunction with the sermon series I will each week lead a Four Keys for Nurturing the Faith session from 10:30-11:00 a.m. following worship. Everyone from 9-weeks old to 99 years-old is invited to join in the fun. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

3) Following our first Four Keys for Nurturing the Faith session on September 10th we will have our first annual Let-Us-Get-Our-Year-Off-To-A-Great-Start BBQ Potluck (lugoyotags: LUGOYOTAGS). This will be a great time to enjoy one another's company, have some great food, and start our year off to a wonderful beginning. Look for more information in the newsletter and in the weeks to come.

4) Our Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will start again on September 12th at 9:30. We will use the resource No Experience Necessary. This is a wonderful study written by a great contemporary Lutheran pastor.

5) Our Wednesday Evening Christian education begins on September 13th at 6:45 pm. I will lead a study on Hosea, the first of the minor

prophets. You will love this Old Testament book!

6) Confirmation class begins at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13th. Our focus this year will be on the Catechism.

7) St. John's Lutheran will host the annual Bishop's Gathering for the Sonshine and West San Diego Conferences of the Pacifica Synod on Saturday, September 23rd, 10-1.

This is a great opportunity for Lutherans in southern California to see that we are a healthy and vital congregation in the El Cajon community. We should be proud of our church and the great work that we have done.

Now everyone else will get to see our ministry, our growth, and our relevance as a mission outpost to God's kingdom.

Everyone from St. John's is welcome to the Bishop's Gathering, but we will need your RSVP by Friday, Sept. 15th to reserve your place for lunch. The cost is \$10 for the Asian meal that will be served.

8) On Sunday, September 24th we will dedicate our new stain-glass windows during worship. Again this is an opportunity for us to be proud of our church, the progress we've made, and the development that we continue to make Vince and Margen Frits, the artists who created the windows, will be on hand to celebrate with us.

9) The pastors of the Sonshine and West San Diego conferences of our synod are hosting a Golf Fundraiser for Shannon's medical bills on Sunday, October 29th at 1:00 pm. If you would like to play in the event or be a sponsor for one of the holes, please see me. Also, there will

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:

Bible study	6:45 pm
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Thursday:

Choir	7:30 pm
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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.

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St. John's Home Page



LUGOYO-TAGS

(Let us get our year off to a great start)

BBQ PICNIC

**Sunday,
September 10
11:15 am**

St. John's will be supply hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. We are requesting the congregation to bring food that will compliment the lunch. Great fellowship and of course delicious food, makes for a good day.



Happy Birthday

- 1 Patricia Lindstrom
- 7 Glenda Holsbo
- 18 John Collins
- 28 Stuart Lindstrom
- 30 Pastor George Ekeren-Moening
- Tony Mucia
- Kristine Hurtado-Bergstrom



Happy Wedding Anniversary

- 4 Stuart & Pat Lindstrom
- 25 Stephen & Judy Dietrich

"Shoebox for Christmas"

Samaritan's Purse Info

1. Get an empty shoebox
2. Decide on boy or girl and age category (2-4), (5-9), (10-14)
3. Fill box with a variety of gifts. (toys, school supplies, hygiene items, etc.)
4. DON'T include used items, perishable items, liquids, medicines, or breakable items
5. Print out form (the church office has them)

Place appropriate seal on box.

September's Events

- 9/10 — *LUGOYO-TAGS* — *EATS Sunday*
- 9/24 — *Stain Glass Windows Dedication Sunday*
- 9/23 — *Bishop's Gathering*



10/29 — Chili Cook Off and Silent Auction



St. John's Women are collecting items for the Silent Auction. Please call Laura, 444-1272 for more info.

Greetings from the Council Chair:

Another September has arrived and with it another school year has begun. Around our house, it has been hectic, as usual, as Judy has been preparing for the start of the year, which started the end of last month. It seems that the years keep getting shorter. It seems like just yesterday it was the beginning of summer.

We have received a number of suggestions for the rock garden that we have been considering. Pat has reviewed them and will be making checking into what will be required, such as permits, costs, etc. to determine if it is feasible to proceed with the project. Pat Cowan will provide more information as it becomes available.

Well, there is not much more to report this month, so I will make this short this month. I hope to see you all at Church.

Steve



To receive your Newsletters via the E-mail, contact:
sjdietch@cox.net.

This will give Stephen your E-mail address to reply to.

*St. John's welcomes their new Music/
Chair Director, Breena Lorraine.*

*Breena says "I am blessed to be St.
John's new Chair/Music Director! You
are all in my prayers. May God bless
you."*

*Chair meets on Thursdays at 7:30 pm.
"Come lend your voice."*

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 mail-
boxes.

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.)

Is There A Higher Law?

We constantly pronounce judgments upon the value of actions. Some actions satisfy us and others do not. Whether a certain act is good or bad does not depend upon whether it is beneficial or harmful to us. In judging it, we adopt quite a different standard. We have in our minds certain ideas and on the basis of those we judge the acts of others. Whether any wrong done by one to another affects us or not, we do feel it to be wrong. Sometimes, we have sympathy for the wrong-doer; but despite that sympathy, we feel no hesitation at all in pronouncing his act to be wrong. It may be that at times our judgment is found to be mistaken. We cannot always fathom a man's motives, and may thus judge him wrongly. Nevertheless, we find no difficulty in judging an act in so far as the intention is known. Even if our personal interests are sometimes served by wrong actions, we do feel inwardly that they are wrong.

Thus it is established that the rightness or wrongness of an act does not depend upon a man's self-interest. Nor does it depend upon his wishes. There is a difference between morality and sympathy. Out of sympathy for the child we wish to give it a certain thing, but if the thing is harmful to the child, we hold it immoral to give it. It is doubtless good to show sympathy but, unrestricted by moral considerations, it turns into poison.

We see also that moral laws are immutable. Opinions change, but not morality. When our eyes are open, we see the sun; when they are closed, it is not seen. The change here has been in our sense of sight, not in the fact of the sun's existence. The same holds true of moral laws. It is probable that in a state of ignorance we do not know what is moral; but once the

eye of knowledge is opened, there is no difficulty in knowing it. Men rarely care to see single-mindedly the right or wrong of things; often prompted by personal considerations, they mistakenly describe the immoral as moral. The time is yet to come when men, freeing themselves from self-regarding considerations, will concentrate their attention on the ideas of morality alone. Moral culture is still in its mere infancy; it is as science was before the birth of a Bacon or a Darwin. Men were eager to know what the truth was. Instead of inquiring into morality, they have been hitherto engaged in discovering laws of nature -the laws of the earth's motion, etc. Where do we find the disinterested student of morality, patient and painstaking, who, setting aside his earlier superstitious notions, devotes his life to seeking only the ideal good? When men become as eager to explore the world of moral ideas as they are now to explore the realms of nature, we shall be able to bring together the various conceptions of morality. It is unlikely that, on ideas of morality, there will be the same divergence of opinion as exists among men on matters of science. However, we may not for a time arrive at unanimity of opinion regarding moral laws. This does not, however, mean that it is impossible to distinguish between right and wrong.

We thus see that, independent of and apart from men's wishes and opinions, there is something like a moral standard which we may call moral law. If there are laws of the State, why may not there be a moral law too? It does not matter if that law is not committed to writing by man, and indeed it need not be. If we grant or hold that the moral law exists, it is incumbent on us to obey it, just as we ought to obey the laws of business and remain poor? Or if I disobey the laws of the State and incur the ruler's displeasure?" But it will never do-either for me or anyone else-to say, "What does it matter whether I tell a lie or tell the truth?"

There is thus a great difference between moral laws and temporal laws. For morality dwells in our hearts. Even a man practicing immorality would admit that he has been immoral. A wrong can never become a right. Even where a people is vile, though men may not observe the moral law, they would make a pretence of doing so; they thus are obliged to admit that moral laws ought to be observed. Such is the greatness of morality. It cares not custom nor for public opinion. To a moral man, public opinion or custom is binding only so long as it is in harmony with the moral law.

Where does this moral law come from? This law is not laid down by the State, for different laws are found in different States. Many men were opposed to the morality which Socrates observed in his day. Even so the world admits that the morality he observed has remained, and shall remain, morality for ever. Robert Browning says, 'If ever Satan proclaimed the law of hatred and untruth in the world, even then justice, goodness and truth

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will continue to be divine.' (...justice, good, and truth were still Divine, if, by some demon's will, Hatred and wrong had been proclaimed Law through the worlds, and right misnamed. Christmas Eve, XVII.) One may conclude from this that the moral law is supreme and divine.

Such a law no people or individual can violate to the end of time. As has been said, even as the dangerous storm ultimately passes, immoral men must meet their destruction. (As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more; but the righteous is an everlasting foundation. Proverbs, X. 25.)

No sooner did the cup of sin in Assyria and Babylon become full than it broke. When Rome trod the path of immorality, none of her great men could save her. The ancient Greeks were an accomplished people, still all their art and philosophy could not continue in their immorality for long. The French Revolution was but an insurrection against immorality. The same was the case with America. The good Wendell Phillips used to say that immorality even if enthroned will not endure. This mysterious moral law brings prosperity to the man who observes it: it sustains the family that obeys it, and the community which lives by it ever flourishes. Freedom, peace and happiness are the lot of the nation that lets itself be ruled by this highest law.



**Sonshine/West Cluster
Fall Event**
Saturday, September 30
9-10 am

Christ Lutheran Church
4761 Cass Street, San Diego
“The Spirit is in Their Faces”

Registration & Continental breakfast: \$5

**Program will follow with
Christ Lutheran Rwanda Mission Team.
RSVP: JoAnn Longerbone— 858-274-
0483 or Jill McGrew—619-216-3801 by
9/25.**

- *continued from Pastor's article*

be a meal following the Golf Fundraiser that anyone can come to. There will be more information coming out soon.

This is an awesome event that the pastors are doing for Shannon and myself, and we can not express our appreciation enough.

10) Lastly, I want to welcome Breena Loraine to St. John's Lutheran as our new Director of Music. I'm confident that Breena will be a wonderful asset to St. John's and that we'll enjoy her music and her ministry all year long. Please take some time to introduce yourself to her and welcome her to St. John's.

Pastor George

Cell # 619 - 971- 0399

August's Worship Assistant's Schedule

	9:00 am	
CANTOR	Susan Shaddox	3 & 17
READERS		SNACKS
9/3	Glenda Holsbo	Laura Stephens
9/10	Glenda Holsbo	Rene Brown
9/17	Connie Reck	Pat Cowan
9/24	Connie Reck	Marilyn Litsheim
ASSISTANTS		
9/3	Glenda Holsbo	
9/10	Glenda Holsbo	
9/17	Paul Stephens	
9/24	Paul Stephens	
USHERS		
9/3	Maxine Mattson	Please be prepared to light
9/10	Maxine Mattson	and extinguish the can-
9/17	Marilyn Litsheim	
9/24	Marilyn Litsheim	
ALTAR GUILD	Connie Reck	



Thank you for all your help

Bishop's Gathering 2006

Saturday, September 23

















10 am—1 pm

“Centered in Christ for Mission and Learning”

St. John's will be hosting this gathering, with Bishop Murray Finck. Come and celebrate “Mission on the Pacific Rim, Learning to our Hearts Content.” The luncheon will be Asian food and the tickets are \$10. Please make your reservation by 9/15. Call 444-1272.

September 2006

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 AM Traditional	 <i>Labor Day</i>	9:30 AM Women's Bible study 	6:00 PM Confirmation class  6:45 PM Bible Study	7:30 PM Music 		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 AM Contemporary 10:30 AM Adult Forum  11:15 AM LUG- YOYOTAGS lunch 1:00 PM SHARE sign up		9:30 AM Women's Bible study 	6:00 PM Confirmation class  6:45 PM Bible Study Newsletter articles due	7:30 PM Music 	 <i>Fall begins</i>	6:30 AM SHARE pick up
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 AM Traditional 10:30 AM Adult Forum		9:30 AM Women's Bible study 	6:00 PM Confirmation class  6:45 PM Bible Study	7:30 PM Music 		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 AM Contemporary 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	6:00 PM Confirmation class  6:45 PM Bible Study	7:30 PM Music 		 10:00 AM Bishop's Gathering

August						
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				



Volume 4 Issue 9

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

1430 Melody Lane El Cajon, CA 92019

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Email: secretary@sj.sdcoxmail.com

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

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