

St. John's Lutheran Church
42695 Washington Street
Palm Desert, CA 92211
(760) 345-2122

The "Good News" Paper

Website www.stjohnslutheranchurchpd.com

Email addresses:

Pastor Charles Riggs criggs.st.johns@verizon.net

Ann Rhein st.johns@verizon.net

Molly Farrin mfarrin.st.johns@verizon.net



Worship Schedule

Sunday

10:00 AM Blended Worship

10:00 AM Kids Church

Coffee fellowship after worship



PRECISION-CRAFTED

God engineered the human body so our 206 bones, the heaviest part of us, make up only one-fifth of our weight. Yet bones are strong enough to protect and support every other cell, bearing the compression and tension we exert through ordinary activities such as walking and lifting heavy items.

By comparison, wood snaps at such impact. And steel, strong enough to bear such force, weighs three times what bone does and would hinder our movements. No other matter strikes such a perfect balance between strength and weight.

Furthermore, our bones are hollow — a big part of what reduces their weight — and the interior efficiently produces a trillion red blood cells each day.

With the psalmist, we can proclaim to God, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14, NRSV).

The "Good News" Newspaper



Dear Friends,

What kind of strategic planning could you imagine that would make a difference in our church's life? We worked together the last several

years, 5-8 at least, to put together a very fine building effort expanding our facilities and allowing room and possibilities galore in the future. Our Beach Bash Bible School worked throughout the Chapel and the Ministry Center in a way that increased their attention and focus, reducing some of the heavy noise factor in the Fellowship Hall where many groups gathered, yet used to almost run into each other in some respects.

In our new facility, we've had several committees meet at the same time. We're having inquiries now about possible rental options from other groups in the community. So it's becoming even more urgent that we get our own ministry priorities established and working. The ELCA is promoting a LIFT campaign: "Living into the future together." It's a program that is designed to encourage each congregation across all our synods to not only write down and be specific about what they are presently doing with their mission goals . . . but by the end of this year to be beginning to get specific about what new strategic mission planning goals they'd like to be working on in the new year and beyond. To this end, a conference wide training and coaching session will be offered September 29, a Saturday, for our churches. The place is yet to be announced. But each congregation is asked to have a team of five to seven people who are eager to see some planning, informing, and implementing of mission goals for our future life together. If you'd be interested, speak to pastor or a council person. Some churches already have plans and written documents. Others think they might, but have never written them down. Others have acted like it was unnecessary and too business-like to happen in the church.

This is not easy work. It's not just planning to hear ourselves talk or dream. It's not just what we're doing now, but also what else we'd like to see happen in the name of God with and through our house of prayer. It could involve consulting with community leaders about honest needs out there that aren't being addressed effectively. It could involve a coalition of interests, peoples, and projects to carve out a new niche of ministry. What new specific future goals could we begin to work on that would also make some healthy use of our Ministry Center?

We will of course begin with what we do well and want to keep those things in place. But there are those connections and links into the community that need exploring. There are people all around us in schools that we could be interacting with, supporting in some way. Our scholarship effort is one way to approach it. Tutoring is another. Are there other ways? We have a kitchen effort on the drawing board. Could that be used to reach out to those in the community? We have new rooms for Bible study and small group gatherings. Would there be those who'd like to organize a Bible study, a small spiritual growth group, a sharing, prayer, or discussion group that linked into the community? What would stimulate some concrete action, a stirring up of the spirit, and a community effort for goodness sake? These are some questions, but the coaching and enrichments necessary to stimulate fresh ministry action is what the strategic planning is all about.

Are you interested? Do you think our church should be interested? Do you have some time and interest to help our life widen and deepen in the very near future, with the world about us? Churches that make it into the future find ways to adapt and realign themselves, often with each generation, but also many times in between the generations as the culture changes as well. What would help reach out to those who aren't here as yet? Internet ministry, blogging and networking with Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, or Foursquare?

How would a contemporary service, led by our youth maybe on a Saturday night help reach some folks we haven't seen or who themselves haven't been seen in a church?

We don't get too many chances to adapt to the changes of the world about us. Either we find a way to make some sense or we don't. When we do adapt, possibilities emerge. When we don't think through some options, we can become more isolated and even stagnant. It happens to people and it can happen to organizations. Well dear friends, it's not very good if pastor finds himself alone in the strategy and planning department. He may have some ideas but not much will happen with one person or if the ideas just stay on the pastor's desk. Like with our building, it's a community project. The best thing that could happen is if we had people scrambling to serve and sending in their ideas, and priming the pump with prayers and imaginative questions, wonderings, and stirrings of one sort and another. If people were blogging with each other and talking it up at the fellowship hour and passing on inquiries - not leaving it even to the planning team to come up with all the action - then we'd have the best scene one could imagine. I'm hopeful we can have a very sincere and spirited effort in this whole area! It's for the long term good of the church, for the good of those that could be here in the future, and for the good of all of our lives working for the goodness of creation that God made. What do you think? Is this urgent? Do you want to help? Do you have some ideas on tap? Blessings and creative joy to you and yours, we pray. Amen.



Need directions?

These days, online map services can tell you how to get to just about any destination. Yet even these sites make no guarantees.

Disclaimers absolve them of responsibility if the directions run awry. "These directions are for planning purposes only," one site warns. "You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly."

Fortunately, the Bible has no such disclaimers. God's Word always gets us where we need to go. In fact, when the unexpected happens, that's when Scripture is at its best!

Ten Things God Wants You To Remember

1. I will give you rest.
2. I will strengthen you.
3. I will answer you.
4. I believe in you.
5. I will bless you.
6. I am for you.
7. I will not fail you.
8. I will provide for you.
9. I will be with you.
10. I love you.



Our NEWSLETTER, "The Good News", newspaper is delivered via email in the form of a pdf file (portable document file). Please make sure we have your email.

It can be viewed with Adobe Reader, available for free at;

<http://www.adobe.com/downloads>.

PRAYER CHAIN:

If you would like prayer for you or someone else, please contact one of the people listed below. This group stretches far and wide via e-mail. Make sure to ask the person's permission to be placed on the prayer chain.

Requests are confidential.

Call: Diana Lang ~ 360-2479 or
Joan Laudig ~ 343-2093



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY



July

- 1 Steve Sindoni
- 2 Bill Taylor
- 4 Bill Winters
- 5 Sam Corwin
Frank Van Patten
- 6 Kelly Trembley
- 9 Carmen Flanagan
- 11 Chuck Wiggins
- 11 Vito Genovese
- 11 Erin Feagle
- 11 Jay Feagle
- 12 Jerry Holm
- 12 Chase Johnson
- 13 Thelma Nelson
- 13 Jarod Farrin
- 16 Nancee Marek
- 17 Corinne Simpson
- 22 Mark Farrin
- 22 Molly Farrin
- 22 James Bridges
- 24 John Ekvall
- 25 John van Keulen
- 25 Michael Bergh
- 25 Alex Dodge
- 29 Suzanne Ballard
- 31 Doug Nehls

August

- 2 Bill Wilson
- 4 Ruth Riddle
- 5 Elizabeth Ash
Deyvn Jones
- 6 Nate Craig
- 7 Sebastian D'Alessio
- 8 Harriet Johnson
Walter Miller
- 9 Cindy Hagar
Chri Hopping
- 10 Marji Vasholz
Carol Gunther
Uilani Rodriguez
- 13 Phil Nelson
- 14 Susie Keenan
- 16 Ron Walker
Millie Taylor
- 17 Noah Tozi
- 18 Betty Landis
- 19 Gerry Johnson
Richard Laker
Jerry Andengaard
Ben Bridges
Haily Stanley
- 22 Margaret Genovese
Tom Laffin
- 23 Gabe Adams
- 26 Sandra Genovese
Judy Phillips
- 27 Olivia Lewke
- 30 Joy Bridges
- 31 Debra Manners

September

- 1 Dick Landis
Chris Bergh
- 3 Betty Neiertz
David Evans
Donna Schlitt
Deborah Bridges
- 4 Phil Larson
Mark Moulard
Jacklyn Van Natta
Samantha Van Natta
- 8 Jordan Melcher
- 9 Virgini Ahlmeyer
- 14 Caile Johnson
- 15 Michele Sindoni
- 16 Alice Hewitson
Tammy Lohf
Michael Miller
- 18 Mary Winters
- 20 Arlene Pederson
- 21 Collin Bogie
- 22 Elaine Wadleigh
Rocco Caronna
- 23 Michael Bartram
- 26 Cornelia Van Laar
- 26 Dylan Silver
- 26 Aiden Woods
- 27 Dick Mathison
- 27 Jude Moreno
- 28 Michele Claxton
- 30 Jim Upshaw

July

- 24 Dixie & Jim Angelo
- 27 Debra & Jon Reichhold

August

- 7 Michele & Steve Sindoni
- 10 Kris & Chris Hopping
- 15 Cindy & Ned Millis
- 17 Sammie Lee & Don Lingle
- 19 Thelma & Dean Charley
- 26 Karla & Sam Hansen
- 28 Mary & Bill Winters
- 28 Betty & Boyd Neiertz
- 28 Deborah & Ben Bridges

September

- 9 Shauna & Wade Adams
- 10 Beverly & John Ekvall
- 21 Ellen & John Read
- 25 Donita & Bob Holst
Thelma & Phil Nelson
Karen & Dan Flahive
- 29 Donna & Chris Bergh

A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT

During a loud summer thunderstorm, a mother tucked her son into bed. As she turned off the light, he asked with a tremor, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave her son a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." After a long silence, the boy replied, "The big sissy."





F.I.N.D.

Food In Need of Distribution

Thank you for your continued support of FIND. The bags, egg cartons, food, toiletries, magazines and checks have made it possible for each recipient to stretch their food budget a little farther.

Thanks also to Molly and the Youth Group for their participation on FIND Tuesdays.

June	2011	2012
# of people served	412	498
# of people over 55	129	125
# of children under age 5	43	59
# of children age 5-19	90	119
# of people 20-54	150	195
# of families served	167	184



We often imagine Jesus straight-faced because he came to do such serious work. Yet he also enjoyed fun times.

One was the wedding

celebration at Cana, which had wine in abundance. When it ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more (see John 2:1-11).

Jesus also welcomed children (see Matthew 19:13-15). Picture Jesus lifting an infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.

Because summer allows more time for fun and play, use it to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came in love so our “joy may be complete” (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are all part of living as faithful disciples.



REACH OUT TO OTHERS

(combines evangelism and mission opportunities)

Coffee Hosts Rick and Karen Sorensen are the coordinators. *WELL DONE*

Greeters are in place at each service. Our objective is a strong welcome to everyone and availability for special assistance if needed.

Memorial Day was recognized with a Bar B Q after church on Sunday May 27. Approximately 130 participants. Excellent help in preparation, presentation, and clean up.

July 4th was also recognized with a Bar B Q after church on Sunday July 1. Approximately 130 participants. Even better clean up at this event.

Youth Mission Trip - Molly Farrin will plan for an ELCA project trip in 2013. Men's Club will hold special events to assist with funding. Positive opportunity for our youth and source of information about the experience for our congregation.

Men to Men—project in initial steps. Reaching out to men who would benefit by a "friendship" visit. Prospects: care givers, or receiving care: single and living alone: other who would benefit from a visit(s).

Digital –Reach Out-- exploring opportunities to present St. John's via the internet. Strong support by webmaster. Molly will involve and monitor impute by youth. Additional "tech" help will be sought if needed.

Summer plans—recruit church members to support above and other Reach Out to Others activities.

Submitted by Lothar Yasholz



School may be out for summer, but the Youth of St. John's are still busy serving and having fun. The kids kicked off the summer with a Youth Sunday on June 3rd. The kids took over the service with youth ushers, readers, greeters, communion assistants, and soloists as well as performances from Rock the

Flock and our Youth Choir. We also honored our graduates with gifts and scholarships from the Men's Club. Congratulations to Kyla Stave, Jessica Melcher, Brent Fries, Jack Hodgkins and Destiny Rodriguez for their amazing achievements! We also said goodbye to two of our youth members who are joining the staff of LRCC for the summer. Michole Farrin and Dilan Jahries are spending their summer doing the Lord's work as junior counselors at Lutheran summer camps throughout Southern California. On June 9th we headed out to Santa Monica. We enjoyed an amazing day at the beach and had tons of fun at the amusement park on the pier. As soon as the kids got back they started training and preparation for Vacation Bible School. Twelve amazing youth members volunteered their time and talent to help make our VBS a success. We finished up a week of hard work at Vacation Bible School with a fun lock-in on the 29th. On July 3rd, the kids lent their time and energy to help with FIND distribution. We followed it up with unlimited video games at Boomers. On the 11th, we got a chance to enjoy the amazing new projector in the youth room with a screening of "Joyful Noise."

Upcoming Events

Wed.	July 25 th	Movie Night 6 to 8pm
Sat.	July 28 th	LRCC Banquet in Long Beach
Tues.	July 31 st	FIND
Thr.	Aug. 2 nd - 4 th	Invitation to Service at Cal Lutheran
Wed.	Aug. 8 th	Movie Night
Tues	Aug. 14 th	FIND
Sat.	Aug. 18 th	Beach Train
Sun.	Aug. 26 th	Youth Group / Planning Meeting (following service)



St. John's VBS 2012

On June 25th more than 50 children joined us for an amazing, spirit-filled week at our Sonsurf Beach Bash VBS.

The kids engaged in daily worship, Bible stories, crafts, games, and Bible challenges that all reinforced God's Word and unending love. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who helped make the week a success!



Many thanks to friends, volunteers, and youth who made our Sonsurf Beach Bash Bible School SPIRITED FUN for everyone.

We looked up, joined in, teamed up, sang, and grew in our faith! You could feel it!

