



**Mission Statement:
To Know Christ and To
Make Christ Known**

The "Good News" Paper August 2017

42695 Washington Street
Palm Desert, CA 92211
(760) 345-2122

www.stjohnslutheran.church

Sunday Worship Schedule
9:00 am - Traditional Service
11:00 am - Praise Service
Sunday School
Saturday Worship
4:00 pm - Saturday Night
Light Service

*For more information, please see our
calendar of events on the last page
(or attached to your email)*

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified."
The Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth (1 Cor 2:2)



Our mission statement at St. John's is, "To Know Christ and To Make Christ Known," and I am truly grateful to serve a church that affirms this as our motivation and guide for ministry. We are all called as followers and as the community of Jesus Christ to share his good news through our words, our actions, our lives. As I prepared this message, reflecting on our identity and fellowship and ministry at St. John's, I was reminded of something I wrote in my "Endorsement Essay" during my journey to be an ordained minister with the ELCA. I'd like to share with you my response to the question, *What is your understanding of the mission of the church?*

"I first read Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian* for a Church History class at Fuller. I was so moved by his articulation of the benefits of faith that I set the book down, left my apartment for the prayer chapel across campus, sat on a bench in the chapel, and wept. I was simply overwhelmed by the love of God expressed in the blessed exchange whereby Christ takes my death and gives me life "by the wedding ring of faith." Justification by grace through faith was filled with new meaning for me. Faith is not something we do; faith receives what God has done for us. Redemption is God's unconditional gift.

I believe that the mission of the church is to proclaim this good news. God Incarnate entered the world in the person of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit and thereby participated in the full life of humanity. He took on humanity's sin, suffering, and death, and freed us from it all in his life, death, and glorious resurrection. He communicated the grace of God in his person and his work - teaching his disciples to love, eating with sinners and forgiving their sins, healing the sick and feeding the hungry, restoring the 'unclean' to health and community, rebuking those who oppressed others, revealing and rejecting the world's broken power systems in his death, bringing abundant and eternal life in his resurrection.

As the body of Christ, the church is called to continue doing what Jesus did. Proclaim and embody God's grace in the world. Seek and invite into our lives those whom society might consider unacceptable. Have the poor with us because we are with them. Declare that, in Christ, God forgives all sin. Provide for the basic needs of those who cannot meet those needs themselves. Pray and believe that God will bring healing and restoration into the lives of those who are sick and suffering. Prophetically rebuke those who harm others. Serve God and each other in self-sacrificing love. Celebrate life. I believe this is the mission of the church."

May God continue to work in us and through us as we engage our mission, "To Know Christ and To Make Christ Known."

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Jen

**"God's work. Our hands."
Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017**

T-shirts will be on sale between services on August 20, 27, and September 3. Cost is \$10.00.

September 10th is our day to work together as a church to help our neighbors in need! On that Sunday we will be having a "work day" and lunch after the 11:00 service. We will be putting together bags for the needy which will be distributed by Narrow Door. We are collecting the following items for the bags: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, white socks, combs, brushes, water bottles, razors, deodorant and nail clippers. A box will be located in the back of church for the items. We are collecting early to prepare! Many thanks!

BIBLE STUDIES ~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~ MINISTRIES
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Gospel of John



The Gospel of John Bible study meets on Thursdays at 10 am; repeated at 7 pm. We are going through each chapter over the course of sixteen (or so) weeks, discussing the themes, characters, stories, and theological insights of the Gospel and how this Good News calls us into a fuller and deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. Outlines from previous classes are available. *All are welcome!* Please note we will not meet on August 17 or 24. Study resumes August 31.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will resume meeting the third Saturday of each month on September 16, 2017 at 8 am. When we resume, please join us for breakfast and fellowship. For more information, please contact Craig Packer at 760-702-7577.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY



The August meetings of Martha and Ruth Circles are planned for Wednesday, August 2 at 9:30 am (Martha), and Saturday, August 5, at 8 am (Ruth). We continue to journey along through the "dog days of summer" with a smaller group, but we are as determined as ever to make a difference in the world!

At the Wednesday, August 2 meeting, Co-President Jackie Severa will give a report on her recent trip to Minneapolis for the Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA. We will also discuss the upcoming September 3 Labor Day brunch, which our ladies groups will host. All women are welcome to attend.

Additional Women's Bible Study Opportunity this Month
Pastor Jen will be leading the Women's Bible Study at Hope Lutheran on Sat, Aug 12 from 10 am to 11:30 am. All women of St. John's are welcome! Please RSVP with Pastor Jen or with Ann in the church office if you'd like to attend.

CARING MINISTRY

Do you know someone who is unable to come to church on a regular basis, and would benefit from having Communion brought to them? Eucharistic Visitation Ministers bring Communion, conversation, and fellowship to those who are home bound. Please contact Judy Burke (760-832-7370) or Pastor Jen to learn more.



Do you know some who could use a ride to church? Caring Ministry team members are available to give rides to those who do not have transportation to come to worship services. Please contact Diana Lang (760-360-2479) or Pastor Jen to learn more.

WHAT IS MUTUAL MINISTRY?

Mutual Ministry is a small group that meets with the Pastor to:

- * Pray for the church * Study the Word together
- * Share and discuss any pertinent questions, comments and suggestions provided by the congregation.

The Council, Committees or appropriate Staff will then be notified of the observations.

Mutual Ministry Members

Pastor Jen
Debbie Bridges
Maria Hunt
Craig Jahries
Diana Lang
Myron Yurko

We are here to serve St. John's. If you have a question, comment or suggestion, please tap one of us on the shoulder, call or send us an email.

ST. JOHN'S VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS - Please contact Curt Starkweather to volunteer. There are many opportunities for you to serve the Lord, including serving as a Reader, Usher or Communion Assistant. Call (760) 399-1982 or email rstarkweath2@ft.newyorklife.com.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - If you would like to host a fellowship hour between Sunday services please contact the Sorensen's: Karen @ 760-989-0455 or Rick @ 760-989-0456 or email fijordsmen@verizon.net.

PRAYER CHAIN - The prayer chain is confidential and the prayer requests are sent via email. Please join us! Contact Amy Peterson (303) 918-0716, akpmax@aol.com or Joan Laudig (760) 343-2093, MIMIOO7@aol.com.

ALTAR GUILD - The work of St. John's Altar Guild ensures that Communion is prepared for each service. If you would you like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact Diana Lang at Diana@lcdinc.net or 760-360-2479.

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY

You may donate altar flowers to the Glory of God, in celebration of a special event, or in memory of a loved one. Your check for \$55.00, with "Altar flowers" on the memo, should be made out to St. John's. To select your special date, contact Diana Lang at (760) 702-7745 or Diana@lcdinc.net.



Church Council Members

Mitch Phillips	President
Millie Taylor	Vice-President
Sherry Silver	Secretary
Deborah Hulslander	Treasurer
Curt Starkweather	Deacon
Chris Dale	Evangelism/Outreach
Kay Marovich	Music & Worship
Christy Ansbro	Trustee

FIND (*Food In Need Of Distribution*)

The next distribution is Tuesday, August 22. Please continue to bring non perishable food items, especially boxes of cereal. Volunteers are especially needed in the summer. To volunteer or for more information, contact Molly at the church office 760-345-2122. *Thank you to all our volunteers!*

ST. JOHN'S IS ON FACEBOOK!

Search "St. John's Lutheran Church, Palm Desert" and like our page so that you can get updates on all our important news and upcoming events.



NEWSLETTER

"The Good News" newspaper is delivered via email in the form of a pdf file. Please make sure we have your email address. It can be viewed with Adobe Reader, available for free at www.adobe.com/downloads.

WEBSITE

Please visit our website stjohnslutheran.church for updated information on our ministries, activities, and events.



The youth of St. John's are keeping busy this summer with service and fun. They have been enjoying a movie night every other Wednesday with lots of pizza and great conversation. In July they took time out to serve in the church and community. On the 15th they volunteered at the Narrow Door making food boxes, and on the 25th they were back at St. John's serving with our own FIND program.

They also enjoyed a couple of fun outings, first was the Palm Springs Power game on the 16th and then the LRCC Banquet on the 22nd. Both of these outings were great opportunities for fellowship in our Lutheran community. They wrapped up the month preparing for our awesome VBS Day Camp!

August Events

Weekly: Saturdays - Saturday Night Light Worship "SNL" followed by Youth Bible study @ 4pm

July 31 - Aug. 4 VBS Day Camp 9am to 3pm

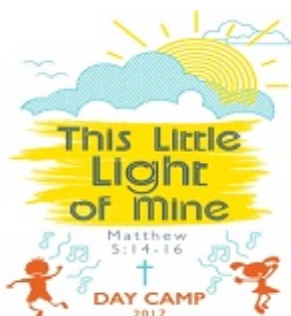
Friday, August 4 - Youth Lock-In - 7pm

Wednesday, August 9 - Movie Night - 6 to 8 in the Youth Room

Saturday, August 19 - Beach Trip / Train to San Clemente

Tuesday, August 22 - FIND Distribution 7:30am

Sunday, August 27 - Youth Group Planning Meeting - 5 to 7pm



Join in on the fun!

Our VBS Day Camp runs all week 9 am to 3 pm July 31 through August 4.

Enjoy music, games, crafts, Bible stories and more!

Email Molly for more information at mfarrin.st.johns@verizon.net.



- 4 Ruth Riddle
Stephan Johnson
- 5 Deyvn Jones
Elizabeth Ash
Nathaniel Craig
Avery Ballew
- 7 Sebastian D'Alessio
Phyllis Nollan
- 9 Cindy Hagar
Christopher
Hopping
- 10 Carol Gunther
- 11 Linda Simmons
- 11 Deborah Chester
- 12 Darlene Evans
- 13 Karla Bille
- 14 Kathryn Liesemeyer
- 15 Susie Keenan
- 16 Millie Taylor
- 16 Ron Walker
- 18 Sarah Dunn
Betty Landis
Jacqueline Severa
- 19 Richard Laker
Benjamin Bridges
- 21 Mary Ellefson
- 22 Grayson
Washington
Margaret Genovese
Thomas Laffin
- 26 Judy Phillips
Sandra Genovese
Alondra Hernandez
- 27 Olivia Lewke
- 30 Joy Bridges
Loren Liesemeyer
- 31 Debra Manners



- 11 Linda & Paul Wainio
- 17 Sammie Lee & Don Lingle
- 21 Peggy & Leonard Smart
- 25 Anne & Bram van der Meij
- 26 Karla & Sam Hansen
- 28 Debbie & Ben Bridges
- 28 Mary & Bill Winters
- 28 Julie & Chris Dale



- 12 Loren & Kat Liesemeyer
- 18 Bob & Janet Peper
- 25 Dan & Karen Flahive

Holiness 2.0

For the Hebrews, who had experienced the anguish of slavery and exile, holiness had to do with separation. Adherence to sacred law [ensured] that they would not be absorbed into a foreign culture, a legitimate fear for them as a people. The Law was quite functional in preserving their Jewish identity.

[But] Jesus turns this custom upside down. Rather than insist on separation, he preaches inclusion. Rather than remove himself from “sinners,” he joins with them in love. For Jesus, holiness is about connection, not separation. It is about putting aside the fear of our own alienation and annihilation while trusting in love to heal every breach.

—Quantum Grace, Judy Cannato



- 1 Richard Landis
- 2 Anita Yurko
- 3 Donna Schlitt
Deborah Bridges
- 4 Philip Larson
Samantha Van Natta
Jaclyn Van Natta
Mark Moulund
- 5 Jax Galvez
- 8 Jo Le Wilson
Jordan Melcher
- 9 Virginia Ahlmeyer
Emrey Wilkinson
- 10 Michael Gnot
- 12 Bill Norman
Emmarie
Shannazarian
- 13 Robin Brown
- 14 Cailee Johnson
- 16 Alice Hewitson
Tammy Lohf
Michael Miller
- 17 Shane Romeika
- 18 Mary Winters
- 19 Hejira Hadley
- 22 Elaine Wadleigh
- 23 Ruby Flores
Michael Bartram
- 24 Ruth Bjerke
- 26 Dylan Silver
Cornelia Van Laar
- 27 Richard Mathison
Jude Moreno
- 28 Michele Claxton
- 29 Lynda Samen
- 30 Jim Upshaw

Space at St. John's

Consider our facility for any gatherings. Spread the word within the community.

Examples: Weddings * Retirements * Graduations * Meetings * Celebrations

Please contact Mitch Phillips for more information 760-360-8571 or mp@prolandscapeservices.net