



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

## The "Good News" Paper October 2017

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

[www.stjohnslutheran.church](http://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)*

### New Reformation Bible Study



"Surely we are named after Christ, not because He is absent from us, but because He dwells in us, that is, because we believe in Him and are Christ's one to another and do to our neighbors as Christ does to us." *Martin Luther, The Freedom of a Christian*

On October 31, 1517 - 500 years ago - Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. In doing so, he refuted the practice of selling indulgences, called into question the authority of the Church in his time, and sparked the Reformation that changed the world.

This fall, as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I'll be leading a study on Martin Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*. In this foundational essay, Luther expresses the heart of Lutheran theology and practice - we are saved by grace through faith in Christ and set free to love God and each other. As part of this study, we'll explore highlights in the life and thought of Martin Luther, the history of the Lutheran church, and how the Lutheran focus on grace is a vital and valuable message for our world today.

This four-week study will take place on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, and will be repeated on Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The content will be the same for morning and evening classes, so feel free to come to whichever one works for you. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall.

For this study, we will be using "*The Freedom of a Christian, 1520: The Annotated Luther Study Edition*," edited by Timothy J. Wengert (ISBN #978-1-5064-1351-8). If you plan to join us for this study, I recommend purchasing a copy of this guide ahead of time, available at Amazon.com (and other booksellers). Copies will also be available for purchase (\$11.00) at the first class session.

The first class will take place on Wed, Oct 11 at 9:00 am; repeated on Thurs, Oct 12 at 7 pm. All are welcome! Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached through the church office (760-345-2122) or at [jennifershaw0204@gmail.com](mailto:jennifershaw0204@gmail.com).

Join us as we study God's word together, explore the valuable gifts of our Lutheran heritage, and celebrate the grace of Christ that sets us free.

Thanks be to God!  
Pastor Jen

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

---

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian"

Please see Pastor Jen's article for information on this study. *All are welcome!*



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We meet the third Saturday of each month, our next meeting is October 21, 2017 at 8 am. Please join us for breakfast and fellowship. For more information, please contact Craig Packer at 760-702-7577.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY



The Women of St. John's have two circles; Martha meets the first Wednesday of each month and Ruth meets the first Saturday of each month.

Martha Circle will meet October 4 at 9:30 am. We will be deciding where we wish to donate money for this year and decide a date for our bake sale. Beginning in November, we will meet at 9 am for Bible study with Pastor Jen and have our business meeting at 10:15 am.

Ruth Circle will meet October 7 at 8 am in the Conference Room for Bible study with Pastor Jen.

We continue to make prayer shawls to give out in the fall to frail and elderly people. The prayer shawls are both knitted or crocheted, and they are approximately 20" X 60"... just enough to wrap and enfold those who may need comfort, warmth, or a feeling of security. Everyone is welcome to contribute. There is no special pattern. We have donated yarn and if anyone needs help in finding yarn to make a shawl of your own, we'd be happy to share our yarn. More donations of yarn are always appreciated.

If you are interested in any or all of our activities, please call Marilyn at (760) 774-0463 or e-mail brockie@live.com. We'd love to have more attendees! Our Mission Statement is "Gathering and sending women to act boldly in faith in Christ, and make a difference in the world."

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 Pastor Jen at (760) 345-2122 or jennifershaw0204@gmail.com 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.

---

Welcome New Members!

Installed October 1 at the 11 am Worship Service:

Angel & John Allegretto / Heather, Joshua, and Lucas Burns / Judith Goodyer / Joanne Marean / Keron Saunders

Welcome Newly Baptized

Xander William Omens, was baptized into St. John's Membership on Saturday, September 23.

He is the son of Ziza & Kody Omen

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](mailto:rstarkweath2@ft.newyorklife.com).

SAVE THE DATES

WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS TRAINING & REFRESHER

Nov 5 10:15 am - Usher

Nov 12 10:15 am - Communion Assistant

Nov 19 10:15 am - Reader

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 [fjordsmen@verizon.net](mailto:fjordsmen@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](mailto:akpmax@aol.com) or Joan Laudig (760) 343-2093, [MIMIOO7@aol.com](mailto:MIMIOO7@aol.com). (O's not zeros)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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, October 24. Please continue to bring non perishable food items, especially boxes of cereal. 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](http://www.adobe.com/downloads).

WEBSITE

Please visit our website [stjohnslutheran.church](http://stjohnslutheran.church) for updated information on our ministries, activities, and events.

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](mailto:mp@prolandscapeservices.net)



## NEW CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS FOR 2018

As we look forward to next year and beyond at St. John's, the Church Council has approved proposed changes to our Constitutional By-Laws that reflect more closely our present practice and open additional possibilities for future growth. These By-Laws will be submitted for a congregational vote at our annual meeting in January, 2018. Copies for review have been sent with this October newsletter, and are available in the Church Narthex or by email request (to Ann at [st.johns@verizon.net](mailto:st.johns@verizon.net)).

In brief, the proposed changes include:

- \* Expanding the single Council position, Chairperson of Evangelism and Outreach, into two positions, Chairperson of Evangelism and Chairperson of Outreach. This will allow us to place more focus on both of these vital ministries - sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through communicating the mission and ministries of St. John's with our community (Evangelism), and through helping our local and global neighbors in need (Outreach).
- \* Removing the Chairperson of Music and Worship position - as we have an outstanding Director of Music in Laura Stave and a strong music team.
- \* Adding the "ministry of hospitality" to the duties of the Vice President, which will give us a 'point person' for fellowship opportunities, special congregational events, and occasional celebrations.

As you have opportunity, please review these proposed By-Laws, and please let Pastor Jen or a Council member know if you have any questions. Thank you!

## OPEN CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS FOR 2018

Several Church Council positions will be open for 2018, as the members currently serving have reached their term limits in those positions. If you would like to know more about serving on Council, open Council positions, and how you can contribute to the mission and ministry of St. John's by becoming a Council member, please contact Pastor Jen or a member of this year's Nominating Committee - Veighann Pizzurro ([veighann@aol.com](mailto:veighann@aol.com)), Sandra Genovese ([vjgwood7@gmail.com](mailto:vjgwood7@gmail.com)), Craig Packer ([cpacker47@outlook.com](mailto:cpacker47@outlook.com)). Thank you!

---

## JOIN THE TECH SUPPORT TEAM



*What's that you say? You'd like a seat reserved for you? You'd like to help others "tune in" to the service? You like working behind the scenes, making things happen? Well then, join us and become a part of St. John's Audio/Visual team. We're looking for volunteers at both the 9 am and 11 am services to operate the sound board and run the PowerPoint presentation. Training is provided. For more information, contact Pastor Jen or Wendy Anderson at [wenders1818@gmail.com](mailto:wenders1818@gmail.com).*

## JOIN OUR MOTION CHOIR

Want to become part of a unique "Moving Ministry"? Join Devotion In Motion, St. John's Signing Choir. This choir's form of worship provides people with a visual opportunity to experience American Sign Language combined with choreographed movement that can inspire people to feel new depths in the messages of contemporary and traditional songs. No kneeling involved. We practice for 30 minutes on Sundays after the Praise Service (12:15 - 12:45). Practice starts October 8. For more information, contact Wendy Anderson at [wenders1818@gmail.com](mailto:wenders1818@gmail.com).





September was all about service for the youth of St. John's . They started out the month by joining with the congregation for God's Work, Our Hands. The next weekend they were at The Narrow Door packing food boxes for needy families in the east valley, and sorting food that was headed to Houston the next week. After that it was an entire weekend of service at Camp Ronald McDonald. The youth worked hard cleaning gutters, building and painting benches, painting cabins, and clearing trails. Great job kids! They were also able to give the camp a donation of \$595.00, thank to our generous congregation. In October we will have a fun outing, more service, and some education opportunities!

WEEKLY (beginning Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>)

Sundays after 11:00 service:  
Confirmation Class in Conference Room  
High School Bible Study in Youth Room

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 1st - "Get Air" 2pm  
Sunday, October 15th - Rock the Flock Performs @ 9 & 11 / Education Kickoff @ Noon  
Saturday, October 21st - Food Boxing @ The Narrow Door 9am  
Saturday, October 28th - "Family Halloween Event" 5pm

---



Attention All Kids!!

Join us on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for our Family Halloween Festival!  
Wear your costume and enjoy trunk or-treat, a bounce house, carnival style-games, crafts, treats, and more!

---

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

Thank you! to everyone who donated and participated in "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday.  
The kits we put together will be distributed to those in need through the Narrow Door ministry.

---



- 2 Paul Wainio
- 3 David Shunick
- Dorothy Zutz
- Betty Docken
- Renee Cannon
- 4 Karla Hansen
- 5 Don Davis
- Craig Jahries
- Trenton Schwanke
- Toni Laker
- 7 Jacob Hopping
- 8 Miah Montigny
- 9 Hayden Loutsenhizer
- 11 Josephine Lewke
- 12 Maria Hunt
- Pat Ogle
- James Kintner
- Alexis Dawson
- 13 Diane McClary
- 15 Marilyn Brockman
- 17 Anissa Rubio
- Bo Dunn
- 19 Julie Babcock
- Natalia Chan
- 20 Damarion Walton
- 21 Halle Van Natta
- Lyndsay Moore
- 23 Ruth Allen
- Hailey Ney
- 24 Giselle Grilneau
- Carl Lewke
- Judy Davis
- 28 Kyla Stave
- 29 Cole Johnson
- 30 Jamie Gatch
- Ann Rhein

- 2 Kris Hopping
- Isabella Rickert
- 5 Norma Fishkind
- Lane Stave
- Julie Dale
- 6 Amy Peterson
- 7 Robert Dixon
- Phillip Branson
- 8 Varlyn Fink
- Shirley Rosales
- Janet Morgan
- Marylynn Kintner
- 9 Christy Ansbro
- 11 Wendy Anderson
- 11 Amaya D'Souza
- 12 Lorne Simmons
- 13 Noah Brown
- 14 Conner Peace
- 14 Stayg Hadley
- 15 Makaila Herndon
- 15 Madison Hulslander
- 16 Karla Wilson
- 18 Jim Anderson
- 18 Carol Van Natta
- 18 Brennan Getsch
- 20 Layla Espinoza
- 20 Michelle Melcher
- 20 Terrie Heer
- 21 Heather Burns
- 22 Faith Loutsenhizer
- 25 Henry Therkildsen
- 26 Kay Marovich
- 27 Russell Schumacher
- 27 Lillian Wilson



- 1 Carol & Greg Van Natta
- 3 Virginia & Ed Ahlmeyer
- 4 Tissie & Bob Jacobs
- 17 Wendy & Jim Anderson
- Kay & Ray Bille
- 28 Nancy & Duke Frey

- 3 Donna & Don Olsen
- 6 Linda & Daryl Wolf

## ST. JOHN'S MUSIC DEPARTMENT

We are gearing up for an exciting fall season! Celebration Singers are back in rehearsal on Thursdays at a *NEW TIME*, 5:00 - 6:00 pm beginning on October 5 in preparation for Homeland and the fall season.

A number of the Celebration Singers signed up last spring to be part to the Fall Festival of Faith at Hope Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 29 at 6:00 pm. (See article below)

On Nov 10 at 4:00 pm, a group of community singers will assemble to present the show Homeland! Because it was so well received last year, we are bringing back this musical tribute to honor our veterans and remind all of the privilege of living in this great country. Anyone interested in singing for this Veterans Day event is asked to contact Laura Stave at 760-413-0823. Please pass the word!

## FALL FESTIVAL OF FAITH

St. John's is joining with Hope for a "Fall Festival of Faith" on Sunday, October 29 at 6 pm. Several members of our choir are joining with choir members and musicians from across the valley in a concert that celebrates the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Conductor Mack Wilberg is a composer, arranger, conductor, and the current music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The chorus is large (nearly 200 singers) and this event is not to be missed. Carpooling is encouraged. Hope is located at 45900 Portola Ave. Contact Laura Stave if you have any questions.

## SCRIP PROGRAM

A reminder to stop by the Ministry Center Patio after Sunday worship services to purchase your SCRIP cards. SCRIP cards are gift cards that can be used at local retailers like Target, Applebee's, Macy's, and many more.

St. John's receives a percentage of the purchase price, and the money raised goes to our Men's Club Youth Scholarship Program. Stop by to purchase gift cards for places you're already shopping, and help our youth pursue their educational goals. For more information, contact program coordinators, Ben & Debbie Bridges.