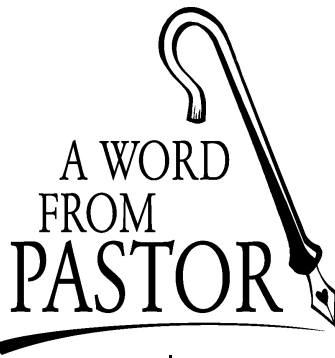


Dear Friends,

It was such a lovely Christmas time here at St. John's! Thank you all for the many expressions of kindness, gratitude, and supportive encouragement that you expressed to Carol and I. I'm thankful that we had such inspiring services from our young people and from our choirs. We hope that the blessings of Christmas light and joy continue into the new year, guiding each of us along our faith way. Christmas is about hope in the midst of struggle, peace inside the restlessness of discontent, and joy in the face of hardship. It's a message that carries on nicely into whatever our new year brings.

We rejoice in the hospitality and informational center that's newly being finished out in front of the office. Our thanks to Larry Lang and his people for the spirit and enthusiasm as well as the experience that went into planning this fine addition to our facility. We might see ourselves beginning to make even more use of our patio area and have a kind of welcoming center coming out of that space. I like our council's approach: do some smaller things first, show ourselves that we can do it, then step up the size and proportion as is needed. The building committee meets early this month, we'll see what the come up additionally.

A new cranberry colored hymnal is out called *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. It's quite a resource actually. We've ordered a few for staff and the accompaniment versions for liturgy and hymns. It contains 743 hymns from around the Christian world, the full 150 Psalms (the Hebrew songbook), liturgies for the seasons of the church year, and for all of life's passages. It's a kind of collection of some older and newer liturgies from around North America. The hymnal also has a good home use section, with daily scriptural references and a complete Small Catechism is included. A workshop is coming to our area to be held at Eden Lutheran Church, 4725 Brockton Ave., Riverside, CA 92506. It costs \$25.00 per person and includes your own copy of the ELW hymnal and lunch. Not to mention of course the working tour through the book that will be led from 8:30am to 3:30pm that Saturday. Pam Reynolds has



information at 714.692.2791 or you may register online at www.pacifica.org/Events.htm. Should be fun and I hope we have a nice crew of staff and singers who want to go. Sign up in the office and we could help coordinate transportation and answer questions.

Luther said that when you sing, you pray twice. Ever wonder what he meant by that? Music teachers will tell you that there's a whole lot more to singing in terms of breathing deeply and exerting the supported energy of your voice than just quietly saying a few prayers. It might take more than twice the energy. Try it. Sing your prayers once and you'll notice the difference over saying them in a smaller voice. Some say they can't sing. But joyful noise is still good to consider. I've also heard it said that with some effort and coaching, most people can even improve what they do with their voice or their prayers. Imagine that.

O Lord, be with us in this new year, 2007. As you were in 2006, but also in the ways that we are challenged to be your people, to be St. John's Lutheran Church at this place and time. Help each of us care for another, worship you and follow your light, like the wise one's of ancient days. May the spirit of Christmas holiness surround and engage us. May the joy of a savior continue in our hearts and homes. May our struggles be graced with your understanding. Cushion our worries with your presence. Help us know how steady your great love is. Help us be all you intended when you made us. So be it. Amen!



Please keep Sally Jahries and family in your prayers as they mourn the death of Sally's mother, Corinne Friedlander who passed on January 4, 2007

ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Charles Riggs - Pastor

Ann Rhein
Office Manager
Position Open
Congregational Coordinator
Debbie & Ben Bridges
Youth Directors

9AM SERVICE

Bill Reynolds - Organist &
Music/Choir Director
Laura Stave
Cantor / Soloist

11AM SERVICE

Bob Corwin
Music Director
Samantha Corwin
Praise Team /Soloist
Dan Flahive - Bass
Ron Mercier - Percussion
Laura Stave
Praise Team / Soloist

CHURCH COUNCIL

Vito Genovese
President
Bill Richter
Vice President
Loraine Friend
Secretary
Joel Mathre
Treasurer
Sally Jahries
Financial Secretary
Lisa Stinson
Parish Education
Marji Vasholz
Evangelism
Gary Bollard
Music & Worship
Bill Winters
Deacon ~ Ushers
Christy Ansbro
Deacon - Readers & Communion
Assistants
Chris Hopping
Stewardship

This year, resolve to do more than make a living....

Make an impact!

Start off the New Year right by joining a unique, Fortune 500 organization committed to excellence in financial services and caring for others.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is growing, and we are currently expanding our team of professionals. We are seeking individuals who are motivated by the opportunity to help Lutherans and their families meet their financial goals.

As a Thrivent Financial representative, you will enjoy unlimited income potential, receive ongoing training and team support and make a difference in people's lives.

To find out if a career as a Thrivent Financial representative is right for you, or to apply, visit www.thrivent.com/careers or contact: Beth Scott, Recruiter, 818-999-0230, Beth.Scott@Thrivent.com



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

ATTENTION - all Members and Friends of St. John's.

Our annual meeting will be held January 28, 2007, between the 9 & 11 AM Services.

The meeting will include: * approval of the budget
* election of officers

Everyone is welcome to attend,
however only members of record may vote.

January Birthdays

- 1 Norma Strand
Robert Anderson
Roberta Murphy
- 2 Larry Lang
Alexandra Lewke
Christopher Burke
- 5 Freeman Robbins
Patti Mathis
- 8 Pat Riensche
- 10 Larry Treider
Sammie Lee Lingle
Virginia Villarreal
- 11 Eileen MacFarlane
- 12 Barbara Dohn
- 13 Nancy Ansbro
Mary Richey
Joel* Glassman
- 14 Kurtis Knigge
- 15 Donita Holst
Megan Donnelly
- 16 Charles Sugg
- 17 Teresa Jahries
- 20 Barbette Lethlean
- 21 Phyllis Evans
Dimitri Villarreal
- 24 Brent Knigge
- 26 DeEtta Magness
- 27 Kay Mathison
Duane Jahries
- 28 Henrietta Evans
Carl Keene
Marilyn Skadra
- 29 Bill Chow
Karen Flahive
- 30 Miriam Tadewaldt
- 30 Diana Lang
- 31 Norman Metzger
Jackie Jones

January Anniversaries

- 4 Nancee & Will Marek
- 10 Cindy & John Hagar
- 14 Sally & Craig Jahries
- 17 Judy & Mel Austin



February 1-10

- 2 Charles Tadewaldt
Jack Oksnee
Betty Jo Larsen
Lois Estock
- 3 Linda Petersen
Nydia Louis
Kirsten Smith
- 4 Bill Evans
- 5 Charles Riggs
Trevor Dunn
Mckenzie Dunn
- 6 Bob Moxley
Peter Riggs
- 7 Bob Burns
Martha Willer
- 8 Elizabeth Morrissey
Jeremiah Rhein
- 9 Beverly Ekvall
- 10 Jerry Schmallen

February Anniversaries

- 1 Julie & Roger Compton
- 7 Carla & Robert Dixon
- 8 Marian & Melton Bockman
- 9 Miriam & Charles Tadewaldt

THANK YOU

Jim Anderson, Gary Bollard, Barb Grans,
Kathy Helgeson, & Michael Miller
Sound Technician

Michele Claxton -*Replenishing envelopes
& pens, and folding bulletins*

Sandra Genovese - *Greeting Card Angel*

Joan Haller - *Proofing Bulletins*

Eleaner Leuenhagen - *Bulletin Assembly*

Beverly McCumsey
Coffee Committee Coordinator

Ann Miller-Shaver - *folding bulletins*

Jim Robbins - Opening on Sundays

JoLe Wilson, Deanna Ireland &
Molly Farrin - *Roll the Soul*

All of our Council Members !



If you would like envelopes and do not see your name, please print your name and address on the form provided and your envelopes will be on the table the following week.

If you choose to not use envelopes, do not fear, you will still receive a statement. We assign numbers internally in those cases.

Please be Praying for...

Please keep the following in your daily prayers:

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pastor Charles & Carol Riggs, Council Members, the Pacifica Synod, the ELCA and

....

Tanner Stave Doug Dierks Tim Workman Karen Flahive Teresa Herb Hochwarth Jack Oksnee Karen Sorensen	Bill Wilson Bob Corwin Carol Buckley Laraine Friend Eavana/Bob Jo Carlson Our Troops	Ken & Luella Jim Ashbaugh Juan, Geronimo Augustine Rosie Carol Buckley Susan Frey Suzy Swan	12-31	Trey Mulvaney Barbara Gibson Jack Vincent Toby Medifpos Bill Worley Joan Secor Betty Docker Jahries Family
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YOUTH INFORMATION

Youth information - Ben/Debbie Bridges at 777-8639

Rock the Flock & Roll the Soul information: Call JoLe Wilson at 771-9389

Rock the Flock (6th -12th Grade) Come join us if you're interested, we'd love to have you! Wednesdays, 3:30 - 4:30 pm, Fellowship Hall.

Roll the Soul (2nd - 5th Grade) Practice Dates: 1/21, 1/28(?), 2/25, 4/15, 4/22, 5/13 and 5/20, from 10 - 10:45am. Practices will be in Fellowship Hall, unless it's full, then we'll be in the office.

Weds., Jan. 24	NO ROCK PRACTICE.
Fri., Feb. 2.	Mission Friday. Meet at the church at 4:30 for dinner, return @ 8 pm.
Sun., Feb. 4	Rock & Roll perform at both services. Be here @ 8:30.

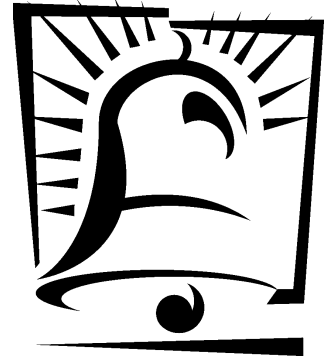
May the New Year bring us:

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
 Enough trials to keep us strong;
 Enough hope to keep us lively;
 Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;
 Enough failure to keep us humble;
 Enough success to keep us eager;
 Enough friends to give us comfort;
 Enough wealth to meet our needs;
 Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
 Enough faith to overcome despair;
 And enough determination to use every day in situations somehow for good.

Adult Education – “Between the Chimes”

Your Sunday morning worship will be enhanced by joining other searching minds between the services in the Fellowship Hall. On most Sundays now until Easter, you can share enriching presentations on topics such as:

- ✧ January * 7th - How the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission is your part of the Body of Christ – talk to Darla Burkett, Executive Director of the CVRM
- ✧ A Monthly Mission to the uncharted south of the Salton Sea – our own Bob Menter holds a worship service and ministers to the needy in a trailer park just north of the border.
- ✧ A lively and provocative Bible Study on the Gospel of John by Phil Branson, January 14, 21, February - * 4, 11, 18, 25 / March - * 4, 11, 18 & 25 (* on the patio)



Epiphany of the Lord

The word epiphany comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, which means appearance or manifestation. It is an important word for liturgical churches. Epiphany is observed annually on January 6. It refers to the wise men, who were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of God’s appearance in the baby Jesus.

In the early church, January 6 was a day for baptism. The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well. Christ’s light is for all.

In France, to celebrate Epiphany, children from Christian homes often put oats in their shoes on the evening before January 6. The oats are for the camels of the “Wise Men.” When they awake the next morning, the children hope to find the oats gone and gifts left in their shoes.

Bible facts Did you know that:

- There are 66 books in the Bible?
- Micah and Nahum are the middle books of the Bible?
- 3 John is the book with the fewest words?
- Psalms has the most chapters?
- There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible?
- Psalm 117 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117 is also the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- There are 31,101 verses in the Bible?
- Psalm 118:8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible?
 “It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man” (NIV).
- John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible? It has two words: “Jesus wept.”
- Esther 8:9 is the longest verse in the Bible? It has 78 words.