

The Visitor

April 2016

St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA • 2190 Jackson Hwy Chehalis, WA 98532
360/748-4741 • office@stjohnschehalis.net

"You shall be my witnesses" Acts 1:8



April not only brings us spring this year, it also begins the season of Easter. We begin at the end — the end of the story of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus that is the beginning of the "Church." That is, those people called to be witnesses to all that Jesus said, did, and accomplished during his earthly ministry.

This group of witnesses (officially called the Communion of Saints) includes us. We are the heirs of this sacred duty to be the official storytellers of the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is an important and solemn duty for each one of us to undertake.

Over the next several weeks, until we reach Pentecost on May 15, we will be hearing stories of the earliest followers of Jesus as they struggled to make sense of all they had seen and heard. They struggle with their own understanding as they face a world at best indifferent to and at worst hostile to their message.

It is a story not unlike our own. This message of the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ is foreign to a world that recognizes that the best and the

fastest get the prize and the rest can just feed on the scraps. The Good News of Christ puts us all on the same playing field and recognizes that we are all children of God, poor and rich, old and young, fat and skinny, quiet and loud.

As witnesses of the glory of Jesus Christ, we will witness Peter's healing in Jerusalem when he gives a man something more than silver or gold, Peter gives the man standing (literally) in the community. We will witness the founding of the churches in Thessalonica and Corinth. We will hear how without God's agape love, all the power and might in the world is useless. We will be reminded that death has been swallowed up by life. And finally, we will hear again the powerful witness of the disciples on the first Pentecost when they proclaimed the Gospel and were understood by all.

We, too, have the opportunity to preach the Gospel, the Good News, of Jesus Christ in the world. Our words are translated by the Holy Spirit and nurtured in the hearts and minds of those who hear them. We will continue to witness the power of God working in our community.

Pastor Matt

The parents of Michael Vance and Jacky Sjoblom invite the St. John's family to celebrate with them at Michael and Jacky's wedding on April 9, 2016, at 4 p.m. in the Community Events Building at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds. To RSVP and to learn about their life journey, go to www.theknot.com/us/michael-and-jaculyn. Please keep them in prayer as they begin this new chapter in their lives.



St. John's Lutheran Church Statement of Mission:

Rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ, we exist to:

- **PROCLAIM** God's unconditional love as an invitation to all,
- **GROW** in discipleship as we follow in Jesus' steps, and
- **SERVE** others as instruments of God's Holy Spirit.

St. John's
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Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Editor:
Linda Lowery

Worship Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Class
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

St. John's Women's Ministries

Women's Bible Study Group meets **Mondays at 1:00 p.m.** led by Nancy Lynch. This is a great opportunity to dig deeper as we learn and discuss the scriptures.

WELCA Brunch and Bible Study will meet on **Saturday, April 16 at 10:00am** in the conference room. We are currently in a 4-month study on the book of Philippians.

The Women's Book Guild will meet on **Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Dixie Roser. At our April meeting we have a book

smorgasbord. Members bring suggested books to the meeting and we select the books we will read for the following year. If you would like more information about being part of the Book Guild, contact Joan Jahnsen, 748-3901.

Young-at-Heart will meet on **Thursday April 21 at noon** for lunch and a program — there is always room at the table for you! For more information about Young At Heart, contact Nancy Lynch, 748-2124.



When God Solves Our Problems

Contributed by Patty Olsen

When God solves our problems, we have faith in **His** abilities. When **God** doesn't solve our problems, **He** has faith in our abilities.

One may observe God's accuracy in the hatching of eggs. . . . those of the canary in 14 days; those of the barnyard hen in 21 days; eggs of ducks and geese in 28 days; those of the mallard in 35 days; the eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days. (Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!)

See God's wisdom in the making of an elephant. . . . The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction. No other quadruped is so made. God planned that this animal would have a huge body — too large to live on two legs. For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily.

The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. A cow rises from the

ground with its two hind legs first.

How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation!

Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind. Each orange has an even number of segments. Each ear of corn has an even number of rows. Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains. Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

Amazing! There's more...

The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather.

All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks.

God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture, and temperature,

(continued on page 3)

When God . . .

(continued from page 2)

he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed.

The lives of each of us may be ordered by the Lord in a beautiful way for His glory, if we will only entrust Him with our lives. If we try to regulate

our own lives, we will have only mess and failure.

Only God, who made our brains and hearts, can successfully guide them to a profitable end.

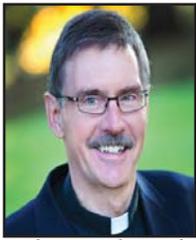
When you carry the Bible, Satan has a headache; when you open it, he collapses. When he sees you reading it, he loses his strength, and when you stand

on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you!

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

I pray God bless you in ways you never even dreamed. I didn't think twice about sharing this one - and I hope you won't, either. Pass on the blessings!

Synod Spring Educational Gatherings



Bishop Rick Jaech

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am very excited about the regional educational gatherings that will soon take place in three cities in

our Synod. They will be special for at least five reasons!

1. We are trying something completely new! Instead of having a two-day Synod Assembly with a heavy agenda of business items, this year we will have three gatherings throughout our Synod that will focus on building ministry skills. We will be gathering in Vancouver (April 30), Olympia (May 14) and Silverdale (May 21).
2. Everybody can come! At our Synod Assemblies, we limit attendance to pastors and two to three delegates from each congregation. However, everybody can attend the up-coming regional educational gatherings. Bring all from your congregation who want to attend. You can even attend more than one gathering, so that you can participate in more of the workshops.

3. There will be educational workshops that will help you both inside and outside the congregation! At each regional gathering there will be 6-7 workshops in the morning that will help you to function more effectively within your congregation in areas such as finance, stewardship, administration and faith formation. In the afternoon, there will be 6-7 workshops that will help you reach out, welcome and serve your neighbors.
4. The cost is a lot cheaper! The registration fee is \$25 per person, which also provides lunch.
5. All of our congregations and members will be able to learn together, worship together and get to know each other better! As we journey into our future as a church, it will be a blessing and a necessity to have sisters and brothers with whom we can walk the Way, share ideas and provide support back and forth. The regional educational gatherings will help us meet each other and start forming relationships as co-workers in ministry.

This is a new experiment for us! However, we can't do it without you and the people that you help to bring. Please take a look at the list of workshops and think about the various people in your congregation who you know would benefit from attending a particular workshop. Then, please invite them to sign up for the gathering and help them to coordinate transportation.

I welcome you to join with me in this new experiment as we gather together as a Synod. I look forward to the Holy Spirit leading us into deeper truth, growing skills and exciting ministry.

In Christ

Bishop Rick Jaech



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Living Stones Prison Ministry As Seen From the Outside: A First-Timer's Experience

by *Pastor Paula Burchill, Silverdale
Lutheran Church, Silverdale*

Recently I went with a group of Silverdale Lutheran folks to worship with the Living Stones Prison Congregation in Shelton. It was my first time making the trip and though I had always wanted to go, I have also always been a little scared, too. I wondered if it might be better if my male colleagues led the groups. I wondered about what to wear—should I take off all my jewelry? As we prepared to go, I had lots of what turned out to be silly thoughts go through my mind. And I think it was because what I wasn't prepared for was to get there and actually worship.

Living Stones is one of the friendliest congregations I have worshiped with. We met all kinds of men, young and old, who shook our hands and thanked us for coming. Pastor Norm told us later that for some inmates, we might be their only visitors.



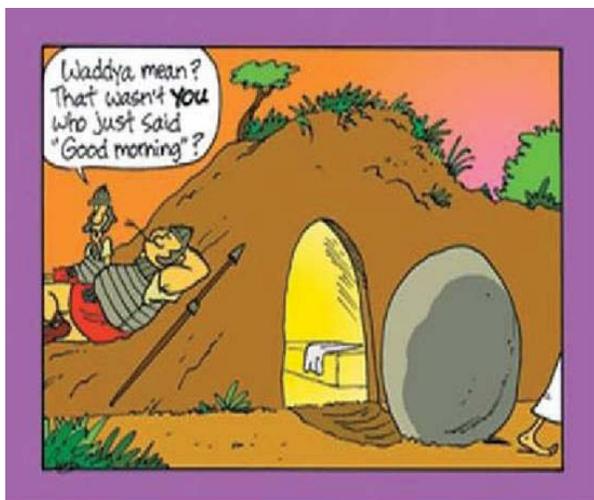
And then we started to sing. They had a worship band, all made up of inmates. Guitars, drums, and voices were united in praising God. The singing was by no means perfect, but with eyes closed and hands raised, I saw men who believed in the words they were singing. I'm bringing all my dirt, I'm bringing all my shame. I'm laying them all at the foot of the cross. I'm much too Nordic to be much of an arm-raiser when I'm singing in church, but, in spite of myself, I found my hands opening up—palms facing heaven, not raised much more than an inch or two, but raised to receive the amazing grace of God.

And then it started to not be about me coming in to worship

with these poor, shameful men — it started to be about ALL of us being poor and shameful before Jesus. Because Jesus loves the poor and shameful. He loves the lowly and the least. And when he told us that we should go and visit those who are in prison, he was pretty smart.

I know I was brought to my knees. Because even though I might not have been dressed in khakis and black shoes, when Jesus smiled down on us Living Stones, he could not see a difference among us.

And so we sang — together. Christ's body in the world. As Paul writes in I Corinthians 12, one part of us could not say to the other that we were more important, because we all share in Christ. And I thank the members of Living Stones for preaching that truth to me. I pray for those men, that they would heal and be changed and know how precious they are in God's sight. And I hope they are praying the same prayer for me.



Dollars and Sense	
Operating Income and Expenses:	
March 2016	
Income	\$10,655.70
Expenses:	(21,399.90)
Total:	\$(10,744.20)
Year to Date as of March 15, 2016	
Income	\$46,906.02
Expenses	(57,936.36)
Total	\$(11,030.34)

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Wednesday's Together!</i> 4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom 4:30 p.m. St. John's Knitting Ministry 5:00 p.m. Children's Chime Choir 5:30 p.m. Dinner is Served – All are welcome! 6:00 p.m. High School Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice					1 Pastor Matt's Day Off	2
3 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Adult Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	4 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 4:30 p.m. 4-H Cooking Class 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	5 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball 5:30 p.m. Property 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	6 6:30 a.m. Men's Morning Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board 1:00 p.m. Agate Hospital Auxiliary Wednesday's Together (see schedule)	7 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball	8 Pastor Matt's Day Off	9 11:00 a.m. Youth Help with Mobile Mission Meals
10 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship	11 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	12 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 5:45 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council	13 Wednesday's Together (see schedule)	14 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball 5:30 p.m. Staff Meeting at Sweet Inspirations, Chehalis	15 Pastor Matt's Day Off May Visitor Deadline	16 10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch
17 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	18 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	19 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society	20 Wednesday's Together (see schedule)	21 12:00 p.m. Young At Heart 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	22 Pastor Matt's Day Off	23 8:30 a.m. "See Poverty – Phase II," Social Ministry
24 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	25 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Music & Worship 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	26 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at Lauri Kreutz's	27 Wednesday's Together (see schedule)	28 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball	29 Pastor Matt's Day Off	30

April Celebrations

Birthdays

- 2 Greg Moir
Ken Wright
- 4 Joann Hulse
Christine Vlach
- 5 Samantha Barber
- 6 Brad Meagher
- 8 Caroline Carter
Hannah Meier
- 9 Jerry Grill
- 10 Dolores Goedhard
- 16 Bernhard Kreutz
Judy Utter
- 17 Evan Unzelman
- 18 Bob Cosser
Michelle Lee

- 26 Christine Larsen
Timothy Munz
- 27 Stephen Jendryka
- 28 Tim Touhey

Anniversaries

- 25 Vicki and Bruce Graham

Baptism Anniversaries

- 1 Matt Edwards
- 3 Jim Carey
- 5 Rick Michal
- 6 Lexi Erwin
Janie Mauel
- 10 Lynette Gage
Dolores Goedhard
- 11 Joshua Doyle
Cole Fisher
Riley Fisher

- Lucas Lee
- 12 April Michal
Michael Vance
- 14 Shirley Dolman
Andrew Michal
- 15 Brynne Bailey
Colt Conzatti
- 17 Angela March
- 18 Janet Christin
- 19 Sierra Gilliland
- 22 Cason Justice
- 29 Ezra Birchard

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, let us know! Call the church office at 748-4741 or e-mail: office@stjohnschehalis.net.

Bits and Pieces

New Phone Number:

Dolores Goedhard'
(360) 807-4447

Thank you . . .

Thank you St. John's Lutheran Church for your generous support of YAGLN participants Bryce Knutzen and Hannah Webber during this wonderful year of opportunity. Your donation will make a lasting impact and we greatly appreciate your support. Blessings

For the Garden of Your Daily Life

For the garden of your daily living:

Plant Three Rows Of Peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Are You Ready for an . . . Exodus Experience?

June 27-July 1, 9-12 a.m.

It is time to plan for VBS and it is going to be a great experience for all who are involved! We are going on an experience with Moses during his exodus out of Egypt.

We are looking for people to help with SNACKS, SKITS, CRAFTS, GROUP LEADERS, REGISTRATION, RUNNERS, GAME LEADERS, SINGERS



Plant Four Rows of Lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

and more. Some help is needed before the big week and lots of help is needed during the week. There are lots of ways to help so just let Rachel March know what you would like to do!
(928)208-9240.

LOVE IN THE NAME OF

CHRIST of Lewis County is seeking someone to fill the position of executive director. A complete job description is available through the church office.

No Garden is Without Turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To Conclude Our Garden, We Must Have Thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Easter Altar Flowers Donated:

In Memory Of:

By:

Alice Ulrikson and Idelia Fenn Marilyn & Dave Fenn
 Mildred Oster and Doris Rudorfer Chuck & Diane Rudorfer
 Loved Ones Jerry & Luanne Grill
 My passed loved ones Shirley A. Dolman
 Marion Ruth Jim Ruth
 Ruth and John Schultz Susan Donaldson
 Pastor Jerry Lynch and daughter Jill Nancy Lynch
 Lloyd and Eileen Olson Marilyn Schmitt
 Our family Grace & Bert Bauer
 Our parents: Monte & Bernie Utter and Dean & Elizabeth Smallwood Bob & Judy Utter
 Jean & Norm Wirta Janie Mauel
 Papa Harvey Ashleigh, Courtney & Alex Cox
 Brian The Cox Family
 Edythe & George Blair and John & Maxine Boman Bill & Dee Blair
 Our parents: Karl & Dorothy Boedecker and Walt & Marjarie Kirsch Katrina & Greg Kirsch
 My husband, Ray and our son Danny Mary DuBois
 Papa Harvey and Brian Cox Grandma Kate
 My parents: Hilda & Harry Backeberg Dolores Goedhard
 Our parents Luanna & Bill Deming
 Parents Hjalmer & Curtisine Erickson, Brother Steven Erickson and
 Husband John Rogers Mary Rogers
 Our parents Bill & Joann Hulse
 Grandson, Anthony Leith and our parents Larry & Gail Dean
 Connie Small Phil Small
 Bill iund, Arnold & Fern Olsen & Ray iund, Albert & Harriette Frank Patty Olsen

In Honor Of:

By:

Our grandchildren: Kellen & Madison Utter and Kendra,
 Ashley & Lauren Nies Bob & Judy Utter
 Our family Bob & Jan Cosser
 Sara, Mindy & Jon Bill & Dee Blair
 Our children and grandchildren Eric & Billie Melin
 Our daughter: Alexandra Kirsch Katrina & Greg Kirsch
 Our children and grandchildren Larry & Gail Dean
 Our Families Glen & Bonnie Unzelman
 Sons Rick Frank, Patrick Olsen, my Grandchildren Brittany, Rayder, Wyatt and
 Charlotte Frank and Matthew and RaeAnne Olsen & my Mom Vi iund Patty Olsen

To the Glory of God

Corrine & Paul Crouner
 Craig & Hedy Mitchell family
 Bob & Jan Cosser
 Steve and Barbara Grega





Come support the
Lewis County Gospel Mission's

2nd ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

April 16th, 2016

Being held at ~ **Centralia Christian School**
1315 S. Tower Ave.

Doors open at 5pm- early viewing/bidding on Silent Auction Items
Event Starts at 5:45pm- MC opens with announcements & prayer
Buffet Dinner Starts at 6pm- tables released randomly per game
Live Auction Starts at 7pm

Tickets are only \$25- seating limited

Get your tickets early and reserve your table TODAY!

A table for a group of 8 can be reserved. All seats must be purchased at same time.

Please call Fay or Janet at the Mission 360-996-4474

Or purchase your tickets online at:

www.lcgm.bpt.me



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