

The Visitor

April 2017

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

Living by Faith



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 June 4, 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 walk with the disciples along the Emmaus road. We will witness a complete foreigner come to Christ and be Baptized. We will be privy to the minutes of one of the very first church council meetings. Peter and Paul will clash over how one can become a Christian. Paul will make a powerful case for how our differences do not divide us in the body of Christ. 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

My St. John's Story

I grew up in St. John's. From baptism to first communion, then being confirmed, and most recently being married in the church, I have celebrated milestones surrounded by love and support. The members of the church patiently helped me get through childhood, listening to my stories, buying Girl Scout Cookies, and ignoring my siblings and I as we argued. I always knew that people at St. John's were loving, but the prayers and letters of love and

support I received while I was in the Peace Corps really showed me how much we are a family. I can never repay the love I felt, literally across an ocean.

St. John's congregation watched me grow up, but I feel like I've watched it grow up too. In my time as a member, I have watched the congregation and building grow in size. I watched us go from one service to two. Start a bell choir, buy an organ, add an

(continued on page 2)

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
Lutheran Church, ELCA
2190 Jackson Hwy
360/748-4741**

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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**

Summer Worship Schedule:

- **One Worship Service
at 9:45 a.m.**

My Story . . .

(continued from page 1)

addition and a gym floor. I have watched us expand our mission too.

If I'm going to be completely honest, lately I have been thinking, "But really, why St. John's?" Sure the people are great, and I love seeing them every week, but the fellowship isn't really the reason we attend church. What is St. John's offering me spiritually? I feel like St. John's isn't content, it's taken me about 5 drafts and nearly the end of this version to figure out that is my "why." As a congregation we continue to change and to meet the changing needs of our congregation and community.

Men in Mission

The Apostle Paul was a grand adventurer. In his thirty-plus years as a church planter and missionary, he battled a sorcerer, fought demons, and dodged at least three plots to kill him. One such dodge resulted in his being lowered in a basket over a city wall. Paul survived earthquakes, riots, a storm at sea and a shipwreck. A shipwreck? How cool is that!

He traveled to all of the major cities of the ancient Roman empire; Athens, Antioch, Ephesus Corinth, and Rome. During these travels Paul spoke with jailers, judges, priests and kings. And to all who would listen (and many more who wouldn't) he told them the marvelous Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But Paul was never alone. He had a squad of other guys to help him; Barnabas, Mark, Luke, and Timothy, to name a few. Paul could not have carried out his mission by himself.

As a congregation we continue to seek ways that we can grow God's love, and serve the community around us. I love all the aspects of our congregation, the behind the scenes work that is constantly happening, that is where the real faith is being shared. People are generous with their time and resources and I think that's why I'm still here. Our congregation is full of quality people, investing more quality into what we already have, and I am looking forward to the future and how we will continue to serve God as a family of followers.

Cori Jo Duncan

So who's up for an adventure?

The Lutheran Men in Mission Conference is all about finding that Christian adventure each of us was created for. But like Paul, we need a squad of brothers to help us out.

I'm looking for a minimum of five guys to go with me to Gold Bar, Washington, on Friday May 19, 2017, and spend the weekend at the Lutheran Men in Mission Conference. That's a *minimum* of five; I'll take as many of you as I can get. It's just one weekend out of your life. Don't hesitate. Sign up, get the **ONE** day off from work, and **GO!** The early registration price has been extended to April 1, 2017. Flyers are available in the church office. Hey, maybe we'll get a shipwreck!

Pack some good walking shoes, a sleeping bag and an open mind. This is going to be a blast!

Brad Meagher

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	3 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	4 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	5 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 1:00 p.m. Agate Hospital Auxiliary 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) No Kids of the Kingdom 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	6 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer	7 Pastor Matt's Day Off 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Office Closed	1
						8
9 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship Palm Sunday	10 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	11 11:00 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council	12 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	13 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service at Immanuel Lutheran, Centralia	14 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 7:00 p.m. Good Friday "Cry of the Whole Congregation" Service Office Closed Visitor Deadline	15 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil at St. Paul's, Winlock
16 8:00 a.m. Easter Worship 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Easter Sunday	17 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	18 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society	19 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	20 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Young at Heart Luncheon and Program 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer	21 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	22 10:00 a.m. ELCW Brunch and Bible Study
23 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Family Poverty Event — <i>The Game of Life</i>	24 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	25 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer 7:00 p.m. Book Guild	26 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	27 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer	28 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	29
30 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	Wednesday's Together! 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. Soup Supper – All are welcome! (Will begin traditional dinners on April 19) 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service (Last service is April 12) 7:00 p.m. High School Bible Study (Will meet at 6 p.m. beginning April 19) 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (Will meet at 6:30 p.m. beginning April 19) 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice					

Youth Corner:

We have exciting news about the *Team 316* campaign — we are almost at our goal! Oh Yeah! We have 55 partners so far and just need 5 more to reach our goal. If you have been thinking about being a partner and have not signed up yet, it is not too late. For only \$3.16 per week, \$12.64 per month, \$82.16 semi-annually or \$164.32 for a year, you too can be a *Team 316* partner. We have a *Team 316* table in the narthex after each service to help you sign up. Thank you for those who have

partnered with us so far. With that commitment, you will be rewarded with an amazing Easter brunch, served by the Youth of St. John's.

Other news . . . There are currently 13 youth going to *Youth Quake* next month. We are looking forward to a great Youth retreat filled with inspiring music, a service project and most of all, sharing God's word with other youth from all over the State. It should be a great three-day event. We are really excited to be attending again!

In closing, I want to say thank-you to all of the youth that participate each week in worship services. Whether it be playing in the chime choir or praise band, helping usher or being a lector — it is wonderful to see our youth involved and participating in worship. Watch for continued support and service from our St. John's Youth.

God Bless

Pat Soderquist
Youth Minister

Bits and Pieces

Pastor Matt,
Thank you for your kind and heartfelt service for Nancy.

Also thank you for the congregation that was such a large support for her and became a large part of her life.
Ray Allbritton and Family

To My St. John's Family,
In one of my middle of the

night epiphanies, I realized I had not put a thank-you note in the *Visitor* for all of you helping to make my 70th birthday such a joy. As the editor of the newsletter, it's a bit embarrassing!

How you kept it a secret from me, I will never know! It meant so much to see former co-workers, friends, church

family and, the biggest surprise of all, my son and his family from Pennsylvania.

So thank you, albeit it late, for making my birthday in **December** one I will never forget. Blessings to you all,
Linda Lowery

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 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.

Coming April 23rd



The Game of Life

A Poverty Event for the Whole Family!

Poverty isn't just about money! It is a living force impacted by who you know, where you live, mental health, family, life events, available resources, faith, jobs, housing, education, attitudes, friends, insurance, politics, healthy Communities, opportunities, transportation.....and the list goes on!

Sometimes poverty is temporary; sometimes it is generational!

It's something God calls us to deeply care about!

Come and join us for a highly interactive, informative, fun learning event. We'll even provide a meal!

WHEN: Sunday, April 23rd

WHERE: St. Johns Lutheran Church

TIME: 5:00—8:00 pm

Have questions? Contact anyone on the Social Ministries Committee:

Al Soderquist, Sara Blair, Jay Jahnsen, Adam Moir, Carolyn Schoenborn

Spring Flowers and Easter Lilies
to enhance St. John's altar on Easter Sunday.

If you would like to help adorn the altar, please bring your flowers to the church
by **10:00 am on Saturday, April 15.**

OR

Use the sign-up form below and give to any Altar Guild member along with \$8.00 and we will purchase flowers for you. You may also mail the sign-up form to the church office (2190 Jackson Highway, Chehalis, WA 98532) along with an \$8.00 check payable to St. John's Altar Guild. **Deadline for ordering is Wednesday, April 12.**

(Altar Guild members are: Jan Cosser, Gail Dean, Mary DuBois, Marilyn Fenn, Joann Hulse, Nancy Lynch, Janie Mael, Mary Rogers, Diane Rudorfer and Linda Young.)

Name: _____

I wish to donate # _____ **for spring flowers x \$8.00 = \$** _____

In Honor of: _____

Memory of: _____

To the Glory of God.

(You may take your flowers home after the 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service.)



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