

# The Visitor

February 2017

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

## Why is 6 afraid of 7? Because 7, 8, 9.



*So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.* (Matthew 6:34)

Future worries can sap our enjoyment of today. Future worries make it impossible for us to see the blessing of God right in front of us.

I've begun watching the series *Legends of Tomorrow* on Netflix. The series follows several "B" super heroes. They are specifically chosen to travel through time because they are so inconsequential to the timeline of human existence. At first, when they find out that they don't matter, they want to quit. But they come to realize that their future is not for them to be concerned about. All they can do is do something about the opportunities they have right in front of them.

It can become so easy for us to become so buried by worries of the future that we can't see what is right in front of us. We begin to think we don't matter. We want to just give up.

In Matthew chapter six, Jesus describes the beauty of creation. The flowers and the birds are blessed with so much beauty and yet, their existence is but a whisper in the grand scheme of all existence.

But aren't you so much more, Jesus goes on to say. You are not here today and gone tomorrow and God cares for you every single day. You are more than birds of the air and flowers of the field. Your life has purpose and meaning.

Instead of just getting a valentine gift for that special someone, write yourself a Matthew-Six Note. In this note, list all the ways that God has made you something special. What are those gifts that God has given you?

*Pastor Matt*

## My St. John's Story

### Why St. John's??

We all pick our church for a myriad of reasons: good music, style of service, pastor etc. St. John's is my church because of the people. A little background: I grew up unchurched in a small town in North central Washington. I was always Christian curious if you will. I had some rather tragic life events when I was eighteen which forced me to think about what happens when we are no longer living. At the same time, I had met this wonderful young woman I had intentions of living the rest of my life with, who helped guide to me Jesus. Katherine and I were married in St. John's nearly twenty years ago, May 24, 1997 to be exact. All

three of our kids were baptized at St John's, so there is certainly some history with the church but that is not the reason we have stayed.

Throughout life I have always had pride in being independent and self-reliant. Helping others always has given me a strong sense of self-worth, actually that is basically what my career as veterinarian has been based on. I relish the role matter of fact, but on December 3, 2007 I quickly became humbled. No longer was I able to be independent and at that point I certainly wasn't self-reliant. We had a one-year-old home which had two feet of water and mud in it and a farm that was unrecognizable due to the

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### **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**

**office@stjohnschehalis.net  
www.stjohnschehalis.net**

**Pastor Matthew March  
pastor@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Follow Pastor Matt @revlurch  
on Twitter/Facebook/  
Instagram**

**Youth Minister:  
Pat Soderquist  
Cell: 219-7162**

**Minister of Music:  
Joan Jahnsen  
748-3901  
jahnsen71@msn.com**

**Secretary:  
Linda Lowery  
office@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Custodian/Facility  
Coordinator:  
Bernie Schreck:  
748-6302  
Cell: 360-623-0418**

**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)*

acres of woody debris and feet of mud. Katherine and I were overwhelmed to say the least. We had two small children, pregnant with our third and a home that was uninhabitable. We didn't even know where to start. What came to follow was one of the most amazing things I have witnessed. God working

through the people of St. John's help put our life back together. For this I will be eternally indebted.

St. John's the edifice is a place to worship and have fellowship, but to me the real church is what we carry with us outside its walls as we continually work to be disciples of Jesus.

*Jason Humphrey*

## 2017 Council Members

Name	Phone	E-mail
Sara Blair	748-6878	sblair1220@hotmail.com
Katrina Boedecker	Home: 748-9392 Cell: 360-402-8484	boedecker4@comcast.net
Cori Jo Duncan	360-388-5338	cjahnsen@gmail.com
Jason Humphrey, President	Home: 245-3480 Cell: 520-3080	drajh@outlook.com
Pastor Matt March	Contact Phone: 360-562-0844	pastor@stjohnschehalis.net
Donna Moir, Recording Secretary	Home: 748-4517 Cell: 269-2004	donna@moircountry.com
Chuck Rudorfer	864-6440	snags@toledotel.com
Bob Russell	266-8018	orrussell@msn.com
Arnie Suhrbier	295-3134	arnoldsuhrbier@centurytel.net
Tim Touhey, Treasurer	Home: 262-0686 Cell: 508-0934	ttouhey@comcast.net

Our newsletter, the *Visitor*, is only as informative as the articles submitted. It's better to have multiple submissions for the same event, than none at all. It's also important to remember that the office is not necessarily aware of all events, so it's safer to presume the information is not known, and submit it.

Your help in making The *Visitor* an informative tool for our church family is greatly appreciated!



## The Road to St Regis

It's 5:30 am December 19, 2016, and I am seeing mixed rain and snow as I head down my hill to pick up Pastor Matt. When I get to Pastor Matt's road, it is now blanketed in snow. We were to go to Dr. Keith Birchard's house to get his suburban and covered trailer filled with gifts for children on the Blackfeet Reservation and be on our way to Montana by 6 a.m. Fortunately, only Pastor Matt's road was covered with snow and the rest of the pavement was still only wet with snow melting on it. Dr. Keith had the suburban waiting for us with a full tank of gas (his donation as well) and we were on our way. The day before, after the early service, many of us laid hands on the trailer as we blessed the trip - we would need that.

The gathering and wrapping of new sneakers and hoodies for 158 kids at the Blackfeet Boarding Dorm in Browning, MT was a last-minute request and plea that our congregation took on. With prayer, generous congregation members and the help of the community in which we live, we met that goal. The original arrangement with the staff at the boarding dorm was that they would come to Chehalis to pick up the gifts. On December 13, we found out that the staff could not leave Montana with their Federally-provided vehicles. We began to consider other options. It became clear that there were too many gifts for Pastor's car. We considered renting a moving van or maybe packing a 1987 motorhome full for the journey. Dr. Keith's offer of his vehicle and trailer saved

the day and was by far the best choice for the journey. I volunteered to help with the driving as it would be eight hours, with good weather, to St Regis, MT where we would transfer the gifts to Richard who is a tribal member and married to a staff member at the boarding dorm. They would then distribute the gifts.

We were making good time with some traffic slowdowns until we got to the Hwy 18 off ramp where traffic was stopped. Inching forward, I searched for traffic info on the radio and heard that Hwy 18 was closed westbound due to a jackknifed semi. That was a close call. We were headed east and would only encounter a gaper slowdown. We proceeded and turned on to I-90. Snow was starting to stick as we went up the pass and we started to notice some vehicles putting on chains. At the summit we pulled off to put ours on. I asked Pastor if he would work on one side while I worked on the other. I then discovered that Pastor Matt had never put on chains before. A show and tell lesson began and we were back on the road.

I decided to pull into the Indian John Hill Rest Area where we could check the chains, use the restroom and change drivers. Pastor got out and headed to the rest room. I got out to check the chains and as I closed the door I heard the chirp of the car door lock. We were locked out! I went to find Pastor and borrowed his phone to call the triune A (AAA). A lock smith would be on his way in two hours. So we waited and asked the occasional trucker for a

coat hanger or slim jim with no success. There was a half-hearted offer of a plastic hanger !At 27<sup>0</sup> time moves slower. We were noticing that many of the truckers were removing their chains and we decided to do the same. About two hours later our doors were unlocked and we were on our way. We had been in contact with Richard to let him know our estimated time of arrival.

Desultory (look the word up) conversation and scratchy radio kept us occupied as we rolled into St Regis at about 7 p.m. Mountain time. It was a hazy dark place with a tinny radio playing Christmas music. We were about the only ones there. "It has the feel of a bad horror movie," Pastor Matt commented. Richard, his wife and their nephew pulled in shortly there after and the gifts were transferred.

Richard had asked me how we were transporting the gifts and if his trailer should be covered. I said yes it should so the gifts would be dry. He seemed to be proud of his trailer cover as he showed it to us. He explained that he built it yesterday out of plywood. It looked very sturdy to me. He then explained that there were 80 mph winds in Browning yesterday while he was constructing the canopy and said he felt like "that guy from Forest Gump, Lt. Dan in the storm on the shrimp boat." He and his wife hope to worship with us if they ever get to the Chehalis area.

Half an hour later we were on our way back home. Coming into Spokane it was warming

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## The Road to St. Regis . . .

(continued from page 4)

up to about 35 and we thought with warm weather we might be able to make it home in the early hours of December 20<sup>th</sup>. We were making good time and then the temperature started to drop. 30, 25, 20, then 19 degrees. It still seemed like the roads were good. Then it started to rain. Rain? The windshield wipers and defroster were having a hard time keeping up with the ice that was beginning to impair our vision. Next off-ramp was Moses Lake. We took the exit - we needed gas anyway. I went in to prepay as Pastor stayed to pump the gas. When I came out, I noticed that one of the four wheels on the trailer was completely shredded. I told Pastor "I think we need a little air in one of our trailer tires." It was 11:30 p.m. and the roads

were probably iced over like our windshield so we found a Motel 6 and decided we would deal with the trailer tire in the morning.

December 20, 7:30a.m. I woke up, went out to look at the tire and found the doors covered in ice. I managed to get the driver's door open enough to get inside and start the suburban to thaw it out. "Hello triune A (AAA)? Do you change trailer tires?" Yes, they did. With my membership and about an hour later we were on the road. We decided to stop for breakfast at IHOP and let the roads thaw a little. I got a text from Dr. Keith checking on us. I texted him back saying we were fine and that we noticed a little wear on one of the trailer tires so we rotated them with the spare. His reply was that he did not know how much air was

in the spare. I replied that I was pretty sure there was more air in it than the one we replaced. AAA did inflate the spare. We finished breakfast and were almost to Snoqualmie summit and traffic came to a stop. We found out there was a semi being removed from a ditch and all westbound lanes were blocked. We only had to wait about 10 minutes before traffic started moving. Pretty good timing. The rest of the way was uneventful and we arrived back in Chehalis about 3pm.

It was clear to me that the blessings of this congregation helped to protect and guide us with travel and the decisions we made along the way. You could say it was good luck. I believe it was a good God.

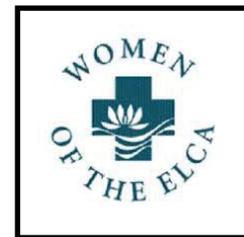
*Al Soderquist*

*(Just a passenger on the ride of life.)*

## Women of St. John's

**ELCW Brunch and Bible Study** will meet on Saturday, **February 18 at 10:00 a.m.** in the conference room. We will be continuing our study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. The study will look at how we are children of God through faith.

The **Women's Book Guild** will meet on Tues. **Feb. 28th at 7:00pm.** Gail Dean will be our hostess. Nancy Lynch will lead the discussion on the book *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. If you are interested in reading this book and joining our group, contact Joan Jahnsen at 748-3901.



## Knitting News

Thank you to everyone who is knitting hats for the Hat Project. Our basket in the narthex has been filling up with a variety of colors, styles and sizes of hats. We are always hearing of the need for hats in our community so we will continue the project.

The residents at Safe Family Ministry were given hats on Christmas to brighten their day. The variety of hats made an amazing display for them to choose from. Because of our dedicated knitters the twin cities are warmer and more colorful. Look for our hat basket in

the narthex if you have yarn to donate. If you have any questions contact me at [mschmitt@localaccess.com](mailto:mschmitt@localaccess.com).

*Marilyn Schmitt*

St. John's Knitting Ministry  
Coordinator

## Food for Our Future

The *Food for Our Future* group continues to meet at the Greater Chehalis Food Bank to pack weekend snacks for students in need within the Chehalis School District. We are providing food for approximately 65 students from Cascade Elementary, R.E. Bennet Elementary and Olympic Elementary. Thank you to the members of St.

John's Lutheran for your faithful contributions of food, money and prayer to support this vital program. We are especially thankful to the St. John's Council members who recently approved *Food for Our Future* funds to be channeled through our bookkeeping system. **Beginning in February, when writing a check to fund *Food for Our Future*, please**

**make it out to St. John's Lutheran and on the memo line mark *Food for Our Future*.** Please join us to help pack weekend snacks. Our next dates are Wednesday, February 8 and Wednesday, February 22 at 4 p.m. at the Greater Chehalis Food Bank. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Cathy Cavness.

## Bits and Pieces

### New Address:

Chuck and Mary Ziegert  
3635 Arbor Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 97503  
Cell: 360 789-3420

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

will be observed on Tuesday, February 28 at 5:30 p.m. As is tradition, the pancake supper will be prepared and served by the men of St. John's.

### Looking Forward to Lent

Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on March 1. On Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent there will be services at 1:00 in the Sanctuary and 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer* at the 6:30 service.

A Lenten booklet, *Free Indeed*, is available for daily devotions.

The schedule for Holy Week is Maundy Thursday at Immanuel Lutheran in Centralia; Good Friday here at St. John's; and Easter Vigil at St. Paul's in Winlock. All Holy Week services will begin at 7 p.m.

## February Celebrations

### Birthdays

1 Ceci Birchard  
Taylor Lowery  
5 Austin Haworth  
Larry Moir  
6 Ed Buda  
7 Jim Jahnsen  
Braden Newman  
8 Linda Young  
9 Michael Vance  
10 Jay Jahnsen  
11 Chuck Rudorfer  
13 Macey Elder  
Kathy Hoffman  
Kristine Newman  
15 Ann Bradshaw  
Alex Cox  
16 Russ Lunders  
Curt Volland

18 Tom Callas  
22 Bert Bauer  
Ryan Gage  
Kelsey Hoffman  
Bonnie Unzelman  
24 Bill Deming  
26 Jonathan Judd  
28 Evan Mitchell

### Anniversaries

5 Mary and Reid Olson  
11 Dolores and Alex  
Goedhard  
18 Barbara and Steve Grega  
20 Mary and Chuck Ziegert

### Baptism Anniversaries

1 Ceci Birchard  
Ava Humphrey  
Logan Lee

5 Joe Buda  
7 Arnie Suhrbier  
8 David Nelson  
Drew and Jennifer Willson  
13 Martina Munz  
16 Steve Grill  
17 Kevin Hoffman  
22 Bert Bauer  
24 Bill Deming  
25 Alexandra Dean  
26 Jon Judd

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

# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Rotary Mentorship Day 10:00 a.m. Genealogical Bd. 1:00 p.m. Agate Hospital Auxiliary 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	<b>2</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	<b>3</b> Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>6</b> 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	<b>7</b> 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 5:30 p.m. Property Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	<b>8</b> 8:00 a.m. Life Line Screening 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	<b>9</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	<b>10</b> Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>13</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>14</b> 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council	<b>15</b> 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301  <b>Visitor                      Deadline</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Young at Heart Luncheon and Program 5:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	<b>17</b> Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer	<b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. ELCW Brunch and Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Baby Shower in Community Center
<b>19</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>20</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>21</b> 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society	<b>22</b> 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	<b>23</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	<b>24</b> Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Blue and Gold Banquet	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>27</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	<b>28</b> 5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book Guild	<b>1</b> Ash Wednesday 1:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	<b>Wednesday's Together!</b> 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 – <b>All are welcome!</b> 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		

# Letter from Presiding Bishop Eaton on Refugees

January 30, 2017

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Yesterday, we heard these words in the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12, the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, Jesus lays out a vision for life in God's realm, characterized by seeing those who are often most disregarded, including the meek, the mourning and the peacemaker, as bearers of God's blessing. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to hear this Gospel, including Jesus' call for his disciples to be carriers of God's light and hope and reconciliation to a world deeply in need of them.

In this spirit, earlier last week I communicated with the Trump administration asking that it not stop the U.S. refugee admissions program or stop resettlement from any country for any period of time. The Bible calls us to welcome the stranger and treat the sojourner as we would our own citizens. I agree with the importance of keeping our country secure as the administration stated in its executive order last Friday, but I am convinced that temporarily banning vulnerable refugees will not enhance our safety nor does it reflect our values as Christians. Instead, it will cause immediate harm by separating families, disrupting lives, and denying safety and hope to brothers and sisters who are already suffering.

Refugees being resettled in the United States have fled persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political views and/or associations. They

wait for years for the chance to go home. But sometimes, there is no home for them to go back to. We know from our partners at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) that only 1 percent of all refugees are chosen for resettlement.

People of faith helped start and still sustain the refugee resettlement program in the United States following World War II. As Lutherans, many of our ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and the joy of being welcomed in new communities across the United States. As we have done throughout history, millions of Lutherans across the country honor our shared biblical values as well as the best of our nation's traditions by offering refuge to those most in need. We are committed to continuing ministries of welcome that support and build communities around the country and stand firmly against any policies that result in scaling back the refugee resettlement program.

We must offer safety to people fleeing religious persecution regardless of their faith tradition. Christians and other religious minorities suffer persecution and rightly deserve protection, but including additional criteria based on religion could have discriminatory effects that would go against our nation's fundamental values related to freedom of religion.

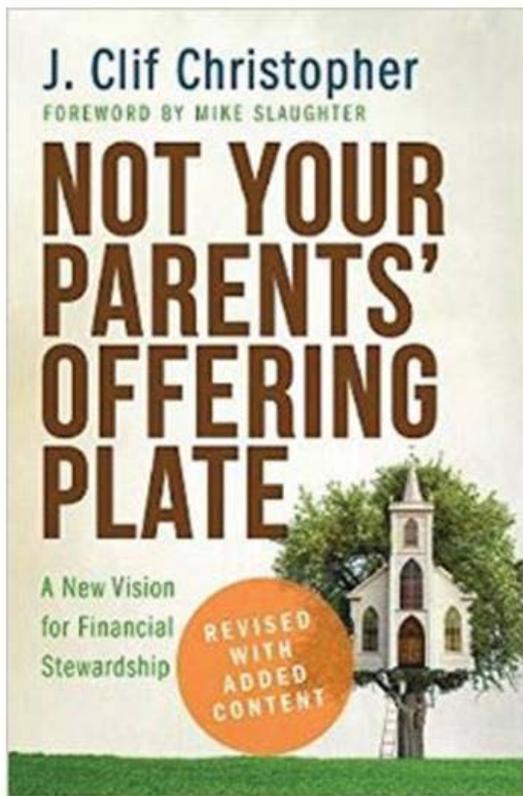
I invite ELCA congregations into learning, prayer and action on behalf of those who seek refuge on our shores. The ELCA "Social Message on Immigration," AMMPARO" strategy and LIRS resources are good

places to start. Those who have been part of resettling refugees or have their own immigration experience have important stories to share with their communities and testimony to make. I also encourage you to consider adding your voice by calling your members of Congress to share your support for refugees and using online advocacy opportunities through current alerts at ELCA Advocacy and LIRS.

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Our Lord not only commanded us to welcome the stranger, Jesus made it clear that when we welcome the stranger into our homes and our hearts - we welcome him.

God's peace,

*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton*  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## Lent Adult Bible Class

Sunday Mornings starting March 5  
9:45am

People don't give to church because we don't offer them a compelling vision of the good their giving will achieve. *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate* provides immediate, practical guidance to all who seek to help God's people be better stewards of their resources.

Books are \$9.58 each

Order from the church by February 19th



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