

The Visitor

January 2017

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

The New Year



Isaiah 40:30-31 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Maybe it's just because I'm writing this during Tech Week for Nutcracker (on final dress rehearsal day no less) but I'm feeling the weight of Christmas and wrapping up the year. There is a part of me that can't wait for January 1. There are so many deadlines for the end of the year that the first week of January looks so empty.

Intellectually, I know that it is not true. When January comes, deadlines will continue and the relentless march of things to do will continue. Lent will arrive with Easter not far behind, followed by graduations and end of the school year events and deadlines.

My St. John's Story

One of the great things about St. John's is that no one hassles me when I forget to do something — like write this article for the Visitor, or sign a check, or . . . I just get a gentle reminder, and plenty of grace. So, here goes . . . I think about what works for me at St. John's; why I believe it to be a positive place that allows us to support one another as we endeavor to live Christian lives. I come up with a few broad topics. Nothing special here, just my thoughts as they come.

We THINK. A life of faith does not presuppose blind obedience to a set of rules. It is a constant wrestling match between the demands of the world

The tyranny of the next thing to be done can simply overwhelm me. It is the words of the prophet Isaiah that sustain me. The words remind me to look back and see where God has sustained me through what life has put before me. I have mounted up with wings like an eagle because of the power of God, and God will do it again.

We have seen miracles right here in our own community this Christmas. Almost 200 people will have a reminder of Christmas through gifts given by you and by the community at large because we have trusted God to give us the resources we need to minister beyond our wildest dreams.

We wait for the Lord. We will mount up with wings like eagles. We will run and not be weary. We will walk and not be faint. We will see the power of God because through Christ we are made children of God.

Pastor Matt

and a collection of writing that are thousands of years old, and that every week we call "The Word Of God." Reading and studying those writings and applying them to our daily lives is what faith is all about. We have ample opportunity at St. John's to do that, whether we listen to and discuss good (no, excellent) preaching, write devotionals, participate in Bible study, or even have coffee after service.

We ACT. There are so many opportunities to participate in things as diverse as youth mission trips, building a huge addition, performing music, and serving others through various community activities
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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.

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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)

like the STP housing project so many help with each year. Everything we take on as a congregation seems to be centered on helping people.

We WELCOME. This is not always my strong suit, but I think we have a welcoming congregation. Colleen and I were certainly made to feel welcome when we first started attending St. John's all those years ago. It's what hooked us. Part of welcoming includes reaching out to others, and we do that in many ways. We serve a variety of people in our local community, and we reach out to prisoners through Living Stones. Moreover, we express our welcome through generosity, both within and outside of our congregation.

We LAUGH and CRY. Part of the joy of being a member of this congregation is that we are able and willing to laugh at ourselves. I happen to disagree with the notion that there is no humor without pain, but even if humor is a reflection of pain, we pair that pain with a good, stiff dose of acceptance. And we suffer, go through tough times, and mourn together, because it's easier when we buoy one another up.

Hopefully, when we total what is written above, we serve as a reflection of God's love for us. We reflect on God's plan for us in the world, engage the world with that knowledge, and live as a community. When we engage ourselves and those around us to further God's message of love, we are doing God's work in the world.

Tim Touhey

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church! Our church doors are open to all.

Our church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We have committed ourselves to offering openness, understanding, justice and healing to all of God's creation. We are a community of faith rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ which values diversity, openness, and the honest quest for meaning. Believing that we are all created in God's image, we welcome people from all walks of life and respect all human beings regardless of their citizenship, marital status, cultural heritage, sexual orientation, or gender.

All are welcome to join us to experience the radical love of Jesus and to encourage one another as we face the unknown journey of life. We are committed to being a welcoming community of faith, ever marveling at the wondrous love of God revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in faithfulness to the gospel reflected in our Lutheran heritage, and honoring our shared baptismal covenant, we strive to enter into shared ministry with all who would seek God here. Based on our understanding of the Bible as reflected in Lutheran theology, we wish to extend Christian fellowship to **everyone**. **All** are welcome here.

January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3 Joe Buda
- 4 Melody Braaten
Kevin Hoffman
- 7 Diane Rudorfer
- 9 Jane Margaret Birchard
Arnie Suhrbier
Patty Wilson
- 11 David March
- 21 Ezra Birchard
Cheryl Vance

- 28 Sara Lunders
- 30 Steve Grill
Tom Larsen

Baptism Anniversaries

- 3 Jane Margaret Birchard
Scott Pollock
- 4 Carl Tobey
- 9 Bette White
- 12 Jonathan Isaacson
- 17 Tyler Carlson

- 23 Cheryl Vance
- 24 Jerry Carlson
- 30 Sara Blair

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

Thank you just doesn't seem adequate for the support that poured from the St. John's family to provide Christmas presents to the children of the Blackfeet Nation. We were able to provide at least a pair of shoes and a warm hoodie plus some extra gifts to 158 children and 11 staff members! At times the task seemed daunting and impossible but God kept promising that He is bigger than our doubts and time after time, He showed us his grace and mercy.

Thank you to all that pitched in and shopped ('til you dropped), wrapped, organized and delivered Christmas presents to these precious children. This was truly God in action!

Dear St. John's Family,

Luanna and I would like to thank all of you for your cards, calls and especially for your prayers during my nine-month ordeal. A special

thanks goes to Pastor Matt for his visit and prayers and to Kim Wright for the beautiful lap robe. I use it a lot. My latest CT scan showed no more kidney cancer and no additional growth in the mesenteric mass. I will continue to be monitored. When we decided to become members of St. John's, God lead us in the right direction. You are an awesome group of people!

Bless you all,
Bill Demming

Thanks to the Youth Group that came to my house Sunday, December 11. They did a good job singing. I appreciated them and the cookies were good too!
Bette White

Food for the Future

Thank you members of St. John's for the money donations and the food donations. The week-end backpack food is a gift to our homeless students. They know

that we care about them.
Food for the Future Team

Twin Cities Mission for Women

St. John's members continue to remember these women and children who are getting their life in order. We provide a variety of things they need. They are always in need of coffee, napkins, dry creamer and sugar. We have also given quilts for them.

Thank you for all your support.
Lorna Johnson, 748-6054

Thank you to everyone for supporting the St. John's Altar Guild through the purchase of cedar and holly. It is very much appreciated. Also a huge thank-you to Steve and Barb Grega for their donation of Christmas wreaths.

Chuck and Mary Ziegert are staying with Candi and Tim until they find a house in the Olympia area. Chuck can be reached on his cell number 360 789-3420.



January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 a.m. Lessons and Carols Worship Service	2 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">Linda on vacation</div>	3 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo	4 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 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	5 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Napavine Youth Basketball	6 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	7 12:00 p.m. Soccer Tournament
8 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. Soccer Tournament	9 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center	10 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council	11 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	12 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	13 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	14
15 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	16 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Visitor Deadline</div>	17 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society 7:00 p.m. Book Guild	18 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	19 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	20 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	21
22 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	23 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music	24 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Soccer Academy in Community Center	25 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	26 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	27 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	28
29 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	30 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	31 2:00 p.m. Rotary Mentorship Set Up	<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			

Poinsettias

adorning the altar were gratefully given:

In Loving Memory Of:

From:

Jean and Norm Wirta.....	Janie Mauel
Our parents and grandson, Anthony Leith	Larry & Gail Dean
Loved Ones.....	Jerry & Luanne Grill
Connie Small with Love	Jennifer Fisher
My parents, Harry & Leone Dudder.....	Nancy Allbritton
Our Parents; Monte & Bernie Utter and Dean & Elizabeth Smallwood	Bob & Judy Utter
Ruth and John Schultz	Susan Donaldson
Parents: Curtisene & Hjalmer Erickson: Brother, Steven Erickson; and Husband, John Rogers.....	Mary Rogers
My Husband, Jim.....	Dixie Roser
Lloyd & Eileen Olson; and, Florian Schmitt	Marilyn & Greg Schmitt
Our Parents.....	Bill & Dee Blair
K.V. Lamoreux, Gerogia Lamoreux, Jack Blackwell, Olga, Mazzaro, Martha Bolyan, and Verna Rea	Shari Blackwell
Our Parents.....	Barb & Steve Grega
Jill Diane Lynch & Pastor Jerry Lynch.....	Their Family
Our Parents.....	Bill & Joann Hulse
Our parents; Corinne & Larry Jahnsen and John S. Bollinger and brother, John W. Bollinger	Jim & Joan Jahnsen
Dorothy Miles Cavness, Glen & Betty McCreedy and Marie Cochran Annibel	The Cavness Family
Our Parents: Karl & Dorothy Boedecker and Walter & Marjorie Kirsch	Greg & Katrina Kirsch
Mildred Oster & Doris Rudorfer	Chuck & Diane Rudorfer
Our Parents: Steve & Astrid Kostanich; Milton & Mabel Blood; Friend: Nic Dalessio, Kraigs fishing buddy	Steve & Caroll Kostanich
My Parents	Dolores Goedhard
My Mother, Carol Lee Hudson	Michelle Moeckel
Poppa Harvey & Brian Cox.....	Grandma Kate

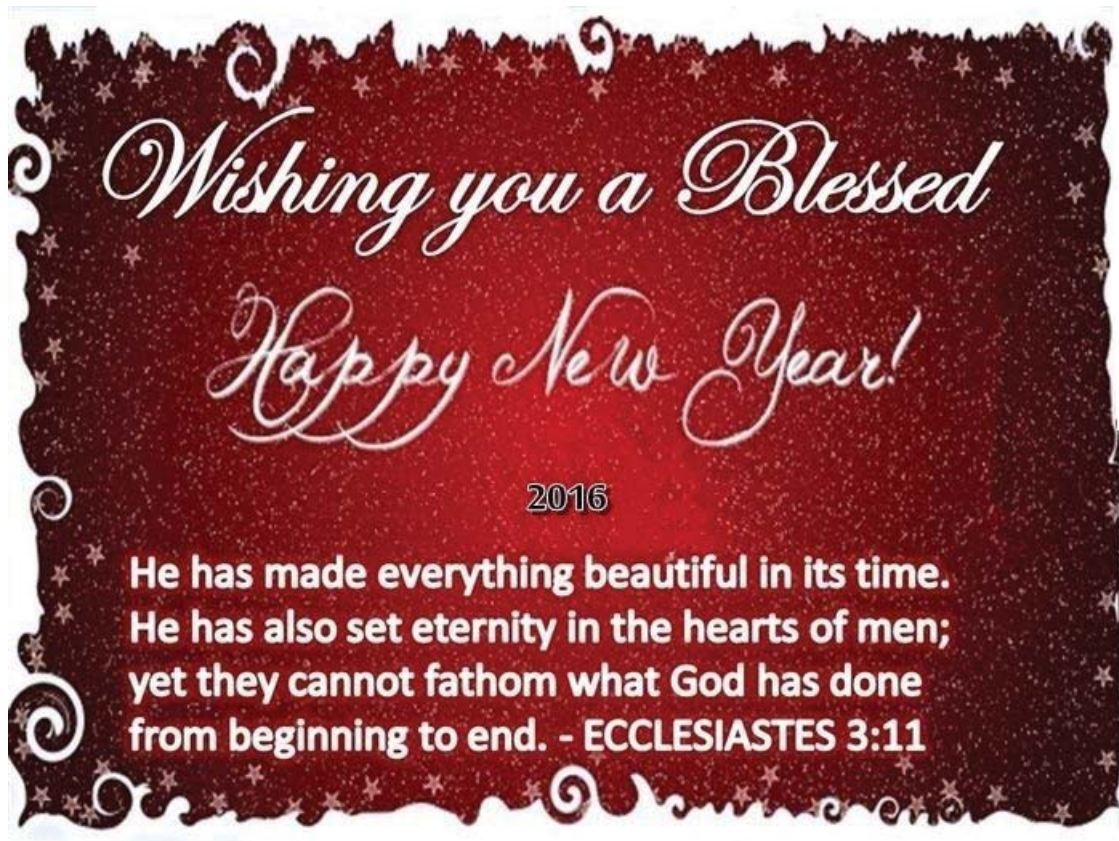
In Honor Of:

From:

Our children and grandchildren	Larry & Gail Dean
Granddaughters Natalie & Cara	Paul & Corrine Crowner
Our children and grandchildren	Eric & Billie Melin
Our Grandchildren: Kendra, Ashley & Lauren Nies and Kellen & Madison Utter	Bob & Judy Utter
Our children & grandchild, Sara, Mindy, Jon & Frankie.....	Bill & Dee Blair
Our families	Bob & Jan Cosse
My Children: Ann & Mike, Elizabeth & Cheng, and.....	Mary Dubois
Grandchildren, Jonathan & Rachel	

To the Glory of God

Bert & Grace Bauer
Dorothy Willson
Bob and Jan Cosser
Trent and Christine Vlach



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