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# The Visitor

March 2016

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

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## Soup to Nuts



Easter is coming soon (March 27). We will once again celebrate the resurrection. We will celebrate God's victory over the powers and principalities and give us the victory of the Kingdom of God. It is the culmination of all of our preparations that started way back in September.

We can appreciate Easter on Easter Sunday but to get the whole story (Soup to Nuts) it really starts with Palm Sunday (March 20). Palm Sunday sets the stage for Holy Week. On that Sunday, we experience Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Judas betrayal, the sham trial, the punishment, the death, the finality of burial.

Starting with Palm Sunday always puts me in a "mood" for Holy Week. Whatever happens Monday through Wednesday seems inconsequential. Palm Sunday is like a great movie trailer that leaves me wanting more.

And more we get, starting with Maundy Thursday (March 24). We travel to Immanuel Lutheran in Centralia to hear the story of the last supper. We hear again of Jesus' radical example of servant hood in the washing of feet. We are left that night with an empty chancel. The altar stripped as Jesus is arrested.

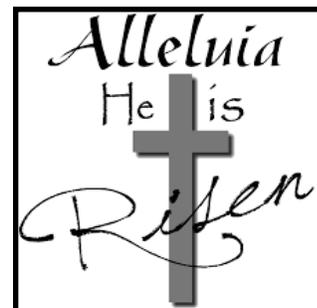
The somber simplicity continues when we join our brothers and sisters at St Paul Lutheran in Winlock for Good Friday (March 25). There we will contemplate the cross of Jesus. This barbaric instrument of death used by the powers of this world to try and thwart the Kingdom of God. We are left that night in darkness. Wondering if the light will ever shine again.

The Vigil of Easter (March 26) begins in darkness on the evening of Holy Saturday. We gather at St John's with our brothers and sisters from Centralia and Winlock still wondering if the light will come again. We hear the story of the history of God working with God's people starting with the creation of the world. Slowly, the light begins to dawn. When finally, after all the somber darkness, the night is pierced by the shout "Christ the Lord is Risen, Today!"

Easter Sunday (March 27) we celebrate the reality of the resurrection. The flowers, the candles, the lights, the alleluias ring free. We joyously celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over the power of death. We find our voices again to shout "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"

There it is, from soup to nuts. From the beginning to end, the climax of the story of Jesus Christ. We then begin a new story. One that traces from the early church of Acts to our congregation here in Chehalis. We are the players in this story. We are the called people of God. Called to proclaim the truth that death has not won the day. Fear does not reign. Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

*Pastor Matt*



### 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  
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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

## Church Doctor Update

### Recommendations accomplished/ongoing

- SF32 Advertise VBS strongly in the community this year
- SF50 Restart prison ministry (Living Stones partnership)
- BG18, 19 Address storage needs of the church building
- SF26 Provide way for nursery attendant to communicate with parents
- SF09 Nursery attendant for all worship services
- OU21 Place a short welcome paragraph on worship bulletin to explain welcome card.
- OU28 Utilize Pastor Matt on the drum set
- ST15 Develop more professional and systematic budgeting system.
- ST03, 04, 05, OU22, 23, BG09 Sunday Fellowship Time improvements
- SF 25 Check-in/Check-out system with a number system for Sunday School
- SF 23 Add more special music in worship.
- SF 13 Congregation show appreciation to the staff with increased frequency.
- SF11 Pat disciple young adults to be additional leaders of the youth ministry.
- OU24 Visit growing churches and ask why they are growing.
- OU18, OU31 improving St John's welcoming of new visitors.
- SH11, SH08, PM04-09, 16. Develop a Philosophy of Ministry Statement
- SH03, 04, 05, 08, 12, 13, 35 Expand Bible Study options.

### Recommendations to do 2016

- BG14 Add signs for the nursery so guests can find it.
- BG12 Make improvements to the sound system
- BG11 Encourage participation in Bible Studies by putting invitations in all media outlets of the church
- BG06, 10 Television monitors throughout the facility for announcements.

For more details about the Church Doctor recommendations see [stjohnschehalis.net/?page\\_id=507](http://stjohnschehalis.net/?page_id=507) You can also check out a hard copy of the report and recommendations by contacting the church office.

### Dollars and Sense

Operating Income and Expenses:	
February 2016	
Income	\$620,650.47
Expenses:	(14,525.99)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,124.48</b>
Year to Date as of February 15, 2016	
<b>Income</b>	\$37,141.64
<b>Expenses</b>	(36,433.64)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$708.00</b>

# We're all "poor" and We all need to help each other!

We all know the Biblical mandate to care for those who are hungry, thirsty, homeless, naked, sick, imprisoned and dying - all of whom we could easily lump into "the poor" slot.

But, really, is there any among us who hasn't felt "hungry," that is, unfulfilled, yearning, uncertain about life's purpose? What about "thirsty"? Who hasn't been exhausted by the day's work or by life itself and longed for refreshment? Who among us hasn't at one time or another felt "homeless," that is, unwelcome, lost, on the outside looking in? Haven't we all been "naked," which is to say, embarrassed, vulnerable, afraid somebody will find out something about us we don't want known? Surely we've all been "sick" and in need of care from gentle hands. And is there anyone who hasn't been "imprisoned" by fear or dread or the countless "isms" and "phobias" - racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia? Who even isn't

"dying"? The one who suffers depression or deep grief knows a very real dead place inside.

"The poor" is all of us, as Jesus taught; and perhaps counter intuitively, the most fruitful works flow forth from a heart of inclusive love expanded by reflection first on the experience of one's own poverty. [Barbara Foreman; Copyright 2016, *Chicago Tribune*.]

On **March 19th** we'll be focusing on poverty. But we'll quickly understand that poverty isn't just about a shortage of resources. Poverty ultimately shackles us all and touches every segment of society.

But our discussions won't be without hope! Come and **"See Poverty...Be the Difference!"**

## 8:00 - 9:00 Resource Fair

### 9:00 Seeing Poverty:

- A look at poverty in Lewis County
- Dr. Beegle and the 7 key barriers to reducing poverty
- Table Discussions

Lunch and opportunity to network, research resources, fellowship

### 1:00 Making A Difference:

- Dr. Beegle and the Opportunity Community Model
- Community Health Improvement Plan update
- Group Formation for Further Work (With a 3 month follow-up gathering)

### REGISTRATION:

**On-Line:** Go to [www.lewiscountyuw.com/calendar](http://www.lewiscountyuw.com/calendar);

**Hardcopy:** Complete the form below and submit your check and registration(s) to United Way of Lewis County by **MARCH 14, 2016**. Make checks payable to United Way of Lewis County. Clearly indicate it is for the Beegle Conference. Mail to: **United Way of Lewis County**, 450 NW Pacific Avenue Chehalis, WA 9853

## See Poverty...Be the Difference Registration Form

Number of Registrants:

Total Payment Enclosed:

Cost: \$20 per participant (Includes lunch)

Name of Registrants: (Please print clearly)

Phone

E-Mail

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# 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** that normally meets on the third Saturday of every month, will not meet in March. The group will be helping with the *See Poverty . . . Be the*

*Difference!* conference. You are encouraged to attend the conference.

The Women's Book Guild will meet on **Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Grace Bauer. Katrina Bodecker will lead the discussion on the book, *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. If you are interested in reading this book and joining

our group, call Joan Jahnsen at 748-3901.

**Young-at-Heart** will meet on **Thursday March 17 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.



## From the Library Shelf

### France, 1939 . . .

In the quiet village of Carrievieu, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France...but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. One impossible choice after another to keep her family alive.

Vianne's sister, Isabelle, is a rebellious eighteen-year-old girl,

searching for purpose with all the reckless passion of youth. While thousands of Parisians march into the unknown terrors of war, she meets Gaetan, a partisan who believes the French can fight the Nazis from within France, and she falls in love as only the young can...completely. But when he betrays her, Isabelle joins the Resistance and never looks back, risking her life time and again to save others.

*Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals,

passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France — a heartrendingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

*Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah, is our discussion book for March, Please join us. You can find information posted in the library or contact Joan Jahnsen, 748-3901, for details.

2016 Council Members		
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Tim Touhey, Treasurer	Home: 262-0686 Cell: 508-0934	ttouhey@comcast.net

# A Survival Guide for Lent

By Tim Brown

(reprinted with permission for *The Lutheran*, February 2016)

People often think of Christmas as an emotionally tough time of year to get through, but in reality all Christian holi/holy days are difficult in the years after the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job or any other major transition.

Add to all our personal challenges the ghosts of global insecurity, political mayhem and just about the earliest Easter possible (which means that some lilies will be met with the stomping of snow boots at the narthex door), and this may be a difficult Lent for many.

How are we to clean out our spiritual closets when even opening the door may be more painful than usual?

If you're feeling the weight, here are three thoughts on how you might survive Lent in 2016.

## Thought one: Go poetically and prophetically

Prophets are the conscience of the people. Journalist H.L. Mencken once wrote, "Conscience: the inner voice which warns us that someone may be looking:'

And this year that "someone" will be you. Certainly God too. But it is usually me who neglects to look at myself.

The prophetic readings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Martin Luther King Jr. and even modern prophets speaking truth in the news should bend the ear.

And poetry bends eyes and hearts. Poetry infects the mind and the heart at the same time. If this is new to you, perhaps start with a modern poet like Christian Wiman ("Every Riven Thing" and "My Bright Abyss"). Join that voice to Maria Rainer Rilke, Rumi, Jan Rich.

## Thought Two: Go with your body

This season is not just for the soul, beloved. "In these bodies we will live, and in these bodies we will die;" the band Mumford & Sons reminds us ("Awake My Soul"). Our bodies take on special importance in these days when we're encouraged to participate in the ancient practices of fasting, kneeling and physically handing over our abundance to those without.

Focus on just one of these practices to embody Lent in these strange days where even watching the news can cause physical fatigue.

## Thought Three: Go for broke

We talk about denial in Lent – of sin, of self and perhaps even of sweets or bacon.

But Lent is a fool's paradise if we're just taking a vacation from these things. A vacation may give me a break from my work, but it doesn't give me a break from myself.

Instead, have God break you open a bit in Lent. And if you feel the world has already broken you open, then Lent is the time to allow God to do it differently. We callous ourselves after loss and while away in fear—it's natural. Lent can be a season for wearing away at that shell so we can emerge like new in resurrection life.

Lenten practices are a divine tool for transformation, not vacation. Only after breaking can resurrection make us into something totally new.

And that's what we all need most this year: resurrection. Lent can be the primer that prepares our lives for that process, the 40 days of wandering that shows us the light at the end of the empty tomb. Don't back away from the process; enter it all the more fully. Enter into it and then find yourself exiting a newly empty tomb on Easter morning along with the Christ who has brought you this far along the way.

*(Tim Brown is a pastor of God Shepherd Lutheran Church, Raleigh, N.C., and a frequent contributor of The Lutherans, "Reflection" page.)*

## St. John's Holy Week Schedule:

- Maundy Thursday Service, March 24 at 7 p.m., at Immanuel Lutheran, Centralia;
- Good Friday Service, March 25 at 7 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran, Winlock;
- Easter Vigil, March 25 at 7 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran, Chehalis.
- Easter Sunday: St. John's services at 8 and 11 a.m.; Easter breakfast at 9 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.



# March Celebrations

## Birthdays

- 2 Brian Gilliland  
Nate Meagher
- 3 Sean Touhey
- 4 Zack Wright
- 6 Brittany Grill
- 9 Jake Heck
- 10 Angela March
- 13 Austin Michal
- 15 Tyler Wright
- 16 Barbara Grega
- 17 Emma Rotter
- 18 Rick Michal  
Denise Unzelman
- 19 Adam Moir
- 20 Jonathan Riley
- 21 Kym Alexander  
Anne Gray  
John Torvik
- 22 Ben Russell

- 27 Gail Dean
- 28 Cathy Scott
- 30 Tiffany Ziegert
- 31 Cheryl Amrine

## Anniversaries

- 17 Meg and David Nelson
- 18 Carol and Steve Kostanich
- 26 Sara and Russ Lunders
- 27 Susan and Bob Russell
- 31 Shawn and Brad Meagher

## Baptism Anniversaries

- 4 Tyler Wright
- 10 David Barber  
Rachel Barber  
Charlotte Barber  
Ethan Barber  
Samantha Barber  
Zoe Thomas  
Emma Thomas

- 12 Patty Wilson
- 14 Keith Birchard
- 15 Pastor Matthew March
- 16 Francis Allbritton
- 21 Cason Justice
- 25 Bruce Graham
- 26 Nathaniel Birchard  
Mary DuBois  
Myra Lee Volland
- 27 Lisa Conzatti
- 28 Luanne Grill  
Sam Teitzel
- 30 Taylor Lowery
- 31 Jared Edwards  
Jay Jahnsen

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

Dear Friends,  
Many thanks for your prayers and support for my husband Ron and me the past year since he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. At every crossroad or complication, he came through due to the combination of excellent medical care and prayer. A check-up Feb.10 went well. He will have some follow-up chemo and/or radiation to minimize the risk of recurrence.

Sincerely, *Sue Edwards*

### Address Change:

Dolores Goedhard  
106 Robert Frost Dr.  
Centralia, WA 98531

**Thrivent Members:** Now is the time to think of where you want your Choice Dollars to go. You may designate your Choice Dollars at Thrivent.com or call 888-834-7428 (have your membership number when you call).

*Moms In Prayer* meets Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Chehalis. The group is open to all women who would like to join in prayer for the children, students and staff of the Chehalis School District. For more information contact Stacey Cummings, 360-880-4124.

**Stay Informed!** Be a part of the St. John's Google list serve! If you are not already a member, send an e-mail to the church office, [office@stjohnschehalis.net](mailto:office@stjohnschehalis.net), asking to join the group. You will receive an invitation to join and all you need to do is accept the request. It's that easy. You will receive prayer requests, information from the ELCA and SW Washington Synod plus up-to-the-minute news. Call the church office, 748-4741, if you have questions.

We are updating/correcting the small membership directory (not

the pictorial directory). Please have any updates, i.e., new address, phone number, e-mail, etc., to the church office by **March 10**. Copies will be available on the information table in the narthex.

### 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 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

# March 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. Soup & Bread supper – <b>All are welcome!</b> 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Lenten Services 7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. High School Bible Study (During Lent)		<b>1</b> 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	<b>2</b> 6:30 a.m. Men's Morning Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 1:00 p.m. Agate Hospital Auxiliary <b>Wednesday's Together</b> (see schedule)	<b>3</b> 7:00 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Basketball	<b>4</b> Pastor Matt's Day Off	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Adult Class 11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>7</b> 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	<b>8</b> 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 5:45 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council	<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service <b>Wednesday's Together</b> (see schedule)	<b>10</b> 8:00 a.m. Life Screening 5:30 p.m. Staff Meeting at Tiki Tap House, Centralia 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Basketball	<b>11</b> Pastor Matt's Day Off	<b>12</b> 11:00 a.m. Youth Help with Mobile Mission Meals 8:00 p.m. Boy Scout Dinner and Auction
<b>Youth Quake</b> February 11, 12 & 13						
<b>13</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>14</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b> 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society <b>April Visitor Deadline</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board 1:00 p.m. Lenten Services <b>Wednesday's Together</b> (see schedule)	<b>17</b> 12:00 p.m. Young At Heart 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Basketball 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	<b>18</b> Pastor Matt's Day Off	<b>19</b> 9:00 a.m. "See Poverty . . . Be the Difference" Conference
<b>20</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 a.m. Worship  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>21</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at Grace Bauer's	<b>23</b> 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board <b>Wednesday's Together</b> (see schedule)	<b>24</b> 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Basketball 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service at Immanuel Lutheran in Centralia	<b>25</b> Pastor Matt's Day Off 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at St. Paul's Lutheran in Winlock	<b>26</b> 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil at St. John's
<b>27</b> 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 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	<b>28</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Music & Worship 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	<b>29</b> 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	<b>30</b> Wednesday's Together (see schedule)	<b>31</b> 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Basketball		



*Spring Flowers and Easter Lilies  
to enhance St. John's 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, March 26.**

**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, March 16.**

(Altar Guild members are: Jan Cosser, Gail Dean, Mary DuBois, Marilyn Fenn, Clara Gilliland, Joann Hulse, Nancy Lynch, Janie Mauel, Mary Rogers, Diane Rudorfer and Kim Wright.)

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish to donate #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Lilies at \$8.00 each. Total amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To the Glory of God.**



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