

The Visitor

March 2017

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

Church as a Happy Place



Romans 8:26-28 *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*

A colleague of mine shared a story from her church. Apparently, her sermons had been focusing on the tough, nitty-gritty issues of living as the Body of Christ in the midst of a broken world. One day, a member of the congregation approached the pastor and told her, "You need to give us warm fuzzies in your sermons. We need to feel happy when we leave."

Warm fuzzy theology can quickly creep into everything we do as Church. Worship, Bible Study, fellowship time — all designed to make us feel better about ourselves. I get it. This world can be a dark and depressing place. This world, and all the nonsense that goes with it, has not been a fun place to be, especially in the last several months.

The theology of warm fuzzies is a misunderstanding of the hope of Christ in the midst of our weakness. The theology of warm fuzzies focuses on Romans 8:28 — *We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose* — while ignoring all that comes before this sentence.

Paul is not writing warm fuzzies here. Warm fuzzies can't stand up to the onslaught of the powers and principalities that seek to destroy us. What Paul is

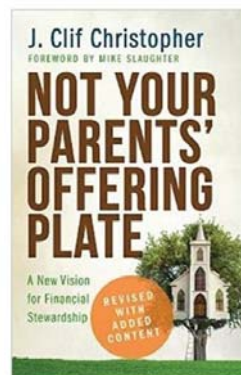
writing to Christians weak in the face of the power of the Roman Empire, is hope.

Hope trusts that while we can't see God at work, we know that the Holy Spirit continues to intercede for us when our words fail us. Hope knows that in the midst of our pain and suffering we are not alone. Hope relies on the power of God because we are too weak to go on.

Lent is often the most un-favorite of the seasons of the church year. It is a dark season, dreary, with songs in minor keys. Lent reminds us of our powerlessness in the face of sin and death.

But Lent is also a season of hope. Every year, the season of Lent gives way to the light of Easter. Every year, Lent reminds us that in the midst of our darkness, the Holy Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Every year, Lent reminds us that we don't need warm fuzzies, we have hope.

Pastor Matt



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
Available in the church office

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 St. John's Story

Why do I come to St John's Lutheran Church?

Where do I start my journey with my walk in faith?

It began years ago as a 15-year-old teenager. Mother decided her sons needed to go to church one day. Now Dad was a Catholic and baptized in Germany back in 1924 as a child. Mom on the other hand was raised a Lutheran in Wisconsin. Being considered a young adult at the time, I attended confirmation classes with Mom. This is where all her boys were confirmed and baptized.

I attended many youth events at Bethel Lutheran of Shoreline. In fact, one of them was a youth hayride. This is where I meet Diane. Found her in the barn... okay not what you're thinking here. She was looking and playing with a group of puppies in that barn. After the hayride and hours of chat back to the Church, I discovered she was a member of Bethel Lutheran and she also went to the same High School.

Now Diane loved to sing both at School and Church. So, you can put the two together. This was my introduction to choir both at School and Church. Music became important in both our lives. The music and words of the anthems have always spoke to us. After moving from North Bend Washington to start our new lives here in Southwest Washington, we started visiting different Lutheran Churches in the area. This is where we stumbled into St John's one Sunday. I recall the service as if it were yesterday. The choir, the music spoke to us along with Pastor Randy's sermon. We knew we found our home.

To this day, we have met a lot of wonderful families and enjoyed programs here at St John's Lutheran. The musical talent within the church itself speaks to us. This is where I find faith, Gods word, our peace and why we attend St John's Lutheran.

Charles Rudorfer

St. John's Lenten Season

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

The 2017 Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on **March 1**. We will hold two services at **1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** on Ash Wednesday and

every Wednesday throughout Lent. We will use the *Service of the Word* at the 1 p.m. service and *Holden Evening Prayer* at the 6:30 p.m. service. Lenten devotionals are available in the narthex.

To enhance our journey through Lent, each week participants will receive a "piece" that represents Jesus' experience on the cross. The themes for the pieces are:

- **Ash Wednesday March 1**,
Cross with nail — Luke
9:51-62

(continued on page 3)

Lent . . .

(continued from page 2)

- **March 8**, Bag with money — Luke 22:1-5
- **March 15**, Purple Cloth — Luke 23:6-12
- **March 22**, Dice — Luke 23:32-35
- **March 29**, Sponge — Luke 23:36-43
- **April 5**, Rock— Luke 23:53-56

Thank you to Larry Dean, Bob Cosser and Bill Deming for making the cross base.
The schedule for Holy Week

- is:
- **Palm Sunday, April 9**
Luke 19:29-44
 - **Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m.**
Immanuel Centralia

- **Good Friday, April 14, 7 p.m.** Cry of the Whole Congregation with St Timothy at St John's
- **Easter Vigil, April 15, 7 p.m.**, St Paul's Winlock
- **Easter Sunday, April 16**
Luke 24:1-12
8 a.m. Worship
9 a.m. Breakfast
11 a.m. Worship



REMEMBER!

We're donating - through March - high protein foods (canned meats, stews, etc.) to the seniors living at Chehalis Manor.

You may leave your items in the designated box in the Narthex by the activities table.

INTERESTING STORY HEARD FROM A RESIDENT AT CHEHALIS MANOR:

While visiting with a resident of Chehalis Manor, Carolyn Schoenborn was told:

"We started to become a pretty cranky group."

When you feel like no one cares and you really don't count for much, that's kind of what starts to happen.

"Then you and the St. Johns folks volunteered to make some raised garden and flower beds for us. All summer the conversation started to change as we joked about each other's plants.

"Then you folks started giving us some high protein foods that is really helping some of our men who are trying to live on \$700 a month. And Sue Edwards made all those homemade greeting and Valentine cards for everyone...I gotta' tell you, people are actually becoming a little more positive around here. People aren't nearly as crabby. I think maybe they feel kinda' like someone really does care!"

Youth Corner:

Where did last year go? Can't believe that it is March! Reflecting back on this past year, I feel really blessed that we were able to do such worthwhile things that touched so many lives. Looking forward to another fabulous year! We continue to support the Lewis County Animal Shelter each month. We enjoy walking the dogs, and cuddling the cats. We sometimes find it difficult to leave them, as we want to take them all home with us, but of course we can't. So we look forward to returning so we can spoil them some more.

We have begun the Team 316 campaign for this year. Our goal is to have 60 partners this year — we are almost half way there! When you partner with us, you are investing in St. John's Youth Ministry. With your help we will be able to attend two major youth events this year: Youth Quake in April; and a mission trip to Montana in July. Both will strengthen our relationship with God.

Sunday school is going well. I so appreciate CeCi, Laurie, Arnie and Bruce. They are solid staff and the youth really enjoy

Sunday school. They continue to teach the word of God each and every week and the youth really are learning a lot.

In closing, I look forward to creating memorable times with St. John's Youth . . . So grateful for the opportunity every day. Blessed beyond words.

God Bless



Youth Minister

Women of St. John's

ELCW Brunch and Bible Study will meet on Saturday, **March 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 Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Jan Cosser's home. Donna Moir will lead

the discussion on the book Home Front by Kristin Hannah. If you are interested in reading this book and joining our group, contact Joan Jahnsen at 748-3901.

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

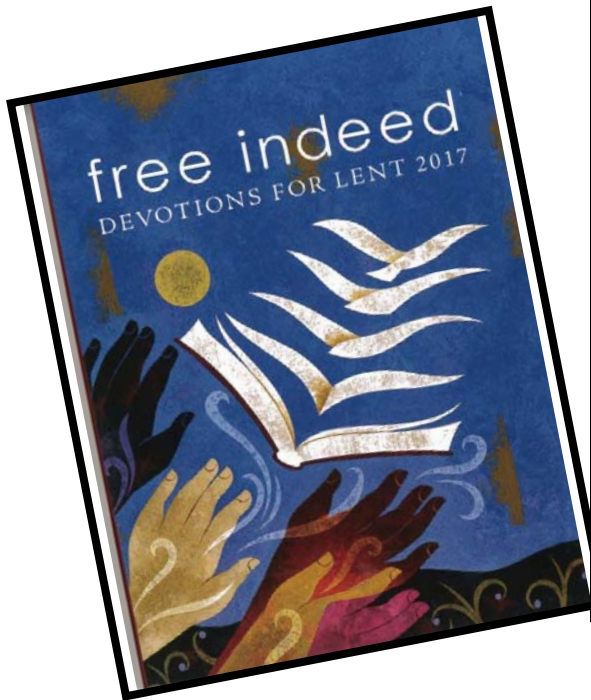
4 Tyler Wright
9 Jake Heck
10 David Barber
Rachel Barber
Charlotte Barber
Ethan Barber
Samantha Barber
Zoe Thomas
Emma Thomas
11 Allyn Tobey

12 Patty Wilson
14 Keith Birchard
15 Pastor Matthew March
16 Francis Allbritton
21 Cason Justice
25 Bruce Graham
Heather Heck
26 Nathaniel Birchard
Mary DuBois
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.

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><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 Supper – All are welcome! 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service 7:00 p.m. High School Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice</p>			<p>1 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 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 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>2 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>3 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>6 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family</p>	<p>7 10:00 a.m. Genealogical Bd. 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer 7:00 p.m. Church Growth</p>	<p>8 11:30 a.m. Lewis County Ministerial Assoc. Lunch 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301</p>	<p>9 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>10 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>13 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>14 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>15 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301 Visitor Deadline</p>	<p>16 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 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>17 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>18 10:00 a.m. ELCW Brunch and Bible Study</p>
<p>19 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>20 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>21 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society</p>	<p>22 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301</p>	<p>23 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>24 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>25 4:30 p.m. Worship with Living Stones</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor Matt attending Northwest Min Con </div>						
<p>26 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>27 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>28 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer 7:00 p.m. Book Guild</p>	<p>29 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301</p>	<p>30 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	<p>31 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chehalis Soccer</p>	



This beautiful, full-color devotional takes you through Lent with daily readings from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, reflection, and prayer. *Free Indeed* invites you to reflect on Martin Luther's guide to the basics of Christian faith during the Lenten season, and within the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Copies of the devotion are available in the church narthex. Large print books are available in the church office.



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