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# The Visitor

May 2016

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

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## Witness



**1 Thessalonians 1:2-5** *We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.*

Witness: a word that brings to mind an image of a courtroom. It could be an adversarial relationship. A witness in a courtroom may have to give testimony that sends another person to jail. A witness in a courtroom is compelled to give the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

It strikes me that a witness in a court is expected to give true testimony because they say they will give true testimony. But what about in the rest of the world? How do we know when another is telling the truth? Do we just take their word for it? Probably not!

Most of the time we are a rather skeptical culture. We take what we are told with a grain of salt. Our

truth meters never seem to get all the way to absolutely true. We always seem to leave a little doubt.

Lutherans are people of words. We write them, we speak them, we listen to them. Our faith is passed from generation to generation in the words of scripture that inspire liturgy and confessional documents. How do we bring our faith with words to a culture that doubts words it seems even before they are spoken?

Paul brought “the Word” to the Thessalonians through his words but also through his actions. It isn’t either/or for Paul; it is both/and. Paul brought “the Word” (Jesus Christ) “not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.” We are called to follow his example.

We speak the words of love and grace for our fellow travelers on the journey of life. And we act the words of love and grace for our fellow travelers on the journey of life. We feed people at the pulpit and the table in worship and we feed people at the table on Wednesdays and in the parking lot of the Salvation Army on Saturdays. What happens when our words in church become our actions in the world.

So Lutherans aren’t really a people of words. We are a people of both words and actions. Let us bring the words and actions of the Gospel to our world.

*Pastor Matt*

## We Are Called to put Our Faith Into Actions!

Here at St. Johns we’re rolling our faith out into the community **at a whole new level!**

**The March 19th Poverty Conference was a great success!** We had Educators, Social Services, Business, Legal/Law Enforcement, Health Care, Non-Profits, the Faith Community, Retired, Consulting, Literacy,

Library, Media, Government Officials, and Students in attendance.

100% of the 70 returned evaluations said they found the conference to be personally and professionally meaningful because:

*(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.

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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

## Faith into Action . . .

(continued from page 1)

- Personal attitudes were impacted;
- It improved everyone's understanding of poverty;
- It was inspirational;
- People gained new ideas;
- It impacted everyone's outlook on both the community and county.

The Social Ministries Committee has a very clear road map in mind:

1. The March Poverty Conference got people's attention!
2. Between now and the end of the year we will get a critical mass of Lewis County poverty informed. We will do this by:

a. **Recruiting Trainers:**

*Between now and June* we will recruit at least 50 - 100 people from throughout the county willing to be coaches/trainers. We had a special coffee hour here at St. Johns on Saturday, April 23 to allow 12 focus groups (organized during the March Poverty Conference) to finalize and implement their recruiting strategies.

b. **Training the Trainers.** *In June or July* we will host

both a *Poverty Institute* and an accompanying *Coaching Institute* and train our poverty trainers.

- c. **Trainers Educate the County.** From *July through December* we will focus on training a critical mass of our county's leadership and citizenry in poverty.

**3. In January of 2017** we will begin **empowering people in crisis** by:

- a. **Identifying, recruiting, and training Navigators.** These Navigators will be trained to help empower folks at or below the poverty line.

- b. **By March of 2017** we will host a *Prosperity Summit* for persons at or below the poverty line. This is when Navigators and people in crisis are partnered.

- c. **By June of 2017** we will move into an **Opportunity Community Planning Model!** This is where the county-wide focus groups - utilizing feedback from our partnered Navigator teams - start working together to establish county-wide poverty goals and strategies.

## Youth Corner:

I want to say thank you to everyone who stepped up and joined our Team 316 Ministry Program at St. John's. Our Team 316 Campaign was extremely successful. We currently have 41 partners. We are excited to be able to do some amazing things this coming year because of your generosity. If you somehow missed signing up for our partnership opportunity, it is not

too late to join. Just contact me for further details on how you can join this awesome program.

Sunday school is still going strong and is well attended. We are happy to announce that Bruce Graham has joined our Sunday School staff. Bruce is currently teaching the high school students. Thank you Bruce for being willing to take

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**Youth Corner . . .**  
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on this role. Everyone is learning great things in Bruce's class.

Rachel March has volunteered to lead our Vacation Bible School this year (thank you Rachel!). Our goal is to have 80 students participate. Vacation Bible School is June 27 through July 1. This year's theme is

*Exodus Experience* and should be a fun experience for all. Mark your calendars and look for future announcements about VBS. Rachel is currently recruiting volunteers; please see Rachel on how you can be part of this year's program.

In closing, we are gearing up for our Youth Works Mission trip to Montana July 17-22.

This should be a wonderful experience sharing the word of God.

Thank you again for supporting the Youth Program at St. John's. We are looking forward to great things!

God Bless,

*Pat Soderquist*  
Youth Minister

## 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. The group will meet through the month of May, break for the summer months, and begin again in September.

**WELCA Brunch and Bible Study** will meet on **Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.** in the conference room. We will look at the story of Elizabeth and Mary and see how they supported each other as they each heeded God's calling. We will examine their example in our lives

and look for ways we can come together with women of different generations and share our faith. The May study will be the last gathering until September.

The Women's Book Guild will meet on **Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Dixie Roser. Joan Jahnsen will lead the discussion on *The Reunion* by Dan Walsh. If you would like more information about being part of the Book Guild, contact Joan Jahnsen, 748-3901.

**Young-at-Heart** will meet on **Thursday, May 19 at noon** for lunch and a program — there is always room at the table for you! This will be the last

gathering of Young At Heart until September. For more information about Young At Heart, contact Nancy Lynch, 748-2124.

The Women's annual Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, **June 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** We will be accepting donations of household items that are clean and in good condition. As you do your spring cleaning please save items for us. You may start placing your items against the far wall of the community center beginning Monday, June 6. If you need a place to store your items prior to that date, please contact Joan Jahnsen: jahnsen71@msn.com.

## From the Library Shelf

There are people in this world we pass right by, yet some of them have amazing stories to tell. Aaron Miller was an old, worn-out Vietnam vet, a handyman in a trailer park. Forty years prior, he saved the lives of three young men in the field only to come home from the war and lose everything. But God is a master at finding and redeeming the lost things of life. Aaron is about to be found. And the one who finds him just

might find the love of his life as well.

Our May book, *The Reunion* by Dan Walsh, is a story line many of us have observed and some may relate to. If you are interested in joining us to review this book as well as learn about books to be discussed in the new year, contact Joan Jahnsen for details about Book Guild.

### Dollars and Sense

Operating Income and Expenses:	
April 1-15, 2016	
Income	\$4,504.88
Expenses:	(17,123.09)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$(12,616.21)</b>
Year to Date as of April 21, 2016	
<b>Income</b>	\$60,274.83
<b>Expenses</b>	(81,537.01)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$(21,262.18)</b>

# Young At Heart Update

The end of our lunch year is coming to a close this month. We are having a picnic-type lunch on May 19 – you’ll like it, even with the ants!

The real reason for this article is to thank all the people that have contributed soup and/or dessert for the past months and those that pitched in to help with our traditional

Thanksgiving dinner (we served 40 people).

I want to thank my partner Gail Dean for all her delicious desserts. She helps me every month and I couldn’t do without her. Thank you Gail!

Lorna Johnson has arranged all the programs this year and we have learned a lot! Thank you Lorna!

The people that provide soup are great! You know who you are and how much I appreciate all of you.

We will begin our Young At Heart luncheons in September and we look forward to having you back. Bring a friend – there’s always room for more!  
*Nancy Lynch and Gail Dean*

## Synod Educational Gatherings

There is no Synod Assembly this year, so we’re offering something for EVERYONE this year! Join us for workshops on congregational leadership and congregational mission, plus worship and lunch. All synod congregation members and rostered leaders are welcome!

Choose from two regional sites:

- **Saturday, May 14th**  
Gloria Dei Lutheran  
1515 Harrison Ave NW,  
Olympia
- **Saturday, May 21st**  
Silverdale Lutheran  
11701 Ridgepoint Dr NW,  
Silverdale

All workshops are from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$25

### Educational Gathering Workshop Descriptions Congregational Leadership Workshops (Select One):

- **Becoming Social Media Savvy:** How can Facebook, Twitter, Texting and Instagram be your friends? Explore the different kinds of social media and how they can help you in your congregation’s ministry with communication, relationship building and even more!
- **Conceptualizing Worship:** Learn about the core of Lu-

theran worship as defined by the Augsburg Confessions. Relevant worship is conceptual and contextual worship. Large and small group work included to build an authentic, relevant, inclusive and inspiring worship.

- **Congregation Treasurer and Financial Secretary Best Practices:** The job of Congregation Treasurer can vary widely, to fit the needs of each congregation. But the basic function, to serve as the financial officer of the congregation remains the same, no matter how big, or small the congregation. This interactive workshop will focus on the best practices of congregation treasurers and financial secretaries from around the synod. Please bring the best practices from your congregation to share.
- **Mission Interpretation and Stewardship:** Not Your Parent’s Temple Talk. Telling your story is a HUGE part of any congregation’s stewardship program (or at least it should be). But how do you tell it? And where? Is your Congregation telling their whole story – a piece of their story or no story at all? How

often are you telling your story? Join Darcy Huffman, our Synod’s Mission Interpreter Coordinator, for a workshop designed to help you get your congregation’s whole story out in a way that may enhance your congregation’s stewardship efforts.

- **Strengthening Church Council Roles:** Workshop participants will learn specific, practical ways in which Church Councils can lead a congregation, supervise programs and plan for the future. Good organization and job clarity will be discussed.
- **Working with LGBT rostered leaders** (Olympia location only): Learn how you can help your congregation begin conversation about opening your next call process to an LGBTQ pastor or another leader from a different context or community. Meet others who are working to building extraordinary congregations. You will learn more about Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and their work in the post 2009 environment. You will be introduced to resources and techniques to take back to your congregation to help them

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## Synod Gatherings. . .

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begin and have conversations about a diversity of leaders. Learn about “minimization” and how to work through this and other barriers. Share your own good ideas and experiences, too.

### Congregational Mission

#### Workshops (Select one):

- **Being Lutheran in Today’s World:** We are approaching the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017. This workshop will help participants think about the essential ingredients of being Lutheran and how living as a Lutheran Christian can address the world’s need.
- **Congregational Vitality and Sustainability Next Steps:** This workshop will provide tools for assessing the vitality and sustainability of your congregation. Synod Outreach Board members will share approaches to congregational health that are necessary to adapt to the challenges faced in changing communities. Participants will be introduced to congregational renewal concepts and given tools for next steps. Tools include: Congregational Quick Check, Vitality Survey, Congregational Life Cycle and Jenga Theory.
- **Adult Faith Formation for Spiritual Transformation:** Christ invites us on a life-long journey to grow in faith, love and service. Learn how the adult members of your congregation can be guided in their faith formation process through your education program, spiritual reflection opportunities, worship and prayer life in your parish.

- **Faith Formation for the First Third of Life:** Take a modern look at the landscape of youth and family faith formation with leaders from our synod. We’ll explore practical points of entry for your congregation’s ministry, touch on available resources, and give you tools to take home. Come with a sense of your congregation’s context and vision for a more fulfilling experience.
- **How to Speak with Public Officials** (Vancouver location only): You may get frustrated when officials you elected ignore (and probably don’t even read) what you send them via email or snail mail. But, when you sit in front of them, make eye contact, and give a well-organized presentation you really can make a difference. Long-time Vancouver City Council member Larry Smith and long-time college speech teacher and Synod Council member John Jablonski will provide theory and practice on how you can, with a well-written oral presentation, cause those you elected to give pause and more deeply consider their thoughts and actions.
- **Reaching Beyond Race:** Building toward a multi-cultural church Learn to understand diversity within your own congregation. Start building relationships across ethnic lines. Learn takeaways to bring back to your personal life and your congregation through small and large group activities, storytelling, and vocabulary.
- **Welcoming LGBT Members into your Pews:** Do

you want to learn how your congregation can become more welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, especially lesbian, bisexual, gay, trans-gender and queer people? Have you wanted to start this conversation but aren’t quite sure how? Join us for a workshop on “reconciling in Christ,” a faithful way to make our churches more inclusive. We’ll focus on story telling, relationship building, and sharing resources so you can start and expand your welcoming ministry in your own community.

- **Who Really Are Our Neighbors?:** Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourself, but who is our neighbor exactly? The family member that pushes our buttons? The person next to us in the pew that never sings on key? The people that live around our church that don’t go to our church and don’t want anything to do with our church? The Internet trolls that post strange things on our social media pages? Using the framework of community organizing, the workshop “who is my neighbor” will work to help us answer the question who is my neighbor?, why should we want to connect with our neighbors?, and how do we connect with our neighbors that exist beyond the four walls of our church building?

Questions? Call the Synod Office at 253-535-8300 or [swwsynod@plu.edu](mailto:swwsynod@plu.edu)

REGISTER: <http://www.lutheranssw.org/events/ed-gatherings>

# May Celebrations

## May Birthdays

- 1 Mary Olson  
Bob Russell
- 2 Matthew Munz
- 3 Sue Edwards  
Mary Lou Sterner
- 4 Louis Wagner
- 7 Jason Humphrey
- 9 Sierra Gilliland  
Ali Kirsch
- 11 Margarite Humphrey
- 12 Christina Jo Leith
- 13 Jim Carey
- 17 April Michal
- 18 Nancy Allbritton  
Zach Stanfield
- 19 Katie Jahnsen  
Reid Olson
- 21 Kristin Jendryka  
Mia Suhrbier
- 22 Ethan Barber  
Bobbi Haworth  
Colleen Touhey
- 23 Aaron Buda  
Ryan Buda
- 24 Oliver Heck

- 25 Doris Carey
- 26 Sandi Gaffney  
Amber Gilliland  
Cori Jo Duncan  
Martina Munz  
Susan Russell
- 27 Mindy Judd
- 28 Randy Faro  
Brandon Touhey
- 31 Chris Coles  
Riley Fisher

## Anniversaries

- 12 Myra Lee and Curt Volland
- 18 Jan and Bob Cosser
- 21 Keith and Ceci Birchard
- 23 Sandy and Brian Gilliland
- 24 Katie and Jason Humphrey
- 27 Helen and Joe Buda

## Baptism Anniversaries

- 3 Sue Edwards  
Serene Johnson
- 5 Jerry Grill
- 6 Nancy Lynch
- 8 Courtney Cox  
Kelsey Hoffman
- 9 Cole Swanson

- 10 Adam Moir
- 11 Jill Carlson  
Ali Kirsch
- 12 Alex Cox  
Greg Moir
- 13 Jeff Brown
- 17 Katrin Kreutz  
Mary Olson
- 18 Larry and Gail Dean  
Kathy Leith
- 20 Anne Gray
- 22 Christina Jo Leith  
Hannah Meier
- 23 Katie Humphrey  
Stephen Jendryka
- 24 Bob Russell
- 25 Evan Mitchell
- 27 Eric & Billie Melin  
Ericka Suhrbier  
Bonnie Unzelman
- 28 Cathy Scott

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

### 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.

### To my family at St. John's

You've done it again, prayed me through a rough patch and on to healing after my 2nd hip replacement surgery. I miss your smiles, your words of encouragement, just being in your presence, but I'm better every day and with you in spirit. Your prayers strengthen me.

God bless you all,  
*Mary DuBois*

Dave and I so appreciate the many cards of thoughts and prayers sent our way from members of St John's. Dave's cancer treatment will begin with kidney surgery May 12. The gestures of love and care have uplifted us and makes God's presence incarnate . . . many

thanks, dear people of faith! We love you and pray God's goodness continues to bless you in all you do.

*Pastor Jeannine and Dave Daggett*

The Women's annual Garage Sale will be held on **Saturday, June 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** We will be accepting donations of household items that are clean and in good condition. As you do your spring cleaning please save items for us. You may start placing your items against the far wall of the community center beginning Monday, June 6. If you need a place to store your items prior to that date, please contact Joan Jahnsen: jahnsen71@msn.com.

# May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Class</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Altar Guild</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 p.m. 4-H Cooking Class</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Social Ministry</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Youth and Family</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Church Growth</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 a.m. Men's Morning Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Agate Hospital Auxiliary</p> <p><b>Wednesday's Together</b> (see schedule)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball</p> <p>National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor Matt's Day Off</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's</p> <p>3:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Volleyball</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Church Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p><b>Wednesday's Together</b> (see schedule)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:00 p.m. PEO Meeting in Conference Room (tentative)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Staff Meeting at Denny's</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor Matt's Day Off</p> <p><b>June Visitor Deadline</b></p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Youth Help with Mobile Mission Meals</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>Wednesday's Together</b> (see schedule)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Young At Heart</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor Matt's Day Off</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Book Guild at Dixie Roser's</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Wednesday's Together</b> (see schedule)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor Matt's Day Off</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p><b>No Sunday School or Adult Study</b></p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Music &amp; Worship</p> <p><i>Memorial Day</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p><b>Wednesday's Together!</b></p> <p>4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom</p> <p>4:30 p.m. St. John's Knitting Ministry</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Children's Chime Choir</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Dinner is Served – <b>All are welcome!</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. High School Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice</p>			

**You're invited to a Baby Shower**

**Author:** Mindy Judd  
**Title:** "It's a Girl"

Date	Issued To:
<del>May 27</del>	Women of St. John's
<del>Feb 26</del>	Community Center
<u>Jun 4</u>	St. John's Lutheran Church
<u>1:00 p.m.</u>	

One small request that won't be too hard  
Please bring a book instead of a card  
Whether Cat in the Hat or Winnie the Pooh  
You can sign the inside cover  
with a note from you

**R.S.V.P.**  
By June 1

cori.duncan15@gmail.com  
or  
(360)388-5338

Registered at Target & Babies R US



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