

The Visitor

November 2016

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

Give Thanks



1 Corinthians 1:4-9 *I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way — with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge — God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Thank you.

Thank you for faithfully coming to worship to be strengthened in your walk of discipleship.

Thank you for faithfully serving Jesus Christ at St. John's and in the community.

Thank you for faithfully wrestling with the Scriptures and how they bear Christ to our world.

Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church with your gifts and offerings.

Thank you for faithfully seeking God's will.

Thank you for faithfully praying that God would lead our congregation to fulfill God's will.

Thank you.

Pastor Matt

My St. John's Story

One of the things I love about St. John's is that our normal first response to challenges or requests is "YES!" The St. John's community of believers can often be found in other local organizations working on behalf of others. We often volunteer our building and sometimes even seek out others to use it. I love that!

We have been blessed with this amazing facility and every time I ask to use it for myself and/or on behalf of others, I always get a YES.

Boy Scouts, Tae Kwan Do, Girl Scouts, Bible Study Fellowship, sports teams, Habitat for Humanity, school districts are just a few groups that use our facility . . . Young Life even considered moving in. We find room, we make time and we open our doors and arms.

The last time we had a weather emergency, I was a little sad that our building wasn't better utilized. I should have just been thankful that other groups filled the need but I thought, "Bring us people, we got this!"

So at St. John's we share. We share communion, we share dinners, we share the Community Center, kitchens and classrooms. We share in worship, we share in good times and hard times.

If I look a little deeper, I see that our response to share, to open our hearts and doors is a mirror of our Heavenly Father who welcomes all, who says, "yes – I want you here." He who shares in all the moments of our individual lives and in the life of this church. What a blessing He is to us and how amazing that we can share that blessing with others.
Stacey Cummings

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
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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.

Across the Board

Submitted by Stacey Cummings

The Church Council met on October 11 and discussed the following:

- Financial: Thank you Tim Touhey for the beautiful graphs. We are a little behind in our giving-to-spending ratio. The financial numbers are similar to last year at this same time.
- The accountant has been instructed to pay the budgeted benevolences.
- Sara Blair volunteered to write thank-you notes to people that have made special gifts and memorial donations.
- Worship:
 - The average attendance for September was 123.
- Everyone enjoyed Bill Old Chief from the Blackfeet Nation.
- Middle school youth are studying Martin Luther and the reformation.
- Using bread for communion instead of wafers has been well received.
- Social Ministry Committee is looking at working with Murial Old Chief to provide Christmas gifts for children at the Blackfeet dormitory.
- New banners for the Community Center are being created.
- The new coffee schedule will begin on December 1.

Let's Try a New Approach . . .

There are so many fantastic things happening here at St. John's! One little thing that we can easily change in order to free all of us up for ministry and fellowship is the way we approach coffee hour. After several conversations, Council has decided to try an assignment calendar for the next 6-12 months.

Starting December 1, we will use an assignment calendar that I will send to you. I will put you on a rotation for the service you regularly attend. Please feel free to make changes with other members on your own. If you need to swap Sundays, please contact the person above

or below you on the list. A list of capable coffee-makers will be posted by the coffee maker – ask one of them if you don't

know how to use the coffee maker.

While we all enjoy the "big" spreads, feel free to keep your coffee-hour offerings simple.

We so appreciate your willingness to try a new system!

If you need to opt out or partner with a friend, please call Linda in the church office or me, 360-740-1560.

Many hands make light work! Thanks again!

Stacey Cummings on behalf of the Church Council



Youth Corner

Well I can't believe we are beginning the month of November. What a whirlwind it has been since this summer. I really feel blessed that Bill and Muriel were able to visit us last month. Al, Bill, Muriel and I had lunch after services before they headed home. They both commented on how wonderful it was to meet everyone and felt they were now part of St. John's family forever. I agree 100 percent. Bill reminded us once again, God is in charge of our destiny. We sometimes feel we are in control of our lives, making our own choices, but ultimately it is God that really has the final word.

Muriel told us during their visit that the Blackfeet Indian Reservation dorm recently applied for a huge grant but it was denied. That news shocked Muriel as she was counting on that grant for the dorm and they

were hoping to use a portion of that money towards Christmas gifts since the families of the reservation are not able to. So we came up with a great idea this year. Muriel has provided us with a wish list for each student at the dorm. We have 158 names and we are going to provide those children with Christmas presents this year. We know 158 children sounds like a huge undertaking, so we are asking neighboring churches if they would like to participate in this mission. We hope to show God's work among all that are willing to help. We will put the wish list of each child on a Christmas ornament then put it on a giving tree. You may take as many names you want. I think we all agree, we are all God's children and if we need help, we should help others. After all, that is what God would want us to do. If you need any

further information on this project just contact me and I will provide you any information I can. We want this to be a good Christmas for our new family members.

Other upcoming events for the Youth:

- November 13th Veteran's Day Dinner at St. Johns at 6:00 p.m. Invites will be going out soon. Memories will be shared, a nice dinner will be prepared as well as some special music.
- December 2nd will be decorating the Golf Cart in the Santa Parade this year. Keep you posted on the theme this year. December 3rd is day of the parade.
- December 11th will also be Christmas Caroling for our seniors and Shut in's. If you want to be included in that list, please contact me.

Pat Soderquist

A personal note:

When I heard Pat talk about Bill and Muriel, I couldn't wait to meet them and hear Bill speak. We were blessed to have them join us in our Adult Class the morning they were here.

I listened to Bill and Muriel talk about the needs and dreams of the children on the Blackfeet Reservation. When Muriel began to tell us about a grant that had provided Christmas presents in the past had been denied, I felt my heart break. Every child deserves Christmas presents – especially a special one they have asked for.

The more I heard Muriel speak, the more I felt God talking to me. God was telling me we, St. John's, could do this for these children. Of course, as I sat in the worship service, the doubts started taking hold – "That's a big commitment; how can we possibly pull this off; is it fair to ask the congregation to take this on, can we really do this, etc., etc." Then God spoke to me again . . . Am I limiting God's ability to provide? YES. Is it an ambitious goal? YES! Is it doable? YES! Is St. John's a generous and caring congregation? YES! Is there anything so big or daunting

that I (God) can't handle? NO!

So it was with fear and trepidation, and yet with God-given confidence that I talked to Pat. Without hesitation, she affirmed that this was a project we can do and she approached our Social Ministry Committee on my behalf.

Thank you Pat and Social Ministry for being willing to listen to God's whisper in my ear. And thank you to all that will make this a miracle Christmas for the children on the Blackfeet Reservation.

With God, all things are possible!

With thanksgiving in my heart,
Linda Lowery

November Celebrations

November Birthdays

- 2 Jonathan Isaacson
Jennifer Willson
- 3 Matt Edwards
Matt Meagher
- 4 Nathaniel Birchard
- 5 Susan Donaldson
Steve Kostanich
- 7 Clara Gilliland
- 8 Kaylynn Mitchell
- 11 David March
- 12 Kathryn Rotter
Johnathan Vlach
- 13 Colt Conzatti
- 14 Rachel March
- 18 Helen Buda

- 20 Meg Nelson
- 21 Marilyn Fenn
- 22 Georgie Radnich
- 23 David Stanfield
Emma Thomas
- 25 Kerry Vance

Anniversaries

- 4 Jill and Jerry Carlson
- 12 Carmen and Mike Brown
- 18 Shirley and Ron
Kuxhausen
- 23 Gail and Larry Dean

Baptism Anniversaries

- 2 Anna Russell
- 4 Will Cummings

- 7 Christian, Timothy,
Matthew and Eva Munz
- 10 Kaylynn Mitchell
- 11 Catie Scott
- 15 Mia Suhrbier
- 18 Kasey Wilson
- 25 Luke Amrine
Eric Moir
- 29 Susan Donaldson
Ron Kuxhausen
Justin Wilson

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

New Address:

Mike and Sue Austin
620 SW 16th Street
Chehalis, WA 98532

The Women's Sweet Life Cafe retreat was a huge success! There were a number of women that wanted to attend but the day didn't work for them so **there will be one more Sweet**

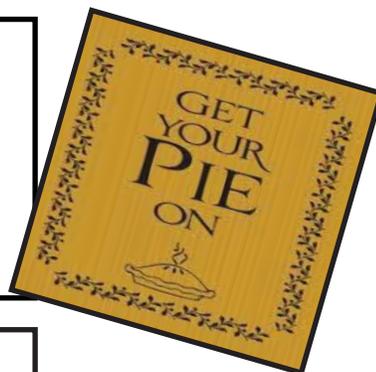
Life Café event on Saturday, November 5, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Jahnsen house on Lake Mayfield. If you are interested in attending, talk to Joan Jahnsen, 748-3901 or pick up a registration form in the church office.

HELP! Please help us out by plainly marking items left here

at the church if intended for a designated purpose – especially food items. Just a simple note indicating who or what the item is intended for will avoid misunderstandings or being used for the wrong purpose. Thank you for your cooperation.

You are invited to attend our annual Pie Social and Talent Show Sunday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center. Each family is asked to bring a pie to share. Following the eating-o-the-pies, we will be entertained by some of our very own talented members. If you have a talent to share you are encouraged to sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Joan Jahnsen. Come prepared to eat a lot of pie and laugh – a lot!

For all those 55+, the annual traditional **Young-at-Heart** Thanksgiving dinner and program is on **Thursday, November 17 at noon.** Dinner will include turkey and all the trimmings — mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, pie — everything to make a Thanksgiving dinner complete. All you need to bring is your appetite. A program featuring the Black Sheep Creamery in Chehalis will be presented following dinner. For more information, contact Nancy Lynch, 748-2124. There is always room for more!



Dollars and Sense

Year to Date as of Through October 25, 2016	
Income	\$191,752.31
Expenses	(191,360.23)
Total	\$392.08

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Bd. 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	2 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	3 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Soccer Academy	4 1:00 p.m. Church Women United – World Community Day Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	5 8:30 a.m. <i>Sweet Life Café</i> Women's Retreat
6 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship <i>Begin Gifts of Hope</i> 6:00 p.m. Talent Show and Pie Social 	7 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	8 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 6:30 p.m. Soccer Academy in Community Center	9 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301	10 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo Demonstration in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Soccer Academy in Community Center	11 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	12
13 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Ultimate Date Night at Immanuel Lutheran, Centralia 6:00 p.m. Veteran's Honor Dinner	14 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center	15 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society 6:30 p.m. Soccer Academy in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at Mindy Judd's	16 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301 Visitor Deadline	17 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Young at Heart Thanksgiving Dinner and Program 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Soccer Academy in Community Center	18 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	19 10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch
20 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> <i>Begin Giving Tree Project</i>	21 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center	22 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Soccer Academy in Community Center	23 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301 6:15 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 	25 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	26
27 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	28 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	29 3:00 p.m. Chehalis Girls Basketball in Community Center 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Soccer Academy in Community Center	30 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #301 7:00 p.m. Advent Service	<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		



2016 World Community Day



Sharing Gifts at the Table
EVERYONE WELCOME



*** PROGRAM: "FACTS ON IMMIGRATION" ***

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
FRIDAY, NOV. 4th 1:00 pm
CHEHALIS UNITED METHODIST
16 S. MARKET BLVD.**

*** SPEAKER: PAM PEIPER FROM ***

CONGRESSWOMAN'S OFFICE: JAIME HERRERA-BEUTLER

WHAT IS MISSION SUPPORT?

Through God's grace, we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. By sharing your God-given time, talents and financial resources with your church, you are participating in God's work in your community and around the world.

When you make a financial gift to your congregation, a percentage of that gift is shared with the wider church—with your synod and with your churchwide organization. Each year, during budget season, your congregation pledges to send a portion of the offerings it receives to fund ELCA ministries in your synod and beyond. In the ELCA, we call this Mission Support. Mission Support shows how we are church together—it's essential to who we are as the ELCA.



MISSION SUPPORT = YOUR OFFERING AT WORK

YOUR CONGREGATION

Your offering is stewarded by your congregation's council to support the work of your congregation. When your congregation votes to adopt its annual budget, you designate a portion of your offering to be shared with your synod and the ELCA churchwide organization. These funds are called Mission Support.

YOUR SYNOD

Your congregation's Mission Support dollars are then stewarded by your synod leaders to support the work of the synod. Your synod uses Mission Support to nurture ELCA congregations and rostered leaders, support local partners (camps, colleges, seminaries and more) and accompany our global companion churches in their ministry. Synods also designate a percentage of the Mission Support funds they receive to be sent to the churchwide organization.

YOUR CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

Your churchwide organization uses Mission Support dollars to respond to local and worldwide ministry opportunities. A few of those ministries are highlighted in this publication, but there are many others that together create a strong witness to the gospel.

Bridging the Gap Between "Us" and "Them"!

Wow! Everyone agreed, "It was an extremely valuable 15 hours of training."

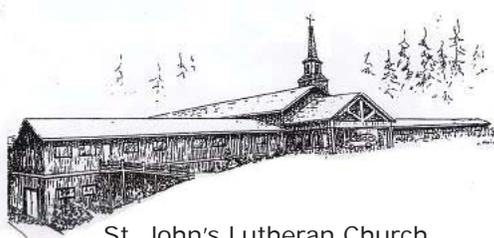
St. John's RISE Lewis County poverty ministry partnered with Lewis County Public Health and Social Services and United Way of Lewis County to provide 30 participants with experiential insights into understanding and working with poverty!

We had folks from schools, hospitals, churches, social service organizations, and county positions participating over a three-week period.

All participants are now ready to share this information and their experiences with their places of work, faith communities, clubs, and other circles of influence.

Six of us from St. Johns will be coordinating several ways of sharing this information with you.

Watch for it! We think you will find it extremely interesting!



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