

The Visitor

September 2016

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

Sabbath



Matthew 11:28-30: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

"I need to get back to work so that I can recover from my vacation." What is it about not having a schedule dictated by someone else that brings out the worst of our human nature to want to be busy? It's like we get time off from work and we immediately go into hyperactivity mode.

God knew that we human beings would have a problem with giving ourselves permission to rest. When giving the commandments in Exodus 20, God had to use three verses to lay out exactly what remember the Sabbath meant:

Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work

— you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. (Exodus 20:9-11)

Our 24-7, got to be productive, world implores us to keep going. Break through the wall of exhaustion. The life of Jesus invites us to step outside the drumbeat of proving our worth and resting in the worth that comes from being a Child of God. We are not defined by our accomplishments. We are defined by our God.

As we end the summer season and enter into fall, rest in the yoke of Jesus. He has named, claimed, and secured your worth. You are worthy because you are. Remember to sabbath because in resting we remember whose we are.

Pastor Matt

St. John's Women's Ministries

Our annual **Women's Retreat**, *Sweet Life Café* will be held on **Saturday, September 17**, at Jahnsen's Mayfield Lake home from **8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.** with optional dinner and extended activities until 8:30 p.m. Come get refreshed at Sweet Life Café! Yes, this café-themed getaway is as relaxing and refreshing as it sounds! Get away from the busyness of life as you relax with friends, share laughter and stories and spend time with God. Join us at our *Sweet Life Café* retreat to experience all this and more!



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.

Youth News:

First, we are truly grateful for all the support and prayers that we received from our St. John's family. We especially wanted to acknowledge our **Team 316** partners. Without your generous giving, we would have not been able to embark on this mission at all. We were truly changed by this trip. So again thank you, thank you. You are all amazing!



Our mission journey, started on July 17th at 5:30 a.m. With a few stops along the way including picking up Austin Michal in Spokane, we pulled into our final destination 13 hours later. We were all excited but a little scared of the uncertainty of what the week would be like. This is where our faith in God would come in. We simply had to turn the week over to God. After all, this was a mission trip. **God was our pilot.** He truly guided us all week. Throughout the week we helped with VBS, also known as Kids Club, for the neighborhood children. Al and I drove St. John's van around the neighborhood picking up the children on the reservation to take them to the Kids Club. For me personally, that was the highlight of the trip. Seeing the joy on the faces of

these children was priceless. They might not have much, but love is in their hearts. That was repeated throughout this trip. Every day we participated in daily devotion and worship songs that included church time. On July 20, Youthworks conducted a church service in Glacier National Park. Each day we saw the presence of God, but now, in the Park we were able to enjoy with amazement God's wonderful beauty around us. It reminded us of how blessed we all are. On our last night, we all circled for our final church-time for the week. We went around the circle talking about the high and lows of the trip.

We all agreed this was the best trip ever, we loved the children of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation but we were saddened by the poverty of the children, as they had no control of their environment. We all loved all the staff we met through Youthworks. They were truly God's guide that week, showing us the way.

We met a lot of people on this trip — there were 60 students including youth leaders. Groups came from Washington, Oregon and Wrightsville, North Carolina. However, we were all there for the same reason: to share our dreams, share hope, but most of all share God's love . . . and we did. Mission Trip 2016 was amazing!

Side note.... We met this wonderful couple, Muriel and Bill Old Chief. For two days we painted their house. We

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Youth News . . .

(continued from page 2)

learned about their personal mission: the children of Blackfeet. Muriel led the cause to get a dormitory built (the existing one was built in 1965 and they are in need of a newer building). On August 29 they will open the doors to the children of the reservation to reside in the dorm. They will attend school during the day, but return to the dorm at night. The children will go home on weekends. The purpose of this project is to instill morals, culture and, most of all, love. Muriel gave us a tour of the dorm. It was beyond incredible. These children can now have dreams of their own. The St. John's youth that were able to go on

this tour were amazed by this school. It is a wonderful ministry in Browning Montana. Muriel and Bill will be joining us on September 25 at St. John's to share their story. You will be blessed to have them join us that day!

In closing, thank you so much again. I can honestly



say, it was the best part of the year for all of us. We are blessed beyond words. Again, thank you St. John's family — we are truly grateful for your support of our Youth program

Upcoming Events:

September 10 – Mobile Mission/Animal Shelter Day.

September 11– Rally Day for Sunday School. Look for your letter in the mail for details.

September 11– Community Service Day Project, “God’s Work. Our Hands.”

September 17 – Toledo Pow Wow Cowlitz Indian Tribe Event in Toledo.

Pat Soderquist

It's Game Time!

Starting in September the Youth and Family Committee is excited to encourage community game playing after *Wednesday's Together* dinner. Feel free to bring your own board games to play with others, or borrow from the church's stash. It is our hope to encourage friendly competition between

generations and families, as well as foster new relationships within our church family. Game on!



New Members

We will be receiving new members on October 30th (Reformation Sunday) through Affirmation of Faith during both worship services. We will have a new member orientation on October 29th 9am-noon. If you are interested in affirming your faith please contact the office.

STP Update

Many thanks to all who helped with STP. We had 93 paying guests and took in over \$100 from sale of excess food and tips.

With the changing of the guard next year, Susan and Bob Russell will be the “new” Jerry Carlson to supervise the kitchen; and Steve and Carol Kostanich will take Bob Cosser and Glade Austin's job of setting

up community center, blowing up mattresses and staying overnight.

We are still looking for a host/hostess willing to take over Dee and Bill Blair's position. This could be shared by several people. Talk to Bill and Dee, 748-6878, or Donna Moir, 748-4517, if you are interested or need more information.

Dollars and Sense

| Operating Income and Expenses: | |
|---|---------------------|
| July 2016 | |
| Income | \$18,738.29 |
| Expenses: | (18,030.82) |
| Total: | \$707.47 |
| Year to Date as of Through August 23, 2016 | |
| Income | \$143,485.30 |
| Expenses | (148,127.00) |
| Total | \$(4,641.70) |

Please help educate Lewis County regarding the causes and ramifications of poverty in our communities!



RISE Lewis County – the name of St. John's poverty ministry – is offering a unique training experience during the month of October. We'll not just study and talk about the problem, we'll actually take a first-hand look!

Join us:

Saturday, October 8th, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays, the 11th, 13th, 18th, & 20th
from 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Have Questions? Contact anyone on the Social Ministries Committee: Al Soderquist, Carolyn Schoenborn, Jay Jahnsen, Sara Blair, Adam Moir or Ceci Birchard.

OR, go directly to United Way Lewis County's web page and register on-line at: www.lewiscountyuw.com/content/poverty-coach-training

Gods Work. Our Hands.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. **Mark your calendars!** St. John’s dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 11. This year’s dedicated day of service will mark the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

As you continue to share God’s love with your neighbors,

whether it is preparing and delivering meals to people and families rendered homeless or cleaning your neighborhood parks, consider thanking and holding in prayer the emergency responders in your area as part of your service.

“The world can be a dangerous place. But there are some who, when disaster strikes, run toward the danger. These are the first responders, firefighters, police and EMTs, who live out their baptismal vocation in service to their communities in times of intense need. They do God’s work

with their hands.” - ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2016!

From the Library Shelf

St. John’s Book Guild will meet September 27 at 6 p.m. for a salad potluck at the home of Cori Jo Duncan to review Lori Wick’s *A Place Called Home*.

In the book, Christine finds herself more lonely than she has ever been after the death of

her grandfather, her last living relative. Her grandfather’s will specifies that with her death everything will go to his partner, Vince. Fear of him and a mysterious note warning her of danger cause her to leave town. In a new location, Christine finds love and a new-found faith that

gives her courage to face the threat of danger. But, will she ever be able to go ‘home’?

If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information, contact Joan Jahnsen at 748-3901.

September Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Bill Blair
- 2 Kathryn Cox
Catie Scott
- 3 Joel Rotter
- 4 Charlotte Barber
- 5 Nancy Jordan
Phil Small
- 6 Mike Austin
- 8 Shawn Meagher
- 9 Matthew Rotter
Mary Ziegert
- 10 Jenny Grega
Justin Wilson
- 12 Jamie Scott
- 17 David Isaacson
Kendra Stajduhar
- 20 Brian Cummings
- 21 Jacob Stajduhar

- 22 Lorna Johnson
Hedy Mitchell
- 23 Jill Carlson
Katherine Humphrey
Joan Jahnsen
- 26 Matt Stanfield
- 27 Jeff Brown
Bob Lund
- 28 Zachary Rotter
- 30 Zoe Thomas

Anniversaries

- 10 Dee and Bill Blair
Laurie and Arnie Suhrbier
- 11 Lorna and Deane Johnson
- 13 Therese and Steve Dean
- 17 Luanna and Bill Deming
- 18 Michele and Russ Cox

Baptism Anniversaries

- 3 Elizabeth March

- 5 Cael Justice
- 6 Amber Gilliland
Kathy Hoffman
Gayle Isaacson
- 7 Russ Lunders
Diane Rudorfer
- 10 Mike Austin
- 11 Doris Carey
- 13 Emmelyn Affeldt
Shirley Kuxhausen
- 21 Penelope Tobin
- 25 Macey Elder
- 26 Kate Amrine
Aaron & Ryan Buda
- 28 Scott Amrine
Sandy Gilliland

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, let us know! Call the church office at 748-4741 or e-mail: office@stjohnschehalis.net.

September 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Beginning September 14: <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 (First class is September 7) 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice | | | | 1 | 2 Pastor Matt's Day Off | 3 |
| 4 9:45 a.m. Worship | 5 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry <i>Labor Day</i> | 6 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Board | 7 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice | 8 8:00 a.m. Life-Line Screening | 9 Pastor Matt's Day Off | 10 11:00 a.m. Youth Help with Mobile Meals |
| 11 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class – RALLY DAY 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. ELCA Day of Action | 12 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family | 13 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council | 14 <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) | 15 12:00 p.m. Young at Heart Luncheon and Program 5:30 p.m. Staff Meeting Visitor Deadline | 16 Pastor Matt's Day Off | 17 8:30 a.m. Annual Women's Retreat at Jahnsen's Mayfield Home  |
| 18 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship | 19 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity | 20 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society | 21 <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) | 22 | 23 Pastor Matt's Day Off | 24 9:00 a.m. All Church Work Day/Property Committee |
| 25 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship | 26 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Music & Worship | 27 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Book Guild | 28 <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) | 29 | 30 | 1 |

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Key Actions

CHICAGO (Aug. 16, 2016) – Voting members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) approved a number of key actions during the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held in New Orleans Aug. 8-13. The assembly is the highest legislative authority of the church.

The 945 voting members:

- Elected William B. Horne II of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clearwater, Fla., vice president of the ELCA. Horne was installed during closing worship Aug. 13.
- Accepted the "Declaration on the Way," a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. At the heart of the document are 32 "Statements of Agreement" that state where Lutherans and Catholics do not have church-dividing differences on topics about church, ministry and the Eucharist. The document also presents the differences that remain.
- Approved AMMPARO – the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. The ELCA developed this strategy based on commitments to uphold and guarantee the basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families; to address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit; to work toward just and humane policies affect-

ing migrants in and outside the U.S.; to engage as a church with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes; and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

- Approved the Ministry of Word and Service roster. Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, ELCA associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers will be a single, unified roster of Ministry of Word and Service. The accompanying constitutional amendments related to the roster were also considered and approved by the assembly.
- Approved the 2017-2019 budget proposal. The budget includes a 2017 current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005 and a 2017 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$24.8 million; a 2018 current fund income proposal of \$64,057,220 and a 2018 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25 million; a 2019 current fund income proposal of \$64,151,175 and a 2019 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25 million; and authorizes the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.
- Approved various memorials – or proposals – from the ELCA's 65 synods. In addition to memorials considered "en bloc," the assembly separately approved the following: deepening relationships with historic Black churches;

toward a responsible energy future; repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; peace with justice in the Holy Land; justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment; African Descent Lutherans; call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy; welcoming refugees; and supporting military personnel, veterans and their families.

- Elected members to serve on: Church Council, Portico Benefits Services, Mission Investment Fund, Augsburg Fortress, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline and Nominating Committee.
- Adopted amendments to the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions. Legislative updates are available at elca.org.

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.7 million members in more than 9,300 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.

For information contact:
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Thank you . . .

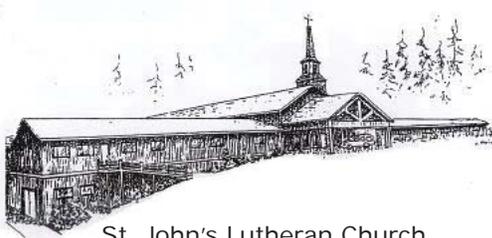
To our St. John's church family for your gracious support of Food for Our Future, the non-profit organization, during the 2015-2016 school year. Every Friday our group supplied snack bags for about 90 elementary students listed as homeless in grades K-5, in the Chehalis School District. As we prepare to begin a new school year we are inviting you to participate through your prayers, time, and financial support. This year we are making a special request of our St. John's congregation to donate individual juice containers and individual microwave popcorn. Typically apple juice or orange juice is available in small, individual cans or pouches. Please watch for sales, and place them in the

large orange container in the narthex, beneath the yellow poster indicating the Food for Our Future group. Of course, if you find sales on boxed mac and cheese, Top Ramen, instant oatmeal or granola bars



we would appreciate those donations, too! In lieu of food donations *checks may be made out to Homeless Back Packs, with **Food for Our Future** on*

the memo line. Homeless Back Packs serves Thurston County students, and graciously allows us to use their 501-C3 tax structure that provides auditing, and end of the year statements for donors. Nearly every Wednesday our group meets at 4:00 p.m. at the Chehalis Food Bank, to prepare snack bags for the week or for weeks ahead. We need volunteers — more volunteers ensures we are finished in less than an hour. Depending upon donations, we may pack each week, or multiple weeks in advance. Feel free to call Cathy Cavness at home, 736-8209, if you have questions or would like to volunteer on Wednesdays.



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