

The Visitor

January 2018

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

New Creation/New Year



2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

The New Year always brings with it the promise of a new start. Resolutions that we make (and sometimes keep) give us hope that this year will be better than last. But what happens when we don't make it?

The reality is that we often don't fulfill our New Year's resolutions. Probably because we rely on our own willpower. I don't know about you, but I'm a softy when it comes to indulging myself.

The question becomes, why bother? If we're just going to fail, why even try? You could say the same thing about faith, I suppose. In Luther's explanation of the third article of the Apostle's Creed he writes: "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him..."

The key words are "my own understanding or strength." Like our New Year's Resolutions, if we are simply relying on our own abilities, we will fail almost every time. We may make it for a little while but eventually the siren call of old habits and old ways of being will win out. It is only by the power of Jesus Christ that we can really truly be made new.

This work of renewal is not one and done but it is a process. All are in various places along the journey. We make wrong turns and fall short often. But it is the Grace of Jesus Christ that brings us back to the path of becoming a more faithful disciple.

I pray that 2018 will be your best year ever. And by best year ever, I mean that you see that by yourself you are hopeless. It is only the power of Jesus Christ that makes it possible for the old to pass away and the new to come.

Pastor Matt

St. John's Women's Ministries



Women's Brunch and Bible Study will meet in the conference room on Saturday, January 20 at 10:00 a.m. Women are asked to bring a brunch item to share as we continue using the study "*God is in the Laundry Room.*" Session 4 is called *Cleaning Out the Closets*. Do you hang onto things that are in your

closet? Do you have habits or attitudes you would like to get rid of? This session may give you some guidance from the apostle Paul.

The **Women's Book Guild** will meet on Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Christine Larsen. Nancy Lynch will lead the discussion on the book, *Galway Bay* by Mary Pat Kelly.

Annual Meeting

The 2018 Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 21 at 9:45 a.m. between worship services. Committees need to have their reports turned in to the church office by January 17 for publishing.

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.

The ELCA Youth Gathering:

A Ministry with Youth and Resource for Congregations

What is the ELCA Youth Gathering? "A monumental experience that just belongs on your faith journey," explained Meredith Massey from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston.

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation – the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, the hope is that every young person grows in faith and is challenged and inspired to live their faith in daily life. For most, this goal comes to life back home, in their congregations and in the world.

A time of discovery and inspiration

For some, the Gathering helps reveal something new about themselves. "The Gathering sparked something inside me I didn't know I had; it made me feel part of something bigger. The Gathering enabled me to grow in my faith, leadership and service, along with providing me with the ways to do so," said Zoe Clark from Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, Pa. For others, it reconnects them to their faith. Jake Putala from Mission United Lutheran Church in Pelkie, Mich., said, "Being in a sports stadium with 30,000 other Lutherans was quite possibly the most incredible experience of my life. Singing hymns, listening to inspiring speakers and seeing how

energetic the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America could be created a whole new appreciation for my faith and, more importantly, for Jesus Christ."

As young people desire and struggle to find someone to become, somewhere to belong and something to do, the Gathering seeks to be a ministry that helps define some of that or at least open pathways of discovery. Ultimately, the ELCA Youth Gathering wants youth to understand the fierce love God has for them – just as they are – and that by grace, through faith, they have been saved. When young people, or people of any age, claim this reality, it changes everything.

So, why have a Gathering? Allison Tice of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Hickory, N.C., replied with clarity and enthusiasm, "To simply be: Be the church, be the light in the world and be like Jesus with and among God's people."

Several youth from St. John's will be attending the Gathering and are preparing for the experience. Please keep them in your prayers!

For information and resources for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 27-July 1, go to ELCA.org/Gathering.

RISE Lewis County presents...

Friends

- Have you ever gone through a really rough time in your life? Maybe it was a death, or an addiction, or fired from your job, or bankruptcy, or cancer, homelessness, divorce, or.... (you name it)!
- Because of that experience, do you realize how many people you can now help and support while they go through similar situations?
- Whether you are providing that support as a friend, a parent, a family, a coach, a counselor, a Navigator, a Companion, a boss, etc., "Friends" training is for you!



⇒ Mark your calendars now for **"Friends"** training, **January 20th & 21st and the 27th and 28th.**

The CCAR Recovery Coach Academy will help us understand how to be friends with people needing a friend during the roughest times of life!

This training would normally cost \$800 per registrant, but because of a major grant given to the State of Washington, we will be receiving it for free!

BTW, work in a job that requires continuing education units? This course provides CEU's!

Friends Registration

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone (where you would like to be contacted): _____

Occupation: _____

Organization: _____

Food or Physical Restrictions of which we should be aware: _____

Register online at stjohnschehalis.net/friends/

COST (A free-will donation to help cover food costs)

Please return this form to the church office

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Basketball Practice</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Church Growth</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Agate Children's Hospital Auxiliary</p> <p>4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Basketball Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>Pastor Matt's Day Off</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>6</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Altar Guild</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Music and Worship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Social Ministry</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Youth and Family</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's</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>10</p> <p>6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study and Coffee</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship</p> <p>4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>Pastor Matt's Day Off</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>13</p>	
<p>14</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship</p> <p>4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Young At Heart</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>Pastor Matt's Day Off</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Navigator Training</p>	
<p>21</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Navigator Training</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Book Guild at Christine Larson's</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship</p> <p>5:30 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>Pastor Matt's Day Off</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Navigator Training</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia</p>	
<p>28</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Navigator Training</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Native American Sunday</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship</p> <p>5:30 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p><i>Wednesday's Together!</i></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 – All are welcome!</p> <p>6:00 p.m. High School Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group</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>			
<p>★For up to date calendar information, visit our website, www.stjohnschehalis.net and click on the "News" tab★</p>							

January Celebrations

January Birthdays

- 3 Joe Buda
- 4 Melody Braaten
Kevin Hoffman
- 7 Diane Rudorfer
- 9 Jane Margaret Birchard
Arnie Suhrbier
Patty Wilson
- 11 David March
- 21 Ezra Birchard

- Cheryl Vance
- 28 Sara Lunders
- 30 Steve Grill
Tom Larsen

Baptism Anniversaries

- 3 Jane Margaret Birchard
Scott Pollock
- 9 Bette White
- 12 Jonathan Isaacson
- 17 Tyler Carlson

- 23 Cheryl Vance
- 24 Jerry Carlson
- 30 Sara Shelton

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

Hello,

I want to express the gratitude of HRN and staff and client families for the gracious offering of your community room for the party with our client families. It was great fun for all, especially the children. This party, at which Santa presented every child and mother with a gift or two, left every child and mother with a Christmas memory they will never forget.

If, in the future, there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to call me. We look forward to assisting St. John's Lu-

theran Church whenever possible in the future.

Again, there are not words sufficient to express our gratitude for your assistance, but we can say "Merry Christmas to Everyone at St. John's Lutheran Church!"

David Eatwell

Chief Executive Officer

The Human Response Network

The St. John's Altar Guild thanks those who helped make our holly and cedar sale a success.

Visitor: Beginning this month there will be a slight change in how the *Visitor* newsletter is

distributed. Each month there are approximately 60 copies that are not being picked up by members. To be good stewards of resources (i.e., copying, paper, etc.) there will be unlabeled hard copies available in a basket in the narthex – please pick up a copy if you desire. The *Visitor* is e-mailed to everyone on the Google list serve and is available on the St. John's web site at stjohnschehalis.net The newsletter will continue to be mailed to those that have been receiving a hard copy in the mail.

ELCA Federal Credit Union Helps Its Members Save Money

It's all about responsible financial stewardship. That's precisely what the ELCA Federal Credit Union is doing for its members. As the newest financial ministry of the ELCA, the credit union offers deposit accounts as well as auto loans, personal loans and credit cards.

Through Oct. 31, not quite a year and a half since it opened its doors, the credit union has provided nearly \$3 million in loans and credit cards to members. Already, it is saving each of its borrowers more than \$1,400 in finance charges over

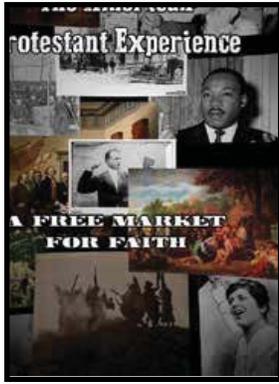
the life of each loan.

"That's a significant savings for each of our borrowers," said Luis Reyes, the credit union's chief operations officer. "Our mission is to help our members do more with their money. As a notfor-profit financial cooperative, the credit union exists to serve our members – not to make a profit. We return earnings to our members through more competitive rates on deposits and loans, fewer fees and enhanced services." All ELCA members or employees are eligible to join the credit

union and realize the advantages of this financial ministry. Family members are eligible to join as well. You can become a member by opening a savings account with a minimum \$25 deposit. Your savings with the credit union allow this financial ministry to make low-cost loans to other Lutherans.

To apply for membership, learn more about the ELCA Federal Credit Union or view a video explaining how it operates, visit elcafcu.org or call 877-715-1111.

After the Celebration ...



In 2017, Lutherans hosted many wonderful celebrations and learning opportunities

for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Where do we now direct our attention as we enter a new year? Select Learning has a dynamic resource, “The American Protestant Experience,” that follows what

happened after the Reformation in the newly forming United States.

It’s no accident that the United States is home to a wide range of religious expressions. Immigrants from around the world brought their faith with them and established churches and denominations. But one of the most unique qualities of American religious life is the innovation and experimentation that takes place here.

“The American Protestant Experience” series documents the ongoing deliberation about the relationship between the

church and civil authority. The country’s founders, seeing the intolerance of the early immigrants, wisely sought to create a republic where faith could be practiced freely and where a theocracy would be avoided.

Twenty-five church historians, including Martin Marty, Grant Wacker, Amanda Porterfield and Mark Granquist, tell this amazing story with support from photos, films and music of the era. There are 10 sessions each averaging 22 minutes and a congregational study guide available at selectlearning.org.

3 Ps Of Supporting the ELCA’s Global Mission

Our world is becoming increasingly interconnected; the global is becoming local. New neighbors worldwide are bringing to the table their vitality of faith and the opportunity for renewal of communities. In our own neighborhoods, we see opportunities for a flourishing of the global church as we become increasingly aware of and connected to the many diverse parts that comprise the body of Christ around the world.

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of ELCA Global Mission, describes the three Ps of mission support: “We are all called to witness to God’s love for God’s people in the world. Scripture challenges us to be ready to give an account of our faith.

The ELCA program through the Global Mission unit offers us the opportunity to engage in ministry by praying for this work and that of our global companions, participating by growing and learning as missional congregations, and by providing the financial support that enables us to do this work.”

Here are three resources your congregation can access to engage more fully in the global mission work of the ELCA:

- **PRAY** – the Global Church Sunday worship resource helps congregations and worshiping communities celebrate our connections and common mission in Christ’s global church (bit.ly/gcs1nday).

- **PARTICIPATE** – the “Global” resource digital binder has 10 components that can be used in your congregation or ministry on global mission-related topics such as immigration, accompaniment and becoming a missional congregation (bit.ly/globalbinder).
- **PROVIDE** – the Missionary Covenant Sponsors Guide walks congregations and others through the possibilities of entering into a covenant relationship with a missionary to provide financial support from their budget, endowment funds or through special fundraising (bit.ly/covenantponsor).

Poinsettias

adorning the altar were gratefully given:

In Loving Memory Of:

Carol Lee Hudson & Averil Cooper..... The Moeckel Family
Our Parents..... Bill & Luanna Deming
Our Parents & Grandson, Anthony Leith..... Larry & Gail Dean
Our Parents and Brothers..... Jim & Joan Jahnsen
Husband Jerry Lynch & Daughter Jill Diane Lynch..... Nancy Lynch
Ruth & John Schultz..... Susan Donaldson
Alma Stanford..... Rochelle Stanford
Our Parents, Monte & Bernie Utter and Bob & Judy Utter
Dean & Elizabeth Smallwood
Loved Ones..... Jerry & Luanne Grill
Connie Small..... Jennifer Fisher
Papa Harvey & Brian Cox Grandma Kate
Jack Blackwell, K.V. & Georgia Lamoreux, Verna Rea, Shari Blackwell
Martha Bolyan & Olga Mazzaro
Our Parents..... Bill & Joann Hulse
Deane & our sons Michael & David..... Lorna Johnson
Our Parents & Jan's brother and sister..... Bob & Jan Cosser
Lloyd & Eileen Olson and Florian Schmitt Greg & Marilyn Schmitt
Jean & Norm Wirta Janie Mael
Connie Small..... Phil Small
My Husband Ray and Son Danny..... Mary Dubois
In Loving memory of Jim Dixie Roser
Herb Amrine..... The Amrine Family
Our Parents..... Steve & Carol Kostanich
Bonnie Unzellman Glen Unzelman
My Parents, Harry & Hilda Backeberg..... Delores Goedard
Howard Brossard, Florence Brossard and Myrna Brossard
Ed & Mabel Unzelman
Curtisene, Hjalmer & Steven Erickson and John Rogers Mary Rogers
Mildred Oster and Doris Rudorfer..... Chuck & Diane Redorfer
Our Parents, Ralph & Rose Smoots and Glade & Rayna Austin
Glenn & Marilyn Austin
Mom Bonnie Unzelman..... Mark & Kathy Hoffman
Grandpa Ray/Dad..... Brian and Stacey Cummings

In Honor Of:

Our Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchild Larry & Gail Dean
Our Children and Grandchild..... Jim & Joan Jahnsen
Our Children, Mia & Nathan and Godchildren, Andrea, , Ericka & Ben Suhrbier
Hannah, Hans, Heidi & Ava
Our Grandchildren, Kellen & Madison Utter and Bob & Judy Utter
Kendra, Ashley & Lauren Nies
Our Grandson, William Frederick Grega..... Steve & Barb Grega
Our Children and their families Eric & Billie Melin
My Children, Grandchildren & Great Grand Children..... Lorna Johnson
Our family..... Bob & Jan Cosser
Elizabeth, Cheng & Children and Anne & Mike Mary Dubois
Our extended family The Fenn Family
Our newest Grandson, Hudson Greg & Katrina Kirsch
Our Children & Granddaughters Lilly & Edie Glade & Rayna Austin

From:

To the Glory of God

Grace & Bert Bauer
Ron & Shirley Kuxhausen
Rochelle Stanford
Corrine & Paul Crowner

Brian and Stacey Cummings (And
thanks for our blessings: Josie,
Tess, Hannah, Will and Nick)

Draft of Interreligious Policy Statement Available for Comment

In 2016, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton appointed a task force to develop an interreligious policy statement as a complement to “Ecumenism,” the ELCA’s 1991 ecumenical policy statement. The first draft

will be available for comment from January through June 2018. The task force will take into consideration all feedback as it prepares a final draft that will be submitted through the ELCA Church Council for possible

action at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. Visit ELCA.org/ecumenical for more information and the document.

Giving to Support St. John’s

As a church we encourage those who are part of the St. John’s family to be giving to the work of our congregation. We believe you should not feel burdened by the issue of giving but in fact, find it a joy! We are pleased to provide e-giving options as an alternative to giving cash and checks in the offering plate (your cash and checks are always welcome!).

- **Mobile Phone:** Scan the QR code provided here to access our mobile giving site and follow the prompts.
- **Our Website** – on your computer, go to www.stjohnschehalis.net and click on the “donate” button
- **Online Banking** – Arrange to give through bill-pay at your own bank’s website. You will be asked for the following information:

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