

The Visitor

March 2018

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

Prayer



1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.*

Lent this year will find us focusing on prayer as a congregation. Throughout Lent, on Wednesdays, we will be using an acronym to help focus our prayers. Sometimes just trying to pray can be a frustrating exercise. To help us, we are using a physical reminder and a memory aid to help us in our focus.

We use the acronym ACTS-L: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication, Listening.

We begin our prayer with simply praising God because – well God is God. We adore God because God is the source for all things, including our very breath. We adore God because there is a wonder and awe of just being in the presence of the creator of the universe.

Next we give God all the ways we have fallen short in our walk with God. These aren't simply those things we are aware of or the big bad hurtful ways we fall short. This is coming before the

almighty God, humbly aware that we are nothing apart from the grace we receive through Jesus Christ.

After we praise God and confess our sins, we thank God for the gifts we have received – first and foremost, the forgiveness of sins. We thank God for our life. We thank God for the good we have witnessed in creation. We thank God for the large and small ways we have been blessed.

Then we come to the part that most of us are good at – we ask God for stuff – supplication. We ask for healing, for places we need God's help, for things that we see are needed for our neighbor. Here we cry out to God to intervene on our behalf.

Finally, it's the hardest step of all – we listen. We stop and listen for God's call on our life. We listen for the nudge that God gives us to make a difference in the world God created. We listen so that God can change us.

Prayer is a spiritual practice that will change us as we come before our God. As we journey together in prayer, may God give us power in Jesus Christ to be the hope that the world so desperately needs.

Pastor Matt

Lewis County Housing Data

Submitted by Carolyn Schoenborn

I received a Marketing Study performed by Property Dynamics out of Mill Creek, WA, that Reliable Enterprises submitted in February. Its statistics are for the Centralia and Chehalis zip code areas only; but since that covers 2/3s of the county's housing population, I thought you might be interested in

seeing the most current information available for the majority of housing realities in the county. Personally, these are the best and most current housing statistics that I've seen.

Out of this 126-page study, of particular interest to me, was that on Thursday, February 8, 2018

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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
2190 Jackson Hwy
360/748-4741**

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Linda Lowery
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Coordinator:
Bernie Schreck:
748-6302
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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.**

Lewis County . .

(continued from page 1)

Property Dynamics conducted an actual survey of 19 apartment rental projects in the designated Centralia and Chehalis zip code areas (containing 807 total rental units). Out of those total apartments, 9 were market rate rentals, and the rest were low-income.

The following was statistically verified by this accredited study/survey agency:

1. There was a 100% occupancy of *all low income rental* units;
2. There was a 100% occupancy of *regular market rate rental* facilities;
3. All income restricted units in the City, including tax credit and government subsidized, are also full, with many having wait lists.

In addition, this report verified that:

1. The population as a whole within these two zip codes and the rest of the County is increasing, putting a strain on the rental market;
2. According to the Centralia and Chehalis Planning Departments, there is no low income/income restricted housing in planning at the present time that will alleviate this strong demand. However, according to Hillary Hoke, the Centralia City Planner, there is one project in planning for a 28 unit market rate project. It has civil approval, but no permits have been issued. And there is one very preliminary project that has been submitted, a 48 unit senior apartment complex.

1. This study verifies that the lack of just rental facilities alone is a major reason for the large homeless population in the Centralia/Chehalis area.
2. In 2018, the median age for these two zip code areas is presently 39.8, with 23.1% of that population being under age 18; persons 55 and over made up 32.2%, with 19.2% being 65 years of age or older.
3. In Centralia alone 46.8% (or 1,520 renter households) paid more than 35% of their income to rent. That figure is high with the average city typically falling in the 35-40% range.
4. 28.5% paid more than 50% of their income to rent;
5. Yet, overall, the economic conditions in the zip code areas was rated as good, and improving.

County-wide:

1. Population is now estimated to be 77,440 - a 2.6% growth since 2010.
2. The county's population increased 0.4% annually between 2010 to 2017 - and 0.7% just between 2016 and 2017.
3. According to the 2017 Point In Time count, there are supposedly 144 homeless *households* - a 22% increase over just the past two years. (The study emphasizes multiple times that everyone recognizes that these are very conservative numbers - if for no other reason than it does not include families and persons living with friends or relatives.)

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Lewis County . . .

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- a. 112 were households without minors
 - b. 32 included minors
 - c. 46 persons are listed as “Chronically Homeless Individuals.”
4. Total employment *increased* by 11.5% from 2014–2017 - and was up 4.9% between 2016-2017

5. Unemployment has decreased every year since a decade high of 13.3% in 2009 to 6.5% in 2017.

There’s tons of additional stats in the report that are quite interesting. I particularly appreciated actual numbers for a variety of situations. It was kind of like putting a face to the problem.

Hopefully, this helps provide a sense of reality to the need for RISE Lewis County’s ministry and its call to help integrate resources, serve, and educate. Blessings!

Saturdays at Gather Update

Great things are happening! We’ve been serving 40-55 guests a week. We have given out 22 First Aid Kits with another 15 available. Nettie, a veteran with PTSD who lives in her car, thanked me with a big hug and commented “You said you were going to do it and you did it!” The next week she told Carolyn “Every Saturday morning I wake up with butterflies in my stomach because I know I’m going to see you guys. You bring such joy to this place.” This is why we return week after week. We have been officially involved for 6 months now. We are showing our guests that we are committed to them and their well-being. Their positive responses warm our hearts and keep us motivated.

The first and fifth Saturdays are a cooperative effort between

St. Timothy’s Episcopal and St. John’s. The second Saturday is the WF West FFA teens with St. John’s providing the food and the cook (Russell Fossett, Al Soderquist, or Carolyn Schoenborn). St. Tim’s takes the third; St. John’s the fourth.

In March, St. John’s volunteers will participate the 3rd, 10th, 24th and 31st. Please consider volunteering one of those Saturdays at Gather, 408 W. Main Street, Centralia, from 10-12. You do not need to have a Food Handler’s card to help with the sack lunches or just to visit with the guests. Feel free to drop by to check it out and your heart will be warmed as well! If you see Lizzy March, ask her to share *The Story of The Socks*.

We cover the costs for two Saturdays; St. Tim’s the other

two. We share 5th Saturday costs (5 in 2018). Expenses average \$125-150 per Saturday, mainly for food and plates, cups, flatware. Social Ministries Committee has submitted a request to Church Council to cover some of these costs. We use food on hand at St. John’s in the freezer and the *Wednesdays Together* cupboard as much as possible. Donna Moir is a **super shopper** at finding great bargains. We are looking at God’s Portion warehouse in Centralia to see what free food products we might obtain from them. We are very thankful for your donations of toiletries, sack lunch supplies and cash for this mission! We can always use chips, soft cookies, and individual water bottles.

Sue Edwards,

Sack Lunch Coordinator

RISE Lewis County Grant

St. John’s Poverty Ministries – RISE Lewis County – received a \$15,000 grant to help find permanent housing for homeless students and their families during 2018!

RISE Lewis County will administer the grant in support

of our own Pat Soderquist’s efforts to find housing for some of the homeless students and their families that she works



with in the Centralia School District. But, finding housing isn’t our only goal. Pat will also provide on-going coaching to these families to help them achieve a healthy relationship with their landlords and retain that housing over several years.

Home, Group Bible studies.

Submitted by Brad Meagher

The Bible in our own language is a terrific gift from God. In it, He reveals to us his attributes, love, and most importantly, his Son. So let's read it . . . together.

Our Church is embarking on a little project. Not a big one, but an important one. We're going to make regular reading of the Bible a priority. The Church Council has passed a resolution to this end, and is taking the leadership in this endeavor. We'll start with home, group Bible studies. I get to help organize them.

A better description would be Bible readings. We simply

read the Bible together and discuss what it says. We look at the words. What do they mean? What is God telling us through them? It's really easy, and takes little preparation. It's also a nice reason to get together with your friends and have dessert!

The first period will be for the months of April, May and June, twice a month. That's six studies, only an hour apiece, in the evening, at someone's home. I will lead one of the studies in Adna. We're looking for other volunteers to open their homes throughout the County, so that a home Bible study will be available to everyone in our church.

If you want to be a Bible study host, or you are just interested in coming to one of the studies, there will be a short (one hour) informational meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 7 p.m., at the church. Bring your Bible.

Hey, it's just a small group Bible study, with your friends, for an hour, twice a month! Turn the TV off, unplug the computer, and pile into the car. Come to the information meeting and you'll find out how fun this really is.

For more information, contact Brad Meagher, 360-740-7787, jbradleymeagher@gmail.com.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

April 13-15, 2018, Renton, WA

Have a great marriage? Take it to the next level.

The greatest achievements in life take practice, training and dedication. It is the same with marriage. A strong, loving and lifelong relationship doesn't happen by chance. It takes effort and dedication to keep the fun and romance alive. Even the happiest marriage can find new dimensions for love.

Research by the Marriage & Family Foundation and other organizations shows that in healthy marriages, couples:

- Have a more fulfilling love life;
- Have better health and live longer;
- Have less stress in life;
- Children do better in life; and
- Have better income

See what a Marriage Encounter weekend can do for you.

For more information or to schedule yourselves for a weekend together, visit the Lutheran Marriage Encounter web site www.GodLovesMarriage.org or contact Carl & Dallas Anne Presley, 206-522-6840, carl.presley@comcast.net



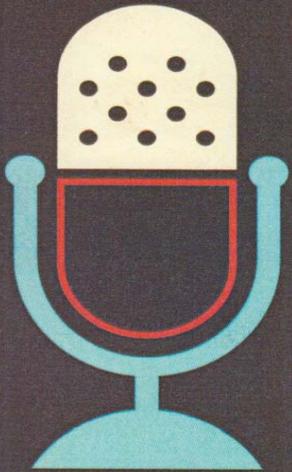
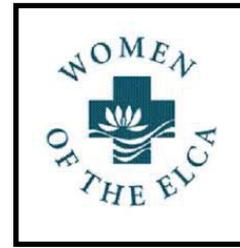
St. John's Women's Ministries

Women's Brunch and Bible Study will meet in the Conference Room on Saturday, March 17 at 10:00 am. Women are asked to bring a brunch item to share as we continue using the study *God is in the Laundry Room*. We will discuss Session 5 called *Mrs. Fix-it*. This lesson will give us a chance to realize that not only does stuff need mending

but sometimes we have relationships that need mending, too.

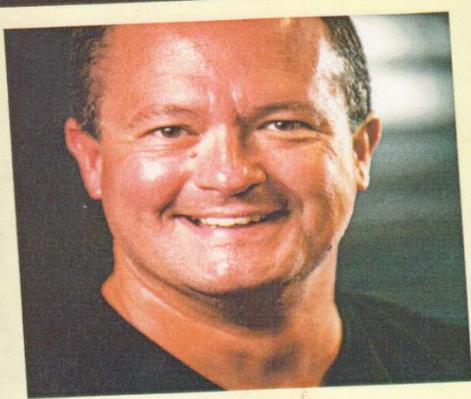
Women's Book Guild will meet on Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jackie Creed. Donna Moir will lead the discussion on the book, *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman.

For more information about St. John's Women's Ministries, contact Joan Jahnsen, 360-748-3901.



LAUGH ALL NIGHT COMEDY CONCERT

A FREE COMEDY EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



FEATURING
DAVID DEAN

FRI., MAR. 16, 2018 **7:00PM**
HOSTED BY KACS-KACW RADIO
LEWIS COUNTY MINISTRY NETWORK
CORBET THEATRE
600 CENTRALIA COLLEGE BOULEVARD
CENTRALIA, WA 98531
360-740-9436
WWW.KACS.ORG



AN OFFERING WILL BE
RECEIVED BENEFITING



NEW MISSIONS

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:
St. John's Lutheran Church
2190 Jackson Hwy
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-748-4741



Bits and Pieces

Thank you . . .

It's hard to express the gratitude I have felt for your prayers and concerns these past weeks. The good news is that I will not need surgery for the inter-cranial bleed -- the bad news is that until it resolves on its own, I will be dealing with intense headaches.

Thank you for remembering me in your prayers and for all your offers of help. Keep praying! I have a ways to go.

Linda Lowery

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers over these last months for my husband Robert. He had two robotic surgeries for the cancer in his throat and he is now cancer **FREE**. Also thanks for the Safeway gift card.

God Bless you all,

Shirley Dolman

Change of Address:

Lynette Gage
121 Crego Ridge Rd
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-748-6651

Doris Carey
2700 Colonial Dr, #207
Centralia, WA 98531

The SW Washington Dance Center needs your help collecting plastic water and soda bottles. There is a box in the Narthex for the bottles. Thank you. *Angie March*

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

March 2018

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 5:30 p.m. Soup Supper – All are welcome! 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service (Will not meet on March 28 – Holy Week) 7:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group 7:00 p.m. High School Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice</p>				<p>1 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p>2 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 6:00 p.m. Nerf Game Night and Potluck Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed</p>	<p>3 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia</p>
<p>4 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>5 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family</p>	<p>6 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board 7:00 p.m. Church Growth</p>	<p>7 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study and Coffee 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 1:00 p.m. Agate Children's Hospital Auxiliary 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p>8 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p>9 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed</p>	<p>10 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia</p>
<p>11 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>12 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>14 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p>15 12:00 p.m. Young At Heart 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>16 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed</p>	<p>17 10:00 a.m. Women's Brunch and Bible Study</p>
<p>18 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>19 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>20 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society</p>	<p>21 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p>22 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center</p>	<p>23 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed</p>	<p>24 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia</p>
<p>25 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Study Class 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>26 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Worship & Music</p>	<p>27 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at the home of Jackie Creed</p>	<p>28 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)</p>	<p>29 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>30 7:30 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed</p>	<p>31 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia 6:30 p.m. Easter Vigil</p>

★ For up to date calendar information, visit our website, www.stjohnschehalis.net and click on the "News" tab ★

Spring Flowers and Easter Lilies to Enhance St. John's Altar on Easter Sunday.

If you would like to help adorn the altar for Easter, please bring your flowers to the church by **10:00 am on Saturday, March 31**; or use the sign-up form below and give to any Altar Guild member along with \$8.00 and we will purchase flowers for you. You may also mail the sign-up form to the

church office (2190 Jackson Highway, Chehalis, WA 98532) along with an \$8.00 check payable to St. John's Altar Guild. Deadline for ordering is **Wednesday, March 28**. Flowers may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one, or to the Glory of God.

Altar Guild members are Jan Cosser, Gail Dean, Mary DuBois, Marilyn Fenn, Joann Hulse, Nancy Lynch, Patty Olsen, Mary Rogers, Diane Rudorfer and Linda Young.

Name: _____

I wish to donate # _____ spring flowers at \$8.00 each. Total amount: \$ _____

- In Honor of _____
- Memory of: _____
- To the Glory of God
- I will provide flowers

(You may take your flowers home after the 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service.)



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