

The Visitor

May 2018

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



Lamentations 3:21-23: *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Spring is here.* The grass is growing again (mowing volunteers needed at the church). The flower beds need tending (could always use people with a green thumb around here). Graduations are just around the corner (be on the lookout for the gift bags to honor our graduates).

Spring is such a hopeful time. Longer days, warmer temperatures and sunshine lift spirits. Easter is such a bright and wonderful time of celebration after the long, cold and often dark winter.

As we move forward together, the life of the church does not really stop. The youth group prepares to go to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Youth and Family prepares for Vacation Bible

School. The STP crew prepares to host 100+ riders in July. Worship leaders prepare to lead worship every week. This spring will lead to a typically busy summer for our congregation.

In the midst of the “new” activities we are reminded of the “new” mercies given to us each morning by our God. The resurrection reminds us that we have hope beyond our last breath. Just as we do not control or cause the seasons to change or the sun to rise, we do not control the Love of God in Jesus Christ. It is new every morning for every one of us. It is spring every day for us in Christ.

Revel in the beauty and warmth of spring and summer. May it remind you of the Love of God.

Pastor Matt

**As I write this, our brothers and sisters in some parts of the country are still experiencing winter storms in the middle of April. I pray that by the time you read this they have also experienced spring.*

This Changes Everything

In just a few months, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA will gather in Houston for a week of faith formation – the ELCA Youth Gathering. They’ll engage in the theme “This Changes Everything” guided by Ephesians 2:8: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.* The days will be filled with interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, with the goal that every young person will grow in faith and be challenged and inspired to live their faith in daily life.

Explore all the aspects of the ELCA Youth Gathering program at ELCA.org/Gathering, and experience the Gathering with participants in Houston this summer by following the stories on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using #ELCAYG2018.



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**
office@stjohnschehalis.net
www.stjohnschehalis.net

**Pastor Matthew March
pastor@stjohnschehalis.net**
Follow Pastor Matt @revlurch
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**Youth Minister:
Pat Soderquist
Cell: 219-7162**

**Minister of Music:
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748-3901
jahnsen71@msn.com**

**Secretary:
Linda Lowery
office@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Custodian/Facility
Coordinator:
Bernie Schreck:
748-6302
Cell: 360-623-0418**

**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.

Living Stones Ministry Raffle

Tickets are now available for the Living Stones Prison Ministry annual raffle. The 2018 prize is a \$5,000 Costco travel voucher to be used by the winner to plan a dream trip to anywhere Costco arranges travel. Tickets are on sale through **Thursday, May 31, 2018**, for \$10 each or 6 for \$50. All proceeds will

support and benefit the Living Stones Prison Congregation. Bishop Rick Jaech will draw the winning ticket on Wednesday, June 20 at 1 p.m. in the SWWA Synod Office. The winner need not be present to win and will be notified that day. Tickets are available in the church office.

LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY
We're All in This Together!

Win a trip of **YOUR CHOICE** in our 2018 raffle!
— Help support the ministry of Living Stones —

Where would YOU go?

GRAND CANYON? CARIBBEAN? NEW ENGLAND? PARIS?

Build your dream trip!
Prize is \$5,000 Costco travel voucher
(plus basic Costco membership if winner is not currently a Costco member)

Raffle tickets: \$10 each or 6 for \$50
Drawing will be held at the SWWA Synod Office on Wednesday, June 20, 2018.
Need not be present to win.
Questions? Call Linda at 360-807-4288.

LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY—We're All in This Together!
c/o St. Mark Lutheran Church, 2108 College St., Lakeland, WA 98001
www.livingstonesprisonministry.org • Living Stones Prison Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Why Do I Feel Called to Visit the Living Stones Prison Ministry?

I continue to visit the congregation of Living Stones inside Shelton Correctional for many personal reasons. One reason is that I feel that we as Christians are called to

remember and support by our presences those whom society at large has cast out because of their past mistakes whatever they were. Christ came to
(continued on page 3)

Living Stones . . .

(continued from page 2)

bring hope to the hopeless and so we must also do our part to bring the hope of Christ to the hopeless. During our last visit on February 10th, I again felt the overwhelming gratitude of the men for the giving of our time to be with them and

worship with them when we could have chosen to be elsewhere. That night we witnessed one planned baptism for a man who is in the process of transitioning back out into society. That baptism inspired 15 other baptisms. It is simply amazing to witness how God works to bring his light and love to what

can be a dark and foreboding place. I would encourage anyone who has ever thought about visiting our brother's at Living Stones to consider signing up for the next visit and help to share to the light and love of Christ at Living Stones.

Adam Moir

Youth Corner:

We are so excited that June is here! The High School Youth of St. John's are getting really energized in preparing for this year's mission trip. This trip is truly special to all of us, as we will be heading to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston Texas. It's especially exciting for us because the Youth Gathering is only held every three years and we get to go!

We want to take this time to say thank you to all of our partners who have supported

us along the way. As of April 22, we still need about \$3,960 to cover the trip. We know it will be truly life-changing for all that attend. The youth will participate in service projects to help the people of Houston. They will go to Houston Texas as disciples of Christ representing St. Johns.

We will continue to do coffee hours for both services until Mother's Day to earn the additional money that is necessary to reach our goal. We will have a HUGE...HUGE... bake

sale on Mother's Day! What better way to show mom you love her by buying her a treat! Please consider helping our youth make their goal. It takes a village! ☺

Mark your calendars: The next Family Fun Night is **May 4 at 6:00 p.m.** at Stan Hedwell Park. We will have a BBQ and enjoy a great evening of fun.

Good Wishes to all . . . God Bless...

Pat Soderquist
Youth Minister

What's in the Works . . .

St. John's Council met on April 10. We have many committees that work behind the scenes at St. John's. Here are a few notes about what we're working on.

Worship & Music

- Kids of the Kingdom sang at Palm Sunday 11:00 service.
- We will be changing to the Revised Common Lectionary for our readings for the summer months

Altar Guild

- Lots of planning and preparation for Holy Week services

Property Committee

- Will schedule spring clean-up day soon. Be watching for details!

Youth and Family

- Good participation at family Nerf Night
- VBS is planned for July 23-27.

Social Ministries

- Searching for ways to support social ministries in Lewis County

Financial News:

Monthly income March:..... \$16,347.00
 Monthly expenses March:..... 20,301.00

	Actual	Budget
YTD income:	\$50,655.00	62,193.00
YTD expenses:	64,171.00	64,785.00

Worship Attendance:

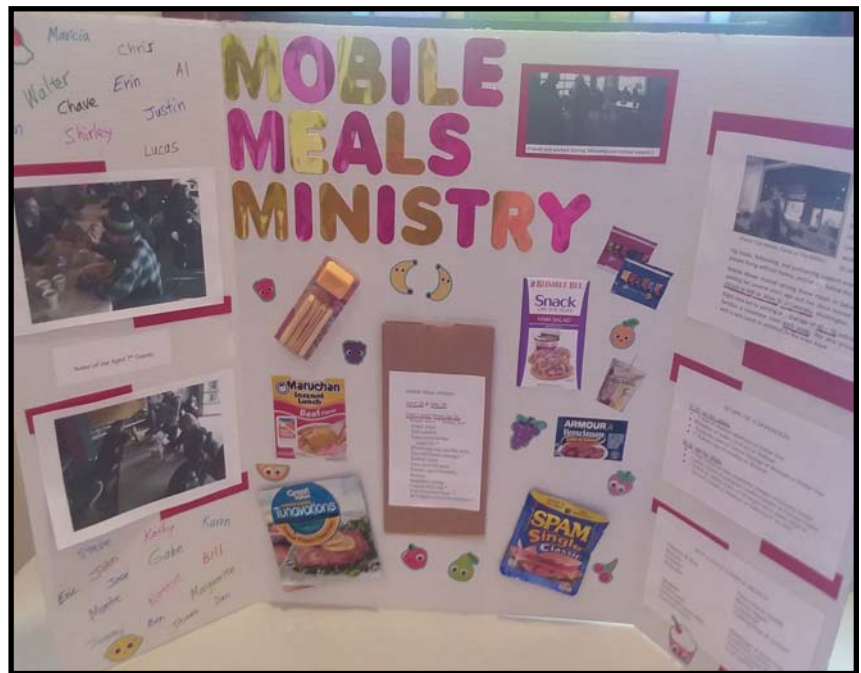
	8:30	11:00
April 1	119	74
April 8	60	35
April 15	78	31
April 22	76	26

The Scope of Homelessness

1. Famous people Halle Berry, Daniel Craig, Kelly Clarkson, Joan Rivers, and Jim Carrey were each homeless at one time.
2. In 2017 the increase in the number of homeless in Washington state was the 2nd largest increase in the U.S.
3. 80% of Washington's homeless became homeless while living in Washington and did not come from elsewhere.
4. 80% experience homelessness for weeks or months while 20% are long term due to mental illness or addiction.
5. There is a 0% housing vacancy rate in Lewis County, so businesses wanting to come here cannot as there is no housing.
6. Over 50% of homeless teens report their parents kicked them out or didn't try to stop them from leaving home.
7. Unaccompanied youth under age 25 are more likely to be without shelter than all other homeless people.
8. There are 5 times more vacant houses in the U.S. than the count of homeless people
9. A person who is homeless is more apt to be a VICTIM of violent crime than a perpetrator of one.
10. One missed paycheck, a health crisis, or an abusive spouse can make someone homeless OVERNIGHT.

Submitted by Sue Edwards, MMM Sack Lunch Coordinator

Sources can be supplied on request



St. John's Women's Ministries

Women's Brunch and Bible Study will meet in the Conference Room on Saturday, May 19 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 7 which is called *Stocking up on the Fruit of the Spirit* part 2. We will continue discussion of the fruits of the spirit and look for ways we can strive to lead a God-pleasing life.

Women's Book Guild will meet on Tuesday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dixie Roser. Mindy Judd will lead the discussion on the book *Orphan #8* by Kim van Alkemade.

Save the date! The Women's Annual Garage Sale will be held on Saturday June 23 from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 in the Community Center. As you do your spring cleaning please start saving items for us that are clean and in good condition.

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



Bits and Pieces

Thank you . . .

Dear Friends at St. John's,
We want to thank you all for the prayers, cards and well wishes you sent us while we were in Seattle. It is so good to be home

The recovery is slow and steady. Again, your cards meant a lot to us and we appreciate all of you!

Sincerely,

Russ and Michele Cox!

Change of Address:

Ann Bradshaw
2100 SW Woodland Circle,
Apt 116
Chehalis, WA 985322

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

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*

We Need Your Help . . .

If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, scheduled for surgery or needs prayer for any reason, please let us know! We want to remember them in our weekly worship bulletin prayers and via

the Google list serve. We truly do appreciate being informed about any needs within and outside of the St. John's congregation. And it's okay if more than one person gives us the same information — we just want to make sure we know of all and any concerns. Thanks for your help.

Graduation for high school and college students is right around the corner! If you have or know of a graduating senior, please let the church office know. We will be honoring graduates on June 3. Remembrance bags will be available in the narthex.

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
- 17 April Michal
- 18 Zach Stanfield
- 19 Katie Jahnsen
Reid Olson
Linda Schultz
- 20 Alexandra Dean
- 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

- 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
Krystal Sawyer
- 12 Alex Cox
Greg Moir
- 13 Jeff Brown
- 17 Katrin Kreutz
Mary Olson
- 18 Larry & 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.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Investing in the future of the ELCA

Nearly four years ago, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) launched its first comprehensive campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, with the goal of raising \$198 million in support of churchwide ministries across the United States and around the world.

Together, through the generosity of ELCA members and congregations, like yours, we have accomplished amazing things. We have developed new programs with international women, young adults and people living with disabilities, heightened our support of long-running programs like ELCA World Hunger and ELCA New Congregations, successfully completed the ELCA Malaria Campaign and much more. Thank you for your continued support of these ministries.

Now, as we enter the final year of this five-year effort, we look to the future of this church by highlighting the campaign's Leadership priority, including ELCA Fund for Leaders and Youth and Young Adults. Through these ministries, we are accompanying youth and young adults in their faith journeys and supporting talented, gifted seminarians as they prepare to begin a life of rostered ministry.

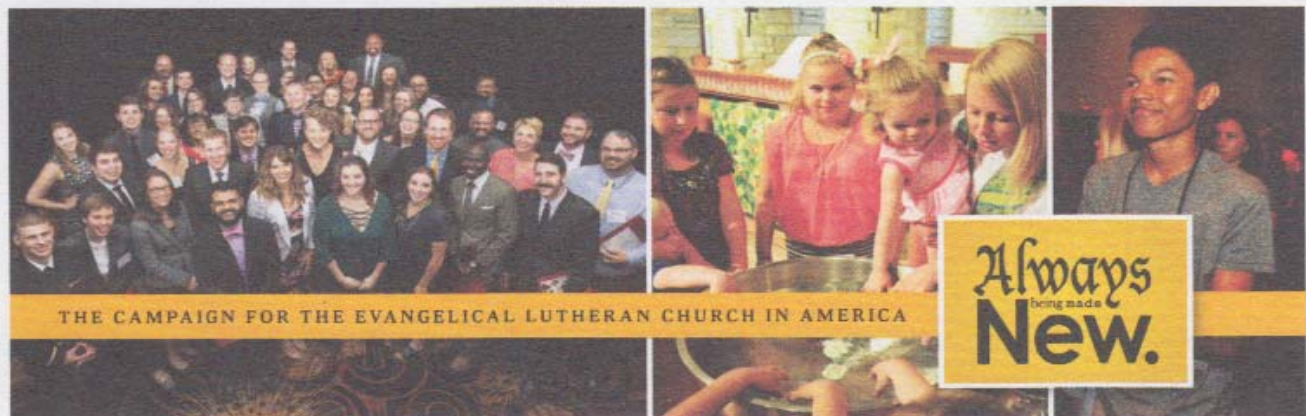
Please pray for our church's life-changing ministries and consider making a gift to the campaign. Together, we are investing in the future of the ELCA.

Learn more at:

ELCA.org/campaign

Phone: 800-638-3522

Email: campaignforELCA@elca.org



8765 West Higgins Road · Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 · 800-638-3522 · ELCA.org

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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