

The Visitor

September 2018

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

Gathering Reflection



The *ELCA Youth Gathering* happens every three years. I was privileged to attend my third *Gathering* as an adult. As always the case with these events, life changing events happen.

Because we have lived in multiple places around the country, I have friends and colleagues that I don't get to see except at events like the *Gathering*. One of the most cherished things for me was seeing people and reconnecting.

I've been to three *Gatherings* and each one is unique because they have been held in different cities. San Antonio was compact

and intimate. New Orleans was spread out and often felt like we were the only group there until we came together for mass gatherings and projects. In Houston, the *Gathering* venues were close together but the hotels were far flung. It meant that as we came together with other groups, we had different experiences to share of the *Gathering*.

Where our hotel was located, we could walk one way and get on the light rail and enter the Downtown filled with offices and entertainment; walk the opposite way and we found ourselves in a working-class neighborhood. A third direction took us to a more strip mall/suburban type area. And the final direction headed into an industrial section of the city.

What we did do a lot of was walk. Our hotel was right across the street from NRG Park so we

did not have to take shuttles for any events. We walked to meals. We walked to mass gatherings. We walked to assemble for our service day.

Speaking of service day, it was something to behold to see, the now iconic, orange t-shirts at the *Gathering* service projects. Uniting with 10,000 people to board buses and fan out across the city is pretty impressive. Meeting people who are working to keep Houston moving was a great privilege that day.

Our group worked on a park beautification project. Some spent the day policing litter while others weeded two sand volleyball courts. It was hot dirty work. Our

group was famous for our "word of the day." To keep each other accountable to drinking enough water, we decided as a group, that every time someone said *justice*, we all (adults and youth) had to drink from our water bottles. The leader even joined in the fun during the debriefing and said *justice* multiple times to make us all drink.

The *Gathering* even came up at the Southwest Washington Fair. A person (not a part of the congregation) told me that he saw pictures and videos we posted on Facebook. He was impressed with the service projects he saw us doing as he explored the posts with the *elcayg18* hashtag. It was a witness for him to see youth growing in faith through worship, learning and service.

Most of what happened at the *Youth Gathering* is not for me to share. The life-changing

Something I learned from the trip is that stepping out of your comfort zone can be one the most rewarding things you could do. I had the time of my life doing things that I wouldn't normally do, like going up to random people and talking to them, singing at the top of my lungs during worship, and dancing till I couldn't breathe. Knowing that everyone around me had something in common with me made me feel safe and accepted. This was truly an experience that I never want to forget. *Kristin Jendryka*

(continued on page 3)

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
on Twitter/Facebook/
Instagram

Youth Minister:
Pat Soderquist
Cell: 219-7162

Minister of Music:
Joan Jahnsen
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
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

Summer Worship Schedule:

- One Worship Service
at 9:45 a.m.

What's in the Works . . .

St. John's Council met on August 14. Here are a few notes about what we're working on.

Thanks to all of our committees who meet monthly to keep our church running smoothly.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild has begun meeting on the 4th Monday of the month. This will make scheduling for worship more timely.

Church Growth

The church picnic was held on August 26 at St. John's. There was good food, great fellowship and fun games! We are working on a theme for the next Lenten Devotional. We are actively looking for people to serve on the Committee.

Property Committee

Yellow Jackets have been spotted around the building. Traps have been set.

Social Ministry

Crop Walk is coming up on October 7. It's not too early to search for sponsors or create teams.

Please note: We will not be holding an Oktoberfest this year.

Youth and Family

We are in the process of determining how to maintain Sunday School and youth programs in the absence of a Youth Director.

Worship & Music

We will begin two services on September 9.

Please Note:

Due to Oktoberfest not being held this year, the Book Guild will **not** be collecting books to sell.

Financial News:

Monthly income June:	\$16,014.00
Monthly expenses June:	19,280.00
Monthly income July:	\$19,722.00
Monthly expenses July:	20,426.00

Actual

YTD income:	\$124,724.00
YTD expenses:	145,657.00

Worship Attendance:

	<u>9:45</u>
July 1	101
July 8	91
July 15	53
July 22	81
July 29	85
August 5	80
August 12	96
August 19	86
August 26	99

Gathering . . .

(continued from page 1)

experiences of the youth and adult participants are for them to share as they feel led. Their experiences will be in the *Visitor* throughout the year.

Suffice to say, our youth represented our community well and gave as much as they received to the community of Houston and to fellow participants in the *Gathering*.

Thank you for the opportunity to share in this experience with our youth. Can't wait to see what God has in store for our youth in Minneapolis/St Paul in 2021.

Pastor Matt

Grant Application!

RISE Lewis County – the group organized to focus on St. John's poverty ministries – has just applied for a \$30,000 ELCA Domestic Hunger grant. If they accept our full request, we could receive up to \$10,000 a year over a three-year period to expand our poverty ministries by:

Goal 1: Training 50 people in the county to be volunteer navigators and coaches.

Goal 2: Adding an emergency food and gas voucher program.

Goal 3: Stabilizing and strengthening a weekend back-pack meals program

for the Centralia School District.

We were especially excited to obtain letters of support from Pastor Cole Meckle from Gather Church, and JP Anderson, Director of Lewis County's Social Services.



Expanding Poverty Ministries Partnerships!

In August, Steve Grainger from Love INC and Carolyn Schoenborn met to discuss how the two ministries might partner with the Human Response Network and develop a formal Volunteer Navigator and Coaching program that can be used by both faith and non-faith-based organizations. Love INC is consistently amongst the top three agencies referred to when folks call the emergency 2-1-1 social crises hotline for Lewis County. They now feel a need to provide additional on-going support for persons needing more than one-time assistance.

Volunteer Navigators walk alongside someone needing to find their way through various systems (health, education, employment, social assistance, etc.) while in a situation of some personal



crises. Paperwork and following instructions can become overwhelming in those situations. It makes a huge difference if someone is willing to come along side and help you. That's the role of a navigator. For faith-based organizations, it also provides

ripe opportunities for the Holy Spirit to lead us in appropriately sharing the gospel.

Volunteer Coaches are trained to help people resolve longer-term needs by focusing on short-term goals. They are folks who can help a person in crises organize what needs to be done – say, during the next few weeks to a month – to move closer to making their life better in some way.

We'd appreciate your prayers as we move forward. For more information, contact Carolyn (360-983-3170, carollyns21@tds.net), or the church office, 360-748-4741.

St. John's Women's Ministries

The Fall schedule begins in earnest on Monday, September 10, with the weekly Women's Bible Study at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room Hallway. Any one is welcome to join us. We provide the snacks — bring your Bible. Contact Nancy Lynch, 503-709-9447, or

Mary Rogers, 360-880-5623, for more information.

On the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, the Women's Lunch Bunch meets at Denny's to have a bite to eat and enjoy each other's company. If you would like to join the ladies, contact Lorna Johnson,

360-748-6054, for details.

Young at Heart resumes on September 20 at noon with a soup luncheon and program. Anyone 55+ is encouraged and welcome to enjoy the good food and fellowship at our luncheons. The programs vary from community

(continued on page 4)

Women's Ministries . . .

(continued from page 3)

program leaders to high-school students. If you have a suggestion for a program, contact Lorna Johnson, 748-6054. For more information about the Young at Heart luncheons contact Nancy Lynch, 503-709-9447, Gail Dean, 360-740-8031, or Patty Olsen, 360-219-6912.

WELCA Brunch and Bible Study will meet on Saturday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. Women are asked to bring a brunch item to share. We are using the study God is in the Laundry Room. We will continue looking at Session 7 and discussing the fruits of the spirit.

The Women's Book Guild will meet on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Gail Dean. Katie Giuliani will lead the discussion on the book, *If I Live* by Terri Blackstock. If you are interested in reading this book and joining the group, call Joan Jahnsen at 748-3901.

Women's Retreat: *TREASURED!* What could be more precious than diamonds? YOU!

You are the precious, treasured possession of our heavenly Father, who sought us and claimed us as His own in Christ. From coal to diamonds, we are continually being transformed in Christ, reflecting His glory and light

to a dark world. Join us for a bedazzling Women's Retreat on Saturday, September 29 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Jahnsen home on Lake Mayfield. We will walk in the light of God's Word together, enjoy fabulous food and tasty treats, and lift our voices in praise, all as we share encouragement, fellowship and fun! Questions? Contact Joan Jahnsen at jahnsen71@msn.com or 360-748-3901. Mark your calendar now and look for registration information soon.

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

CROP Walk 2018

WHAT: A three-mile walk followed by a light lunch and an opportunity to visit and discuss world hunger with some of our low-income neighbors who will be marching with us!

WHEN: Sunday, October 7

WHERE: Starts at the Methodist Church in Chehalis

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen.

For nearly half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves

in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks help end hunger by raising funds to support local food programs and the international anti-hunger work of Church World Service.

Stand with neighbors in your community who rely on food assistance programs. Partner with parents worldwide as they ensure a bright future for their children. Support those struggling in the face of grinding poverty and open up new doors of opportunity for them.

Tens of thousands of CROP Hunger Walkers are committed to building a hunger-free world. Join the movement!

CROP Walk has worked for decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for all. They affirm the power of individuals and

communities to take ownership of their future. They meet them right where they are, helping them create solutions they can maintain – and build on. That means a refugee family who is able to start a new life. Or someone rebuilding after disaster finds safety with dignity.

25% of the money we raise here at St. Johns can be designated for local use here in Lewis County's Food Bank Coalition!

Find Your Sneakers and get your Fit-Bit ready! It's time to start thinking about this year's CROP Walk – October 7, in Chehalis. Go to www.crophungerwalk.org to learn more about the CROP Walk.

For more information about joining the CROP Walk, contact Carolyn Schoenborn, 360-983-3170.

STP 2018

Our 15th year hosting riders was another SUCCESS! We instituted a sliding fee scale: \$55/tent campers, \$60/gym, \$65/semi-private Sunday School rooms. We had 94 overnight guests, four cancellations past the posted refund date, and 10 no-shows for a total of 108 paying customers. Thanks to your generous donations of food, we netted \$6,400 after PayPal fees and the \$66 health department permit. We will purchase more air mattresses as many gave up the ghost this year.

We had 16 repeat guests. Many of our newcomers were first-time STP riders. Four new guests were referred to us by two previous guests who didn't ride this year, proof that word-of-mouth works! Most guests were from the greater Seattle area with others from British Columbia, Georgia, Arizona, California and Maryland. The

first riders, a father and son team, arrived at 1:15 p.m., 90 minutes earlier than 2017's forerunners.

One guest sent me an email and photo the day before the ride to pinpoint where a passing friend had hidden the guest's bag in the bushes near St. John's entrance. Coincidentally, this same guest left his wallet behind Sunday morning. When Susan Russell phoned him, he told her to put it in the same bag once again hidden in the bushes (different ones) for his non-rider wife to retrieve. Apparently this was his M.O. It seems a little biblical, akin to baby Moses in the bulrushes.

Another registered rider phoned to cancel a month out as she had been in a serious bike accident requiring hospitalization. Her biggest regret: missing out on Donna's cinnamon rolls!

Some feedback from our

guests:

"All of you do a bang-up job and it is much appreciated. I look forward to seeing you next year."

"I appreciate all your work and cheer... so wonderful after a long hot day pedaling. And the food! Oh my!"

"Your team was so friendly and welcoming I feel like I was staying overnight with a REALLY BIG FAMILY."

It does take the REALLY BIG FAMILY of St. John's to make our STP hosting happen. Thank you to all who donated food, prepared and served it, set up the building, inflated air mattresses, hauled luggage, cleaned before and after, sewed fabric curtain dividers for the gym, prayed for the success of this event, and helped in any way I may have omitted.

Sue Edwards,
STP Registrar

Youth Corner:

This is my last article for the newsletter as I officially leave September 1 as Youth Minister/Director at St. John's. My hope is that I made a difference in the lives of the youth at St. John's. I worked a total of 8 years with a little break in between. Here is a summary of what I was able to accomplish in my role as the Minister of Youth;

- Two Mission Trips to Blackfoot Indian Reservation;
- One Christmas Drive for the children of Blackfoot Indian Reservation *** Christmas Miracle;
- Two Youth Quake Retreats;

- One ALYVE Retreat @ Salvation Army Camp in Eatonville;
- Three Polar Express trips at Christmas;
- Two Forgotten Children's Fund ** Being elves and making a magical Christmas for children of need;
- Three Camp Lutherwood Vacation Bible Schools;
- Many hours at the Animal Shelter walking and loving dogs;
- Many hours at the Mobile Meals at Salvation Army/The Gather;
- Three Nutcrackers Performances (watched) ☺ ;
- Eight Veterans' Day dinners;

- Youth-Led Services;
- Easter Brunch;
- Christmas Parade float ;
- Lock-ins ;
- Christmas Caroling;
- High School Bible Studies
- Three Team 316 Campaigns.

In closing, God is leading me in a different direction — helping families find housing. My passion and love has always been helping people that need it so I will continue to do that — just with a different purpose. Thank you for all of my support over the years.

God Bless,

Pat Soderquist

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
Aubrey Napier
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
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.

Bits and Pieces

Thank you . . .

Dear St. John's Family,
Thank you for all of the cards, gifts and good wishes for my graduation. I really appreciate your support. I'm looking forward to college next year.

Sincerely,
Kate Amrine

Dear St. John's,
Thank you for remembering me with cards and special gifts for my high school graduation. Also thank you for helping me to be able to attend the youth Gathering in Houston. I will be starting classes at WSU in August and am thankful for all the good memories I have of St. John's. Thank you! *Taylor Lowery*

September Mobile Meals at Gather:

This is a FIVE Saturday month, so St. Johns will be serving TWO meals in September - the 22nd and the 29th. Just ask anyone who has participated in the past, it really is a lot of fun. (And you'll meet some great people!)

For more information, contact: Donna Moir 360-748-4517; Sue Edwards at 360-748-6259; or Carolyn Schoenborn at 360-983-3170.

St. John's Bell Choir

You are encouraged to join the St. John's Bell Choir. The choir practices at 6:00 p.m. after the *Wednesday's Together* dinner. If you are in 5th grade or above, can read music and would enjoy ringing bells to enhance the St. John's worship experience (the goal is to play once a month), please contact Marilyn Fenn, 360-245-3786.

New Address:

Mike and Katie (Jahnsen)
Giulaini
803 N Pearl Street
Centralia, WA 98531
Katie: 360-508-3210
katiejahnsen@gmail.com
Mike: 610-764-6126
giulianimj@gmail.com.

Sunday School Rally Day and Waffle Sunday is set for **September 9**, and the first day of Sunday School is September 16. Look for information in The Visitor and the worship bulletin.

Parents wanting input into what our youth program will look like with out a minister of youth please mark **September 23, 2018** on your calendar. There will be a harvest potluck and youth town hall meeting at 5:00 to brainstorm and layout youth activities.

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Wednesday's Together!</i> (Begins September 12) 4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom 4:30 p.m. St. John's Knitting Ministry 5:30 p.m. Dinner is Served – All are welcome!						1
2 9:45 a.m. Worship	3	4 10:00 a.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society Board 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	5 6:30 a.m. Men's Morning Bible Study 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Agate Children's Hospital Auxiliary	6 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	7 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	8 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia
Labor Day						
9 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Rally Day and Waffle Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study	10 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	11 8:00 a.m. Life Line Screening 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 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	12 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	13 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	14 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed <i>Visitor</i> Deadline	15 10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch
16 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study	17 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University	18 11:15 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:30 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	19 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	20 12:00 p.m. Young At Heart 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study at Brad Meagher's	21 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	22 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia 4:30 p.m. Worship with Living Stones Prison Ministry
23 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Harvest Potluck and Town Hall Meeting	24 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	25 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at the home of Gail Dean	26 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	27 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	28 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	29 8:30 a.m. St. John's Women's Retreat, <i>Treasured</i>
30 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study						

Home Bible Studies to resume in September

*“My dear Wormwood,
“I note with grave
displeasure that your
patient has become a
Christian.”*

Thus begins chapter two of *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis. The book is a series of fictional letters from a senior devil to a junior devil, all with the stated purpose of dislodging the newfound faith from a young man who is only referred to as, “the patient.” Each chapter outlines

a strategy used to tempt him, and us, away from the light of Christ and into the flaming abyss of hell. The book is both humorous and scary. Each of us is a patient; each of us has been, or will be, tempted in the same manner as Wormwood’s patient.

In our Home Bible Studies this fall, we’ll be tackling *The Screwtape Letters*. We’d love to have you join us. There will be several locations for Monday evening Bible Studies.

They’re every other week, for a total of only six sessions. They are an hour long. The only requirement is that you come. We’ll have a little fellowship time, read a chapter of the book (they’re very short) and discuss the topic presented by Lewis in light of a corresponding passage from the Bible. More information will be provided at the September 9, 2018, fall kick-off or contact Brad Meagher, 360-269-8996.

Giving to Support St. John’s

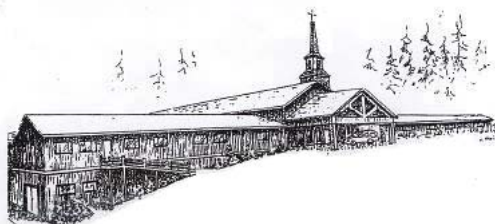
As a church we encourage those who are part of the St. John’s family give to the work of our congregation. We believe you should not feel burdened by the issue of giving but in fact, find it a joy! We are pleased to provide e-giving options as an alternative to giving cash and

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

stjohnschehalis.net and click on the “donate” button.

- **Online Banking** – Arrange to give through bill-pay at your own bank’s website.



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