

The Visitor

October 2018

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

How do You Measure Up?



For a few years in the early to mid-2000s, I was on a discussion board for clergy. For those who are unfamiliar with the concept, think Facebook without the pictures. Pastors would leave a comment and then later someone else would comment and so on. Some of the “threads” or discussions were very long and some were very short. And like Facebook today, we could get heated and have misunderstandings.

I remember one discussion about supervising staff. Another commenter mentioned that I should not speak to the topic since I served a small congregation and had no staff. I explained to him that he was right about my current call but that I had positions outside the church where I had supervisory responsibilities.

We often dismiss people because we think we know what they know. We might look at a woman who is sweeping a floor in a school and think

there is a person who has a wasted life. Except that woman sold her successful company and chose this job because she enjoys getting out and having a purpose.

Remember this scene from the Gospel of Mark? “People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.” I can just imagine the disciples scolding the people, “The Rabbi doesn’t have time for this childish nonsense. Get these snot-nosed brats out of here.” (10:13)

Jesus response should make us stop cold whenever we find ourselves, like the disciples, dismissing people out of hand because they don’t measure up. “*But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”*” (Mark 10:14)

Pastor Matt

Saturday Meals at Gather

We had a wonderful summer that ran extremely smooth thanks to your willingness to get involved preparing and serving our meals each Saturday morning at Gather.

September 22 was St. John’s one-year anniversary of serving meals at Gather Atrium in Centralia one or more Saturdays a month. Hats off to these folks who have served at Gather: Shari Blackwell, Jan & Bob Cosser, Maggie Crihfield, Corrine Crouner, Cori Jo Duncan, Sue Edwards, Russell Fossett, Rachel, Lizzy, Angie, & David March; Donna Moir, Suzanne & Michael Northcutt, Susan & Bob Russell, Carolyn & Tom

Schoenborn, Sara Shelton, and Pat and Al Soderquist. Here’s a shout out to offsite cooks or bakers: Shirley Dolman, Ceci Hauer, Jim Jahnsen, and Diane & Chuck Rudorfer. Many others who we were unable to track donated funds, foodstuffs or supplies to make this ministry a success. Besides providing a hot meal and a sack lunch, we handed out toiletries, first aid kits and new and used clothing including warm neck wraps in winter and cooling ones in summer. We listen closely to our guests for any unmet needs we may be able to address.

(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.

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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
- 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 September 11. 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

We are researching the history of the communion veil that is being replaced. We will be placing it on display along with its story for other's to enjoy. Be on the lookout for the new communion veil as well as the amazing story of the old cloth.

Property Committee

We are getting our church ready for winter. Thermostats need to be reset, filters changed and general maintenance performed.

Social Ministry

We are looking for Crop Walk sponsors as well as

walkers. Let us know if you would like to be a part of this worthwhile cause.

Youth and Family

Waffle Sunday was a success. Be watching for an announcement for the Harvest Pot Luck coming up in October. This will be an opportunity to have input into how we will move forward with our youth program without a Youth Minister.

Worship & Music

- We are back to planning two services
- After trying the "Prayground" for one year we reviewed how it was working. We decided it is working well and starting to be used more. We will continue using it.
- November 4 at 6:00 will be the annual Pie Social/Talent Show. Mark your calendars!

Financial News:

Monthly income August: \$19,126.00
Monthly expenses August: 19,697.00

Actual
YTD income: \$ 149,276.00
YTD expenses: 165,354.00

Worship Attendance:

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
September 2 (9:45)	80	NA
September 9	88	38
September 16	65	46
September 23	70	27

Gathering . . .

(continued from page 1)

Secret is going to be the new contact person for the Chehalis FFA. She was amazing help this summer! We also want to express a word of thanks for all the work Lizzy March did to get the FFA involved. We wish you God's blessings, Lizzy, as you now move into college life.

We want to welcome TJ as the new head cook for the first Saturday of each month. TJ is a chef by training. Even though he lives in his truck, he has an electric grill strapped to the top of his cab that he often uses on Sundays when a group of folks without homes periodically get together at the Lyons park during the summer for a kind of potluck meal. TJ and Carolyn will meet the last Saturday of each month and develop a menu. TJ will act as chief

cook the following Saturday and St. Timothy's will then reimburse the cost of the groceries.

We want to shout out a **BIG THANK YOU** to our regular weekly miracle workers from St. Johns who are there 2-3 times each month!

Thank you, Sue Edwards for the unbelievable work you do with the sack lunches. It is even more amazing the way your listening ear is always open to other small hygiene or personal needs guests may have.

Shari Blackwell deserves recognition as well. She is always coming through with additional lunch sack items and jumps in multiple times to help in the kitchen.

We also want to say thanks to:

- St. Timothy's for all they have and continue to do to

keep this ministry going! Not only do they serve the meal the third Saturday of each month, but they cover the cost of the meal for the first Saturday of each month and shares expenses for the fifth Saturdays.

- Donna Moir for the way you keep St. John's pantry and freezer stocked with food for the Mobile Meals Ministry, as well as all the meals you prepare!

OCTOBER: Don't forget, St. Johns serves the fourth Saturday, October 27. We'd love to have you join us!

Blessings to you all – and especially to our guests who live at or below the poverty line and often without homes!
Carolyn Schoenborn

Mobile Meals Ministry Update

St. John's, St. Timothy's Episcopal, and WF West FFA continue as partners in this Mobile Meals venture. Linda and Jim Smith from St. Paul's Lutheran in Winlock help the first Saturday and have promised a few new helpers for October 6th. We remain hopeful that someday they (or another group) may field a team

so there could be one sponsor per Saturday. October 6 we will also debut a new head cook for the first Saturday: TJ, a guest who lives in his truck, has a current food handler's card, and is a trained chef who once cooked in the Reagan White House. This program continues to grow in participation and reputation

within the local homeless community, and blessings as we become better acquainted with our 40-70 guests per week. We welcome anyone to visit Gather the 4th Saturday from 10:00 a.m.– noon to see this ministry in action.

Sue Edwards,
Sack Lunch Coordinator

Men of St. John's

Lutheran Men in Mission is holding their second livestreamed **BOLD GATHERING** on Saturday, October 27. Trinity Lutheran in Tacoma has volunteered

to host the conference which will be streamed live from Fargo, ND and include speakers from throughout the United States. The topic of this **BOLD GATHERING**

will be **ENDURANCE**. If you'd like to attend the event, we will be carpooling from St. John's. Please RSVP to Bob Russell, 360-269-1500.



We've learned something new, so we're going to DO something different!

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED:

- The number of people who are living without homes or at or below the poverty line here in Lewis County is growing.
- As we have visited with many of them while serving hot meals on Saturday mornings, we're learning that many believe there is an organized movement to make them *invisible* and to exclude them as legitimate members of the community (even make them illegal).

WHAT WE WANT TO DO DIFFERENTLY:

- Because we now have names, and faces, and personalities for those living at or below the poverty line, it has begun changing *our* understanding and perspective of poverty, and *especially* our feelings about folks having to live in poverty here in Lewis County!
- As a result, we're changing this year's CROP Walk.

It won't be about walking FOR something, but about walking ALONG-SIDE SOMEONE!



Come Walk With Us!

Sunday, October 7, 2018

United Methodist Church in Centralia, WA

Starts at 1:30 pm

Especially consider sponsoring persons living in poverty who want to join us in this year's 3-mile walk. Their team is called "We'reCommunity."

- **To register to walk, google Lewis County CROP Walk.**
- **To support the "We're Community" team, go to:**

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/chehaliswa/WereCommunity>

Oh, yes! The Gimp-along trailer will be there for all of us with physical restrictions of any kind preventing us from walking any or all of the route. Contact Carolyn Schoenborn (360-983-3170; carolyns21@tds.net) to reserve a spot.

We are the Branches



Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

By *ELCA*
Presiding
Bishop
Elizabeth
Eaton

Is it possible to be Lutheran and an ecumen-

ist? Of course, the answer is yes. The ELCA has continued the work of our predecessor churches—the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the American Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Church in America—all of which engaged in dialogues with other denominations. When the ELCA was born, its DNA included the will toward unity. The 1991 Churchwide Assembly adopted “A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment: A Policy Statement of the ELCA”—we were barely 4 years old.

Where did this impulse come from and why is it so deeply important to us?

We have just marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We were a little restrained about celebrating because division in the church is nothing about which to rejoice. (Though when explaining this sensibility to a Roman Catholic colleague and dialogue partner, he did say the reformers’ insistence on the primacy of the gospel is something to be celebrated.) It was never Martin Luther’s intention to divide the church. Loathing the thought that this new movement should be called “Lutheran,” he wrote:

“How should I, a poor stinking bag of worms, become so that the children of Christ are named by my unholy name?”

The intent of Luther and the reformers was to give the gospel free course in the world, to make the evangelical case that it is God’s good and gracious will to reconcile the world to God’s self, and that this has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ apart from any human effort.

Early on, in 1530, the Augsburg Confession not only clarified and defended the evangelical position of the Reformation but made it clear that the reformers’ work was consistent with the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. (You should all study the confession. I know of congregations that have read and studied this and all the Lutheran Confessions found in the Book of Concord. Ask your pastor.

This wasn’t a departure from the Christian tradition, nor a break with the church. The Seventh Article of the Augsburg Confession laid out the basis and the possibility for church unity and a variety of expressions of how the gospel could be communicated: “For the true unity of the church it is enough to agree concerning the teaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

But this is really Christ’s intention and the reality that we have in him. Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5). We all are not only connected to

the same vine, but we have no life apart from that vine. In Holy Communion, we live Christ’s current and our future reality that we are already one. The ELCA humbly tries to embody this truth in the six full-communion partnerships we already have with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, and the United Methodist Church.

We are scripturally, confessionally and even constitutionally wired to be an ecumenical church. This month’s cover story highlights the ecumenical ministries of congregations and the work of ELCA Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (page 14). It is possible to be Lutheran and an ecumenist.

But let me pose this—it is not possible for Lutherans to be ecumenists if we are not Lutheran. This might sound counterintuitive, but I believe it is true. If we aren’t clear and conversant about the Lutheran movement’s way of telling the Jesus story, if we are not clear about the grace that sets us free, if we waffle on the conviction that the reconciliation and redemption of the world is God’s work and not ours, how can we enter into dialogue and relationship with other branches of the Christian tradition?

I called on us to read the Small Catechism during 2017. If you have put your copy away, dust it off and start studying.

October Celebrations

Birthdays

1 Eric Moir
3 Logan Lee
4 Heidi Meier
6 Myrna Brossard
Katie Meier
Nathan Suhrbier
Matt Unzelman
8 Caitlin Phillips
9 Grace Bauer
Jerry Carlson
15 Christopher Grill
16 Jackson Humphrey
Ron Kuxhausen
Molly Russell
Ben Suhrbier
19 Dave Fenn
20 Dave Cosser

22 Stephen Grill
23 Drew Brown
24 Matthew Gage
27 Wyatt Dean
Donna Moir
28 Pat Soderquist
Jamison Scott
31 Michael Grega

Anniversaries

1 Christine and Tom Larsen
7 Michael and Krista
Thomas
12 Billie and Eric Melin
13 Barb and David Stanfield
15 Travis and Kristine
Newman
25 Bert and Grace Bauer
Katie and Troy Meier

Baptism Anniversaries

1 Austin Carlson
2 Jennifer Grega
Frances Judd
8 Erin Brown
9 Grace Bauer
Joan Jahnsen
15 Jason Humphrey
19 Hans Meier
23 Vicki Graham
Sara Lunders
26 Allen Unzelman
31 Matthew Unzelman

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

A Gentle Reminder:

St. John's is a busy place! Along with our own events, meetings and celebrations, we have several outside groups that use the Community Center on a regular basis and for special events. There have been several occasions when "clean up" has been left undone, especially in the Community Center (taking out garbage, taking down tables and chairs, sweeping, lights turned off in the restrooms, etc.).

That means the next group using the facility has to either work around what was left in place or clean before they can use the space. Please make "cleaning up" an important part of the planning process for events anywhere in the church. A quick check of our online calendar will tell you when the next event is occurring and what arrangements/clean up needs to be done.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Bishop Rick Jaech celebrating communion with us on September 9.



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 and

stjohnschehalis.net and click on the "donate" button.

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



October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	2 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 5:30 p.m. Property Committee 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	3 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 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	4 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	5 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	6
7 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study	8 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University	9 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	10 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)	11 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	12 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	13
14 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study	15 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University Visitor Deadline	16 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 6:30 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society	17 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)	18 12:00 p.m. Young At Heart 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study	19 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	20 10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch
21 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study	22 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University	23 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	24 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)	25 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	26 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	27 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia
28 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study	29 8:00 a.m. Women's Exercise Group 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	30 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at the home of Gail Dean	31 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)	Wednesday's Together! 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! 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice		

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

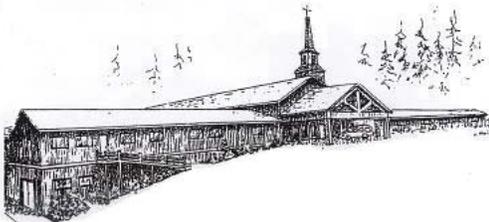
St. John's Altar Guild members are asking for your help in decorating the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Services. Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary and are available through the Altar Guild for \$9 each. Poinsettias can be given in honor or memory of a loved one, or given to the glory of God. You are welcome to bring your own poinsettia (mark your name on the bottom and take it home after Christmas services). To donate toward the purchase of a poinsettia, fill out the form below and give it, along with the money for the poinsettias, to any Altar Guild member, or mail the form to the church office by **December 22**. Please make checks out to St. John's Altar Guild.

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 # _____ poinsettias at \$9.00 each. Total amount: \$ _____

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



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