

The Visitor

January 2019

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

New Thing Every Day



Isaiah 43:18-21 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

2019 is here. Another New Year's Day. College Football Bowl games. New Year's Resolutions. Something about the year turning from one to another gives the feel of a clean slate.

How long is the "stature of limitations" on the feeling of a new year? Couple days? Month? Until the first crisis? Probably different for all of us but I think we do well to revisit Isaiah 43 when we start to lose that New Year's feeling.

What bogs us down in life most is regret. One of the forms of the corporate confession of sin that we use in worship says, "We have sinned

against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone." Isaiah 43 reminds us that God forgives those sins of commission and omission and we are free to forget those things to see the new thing God is doing in our lives.

The prophet gives us the truth that there are 365 New Year's Days in a year (Leap year gives us a bonus 366th day). Every day, God is up to something new. Every day, God is forgiving us and doing a new thing for us to participate with God without regrets.

Let's make 2019 the year of Isaiah 43. God is doing a new thing for you as an individual, for us as a community, a country, and a world. As we participate in this new thing God is doing let us do what God has created us for — praise of our creator and redeemer.

Pastor Matt

PS: Thank you from the March family for the cards, gifts, and notes of encouragement this Christmas.

St. John's Women's Ministries

Women's Brunch and Bible Study will meet in the conference room on Saturday, January 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 be discussing session 8, *Take Me Away.*

Come spend the new year learning about ways we can apply the Bible to our daily lives.

The Women's Book Guild will meet at 7:00 p.m. on January 22 in the conference room, hosted by Mary Rogers. Jan Cosser will lead the discussion on the book, *After You* by Jojo

Moyes. If you are interested in joining our group, contact Joan Jahnsen.

If you are interested in joining our group, contact Joan Jahnsen, 360-748-3901



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
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Custodian/Facility
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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,
Adult Study
Confirmation
- 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 December 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

- This committee makes sure everything necessary for communion is prepared and ready for use. This is a big job shared by many hands.
- We also make sure the sanctuary is ready for each week's service: proper paraments, candles filled and ready, wreaths hung.

Church Growth:

- This committee organizes our Lenten Devotional. Please consider writing a devotion for this year's book. There are prizes for contributors!
- We are working on goals for this committee for 2019.

Property

- We are looking at a security system to help keep

our church and our employees safe.

- Planning is in the works for cleaning up some unhealthy plants and putting in some new plants in the spring.

Social Ministry

- In addition to ongoing projects (for example: Crop Walk, The Giving Tree, Baby Bottle Boomerang) our committee is hoping to add some exciting new ministries. Be on the look out for more information.

Worship & Music

- Each month we choose hymns for the 11:00 service.
- Services for Christmas Eve are at 7:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Youth and Family

- A calendar with scheduled events through June was created and shared with families
- VBS has been scheduled for June 24-28, 9 a.m. to noon. Mark your calendars!

Financial Review:

Monthly income November: \$17,781

Monthly expenses November: \$16,927

	Actual	Our YTD expenses are \$18,485
YTD income:	\$205,944	below our budgeted YTD
YTD expenses:	\$219,060	expenditures of \$237,545.

Worship Attendance:

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
December 2	66	38
December 9	72	36
December 16	69	38
December 23	72	28
December 24	172	41
December 30	40	27

Homelessness: What Are We Doing?

On December 8th, 15th, and 22nd, *The Chronicle* published special reports on homelessness in Lewis County. The first article (available at the time of this submission) explained our local 1% housing vacancy rate. That is “Trouble with a capital T right here in River City,” folks. No vacancies means no place to rent even if a person has funding. It also featured 2 formerly homeless citizens who have been championing the plight of their still homeless peers at city council meetings and in the state capital. Finally there was a profile of a 50 year old homeless gentleman. He told how the domino effect of a work layoff, trouble with the law, and substance abuse led to his repeatedly piecing together one tarp shelter after another as he is evicted from site after site. His goal is nothing fancy, just “a warm 10X10 place.”

Segue if you could to the actual Nativity of Jesus plunked somewhere in current day Lewis County as if beamed down by Scotty on Star Trek. Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus would certainly be labeled “homeless.” Jesus would be taken away by Child Protective Services since his parents obviously would not have the means to provide for him. (I have met women at Gather who have had their babies taken away. It is the right thing to do for the child’s welfare, but I hope for a better solution some day.) The entire New Testament and world history would have unfolded much differently. I am unsure what else to say, but it is definitely something to ponder as we try to wrap our heads around the reality of homelessness.

What we are doing individually and as a congregation via Mobile Meals, weekend

food backpacks for Chehalis students, Love INC,

food banks, and Hope and Health Clinic IS important and it DOES make a difference. Linda Lowery, via Carolyn Schoenborn, posted this on the bulletin board about two years ago, but it bears repeating:

For His Sake ...

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do,

I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God,

I will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?

What would the Lord have you do? If each citizen would do something, I am confident that a solution would be much closer.

Sue Edwards

Sack Lunch Coordinator

January Celebrations

Birthdays

3 Joe Buda

4 Melody Braaten

Kevin Hoffman

7 Diane Rudorfer

9 Jane Margaret Birchard

Arnie Suhrbier

Patty Wilson

11 David March

16 Daniel Napier

21 Ezra Birchard

Cheryl Vance

28 Sara Lunders

30 Steve Grill

Tom Larsen

Baptism Anniversaries

3 Jane Margaret Birchard

Scott Pollock

4 Carl Tobey

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.

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Happy and Blessed New Year</i>	2 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	3 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	4 3:00 p.m. Homeschool Sporting Activities Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	5 11:30 a.m. Bear Country Catering
6 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Webelos Scout Troop #373	7 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 5:30 p.m. Youth Basketball 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	8 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	9 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	10 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	11 5:30 p.m. Youth Basketball Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	12
13 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Webelos Scout Troop #373	14 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball	15 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center Visitor Deadline	16 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	17 12:00 p.m. Young At Heart 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study	18 5:30 p.m. Youth Basketball Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	19 10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch
20 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Annual Meeting Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Webelos Scout Troop #373	21 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 5:30 p.m. Youth Basketball	22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at the home of Susan Russell	23 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	24 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	25 5:30 p.m. Youth Basketball Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	26 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia
27 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Webelos Scout Troop #373 Thunderbird Hockey	28 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 5:30 p.m. Youth Basketball	29 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	30 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	31 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center		
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						

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

Bits and Pieces

New Address:
Grace Bauer
200 SE Prospect St
Chehalis, WA 98532

Thank you:

Thank you to all of you who have helped us celebrate Bert's life with cards and notes and in other ways. Thank you to those who came to the Celebration of Life on Sunday and then came down and shared time with us in the community center. We enjoyed sharing

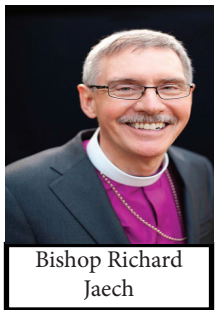
his life with you from his life as a child to his military time, his years in the aircraft industry and finally, as a woodworker. He would have enjoyed sharing stories with you!

*Grace Bauer
Cheryl, Scott, Kate and
Luke Amrine
Jolynn Amrine and children,
Theodore and
Eleanor
Craig and Blake Bauer*

Altar Guild had a very good holly and cedar sale this year. Thank you for your support.

Grab your Family and head out to the Seattle Thunderbirds game for a night of fun as the T-Birds take on the Kamloops Blazers on Sunday, January 27 at 5:05. Tickets are \$10 each (we need to purchase ahead of time). All fans can purchase \$1 ice cream at the concession stands. For more information, contact Cori Jo Duncan, 360-388-5338.

What New Thing Will God Do in 2019?



Bishop Richard
Jaech

Dear Friends,
Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 49:13 ESV
What new thing will God do in 2019?

Someone said recently, "We make the past our God." We act as though what happened yesterday controls all that will happen today. We begin to feel doomed to repeat again and again the current pain and chaos.

On the one hand, our scientific, linear, cause-and-effect mindset benefits us as we trace the origins and causes of important events, medical treatment or social developments. Tracing backwards can teach us. However, it can also trap us in the world-weary, cynical view found in

Ecclesiastes 1:9: What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

The God we encounter in scripture and in our everyday life is not limited by anything, least of all the structures and constraints of the past. Our God bursts in among us from the opposite direction. God enters our world from the future, bringing us gifts, energy, awakenings and a new life that we had not even dreamed of, let alone experienced. As St. Paul says in our Imagine passage, "*Now to God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more that we can even ask or imagine, to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus now and forever. Amen.*" Ephesians 3:20

So, what will God surprise us with in 2019? The first glimmers of new things that God is doing in our midst are already appearing as we begin the New Year.

- Seventeen people from our Synod have begun the PSALM program (Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry), a two-year program to deepen theological and spiritual understanding. This is just the first cohort of students.
- A third cohort of Synod congregations are now starting their two-year experience in the Imagine program to re-vitalize congregations in their ministry. This brings the total Imagine participation to twenty-two congregations from all around our Synod.
- Two new, innovative ministries have begun: Fear No Evil, under the guidance of Lauren Vignec, draws 120 young people to a dance ministry one Sunday evening each month. Sacred Movement, led by Michael Larson, has just begun two gather-

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What New Thing . . .

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ings each week involving the yoga community in Olympia.

- Our Southwestern Washington Synod, together with the ten other Synods in Regions 1 & 2 of the ELCA, just received a \$1 million dollar grant from the Lilly Foundation to support and strengthen the leadership of pastors and deacons. In a five-year program, pastors and deacons will form learning cohorts in order to deepen their leadership skills and increase their satisfaction

in ministry.

- When they voted last summer to close their ministry of 50 years of faithful service, Family of God Lutheran Church in Bremerton dedicated the sale proceeds of their building to our Deep Roots, New Life campaign. Just this last week, this brought over \$500,000 to initiate the Steve and Susan Morrison Seminary Scholarship Fund, providing scholarship and debt relief for seminarians and new pastors. What else will God

surprise us with in 2019?

What new thing will God do in our churches? In our nation? In the world? We fear that everything will stay the same or even worsen. God bursts in from the future with God's spontaneous, infinite love and Spirit, opening our hearts, relationships, churches and society to brand new beginnings.

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

God bless you and surprise you in this New Year!

Advent Altar Poinsettias Were Given . . .

In Loving Memory of:

From:

Loved Ones	Jerry & Luanne Grill
Our Parents.....	Bill & Luanna Deming
John & Ruth Schultz and Thomas Schultz.....	Susan Donaldson
Harvey and Brian Cox	Kathryn Cox
Hjalmer & Curtisene Erickson, Steven Erickson and John Rogers	Mary Rogers
Jim Carey, Alvin & Mable Unzelman, Harvey and Jule Carey	Doris Carey
Our Parents and Grandson, Anthony Leith	Larry & Gail Dean
Jim Roser	Dixie Roser
Patty Wilson and Nancy Tyson	Lyn & Eula Hansen
Our Grandchildren: Kellen & Madison Utter and	Bob & Judy Utter
Kendra, Ashley & Lauren Nies	
Grandpa Ray	Brian & Stacey Cummings
Alex Goedhard.....	Dolores Goedhard
Carol Lee Hudson	The Moeckel Family
Our Parents.....	Eric & Billie Melin
Our Parents.....	Bob & Jan Cosser
Lloyd and Eileen Olson	Marilyn Schmitt
Bert Bauer	Grace Bauer
Lynch family members, Jerry, Jill & Jay	Michael & Julie Bailey & family
Husband Jerry, daughter Jill, son Jay & Friend, Pat Kullberg.....	Nancy Lynch
Our Parents.....	Bill & Joann Hulse
Loved Ones	Jim & Joan Jahnsen
Mom, Dad & Jack	Shari Blackwell
Jean & Norm Wirta	Janie Mael
Connie Small.....	Phil Small
Our Parents & Son, Carl	Marilyn & Dave Fenn
Our Parents & Grandparents	The Russell Family
Alma Stanford & Lydia Wolf.....	Rochelle Stanford
Our parents, Karl & Dorothy Boedecker and Walter & Majorie Kirsch	Greg & Katrina Kirsch
Deane, Michael & David	Lorna Johnson
Bonnie, Steven and Parents.....	Glen Unzelman

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Poinsettias . . .

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Mom, Bonnie Unzelman Mark & Kathy Hoffman
 Charla Larsen, Dan Scroggie & Cal Wetherald Tom & Christine Larsen
 Our Fathers, Bert Bauer & Herb Amrine Cheryl & Scott Amrine
 Mildred Oster, Doris Rudorfer Chuck and Diane Rudorfer

In Thanksgiving For:

Our Children: Josie, Tess, Nick, Hannah and Will Brian & Stacey Cummings
 Our Nieces and Nephews: Jessica, Lucy, Quentin, Kenzie, Brian & Stacey Cummings
 Olivia, Max, Andrea, Mateo and Patrick

In Honor of:

From:

Our Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandson Larry & Gail Dean
 Brock Joseph Ramacher Patty Wilson
 Our Parents: Monte & Bernie Utter and Dean & Elizabeth Smallwood Bob & Judy Utter
 Our Godchildren, Lucy and Quentin Brian & Stacey Cummings
 Our Parents, Judy, Cindy and Roy Brian & Stacey Cummings
 Our Children & grandchildren Eric & Billie Melin
 Our Children: Mia, Nathan & Tima and our Godchildren: Andrea, Ben & Ericka Suhrbier
 Hans, Hannah, Heidi & Ava
 Our Children, grandchildren & great grandchildren Bob & Jan Cosser
 Our Children & Grandchildren Steve & Barbara Grega
 Granddaughters Natalie & Cara Crowner Corrine & Paul Crowner
 Our family Michael & Julie Bailey
 My children Elizabeth & Cheng and Anne & Mike Mary DuBois
 Our Children, Kaylynn & Evan Craig & Hedy Mitchell
 Donna Russell & Ody Archer The Russell Family
 Our newest grandson, Hudson Hveter Greg & Katrina Kirsch

To the Glory of God

Brian & Stacey Cummings
 Ron & Shirley Kuxhausen
 Grace Bauer
 Mazie Schlickeiser



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 click on the “donate” button.

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



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