

# The Visitor

March 2019

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

## Re-Learning Evangelism



Acts 1:6-8 *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and*

*you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Lent begins on March 6 this year when we mark the holy day of Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday worship is a time of repentance and introspection. It is a day that marks the beginning of our renewing journey through Lent. It is a day that opens us to new learning, sometimes about that which we have heard and learned forever.

This Lent, we are invited to learn more about what it means to be an evangelizing congregation. Surely, you have some preconceived notions of what evangelism is or means. Possibly, the mere mention of the word sends you into a cold sweat.

On the five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday we will explore five "needs" of evangelism: Obedience, Humility,

Labor, Love, and Speaking. Some of these needs are harder for you than others. Recognizing that, it is necessary that all five of these needs are met in our efforts to share Christ with others.

Think of those disciples in Acts. They have just been through the whirlwind of Jesus death and resurrection. He is about to ascend to heaven when the disciples ask Jesus this question about the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel. The final answer is not for them to know. They are to go out as witnesses to all that they have seen and to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide them.

You are invited this Lent to join with the disciples as witnesses to the truth of Jesus Christ. We do not know the final outcome of our witnessing. We only know that we go out with the power of the Holy Spirit so that others may come to follow and know the Love of God in Christ Jesus.

*Pastor Matt*

## St. John's Women's Ministries

Women's Brunch and Bible Study will meet March 16 at 10:00 a.m. We are continuing Session 2 in our new study, *Mirror, Mirror*. It centers around Deuteronomy 7:6. We will discuss how we are a chosen people of God. Participants are asked to bring a brunch item to share.

The Women's Book Guild will meet on Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. Jackie Creed will lead us in a discussion of *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.

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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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 February 12. Thanks to all of our committees who meet monthly to keep our church running smoothly.

### Altar Guild

- We are preparing for the Season of Lent. We will again adorn the altar with spring flowers and a form for ordering flowers will be in the Sunday bulletins and in the Visitor.

### Church Growth:

- Be sure to turn in your devotion if you haven't! Church Growth continues to work on this project for lent.

### Property

- We are in the process of looking for ways to cut down on utility bills. We checked the water lines under the church for leaks because of spike in the water usage. Thermostats have been reset to save on heating costs. We encourage anyone noticing anything that needs "fixing" to let the Property Committee know about it.
- We are reviewing the costs to rent out our facilities, especially the Community Center, and may have to adjust rates to break even.
- The date for the annual spring clean-up is being determined.

### Social Ministry

- Social Ministries is sponsoring our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 5th.
- We will be promoting the World Hunger 40 days

of Giving campaign. Be watching for details!

### Worship & Music

- Being sure that there is meaningful music at both worship services is one of our main objectives. We also looked at the survey results and will continue to use them to help us make decisions regarding worship

### Outreach Committee

- This is a new committee that will be focusing on reaching out to others. One thing they have been working on is beginning to contact members who haven't been to church in awhile. If there is someone you have noticed has been missing, reach out to them or contact this committee to help you reach out. If you are interested in this committee please contact Bob Russell for more information.

### Youth and Family

- Youth and Family has a fun-filled spring headed your way, please mark your calendars for the following dates:
  - Family Swim and Irish Stew Potluck 3/17
  - Easter Breakfast 4/21
  - Family Camp 5/17-5/19 (Fri & Sat night)
  - VBS 6/24-28

Everyone is always welcome to our meetings the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

**Financial Review:**

Monthly income January: \$ 17,374.09  
 Monthly expenses January: \$ 20,636.94

**Actual**

YTD income: \$ 17,374.09  
 YTD expenses: \$ 20,636.94

**Worship Attendance:**

	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
February 3	60	42
February 10	26	16
February 17	67	41
February 24	70	26



*Pray, fast and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving – for the good of our families, our neighbors and communities around the world*

This Lent, the Social Ministries Committee (SMC) invites you to join with fellow members and supporters of ELCA World Hunger to study, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Experience how the grace of Christ moves us to engage in transformative works of love around the world as God calls us into the ministry of hope, liberation and restoration for our world.

Over the coming months, the SMC will provide each family with a Lenten Calendar, a study guide that is appropriate for family or small group gatherings, jar and coin wrappers, and even an opportunity to receive emails that build on the weekly studies. This is truly a faith-building event and giving opportunity for the whole family. Watch for more information over the coming weeks.

The Social Ministries Committee: *Jay Jahnsen, Adam Moir, Carolyn Schoenborn, Sara Shelton*

**Lent 2019 series March 13-April 10 (Wednesdays 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.)**

**Evangelism needs**

<b>March 13</b>	Matthew 28:19-20	Obedience
<b>March 20</b>	Philippians 2:1-11	Humility
<b>March 27</b>	Matthew 9:35-38	Labor
<b>April 3</b>	Luke 10: 25-37	Love
<b>April 10</b>	Romans 10:11-15	Speaking



## A Word About Announcements

There have been concerns expressed about announcements made after worship services. If you are making an announcement, please make arrangements for it to be made at both the 8:30 and 11:00 o'clock worship services to



avoid any miscommunications. If you need clarification or have questions, please contact the person making the announcement or contact the church office. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Bits and Pieces

**Thank you** to all who helped and contributed to the history-of-St. John's-display on Sunday, February 24. The display included historical records, past pictorial membership directories and photos. Many of the artifacts were lovingly preserved by Deane Johnson who, before his death, kept meticulous records. A special thank-you to Joann Hulse and Bernhard Kreutz for the countless hours they spent organizing and transcribing the records from German

to English, and to Dee Blair for preserving in pictures the church addition in 2001. The notebooks and pictures are in the library for anyone wishing to review the history of St. John's

**St. John's Altar Guild** will again be taking orders for flowers to adorn the altar for Easter Sunday, April 21. An order form will be included in the March *Visitor* and in the weekly worship bulletins. If you have questions, contact Nancy Lynch, 503-709-9447.

**Lenten Prayer Aid:** Last year we studied prayer by using the acronym ACTS-L as a memory aid. ACTS-L stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication and Listening. We used a bead bracelet as a physical reminder to help us focus our attention on the Lord. There will be a basket with beads available in the narthex during Lent. Please feel free to take one for yourself as a reminder to pray. Thank you to Marilyn Schmitt for providing the bracelets.

## 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 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

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, let us know! Call the church office at 748-4741 or e-mail: office@stjohnschehalis.net.

# March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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. Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service (Lenten Services for the remainder of Lent) 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice					1  Pastor Matt's Day Off  Office Closed	2
3 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Weblos Scout Troop #373	4 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 7:00 p.m. Youth and Family	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6 6:30 a.m. Men's Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 1:00 p.m. Agate Hospital Auxiliary 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule) <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	8  Pastor Matt's Day Off  Office Closed	9
10 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Weblos Scout Troop #373	11 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball	12 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch at Denny's 6:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m. Church Council	13 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	14 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	15  Pastor Matt's Day Off  Office Closed  <b>Visitor Deadline</b>	16 10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch 11:00 a.m. Lewis County Radio Controllers
17 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class and Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Weblos Scout Troop #373	18 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 6:30 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	21 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 at Jim Jahnsen's	22  Pastor Matt's Day Off  Office Closed	23 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia
24/31 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Weblos Scout Troop #373	25 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Girls Basketball 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music	26 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 7:00 p.m. Book Guild	27 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Lenten Service 4:15 p.m. <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	28 3:30 p.m. Soccer Practice 5:30 p.m. Taekwondo in Community Center	29  Pastor Matt's Day Off  Office Closed	30 12:00 p.m. Private Bridal Shower 10:00 a.m. Mobile Meals at Gather in Centralia

★For up to date calendar information, visit our website, [www.stjohnschehalis.net](http://www.stjohnschehalis.net) and click on the "News" tab★

## Gather Volunteer Help Needed!

March is a five-Saturday month, so we need volunteers to:

- Help serve the Saturday meal at Gather on Saturdays of the 23rd and 30th!
- Help set up, prepare and serve the food. Please be

there by 9:30 a.m.

- Help to serve the food and clean up. Be there by 10:00 a.m.

Have questions? Contact:

- Sue Edwards, [sueedwards641@gmail.com](mailto:sueedwards641@gmail.com) (360-748-6259);

- Donna Moir: [donna@moircountry.com](mailto:donna@moircountry.com) (360-269-2004); or
- Carolyn Schoenborn: [carolyns21@tds.net](mailto:carolyns21@tds.net) (360-983-3170).

## Why is Easter so Late this Year?

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have said it to myself, and I have heard it said from many other people lately, “Lent and Easter are so late this year! What’s going on?!”

Often Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, arrives by mid-February. This year Ash Wednesday doesn’t come until March 6. Three years ago, we celebrated Easter on March 27. This year Easter will be on April 21. Why is it so early some years and so late this year?

Most Christian festival days are fixed on specific dates, so we know exactly when they are going to happen each year. Christmas is on December 25. Reformation Day is on October 31. There’s no guessing and no surprises (at least not about the date.) Easter, however, changes from year to year. This is because the Christian church, from its earliest years, decided to set the date of Easter according to a lunar calendar, which measures time by the movement of the moon rather than the sun.

When the four Gospels tell us the story of Good Friday and Easter, they describe how Easter happened right after the Jewish festival of Passover. The Christian church decided to continue the calendar

relationship between Passover and Easter.

However, the traditional Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar and, therefore, the dates of Passover and Easter vary each year according to the phases of the moon.

The rule for setting the date of Easter is this: Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (the first day of Spring.) The vernal equinox, according to astronomers, actually slides between March 20 and March 22.

However, in the traditional Christian church calendar, March 21 was picked as the yearly date of the vernal equinox. Therefore, Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21.

That means that March 22 is the absolute earliest possible date for Easter in any year. The latest possible date is April 25. So, our date of Easter this year, April 21, is quite late in this range of possibilities. (It will fall on the very latest date possible, April 25, in 2038.)

Those are all calendar-keeping facts that I find interesting, but are there any spiritual truths that might come to us out of this?

As I find myself meditating on our late-blooming,

off-in-the- distance Easter this year, here are a few thoughts that come to mind.

- God’s gift of Easter (new life!) sometimes comes suddenly and sometimes must develop slowly in the hidden corners of our lives.
- Being forced to wait for a crucial event can help us to receive and open ourselves to it all the more.
- The full, springtime bloom that will be around us by April 21, will also be a sign of the life that God will help to “flower” in us through Easter.
- No matter where Easter is on the calendar, it will still surprise and disrupt our normal schedule!
- Easter is God’s lunar gift to us lunatic people!
- Thank goodness that, whether early or late, Easter’s resurrection power can never be stopped.

We are racing ahead of ourselves, of course. We are still in the light-filled days of Epiphany. Lent is a number of weeks off. Yet we are given strength for this journeying by trusting that we are headed toward the Easter moment when our lives and our world are turned upside down.

Yours in Christ,  
*Bishop Rick Jaech*

## 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](http://www.stjohnschehalis.net)

and click on the "donate" button.

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



## Spring Flowers and Easter Lilies to enhance St. John's 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, April 20; 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, April 17. 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.

Flowers may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one, or to the Glory of God.

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 are encouraged take your flowers home after the 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service.)

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