

The Visitor

September 2019

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

Sabbath



Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

"I need to get back to work so that I can recover from my vacation." What is it about not having a schedule dictated by someone else that brings out the worst of our human nature to want to be busy? It's like we get time off from work and we immediately go into hyperactivity mode.

God knew that we human beings would have a problem with giving ourselves permission to rest. When giving the commandments in Exodus 20, God had to use three verses to lay out exactly what remember the Sabbath meant:

Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock,

or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. (Exodus 20:9-11)

Our 24-7, got to be productive, world implores us to keep going. Break through the wall of exhaustion. The life of Jesus invites us to step outside the drumbeat of proving our worth and resting in the worth that comes from being a Child of God. We are not defined by our accomplishments. We are defined by our God.

As we end the summer season and enter into fall, rest in the yoke of Jesus. He has named, claimed, and secured your worth. You are worthy because you are. Remember to Sabbath because in resting we remember whose we are.

Pastor Matt

Annual Women's Retreat

All women are invited to attend our 15th Annual Retreat at the Jahnsen home on Lake Mayfield. The retreat setting allows us to get away from everyday routines and have the opportunity for uninterrupted fun and fellowship.

Theme: *Showing God's Love to Others*

When: Saturday, September 21st, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: 154 Baker Dr.,
Mossyrock, WA

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. For more information, contact Joan Jahnsen at 360-388-5337 or jahnsen71@msn.com.



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

**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,
Adult Study
Confirmation**

- **11:00 a.m.
Worship**

Summer Worship Schedule:

- **9:00 a.m.
Call to Worship**

What's in the Works . . .

St. John's Council met on August 13. The following committees reported their activities:

Property Committee

- Many repairs have been made around the church this month. Thank you to our Property committee for keeping things in good repair.

Church Growth

- There will be a tailgate party on September 8 after worship. Be sure to join us for lots of fun!

Social Ministry

- GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS community service project is scheduled for September 8. We are asking for donations of basic hygiene items for our area homeless people. Items will be assembled into kits at church on September 8. The kits will be distributed on Mobile

Meals Saturdays at Gather Atrium in Centralia.

Though there are many items that would be nice, let's focus on basics that will fit in a quart or gallon ziploc bag:

- Comb or small hairbrush (especially needed for those with thick hair);
- Pack of personal wet wipes or baby wipes (many have no access to water for washing up);
- Toothbrush and travel-size toothpaste;
- Disposable razor;
- Travel-size shampoo.

Dollar Store items are fine. Combs, toothbrushes, and razors in a multipack are a good bargain. Items may be placed in the big blue bin used for Mobile Meals donations and will be saved for September 8. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many.

Financial Review:

Monthly income July: \$14,216.85

Monthly expenses July : \$21,163.75

Actual

YTD income: \$130,539.95

YTD expenses: \$134,484.35

Worship Attendance:

10:00 a.m.

August 4	81
August 11	63
August 18	74
August 25	79

DURING THE TRANSITION to a new parish administrator, if you do not have a key to the church and need access to the building, please call the office, 360-748-4741, and leave a message for Pastor Matt. He will make arrangements to meet you and unlock the building.



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

13 August 2019

From Bishop Rick Jaech

Dear Pastors, Deacons and Congregations,

Eight members of the Southwestern Washington Synod, including myself, just returned from the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA held in Milwaukee, WI. At this Assembly, the ELCA once again committed itself to faithfully following the Way that Christ frees and empowers us to walk, which is expressed in outreach, evangelism, education, compassion and the pursuit of justice. There were many important actions that were taken, which I will report to you in the weeks ahead. However, I wish to speak about one Assembly action which has received considerable media attention in the last few days and, in some cases, the reports have been false and confusing.

The Assembly voted to declare the ELCA to be a “sanctuary denomination”. This action was part of a larger resolution that reaffirmed the long-standing commitment of the Lutheran Church to welcoming and caring for immigrants and migrants, which we have been doing for 75 years through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

The word “sanctuary,” however, is a word that is broadly used in a variety of ways and for that reason I want to give you some basic clarifications about the intent and meaning of this resolution.

- In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly declared that, when we preach on Sunday that Jesus tells us to welcome and care for everyone around us, then on Monday we will use our hands and voices to make sure it happens.
- Right now, our immigration system is broken, chaotic and in need of repair. While we may have many different ideas about how to fix this broken system, we are also called to love our neighbors, particularly those who are most vulnerable to the brokenness of this system, especially families and unaccompanied youth.
- The Churchwide Assembly’s declaration that the ELCA is a sanctuary denomination binds only the ELCA Churchwide Organization; it does not bind or obligate congregations, synods, or other organizations to be a sanctuary place.
- The Churchwide Assembly did not call for any illegal actions. All actions mentioned by the Churchwide Assembly are legal. If any person or organization chooses to go beyond these actions and engage in civil disobedience (and therefore accept the consequences), that would be their choice. In any case, a congregation or synod that considers becoming a sanctuary organization should first consult with legal counsel.
- The Churchwide Assembly did not define what it means to be a sanctuary denomination, but rather requested that the ELCA Church Council provide guidance as to what it means to be a sanctuary denomination.
- While we don’t yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the ELCA, we do know that many ELCA faith communities are already doing sanctuary work. For a congregation, Sanctuary could include any of the following:
 - Form a book study using, for example, *They are Us: Lutherans & Immigration* by Bouman

(continued on page 4)

Sanctuary Denomination . . .

(continued from page 4)

and Deffenbaug, or another book of your choosing. Hold Sunday adult forum conversations or a series of evening discussions and consider inviting people from a number of different perspectives on this topic.

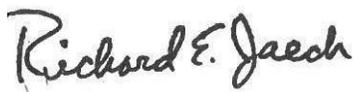
- Study the ELCA Social Teaching Statement on Immigration: www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Immigration
- Invite members of a congregation to meet with nearby organizations that work in the area of refugee resettlement or immigration issues, such as Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services.
- Seek out elected officials to meet with and discuss this subject.
- Host English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.
- Pray regularly for immigrants and also for ICE and Border Patrol agents.
- Welcome all people to your congregation's worship and events without classifying them according to their immigration or citizenship status.
- Invite members of your congregation to advocate for immigration reform by writing to congress.
- Providing housing for a community member who is in the midst of legal hearings and facing deportation.

Providing sanctuary has many different meanings. I am sure that within our Southwestern Washington Synod, we will have many different reactions to the topic of sanctuary, depending on what definition we give it. Note: If you would like a more in-depth legal analysis of the topic of sanctuary, here is a link to a legal brief written by the ACLU: www.dropbox.com/s/03xu321czvmnhtf/Sanctuary%20FAQ%204%2013%202017.pdf?dl=0

Once again I wish to state that the Churchwide Assembly's decision to make the ELCA a Sanctuary Denomination does NOT compel or obligate a congregation to do the same. However, this action gives us the opportunity to dialogue with each other about how our congregations and church body can help the United States fulfill God's desire for justice for all, including citizens, immigrants and refugees.

I welcome your thoughts, reactions and suggestions.

Bishop Rick Jaech



Bits and Pieces

Blessing of the Backpacks

On September 8, all teachers, students and school personnel are encouraged to bring your back to worship with you for a special blessing. What a great way to start the school year!

Adult Choir

Do you like to sing? As our fall schedule begins there is an opportunity for youth and adults to join the choir. Middle school age and above are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 -8:00 p.m. You don't have to read music — just enjoy singing and



making a joyful noise — we will help you with the rest. We sing two Sundays a month so you don't have to commit to every Sunday. For more information, contact Joan Jahnsen, 360-748-3901.

Book Guild

The Women's Book Guild will meet on Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00 pm at the home of Shari Blackwell. Jan Cosser will lead the discussion on the book, *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate. If you are interested in joining Book Guild, contact Joan Jahnsen, 360-748-3901.

The Youth and Family Committee is looking for people to serve and support families and activities at St. Johns. Our youth program is run by volunteers and we need YOU! Please pray and consider sharing your gifts with our

youth and their families. If you are interested in helping please contact Cori Jo Duncan (360)388-5338 or cori.duncan15@gmail.com.

Youth and Family would like to thank Ceci for her hard work and dedication as the committee chair the last few years. She has devoted countless hours to Sunday School, VBS, and other activities for the youth and family of St. Johns. **Thank you Ceci!**

St. John's Staff

Thank you for being so kind and accommodating for letting us have our Team Braylon rummage sale in your Community Center!

The event was a huge success! I'm so very thankful for you!

God Bless! *Ashleigh Cox*

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
Pennelope Tobin

- 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 Pennelope 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.

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 a.m. Private Party Clean-up 9:00 a.m. Call to Worship 10:00 a.m. Worship	2  Office Closed	3 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	4 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Agate Children's Hospital Auxiliary 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice	5 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo	6 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	7
8 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship Tailgating Party/ SeaHawks Game	9 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 3:00 p.m. Collection site in parking lot 6:00 p.m. Youth and Family	10 9:00 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	11 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship <i>Wednesday's Together</i>	12 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo	13 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	14
15 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship	16 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study October Visitor Deadline	17 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 6:30 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society	18 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Wednesday's Together	19 12:00 p.m. Young at Heart 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Fellowship	20 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	21 9:00 a.m. Women's Retreat
22 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship	23 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	24 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at Shari Blackwell's home	25 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Wednesday's Together	26 8:00 a.m. Life Line Screening 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo	27 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	28 <i>Septemberfest</i> 10:00 a.m. Mobil Meals at Gather in Centralia
29 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship	30 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Music & Worship	Wednesday's Together! (Begins September 11) 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★						

God's Work. Our Hands.

For *God's Work, Our Hands* community service project on **September 8**, Social Ministries Committee requests your donations of basic hygiene items for our area homeless people. Items would be collected throughout August and then assembled into kits at church on **September 8**. The kits will be distributed on Mobile Meals Saturdays at Gather Atrium in Centralia.



Though there are many items that would be nice, let's focus on basics that will fit in a quart or gallon Ziploc bag:

- Comb or small hairbrush (especially needed for those with thick hair);
- Pack of personal wet wipes or baby wipes (many have no access to

- water for washing up);
- Toothbrush and travel-size toothpaste;
- Disposable razor;
- Travel-size shampoo.

Dollar Store items are fine. Combs, toothbrushes, and razors in a multipack are a good bargain. Items may be placed in the big blue bin used for Mobile Meals donations and will be saved for September 8. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many.

Septemberfest

We're getting a jump on the holiday boutique calendar!

Saturday September 28, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Come enjoy some early holiday shopping with over 20 vendors sharing their handcrafts, food items and gifts.

Morning coffee and baked goods will be offered for sale, as well as a hearty lunch to be determined.

Proceeds will go (*to be determined*) outreach programs.

If you would like to participate as a vendor or assist in cooking, set up, clean up or assisting in any way, please contact Sara Shelton, 360-389-1054, or Shari Blackwell 360-740-8048.



CRAFT FAIR

SEEKING VENDORS

Seeking Vendors for
Septemberfest
Holiday Boutique

St. John's Lutheran Church
Chehalis, WA
Sat Sept 28th, 9-3
Space Cost: \$25
Contact: Shari Blackwell
360-740-8048
310-717-5789

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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