

The Visitor

November 2019

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

Give Thanks



1 Corinthians 1:4-9 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way — with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge — God thus confirming our testimony about

Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

There's a man I met several years ago who I describe as having a "Martin Luther experience." He was from a Christian tradition that was very rules based. He "discovered" Paul's letter to the Romans. "Discovered" grace. Then was kicked out of his community because he started teaching that we are saved by grace, not by slavish attention to the rules.

His journey brought him to a Lutheran church. He was enthralled by the preaching and the teaching. His reaction to me, a seminary student at the time, was, "You Lutherans get grace and you look like you just lost your best friend."

I've thought about that statement a lot during my ministry. What is it about Lutherans that we get what it means to live by grace (or at least we preach it) but we just seem to be so worried about working so hard to please God? Could it be that we are just so used to grace that we forget to be thankful?

I encourage you this Thanksgiving to rediscover the gift of Grace. Rediscover what it means to be freed from sin and striving to please God, and released by the saving grace of Jesus Christ to go and be disciples in God's world. In the midst of thankfulness for friends and family, treasures and experiences, remember that ultimate gift given to us through the obedience of Jesus Christ.

For me, that is what is so important about Thanksgiving. It's a moment for us to step back and appreciate those things we take for granted, especially our salvation in Jesus Christ.

And finally — thank you.

Thank you for faithfully coming to worship to be strengthened in your walk of discipleship.

Thank you for faithfully serving Jesus Christ at St John's and in the community.

Thank you for faithfully wrestling with the scriptures and how they bear Christ to our world.

Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church with your gifts and offerings.

Thank you for faithfully seeking God's will.

Thank you for faithfully praying that God would lead our congregation to fulfill God's will.

Thank you.

Pastor Matt

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
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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.
Joy Groups
- 9:30 a.m.
Worship

What's in the Works . . .

St. John's Council met on October 8th. The following committees reported their activities:

Altar Guild

- Decorations in the church have been changed to Fall. We are planning ahead for Advent.

Property Committee

- Property Committee - We will be getting the gas line to the education wing fixed so we have heat in that part of the building. At the same time we will be making needed repairs to the furnace.

Church Growth

- This committee's goal is to create opportunities to bring people together so they can connect with each other. Connected people will want to keep coming back. Be on the lookout for upcoming events.

Financial Review:

Monthly income September:	\$ 19,354.18
Monthly expenses September	: \$ 16,544.32
Actual	
YTD income:	\$ 165,408.13
YTD expenses:	\$ 171,048.38

Worship Attendance:

	<u>10:00 a.m.</u>
October 6	84
October 13	77
October 20	65
October 27	90

Social Ministry

- Social Ministry - We were excited to make \$1,049 at Septemberfest! The money will be shared with Gather, Food for the Future, Health and Hope and Young at Heart.

Worship and Music

- There are many special Sundays and events coming up. October 27 is Reformation and Confirmation Sunday. November 3 is All Saint's Day. Notify Michelle if there is someone you would like recognized who has been baptized or died in the past year. November 27 is our Thanksgiving Eve service. Midweek Advent services will be offered on Wednesdays at 6:15 December 4, 11 and 18.

Mobile Meals at Gather

On October 12, 40 sack lunches were handed out, though I plan for 50 at a cost of \$60. 50 PB&J sandwiches were made by the Demun family of Centralia. I shop for sales on chips, fruit, juices, instant oatmeal and bottled water while varying the offerings. This week I found cranberry juices mixed with cherry-orange, strawberry-kiwi, or blueberry-peach with the option of plain apple juice for the less adventurous palate. Our guests love home-baked goodies from Shirley Dolman, Jim Jahnsen and Laurie Suhrbier. This week Ray asked for a sack lunch for an "Old Man" who cannot walk to Gather. Ray added he and his wife make him a meal each weekday and deliver it on foot as they don't have a car. I am humbled by our guests each week.

Sue Edwards

Sack Lunch Coordinator

Volunteering for Mobile Meals

Submitted by Rebecca Myers

I've been volunteering at the Gather for about four

years, and it certainly is a proud accomplishment for anyone involved. I was lucky enough to meet Carolyn and Tom Shoenborn there as well. They were especially proud to be a part of this ministry and any program whose intention is to lessen and end poverty and indeed, homelessness, itself. They of course, moved out of state but I carry on, proudly, what I consider to be Carolyn's message every Saturday that I possibly can. These ladies do a great job. I really have to hand it to Donna and Shari, as well as Sue! The FFA kids are a tremendous help, and we could certainly use more young people like them in the world. As one of the volunteers from another church once mentioned to me, "there is something so gratifying about feeding people, especially those lonely and in need." Please don't stop giving out of the kindness of your hearts, our guests certainly appreciate it! Much work goes in to budgeting, meal planning, shopping, preparation, serving, and clean-up. We do more than

meals, often times folks are seeking resources and emotional support. I encourage everyone to come volunteer at least once and get to know the friendly faces.

Menu Example

Submitted by Shari Blackwell

As one of the cooks for Mobile Meals lunch at The Gather, I thought I would share a little update/inside info about one of our meals this month. The menu included turkey tetrazzini, fresh green salad with assorted dressing, buttermilk biscuits and Halloween cookies, cupcakes and brownies for dessert. We served 35 hot meals, and 11 to go meals. I was assisted by Rebecca Myers, and two FFA teens, Jason and Secret. We received several appreciative thank yous from our guests. Many of you may not know that we strive very hard to prepare nutritious, balanced meals as economically as possible, usually working with a budget of about \$75 per meal, with plans to serve around 50.

Library/Book Guild

The book we began the year with was *The Longest Ride* by Nicholas Sparks.

Based on the bestselling novel by master storyteller Nicholas Sparks, *The Longest Ride* centers on the star-crossed love affair between Luke, a former champion bull rider looking to make a comeback, and Sophia, a college student who is about to

embark upon her dream job in New York City's art world. As conflicting paths and ideals test their relationship, Sophia and Luke make an unexpected and fateful connection with Ira, whose memories of his own decades-long romance with his beloved wife deeply inspire the young couple. Spanning generations and two intertwining love stories,

The Longest Ride explores the challenges and infinite rewards of enduring love.

The book was made into a movie by 20th Century Fox.

A copy of the book will be on the library shelf after the meeting. If you are interested in joining the Book Guild group, contact Joan Jahnsen at 360-748-3901.

Bits and Pieces

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.

Everyone is invited to help pack weekend snacks for children in need K-8, Chehalis. Meet at the Greater Chehalis Food Bank, beginning promptly at 3:30, finishing by 4:00. Next dates are Wednesday, November 6, and Wednesday, November 20. See you at the food bank!

St. John's Altar Guild will have fresh cedar, holly (both regular and variegated) and pine-cones for sale in the church narthex beginning December 1st. The greens are great for your home decorating projects or as gifts for family and friends). Cost is \$1.00 per package for cedar and holly. Packaged pinecones are 50 cents.

November Celebrations

Birthdays

2 Jonathan Isaacson
Jennifer Willson
3 Matt Edwards
Matt Meagher
4 Nathaniel Birchard
5 Susan Donaldson
Steve Kostanich
7 Clara Gilliland
8 Kaylynn Mitchell
11 David March
12 Kathryn Rotter
Johnathan Vlach
13 Colt Conzatti
14 Rachel March
18 David Barber
Helen Buda

20 Meg Nelson
21 Marilyn Fenn
22 Georgie Radnich
23 David Stanfield
Emma Thomas
25 Scott Judd
Kerry Vance

Anniversaries

4 Jill and Jerry Carlson
12 Carmen and Mike Brown
18 Shirley and Ron
Kuxhausen
23 Gail and Larry Dean

Baptism Anniversaries

2 Anna Russell
4 Will Cummings

7 Christian, Timothy, Matthew
and Eva Munz
10 Kaylynn Mitchell
11 Catie Scott
15 Mia Suhrbier
18 Kasey Ramacher
25 Luke Amrine
Eric Moir
29 Susan Donaldson
Ron Kuxhausen
Justin Wilson

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

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.



November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Wednesday's Together!</i> 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					1 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	2
3 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship	4 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 6:00 p.m. Youth and Family	5 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 7:00 p.m. Church Growth	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 1:00 p.m. Agate Hospital Auxiliary <i>Wednesday's Together</i>	7 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo	8 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	9 8:30 a.m. Lutheran Men in Mission Bold Gathering
10 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship	11 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	12 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 Set up for Pastors Lunch	13 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Pastors Lunch <i>Wednesday's Together</i>	14 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo November <i>Visitor</i> Deadline	15 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	16 10:00 a.m. ELCA Women's Bible Study and Brunch 4:30 p.m. Worship with Living Stones Prison Ministry
17 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship	18 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	19 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 7:00 p.m. Lewis County Genealogical Society 7:00 p.m. Book Guild at Susan Russell's home	20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship <i>Wednesday's Together</i>	21 12:00 p.m. Young at Heart 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Fellowship	22 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	23 10:00 a.m. Mobil Meals at Gather in Centralia
24 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship	25 11:00 a.m. Altar Guild 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Music & Worship 7:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	26 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders	27 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship <i>Wednesday's Together</i>	28 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo	29 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	30 10:00 a.m. Mobil Meals at Gather in Centralia
31 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship		★For up to date calendar information, visit our website, www.stjohnschehalis.net and click on the "News" tab★				

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 \$8 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 15**. 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, and Linda Young.

Name: _____

I wish to donate # _____ poinsettias at \$8.00 each. Total amount: \$ _____

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



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