

The Visitor

December 2019

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

Christmas Celebration



Philippians 4:4-7 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Bob Rivers has a "Christmas" song called The 12 Pains of Christmas. From finding a Christmas tree to eating with the in-laws to paying the bills, the song chronicles the worst of bah humbug. If all you know of Christmas is this song, it is not a joyful time.

The thing with parody and satire is that it has to have at least a nugget of truth to be funny. The reason the song works is that for many of us, Christmas is one drudgery after another. It's

listening to the annual begging for gifts, being with relatives we can barely stand and dealing with the impatient crowds. We want Christmas to be perfect, and that can be a lot of pressure.

Christmas does not rise and fall on the perfection of our celebrations. Our call is to first and foremost, rejoice in the Lord always. Our preparations serve the purpose of our rejoicing at the birth of our Savior.

Paul's letter to the Philippians may not have been a Christmas letter but these words from chapter four should be at the forefront of our minds this Christmas. The Lord comes near at Christmas and we don't worry about anything else. We come before our God with thanksgiving at the Lord's birth.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus this Christmas.

Pastor Matt

Christmas Eve Services

You will have the opportunity to attend Christmas Eve services at three different times. There will be a family-friendly service at 5:00 p.m. and candelight services at 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. Glow

sticks will be available for smaller children at the candelight services.



Women's News

The Women's Advent Event will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. We will share an Advent devotional as we prepare and make ready for Christmas. Each lady is asked to bring one dozen cookies to share for our fellowship time. This event will replace our monthly Bible Study on Saturday, December 21.

The Annual Christmas Smorgasbord is on Saturday, December 7. Punch, coffee and tea served at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by musical entertainment. This is an event geared for adults and older youth. Our tradition is to have tables decorated by members of the congregation.

Please bring a salad or hot dish to share plus

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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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Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Editor:
Michelle Turner

Worship Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m.
Joy Groups
- 9:30 a.m.
Worship

What's in the Works . . .

St. John's Council met on November 12. The following committees reported their activities:

Altar Guild

- This is a busy time of year for our Altar Guild. There are many parament changes (from green to red to white then back to green and back to white before settling into the Advent season), as well as making sure the baptismal font and Christ candle are where they belong. All of this happens as they are gearing up for the Advent season. Thank you for all of your hard work Altar Guild!

Financial Review:

Monthly income October: \$17,439.43
Monthly expenses October: \$20,822.40

Actua

YTD income: \$182,847.56
YTD expenses: \$191,974.54

Worship Attendance:

10:00 a.m.

November 3	109
November 10	104
November 17	89
November 24	83

Library/Book Guild

Just catching up here! The books the Book Guild has reviewed this fall can be found in the church library. August, *The Longest Ride* by Nicholas Sparks; September, *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate; October, *The Walk* by Richard Paul Evans; and November, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J D Vance. The December book, *Still Me* is the third in a series by Jo Jo Moyes that we have

Property Committee

- Have you noticed that our St. John's sign has been repaired? Also, we have heat in the education wing again. Thank you Property Committee!

Worship and Music

- This committee is working on the upcoming Advent and Christmas services. Last year the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service was very crowded so this year we are adding a Family Service at 5:00 p.m. We will continue to offer the 7:00 and 10:00 services. This committee also chooses music for upcoming services.

reviewed in 2017 *Me Before You* and 2018, *After you*,

Funny, romantic, and poignant, *Still Me* follows Lou as she discovers who she is and who she was always meant to be — and learns to live boldly in her brave new world.

On January 28th, we will be reading and discussing *When Breath Becomes Air*, a true story by Paul Kalanithi.

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Library . . .

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At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying,

and the next he was a patient struggling to live and facing the questions one has when life takes such a turn.

Check out the book rack in the narthex also for books you can own for a small price if you would like to be a part of the book guild, join us at our

next gathering, December 17. Watch the calendar in your bulletin for location or talk to Joan Jahnsen. We would enjoy having you join us!

Mobile (More Than) Meals

Mary Rogers has volunteered a number of times to monitor the sack lunch distribution. Recently she told me, "Mobile Meals is so much more than feeding people. I was so moved by the warm and welcoming way the volunteers greeted the clients. For the time they are at Gather, they don't have to feel alone or forgotten. It is easy to see that just looking into a smiling and caring face

provides comfort and acceptance." (Mary has been that "smiling and caring face" when she daily greeted children during her career with the schools. Ask her to share some of her heartwarming memories.) The caring is mutual. On a November Saturday my car wouldn't start when I was the last person to leave Gather. I raised the hood, called my husband and waited. Soon Jessica, a Gather

guest who often helps us with clean up, came walking up. She said she had noticed me from the library a block away and wondered why I was still there. She stayed with me until my husband arrived and through the repair so I wouldn't be alone. A home, car, and job are not prerequisites for living by the fruits of the Spirit.

*Sue Edwards,
Sack Lunch Coordinator*

Bits and Pieces

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.

Food for Our Future volunteers are invited to help pack weekend food for children in need. Join us 3:30-4:00 p.m., Wednesdays, November 20, December 4 and December 18 at the Greater Chehalis Food Bank, 750 SW 21st Street, Chehalis. Updates are available on Facebook at the Food For Our Future page.

We are looking to purchase a small upright freezer for downstairs. Anyone who would like to donate, please put donations in the offering with a note that it is for the freezer. Contact Donna Moir, 360-748-4517, for more information.

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.



Womens News . . .

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one dozen cookies. Those attending are asked to RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex so we have enough seating for everyone. If you are interested in decorating a table, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet.

The Women's Book Guild meets on Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 pm. Dixie Roser will be our hostess. Joan Jahnsen will lead the discussion on the book *Still Me* by Jo Jo Moyes. This is the third book in the series and we will follow Lou as she discovers who she was always meant

to be. If you are interested in reading this book and joining our group, contact Joan Jahnsen at 360-388-5337.

December Celebrations

Birthdays

1 Craig Mitchell
4 Jan Cosser
5 Ann Salzer
Sam Teitzel
6 Chuck Ziegert
8 Michael Thomas
9 Candice Tobin
10 Jim Gilliland
13 Anna Kreutz
14 Luanna Deming
15 Bruce Graham
Linda Lowery
Andrew Michal
16 Courtney Cox
17 Jack Cosser
18 Allen Unzelman
19 Lincoln Duncan
20 Sara Shelton
Lynette Gage

Kellen Justice
Lauri Kreutz
24 Keith Birchard
Mary DuBois
28 Brynne Bailey
Katrin Kreutz
30 Katrina Kirsch
Pastor Matthew March
31 Travis Newman

Anniversaries

8 Joann and Bill Hulse
30 Mindy and Jon Judd
Nancy and Wally Jordan
Cathy and John Torvik
31 Pat and Al Soderquist

Baptism Anniversaries

2 Heidi Meier
4 Mariah Unzelman
9 Michael Grega

10 Steve Kostanich
12 Steve Dean
15 Bob, Jan & Dave Cosser
Kathryn & Russ Cox
16 Nathan Suhrbier
17 Barbara Grega
20 Ann Salzer
21 Ben Suhrbier
22 Jackson Humphrey
Rachel March
23 Zach Stanfield
Johnathan Vlach
26 Jamison Scott
27 Ashleigh Cox
31 Katie Meier
If we missed your birthday or anniversary, let us know! Call the church office at 748-4741 or e-mail: office@stjohnschehalis.net.

Prayer Requests

We need to update our prayer list. Please fill out this page and turn in to Michelle in the office if you would like to add someone to the Prayer list.

(Information for internal use only)

Name and Contact information for Person needing Prayer:

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

Reason for Prayer:

Name of Requestor:

*Please note Names will remain on the list for 30 days. Please notify us if you would like the Prayer Request extended.

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	2 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 6:00 p.m. Youth and Family	3 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders	4 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship <i>Wednesday's Together</i> 6:15 p.m. Advent Service	5 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo	6 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	7 5:00 p.m. Christmas Smorgasbord
8 8:30 a.m. Joy Groups 9:30 a.m. Worship	9 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	10 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Fellowship Leaders 11:30 a.m. Women's Lunch Bunch 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> 6:15 p.m. Advent Service	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	17 7:00 p.m. Women's Book Guild	18 <i>Wednesday's Together</i> 6:15 p.m. Advent Service	19 12:00 p.m. Young at Heart 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo <i>Visitor Deadline</i>	20 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	21 10:00 a.m. Women's Advent Event
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 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Merry and Blessed Christmas</i>	26 5:00 p.m. Taekwondo	27 Pastor Matt's Day Off Office Closed	28 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	31 <i>Happy New Year</i>	<i>Wednesday's Together!</i> 4:30 p.m. St. John's Fiber Arts 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 ★						

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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