

The Visitor

January 2021

St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA · 2190 Jackson Hwy Chehalis, WA
98532 · www.stjohnlutheranchehalis.net · 360.748.4741 · office@stjohnschehalis.net



Welcome Pastor Eric Utto-Galarneau

We are excited to introduce Pastor Eric as our interim Pastor at St. Johns. Eric graduated from Stanwood High School and went to Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, receiving a BA in Religion. He met Beth there, married her, and have two children (Grace and Isaiah) who are currently in college.

Eric has worked in social services before, during, and after attending seminary. His work was primarily with those who live with mental illness and those who experience homelessness.

He attended seminary in Chicago and the Bay Area completing his MDiv degree. He was ordained in 1998.

He served as a solo pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Santa Clara, CA. He then joined Beth, who is also an ELCA pastor, and has co-pastored three churches with her; Hope Lutheran of the Sierras in South Lake Tahoe, CA, Amazing Grace Lutheran in Aberdeen, WA, and currently, St. Mark Lutheran in Lacey, WA.

Eric has served on the Synod Council for the Southwestern Washington Synod and on the Living Stones board. He is passionate about the ELCA, a church that is full of grace and social justice. As a pastor, his focus has always been to bring back everything we do to focus on following Jesus and living out our lives as graced, forgiven, loved and freed children of God. He is pro-music, pro-joy, pro-loving our neighbor, and pro-potluck. He is ready to be a partner in ministry, and eager to help to continue to bring God's grace to Lewis County.

St. Johns Lutheran Church Statement of Mission

Rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ we exist to

- **PROCLAIM** God's unconditional love we exist to
- **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 Eric Utto-Galameau
pastor@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Minister of Music:
Joan Jahnsen
748-3901
jahnsen71@msn.com**

**Parish Administrator:
Michelle Turner
office@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Streaming:
Reggie Eklund:
Stream-
ing@stjohnschehalis.net**

**Office Hours:
Church office is closed at
this time.**

**Editor:
Michelle Turner**

**Worship
Schedule:**

- **9:30 a.m.
Worship**

What's in the Works...

Mobile Meals Backpacks Our Christmas backpacks were given out along with the meal and included new hats, gloves, toiletry kits, travel mugs, spoons, oatmeal packets, Christmas candy, hot cocoa and hot apple cider packets, emergency flashlights, military surplus can openers, first-aid kits and more! Thank you so much to Rise Lewis County, the office of Kerry O'Donnell, d.d.s., the Main Street Food Mart at the 76 Station by Jeremy's, and St. Timothy's for their incredibly generous donations. We gave out 97 packs during our meal and many more were handed out at the Gather during the rest of that week.

Bits and Pieces

Library/BookGuild

January's book, "Same Kind of Different As Me, is the story of faith, hope and love of one woman, Deborah Hall. Her faith in God, her hope for a better world, and her undying love forever changed the lives of two men: her husband Ron, a wealthy international Art dealer, and Denver Moore, a black, homeless man, for whom living on the streets was 'a step up in life'.

Telling the story in their own words, Hall and Moore regularly alternate between warming and wrenching your heart strings. It will open your eyes in a new way to a

problem that largely remains out of sight and out of mind across our nation. The number of people who are homeless The book will challenge us to think about how and if we are serving others in the love of Christ as much as we can.

Book Guild meets monthly via ZOOM and if you are interested in joining us, please contact Joan Jahnsen.



Mobile Meals

Our mission with Mobile Meals continues to be blessed. We have recently gained 1-2 new community volunteers per week due to personal contacts or advertising on the United Way website. Thankfully, some are younger and able to tote the heavy stuff! RISE received an \$8000 grant from the county through Covid-designated monies. A small portion of this will fund 100 lightweight cinch backpacks to be handed out at the MMM Christmas meal 12-19-20. Each recipient will get socks, a beanie, gloves, a thermos cup (that can be filled with hot water at numerous places) and packets of cider, cocoa, oatmeal, and soup; a First Aid kit made from a potholder and snack bags, and even more. Members of St. John's family who have volunteered to sew the kits are Keith and Jane Birchard, Mary Lou Bissett, Corrine Crowner, Marilyn Fenn, Katrina Kirsch, Rachel March, and Laurie Suhrbier. Shirley Dolman has donated funds for purchase of small personal pies from local grocers to be a special dessert for the holiday dinner. Saturday 11/7 we set up a rack and tables outdoors under the small

breezeway at Gather to distribute your generous donations of winter clothes and gear. We will continue this each week we have items to offer and a person or two to man the station. A local couple again gifted us \$400 to support this mission. Rebecca Myers has been serving as navigator securing bus passes, garnering community partners, and overseeing MMM's Facebook page. In seeking food donations from a local gas station/quick stop, she met with the owner who surprisingly offered slightly outdated chips/cookies/candy etc from all her 10 stores between here and Seattle. This owner is even transporting all the donations to the Chehalis store as she makes her routine rounds. We are so happy that MMM continues to grow and thrive during this pandemic. If you would like to help behind the scene at St. John's with minimal risk, please contact Sue Edwards. Several of us meet at church most Fridays about 1:30 to pack lunches and sort donations to prep for our Saturdays at Gather in Centralia. -submitted by Sue Edwards

2021

Mobile Meals

A festive time was had Saturday December 19 by 9 volunteers and nearly 100 guests. Shari Blackwell, Lisa Conzatti, Sue Edwards, Rebecca Myers, Donna Moir and Susan Russell from St. John's and Charles, Roy, and Yvette from Gather Church prepped and/or distributed 93 hot to-go holiday meals, 80 sack lunches, and some special gifts.

Each holiday meal included freshly baked ham and turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, cranberries, green bean casserole, and a dinner roll with butter. A personal pie in choice of apple, blueberry, cherry, lemon, peach or pumpkin was added. The savory smells were tantalizing!

Each guest was also wished a Merry Christmas with a red nylon cinch pack courtesy of RISE filled with items especially useful for someone living unsheltered, in a tent, in a vehicle, or a community shelter. Comfy socks, gloves, and hats were provided. A reusable travel mug was given to fill with hot water at a quick stop or night shelter. Packets of instant coffee, tea, oatmeal, or cup of noodles were added for a hot pick-me-up. Snacks such as pepperoni sticks,

crackers, and candy were included. A pocket-size military surplus can opener could be used to open donated canned goods. An emergency flashlight pen would help in lighting the way or flagging down help. A First Aid Kit sewn by St. John's volunteers contained antibiotic cream, Qtips, gauze and band aids, a nail file, alcohol prep pads for wound cleansing, safety pins, a needle and thread, cough drops, and chapstick. A Community Resource List and toiletries such as shampoo and soap rounded out the pack. Sources included community sponsors and a government Covid relief grant to RISE Lewis County.

Large gifts were also available on an as needed basis. Forty fleece blankets were tied by St. John's volunteers with material from Billie's Designer Fabrics via a grant. Other blankets were donated. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church of Chehalis, the founder and now partner in MMM, donated many new tarps, wool scarves, hand warmers, coats, and ready-to-eat foodstuffs. Each guest left with full arms, a soon-to-be full stomach, and the warm feeling that someone cared. Hours were extended to 2 p.m. to maximize the number of people fed. It was a wonderfully blessed day at Gather!



A Warmer Winter for Local Homeless

The winter shelter plan at the fairgrounds has been retooled. Thanks to funds from the CARES Act and the Department of Commerce, the shelter will now be open every night from November 1 - March 31. It will be overseen by the cooperative efforts of Lewis County Public Health & Social Services and the Salvation Army with full-time and part-time paid staff of 4 people. No longer will there be an artificial outdoor temperature requirement of 38 degrees as 39 degrees is cold too! The capacity will be 50 people with the ability to increase as needed. Lodgers will be accepted in from 7-10 p.m. and released at 8 a.m. so this reflects an hour longer stay. Peer support services will be available from previously homeless people. Since the same lodgers and staff may be there night after night, there is a greater opportunity for forming relationships and sharing resources for positive change. This info is courtesy of The Chronicle.

- submitted by Sue Edwards, Mobile Meals Ministry

Locking up the Church

Please make sure when you visit the church and you are the last one out to double check that the doors are locked. You will need to pull on the handles to ensure the door is locked and latched.

Michelle will be doing a Security check at the end of Business Monday through Thursday.



Welcome To St. John's Reggie Eklund

St. John's is delighted to introduce and welcome Reggie Eklund as the church's new Technology Coordinator. Reggie recently moved back to Chehalis from Nashville, TN where he worked on both Music Row and a Nashville Church as a sound engineer. Reggie earned a Bachelor of Science in Audio Engineering Degree from Belmont University and is also a proud graduate of WF West High School. In addition to understanding the "nuts and bolts" of the music industry, Reggie is an accomplished musician who is always looking for somewhere to "jam". If you'd like to work with Reggie and his team providing streaming services at St. John's he can be reached at streaming@stjohnschehalis.net

Financial Review:

Monthly income
December \$17,803.66
Monthly expenses
December \$17,697.85

Actual

YTD income: \$233,337.74
YTD expenses: \$228,759.97

*Worship Streaming cost \$5539.90

*Payroll Protection Grant \$21,9000

Baptism Anniversaries

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
- 31 Tom Larsen

- 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 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Wednesday's Together! Cancelled until Further Notice</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					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Worship	4	5	6 <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	7 1	8	9
10 9:30 a.m. Worship	11	12 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	13 <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	14 1	15 February Visitor Deadline	16
17 9:30 a.m. Worship	18 7	19	20 <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	21	22	23
24 9:30 a.m. Worship	25 6:00 p.m. Music & Worship	26	27 <i>Wednesday's Together</i> (see schedule)	28	29	30 t
31 9:30 a.m. Worship						

Giving to Support St. John's

As a church we encourage those who are part of the St. John's family to be giving 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. You will be asked for the following information:

St. John's Lutheran Church
2190 Jackson Hwy, Chehalis, WA 98532
360-748-4741

Questions? Contact the Officet



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:

(We will be sending a card of comfort)

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.