



St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA  
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[office@stjohnschehalis.net](mailto:office@stjohnschehalis.net)  
360.748.4741

# The Visitor

April 2026

## Call Committee Updates: Welcome Spring!

Your Call Committee has been busy this winter. In discussion and reflection together and in prayer, we have prepared to move our congregation through the Call process. In February we finally received the name of a pastoral candidate interested in learning more about part-time ministry with St. John's. After reviewing and discussing the candidate's ministry profile we developed impressions and questions that only an in-person interview would answer.

We decided to invite the candidate to meet and interview with us Saturday March 21. We had a fruitful 2-hour conversation, with committee members freely sharing the concerns and desires of their hearts regarding pastoral ministry at St. John's. In the days following the interview, we each made time for prayer and reflection on all that was spoken and unspoken during the interview. We reached consensus that although knowledgeable and agreeable, the candidate's skill set and our congregation's needs did not align as well as both parties may have hoped.

Providence reinforced our conclusion when the candidate contacted the synod a few days later to re-

move her name from consideration for our Call. Although we could view this development merely as a disappointment, I believe God has more in store for us. I trust deeply in God's timing and have learned that our sense of timing is not always aligned with God's.

Although it feels uncomfortable to be where we are, I can see how God is teaching us new ways of being together. Our God is always creating—always doing new things. Perhaps it is true that there are fewer candidates available for open Calls in our synod than in years past. But we worship a God of abundance, overflowing with love, wisdom, and mercy. God wishes for each of us to live abundantly with the help of the Holy Spirit. I pray that we will continue to pray, serve, and live with gladness knowing that God's love and generosity are creating a new us, just as each one of us is created anew each day.

It is spring. Every living thing is waking from the long wait of winter. Let us be refreshed, open to receiving the love and the new creation that God wants for each of us. *Ceci Hauer, Call Committee Chair*

## Join Us In Celebrating Easter

On April 5 at 8:30 a.m. you are invited to join us for a potluck Easter breakfast in the Community Center. Bring a breakfast casserole, fruit tray or pastries to share. After breakfast we will gather in the sanctuary

for our festive Easter worship service at 9:30 a.m. to celebrate the risen Christ.

Pastor Paul Hermansen will be our supply pastor for this service.

### St. John's 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

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Pastor  
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Minister of Music:  
Joan Jahnsen  
748-3901  
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Michelle Turner  
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Office Hours:  
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Monday thru Thursday

Worship:  
9:30 a.m.



## Hello Council and Committee Group Leaders

We are planning a combined council/committee planning and goal setting meeting Sunday, April 26 at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Center.

We want to focus on our planning for the coming six months and develop some mutual goals for growth of our church, and development of our resources.

This meeting encompasses:

- Altar Guild
- Youth & Family
- Church Growth
- Property
- Stewardship
- Mutual Ministries
- Mobile Meals
- Food for our Future
- Social Media
- Fiber Arts
- Book Guild
- Fiber Arts
- Worship & Music
- Care Team
- Kitchen
- Michelle (Administrative/rentals/janitorial)
- Call Committee

Please be prepared to have a spokesperson from your group present a quick overview, any events/dates you have planned, goals/projects etc.

Council members have filled out index cards with three positives of being a St. John's member and on the reverse side, three priority goals for growth and change.

I will leave a card in each of your narthex mail boxes to fill out prior to the meeting, (anonymously) and return to my mailbox so I can collate them prior to the meeting and come prepared to focus on the most important issues facing us this year.

Transparency has been an issue brought to Council's attention frequently and this is a great opportunity for us to all have input and share with each other.

Please respond via REPLY to this email if you will be attending, and if not, who your committee representative will be. Please do not REPLY ALL!

Lunch will be served. This meeting is open to all congregants, and announcements to that effect will be made. Looking forward to your ideas and participation.

*Shari Blackwell,  
Council President*

## Gethsemane Does Not Mean Garden, It Means Oil Press.

It was not a peaceful grove where Jesus went to collect His thoughts. It was a place where workers loaded olives under enormous crushing stones and pressed them until every single drop of oil was squeezed out.

Jesus did not go to a peaceful garden the night before He died. He went to a place literally named the crushing place. Most Christians who have read that story dozens of times have absolutely no idea. Every king, priest, and prophet in the Old Testament was anointed with oil pressed from olives. The word Messiah literally means The Anointed One. The

night before He fulfilled every single one of those offices simultaneously, Jesus went to an olive press.

The symbolism is not accidental. It runs through the entire Bible like a thread that nobody ever showed you how to follow.

He sweat drops of blood that night. Not as a figure of speech, but as a real medical response to anguish so extreme that blood vessels near the skin ruptured and bled through His sweat glands. Luke, who was a physician, recorded it specifically because he understood what he was

*(continued on page 6)*

## New Committee is Formed



Social Media Committee is a new committee that Mindy Judd, Cori Jo Duncan and Angie Gelder run. Our goal is to update information provided on St. John's Facebook page. We've added the mission statement, time that worship starts and the link to watch worship

online. The goal for the Facebook page is to invite the community to join us at St. John's, share dates and times of groups and encourage the community through uplifting pictures, Bible verses and ELCA approved articles. If there's a St. John's event you'd like advertised or pictures from worship or church gatherings, please contact Angie Gelder at [anj.gelder@gmail.com](mailto:anj.gelder@gmail.com).

## Women's Bible Study

On Saturday, April. 18 at 10:00 a.m., the Bible study will meet in the Conference Room to continue working our way through a Bible study called *Gathered by God*. In this session, we move to the book of Acts and hear about the followers of Jesus after the resurrection. We will join the apostles Peter and John, together with the church in Jerusalem, as they

raise their voices in the face of significant threats from their opponents. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they speak the word of God with boldness and shake up the place where they are gathered. We will discuss how the Spirit seeks to move us in our gathered community today.

## Women's Book Guild

The guild will meet for our book smorgasbord on April 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Every one will bring suggested books to this meeting. After everyone has presented their books, we will



choose the ten books that will be read during the year starting in August. If any ladies are interested in joining our group, contact Joan Jahnsen at 360-388-5337. If you have read a book that you think would

## Mobile Meals Ministry

On February 28, we served turkey vegetable noodle soup and ham and split pea soup, bread and butter, pasta salad and dessert. We served about 85 guests. The numbers continue to be high. Many of our guests come back to the window to thank us and show their appreciation for our meal service. The team was Jim and Joan Jahnsen, Sue Reddick, Sue Edwards, and Shari Blackwell, cook. The sack lunches we provide offer an additional meal for later in the day/weekend. Please consider coming once to volunteer and see what we do. We serve the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.

The March 28 meal was a Mexican plate with chicken or turkey enchiladas, black beans, kale/

lettuce/broccoli salad, Spanish rice with onions and peppers and baked corn pudding. Dessert was cranberry cake with whipped cream. The menu was prepared by Donna Moir. She amazingly was present (having had knee surgery March 24!) and supervised the kitchen crew of Lisa Conzatti, Sue Edwards, Jim and Joan Jahnsen and Sue Reddick. 88 hot plates (plus some bowls of salad or rice only) were served; 82 sack lunches were distributed. Not many seconds were requested as guests said they were "stuffed full." Our next turn at the Gospel Mission will be Saturday April 25.

*Submitted by Shari Blackwell and Sue Edwards*

## Celebrations!

### April Birthdays

- 2 Greg Moir
- 4 Christine Vlach  
Clara Giuliani
- 5 Samantha Barber
- 18 Bob Cosser
- 25 Bernice Workman
- 28 Tim Touhey

### April Baptism Anniversaries

- 5 Rick Michal
- 6 Lexi Erwin  
Janie Mauel
- 10 Lynette Gage
- 11 Cole Fisher  
Riley Fisher
- 12 April Michal
- 14 Shirley Dolman  
Andrew Michal
- 15 Brynne Bailey  
Colt Conzatti
- 19 Sierra Gilliland
- 22 Cason Justice
- 29 Ezra Birchard

### May Birthdays

- 1 Mary Olson  
Bob Russell
- 3 Sue Edwards  
Mary Lou Sterner
- 4 Louis Wagner
- 7 Jason Humphrey
- 11 Margarite Humphrey
- 12 Christina Jo Leith
- 15 Lillian Tobin
- 17 April Michal
- 19 Katie Guilani  
Reid Olson
- 22 Ethan Barber  
Colleen Touhey
- 26 Cori Jo Duncan  
Martina Munz  
Susan Russell
- 27 Mindy Judd
- 28 Randy Faro
- 31 Chris Cole  
Julie Hildahl  
Riley Fisher

### Anniversaries

- 18 Jan and Bob Cosser
- 21 Keith and Ceci Birchard
- 23 Sandy and Brian Gilliland
- 24 Katie and Jason Humphrey
- 27 Helen and Joe Buda

### Baptism Anniversaries

- 3 Sue Edwards
- 8 Courtney Cox  
Kelsey Hoffman
- 10 Adam Moir
- 12 Greg Moir
- 13 Mary Olson
- 20 Anne Gray
- 22 Christina Jo Leith
- 23 Katie Humphrey  
Stephen Jendryka
- 24 Bob Russell



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, let us know! Call the church office at 360-748-4741 or e-mail: [office@stjohnschehalis.net](mailto:office@stjohnschehalis.net)

**St. John's QR Codes** They are simple to use just open up your Camera on your smart phone, tap your finger on the QR code and it will take you right to the Facebook page, Website and Worship link.

#### Facebook Page Link



#### Website



#### Worship



# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Easter Blessing</i></p> <p>May the light of Easter fill your heart and home, guiding you through life with hope, faith, and love.”</p> 			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class 4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. Breakfast Potluck 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Easter Blessings</i></p> 	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class 4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom 7 p.m. Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>1:30 p.m. Young at Heart</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class 2 p.m. Worship &amp; Music Committee 4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom 7 p.m. Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class  <i>Visitor Deadline</i></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:30 a.m. Mobile Meals at LC Mission</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Church Council &amp; Committee Planning</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>7 p.m. Book Guild</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class 4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>		

## Gethsemane

*Continued from page 1*

describing. Luke 22:44. The medical term is hematomatosis. Jesus was not nervous, He was in a level of physical and spiritual agony that was tearing His body apart before anyone had laid a single hand on Him.

The cup he begged His Father to take from Him was not the nails. He was facing something far more terrifying: the full weight of God's wrath against every sin ever committed by every human being throughout all of history poured out onto one person. A separation from His Father that the eternal Son of God had never experienced in all of existence. He was not afraid of dying, He was facing something no human can fully comprehend, and He did it in a place named for crushing.

Then He asked his three closest friends to stay awake and pray with Him on the worst night of His

life. They fell asleep. Three times. The same number of times Peter would deny Him before sunrise. Not my will but yours be done. That prayer is not peaceful. It is the most costly decision any being has ever made in the history of existence,

The olive trees still standing in the Garden of Gethsemane today are estimated to be nearly a thousand years old. The pilgrims have been traveling from across the world to stand in that place for twenty centuries because what happened there still carries a weight that crosses every ocean and every generation.

Jesus prayed the same prayer three times that night, the disciples fell asleep three times, Peter denied Him three times before sunrise. The number three runs through the entire passion narrative like a pattern written by a God who does nothing without meaning.

*From Saints Label; Submitted by Shari Blackwell*

