



St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA
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office@stjohnschehalis.net
360.748.4741

The Visitor

March 2025

News Flash: I Ski for Fun!

(Or... "The Joy of the Lord Is My Strength," an unusual message for Lent)

Last week in Montana, I enjoyed my once-a-year downhill ski adventure. It was a glorious day—gorgeous weather, beautiful, soft powder, the company of a good friend. And yet: the downside of skiing once a year is that I'm always nervous on my first day, so there's this battle: "I'm stressed! But I do this for fun! Good grief! Lighten up for goodness sake, Brenda!"

Deep breath: I ski for fun.

And I live for joy. So do you. When was the last time you remembered?

Of course, our lives have a purpose. Sure, there's work to do. But above all things, life with Jesus teaches that we're here to enjoy the goodness of creation, ourselves, each other, and God.

One year, my favorite ski lesson was "ski the gaps." When skiing in trees, don't look at the trees—you'll hit them for sure! Look at and aim for the gaps.

Another year I learned that a tree is an opportunity to turn. But I thought it was a crash waiting to happen! What if I set aside my fears and head face down the hill, plant my pole on God, turn around those trees, and maybe make some progress?

Now my yearly mantra is: I ski for fun! Translated into Christianese: "The joy of the Lord is our strength." As God reminds his heavy-hearted people in Nehemiah 8:10, sometimes throwing a party is the best way to gain energy for a turn (repentance, life-change).

Skiing's good for me because I'm a chicken at heart. I'm afraid to lose control, afraid to fall. I'm very afraid of steep slopes. And every time I lock in my boots, I have to FACE my fears, aim my skis and my shoulders down the slope with all its steepness, bumps, and ice, and TRUST myself, my equipment, and my skills to get me down. And maybe even have fun.

Dear friends at St. John's, if life feels steep and challenging to you, a little (or a lot) out of control, you are not alone. I know that many of you deal daily with illness, pain, difficult work and family situations. St. John's is moving through a long season of transition. My husband Doug and I are unsure what our own situation will be after this summer. Our nation is quite roiled up and divided.

And I wonder where there might be joy for us amid the struggle. Our conversation about kids and families in worship (continuing March 16) may reveal some

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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 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
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360/748-4741

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Streaming: Ethan Fick:
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Office Hours:
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Monday thru Thursday

Worship Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Worship



Lenten Worship

Pastor Brenda will lead two identical Ash Wednesday services at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. on March 5. There will be imposition of ashes and Holy Communion as part of this service. A Soup and Bread supper will be held at 6:00 p.m. and continue every Wed. during lent. A sign-

up sheet is available in the narthex to help provide either soup or bread. The remaining 5 weeks of mid-week services will be lay-lead using *Hidden With Christ* Lenten vespers. The services will be held in the sanctuary and all 6:30 Lenten services will be streamed.

A Sweet Gift for Lent:

Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent 2025

Pick up your copy of uplifting daily devotions for Lent in the lobby at St. John's. Yours free of charge through the generous gift of one of our members. Share them with friends!

The Last Supper April 13 & 17, 2025 St. John's Proposal for Two Presentations Re-enactment

We are recruiting a committee/actors for a production of *The Last Supper*, to be presented to the members of St. John's and the public, the week leading up to Easter. The goal of this production is threefold: enhance the Easter season, bring members of the church together to work on this meaningful project, and expose our community to the mission and goals of St. John's

We are looking for 14 volunteers to portray Jesus, his disciples and a narrator. The script is a soliloquy format, with each actor memorizing only one page of script. We anticipate holding a total of 4-6 (1 hour) rehearsals during the last two weeks of March and the first week of April.

In addition, to actors, we are also looking for volunteers to help with music, advertising, technology, cos-

tuming and props/table dressing. Much of this has already been organized but needs to be implemented. All energies and ideas welcome! We are holding an exploratory planning meeting Sunday, March 2 after service (around 10:45). If you have any interest, please attend, this meeting is informational and no commitment is required. This is a wonderful opportunity to work on a significant project with your friends, perhaps a father/son project. If you know of anyone outside St. John's that might be interested, please invite them. This event will be open to the public.

Contact: Shari Blackwell call/text 310-717-5789.

Or email under-shirt@dslextrême.com, with interest or questions.

Thank you for considering.

Pastor's Bible Study

We are taking a break, Tuesday, March 4 for the week of Ash Wednesday.

Continuing on Tuesdays, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. through Palm Sunday (April 13).

Listening to God speak to and through our preaching passages and each other.

(Continued from page 1)

lovely gaps between the trees. I hope good instructors (Pr. Rebecca from the synod among them) meet you on the hill with hearty encouragement and helpful tips. Perhaps maybe the transition team's work and the call process might become good turns for St. John's. And for those of you on steep and troublesome slopes personally, I hope this lovely Body of Christ at St. John's sticks by you and is there if/when you fall to help you dig out and carry on.

Above all, my friends, I hope joy in Christ and each other finds and captures you, because, really, the joy of the Lord (God loves you, God's got this!) is our strength! May you enjoy deep laughs, true thrills, soul-filling sights, delighted giggles, maybe even tears of healing and relief shared with understanding friends. In abundance. And may you have strength for today. *Pastor Brenda*

Children in Worship

We all agree that having children and young families in the worship service gives us hope that our church will survive. They bring joy and a sense of energy and life to our worship. People have been given an opportunity to express difficulties and challenges

and now we will have a follow-up meeting on Sunday, March 16 after church to brainstorm ways we can make the worship service a good experience for all ages. Come share your ideas!

Women's Book Guild

The Book Guild will meet on Tuesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room. We will be discussing *The Wishing Game* by Meg Shaffer. This

book tells the story of a teacher's aide named Lucy who sees the chance to make her dreams, and those of the orphaned boy she hopes to adopt, come true.

Women's Monthly Bible Study

On Saturday, March 15 at 10:00 a.m. we will meet in the conference room and conclude a 3-session study on the book of Ephesians. Session Three: *Grace-Filled Living, Ancient and New*. Ephesians chapters 4-6 fo-

cuses on how to live out who we are as God's people. It gives us a concrete list of things to do and although the language sounds ancient, we will look at the list and see how it is relevant to us today.

Your 2025 St. John's Council:

President: CeCi Hauer
Vice President: Julie Hildahl
Secretary: Linda Lowery
Treasurer: Donna Moir

Members:

Mindy Judd, Rick Mical, Sara Blair, Shari Blackwell, Patty Olsen, Steve Grega, and Scott Amrine (Financial Secretary).

Preaching Schedule

March 2 Pastor Brenda Satrum
March 9 Pastor Randy Faro
March 16 Pastor Brenda Satrum
March 23 Pastor Brenda Satrum
March 30 Pastor Brenda Satrum

Two More Months with Pastor Brenda

I'll be with you at St. John's as Interim Pastor through the end of April (Sunday, 4/27), when I'll return to focus my attention at her permanent call at Faith, Shelton.

Celebrations!

March Birthdays

2 Brian Gilliland
Nate Meagher
3 Sean Touhey
6 Brittany Grill
9 Jake Heck
13 Austin Michal
16 Barbara Grega
17 Emma Rotter
18 Rick Michal
Denise Unzelman
19 Adam Moir
20 Jonathan Riley
22 Ben Russell
27 Gail Dean
28 Cathy Scott
30 Tiffany Ziegert
31 Cheryl Amrine

March Anniversaries

17 Meg and David Nelson
18 Carol and Steve Kostanich
27 Susan and Bob Russell
31 Shawn and Brad Meagher

March Baptism

Anniversaries

9 Jake Heck
10 David Barber
Rachel Barber
Charlotte Barber
Ethan Barber
Samantha Barber
Zoe Thomas
Emma Thomas
11 Allyn Tobey
12 Patty Wilson

14 Keith Birchard
21 Cason Justice
Heather Heck
26 Nathaniel Birchard
Mary DuBois
27 Lisa Conzatti
28 Luanne Grill
Sam Teitzel
30 Taylor Lowery
31 Jared Edwards
Jay Jahnsen

April Birthdays

2 Greg Moir
4 Christine Vlach
Clara Giuliani
5 Samantha Barber
6 Brad Meagher
8 Caroline Carter
Hannah Meier
10 Dolores Goedhard

16 Bernhard Kreutz
Judy Utter

17 Evan Unzelman

18 Bob Cosser
Michelle Lee

26 Christine Larsen
27 Stephen Jendryka
28 Tim Touhey

April Anniversaries

25 Vicki and Bruce Graham

April Baptism

Anniversaries

1 Matt Edwards
3 Jim Carey
5 Rick Michal

6 Lexi Erwin
Janie Mael
10 Lynette Gage
Dolores Goedhard
11 Cole Fisher
Riley Fisher
Lucas Lee
12 April Michal
Michael Vance
14 Shirley Dolman
Andrew Michal
15 Brynne Bailey
Colt Conzatti
17 Angela March
18 Janet Christin
19 Sierra Gilliland
22 Cason Justice
29 Ezra Birchard



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

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p> <p>10 a.m. Altar Guild</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>11 a.m. Church Council</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Brenda</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Young At Heart</p> <p>4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Lenten Service</p> <p>7 p.m. Adult Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10 a.m. Women's bible Study</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p> <p>6 p.m. Worship & Music</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Brenda</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p> <p>4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Lenten Service</p> <p>7 p.m. Adult Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p> <p><i>Visitor Deadline</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Mobile Meals</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Brenda</p> <p>7 p.m. Book Guild</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p> <p>4:15 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Lenten Service</p> <p>7 p.m. Adult Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6 a.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>1:15 p.m. Fiber Arts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 a.m. Group Exercise Class</p>					

Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary

Altar Guild will be changing this year's Easter Flower collection a bit. Please donate \$10 for a Easter flower no matter how many loved ones you wish to honor or commemorate. Please fill out the form below with your name and those you are honoring. You may give your donation to any Altar Guild member: Peanut Brassey, Jan Cosser, Corrine Crouner, Sue Edwards, Marilyn Fenn. Altar Guild will select and purchase the number, size and color of flowers to best complete the altar display. Thank you for your participation. Please make checks out to St. John's Altar Guild.



Name: _____

I wish to donate # _____ Easter flowers at \$10.00 each. Total amount: \$ _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To the Glory of God.



Worship



Website



Facebook Page Link

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.

