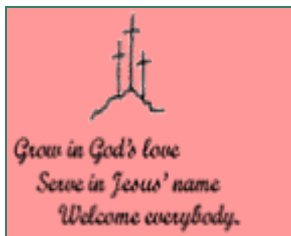


June 2017

Greetings from Pastor Matthew



At Calvary congregation's semi-annual meeting last Sunday, May 21, I presented the results of the Congregational Vitality Survey that we took in March. 59 people took the survey, 48 active attenders, 4 council members, 3 visitors and 1 pastor. According to the survey, the summary description of Calvary is that we are "**currently viable, but not sustainable or vital.**" We are just under the vitality line but farther under the sustainable category.

When a congregation is in this category, the survey recommends this way of moving forward:

Currently viable, but not sustainable and not vital: "Even though you are still viable, you may want to ask what kind of ministry you are hoping to sustain. Is this ministry primarily about sharing God's love with the world, or keeping your close-knit community going? What is God calling you toward? Spiritual discernment is key."

As I talked through some of the specific results of the survey, some interesting themes emerged. Calvary congregation is good at welcoming newcomers. We are slower to integrate new people into the life of the congregation. Some people are just shy and may be reluctant to strike up a conversation with someone they don't know. But remember, a stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet. Each time someone new becomes a part of Calvary they bring new ideas, new insights, new gifts, sometimes new challenges of course, but new blessings, too, and we learn and grow in God's grace together.

I noticed another characteristic about Calvary from the survey. We are spiritually vital, we have a clear sense of mission, we're focused on doing God's work, but we are not so excited about the future, not always ready to try new things and not so willing to change to live into mission and purpose. That's where we need to have some prayerful conversations. We might be more about keeping our close-knit community going rather than sharing God's love with the world. We might need to struggle with that question a little bit.

We also need positive leaders to help move this congregation forward. We need to strengthen our leadership. That means those who are already leaders, including myself, can learn and grow in our leadership. It also means that we can identify and raise up new leaders to move us forward into God's sure and certain future. I believe we can become a vital and sustainable church. I believe that Calvary can shift its focus from our own comfort to the bigger questions of how can we share God's love in the world, and what is God calling us toward?

I ask you to pray for Calvary and for its leadership. I ask you to engage in real conversations with one another, with newcomers and with members of the community around you. I want you to practice one-to-one conversations with people in the church and out in the community. Ask each other to tell you their stories. Ask each other what are your passions? What do you love to do? What in the world are you concerned about? What keeps you up at night? And be willing to share your stories with them. Just get together and take turns really listening to each other. It may be that other people struggle with the same issues that you do. Talking with one another one-to-one builds relationships and strengthens the whole community. Not only that, it helps you find your calling and raises up new leaders in the church. It may be that your passion might be God's way of calling you into leadership. When we know our passion we will grow

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
937 NE JACKSON SCHOOL RD
HILLSBORO OR 97124

Crossways

stronger leadership. The survey notes say “people are more willing to lead when they do things they are interested in rather than fill slots for the congregation. Frederick Buechner famously said, “Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world’s deep need.”

Let us open your hearts to the Holy Spirit to make Calvary a viable, vital and sustainable community for the sake of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and let us love our neighbor.

*God’s Peace,
Pastor Matthew*



The Day of Pentecost

June 4th, 2017

Nicala Young will be confirmed on this day.

Taken from the Celebrate:

Today’s festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed fifty days after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires, and unites. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. In John’s gospel the risen Christ breathes the Spirit on his followers on Easter evening. In the one Spirit we are baptized into one body, and at the Lord’s table the Spirit unites us for witness in the world.

Don’t forget to wear red!

Church Council News

NEW COUNCIL for 2017-2018

Betty Adams, 2015—2018 Council President

Michele Cage, 2015—2018

Cathie Carlisle, 2015—2018 Council Secretary

Barbara Gennrich, 2015—2018

Kayse Durgan, 2016—2019

Jordan Eagan, 2016—2019

John Hartner, 2016—2019

Anapreet Gill, 2017—2020

Elly Gonzales, 2017—2020



2017 Oregon Synod Assembly Report

I came away from Synod Assembly re-charged and excited about the future. It seems we are living in a time when it would be so easy to become pessimistic and discouraged. At a time when church membership in the Synod (and everywhere) is declining and church finances are challenging at best; why be hopeful?

Bishop David Brauer-Rieke used the analogy of “giving birth”. As any mother will tell you, giving birth is painful, confusing, exhausting. There’s a reason why they call it “labor!” But the result is a new beginning! Rich blessings! The miracle of new life! He believes that the church is in the throes of being re-born, a new re-forming. We should be open to new ideas of how to engage each other and the community around us.

First, we need to pray. We pray to discover where God is leading *our* church in ministry. What does He want each of us to do? What does He want for Calvary? There is work to do because God isn’t done with us yet!

We also need to honestly talk to each other about our hopes and fears for the future. Pastor Matthew has talked about one-on-one conversations, but really it’s just getting to know each other better by listening without judgement and talking without fear. Calvary Lutheran is a great church! We are welcoming, caring and growing in faith. We have young people and new folks who can give us fresh ideas. We have people with experience and a history that brings perspective.

Finally we need to try new things, like the Agape meals. As Bishop Dave said, we need to take positive risks without fear. We can do the best we can to do the right thing. If it fails, we are already forgiven! But first, we need to be willing to do something a little different.

The future is an exciting place because we know who is in charge! “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him (Jesus) to be head over everything for the church.” *Ephesians 1:22*

-Michele Cage

Sunday School News

Is it a Pig? Is it a Goat? Is it Chicks?

Sunday School



Sunday, June 11 at 9:00 AM

God's Global Barnyard selection will be revealed.

Sunday, June 11 at 9:00 AM

The last day of Sunday School -
God's Creation

Sunday, June 11 at 10:00 AM

Worship

With special presentation
of the Sunday School
and guests.



A Pig, a Goat, or Chicks – you may contribute financially (loose change) to this project on Sunday, June 4 – Pentecost Sunday.



June at Calvary



Bible Studies

The men's bible study is on Wednesday morning at 10:30 am in the church library. A small but faithful group of men gather, watch biblical videos, and engage in lively discussions. The women's bible study meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm in the church library. This long-standing group also enjoys quite interesting discussions and warm fellowship. Both groups are led by Pastor Matthew. Won't you join us?



Calvary Book Club

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27th at 7:00 pm at the home of Judy Wallin, 3581 SE Roanoke Ct. in Hillsboro, 503-648-6366. The book selection is The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry, by Gabrielle Zevin. There are plenty of copies in the library system.



Quilting and Knitting

The group will meet on Saturday, June 3rd at 9:00 am to create beautiful quilts and prayer shawls.



Lunch Bunch

June's lunch will be on Wednesday, June 14th at 11:30 am at Elmer's Restaurant in Hillsboro. Please contact Inge Eriksen if you have any questions.



Calvary Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Judy Britton and Anita Oberhelman, Co-Chairs
Kayse Durgan, Treasurer—Leslie Mayfield, Secretary
All women of Calvary belong to Calvary WELCA

WELCA Monthly Meeting

Saturday May 20, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

3rd Saturday of Month: Social, Business and Bible Study

Judy Britton and Anita Oberhelman, Co-chairs, Kayse Durgan, Treasurer, Leslie Mayfield, Secretary

Social: During social time we enjoyed a lovely continental breakfast hosted by Edie Pyle. Thank you Edie!

Business Meeting:

Opened by Anita

Treasurer's Report: Kayse reported

Committee Reports:

Quilts & Shawls: Cathie and Kayse working on 5 graduation quilts as a team of two.

Cathie reported that we have partnered with Madras church for 10 prayer shawls to go to their ministry Blue Christmas for winter solstice (shortest day of the year) for those who have lost a loved one and those alone for the first Christmas.

Cradle Roll: Videos have arrived.

Prayer requests and cards: We had many cards for everyone to sign. Thank you Edie!

New Business: Summer schedule: we will meet in June and resume in September, taking July and August off.

Old Business:

Reminder that there is a Women's Retreat at Camp Lutherwood, July 28-30th, for \$100 which includes meals. Currently we have 2 signed up to attend. We have to make our own reservations. Updates are posted on the WELCA Board outside the office. We hope we can get more attending. Retreats are very refreshing, for both body and spirit.

"All Anew" is the theme for the women's 10th Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, July 13-18. For more information you can go to www.welcatg.org.

Bible Study: After a quick break Cathie led our Bible Study.

There are past copies of "Gather", the magazine of Women of the ELCA, on the table in hall. There are many inspiring and thoughtful articles for women of all ages. Current month's copy in WELCA mail cubby.



NEXT MEETING: June 17, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

Hosting: Esta

Bible Study: Cathie

Titled: All Anew, Ready or Not by Kelly Fryer
(Hmm! Theme of the Triennial Gathering)

Please join us!! All women are welcome!



Calvary Lutheran Women's Retreat

July 28-30, 2017

Camp Lutherwood

Cost: \$100

Need some time for reflection and relaxation? Join us for a weekend amidst the fellowship of other women to explore and contemplate the beauty of creation. Take a weekend to simply be.

The camp staff and guest presenter, Rev. Lucille Antionette Mills will lead games, nature walks, Bible study, worship, and contemplative conversations. All meals are provided (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch).

Guest Presenter: Rev. Lucille Antionette Mills

Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills grew up in Greensboro, N.C. She completed her seminary studies at The Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She served her first ten years of ministry in the Virginia Synod. She currently serves as Associate Director for African Descent Ministries for the ELCA as deployed staff from its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois while also serving as interim at Family of Faith Lutheran Church in Concord, North Carolina.

To register, call (541) 998-6444 or register on-line at

<http://lutherwoodoregon.org/adults-and-family/>

Carolee from Eugene wrote:

I have stayed at this camp for a Women's Retreat weekend three summers in a row. I can't praise it high enough. The location is beautiful and serene. The food is outstanding. If you want to retreat to a place where you can renew your spirit, this is the place to go. The staff is also amazing.

For more information see the women's bulletin board or talk with Cathie.

Book suggestions for your summer reading...

All summaries are taken from Amazon.com



Chicago, by Brian Doyle

On the last day of summer, a young college grad moves to Chicago and rents a small apartment on the north side of the city, by the lake. This is the story of the five seasons he lives there, during which he meets gangsters, gamblers, policemen, a brave and garrulous bus driver, a cricket player, a librettist, his first girlfriend, a shy apartment manager, and many other riveting souls, not to mention a wise and personable dog of indeterminate breed.

A love letter to Chicago, the Great American City, and a wry account of a young man's coming-of-age during the one summer in White Sox history when they had the best outfield in baseball, *Chicago* is a novel that will plunge you into a city you will never forget and may well wish to visit for the rest of your days.

Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett

The acclaimed, bestselling author—winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Orange Prize—tells the enthralling story of how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families' lives.

One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny's mother, Beverly—thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families.

Spanning five decades, *Commonwealth* explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved. Spending summers together in Virginia, the Keating and Cousins children forge a lasting bond that is based on a shared disillusionment with their parents and the strange and genuine affection that grows up between them.

When, in her twenties, Franny begins an affair with the legendary author Leon Posen and tells him about her family, the story of her siblings is no longer hers to control. Their childhood becomes the basis for his wildly successful book, ultimately forcing them to come to terms with their losses, their guilt, and the deeply loyal connection they feel for one another.

Told with equal measures of humor and heartbreak, *Commonwealth* is a meditation on inspiration, interpretation, and the ownership of stories. It is a brilliant and tender tale of the far-reaching ties of love and responsibility that bind us together.

My Name is Lucy Barton, by Elizabeth Strout

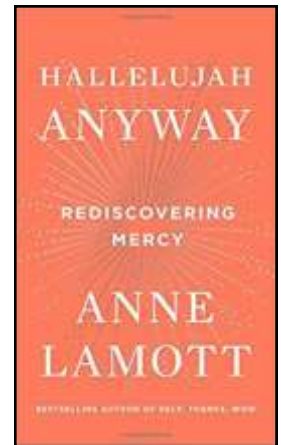
Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy's childhood in Amgash, Illinois, seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lie the tension and longing that have informed every aspect of Lucy's life: her escape from her troubled family, her desire to become a writer, her marriage, her love for her two daughters. Knitting this powerful narrative together is the brilliant storytelling voice of Lucy herself: keenly observant, deeply human, and truly unforgettable.

Hallelujah Anyway, by Anne Lamott

"Mercy is radical kindness," Anne Lamott writes in her enthralling and heartening book, *Hallelujah Anyway*. It's the permission you give others—and yourself—to forgive a debt, to absolve the unabsolvable, to let go of the judgment and pain that make life so difficult.

In *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy* Lamott ventures to explore where to find meaning in life. We should begin, she suggests, by "facing a great big mess, especially the great big mess of ourselves." It's up to each of us to recognize the presence and importance of mercy everywhere—"within us and outside us, all around us"—and to use it to forge a deeper understanding of ourselves and more honest connections with each other. While that can be difficult to do, Lamott argues that it's crucial, as "kindness towards others, beginning with myself, buys us a shot at a warm and generous heart, the greatest prize of all."

Full of Lamott's trademark honesty, humor and forthrightness, *Hallelujah Anyway* is profound and caring, funny and wise—a hopeful book of hands-on spirituality.



A Thank You Note from the Boldens

To the folks @ Calvary,

Mark and I want to thank you all for making us feel so welcomed. It truly means a lot to us. We are at one of the many crossroads we experience in this life, and we don't know what exactly the future holds. But we do know we have a whole bunch of friends @ Calvary Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, OR!

With much love,

Mark & Liz Bolden

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. (<http://www.elca.org/dayofservice>)

In celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church will participate in God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday. We will host our normal morning activities: Sunday School, Adult Forum, and worship. Then spend the rest of the afternoon (two or three hours), serving our community in ways that share the love of God with all of God’s people.

During the next few weeks, the God’s Work. Our Hands. event planners will be asking for your input for ideas to deepen our experience in the community and offer a way for us to play a critical part in addressing community needs.

Stewardship Committee/Reformation 500 Task Force

Living Lutheran

The monthly magazine of the ELCA

"We are a church that values and encourages diverse voices and lively dialogue in our faith and life. Living Lutheran is an opportunity for church members to express individual perspectives, and does not necessarily reflect official positions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

Climate change: Alaskan village tries to preserve its culture

By Cindy Uken April 21, 2017



This is Shishmaref. A place close to my heart. The church and parsonage were destroyed by fire in the mid-80s. Workers from around the United States volunteered their time and skills to build the church building and parsonage. A year later during Holy Week the Alaskan Native Conference was held and the church building was dedicated. My job: get the workers, get the materials, send the fire extinguishers, deliver the truck to the North Star ship that would take the materials to the Village in the narrow time frame of clear, ice free water. (Cathie)



Living out our commitment

How is the ELCA carrying out its vision of diversity?

By Karris Golden May 5, 2017

It has been a long road, with work left to be done, said Judith Roberts, ELCA racial justice ministries program director. But she's hopeful, thanks in part to actions taken by the [2016 Churchwide Assembly](#) in August. "The church is turning the corner in striving for justice," she said. "At the assembly, it felt like the church was speaking boldly. It's now up to each of us to carry out that vision. For the person in the pew, it comes down to encouraging us to ask, 'Why do we exist?'"

A study guide may be downloaded by clicking on the "Spiritual practices & resources" tab at livinglutheran.org. You may also read the Living Lutheran on-line at livinglutheran.org

Why do we exist?

Brought to you by the Stewardship and Christian Education Committee

In Our Prayers



Bette, Mary and Dan, Allison and Family, Chris Beckmeyer, Joye, Family of Jan Ryerson, Family of Curt Plants, Janet, Don Roberts, The Christiansen's great-granddaughter Pippa, Joanne Rice, Burt, Joe Lee, Dennis Rodin, Mary Ellen Herbert & Paul Jensen, Riddock Hunter Smith & Family, Sharon Janzen, Ermine Todd IV and all members of our Military, Jim & Dick Highhouse, Mary Crandall, Tomi Deveraux, Sharon Schmadeke

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary to You!

June 2	John & Susan Hartner
June 3	Kyle Hiebel
June 4	Deanna Parker
June 7	Kenneth Ericksen Robert & Meredith Gennrich
June 8	Amy James Loren McLaury
June 11	Kenneth & Marian Ericksen
June 15	Werner James
June 16	Jim & Judy Wallin Robert & Judy Eckert
June 18	Jackie Morley
June 19	Margaret Woodle
June 22	Barbara Gennrich
June 27	Rodney & Esta Christiansen Frank & Anita Hiebel
June 28	Robert Gennrich
June 29	Greg & Laurie Hannon
June 30	Sean Parker



June Calendar

June 3	Quilting and Knitting, 9am
June 4	Sunday Worship, 10am PENTECOST with Confirmation
June 6	Blood Drive, set-up at noon
June 7	Men's Bible Study, 10:30 Bible Study, 1pm
June 11	Sunday Worship, 10am GRADUATE SUNDAY Last Day of Sunday School
June 14	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am Bible Study, 1 pm
June 15, 16	Last Days of Preschool
June 17	WELCA, 9:30pm
June 18	Sunday Worship, 10am FATHER'S DAY
June 20	Social Ministry Meeting, 1pm Care Committee Meeting, 2pm
June 21	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
June 22	Pr. Matthew starts vacation
June 25	Sunday Worship, 10am
June 27	Book Club, 7pm
June 28	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm