

December 2016

## Greetings from Pastor Matthew



### Advent Agape Meals

For several weeks some Calvary members have been enjoying Agape meals, a form of worship practiced by early Christians. Agape means love, especially God's love shown most fully to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Agape Meal is a simple form of worship and a great way to be community in Christ. We enjoy a simple meal together, usually soup, bread and salad. We have a reading from the Bible and maybe a reading from a contemporary author. I like to pose a few questions for spiritual conversation. Then we share communion sitting around our tables. One thing I have noticed is that when communion is over no one seems anxious to go home. We sit at our table for just a few more minutes and enjoy casual conversation. There is something about Communion that changes the quality of the community. Our hearts are warmed. We may find ourselves feeling more connected to God and each other. I don't know how to explain it. The Holy Spirit moves in us and we are the mystical body of Christ.

I hope to continue the Agape meals throughout the season of Advent and I invite more of you to come. I believe that this form of worship will also be attractive to people who do not normally come to church. Please prayerfully consider who you would like to invite and pluck up your courage and extend an invitation. I encourage long time members and newer members and guests of Calvary to come too.

We will be reading the Advent texts from Isaiah and talking about the themes of Advent, themes of longing, of waiting, of promise and knowing peace, love, hope, and joy! In Advent we dwell in the "already but not yet" which describes so much of our Christian lives and we learn how to wait with patience and with confidence in the Lord. And I gotta tell you, the soups have been wonderful!

### Sundays of Advent:

We will have Sunday school and Sunday Worship at our usual times in Advent. Of special note, you will want to come on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> for the Children's Christmas Pageant.

### Christmas:

Once every twelve years or so, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. That means we will have our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm on Saturday night December 24.

On Sunday December 25 we will have a special Christmas Day service during our regular Sunday worship time at 10:00 a.m. It will be special because we are going to have a Christmas Hymn sing for most of the liturgy. You will be able to pick some of your favorite Christmas Carols during the worship service. There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day because some of you may have some gifts to give or to open.

May God bless us all during the Advent Christmas season! May we wait with hopeful, loving, peaceful and joyful anticipation for the celebration of Jesus' birth and for the coming again of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

God's Peace,

*Pastor Matthew*

# Christmas Time at Calvary

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace..."*



## 2016 Holiday Season Adopt-A-Refugee Family

Check out the display board in the narthex (see the picture on the next page). There are many names. Just take a tag, buy and wrap the gift, and bring it to church by Tuesday, December 13th.

## Children's Christmas Program



The Calvary Sunday School  
will present  
their Christmas Pageant  
during the worship service on  
Sunday, December 18th

## Christmas Eve & Day Services

Saturday, December 24th  
at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm  
Sunday, December 25th  
at 10:00 am



## December Fellowship Opportunities



### Calvary Book Club

All are invited to gather at the home of Leslie Mayfield on Tuesday, **December 6th** to pick books for 2017. The address is 923 NE Birchaire Lane, Hillsboro OR.

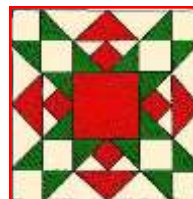
Come and enjoy a festive time together.



### December Lunch Bunch Christmas Gathering

The group will go to lunch on Wednesday, December 14th at 11:30 am at the Vintage Room Restaurant at The Reserve Vineyards & Golf Club. The address is 4805 SW 229th Ave., Aloha OR 97007.

All are welcome! It will be beautifully decorated for Christmas.



### Quilting and Knitting

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

### Men's and Women's Bible Study

The men meet every Wednesday at 10:30am and the women meet every Wednesday at 1:00pm.

*Come and listen, learn and inwardly digest...*

## Pledge News at Calvary

*"Now the One who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*

2 Corinthians 9:10-12

Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you! Calvary Lutheran Church held a pledge in-gathering on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and you responded with such generosity! We received 49 pledges, totaling \$150,700. There are still a few pledges expected which we hope will bring our projected deficit to a much more reasonable level. Thanks be to God!

If you haven't pledged yet, there is still time to support the mission and ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church. Your council is asking you to prayerfully consider how you may be able to help. If you choose to pledge, you can drop a pledge card in the offering basket on Sunday, give it to the office manager, Jan, in the church office, or put a stamp on it and mail it to the church. Your pledge will be kept confidential. If you choose not to make a pledge, we trust that you will continue your faithful giving to the Glory of God and the mission of Calvary.

We have confidence in the abundance of God's love and the spirit of this congregation. We give thanks for all of you and for the gift of Christian community that we share together in Christ.

God's Peace,

*Pr. Matthew and Betty Adams, Council President*



## Christmas Giving

Lutheran Community Services Northwest sponsors refugee families new to the area. These families often come with nothing and need help. At Christmas, the people of Calvary buys gifts, both practical (like coats) and fun toys for the kids. Thank you to Maria Hudock for the beautiful display and to Michele Cage and the Social Ministry Committee for delivering the presents to Portland.



Advent begins this week. An anxious world awaits a savior. Traditions we have followed for years take on new meaning now. Maria Huddock pinned the paper cut-out Christmas tree to the wall in the hallway. She attached slips of paper with names and Christmas wishes from refugees who have come to Portland, Oregon, through Lutheran Community Services. Every year we are humbled by their requests for warm coats, hats and gloves, and maybe pots and pans. They don't ask for toys or computers or flat screen TV's. Well, this year I was happy to see a few requests for scooters for the children.

I found this on the Lutheran Community Services website:

"Every day we see photos of Syrian refugees fleeing for safety. A few have made it here to the Northwest, but we're expecting to see many more in 2016. We're getting ready to welcome them, but we need your help.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest has been caring for and resettling refugees for 40 years in the Pacific Northwest. We've helped more than 35,000 refugees call the Northwest home. Our efforts will intensify next year as Syrian refugees are expected to arrive.

Help us help them start a new life, find health care services, get their kids enrolled in school, and start creating a new home. We work with refugees so they can help themselves, and live freely from oppression and persecution."

I appreciate the work of Lutheran Community Services and I am proud that we Lutherans have helped so many people fleeing war torn places find new homes in the Pacific Northwest. In the movie "Grand Torino" a grumpy old man played by Clint Eastwood complains to his priest about his Mong neighbors who have moved into the neighborhood. He blames "those Lutherans." I am proud that we Lutherans made it into a Clint Eastwood movie and that we have a long history of welcoming strangers in need.

After World War II when Lutheran Community Services began (under a different name, then) our nation opened its doors for German Jews and other European immigrants. In the 1970's we welcomed Vietnamese, Cambodian, Mong and other refugees. I hope that Lutheran Community Services will be able to continue bringing Syrian and other refugees to the Northwest. I am alarmed however by the anti-immigrant messages I have been hearing and the rise of violent speech and action against minorities in general. Our world needs a message of peace, love, hope and joy for all God's children.

And so it is the season of Advent. As we light the Advent candles each week we proclaim the light of Christ coming into the world. We celebrate the gifts of peace, love, hope and joy that are coming for all the world to know through the birth of a baby in a manger in some obscure Middle Eastern town called Bethlehem. We remember that Jesus' family fled their homeland and became refugees for a time in Egypt. At a recent council meeting each council member told their immigrant stories some so much like those who are arriving here today. I pray that we will welcome the strangers for are all immigrants on this land. In Advent we pray for peace, love, hope and joy. In Advent we ask, "How long O Lord?" In Advent we hope for the time when Christ will come again and God and all shall be well. We pray,

*Peace,*

*Pastor Matthew Eagan*



will dwell among God's people  
"Come Lord Jesus, come."



## Calvary Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Betty Dendinger, President - Anita Oberhelman, Vice-President  
Sonya Rustad, Secretary – Kayse Durgan, Treasurer  
All women of Calvary belong to Calvary WELCA

### WELCA Monthly Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 2016, 9:30 a.m.

**Breakfast:** We had a delicious breakfast made and served by Kayse and Edie. We had a great turnout!  
Thank you!!

### Business Meeting:

Note: Our vice prez wore two hats: writing the minutes and article and running the meeting, so please be kind and excuse any errors and/or omissions.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kayse's report was from September 2016. It was proposed and seconded that we give Edie \$100 for postage and supplies for the cards she makes. After some discussion it was proposed and passed that we transfer AED funds to WELCA general funds.

### Committee Reports:

**Quilts & Shawls:** Going well. Cathie took some afghans to Kaiser Hospital.

**Cradle Roll:** Edie reported that they may order videos from SPARKS.

**Prayer requests and cards:** Card to Pippa, prayers that her appetite increases, tumor is still there. Ilse, Werner's mother doing better.

### Business:

Triennial Gathering July 13-16, 2017 in Minneapolis:

It was agreed that WELCA will pay registration fee for a delegate. For more information see WELCA Board or visit [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org).

Question on table: did we pay for Kayse's registration in Bend. No, she did not attend.

Thank offering service: date to be determined.

Coloring book project – question: who has it? Footnote: if you have it please put it in WELCA mail cubby.

December meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> it will be a Potluck, with a ornament exchange, sing Christmas songs, and read the Christmas story. Task: encourage other women to attend. Judy B will create flyers and post, Kayse will do announcements at services.

Other: Edie brought up the need to clean the kitchen.

**Bible Study** followed after a quick break. Round robin. Session 3: "When God Chooses the Unlikely", Paul and the power of failure.

**NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 9:30 A.M.  
POTLUCK, ORNAMENT EXCHANGE (OPTIONAL), SINGING AND  
CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS.**

**Please join us!! All women are welcome!**



## ***Reformation 500 - Martin Luther and Advent/Christmas***

*-Cathie Carlisle*

“In the theological tumult that was **Martin Luther's** life, the great reformer seemed to be heartened each year by the great festivals of the church, particularly Advent and Christmas. The man who "invented" the Protestant parsonage was also sustained by a blazing sense of humor and a happy home life. It was open house all year in the large converted monastery at the east end of Wittenberg where Luther, his wife Katie, and their six children lived, along with numerous students who stayed there as well. One of them wrote that as Christmas approached, Luther grew increasingly cheerful:



"All his words and songs and thoughts concerned the incarnation of our Lord. Then he sighed and said, 'Oh, we poor people that we should be so cold and indifferent to this great joy that has been given us. For this is indeed the greatest gift, which far exceeds all else that God has created. Yet we believe so sluggishly, even though the angels proclaim and preach and sing, and their lovely song sums up the whole Christian faith, for 'Glory to God in the highest' is the very heart of worship."

Among his many roles—theologian, reformer, professor, scholar, exegete, hymnodist, and prolific author—Martin Luther probably considered his role as preacher to be most important. Biographer Roland H. Bainton writes, "Luther is at his best and most characteristic in his sermons on the Nativity," and then excerpts one of them in which Luther unfolds the familiar story of Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem:

The inn was full. No one would release a room to this pregnant woman. She had to go to a cow stall and there bring forth the Maker of all creatures because nobody would give way. Shame on you, wretched Bethlehem! The inn ought to have been burned with brimstone, for even though Mary had been a beggar maid or unwed, anybody at such a time would have been glad to give her a hand. There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby! I would have washed his linen! How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!" Yes you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself."

By Paul L. Maier - <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/december/celebrating-advent-with-martin-luther.html>

*Our display cabinet will feature some of the traditions of Advent and Christmas which Martin Luther influenced.*

*Our library has a couple of books in the new books area which feature Martin Luther's Christmas Book and Martin Luther's Christmas Sermons.*

***Thanks to our generous God and our tithes and offerings sent through Calvary to the Oregon Synod and to the ELCA churchwide, we can continue providing God's Word through the printed media as well as the electronic media.***

## Social Ministry News, Joanne Rice

### Food Donations Needed

Thanks again to all who have brought food or made a monetary donation for the St. Vincent dePaul Hillsboro Food Bank. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. The number of households that visit the food bank each month continues to remain high.

Please place food or personal care items in the basket on the Welcome Table in front of the library. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, place your contribution on Sunday in the pumpkin cookie jar on the Welcome Table. Checks may be made out to Calvary with "Hillsboro Food Bank" in the memo line.

Below are two excerpts from the Oregon Food Bank's *Voices 2016 Report*. The second excerpt is the story of Wanda from Jordon Valley telling about she and her extended family's struggle with hunger. You can read the full report at the Oregon Food Banks website under the "Our Work" tab.

### "The face of hunger is changing"

More and more, people who are doing the things that once kept them on the path of safety and success are still unable to provide enough nutritious food for themselves and their families. These are people who have college degrees, are working full-time jobs, and are keeping a tight eye on the family budget. The Great Recession may have passed, but millions of Americans still struggle with its impact every day. For them, there has been no recovery.



As businesses slash wages, reduce hours, and eliminate benefits, more people have to spend what little resources they have to cover increasing expenses. The cost of child care, the challenge of transportation (especially in our rural communities), skyrocketing tuition, and even routine medical costs have massive impacts on people's ability to get the food they need to live healthy, productive lives.

This group of people, the new hungry, now join those who have had the misfortune of a life-changing crisis in the line to receive food assistance—a line that was already much too long. And while we see the generosity of communities, people coming together to try to meet the challenge, rising to answer the call, it is not enough. We need systemic, broad-spectrum change, and we need it now...because no one should be hungry."

### "WANDA"

Communities grow together during tough times.

I have a son, grandson and my husband living with us. And I have my younger grandkids with us every few weeks. They're with me more than they are not. My dream is to become self-sufficient and not have to rely on outside services.

My husband is diabetic, so he's got to watch his carbs and his sugars. He has to have fresh fruits and vegetables when we can find them and that's more money. And I can't get enough for everybody, so it's something we do just for him. We don't have the variety out here, we kind of have to take what's there and make the best of it.

We have to skip meals sometimes, to make it to the next pay day. We kind of just live on soup and maybe sandwiches if we can get bread from our church. I had to learn to utilize what I have. I can make a soup out of whatever and it goes a long ways. It makes it hard if the kids won't eat it, but I have to try.

Tough times, sometimes they help a community grow together. Some families have a little bit more that they're willing to share with somebody else. I've noticed that about Jordan Valley, and that's a good thing. If you have a little extra, why not give it away?"

### 1 John 3:17-18:

*"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."*

## *Family Promise Homeless Program*

Calvary will be hosting Family Promise beginning on January 1, 2017. A resolution to give of ourselves by serving others! What a wonderfully fulfilling way for a Christian to kick off your New Year!

Thank you and God's Peace,

Julie Perger

Volunteer Coordinator

Calvary/Family Promise

503-347-9917

[julieperger@gmail.com](mailto:julieperger@gmail.com)



*Helping others...*



Calvary's Band playing at Hillsboro Happy Holly Days last Saturday!

The band played Christmas carols at the Civic Center, including a punk rock version of Little Drummer Boy. It was a joy to share the Good News of Jesus through song in public. -Pr. Matthew



### Stewardship – December 2016 – Part One

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church is a child/bride of a very Generous God. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church is both a building and a people. Jay Beech wrote a song titled “We Are the Church.” In which we sing, the church is not a building. Remember the hand rhyme? Interlock the fingers and say “here is the church”, put the pointy-fingers together and say “here is the steeple”, then turn your hands inside out and say “Open the door and see all the people.” Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church is a people. A people gathered to worship and serve our Generous God.

In September 1955, Pastor John Baglien was Called by God and the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church to actively pursue developing a faith community in Hillsboro. The closest United Lutheran Church was in Portland and some of its members found living in Hillsboro and driving into Portland to attend worship was a long journey. [It was a long journey: this author (age 10) lived in Southeast Portland near the old Troutdale airport and worshipped at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church in the Sylvan district every Sunday. The birth of a baby brother made the journey extra hard and we had to seek another church close by.] Thus, it was for those living in Hillsboro.

Pastor Baglien was not alone in this venture. First, he had a Call from God. Second, the larger church body affirmed his Call and provided financial support. Third, he had the prayers and support of the other Lutheran church bodies. He had a list of people who lived in the area who had made the initial request for a new congregation. Pastor Baglien printed off flyers, went door knocking a.k.a. cold calls, made his presence known to the Hillsboro Argus, who interviewed him and published meeting times and any events that were happening in this developing community.

Pastor Baglien was a graduate of Medford High School and Central Lutheran Theological Seminary in Fremont, NE in 1948. He came to Hillsboro from Spokane, WA where he had been the organizing pastor of St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church. He and his wife have three children.

The name of this new mission was Advent Lutheran Church. The first service was held in the VFW Hall on the second Sunday in Advent, December 4, 1955 with 90 in attendance. On this day in 2016, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrates the second Sunday in Advent.

The VFW Hall is located at 9<sup>th</sup> and Oak St. where Tuality Community Hospital is now located.

Advent Lutheran Mission was an appropriate name as Advent symbolized new beginnings. A new beginning as we look toward the coming of Christ, a new beginning as a new community of faith, a new beginning of active waiting.

That active waiting involved the beginning of Sunday School the following Sunday, December 11. Sunday School staff were installed that Sunday: Mrs. William Hamlin, Mrs. John Baglien, Mrs. Lloyd Strand, Mrs. Jack Luetjen, Mrs. Dean Walker, Mrs. Milford Reed, Bill Ettinger, Mrs. Bertha Harrer, and Pastor John Baglien.

The Membership Roll was opened in March with the organization Sunday on April 19, 1956. There were 13 calling teams that visited neighborhoods and friends to tell people about the new congregation, to invite them to worship, and to consider charter membership. Al Jerde was chair of the Finance and Canvass Committee.

On Organization Sunday, Advent Lutheran became Calvary Lutheran Church. Charter members: 104 adults, 55 children.

Of our tithes and offerings each Sunday, a portion is sent to and through the Oregon Synod to the ELCA to assist in the development of new congregations in America. We are children and partners of a Very Generous God...a Very Generous God indeed.

## Preschool News

November flew by this year! We enjoyed learning new songs, reading fall stories, and making decorations and food for a Thanksgiving Feast. Now we are in the middle of Christmas preparations. The kids will spend the few weeks before Christmas break learning songs for our Christmas program and making gifts for their families.

The preschool staff wishes to express to all of you their gratitude for your support and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Maggie



## In Our Prayers



Pippa Stuhlmiller & Family, Jimmy Leafy, Riddock Hunter Smith & Family, George Locke, Sharon Janzen, Noni Steinbach, Ermine Todd IV and all members of our Military, Jim & Dick Highhouse, Mary Crandall, Tomi Deveraux, Sharon Schmadeke

## Happy Birthday to You!



December 2	Mary Crandall
December 3	John Hartner
December 5	Ermine Todd IV
December 6	Brent Young
December 7	Merle Kind
December 9	Margaret Deveraux
December 11	Blanche Anderson
December 12	Joanne Rice
December 15	Frank Hiebel
December 25	Jesus
	Carol Chase
December 29	Sophia Earl
	Ross Mackinnon



## December Calendar

Dec 3	Quilting & Knitting, 9am
Dec 4	Sunday Worship, 10am
Dec 6	Blood Drive, noon
	Book Club, 7pm
Dec 7	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am
	Women's Bible Study, 1pm
	Advent Agape Meal, 6:30pm
Dec 11	Sunday Worship, 10am
	Council Meeting
Dec 14	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am
	Lunch Bunch, 11:30am
	Bible Study, 1pm
	Advent Agape Meal, 6:30pm
Dec 17	WELCA, 9:30am
Dec 18	Sunday Worship, 10am
	Children's Christmas Program
Dec 20	Blood Drive, noon
	Social Ministry, 1pm
	Care Committee, 2pm
Dec 21	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am
	Women's Bible Study, 1pm
	Advent Agape Meal, 6:30pm
Dec 24	Christmas Eve, 7 and 11 pm
Dec 25	Sunday Worship, 10am