

January 2018

Greetings from Pastor Matthew

Christmas in the Office



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
937 NE JACKSON SCHOOL RD
HILLSBORO OR 97124

Crossways

“Twas the week before Christmas and all through the office,
Jan worked on a newsletter she hoped would suffice.
I labored at sermons and hoped to be spared
From last minute phone calls for pastoral care.
The children would need a good children’s time, too,
So I looked up John Steven’s website for a few
Ideas, but I had a news article to write
And I thought Holy Cheeses I’ll be here all night.
So I thought of Augustus’s Royal Decree
And poor Mary and Joseph in poor Galilee
Who travelled for days to the town Bethlehem,
And sadly they found there no room in the Inn.
I thought of the stable where Jesus was born
And was laid in a manger, but then I was torn,
Because modern scholarship places them in a room
In a house where the animals slept to keep warm,
And quite possible relatives, family and friends
Called down stairs to see how this delivery ends
And though Mary was tired, and Joseph was puzzled
I’m sure the sheep bleated and the cows mooed and nuzzled
The Savior of all with their leathery noses
With everyone there, as the moderns supposes.
Do I dare change the vision of a shed or a cave
In which Jesus was born, we were taught to believe?
But after a while, I thought, what does it matter
In what kind of shed our dear Lord was delivered.
The important thing isn’t the cows and the chickens.
Our savior has come to bless us like the Dickens!
And then all the Angels appeared in the sky
To sing the Alleluia Chorus by Handel and cry
Unto you has been born a Savior you see,
The wonderful councilor, and prince of peace!
And the shepherds made haste which I think means they ran
To see the small baby, and loudly proclaim

“Joy to the World!” and “What Child is this”,
And then they left shouting with joy and with bliss.
But Mary pondered these things in her heart
Now, Jan and I have given our work a good start.
So writing this article sure was some fun
And Jan I’m sure will get her work done.
We both wish you happy, yes all of our staff
Because Maggie is here in her preschool office.
And so this is Christmas we hope yours is bright,
And I’m sure my sermon will be done by Saturday night.

In God’s Peace, Pastor Matthew Eagan

Christmas Giving Project

A big thanks once again to Maria Hudock for being the liaison with Lutheran Community Services NW. Maria set-up the bulletin board in the narthex with the names of the people who needed help this Christmas. The people of Calvary took every tag and bought presents for these families. And many thanks again to Michele and John Cage who delivered the presents to LCSNW in Portland.



A picture of the Anzuruni family enjoying their gifts!

A Note from Stefani at LCSNW:

All 3 families have received their gifts and were thrilled. Please extend our thanks to everyone at Calvary who participated--their generosity brought great joy to these families!
Merry Christmas!

Christmas At Calvary



Special Lunch Bunch at The Reserve Restaurant





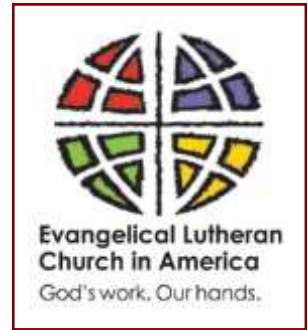
Choir singing on Christmas Eve morning



The Children's Christmas Program!

A Christmas message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

I was driving to work one day thinking about my schedule – the meetings I needed to attend, reports I needed to finish, preparations for upcoming travel, email, phone calls, and making a grocery list in my head so that I could pick up what I needed for supper on the way home from work. All of a sudden, I found myself pulling into the parking garage at the Lutheran Center. I had driven the 9 miles to work and had no idea how I got there. I didn't remember the traffic lights, the turns, the scenery – nothing. I had been so absorbed in what was coming up that I was completely oblivious to the present.



I think this experience is not unique to me. We set part of our lives on autopilot and set the planning, list-making, what if scheduling part on overdrive. Now, planning is a good and necessary thing. One ought to be aware of what is coming up and what needs to be done, but I found that I was so driven by the contingencies and possibilities that I was everywhere all of the time, and, therefore, not anywhere at all.

I asked my spiritual director about this, and she recommended that I meditate on these four words: “Just this. Just now.” It's a simple discipline but not an easy one. It can alleviate all that anticipatory stress but only if we are willing to be still.

Here we are in Advent. This season doesn't exist in secular culture where everything is barreling toward Christmas. No time to wait, no time to notice, no time to be present. Not this. Not now. All of a sudden, we will find ourselves on the day after Christmas not knowing how we got there.

Advent is a holy season, a season that bids us to be present, to be still. So much is evoked in this season – hope, longing, and the bittersweet awareness that the world is beautiful and broken. Consider all of these things. Sit with them. Pray with them. Be aware of this time of great promise that comes, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, when night is longest. Come, Lord Jesus.

Wait for the Lord. Disengage the autopilot. Notice. Just this. Just now. Blessed Advent and merry Christmas, dear church!

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Calvary Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting, Part 1

Sunday, January 28, 2017

11:30 am in the sanctuary

Youth Group News

A few weeks ago, our Calvary Youth spoke to the congregation about their goal to go to the ELCA Youth Gathering. The ELCA Gathering occurs once every three years. This year the youth gathering takes place in Houston, Texas. After the Hurricane, I can imagine what our service event is going to be this year. We are excited to share with you the theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, "This Changes Everything." Our primary scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."*

Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough because of what Christ has done and are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.

Our youth are excited to go to the gathering and are faithfully preparing for the event. We have joined up with two other churches, St. Andrew in Beaverton and Emanuel in Portland. We have been meeting once a month for Bible Studies, group building and planning. We will continue meeting until the gathering and I hope will continue our relationships with one another after the gathering.

One important aspect of getting ready for the ELCA Youth Gathering, of course, is fundraising. The youth introduced themselves and spoke to the congregation about their need for your encouragement, prayers and monetary support. The youth who are going to the gathering are Sophia Earl, Nicala Young, Hailey Gessford, Gillian McKim, Lauren McKim, and Justin Crocker-Hill. Our youth leaders will be Jennifer McKim and Pastor Matthew. Travelling with a larger group we will be able to share leadership responsibilities.

We estimate that the ELCA Youth Gathering will cost about \$1,500 per person. If I've done my math correctly we are hoping to raise \$12,000. We are grateful that you donated a little over \$1000 dollars that very Sunday!

Here are some of the fundraisers our youth will be working on in the months ahead:

Recyclables. Please bring your recyclable bottles and cans, only those that are redeemable to the church. The youth will bring them to recycling stations and turn them into cash for our trip. Ask your family and friends to donate. This is a very easy way to make money! The youth thank you.

The youth have brainstormed a number of ideas for fundraisers. One that we hope to do will be a Valentine Dinner. Look forward for more information on this.





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



The next WELCA meeting is
January 20th
at 9:30 am

Eco-Reformation at Calvary

JANUARY ACTIVITIES



Here are the January dates:

Wednesday, Jan. 3 @ 3:30 Eco-Reformation team meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 9 @ 2:00 at Primrose and Tumbleweeds, Eco-Coffee

Saturday, Jan. 27 Eco-Snow Day (all ages)

Eco-Coffee

Coffee Gathering: Do you find God's creation a place of re-creation and healing? Are you concerned about the environment and the legacy we are leaving the next generations? **Come for coffee at Primrose & Tumbleweeds in downtown Hillsboro, Tuesday, January 9th at 2 pm.** to share nature stories and concerns...or just listen. Everyone is welcome and there is no obligation: you won't be asked to do something. Questions? Ask Leslie Mayfield or Michele Cage.

Eco-Snow Day!

Your ECO FRIENDLY Church members would like to invite Youth, Children, Adults and Families to a very fun event that also happens to get us out and appreciating Nature. We invite you to have a Snow Day with us at Mount Hood on Saturday January 27.

The Snow Day may include sledding, cross country skiing, and perhaps even downhill skiing for some. Find those hats and mittens that you have stored in your attic or closet. Dust off those cross-country skis. If you have a sled or spare inner tube, take it to a gas station and pump it up with air. Please let us know if you are interested in going and what kind of activity you would prefer.

Come and enjoy the frozen kind of nature, and the warm hearts of Christian community.

January Fellowship Opportunities



Calvary Book Club

The book club will meet on Tuesday, January 23rd at 7:00 pm.
The book selection is Letter to My Daughter by Maya Angelou, hosted by Michele Cage (and Sally Bjerke).

January Lunch Bunch

Lunch in January will be on Wednesday, January 10th at 11:30 am at Coyote's Restaurant in Hillsboro. Questions? Contact Inge Eriksen.

Quilting and Knitting

The group will meet on Saturday, January 6th at 9:00 am to create beautiful quilts and prayer shawls.

Thank you so much!

Pastor Matthew, Jan Potter and Jim Smith thank you very much for our gifts for Christmas! As always, you are very kind and generous.

Congratulations Jim!

On December 31st, our long-time janitor Jim Smith will be retiring. We wish Jim all the best and much thanks for all his work at Calvary. If you would like to contribute to a gift card for Jim, please see Betty Adams.



Schedule of Book Club Dates, Hosts, and Picks for 2018

Here are our book club dates, selections, and hosts for 2018:

January 23rd--Letter to My Daughter by Maya Angelou; hosted by Michele Cage (and Sally Bjerke)

February 27th--Mr. Dickens and His Carol by Samantha Silva; hosted by TBD

March 27th--Worthy Brown's Daughter by Phillip Margolin; hosted by Anapreet Gill (and Anita Oberhelman) @ church

April 24th--Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman; hosted by Leslie Mayfield (and Anita Oberhelman)

May 22nd--The Book of Joy by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu; hosted by Michele Cage (and Leslie Mayfield)

June 26th--Upstairs at the White House by J. B. West; hosted by Judy Wallin (and Monique Belisle)

July 24th--The Waiting by Cathy Lagrow; hosted by Edie Pyle (and Esta Christiansen)

August 28th--TBD; hosted by TBD

September 25th--Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder; hosted by Sandy Gutmann (and Monique Belisle)

October 23rd--A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman; hosted by Sally Bjerke (and Anapreet Gill)

December 4th--Picking books for 2018; hosted by TBD

Here is a list of the other books that were suggested and considered:

The Last Mrs. Parrish by Liv Constantine

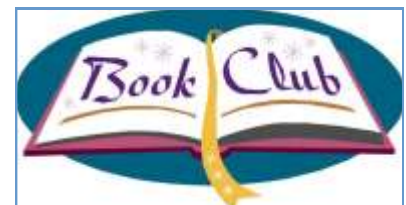
Mennonite in a Little Black Dress by Rhoda Jansen

Leeway Cottage by Beth Gutcheon

We Are All the Same by Jim Wooten

The Dream by Harry Bernstein

My Story (of Courage and Hope Fighting Blood Cancer) by Jeri Houle



Thank you so much to Leslie for hosting. Happy reading!

Peace,
Kimberly

“In biblical terms, if the society fails to care for the poor, for the widows, the orphans and the strangers in their midst, that society will come to tragedy.”

Frederick H. Borsch
Episcopal Bishop

BEING

*A meditation by Aldous Huxley, included in the book *And Live Rejoicing*, by Huston Smith*

God is. That is the primordial fact. It is in order that we may discover this fact for ourselves, by direct experience, that we exist. The final end and purpose of every human being is the unitive knowledge of God's being.

What is the nature of God's being? The invocation to the Lord's Prayer gives us the answer. "Our Father which art in heaven." God is, and is ours — immanent in each sentient being, the life of all lives, the spirit animating every soul. But this is not all. God is also the transcendent creator and Law-Giver, the Father who loves and, because He loves, also educates His children. And finally, God is "in heaven." That is to say, He possesses a mode of existence which is incommensurable and incompatible with the mode of existence possessed by human beings in their natural, unspiritualized condition. Because He is ours and immanent, God is very close to us. But because He is also in heaven, most of us are very far from God. The saint is one who is as close to God as God is close to him.

It is through prayer that men come to the unitive knowledge of God. But the life of prayer is also a life of mortification, of dying to self. It cannot be otherwise; for the more there is of self, the less there is of God. Our pride, our anxiety, our lusts for power and pleasure are God-eclipsing things. So too is that greedy attachment to certain creatures which passes too often for unselfishness and should be called not altruism but alter-egoism. And hardly less God-eclipsing is the seeming self-sacrificing service which we give to any cause or ideal that falls short of the divine. Such service is always idolatry, and makes it impossible to worship God as we should, much less to know Him. God's kingdom cannot come unless we begin by making our human kingdoms go. Not only the mad and obviously evil kingdoms, but also the respectable ones — the kingdoms of the scribes and pharisees, the good citizens and pillars of society, no less than the kingdoms of the publicans and sinners. God's being cannot be known by us, if we choose to pay our attention and our allegiance to something else, however creditable that something else may seem in the eyes of the world.

As I am trying to memorize the Psalms and Martin Luther's Morning and Evening prayer, the people of Calvary Lutheran, Hillsboro, Oregon keep surrounding me.

You remind me of how much God loves us, how much Jesus Christ his dear son has given so that we might come into an ever growing, ever expanding realization of our Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit nudging, prodding, and encouraging us so that "our life and actions may please God."

Thanks to the Book Club we read books we might never read otherwise. God has a chance to speak to us through the prophets (authors). Among the 2018 book list (now in the library) Maya Angelou in Letter to My Daughter shared *You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.*"

In Eleanor Olipant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman, the Holy Spirit challenged me to look specifically at my anxiety and recluse habits. Eleanor and I did have more in common than I thought. We both have been to therapy. God has protected me and nurtured me in these group sessions. You have also provided some of those much needed resources through Quilting and Knitting and my private lessons in abstract art.

In the Book of Joy, edited by Douglas Abrams, who with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, spent a week at the foothills of the Himalayas to dialogue on the subject of "Lasting Happiness in a Changing World." During the week, Archbishop Tutu said "*Joy is much bigger than happiness. While happiness is often seen as being dependent on external circumstances, joy is not!*"

It is with thankfulness, happiness, and joy, I remember you all (y'all).

Our teachers:

Betty Adams who has lead the Adult Forum this year.

Pastor Matthew

Ryan Parker

Eddie Pyle

Carol Dougall

Kimberly Bailey and Amy James for coordinating the Christmas Program.

To Shari Young and Kayse Durgan for helping Kimberly & Amy

To Jan our office manager for ordering materials and tracking our line items

To those who made it possible to obtain new furniture in the Library. You have worked with God to protect us from the broken slats.

To those who have contributed to the Building Fund Drive so that we do have a dry, warm and cool place to share with others.

To those of you who use the Library as a Library and to those who use the Library as a safe place, a quiet place.

Into your hands, O God, I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine (family, friends, acquaintances, the earth.) Let your holy angel be with me so that the wicked may have no power over me. Amen.

And I can truly do as Luther said "*You are to go to your work joyfully.*" Thanks be to God!



Preschool News

December was joyful and fun at Calvary Lutheran Preschool. During the first two weeks, the children and teachers practiced very hard for their Christmas program. Then the parents and friends gathered in the sanctuary for a special music offering, followed by a time of fellowship in the welcoming room. Everyone agreed that the children were wonderful! The preschool staff wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Maggie, Preschool Director

In Our Prayers



Jerry Baugh, Katyann, Ermine Todd IV and all members of our Military, Brittany Dougall, Walter Toperzer, The Christiansen's great-granddaughter Pippa, Sharon Janzen, Dick Highhouse, Mary Crandall, Tomi Deveraux, Sharon Schmadeke

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary to You!

January 1	Kimberly Bailey
January 6	Susan Hartner
January 10	Rod Christiansen
January 11	Dilin Young
	Robert & Colleen Wesel
January 16	Jennifer McKim
January 17	Chase Gessford
January 20	Gary Krahmer
January 23	Carl Fetty
January 24	Marc Gessford
January 25	Virginia Krahmer
	Logan McKim
January 29	Reed Bosshardt
January 31	Janis Larsen



The Feast of the Epiphany is January 6th.

January Calendar

Jan 1	Happy New Year!
Jan 2	Blood Drive
Jan 3	Bible Study, 10:30am
	Bible Study, 1:00pm
	Retirement Lunch
Jan 6	Day of Epiphany
	Knitting & Quilting, 9am
Jan 7	Sunday Worship, 10am
Jan 9	Eco-Coffee, 2pm
Jan 10	Bible Study, 10:30am
	Wed Lunch Bunch, 11:30
	Bible Study, 1pm
Jan 14	Sunday Worship, 10am
	Council Meeting, after church
Jan 16	Social Ministry Meeting, 1pm
	Care Committee Meeting, 2pm
Jan 17	Bible Study, 10:30am
	Bible Study, 1pm
Jan 20	WELCA, 9:30am
Jan 21	Sunday Worship, 10am
Jan 23	Blood Drive, set-up at noon
	Book Club, 7pm
Jan 24	Bible Study, 10:30am
	Bible Study, 1:00pm
Jan 27	Eco-Snow Day
Jan 28	Sunday Worship, 10am
	Annual Meeting, 11:30am
Jan 31	Bible Studies, 10:30 and 1pm