

April 2019

Greetings from Pastor Matthew

Holy Week at Calvary



Mid-week Lenten Agape Meals have been pleasant and meaningful for those who have attended the last two weeks. We have been looking at some of the Bible passages assigned for Sunday readings, paying attention to the sights, sounds, smells, feelings and tastes mentioned in the texts as a way of entering deeply into the reality, the humanity, and the ordinary mundane quality of the stories.

Paying attention to the mundane details leads us to sense the Divine presence among us. As we read and talk about the text, the specific details help us to experience the spiritual depth of God's action both in the Bible and in our lives. God comes to us through the gift of nature, through God's word, and through our shared stories and the rituals and community in Christ. Though one gathering was small, we were delighted when one *more* member showed up. Each of you are unique and important to the Body of Christ that is the church. Each of you carry the Holy Spirit in your own special way, and when she shows up we all see another unique aspect of God's personality. We see aspects of God's love that we would not have known if you weren't here. You make a difference. And I am here to tell you, this God stuff is real and you are a part of it.

You may have noticed that Church attendance is down from previous years. It was particularly noticeable on snow days and when it seemed everyone was under the weather.

On a Sunday morning, when you just don't feel like rushing off to church, or on one of the Wednesday Lenten evenings, I encourage you to make the extra effort. As they say in AA meetings, you may think you don't need to go to that meeting, but you go because somebody else might need you there.

Why not plan to come to *all* the services in Holy Week. The more deeply you immerse yourself in the events of Jesus' last days on earth during Holy Week, the more meaningful the whole economy of God's love and Jesus' compassion for all will be to you.

On Palm Sunday we will celebrate Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday we will share the gift of communion together. Good Friday will be an ecumenical service hosted by Hillsboro Presbyterian on Main and 32nd. These gatherings of our neighbor churches have been powerful and meaningful for immersing ourselves into the story of Jesus' passion, (In Luke, Jesus shows compassion by "forgiving them for they don't know what they're doing." And by telling the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." No other gospel has those details.) On Sunday we celebrate new life in the Risen Christ!

Again, I want to say what I have said over the years. This God stuff is real. It really matters. In Jesus' life, death and resurrection we are free from the powers of sin, death and evil, and we share the promise of new life in Christ now and in the end of time. In the meantime, know that Christianity is a communal religion. God is present with us when we worship and work together. Sure God is always with us, but God's Spirit shows up in a special way in worship, and when we are sent out into the world to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Carry on in God's grace,

Pastor Matthew

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
937 NE JACKSON SCHOOL RD
HILLSBORO OR 97124

Crossways

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Journey with Christ



Palm Sunday, April 14th: Worship @ 10 am

This liturgy begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



Maundy Thursday, April 18th: Worship @ 7 pm

This service includes Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday, April 19th: Worship @ 7 pm @ Hillsboro Presbyterian

Among the other significant moments in Holy Week, Hillsboro Presbyterian Church will host our ecumenical Good Friday observance. At 6:00 there will be healing prayer and meditation. At 7:00 there will be worship in the sanctuary. If you would like to sing in the ecumenical mass Choir, join rehearsals at Hillsboro Presbyterian church April 3, 10, and 17 at 7:30. Shari has the sheet music for Calvary Choir.

Easter Sunday, April 21st:

Children decorate the cross @ 7:45 am

Easter Brunch is from 9:30 am—10:30 am

The breakfast sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex.

Easter Worship is @ 8:30 am and 10:30 am

On this day the Lord has acted! With great joy we celebrate this day of days. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that ***Christ is risen!***



How to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint, by Michele Cage (Eco-Faith Group)

In the average American home, 25% of energy is used to heat spaces, 13% is used to heat water, 11% is used for cooling and the remainder is spent on appliances, according to estimates from the Natural Resources Defense Council. Making even small changes can make a big difference, according to scientists. There's a lot you can do without picking up a hammer or writing a check.

Turn down the heat. Using a programmable or smart thermostat if you have one. Keep the blinds closed to help keep temperature stable inside.

Turn down your water heater. 120 degrees Fahrenheit is sufficient.

Turn off lights and appliances when you're not using them. Turn off appliances at the power outlet or power strip to even reduce more energy. Putting them to sleep is second best.

Stream movies through your smart TV, not your game console. Streaming movies through an X-Box, Playstation, or Nintendo uses about 10 times more energy because they aren't optimized to play films.

Replace lights. LED lights use up to 85% less energy, last up to 25% longer and are cheaper to run than incandescent lights.

Don't set your fridge and freezer temperature lower than necessary. The US Department of Energy recommends around 35 – 38 degrees for the refrigerator and 0 degrees for freezers. Unplug the old refrigerator in the garage or basement when you don't need it to chill anything.

Here are the dates for up-coming activities that the Eco-Faith will be sponsoring:

Holy Week Church Clean Up Day!

Saturday April 13th. 9-noon

Outside Weeding & Clean-Up; Inside Vacuuming & General Clean Up

Something for Everyone to Do! Youth & Adult Alike!

Light lunch will be served.

Picnic at Jenkins Estate!

Saturday May 4th. Meet at the Church at 11:15.

Family fun! Bring your own picnic.

Then relax, Walk through the gardens, or Take a short hike.

Eco-Faith Meeting

Wednesday May 15. 3PM at Church.

Join us with your ideas where you'd like to go this summer.



News from the Oregon Synod

Excerpts from Vision Series 1: The Big Picture by Bp. Dave Brauer-Rieke

I've been asked recently "What is your vision?" and "Where is the synod headed?" (i.e. "What do you see?") One pastor said it felt like I was holding back a little. "How come?" That was helpful, and to the extent that this is true it may be because of the upcoming bishop's election in May. I am wholly committed to the ecclesiastical processes of the synod and don't want to be seen as politicking or using my office as a personal bully pulpit for re-election. The pastor I was speaking with appreciated my sensitivity to this. They said, 'Yes. Thank you – but you're still the bishop. You're still our "eyes" and we need to know what you see, what you are thinking, and where we might be headed.' So let me say this once. I have shared that I am standing for re-election. I have a passion for our work and would be honored to continue serving. At the same time, I pray other leaders will step forward for consideration as they feel led. I want what's best for the synod, and in that spirit I think it is right that you know what I am seeing and what I believe it implies for the next five, ten or fifty years of ministry here in Oregon. Here's my plan.

Over the next 5 months I'm going to share 5 letters like this one with you. Today I will reflect on "big picture" observations. Next month I'll share some of the amazing, transformational work that you have been doing around the synod. There's a lot going on! Easter is in April and I'll write then about death and resurrection, along with what I see as challenges and opportunities each and every one of us is invited to wrestle with. May is our Synod Assembly. There will be elections for a new Synod Vice President, Council members, a Council secretary and bishop. If the election process allows I'll share more about my personal passions and plans to carry strategic initiatives forward. If not, I'll write later in the month. June and July we'll talk about concrete next steps for the synod, either how I am preparing the office for a new bishop, or what I am doing to prepare for the next term of my work.

So, the "big picture." What does the terrain look like from 50,000 feet?

The prophet Isaiah in chapter 42, the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 5, and Revelation 21 all declare that the former things are no more, and the new has arrived. People all over the synod are seeing this for themselves and telling me about it. There is a discontinuity in our national politics. We have already missed the window we needed to hit around climate concerns. The country is using immigrants and asylum seekers as pawns in some kind of culture war – and they are the ones who suffer for this. As I meet with other faith leaders, sit on hospital and university boards, or talk with you in rural Oregon, the story is the same – change, change, change. Some of us feel our congregations and communities are at significant risk. Others witness to amazing transformation in mission and self-understanding. The question has been called. This is the big picture.

To say that another way, I see a convergence of opportunity, need and change. For the first time in my 63 years of life there is precious little middle ground in almost any issue we consider. We respond or we don't. We rise from death to life or we seal the tomb back up. Not to choose is to choose.

Change? Yes. Can it be confusing? Of course. It is also cause for excitement and joy? Absolutely! There is a promise that comes in the midst of such change...

Next month I will share with you some of the truly amazing things I see being birthed around the synod. There is much that gives witness to the fact that...God is working in our lives in beautiful and mysterious ways.

Excerpts from Vision Series 2: You Amazing People

(In Vision Series 1), I began a series of five monthly emails in response to questions I've received about my vision for the Oregon Synod. I started out with some "big picture" thoughts. There I spoke of a "*convergence of opportunity, need and change*" in the world around us. The ground rules for life really have changed. How we proclaim the Gospel in the midst of 21st century stresses is *the* question we must engage. This month I'd like to reflect on some of the amazing ways you are doing just that.

I think of synod ministry in three dimensions. First, there is the day to day witness we give as congregations around the state. Then, there are new congregation starts created to meet contemporary needs. Finally, there is some really awesome, new work we do that may not even be on your radar screen. Let me say just a word about each of these.

Congregational Transformation

The vitality survey and visitation work we've done the past two years shows that some 20% of our synod congregations have really taken the bull by the horns and created new ministry models. The congregations of the Blue Mountain Cluster, for example, are deep into the work of creating ecumenical partnerships. Heppner is 20 years into shared ministry with the Episcopalians. Grace and Mercy in Hermiston, Christ the King in Milton-Freewater, and Zion in LaGrande are all exploring similar relationships. The Phase II conversations they are currently engaged in are focused around this work. Of course, we have many other congregations around the synod in ecumenical partnerships as well. It's pretty amazing when you think about it.

New Church Starts

New church starts are not what they used to be... Today we (all the various denominations together) have more church buildings than we can support. North Americans are less interested in formal religious affiliations than they used to be. The rural portions of Oregon need fewer people to support industry or farming - community viability is an issue. In urban areas waves of gentrification, relocation, urban blight and expansion - all of this - have made neighborhood churches a thing of the past. The result is that the synod spends much more time on current congregational sustainability issues than we do on new church starts.

But, consider the following. Three years ago, we began a new Latino congregation in conjunction with the Episcopalians - Centro Montesinos in Woodburn. The pastor there is Fr. Agustin Valadez, and this is an exciting venture. Pr. Leo Bancroft is pastor of The Flame, a growing, intentional LGBTQIA+ faith community. Manuel Borbon is studying for ordained ministry, and at the same time a core leader in our Latino Ministry outreach. Several congregations in the mid-Willamette Valley and Eugene are working with Manuel to establish Latino ministry arms of their own. In Bend Pr. Erika Spaet, funded by both the ELCA and the UMC, is spearheading a new church start with unchurched and 'de-churched' individuals.

We are blessed to be reaching out to people who identify differently than 'traditional Lutherans.' Much of this work is happening ecumenically, from the get-go. That's different. And in the much different world in which we live, we are learning new language, becoming sensitive to different needs, and seeing the kingdom expand into corners of life we have not occupied much before. What a gift!

The Amazing More

You may not know that the synod currently has 15 (!) Domestic Ministry grants from the ELCA. These will bring \$313,000 ministry dollars into the Oregon Synod for 2019. The four new church starts just mentioned are among these. Three other grants go for renewal programs in existing congregations. Another four support ethnic specific ministries; Living Water in Burns and Heavenly Peace, Good Spirit and our Cully ministries in Portland. Three other grants are more experimental engagements, primarily with younger individuals. These are Living Table, Wilderness Way and Together Lab. There is so much to tell here...

In a Word

Living at the "*convergence of opportunity, need and change*" as we do is not easy. Yet, we in the Oregon Synod have cleared the ground. Leaders talk about "holding sacred space" to see what it is the Spirit wishes to do through us today. Congregations - you - are creating new partnership and pathways with those around us. We are finding footing for new church starts once again, right here in our midst. And oh, the wonderful experiments in ministry we are about.

What is my vision for the future of the Oregon Synod? This! *Bp. Dave Brauer-Rieke*



Calvary Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Cathie Carlisle, Chair of Leadership Team
Michele Cage & Judy Britton, Leadership Team
Kayse Durgan, Treasurer; Leslie Mayfield, Secretary

March 16, 2019

WELCA celebrated the National Day of Quilting on Saturday, March 16, 2019 instead of having a typical monthly gathering. Thanks to Kayse for organizing this day and inviting sister churches! *See Anita's pictures and an article by Kayse below.*

Next meeting:

Saturday, April 20, 2019

9:30 am - 11:30 am

All women are welcome to come for any part of the morning.

Continental breakfast at 9:30

Business meeting at 10:00

Bible study 10:30-11:30



National Quilt Day at Calvary 2019

Our first annual Quilt Day was a success! 17 women of all ages and representing 4 churches came together to work on projects that will comfort others in the future. Some were seasoned quilters and some were beginners, but all put their hearts and souls into the fabric. You'll see the results at our next Thankoffering Service when our quilts are blessed. A big "Thank you!" to all who attended and made it such a fun day!





**Choir
at
Calvary**
-pictures by Melody Allen



April Fellowship & Study



Calvary Book Club

The book club will meet on Tuesday, April 23rd at 7:00 pm at church, hosted by Anapreet Gill and Michele Cage. The book selection is Death Below Stairs by Jennifer Ash.



Lunch Bunch

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



Quilting and Knitting

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

ARTSHARE

Second Thursday of the Month, April 11th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the fellowship hall

Spring has arrived. The daffodils have been blooming. The trees are now blossoming. The birds are preparing their nests, etc. etc. etc. We are preparing for Holy Week and Easter. Darkness to Light. Easter bunnies, Flowered crosses, Hot Cross Buns, and of course, Easter Eggs.

ArtShare will be creating our own version of the Painted Russian Easter Egg – without the paint. Nancy Leupold, instructor, invites us to start blowing eggs for this project. Supplies will be provided. Blown eggs are welcome.



BIBLE STUDIES AT CALVARY

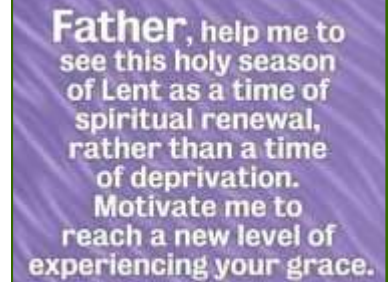
The Men's Bible Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the church library. There's a small but dedicated group of guys that gather and watch a short video and then engage in stimulating discussions. All men welcome.

The Women's Bible Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the church library. This is a lively group of about 12 that gathers for various studies, depending upon the church season. There's always a great discussion. All women welcome.

Both groups are led by Pr. Matthew.



Daily Devotional Practices for the Season of Lent and Beyond



Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

Lent is the 40 days of preparation for the Easter season when Christians are called to deepen their spiritual lives through the practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. The belief is that our consistent participation in these practices — like exercise we do for our physical health — improves our spiritual well-being by stripping away all that is unnecessary and becoming more mindful of how God is working in our lives. Challenge yourself this year, and go beyond the usual practice of “giving up” something. Now is a great time to take stock of your spiritual life and to grow in it. Not sure where to start? Check out these ideas:

1. Make a commitment to read the Sunday scriptures *before* you go to church. In the same way that reading up on football players, opposing teams, and coaching strategies will help you experience a game more fully, familiarizing yourself with the readings ahead of time will help you experience them in a deeper way on Sunday.
2. Try a new spiritual practice. Sign up for a silent retreat or spend time in silent meditation.
3. Think about what you usually spend your money on. Do you buy too many clothes? Spend too much on dinner out? Pick one type of expenditure that you'll “fast” from during Lent, and then give the money you would usually spend to a local charity.
4. Take something on — 40 days of letter writing, 40 acts of kindness, 40 phone calls to the important people in your life.
5. If you don't have a cross in your apartment or house, buy a simple one and put it in your bedroom.
6. Read the entire Gospel of Mark in one sitting. As the shortest Gospel, it is the most concise story of Jesus' life, and the cross, a central Lenten symbol, plays a prominent role.
7. Unplug from your iPhone or turn off your car radio on your commute. The silence may be jarring at first, but you may find that you can concentrate better and will be more observant of your surroundings.
8. Buy a book of daily reflections and keep it by your bed.
10. Spend at least one weekend or evening volunteering during Lent. Serve a meal at your local soup kitchen. Visit the elderly. Stock shelves at a food pantry.
11. Make a commitment to fast from insensitive, cruel comments about others.
15. Reflect on the realities of people in need around the world and devote prayers, fasting, and almsgiving to changing the lives of the poor. Focus on the idea of living as a Good Samaritan and reflect on the question: Who is my neighbor?
16. Pray for somebody. As you're walking the streets, driving the highways, or sitting at work, pick out a person who appears to be in need and pray for that person. Be mindful of the words of philosopher Philo of Alexandria, who said, “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle.”
17. Get to know your neighbors. Introduce yourself, plan a dinner, or bring food to an older person on your block.

Calvary Lutheran Library

By Cathie M. Carlisle

This is a picture of the Duwamish Story Pole in Seattle, WA. It was hand-carved in the traditional Duwamish style by the Great-grandson of Chief "Seattle". What does this Story Pole have to do with a new book in our library about trees? This was once a great old growth tree on Mt. Olympus on the Olympic Peninsula. Poachers had cut it down but before they could purloin the tree for exportation the Forest Service discovered their dastardly deed. The Duwamish people obtained the tree.



THE HIDDEN LIFE OF TREES: WHAT THEY FEEL, HOW THEY COMMUNICATE (582.16 WOH) by Peter Wohlleben has given me a greater appreciation for trees. Lord of the Rings was not too far off the mark when Treebeard and the Ents were introduced. Last year I read that the trees on the East Coast are moving Northwest. The Hidden Life of Trees explains this movement and many, many other fascinating discoveries about trees. My sister's book club read this book in March. I have gained a new respect for God's marvelous creation. **Question: What and where is the largest single organism? What makes it different from the Great Barrier Reef?** Read The Hidden Life of Trees for the answer. PS. Currently this book is very popular at the local libraries.

Our library is eclectic, from children's and young adult literature, Chronicles of Narnia, Wonder, and Hoot; to adult fiction – the Mitford Series, historical romances, sci-fi, and mysteries. Thanks to Inge Eriksen, we have added a new detective series to our collection: an Adam Dalgliesh mystery series by P.D. James. Most of P.D. James' books have been filmed for television. New to our collection are her first two books: **Cover Her Face** and **A Mind to Murder**. Why P.D. James mysteries? The San Francisco Chronicle wrote: *P.D. James raises the mystery genre to the level of serious literature with her finely crafted prose, playful wit and keen eye for detail.*

Another collection has been added to our non-fiction section: **746 – Crafting**. This collection is located on the shelf on the side of the fireplace by the windows. It will contain books for crocheting, knitting, quilting and embroidery. Some books will be marked as Reference Only, others may be checked out, and still others may be kept.



Christian Education

Deacon Cathie M. Carlisle, retired



One of the oldest Cathedrals in France is at Chartres. During the War, the caretakers of the cathedral went to great lengths to save the stain glass windows.

These stain glass windows tell the story of Jesus, the Christ. Here the risen Jesus is meeting the women at the tomb. Notice the blue. This color was not perfected to be used in large pieces until it was perfected in Chartres in the 13th Century.



What a magnificent Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Chartres. We were so fascinated with what was around us, the vastness, the majesty, the history, that we did not notice what was on the floor. Of course, the chairs were noticed. I, for one, could not understand why there seemed to be so few chairs.



Did those worshipping stand the entire service? I knew that in some places this was the case. What I did not know was that the Cathedral is also known for its labyrinth. I never knew about labyrinths until almost twenty-years later.

The labyrinth is one of the oldest forms of a spiritual journey. In the book, Sensible Shoes, by Sharon Garlough Brown, the first spiritual discipline they learn is walking the labyrinth.

The labyrinth at West Linn Lutheran (close to Lake Oswego) is small, simple, quiet, contemplative, and meaningful. There is one entrance/exit. Not like a maze which you enter and have to find your way out. As you walk the labyrinth towards the center, you talk to GOD: sharing your worries, your frustrations, your pending decisions. When you reach the center, take a deep breath and feel the love of God surround you. Bask in that love. When you are ready, follow the path back to the exit. This time listen for God's word, whether that "still small voice" or the word of God through sight and sound. Do not cut your journey short by walking directly to the exit or through the labyrinth to your car or your friends. Complete your journey in silence. As you exit, you may thank God for being with you on the rest of your journey.



Calvary women at WELCA have made knitted and crocheted labyrinths for the Women's Triennial. WELCA also received some of these labyrinths when Pastor Dorothy Cottingham lead the women's retreat at Calvary a couple years ago.

In Our Prayers



Dan Bosshardt, Lynn Holman, Clementine, Rik Mayfield, Sharon Janzen, Baby Alice Crume, Judy Reed, John Hartner, Jon Lewis (Air Force) and Ermine Todd (Army) and all the members of our military, Tomi Deveraux, Mary Crandall, Sharon Schmadeke, Dick Highhouse

Happy Birthday to You!

April 2	Walker Rabon
April 4	Leann White
April 5	Luke James
April 6	Nancy Leupold
April 7	Sofia Johnson
April 8	Andrew Hudock
April 11	Pastor Matthew Eagan Jimmy Leafy
April 12	Laurie Hannon
April 21	Esta Christiansen Jocelyn James Leo Rowland
April 23	Alex Bailey
April 24	Ermine Todd
April 28	Dave & Leslie Rabon



April Calendar

April 2	Blood Drive, begins at 1:30pm
April 3	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm Lenten Soup/Study, 6:30pm
April 6	Quilting & Knitting, 9am
April 7	Sunday Worship, 10am
April 10	Men's Bible Study, 10am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am Bible Study, 1pm Lenten Soup/Study, 6:30pm
April 11	ArtShare, 2:00pm
April 13	Church Clean-Up, 9:00am
April 14	Palm Sunday Worship, 10am
April 16	Care Committee Meeting, 2pm
April 17	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
April 18	Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm
April 19	Good Friday at Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, 7pm
April 20	WELCA, 9:30am
April 21	Easter Sunday Worship, see inside this newsletter for schedule
April 23	Book Club, 7pm
April 24	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
April 28	Sunday Worship, 10am