

June 2019

## Greetings from Pastor Matthew

### Lutheran Disaster Relief



Among the many greetings, reports, elections, committees and business of the Oregon Synod assembly this month, there was a report from a team of faithful Christians who are paying attention to the very real potentiality of catastrophic disasters in Oregon and the entire Northwest. I'll bet you didn't even know that the ELCA has a vital and active ministry called Lutheran Disaster Relief. Well, you probably have heard about Lutheran Disaster Relief because over the years we have donated to Lutheran Disaster Relief in times of trouble such as Hurricane Katrina, tornados in Nebraska, hurricanes in the Philippines. We know that Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the most well recognized and reliable disaster relief organizations in the world. When you give to Lutheran Disaster Response you can be assured, that over ninety-five percent or more goes directly to disaster response. Lutheran Disaster Relief is also well known for being the first disaster relief organization to respond to a disaster and they are the last to leave. Lutheran Disaster Relief accomplishes this by partnering with local Lutheran churches and disaster response teams in areas around the world.

We think of disasters in places like Africa, Indonesia, and other remote places. But Lutheran Disaster Relief has been paying close attention to California and Oregon forest fires. We are all aware of the Gorge fire last year that closed Highway 26 and burned thousands of acres sparked by a careless firecracker. We are well aware of the Campfire fire that destroyed people's homes, the town, and killed so many people, families and their livestock and pets. The folks at Lutheran Disaster Response want us not only to react if disaster hits; they want us to be ready for when disaster strikes. We want to be ahead of the curve.

The presenters from Lutheran Disaster Response had a special gift for talking about serious matters in a light-hearted manner. This seems appropriate to me, because we have hope in our ability to be prepared and to not only survive ourselves, but to help the community thrive as well. The most important thing we can do for us and our neighbors to survive a disaster is to work together as a community ahead of time. How are we going to communicate? How can we stock up necessary supplies? A jolly Ham Radio operator spoke about the big one, the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a 600 mile fault that runs from Northern California to British Columbia about 70-100 miles off the Pacific coast shoreline where the Cascadia tectonic plate meets the oceanic plate head on. As the two plates come together The Cascadia plate buckles under the oceanic plate. When the pressure of the two plates coming together like this gets to a certain point, something gives and the Cascadia plate makes an adjustment. Geologists have noticed that these adjustments occur about every five hundred years. They have also noted that we are long overdue. Pressure has been building up for a long time, and it is not a matter of "if" but "when" the tectonic plates shift. The jolly Ham Radio operator, they call him Mister Disaster. He showed us with his hands coming together and the buckling of the subduction zone and he warned us. These two plates come together at the speed of the growth of your fingernails and it has been doing this for a long time, too long.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
937 NE JACKSON SCHOOL RD  
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# Crossways

As Lutheran churches together with other worship communities we have now a wonderful opportunity to get prepared for the Big One, and in doing so, create vital, life giving and life saving communities who are ready to act in pretty much any disaster situation including the Big One. We have been talking all this last year about getting together with our neighbor churches to strengthen our communities of faith. This opportunity gives us a positive, tangible and necessary reason to meet our neighbors. Communities of faith can lead the way, and become leaders in our community for the survival of all.

**Psalm 46**

- <sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
- <sup>6</sup>The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- <sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- <sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup>“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”
- <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*God’s Peace,  
Pr. Matthew*

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## Annual Meeting, Part II

**Sunday, June 2**



**All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the business of the church.**

We'll appreciate our retiring council members  
and elect new members to the council.  
We'll hear reports from the Pastor, the Treasurer,  
and we'll hear about our Preschool.

## **Pentecost at Calvary**

**Sunday, June 9**

*“Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Now, surrounded by signs of fire, wind, and a variety of languages in their midst, the people were amazed and astonished at Jesus’ promise coming true.”*

-Taken from the Celebrate insert



**On the Day of Pentecost, we will celebrate:**

- **The Confirmation of Natalie Allen, Luke James, and Christina Wesel.**
- **The high school graduation of Logan Wesel.**
- **We will welcome two new members to our church: Marteena Sander and Jerry Utter.**

*Congratulations*

## The Desert

Alan Ginsberg, the beat poet of the nineteen-fifties, has a line from his poem Howl describing a road trip with his friends, “who drove cross-country seventy-two hours to find out if I had a vision or you had a vision or he had a vision to find out Eternity.” I was well aware of the significance of a desert, when my adult children and I drove down a winding mountain road buffered by strong winds to the valley below called Anza-Borrego. How can you not think of Moses leading the people of Israel forty years in the wilderness, Elijah falling down under a broom tree in the desert, ready to die, saying, “I am no better than my Fathers,” Jesus fasting in the wilderness forty days and forty nights tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals and angels ministered to him.

As we walked the paths at the visitor’s center, I felt a sense of relief and freedom to be in a place so completely other than the places I’ve known. The desert cactuses and flowers were in bloom because of some recent flooding I had heard. We noticed sparse groundcover, small fragile plants with lavender flowers that gave the impression of mist, cactus stumps that bore long thin branches upward fanning out toward the sky twisting and turning near the tops, each spiny limb covered with long needles and hints of green leaves. Yellow grass and green shrubs, an occasional Barrel cactus, stretched across the desert to the far distant hills. This was a place where I could just be.

The temperature was a mild 70 degrees, but I walked with an awareness of the necessity of water. A desert is not defined by its heat or cold, but by the scarcity of water, and I was glad I had four gallons of water in our vehicle for our two-day trip in the desert. I also walked with an eye out for rattle-snakes. We saw lizards on the rocks and on the paths, but the only rattle-snakes I saw during our vacation were the two rattle-snakes in a glass cage at the San Diego Zoo.

The next day we went to Joshua Tree, a truly wonderful place of barren rocks and strange cactus trees. The band U-2 found inspiration there as they produced the album Joshua Tree. Dr. Seuss drew his beloved Truffela trees from the Cholla trees there. Mostly, we played in the desert, climbing on rocks. The rock formations seemed to take the shape of a skull, a caterpillar, a fat round Buddha, a train, and a Beluga whale. I sat on a rock in half lotus for maybe only five minutes and when I opened my eyes, I laughed delighted by the strange and wonderful world I found myself in.

So, what does it mean to have a vision, and how do we discern the will of God, the leaning of the Holy Spirit? Paul and Silas and their companions had some set plans to carry the good news of Jesus to certain places, but they were thwarted by the Holy Spirit.

*Acts 16.6 They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup>When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; <sup>8</sup>so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.*

So, of course we wonder what it means that Paul and his companions were “forbidden, twice, by the Holy Spirit.” Did Silas lose his passport? Did Timothy sleep in late and miss the boat? Was Paul warned in a dream not to go to those places? Or did the Holy Spirit create an electric force field like in some old episodes of Star Trek. Then Paul had a vision. In Paul’s vision, a man was beckoning Paul to come to Macedonia, but it was a woman named Lydia who listened to Paul, and so began the church in Philippi.

I would love to spend more time in seeking a vision. But we can read scripture together, listen, talk and pray together, opening our hearts to the Holy Spirit, to find out if “I had a vision or you had a vision or she had a vision to find out Eternity.”

*God’s Peace,  
Pr. Matthew*

*Pictures from Pr. Matthew's Trip to Southern California*



## Oregon Synod Assembly 2019 Report

-Shari & Brent Young

Ten years ago Calvary Lutheran nominated and sent us to our first Synod Assembly as voting members. We accepted this with great honor representing our church, but really had no idea what the Synod Assembly was all about. Talk about baptism under fire. Not like there was *nothing else happening in the world in 2009*:

Michael Jackson died

Captain "Sully" Sullenberger made a successful Crash landing In the Hudson River

Captain Phillips was taken hostage in Somalia

Oh, and Calvary Lutheran sends a couple of its newest members to the Statewide Church Assembly to represent them and vote on stuff. You know stuff like, the ELCA to open the ministry of the church to gay and lesbian pastors and other professional workers living in committed relationships (Making the ELCA the 2<sup>nd</sup> mainline church in the world to do so. We were just behind the United Church of Christ who had done so in 1972). We also voted on a resolution committing the church to find ways for congregations that choose to do so to "recognize, support and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same gender relationships. In other words, "Gay Marriage" which the US Supreme Court wouldn't legalize until 2015. So, saying "Thank You," for such a huge responsibility seems an understatement. It is an incredible privilege to carry the trust of the congregation and make such brave and deeply thoughtful decisions on your behalf.

The Oregon Synod Assembly for 2019 also proved a challenge – requiring deep reflection with each decision. Every 6 years the Synod elects its Bishop. Making 2013 the last time. You guessed it, in 2013 Shari and I represented Calvary at the Oregon Synod. To help you remember 2013:

Lance Armstrong admitted to doping in all of his Tour de France

Boston Marathon Bombing occurred

Edward Snowden leaked secret information for the first time

...and the ELCA holds its vote to Divest from Fossil Fuel Corporations. The resolution was to basically set a, "goal of not investing in, and removing the largest fossil fuel companies as identified by Carbon Tracker, and investing in corporations which are taking positive steps toward a sustainable environment." It is also important to note that the ELCA's primary fund at that time consisted of approximately 611 million dollars. Not to bore you with the details but this divestment made the mainstream media news.

Back to the Bishop, in 2013 Bishop David Brauer-Rieke was re-elected for another term. It is with very mixed emotions and sadness that we write that Bishop Dave was not re-elected this year. We are so incredibly blessed to be part of such a wonderfully knowledgeable, thoughtful, spiritual, forward thinking, and powerful entity of unity found in the Oregon Synod of the ELCA.

Here is the process we followed to elect the bishop. A candidate must have 75% of the vote to win the election in rounds 1 and 2. A candidate must have 66% of the vote in round 3, 60% in Round 4 and if the process goes to round 5 a simple majority wins the election. In 2013 we only went 3 Rounds. In 2019 all 5 rounds of voting were needed. It was just shy of the papal conclave (no smoke was involved!):

Round 1: Nominations/Vote

Round 2: Candidates that accepted the call continue and there is another round of voting

Round 3: Only 7 Candidates remain and all are given an opportunity to speak to the assembly

Round 4: Only 3 Candidates remain and they are all asked 4 questions and limited to 4 minutes for each response by the Churchwide representative overseeing the process.

Round 5: Only 2 Candidates remain

Those who remained in Round 3 were:

Amanda C. Zentz-Alo of Central Lutheran in Portland (Ordained in 2005)

Jon Strasman of Gloria Dei in Coos Bay (Ordained in 2003)

David Eppelsheimer of Community of Christ Church in Hillsboro (Ordained in 2002)

Laurie Larson Caesar of Spirit of Grace in Beaverton (Ordained in 1996)

David Brauer-Reike Bishop of Oregon Synod member of Central Lutheran in Portland (Ordained in 1987)

The other 2 candidates had missed the cut off to decline but had enough votes to continue and declined to speak

Those remaining in Round 4:

Amanda C. Zentz-Alo of Central Lutheran in Portland (Ordained in 2005)

Laurie Larson Caesar of Spirit of Grace in Beaverton (Ordained in 1996)

David Brauer-Reike Bishop of Oregon Synod member of Central Lutheran in Portland (Ordained in 1987)

...and in the final Round, 5:

Laurie Larson Caesar of Spirit of Grace in Beaverton (Ordained in 1996)

David Brauer-Reike Bishop of Oregon Synod member of Central Lutheran in Portland (Ordained in 1987)

Interesting to note that Shari has served assisting with music with Bishop Dave, Pastor Laurie and Pastor David. I have had the wonderful opportunity as, "Shari's Husband," to join her at not just Synod Assemblies, but worship at these local churches and hear from not just the congregation but from Laurie and David how much Shari is appreciated. So, knowing 3 of the candidates personally, it truly was an emotional experience.

**It is with great reverence and deep joy that we share the name of our new Bishop, starting in 2 ½ months, Pastor Laurie Larson-Caesar of Spirit of Grace in Beaverton.**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Resolution for Invitation for Outreach was scheduled for Friday, wasn't presented until Saturday and got tabled after debate opened until Sunday. It was the most debated of all 4 resolutions. The basics of the resolution is for congregations and individuals to step-up and give to 4 specific new ministries of the Synod as chosen by the Council. Reason: money from the Synod Reserves is being used to cover the cost of these ministries. The debate: is money given a dollar-for-dollar reduction from the Synod Reserves? The result and amendment: For every \$2 given to the ministries \$1 will be contributed from the reserves. So if an individual gives \$100, the Synod will give \$50, up to the budgeted amount... confused? Don't be, it gets better. If an individual gives directly to the ministry and not a special offering through the Synod, there is no match. Okay, clear? Good.

Resolution #2 was also a Memorial to go Churchwide for the proposed social statement Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action more information available at [www.elca.org/womenandjustice](http://www.elca.org/womenandjustice). This resolution only had 1 speaker and carried unanimously.

Resolution #3 was about the Latino Ministry Strategy. No one spoke against this. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #4 was about the revival of the Poor People's Campaign started in 1967-68 by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. You can find more information at [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org). During most of the, "Debate," we were on our phones looking up information. Resolution would have carried unanimously if it wasn't for the 1 abstention.

There is some cool stuff happening Churchwide and in the Synod for Disaster Relief, Camp Lutherwood is open again, PLU has a new school President, the ELCA responded to 47 emergencies in 33 countries in 2018, there were 459 New Ministries last year in development, the ELCA World Hunger collected 23.5 million dollars in 2018, and Lutheran Disaster Response gave 11.5 million dollars. Lastly, PLTS (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) moved from the hilltop to an office building in Berkley. Yes, the whole school (Staff, Students, Classrooms, etc.).

## Takeaways:

Listening to the 5 candidates speak in Round 3 was emotional, tearful, and moving. We are so incredibly blessed to have such talent and guidance to teach and lead us into the 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our church the ELCA and especially the Oregon Synod is such a beacon of hope shepherding all through the changes we have seen in just the last 20 years, 10 years, and 5 years. Our future is truly bright. Hearing their stories any one of them would/could/can/may/will lead us further into the light.

During the presentation of the Latino Ministry Strategy I wrote on the back of my guide the following:

How can Calvary engage in our community? Reaching out to the Latino community and or facilitating English language classes, all our retired teachers, space to do it, use of Synod Creative Ministries grant for materials, and work with/involve our ecumenical relationships and Iglesia de Cristo

Take a moment and think about something. According to Pew Research Center in their 2014 study the ELCA is 2<sup>nd</sup> to last of religious groups in the United States in Racial Diversity. “We are 96% white, 2% Latino, and 2% other. Who has the most diversity? The top 3 are Seventh-day Adventist, Muslim, and Jehovah’s Witness.”

The first question would naturally be, why support the Latino Ministry? The number of Latinos living in Oregon has increased 72% since 2000. As of March 30, 2019 the population of Hillsboro is 102,396. Breaking this out by race the population of Hillsboro is 73% White, 12% Latino, 11.5% Asian, and 3.5% other. We know that nationally the fastest growing segment of the population is Asian as 3.4% followed by Hispanics at 2.2%, and the slowest growing portion of the U.S. population is White at 0.5%.

We pride ourselves in our mission statement to, “Welcome All...” If we want to grow in God’s love and welcome everybody, we are going to have to do more than say it or write it, ‘cause they ain’t beatin’ down our doors to get in! We need to go out into our community in more ways than we are now. There are several ways we can seek out new members: and continue to develop our story, deepen our faith, do God’s work, expand our ministry, engage further in our community, and brighten hopes in the light of Christ -- invest in our Latino friends. Yes, we say Latino friends, because when we do things *with* people and not *for* people, we build lasting relationships and lasting friendships.

Side note: Brent is now a member of the Bishop’s Consultation Committee, voted in at the Assembly.

Lastly – It is such a great honor and privilege to be a voice for Calvary Lutheran as your representative to the Synod Assembly. We are both humbled that you have selected us so many times for this incredible opportunity to serve.





## June Fellowship & Study



### Calvary Book Club

The book club will meet on Tuesday, June 25th at 7:00 pm, hosted by Edie with co-host Esta. The book selection is The Red Tent, by Anita Diamant.



### Lunch Bunch

Lunch will be on Wednesday, June 12th at 11:30 am at Orenco City Grill. Questions? Contact Anapreet Gill.



### Quilting and Knitting

The group will meet on Saturday, June 1st at 9:00 am to create beautiful quilts, prayer shawls, and purple hats.

## 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.



## Calvary Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

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

### WELCA Meeting

May 18, 2019



**Refreshments:** A scrumptious tea was served by Esta, Marteen, and Marteen's friend/fabulous chef Ruth.

#### Business Meeting

##### Team Reports:

Everyone is encouraged to attend the June 4 events in support of Juliana v. United States. The Rally is at Director Park (815 SW Park) in Portland beginning at 1:30 pm, followed by an interfaith gathering from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Twenty-one children and teenagers filed this climate lawsuit in 2015 and it will be heard by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that day. The youth seek a court-ordered national climate recovery plan that will decarbonize our energy system.

The treasurer's report was presented.

##### Ministry Reports:

Quilting and Knitting: Two dog prayer shawls were made.

Book club is at Leslie's on Tuesday, May 28 to discuss *Molokai*. June's book club kit, *The Red Tent*, has arrived.

Art Share: Iris fold will be taught on June 13.

##### God's Family Reports:

Oregon SWO: Kayse was officially elected as our delegate. Our group will send a \$100 financial offering and Cathie donated a red and white quilt for the auction to benefit the Poland ministry. Kayse is hosting three women from Peggy's Central Oregon church.

##### Events:

Kayse, Anita, and Leslie attended Emanuel Lutheran's delicious and informative tea for quilters on May 18 in Cornelius.



**Bible Study:** Many thanks to Cathie!

Next meeting:

*Saturday, September 21, 2019*

*9:30 am*

**Happy summer!**

(No WELCA meeting or Bible studies for June, July, or August)

## *Family Promise Week @ Calvary*



**You are invited to sign up for our next week to host homeless families.**

**June 30 to July 6**

Our week includes a National Holiday - a family favorite.

If you are at all able, please sign up right away. If you will be away because of the holiday, consider asking a friend to substitute for you!

Thank you for your commitment to this wonderful program,  
helping families in our community.

*God's Peace,  
Susan Todd*

Calvary Family Promise Co-Coordinator  
503-515-2670



## In Our Prayers

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John Cockram, Betty Adams, Pippa & Family, Lynn Holman, Sharon Janzen, Baby Alice Crume, Judy Reed, John Hartner, Jon Lewis (Air Force) and Ermine Todd (Army) and all members of our military, Tomi Deveraux, Mary Crandall, Sharon Schmadeke, Dick Highhouse

## Happy Birthday to You!

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June 2	John & Susan Hartner
June 3	Kyle Hiebel
June 4	Deanna Parker
June 7	Kenneth Ericksen Robert & Meredith Gennrich Nancy & Werner Leupold
June 8	Amy James Loren McLaury
June 11	Kenneth & Marian Ericksen
June 15	Werner James
June 16	Jim & Judy Wallin
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

Happy  
Father's  
Day

### *June Calendar*

June 1	Quilting and Knitting, 9am
June 2	Sunday Worship, 10am ANNUAL MEETING, Part II Council Meeting
June 4	Blood Drive, set-up at noon
June 5	Men's Bible Study, 10:30 Bible Study, 1pm
June 9	PENTECOST Sunday, 10am
June 12	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am Bible Study, 1 pm
June 13	ArtShare, 2 pm
June 16	Sunday Worship, 10am Father's Day
June 19	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
June 23	Sunday Worship, 10am
June 25	Book Club, 7pm
June 26	Men's Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
June 27 & 28	Sewing, 9:00 am
June 30	Sunday Worship, 10am Family Promise begins