

February 2018

Greetings from Pastor Matthew

Our Youth are Going to Houston!



This week our Youth purchased tickets to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering which will take place June 27 to July 1. Calvary Youth and Youth from St. Andrew Lutheran, and one or two youth from Emanuel Lutheran in Portland have been gathering once a month for food, Bible study, getting ready conversations and a great deal of work on present day issues our youth and all of us face daily. We worked on gathering for community.

The second month was October so we talked about Martin Luther and the Reformation and talked a lot about grace. In a video, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton encouraged us to: Stand up—for reform, changing injustices.

Stand—with those working for reform for the benefit of all.

Stand for—justice meant for all people in all places.

Bishop Eaton quoted Saint Paul from Ephesians, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” This changes everything.

The third month was about homelessness, and particularly homeless youth. And just recently, we had an overnight gathering at which we talked about our sense of self-worth. I was impressed by the youth’s openness and compassion for this issue that so many of us struggle with all our lives. But we were reminded that we have value because God created us and called all creation good!

We also played fun games like the one you see in the picture. This was a relay race called “electricity”. At the back of the two lines, one person flips a coin. If it is heads the ones at the back of the line squeeze the hand in front of them. That person squeezes the hand in front of them, and so on. As soon as the ones in front get the signal, they grab for a coke can which was placed between them. Whoever grabs the can first wins and the line moves forward. One youth told me repeatedly. “This is fun! This is really fun!” The combined youth groups are getting to know each other and becoming a cohesive whole group.

What I like about this ELCA Gathering, this year, is that it is not a quick one week event and then you go home with your memories and tell the congregation what fun you had. This is faith building, personal growth, and community building. This is knowing God’s grace and also learning to care more deeply about each other and the world around us. The preparation for the Youth Gathering is going to make that week at the end of June even more powerful and life-changing. The theme, “This Changes Everything!” is fitting because God’s Spirit of grace is working on us all year, and the Holy Spirit will show up at the gathering. The things we learn and do will stay with us all our lives. As Jesus said, “The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you.”

One important aspect of getting ready for the gathering, of course, is fundraising. We estimate that the ELCA Youth Gathering will cost about \$1,500 per person. We are hoping to raise \$12,000! All donations welcome. And please bring bottles and cans for the recycling drive. Finally, we’re talking about a fundraising dinner and other ideas.

God’s Peace,

Pastor Matthew

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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HILLSBORO OR 97124

Crossways



Thank You for doing God's Work with Our Hands!

The Calvary Book Club just finished the book *Letter to My Daughter*, by Maya Angelou. It is an excellent, easy to read book full of wisdom and strength. Ms. Angelou speaks about cultivating an “attitude of gratitude.” With that in mind, the Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank the congregation for all of their help and support in reaching out to those on the margins, those who have little or no voice, and those with nothing. We are a small congregation in number but we are mighty indeed!

Thank you for your donations of food and money to the Food Bank;

Thank you to the Sunday School children for quietly reminding us to donate with your brightly decorated bags.

Thank you for sharing your money, time, food, and nights with the homeless through Family Promise.

Thank you for your generosity in providing gifts to refugees from the Lutheran Family Services.

Thank you for marching in support of women's rights, immigrants, refugees, the LGBTQ community, and all human rights.

Thank you for caring for God's creation by recycling electronics, attending eco-coffees and eco-activities.

Thank you for donating funds so that the Church can support organizations like Adelante Mujeres, Domestic Violence Resource Center, Outside-In and Family Promise.

And a **BRILLIANT thank you** to all of the folks who planned, coordinated, and pulled off all of these activities.

I'm a true believer in the loaves and fishes parable. Every week I see it play out in this church. All you need to do is show your willingness to do God's work and God multiplies it in ways that allow us to spread God's truth, justice and love “to the least of these” (Matthew 26:40).

Eco-Reformation at Calvary FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES



Here are the February dates:

Tuesday, February 6 @ 2:00 pm at Primrose and Tumbleweeds, Eco-Coffee

Wednesday, February 21 @ 3:30 pm, Eco-Reformation team meeting

Sunday, February 25 @ 11:30 am, Eco-Fellowship Activity—TBD (May be changed to a Snow Day on Saturday, the 24th).

Calvary Lutheran Church



Annual Meeting, Part 1 was held on Sunday, January 28.

The 2018 budget was passed and the new Synod Assembly voting members are Elly Gonzales, Brent Young and Nicala Young. The Nominating Committee for open congregation council positions are Betty Adams, Barbara Gennrich, Kayse Durgan and Werner Leupold.

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent at Calvary



Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. This will be difficult for those who give up chocolate for Lent. You can receive a box of chocolates but not eat them until Easter. Technically, the season of Lent ends at the Maundy Thursday service, so you could eat your chocolate three days early, but nobody knows that and they'll think you are cheating.

I do want to invite you to Ash Wednesday service which will be at 7:00 in the evening on February 14. Somehow we will mix in the theme of love with the theme of repentance. Actually, Ash Wednesday is an invitation to turn back to God if you have strayed, and to draw closer to God in preparation for the Holy Week events, and in this way you are turning toward the very ground and source of love. We will use the traditional Ash Wednesday service as it has proven to be deeply meaningful even amidst the cultural changes we have been seeing over the years. I do hope you will come and enter into Lenten introspection and prayer.

During the season of Lent, I am planning to have a simple meal and some spiritual conversation from 6:30 to 8:00 on Wednesdays. I am going to keep it simple this year. No communion, and just a little Word and prayer. Please join us. Please sign up to bring soup, bread or salad. It doesn't have to be soup, but keep it simple.

I have a couple ideas for conversation. There are some really good short videos by Rob Bell, a former pastor of Mars Hill church in Seattle. The series is called NOOMA (which is a creative spelling of Pnuma or Spirit.) His messages are down to earth and touch deep places in our lives.

Another idea is the latest books by Anne Lamott called Halleluiah Anyway and Small Victories. Either way, these will be jumping off places for grace filled conversations.

I hope you will make Wednesday evening Lenten gatherings part of your Lenten practice this year.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday is March 25th and Easter Sunday is April 1st

The Worship & Music committee, it seems, has gone rogue. We have decided to celebrate Palm Sunday alone, rather than the current practice of Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday. But before you call the Bishop or burn us at the stake, consider this. Actually, we have returned to the original practice of Holy Week. In earlier times, Palm Sunday stood alone on the Sunday before Easter. While the reasons for the change vary depending upon who you ask, one reason is that over time, fewer people were attending Good Friday Services so reading the Passion Story the week before Easter helps people enter into the somber contemplation of Holy Week before the Easter celebration. The Catholic Church made the change at Vatican II, recognizing that Palm Sunday was a day of obligation, while Good Friday was optional. So having Palm Sunday/Passion made sure that more people would hear the passion story.

Others refute that idea and say that the change was made to return the church to the original meaning of Lent. In the early Christian church, there was a three year novitiate to prepare one for baptism. The Forty Days of Lent was a season to help these candidates toward the last stretch to the finish line, so to speak, to pray for them as they prepared for baptism, and somehow reading the Passion story on the Sunday before Easter was part of that. It is helpful to note that the original meaning of Lent was not to enter into penitence, and try really hard to be devoted to God for forty days out of the year. It wasn't about sins and penitence and forgiveness. It was about encouraging others and praying for them to be baptized and join the church.

Personally, I find the transition between Palm Sunday to Passion Sunday rather abrupt. It does not allow us to truly ponder the meaning of Palm Sunday. Also, I think there is little reason not to go to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. When you participate in the whole of Holy Week services you enter deeply into the story of God's love for us in Christ, you live the drama of the Lord's Supper, the trial and crucifixion, and then you are ready to celebrate the mystery of Christ's resurrection. So, I hope you will do that this year. (Now you can decide whether we have gone rogue or returned to the original spirit of the Sunday before Easter. Please don't burn us at the stake, or if you do, please use dry wood.)

So, I invite you into the season of Lent by beginning with Ash Wednesday. Draw closer to God and also pray that others may know Jesus and come to him during the days of Lent. Lent is an invitation to draw close to God through Jesus Christ.

On Palm Sunday, it will be all about the Palms. Please come for a full service of celebration for Jesus triumphal yet humble entrance into Jerusalem.

Come to Maundy Thursday and find out what the word Maundy means.

Be present on Good Friday to experience the depths of God's love through Jesus' death on the cross.

Finally, as T.S. Eliot wrote, "My end is my beginning." And so it is with Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and promise of new life for all through Jesus Christ.

God's Peace,

Pastor Matthew





Calvary Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

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

WELCA Monthly Meeting

Saturday January 20, 9:30 a.m.

Social: During social time we enjoyed a lovely continental breakfast hosted by Kayse and Judy Wallin.

Business Meeting: Opened by co-chair Anita

Treasurer's Report: Kayse gave the report for two months, no business meeting in December.

Committee Reports:

Quilts & Shawls: Ongoing sewing and knitting/crocheting.

Cradle Roll: No current babies. Two Sparks Bibles will be presented soon.

Prayer requests and cards: Helen Jerde and Betty Dendinger

New Business:

Spring Retreat: 1 day Saturday April 28th at Jackson School House, 9:00 – 3:30 with lunch.

Pastor Mary Peterson, who recently filled in for Pastor Matthew, will be our facilitator. Title: “Cultivating presence through spiritual practices”. Please watch for more information and consider attending.

Bake Sale: Sunday, February 11th (pending Council approval) – raise funds for Retreat

Bible Study: After a quick break, we had our monthly Bible Study: First lesson in 2018 is titled: Multiple meanings of Scripture: Learning from other interpretations by Mark Allan Powell. Session one: Washing hands with distant hearts (Mark 7:1-8). Next month it will be session two: Prepare the Way of the Lord (Luke 3:3-17).

Copies of “Gather”, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, are on the table in hall. There are many inspiring and thoughtful articles for women of all ages. Current month copies (January/February) are in WELCA mail cubby.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday February 17, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. Hostess: Edie; Bible Study: Cathie Carlisle

Other Upcoming WELCA Activities

Bold Women Sunday is February 4th

Bake Sale is February 11th after worship

Day Retreat is Saturday April 28th

Watch for more information—Briefly: 3 sessions, approximately 1 hour each
Lunch, open time to rest, walk, journal...



Christmas Fun!





AED Training and SEND-OFF FOR HELEN JERDE! WE'LL MISS YOU!



February Fellowship Opportunities



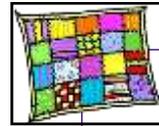
Calvary Book Club

The book club will meet on Tuesday, February 27th at 7:00 pm at the home of Edie Pyle, 1857 NE 2nd Place, Hillsboro, 503-648-4845. The book selection is Mr. Dickens and His Carol by Samantha Silva.



February Lunch Bunch

Lunch will be on Wednesday, February 14th at 11:30 am at Copper River Restaurant in Hillsboro. Questions? Contact Inge Eriksen.



Quilting and Knitting

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

Family Promise Week at Calvary

Calvary will host Family Promise beginning the week of February 25th. Do you have time to help? Volunteers are needed for dinner and overnights. Visit Sign-Up Genius online or contact volunteer coordinator Julie Perger.



Share the Love with Great Food.

Delicious dinner provided by local favorite Claeys Catering

Great Music.



Jazz Singer Heather Keizur,
with Steve Christofferson.

Wowing audiences with her "whole new level of sultry, expressive, soothing, and romantic classic ballads, jazz standards and authentic French chansons"

~ The Georgia Straight Jazz Society

and Great People.

Help us end homelessness, one family at a time.

Silent Auction Fundraiser

Fabulous local experiences,
food, and conversations with
local leaders.



Tickets
\$45 per person

Table Sponsorships
Available
\$350 per table (of 8)

February 9, 2018, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

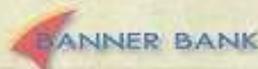
Community of Christ Church (5170 NW Five Oaks Drive, Hillsboro)

Purchase Tickets: <https://squareup.com/store/family-promise-of-washington-cty>

Questions: familypromiseveronica@gmail.com or 503-844-2919

Interested Sponsors, please contact Director Annie Heart familypromiseannieheart@gmail.com

We love our sponsors!





Lutherwood needs Summer Staff!

This summer we are looking to hire about 25 young adults between the ages of 19-25 to serve on our Summer Staff! Please help us find future leaders of the church and recruit young adults at your churches to work at Camp Lutherwood Oregon!

Thank you Jim!

-Pr. Matthew Eagan

On a Wednesday, January third to be precise, church staff and members gathered in the Courtyard room for a very special occasion, the retirement of our long time janitor Jim Smith. Jim has been our Janitor for twenty-four years. Besides cleaning the church three times a week, he was also willing to set up tables and chairs for WELCA and other events. Jim has other talents that he enjoys almost as much as being a janitor. Jim is a fabulous painter who even has one of his miniatures in the Smithsonian. He is also an avid fisher. Jan organized the meal. Betty made two pans of delicious Lasagna, one with meat, and one vegetarian, and we ate and wished Jim well in his retirement. I wrote a poem for Jim which I would like to share with you. I began with a self-deprecating introduction, as seems to be my habit.

Jim, I offer this poem to you in the same spirit a Lutheran offers a green Jell-O salad with mandarin oranges at a potluck and says, "It's not very good." This is a Sestina. It does not rhyme, but repeats the same end words in different order.

The Art of Sweeping

He prepares the canvas with a broom.
With practiced brush strokes he applies the mop.
He swabs the kitchen floor until a clean
Sheen reflects the light and inner beauty
Inherent in the surface of things swept
And shiny, and gives you satisfaction for the art.

It took me months to learn Jim was an artist.
It took years to realize how good. The humble broom

Disguised his genius. His vacuum swept
Acres of rug, and the sopping wet mop
Would stop anyone from imagining beauty
Emanating from this janitor trying to scrub the oven clean.

And the thing is, no one could get things clean
Enough to please everyone around here but look at all the art
That came from these same hands, the beauty!
A miniature painting of fresh flowers belies the hours pushing broom,
Wiping kitchen counters and pouring dirty mop
Water down the drain. It makes me weep the years you sweep

Away without a sigh. A meditative monk will sweep
The floor to be sweeping the floor and go to bed with a clean
Conscience, only to wake up and mop
Another mess I made. You taught me drawing and the art
Of faith revealed in the motion of a broom.
You made the house of God a place of beauty.

You set up chairs and tables with a classical beauty
Of form and function like the windswept
Sands at the ocean and the universe of stars the heavenly broom
Pushed into place, the spring cleaning
Of Heavens golden streets, creating constellation art,
Orion, Pisces, and the spilled Milky Way dripping from the mop.

Ah, Jim, now you can put up your mop.
Relax, sit back and see the beauty
All around you. We hope you continue with your art
And allow yourself the freedom to be swept
Away into the everlasting satisfaction of a clean
Crystal stream, and never again pick up a broom.

Lay down your mop and get swept off your feet
By the beauty of a rainbow trout caught and cleaned
Or painted. Thank you for twenty-four years of pushing a broom.

Jan and I wasted no time to find another janitor. Jan contacted Adalente Mujeres, an organization that empowers women and families to create their own businesses. That led us to the Cleaning Wizards. They did a fabulous job on their deep cleaning. They will do the deep cleaning on Friday afternoons. We also hired a young woman, Hope Stansell, to clean on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.



In Our Prayers



Jon Lewis, Alice Crume, 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!

February 1	Edie Pyle
February 4	Gary Deveraux Danielle Gessford Gary & Joyce Clark
February 6	Tomi Deveraux-Earl
February 14	Hailey Gessford Paul & Barbara Gennrich
February 15	James Pena
February 19	Susan Todd
February 21	Mark Bjerke
February 24	Judy Wallin
February 25	Don & Janis Larsen
February 26	Zachary Eagan
February 27	John Grillo Dave Noles



Happy Valentine's Day!

February Calendar

Feb 3	Knitting & Quilting, 9am
Feb 4	Sunday Worship, 10am
Feb 6	Blood Drive, set-up at noon Eco-Coffee, 2pm
Feb 7	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
Feb 11	Sunday Worship, 10am WELCA Bake Sale Council Meeting, after church
Feb 14	Bible Study, 10:30am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am Bible Study, 1pm ASH WED SERVICE 7pm
Feb 17	WELCA, 9:30am
Feb 18	Sunday Worship, 10am
Feb 20	Social Ministry Meeting, 1pm Care Committee Meeting, 2pm Book Club, 7pm
Feb 21	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1:00pm Eco-Reformation Team, 4pm Lenten Soup/Study, 6:30pm
Feb 24	Eco-Snow Day ?
Feb 25	Sunday Worship, 10am
Feb 28	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1:00pm Lenten Soup/Study, 6:30pm