

February 2020

Greetings from Pastor Matthew



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Crossways

What is epiphany?

According to the Cambridge on-line dictionary, epiphany is a moment when you suddenly feel that you understand, or suddenly become conscious of something that is very important to you.

A powerful religious experience.

Oxford Dictionary gives us this definition:

1. the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12).
2. the festival commemorating the Epiphany on January 6.
3. a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being.

Word Origin Middle English: from Greek *epiphainein* ‘reveal’.

Have you ever had an epiphany? Last year I was in a writing class with twelve very good writers. On the first day of the class the professor asked each of us our names. One woman said her name was Jenna Gretch. Her name sounded familiar, but I didn’t think much more about it, or if I did have any kind of epiphany, I dismissed it as an unlikely coincidence.

Months later, she asked me, “What kind of drums do you have?” She knew I was a drummer because my stories revolved around a fictional drummer who was a lot like me. I said, “Premier” which was an English drum company that made very good drums but not so great hardware. The drummer from the band “THE WHO” Keith Moon played Premier drums. I explained to Jenna that I was inspired by Keith Moon, but made sure I really liked the sound of the drums and was not buying them just because Keith Moon played them. And it was true. I tried out a lot of drum sets but really liked the sound of my Premier drums.

After listening to my long rant about my Premier drums, Jenna said, “Why not Gretch?” She held her hands up at her shoulders palms up and said, “Jenna...” And suddenly it dawned on me. I exclaimed, “No way!” Jenna Gretch was part of the famous Gretch family who made some of the best drums in the world. They were famous especially in the Be-Bop Jazz age because they had such a powerful and wonderful sound. That was my epiphany. So, in honor of Jenna Gretch the great grand-daughter of the founder of Gretch drums, I put a Gretch drum set in my novel. That was my epiphany.

Epiphanies can be both mundane and religious. A student might be struggling with a math problem, and then suddenly, they understand it. An epiphany in literature is “a mystical revelation, a profound insight gained when one suddenly grasps the essence of a mundane object, statement, moment or gesture—that is, when one suddenly sees these things for what they truly are, their essence, their true nature.” (Reference, literarytechniques.org).

During the season of Epiphany, God reveals to us who Jesus really is, his identity, his purpose, his essence, his true nature. The Magi revealed to us the true nature of Jesus as a newborn king, one who would challenge King Herod, the Roman Empire and all the powers of the world with his truth and love. The appearance of the Magi reveals to us that the reign of Jesus includes people of every nation, race, creed, and color.



The last several week’s texts show how Jesus fulfills the disciples’ deepest longings. “What are you looking for?” Jesus said. The Disciples answered, “Where are you

staying?” Their deepest longing was to be with Jesus always. And when Jesus came to Galilee and called the fishers to follow him, they left their boats and nets and followed. From there, Jesus proclaimed the good news of the kingdom, curing every disease and sickness among the people. Isaiah prophesied about Jesus, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” Jesus is revealed as the light of the world.

On February 2 we flash back to the baby Jesus being presented at the Temple. Simeon calls Jesus his “salvation, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of God’s people Israel.” The prophet Anna praised God and spoke about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem, but Simeon also spoke ominous oracles about Jesus and Mary’s future, and the fate of Jerusalem. Who is this Jesus anyway?

On another Sunday, Jesus brings the Sermon on the Mount just like Moses coming down from Mount Sinai. Jesus turns the values and expectations of the world upside down. On the mount of Transfiguration Jesus reveals his true self to a few of his disciples. They hear the voice of God affirming Jesus’ identity and his mission. He tells the disciples to listen up.

What I would like to do is invite you to look for epiphanies throughout the season of Epiphany. Pay attention to the Gospel lessons for the next four or five Sundays. What does each gospel lesson show us about Jesus? I just gave you some brief summaries of the texts, but I believe every time you read or hear scripture is an opportunity for you to hear God’s word in maybe a different way, or be inspired by an unexpected epiphany. In what way might each revelation of Jesus shown in the gospel lesson illuminate your faith, and lead you to respond?

Keep your eyes open for those sudden revelations that happen in you in your day-to-day routines, those moments when you suddenly feel like you understand something, or suddenly become conscious of something that is very important to you. Pay attention to God’s word. Pay attention to people around you. Pay attention to animals, plants, birds, moments of time, and the inward stirrings of your heart. I don’t suggest you go around holding your breath and making a fist, trying to hunt down a powerful religious experience, but be open to the possibility, that in the color of the sunrise, or a sudden rain storm, Christ may reveal something meaningful to you this epiphany season. If you don’t catch a glimpse of the glory of God, don’t worry. Just know that the Spirit of God and Christ is with you always, and you can follow Jesus and share God’s love with others. “You are the light of the world. You are the light of the world. So, shine, shine, shine where you are. You are the light of the world.” (lyrics of some Christian song I used to know.)

“Why not Gretch?”

In God’s peace, Pastor Matthew Eagan

Preview of the Season of Lent at Calvary

Ash Wednesday—February 26th

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

7:00 pm

Mid-Week Worship Services: March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

See March newsletter for details

Highlights of the Annual Meeting Part 1 – January 26, 2020 – following worship

**Please note that these are not official minutes (the minutes need to be approved by Council)*

Quorum was established with 31 voting members – needed 20.

Reports were given by:

Pastor Matthew Eagan
Ryan Parker, Treasurer
Brent Young, Congregation President



Presentations of:

2020 Proposed Budget

Constitution Amendments

Both of these will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting Part 2. Copies of the Constitution are available on the table in the narthex (hallway by the sanctuary)

Election of Voting Members to the Synod:

Brent Young and Shari Young were elected as our voting members to the Oregon Synod Assembly.

Nominating Committee for 2020 – there were three write-ins.

The Congregation approved:

The minutes of the Special Congregation Meeting of December 8, 2019

Authorization of the Congregation Council to approve the minutes of this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Stewardship

By Deacon Cathie M. Carlisle

At the January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting, Part I, we were presented with a budget proposal for 2020. There is a large funding gap. The congregation voted to return the proposed budget to the Finance Committee to be re-worked, to use the 2019 Budget Guidelines and to pay the bills as they come due. We will revisit this at the Annual Meeting, Part II. In the meantime, as congregational members who value the work and ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church, who value the friendships and challenges for ministry, we will look at our own giving, we will ponder new ways of doing ministry, and we will pray for God's provision, the Holy Spirit's guidance, and listen to Jesus as Jesus shares with us what we are to do.



Calvary News



Calvary Choir Begins Again

Calvary Choir rehearsals will begin February 2nd, and continue Sundays after worship. Rehearsals are under an hour in length and all are welcome – middle school aged students through adult.

Questions? Please contact Shari Young.



Community Garden News



At the December Council meeting, Mary Ordal presented a proposal that Calvary take over the sponsorship of the Community Garden. The city has been overseeing the garden. The Council voted to accept her proposal, and Calvary will now sponsor this valuable community resource. There will be a

Five Minutes of Faith

Shari Young is organizing this group. She held an informative meeting in January and has posted a sign-up for those who would like to participate and share with the congregation. Please see Shari for more information.

Help Wanted

Carol Dougall and Edie Pyle are stepping down from the coffee hour ministry. Thank you to both for your faithful service!

We need kitchen help—people to make coffee and make sure the goodies are out by 10:00 am. A team of people would be best.

Please talk to Carol or Edie, or contact the office if you would like to help.





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

Calvary WELCA met on January 18 with a winter gnome and snow theme. We enjoyed a continental breakfast followed by a business meeting and discussion. January's Bible study "We are Called" was facilitated with intriguing questions.

Business meeting minutes are posted on the WELCA bulletin board by the office.

All women are welcome to join us on:



Saturday, February 15
9:30 am continental breakfast potluck
coordinated by Anita and Judy W.

volunteers are needed for set up

Followed by Bible Study:
Session 2 on "Call"



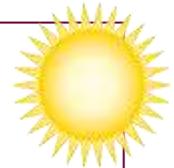
Book Club meeting at the home of Michele Cage; photo by Leslie Mayfield

February Fellowship Opportunities



Calvary Book Club

The book club will meet on Tuesday, February 25th at 7:00 pm at church. The book selection is *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte and this is an appetizer potluck.



February Lunch Bunch

Lunch in February will be on Wednesday, February 12th at 11:30 am at Helvetia Tavern in Hillsboro. Questions? Contact Inge Eriksen.



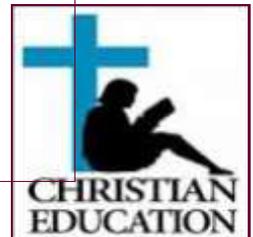
Quilting and Knitting

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

Men's and Women's Bible Study

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

Come and listen, learn and inwardly digest...



ArtShare

ArtShare will be held on February 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at church.

Come, See, Explore!

Library News

February 2020

The library collection is growing. The books and shelves and furnishings are being used by both members and guests.

It was delightful to witness a young child coming to worship with his parents, head immediately for the children's book rack in the hallway and take his treasure into worship. It will be returned.

The Book Club books are being processed for this year. Thank you for your financial contributions through the general benevolence to Calvary Lutheran.

Personal donations of books have been added to the *stacks*. They include:

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek: a novel by Kim Michele Richardson. This is a historical fiction book about the horseback librarians of the WPA about 100 years ago. This one takes place in Kentucky at Troublesome Creek – a real place.

Trains, Jesus, and Murder: The Gospel According to Johnny Cash by Richard Beck. This book will be housed in the Music and Dance collection in the 700's. Mr. Beck shares with us the music and ministry of Johnny Cash. How his songs reflect scripture and are the bearer of good news. Why his songs at *Folsom Prison* and others touched so many lives.

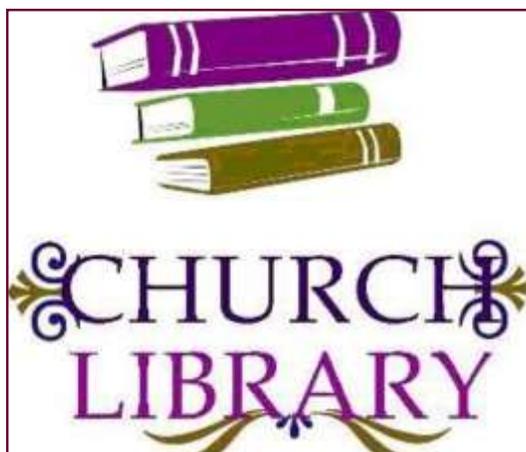
The Road Not Taken: Finding America in the Poem Everyone Loves and Almost Everyone Gets Wrong by David Orr, poetry columnist for "The New York Times". He examines the beloved Robert Frost poem, *its history, cultural influence, and artistic complexity, and explores the controversy between the two diverging opinions on the poem's meaning – the notion of choice, the possibility of self-deception*. The author also shares much about the life of Robert Frost, his family, his associates, his thinking.

We need to make space for new additions and to “read” the shelves and to put books back where they belong. If you have a desire to assist for one hour, please let Cathie Carlisle know.

Between February 9 and February 23, the congregation will have first choice for the books that will be sent to the Friends of the Library. Books will in a box on the narthex table.

Librarian, Deacon Cathie M. Carlisle

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In Our Prayers



Family of Pr. Matthew's sister Judy, Bonnie Wendtlandt, Diane Takalo, Jane Mark, Mary Gallagher, Joy Toperzer, Jim Bany, Pippa & Family, Baby Alice Crume, Judy Reed, John Hartner, Jon Lewis (Air Force) and Ermine Todd (Army) and all members of our military, Tomi Deveraux, Sharon Schmadeke, Dick Highhouse

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary to You!

February 1	Edie Pyle
February 4	Gary Deveraux Gary & Joyce Clark
February 6	Tomi Deveraux-Earl
February 8	Jerry & Joann Utter
February 14	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



February Calendar

Feb 1	Knitting & Quilting, 9am
Feb 2	Sunday Worship, 10am
Feb 4	Blood Drive, 1:30pm
Feb 5	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
Feb 9	Sunday Worship, 10am Council Meeting, after church
Feb 12	Bible Study, 10:30am Wed Lunch Bunch, 11:30 Bible Study, 1pm
Feb 13	ArtShare, 2pm
Feb 15	WELCA, 9:30am
Feb 16	Sunday Worship, 10am
Feb 19	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1:00pm Eco-Faith Meeting, 3:15pm
Feb 23	Sunday Worship, 10a
Feb 25	Book Club, 7pm
Feb 26	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm