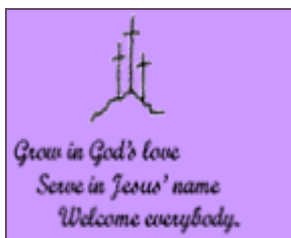


March 2017

Greetings from Pastor Matthew



The Season of Lent

On Sunday mornings we begin worship by acknowledging God's presence "in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." Then we enter into a ritual prayer of corporate confession and forgiveness. "Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as our self." We say these or similar words together, acknowledging that we are all sinful human beings essentially turned inward upon ourselves with our own interests at heart and that we need God's forgiveness and love to make a change within us, to turn us back to God and to focus our attention on love for one another. It's a bleak situation we admit to every week and every week we are reminded of God's gracious love and forgiveness shown most fully through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

After the brief corporate confession of sins, we hear gracious words from God spoken by the pastor. "In mercy Almighty God has forgiven you of all your sins in the name of the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit. Amen." And we all say, "Thanks be to God."

After that moment, we sing praises to God and hymns that pertain to the theme of the day. I don't spend a lot of time reminding us of our sins. My internship supervisor many years ago said that most people in the congregation are all too well aware of their sins already and we don't need to spend a lot of time reminding them of what they already know. "What they need most of all is to be reminded over and over again of God's gracious love for them." Others may disagree and say that we need to hear that we are sinners and we need to be specific. Well, yes, there is a time for that as well. If you struggle with specific sins that you feel powerless to address or sins for which you can't seem to shake the feelings of dread and guilt, well, maybe it is time for you to make individual confession, perhaps privately with the pastor or with another fellow Christian whom you trust.

At other times, I think confession can be simply having coffee with a fellow Christian, talking about your hopes and dreams and disappointments and sorrows, being honest about your strengths and weaknesses, and sharing your lives together in a spirit of honesty, respect and compassion. We can show forgiveness and mercy by hanging in there and listening when someone is telling us something that is difficult to hear. We might respond with some words of God's grace, or maybe just nod in understanding. Sometimes, Christian friends break into sympathetic laughter when we acknowledge our foibles and frailties. "Been there, done that," we might say. This too, I believe, is a kind of confession and forgiveness. I once wrote a sort of confessional song with the refrain, "Sacraments, the cups of coffee, broken lives we share at the table."



In general, we Lutherans don't spend a lot of time obsessing about our sins. We have such confidence in God's grace. Although we should never just take God's grace for granted. We should not be so quick to excuse ourselves when we know we have done wrong. The Lutheran theologian Deitrich Bonhoeffer warned against what he called "cheap grace" and reminded us that God's grace was costly and the price was Jesus' suffering and death on the cross.

Continued

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
937 NE JACKSON SCHOOL RD
HILLSBORO OR 97124

Crossways

On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our sin and have an opportunity for both corporate confession and individual confession. We mark our awareness of our mortality and of God's love for us by making the sign of the cross with ashes on our foreheads. We hear the words, "You are dust and to dust you will return." This may seem like a strange and disturbing ritual, especially when we go out from the sanctuary and into the grocery store. I find it a very earthy, especially when I am outside burning palm branches in a firepit and crushing the ashes into dust, and mixing them with oil. Then we rub them on our foreheads, a primitive act, that touches us deeply in our souls. We don't have to go around all the time moaning like Isaiah, "Woe is me, I am a person of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips." But once a day, maybe once a year, at least, it is healthy to take an honest look at ourselves and remember how much we need God's grace. Walk in that grace and give God thanks and praise.

Lent

In the weeks of Lent following Ash Wednesday, I hope that you will come to the Agape Meals that Calvary is offering from 6:00 to 8:00 on Wednesday evenings. We have been pondering the connection between our lives on Sunday mornings and our lives from Monday through Saturday. What is our Christian vocation? How does our day to day work relate to our Christian faith? Martin Luther had a healthy attitude toward Christian vocation. You are invited to come and enjoy a simple dinner, good conversation about practicing our faith in life, and a moment to share the body and blood of Christ who is present in, with and under all of our lives.

God's Peace,
Pastor Matthew



*March 1st is Ash Wednesday. There will be a worship service at 7:00 pm
with the imposition of ashes.*

Agape Meals

Wednesdays in Lent: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

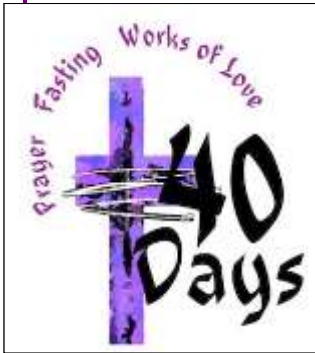
Agape meals are an ancient and recently revived form of worship in which people gather for a simple meal, read a Bible passage or some sacred writing, enjoy a meaningful faith conversation and then receive the gift of Holy Communion as part of our community meal.

We would like to invite especially those who are new to the church and may be thinking of becoming members, those who are seeking some kind of spiritual connection but for whom traditional worship just doesn't work for them, as well as long-time Calvary members who enjoy fellowship and spiritual conversation.

This being the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, there's a good chance we'll read some Luther. We'll mainly be using the book called **Listen! God is Calling! Luther Speaks of Vocation, Faith, and Work**, by D. Michael Bennethum. A review of the book says "A must read for all those wondering how to cross that great divide between Sunday and Monday—the relationship between their faith and their daily work."

Let's spread the net wide. Invite your friends and neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances.

Peace,
Pastor Matthew



Prayers taken from FREE INDEED: Devotions for Lent 2017

There are copies on the narthex table for your Lenten reading.

God, you are God. You are love, and you are trustworthy. Thank you for being able to carry the weight of all of creation's hopes, dreams, fears, sorrows, and most heartfelt prayers. Be with us when we are afraid of losing what we love. Make all of our relationships as healthy as they can be. We will keep praying; we will keep asking you. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

God, your welcome table has room for everyone and then some. Keep us honest, make us faithful, give us ears to hear and eyes to see beyond our own needs, wants, and stories. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Quotes, submitted by Joanne Rice

"Someday, I suppose it will become evident that the laws in the Torah are meant to lead to a universal love of humanity," said the first-century Jewish historian Josephus, who knew that spiritual and religious practice has one and only one purpose: to increase our love. **From *The Power of Coincidence* by David Richo**

You were within, but I was without. You were with me, but I was not with you. So you called, you shouted, you broke through my deafness, you flared, blazed, and banished my blindness, you lavished fragrance, and I gasped. **Quote of St. Augustine**

Social Ministry at Calvary

Calvary Members on their way to the Women's March in Portland



What Does “Sanctuary” Mean?

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ has accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” Romans 15:7

There has been a lot of discussion lately about Oregon being a “sanctuary” state. Some of us marched in support of Hillsboro passing a resolution to become a “sanctuary” city. In 2016, the Oregon Synod voted to become one the first Sanctuary Synods of the ELCA.

But, what does this mean?

Oregon Revised Statutes state that ***“No law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws.”***

This law was originally passed in 1987, so it’s nothing new. It means that local law enforcement will not enforce immigration law, *if the person has not committed a crime*. It does NOT mean that if an undocumented person commits a crime they won’t be arrested and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. For example, anyone who commits armed robbery, regardless of immigration status, will be arrested and prosecuted. If the victim of that robbery is someone who is an undocumented immigrant, or if the robbery is witnessed by an undocumented immigrant, that person can cooperate with the local police without fear of being reported to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

President Trump is threatening to withhold federal dollars from states and cities that designate themselves as “sanctuaries.” At our last Council meeting, we were told that a recent Supreme Court decision states that he can only withhold monies that relate to that particular designation, i.e. law enforcement. That may not stop him from trying to withhold all federal funds, so this is part of the issue that is an unknown consequence.

Being a “Sanctuary City” or a “Sanctuary Church” is basically symbolic. It’s saying to our community that all are welcome here, that we value diversity and that we want immigrants to feel safe while they are working hard to improve their life and the lives of their family and community. Lutherans have a long and rich history of supporting and advocating for refugees and immigrants. After all, Christ died for us all and it is through His grace and love that we all find hope and meaning.

-Submitted by Michele Cage

Pastor’s Note: On Tuesday, March 7th at 7:00 pm, Pastor Matthew and other pastors will speak at the Hillsboro City Council meeting in favor of the Sanctuary movement. Please come show your support for your neighbors.



Sanctuary March in Hillsboro

A Message from the Presiding Bishop

CHICAGO (Jan. 30, 2017) – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has issued a pastoral message addressing President Trump's executive order to restrict entry by refugees and visitors into the United States from seven predominately Muslim countries.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

January 30, 2017

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Yesterday, we heard these words in the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12, the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, Jesus lays out a vision for life in God's realm, characterized by seeing those who are often most disregarded, including the meek, the mourning and the peacemaker, as bearers of God's blessing. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to hear this Gospel, including Jesus' call for his disciples to be carriers of God's light and hope and reconciliation to a world deeply in need of them.

In this spirit, earlier last week I communicated with the Trump administration asking that it not stop the U.S. refugee admissions program or stop resettlement from any country for any period of time. The Bible calls us to welcome the stranger and treat the sojourner as we would our own citizens. I agree with the importance of keeping our country secure as the administration stated in its executive order last Friday, but I am convinced that temporarily banning vulnerable refugees will not enhance our safety nor does it reflect our values as Christians. Instead, it will cause immediate harm by separating families, disrupting lives, and denying safety and hope to brothers and sisters who are already suffering.

Refugees being resettled in the United States have fled persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political views and/or associations. They wait for years for the chance to go home. But sometimes, there is no home for them to go back to. We know from our partners at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) that only 1 percent of all refugees are chosen for resettlement.

People of faith helped start and still sustain the refugee resettlement program in the United States following World War II. As Lutherans, many of our ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and the joy of being welcomed in new communities across the United States. As we have done throughout history, millions of Lutherans across the country honor our shared biblical values as well as the best of our nation's traditions by offering refuge to those most in need. We are committed to continuing ministries of welcome that support and build communities around the country and stand firmly against any policies that result in scaling back the refugee resettlement program.

We must offer safety to people fleeing religious persecution regardless of their faith tradition. Christians and other religious minorities suffer persecution and rightly deserve protection, but including additional criteria based on religion could have discriminatory effects that would go against our nation's fundamental values related to freedom of religion.

I invite ELCA congregations into learning, prayer and action on behalf of those who seek refuge on our shores. The ELCA ["Social Message on Immigration,"](#) [AMMPARO strategy](#) and [LIRS resources](#) are good places to start. You can also make a donation to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#). Those who have been part of resettling refugees or have their own immigration experience have important stories to share with their communities and testimony to make. I also encourage you to consider adding your voice by calling your members of Congress to share your support for refugees and using online advocacy opportunities through current alerts at [ELCA Advocacy](#) and [LIRS](#).

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Our Lord not only commanded us to welcome the stranger, Jesus made it clear that when we welcome the stranger into our homes and our hearts – we welcome him.

God's peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop



Calvary Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Betty Dendinger, President - Anita Oberhelman, Vice-President

– Kayse Durgan, Treasurer

All women of Calvary belong to Calvary WELCA

WELCA Monthly Meeting

Saturday, February 18, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast : Delicious breakfast by a team: Leslie, Michele, Judy W and Anita. We also had a great turnout! Thank you all who came!!

Business Meeting:

Opened by President Betty D. To fill our vacant secretary spot, Leslie and Anita will team up. Leslie will take notes and Anita will write up for newsletter and WELCA secretary notebook.

Treasurer's Report: Kayse reported that we received \$737.00 on Thank offering Sunday. This will be sent to National. Another anonymous donation of \$250 was received for Cradle Roll. \$100 sent to Oregon Synod, our yearly obligation.

Committee Reports:

Quilts & Shawls: Cathie is making a graduation quilt for Inge's grandson.

Prayer shawl ministry: suggested and passed that 2 prayer shawls will be put in gift bags, ready to go out with Pastor. Edie will knit a shawl for our confirmand.

Cradle Roll: Edie reported she will get DVDs for kids with donations. Also copies of the Spark magazine will be put in the children's activity bags used during the service.

Prayer requests and cards: Two cards were sent around. Thank you Edie!

Business:

Activity bags need to be updated; Judy W volunteered to do it. Betty D had been. Thank you Betty! Thank you Judy for taking this on.

Bold Women's Sunday is February 26th – "noisy" offering to Katie's fund (coins please!)

Also this Sunday will be Luayne and Mike's last Sunday before moving to Montana (no cake per their request.)

Reminder: Triennial Gathering July 13-16, 2017 in Minneapolis. They are collecting 500 finger labyrinths. Some have already been made here at Calvary. Directions are available online. (They are fun and easy to make).

Footnote: In November meeting, it was agreed that WELCA will pay registration fee for a delegate. For more information, see WELCA Board or visit welcatg.org.

October Synod meeting will be in Dallas, Oregon.

In 3 years, Oregon will be hosting the next Triennial in Hillsboro, near Max.

Shirley shared a devotion with us.

By unanimous agreement, we will be simplifying our meeting breakfast to coffee, tea, and one item, hostess's choice.

Bible Study: After a quick break Cathie led our Bible Study: Galatians: Christian Faith and Christian Freedom. We learned why Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia. Next month, session three, we will be studying Galatians 3:24-4:31.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2017 at 9:30

Hosting: Carol D Bible Study: Cathie

Please join us!! All women are welcome!





BOLD WOMEN SUNDAY

Calvary Book Club

The book club will meet at church on Tuesday, March 28th at 7 pm, hosted by Debora Fetzer and Monique Belisle. The book selection is Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream, by Joshua Davis.



March Fellowship Opportunities

Quilting and Knitting

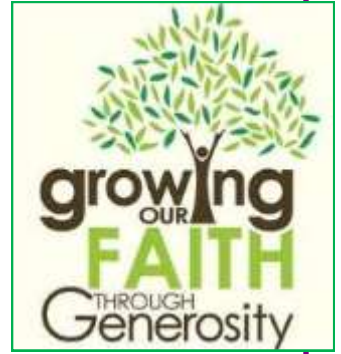
The group will meet on Saturday, March 4th at 9:00 am to create beautiful quilts and prayer shawls.



March Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, March 8th at 11:30 am at The Venetian Restaurant in downtown Hillsboro. Please contact Inge Eriksen with any questions, 503-318-2477

Stewardship: Giving at Calvary



This fall, Calvary council made an appeal for members to pledge their giving for this year and many of you did and we are grateful. Others chose not to pledge but are still faithful givers and we give God thanks. This stewardship article is not an appeal for you to give more. We want to make giving easy for you.

We would like you to know about several ways that you can give your offerings. Calvary members are already managing their offerings in a variety of ways. We hope that you will look at these options and choose ways of giving that match your life style.

Many Calvary members give weekly or monthly offerings using offering envelopes. Offering envelopes give you a secure way to give to the church using checks. Your offerings are recorded by offering envelope number every week and you receive statements of your giving.

Cash offerings. You can put cash offerings in your envelopes. Loose cash of course is recorded as unidentified.

Automatic offerings. The way we make transactions is rapidly changing in our society. Many people no longer use cash or checks for their regular bills. You can set up regular automatic offerings through your own bank accounts. This is a great way to plan for regular giving. You can set up a weekly or monthly schedule of automatic giving in the same way that you would pay your credit card bills or donate to Oregon Public Radio. This is good for you and the church because your automatic giving will be consistent.

Two congregation members are signed up with the Simply Giving Plan, managed by Vanco. This is an automatic monthly electronic transfer from your bank account directly to Calvary, which is another great way to plan for regular offering. Please call the office if you'd like more details.

Keep in mind that many of us are spontaneous and place extra offering in the plate periodically. This gives us a special feeling of giving to God and to the church. Even if you have set up an automatic giving mechanism, some days you may want to give a little more.

Lutheran Professor Mark Allan Powell describes his approach to giving in his book Giving to God. He uses automatic giving, but sometimes feels moved by the Holy Spirit to give more. He identified three different kinds of offerings named in the Bible: tithes, offerings and alms. Tithes could be your regular giving. The biblical tithe is 10% of what you earn and some congregation members do tithe 10% and report feeling blessed by the practice. For our purpose we can think of our regular giving, whatever the amount, as similar to the biblical tithe. Then there is the biblical term "offering." These can be thank offerings, sin offerings, and a variety of other special opportunities to give. You could think of "offerings" as those special moments when you are particularly thankful and want to give more than your regular giving. Finally, the Bible uses the term "alms" which refer specifically to offering given for the poor. You may notice that on our offering envelopes you can designate your giving to Current Expenses/Benevolences, World Hunger, and Good Samaritan Fund.

We hope that this information will be helpful to you to explore the various options for giving. You can choose whatever way works best for you. We give thanks to God for you and for the many ways we carry out God's will as the body of Christ at Calvary.

by Jim Bany and Pastor Matthew

My Story, by Cathie M. Carlisle, Deacon Retired

William Carey was a 18th Century Baptist missionary from the United Kingdom to India. He was an activist and challenged many colleagues and parishioners.

I have experienced his quote throughout my life but much more this past week. This year I pledged to support God's work through Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church by giving 10% plus of my fixed income monthly.

January came around and I found I had \$22.50 extra from my monthly Curves Bunco party. So, \$2.50 went into the offering – I made sure the counters knew this was something special as I wrote a message on my envelope.

The next Sunday we had snow and worship at the church was cancelled. The third Sunday came and I had an additional \$200 from a house and dog sitting gig. Another \$20 went into the offering.

By the fourth Sunday I discovered two things:

I had an additional \$300 again from house and dog sitting and
My car was unsafe to drive because the left front wheel bearing was 99% dysfunctional – to the tune of \$700. It was also ascertained that the right front wheel bearing was on its way out, plus the car needed new brakes. I knew I had \$500 in the bank. I had not yet built up my \$1000 emergency fund as suggested by Dave Ramsey. I could really use all that \$300 for this emergency.

But I trusted God to see me through this “bump” and I again gave 10% of my house and dog sitting money for God's work through Calvary.

On Monday when I was to pick up my car, I was not disappointed. I did have enough to pay for the one wheel bearing and God also provided a resource to fix the rest of the stuff needed.

“He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him.”

Stewardship Quote of the Month

I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him. —**William Carey**

HELP WANTED

Two ministries at Calvary are looking for an administrative-type person to enhance their ministries:

Family Promise Co-Coordinator

Sunday School Superintendent

Please contact Pr. Matthew or the office if you are interested.

Reformation 500

Did you know? brought to you by <http://lutheranreformation.org/history/reformation-timeline/>

1501	Martin Luther enters University of Erfurt	
1502		Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, founds University of Wittenberg Michelangelo begins sculpting <i>David</i> . First portable timepiece created in Nürnberg, Germany
1503		De Vinci begins painting the Mona Lisa
1505	Martin Luther received Master of Arts in philosophy. July 2 – Luther’s encounter with the thunderstorm. July 17 – Luther enters monastery	
1506	Luther takes final vows as Augustinian Monk.	
1507	April 3 – Luther ordained priest at Erfurt Cathedral May 2 – Luther celebrates first Mass; begins study of theology	
1508	Luther appointed substitute lecturer in moral philosophy at University of Wittenberg	Michelangelo begin painting Sistine Chapel (completed in 1512)
1509	March 9 - Luther obtains Bachelor of Theology degree; returns to Erfurt	July 10 – John Calvin born in Noyon, France Henry VIII becomes King of England Pope Julius II excommunicated the city of Venice
1510	Luther sent to Rome on mission for Augustinian order	First African slaves brought to the New World (Haiti) Wheellock firearm introduced in Nürnberg, Germany
1511	Luther sent to Wittenberg University to serve as professor, takes over chair of Staupitz at Wittenberg.	
1512	October 18-19 - Luther awarded Doctor of Theology degree	Fifth Lateran Council begins (ends 5 years later in 1517)
1513	Luther’s “tower experience” – spring Luther begins lectures on Psalms	Ponce de Leon reaches Florida Portuguese explorers reach China Balboa reaches Pacific Ocean March 11 – Pope Leo X begins pontificate



Book Club – notice 1509 and Pope Julius II

Copies of Rick Steves’ Luther and the Reformation DVD are available in the church library.

-Cathie Carlisle



Family Promise Week at Calvary

In just 2 short weeks, the guests of Family Promise will be hosted at Calvary. Currently in shelter are 2 working families who need your assistance for shelter, food, transportation & fellowship. We are in need of Overnight Hosts, Evening Hosts & Meal Providers to fulfill our promise to them. Please look into your hearts & your calendars to see where you have time to give.

In God's Peace,
Julie



February flew by quickly and the kids were very busy at the preschool! The four year olds went to see a play at Newmark Theater performed by Oregon Children's Theater. For the first time we took a school bus to the field trip. The kids loved riding on the bus and we were so fortunate to have 25 parents join us! After the field trip we came back to school for a pizza party.

We had Pajama Day in early February where the kids (and teachers!) wore pajamas to school. We made pancakes and tasted different flavors of syrup. Our storyteller, Holly Robison, came to tell us bedtime stories and kids brought their favorite stuffed animal to school.

Of course we celebrated Valentine's Day at school. The kids traded Valentines and created beautiful heart-shaped holders to keep them in.

We are looking forward to March when we start a unit on Nursery Rhymes and Folktales and Pastor Matthew will be teaching us about Daniel and the Lions at Chapel. We will have Spring Break the last week of March.

Registration continues for 2017-18. Our Fours classes are full and our Threes Classes have limited openings. We have also opened registration for Summer Camp which will be June 26-29.

Maggie



In Our Prayers



Howard Smith, Family of Barb Anderson, Cathy Pousson, Dustin Ellis, Riddock Hunter Smith & Family, Sharon Janzen, Ermine Todd IV and all members of our Military, Jim & Dick Highhouse, Mary Crandall, Tomi Deveraux, Sharon Schmadeke

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary to You!

March 2	Dina Moore
March 5	Lauren McKim
March 6	Jan Potter
March 7	Mark & Elizabeth Bolden
March 8	Jim Smith
March 9	Betty Dendinger
March 14	Donna Bosak
March 17	Andrew Bosak
	Donald Giese
March 20	Venita Volpp
March 21	Rik Mayfield
March 22	Annabelle Bailey
March 24	Maggie Shuler
March 25	Hattie Goff
March 31	Dave Rabon

TIME CHANGE is Sunday, March 12th



March Calendar

Mar 1	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm ASH WEDNESDAY, 7pm
Mar 4	Quilting & Knitting, 9am
Mar 5	Sunday Worship, 10am
Mar 7	Blood Drive, noon
Mar 8	Bible Study, 10:30am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am Bible Study, 1pm Agape Meal, 6pm
Mar 12	Sunday Worship, 10am Church Council Meeting Family Promise Week Begins
Mar 15	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm Agape Meal, 6pm
Mar 18	WELCA, 9:30am
Mar 19	Sunday Worship, 10am
Mar 21	Social Ministry Meeting, 1pm Care Committee Meeting, 2pm
Mar 22	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm Agape Meal, 6pm
Mar 26	Sunday Worship, 10am
Mar 28	Book Group, 7pm
Mar 29	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm Agape Meal, 6pm