

November 2018

Greetings from Pastor Matthew

Time, Talent and Treasure



This fall, as we begin our 2019 pledge campaign, I am asking for more than your monetary pledge to support Calvary Lutheran Church. Besides prayerfully considering how much money ("treasure") you hope to give as an offering to God and to the mission of this congregation, I want you to evaluate your "time and talent" as well - your time at worship, in Bible study classes, in caring for others as we do with Family Promise and providing food to the food bank, your public support advocating for the poor, the low-wage workers who take three jobs and still can't pay the rent, upholding immigrant communities, and caring for the environment. Calvary Lutheran Church does all these things. There are so many ways we can grow in faith and love and serve others here at Calvary, to be "ALL IN", a phrase recently used by Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke.

You may remember the vitality surveys we took last year, along with all the churches in our Synod. We filled out the forms, mailed away our results, and the analysis of those surveys came back showing Calvary to be "currently viable, but not sustainable or vital." Viable is good, but I think we can achieve sustainable. But we must ask ourselves, are we *vital*? Do we matter? Do we people at Calvary actively work to uplift each other and encourage each other in our faith in God and love for one another? Do we make a difference in our surrounding community? Well, yes and no, I would say. In this coming year, I ask you to go "ALL IN", however that looks in your life. Your council and I will also pledge to give Calvary and its ministry our all.

Across the Oregon Synod, the vitality surveys showed:

About 15-30% of churches are in crisis.

65% are maintaining.

About 20% of congregations were identified as vital and sustainable (but we don't like them very much – just kidding!)

With a designation of viable but not sustainable or vital, Calvary falls somewhere in that 65% group.

These statistics can be sobering. Within a few years, church as we know it could be gone. I'm not trying to be dramatic. Churches who are willing to go "ALL-IN," as our Bishop said, and are ready to undergo real transformation have hope of being viable, sustainable and vital. I want to emphasize the word *vital*.

We can ask these questions:

Would we be missed if we were gone?

Do we manage to say "yes" to opportunities and new ideas more than "no?"

Are we willing to take on new things? I believe that Calvary is open to the challenge.

We will need motivated leaders and devoted volunteers.

We have work to do. We have finished Phase I, taking an assessment of where we are. Let's move forward to Phase II.

Phase II: We will deepen our relationship with God and others, and our capacity for facing difficult issues with respect and care for one another. We will practice having intentional conversations not only with members of our own congregation but with other churches and other people in the community.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
937 NE JACKSON SCHOOL RD
HILLSBORO OR 97124

Crossways

We at Calvary, and all of our neighboring congregations, Lutheran and ecumenical, need to think of ourselves not as one church, but as a part of a wider church. We are already doing this with Shari and our choir singing at the tree lighting ceremony on the town square, our ecumenical worship in the park this summer, and with our pastor coffee group engaging in public issues such as immigration and homelessness. When we step out of our comfortable cocoon of Calvary and engage with our neighbors the Holy Spirit will undoubtedly spark our imaginations with more ways we can be the church together in these times.

There is more to say, but we will learn as we go. “I wake to sleep and take my waking slow. I learn by going where I have to go!” *Theodore Roethke*

What is a vital congregation?

- Fulfilling mission
 - Great Commandment, Great Commission
 - Connecting with God, each other and the world
- Sustaining mission over time
 - Critical mass of people, energy and financial resources
- We need to change the conversation about what it means to be a vital church.

1 STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- a. Leadership articulates how God shows up in and through the congregation and its people
- b. The congregation has a clear understanding of God's larger mission and members know their purpose in this time and place
- c. The congregation can articulate that purpose and create a plan for implementation

2 NURTURES RELATIONSHIPS

- a. Relationships among leadership, pastor(s) and staff, and members create a loving community with good communication
- b. People work together respectfully through successes and challenges
- c. There is a sense of ownership and belonging that drives the commitment and engagement in the mission of the church

3 A STRONG PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

- a. The congregation opens its doors to welcome the stranger and goes beyond its doors to share the love of Jesus Christ
- b. Creates and nurtures partnerships within the community to make a positive impact on the strength of the community

Stewardship @ Calvary

On Sunday, November 18th, there will be two ways that we will offer our thanks to God and our support of Calvary Lutheran Church:

- ♦ **WELCA ThankOffering Service**
- ♦ **Pledge In-Gathering Day**—On this day, please place your pledge card in the offering basket and Pr. Matthew will offer a special blessing at the altar.

As Pr. Matthew wrote in the letter you received, “Jesus said, I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Our lives are rich in God’s grace, and for this we give God thanks and praise.

Taken from the ELCA booklet called “Steward’s of God’s Love”:

God has skillfully created us and blessed us with more than we could ever imagine. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! God knows us deeply and has created each of us uniquely. God has entrusted us with an abundance of tangible and intangible resources — time, talents, treasure and so much more. While our gifts may seem meager, put in the hands of God, these gifts can become so much more. In Mark 6:30-44, Jesus takes a little boy’s lunch and blesses it to feed thousands. Even in the midst of scarcity, God provides in abundance. God gives in abundance that we might share in abundance. The apostle Paul writes, “And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). When we realize that all we have belongs to God and not to us, we can’t help but give it away in thanksgiving for God’s generosity to us. We give joyfully, graciously and sacrificially because we know that our resources are not ours to keep but are God’s to share.

Excerpts taken from A Spirituality of Fundraising, by Henri J.M. Nouwen

“How do we become people whose security base is God and God alone? How can we stand confidently with rich and poor alike on the common ground of God’s love? How can we ask for money without pleading, and call people to a new communion without coercing? How can we express not only in our way of speaking but also in our way of being with others the joy, vitality, and promise of our mission and vision? In short, how do we move from perceiving fundraising or pledging as an unpleasant but unavoidable activity to recognizing it as a life-giving, hope-filled expression of ministry?”

“Pledging or fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission. It is precisely the opposite of begging. When we seek to raise funds we are not saying, “Please, could you help us out because lately it’s been hard.” Rather, we are declaring, “We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We’re inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you—your energy, your prayers, and your money—in this work to which God has called us.” Our invitation is clear and confident because we trust that our vision and mission are like “trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.” (Psalm 1).





Women of Calvary Lutheran Church (WELCA) accepts the Challenge!

With your help – we can do this.

Bring your non-perishable items to the church at any time and leave them in the church office.

If we collect **500 cans of food** or hygiene items (includes diapers)

by **November 30, 2018** to donate to
our local food bank at St. Vincent de Paul

Thrivent Member Network – Pacific Cascade Region **will donate**
\$500.00
to our local food bank at St. Vincent de Paul.

So buy a few extra cans, boxes of pasta, bags of rice and bring it to church!

Hey, raid your own pantry! You can easily replace those cans of corn and tuna the next time you go shopping. Bring them in!



From our Eco-Faith Ministry:

The Social Ministry and Eco Faith Committees have morphed into one! The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 14 at 3:15 at the church. All are welcome to join us!

Earth Prayer

Holy Father and Mother, Holy Spirit, once more behold me on earth and lean to hear my feeble voice.

You lived first, and you are older than all need, older than all prayer.

All things belong to you – the two-legged, the four-legged, the wings of the air, and all green things that live.

You have set the powers of the four quarters of the earth to cross each other.

You have made me to cross the good road and road of difficulties, and where they cross, the place is holy.

Day in, day out, forevermore, you are the life of things.

Hey! Lean to hear my feeble voice.

At the center of the sacred cross

You have said that I should make the tree to bloom

With tears running, O Holy Spirit, Holy Father and Mother,

With running eyes I must say

The tree has never bloomed

Here I stand, and the tree is withered.

Again, I recall the great vision you gave me.

It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives.

Nourish it then

That it may leaf

And bloom

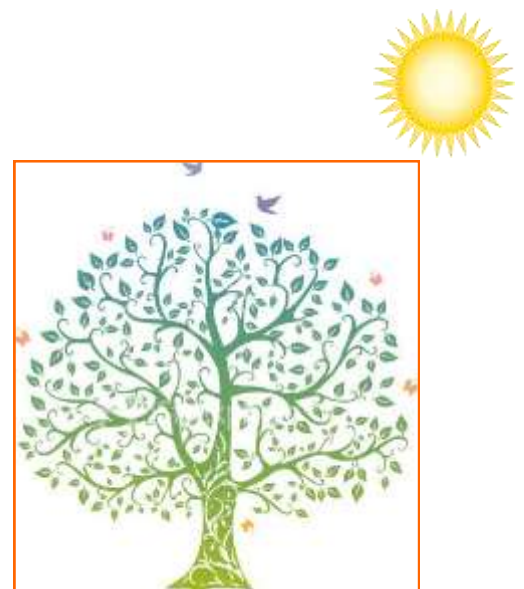
And fill with singing birds!

Hear me, that all peoples may once again

Find the good road

And the shielding tree.

~adapted from Black Elk.





Calvary Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Cathie Carlisle, Chair—Judy Britton and Michele Cage, Assistants
Kayse Durgan, Treasurer—Leslie Mayfield, Secretary
All women of Calvary belong to Calvary WELCA

WELCA Meeting

October 20, 2018



Refreshments: Thanks to Judy B. and Michele!

Business Meeting

Team Reports:

We will join a Thrivent food drive for the food bank. We need to collect 500 cans or other items. Then stack the items as a pyramid here at church and have someone wearing a Thrivent shirt in a photo to send to Thrivent. They will donate \$500 to the food bank. Anyone have a Thrivent t-shirt?

Treasurer's report was presented.

Ministry Reports:

Cradle Roll eligibility was discussed.

Funerals and Receptions: Edie offered to help when Judy is in Arizona.

Book club meets October 24 at Sally Bjerke's home to discuss *A Man Called Ove*.

God's Family Reports:

Oregon SWO Convention: Kayse reported on her attendance at the convention. The Synod summer convention will be June 21-23 at Embassy Suites in Hillsboro.

Care team reported.

Events:

November 18 is Thank Offering Sunday with quilts and shawls displayed.

It was agreed to explore inviting Emanuel Lutheran from Cornelius and Christ Church WELCA groups to come to our December Christmas themed meeting. Kayse will check with a friend at Emanuel Church and Cathie will check with Christ Church.

Bible Study: Thanks to Cathie!

November:

Saturday, November 17

WELCA Meeting

9:30 a.m. Sunday, November 18

Thank Offering & Blessing of the Quilts, Shawls, and Purple Hats

Upcoming:

Saturday, December 15

WELCA Christmas Party

November Fellowship & Study



Calvary Book Club

There will be no book club meeting in November. We will be meeting December 4, 2018 at Michele Cage's house at 144 NW Lenox. We will be choosing our books for the next year. Everyone can bring up to 2 book suggestions and we will be voting on which books we will read. Bringing a snack is welcomed but optional.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch will be on Wednesday, November 14th at 11:30 am at Elmer's in Hillsboro.
Questions? Contact Inge Eriksen.



Quilting and Knitting

The group will meet on Saturday, November 3rd 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.

ARTSHARE @ Calvary

ArtShare meets the *second Thursday of the month*, from 2 pm to 4 pm in the North Fellowship Hall on the other side of the Kitchen.

This month, November 8, we have a guest presenter in paper crafting (no painting required)

Marteena Sander will direct us in making *a gift bag, a paper purse, a note card holder*.

The note card holder would be ideal to hold our acrylic credit card art, such as this card by Shirley Clergy.

Come join our fellowship and create some art.

If you have questions, talk to Cathie Carlisle or Nancy Leupold.



Hello Calvary!

Please join us for the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration & Dinner in Support of Family Promise on Sunday, Nov 18th! We would love for Calvary to be able to commit at least a dozen pies for this event! Please see the pie sign up in the narthex as well as the announcement on the next page for details of location, & time. If you are interested in further participation by joining the choir, representing the Lutheran ELCA faith or providing other meal items, please see the contact information on the invitation.

All are welcome – all ages!

If you are unable to attend but still wish to help make a difference, you can donate online by going to <http://familypromisewashingtoncountyoregon.org/>

*** Did you know... Family Promise has been recognized as a Four Star Charity for the 5th year in a row! Learn more about this prestigious rating here: <https://familypromise.org/th.../family-promise-4-star-charity/>

Please follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseWashingtonCty/>

Thank you for all you do for the homeless families of Washington County!

In God's Peace,

Julie Perger

Calvary/FP Volunteer Coordinator





20th Annual Interfaith Shared Thanksgiving - Celebration and Community Meal

We invite your congregation or organization to participate in the 20th Annual Washington County INTER-FAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION sponsored by the Family Promise Interfaith Hospitality Network. This year's Celebration is on **Sunday, November 18, 2018 from 5:00-6:00 pm** with a free fellowship meal following the Celebration.

Thanksgiving Meal is held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located at **2220 NE Jackson School Road in Hillsboro**. Sponsoring organization is the **Family Promise Interfaith Hospitality Network of Washington County**. A special offering appeal will be made to help support Family Promise Shelter Program.

In the Spirit of Thanksgiving, and in the true meaning of community, we invite many different congregations and organizations to contribute to our **Share Our Thanksgiving "Table."** Congregations are invited to contribute to the event in many ways. Please look over the following list let us know how your congregation would like to be involved.

Please plan to join us at the celebration on November 18th

Please share this event in your church, with friends and neighbors (children are welcome)

Encourage members of your choir (adult, youth, and children) to attend and sing in our Interfaith Community Choir. Dates and times of practices will be available in the next few weeks.

Bring your organization's banner to be displayed during the dinner

Come Share our Fellowship meal—contact us if your congregation would like to help with: rolls and butter, soup (vegetarian), green salad, and lots of pie.

Kitchen help and buffet table coordination is needed during set up

Childcare and Thanksgiving project for children is provided

Clean-up crews—please volunteer – cleaning up is part of the fun!

You are invited to **Represent your faith Community - Our planning team meets TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD from 11:00 – NOON at the Family Promise shelter day house 183 SE Sixth Ave., (corner of 6th and Washington Streets in Hillsboro.**

In the past we have had hundreds gather together for the celebration and the fellowship meal, so participation by many faith communities is crucial. ***To let us know how your group will be participating*** contact co-chairs DeAnne Dewey at 503-819-1610/gomusicdewey@comcast.net or Ann Duzett at 503-830-2489/aduzett@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 18th!



<http://www.familypromisewashingtoncountyoregon.org/>

The Baptism of Eva LaRayne Rowland

will be held on

Sunday, November 11th

Parents: Brian & Tina Rowland

Siblings: Emma, Justin, and Jaden

Grandparents: Leo & LaRayne Rowland



We will have a church POTLUCK on the same day.

Please bring a main dish or salad to share.

The Rowlands will bring cake.

Calvary "Getting to Know You" Gatherings



Getting to Know You

The cards are in

The pairs have been selected.

Now

Go to the church bulletin board

Find the card with your name on it.

Take it down,

Open it up,

Your "Getting to Know You" party will be revealed.

Contact each other and YOU DECIDE how to

Have Fun...Getting to know each other.

Questions? Contact Sophia Earl and Nicala Young

Shelter at Orenco Station



“On behalf of the staff and volunteers at the Shelter at Orenco Station we invite your congregation to participate in the SOS Shelter located at Sonrise Church in Hillsboro. There are numerous ways to be involved and participate in the 90-day homeless shelter.

The shelter is opening on Saturday, December 1st and will remain open for 90 consecutive days. We provide each person with two daily meals, showers, clothing, hygiene products, employment opportunities and other vital resources. Daily we give out socks, underwear, t-shirts, hats, gloves, shoes and hygiene items along with Trimet passes and warm coats. Communities like yours collect those much needed items.

-Keith and Ellen Schmitz, SOS@isonrise.com



In Our Prayers



Pam Dixon, Sue Bosshardt, Sharon Jantzen, 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, Bonnie Brown, Dick Highhouse

Happy Birthday & Anniversary!

Nov 3	Linda Crandall
Nov 8	Gillian McKim
Nov 11	Maria Huppi
Nov 12	Rodger & Julie Perger
Nov 18	Dolores Severson
Nov 23	Judy Britton
Nov 24	Leslie Rabon
Nov 26	Dan Bosshardt
Nov 29	Kelsey Cleveland Ted Parker

**Turn back your clock on
Sunday, November 4th**



November Calendar

Nov 3	Quilting & Knitting, 9am
Nov 4	All Saints Sunday, 10am
Nov 6	Blood Drive, set-up at noon
Nov 7	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
Nov 10	Council Retreat
Nov 11	Sunday Worship & Baptism, 10am Church POTLUCK Council Meeting
Nov 14	Bible Study, 10:30am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am Bible Study, 1pm Eco-Faith Meeting, 3:15pm
Nov 17	WELCA, 9:30am
Nov 18	Sunday Worship, 10am Pledge In-Gathering Day ThankOffering Service
Nov 20	Care Committee, 2pm
Nov 21	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
Nov 22	Happy Thanksgiving!
Nov 25	Sunday Worship, 10am
Nov 28	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm