

May 2018

## Greetings from Pastor Matthew



This month I am aware that the church is much more than Calvary Lutheran on Jackson School Road. Calvary is one congregation among ten in the Sunset Cluster. On May 5, Sunset Cluster will host one of many Cluster Gatherings taking place throughout Oregon Synod which is the whole state of Oregon. As many of you as can are invited to attend this Synod Cluster Gathering. I strongly urge you to go. May 5 from 9:00am to 4:00 pm at St. Andrew Lutheran Church on Butner Road in Beaverton. We will celebrate our unity and trust in God through worship with Pastor Robyn Hartwig presiding and Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke preaching. There will be workshops and learning events thought the day and plenty of time to compare notes with other congregations. Gone are the days of each church being an entity in and of itself. We need each other not only to survive, but also to learn from one another, share common struggles and joys and become a stronger presence of God's grace in our communities. Allison (from St. Andrew) and I are planning the worship and could use more musicians if you are willing. Also, we hope to have a pick-up choir which might mean one brief rehearsal before worship and then sing your hearts out in worship. I urge you all to come.

On Saturday May 19 there will be an All-Synod day at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Portland. This one day event along with the Synod Cluster events will make up the whole of what used to be a one weekend Synod Assembly. We are trying this new way of doing Synod Assembly for cost reasons and more importantly so that Cluster churches can truly get to know each other, compare notes, and work with each other beyond our respective churches. We will find strength and enthusiasm in the Body of Christ when we worship and do the work of God's church together. Synod delegates voted on at our Annual meeting will be voting members at the Synod Assembly, and I believe others may come as non-voting members.

Just today I was reminded of the strength and unity of the church as a whole as I attended a "Boundary Workshop" offered and more directly mandated by the Oregon Synod and the ELCA for all rostered leaders, pastors and deacons, and recommended for youth workers, and camp counselors. Pastors are required to attend boundary workshops once every I don't know three to five years. In any case, it was time and I was glad to show up. I want you to know what respectful, sincere and caring leaders we have in the Oregon Synod. We did not just show up to fulfill a mandatory class. We asked difficult questions, engaged with the speakers and truly wanted to know how best to honor the sacredness of each and every one of you who are part of the Body of Christ in our various ministry settings. We are all aware of the potential for sexual abuse, but also, we reviewed a wide variety of areas in ministry that require good personal habits and values for a healthy Christian community. Keeping good boundaries are some of the ways that we ensure a healthy and safe expression of God's love for us all in Christ and gives us freedom to be community within proper boundaries. I was grateful for the refresher course and I want you to know that I will continue to keep good boundaries for your safety and for a healthy and thriving Christian community. I also encourage you to talk to me if there ever are situations here at Calvary as we do ministry together that make you feel confused, uncomfortable, or unsafe, not only physically, but also in your emotions, relationships, and spirit. Communities who love and serve Christ and strive to share God's love are still vulnerable to our human wants,

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
937 NE JACKSON SCHOOL RD  
HILLSBORO OR 97124

# Crossways

desires, emotional entanglements and other human realities. So we take special precautions to take boundary training regularly, and to meet with our colleague, councilors and church leaders regularly to make sure that we are in healthy relationships and not becoming withdrawn, isolated and alone. So, again, I am grateful for the whole church in its various expressions as congregations, clusters, Synods and the whole ELCA. We pray that God would bless Calvary, Oregon Synod and the ELCA, and for that matter, all of Christendom and all communities of faith be they Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist or whatever. The issues are the same as we strive to be safe, healthy and respectful communities that honor each other and the God or spiritual values that we call religions and living whole and holy lives.

*God's Peace,  
Pr. Matthew*

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## *Synod Assembly News*

The Oregon Synod is doing an experiment this year. For 20 years the Synod has had 3-day Synod Assemblies which combine business (the synod's "Annual Meeting") and worship, education, networking, fun, conversation, a beautiful banquet, etc. In 2016 the Synod Assembly voted to make 2018 an experimental year in which we would have a **1-day Assembly** only, accompanied by Regional Gatherings around the state which would be non-legislative events, involve more people, and be more specific to concerns and learning for different parts of the state. Our 1-day Assembly is our official, "Synod Business Meeting" and the information you need for this is here. **Welcome!**

## *The Future is Now!* is our 2018 Synod Assembly Theme

**WHAT?** - Oregon Synod Assembly 2018

**WHERE?** - Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 11560 SE Market St, Portland, OR

**WHEN?** - Saturday, May 19, 2018, 10 AM - 5 PM

**WHY?** - Because we are called to be stewards of our synodical relationship, funds and ministry opportunities!

**WHO?** - Every Oregon Synod congregation and official ministry is allowed to bring their pastor(s) and two lay Voting Members. Larger congregations may be allowed to bring more. And, all congregations can elect to bring additional Members of Color, Youth/Young Adults or those who self-identify as LGBTQIA.



## 2018 Oregon Synod Regional Gatherings

*Columbia Coast, Rose & Sunset Clusters*



Come listen to and learn with one another regarding:

- the findings from our Synod Visitations;
- the ELCA's Women & Justice Social Statement Draft;
- and, specific breakout sessions concerning what our congregations and synod have been working on!

(breakout sessions to include, Eco-Reformation, Sanctuary, Camp Lutherwood, etc.)

### **St. Andrew Lutheran Church**

12405 SW Butner Road, Beaverton, OR 97005

**Saturday, May 5th**

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Registration/Welcome starts at 9:00 am.

Opening worship will begin at 9:45 am.

Closing worship will be at 3:00 pm.

Register online @ [tigardlutherans.com](http://tigardlutherans.com)

or call, **Christ the King Lutheran Church** at 503.639.2789

Please RSVP by Sunday, April 15th

# Houston Youth Fundraiser



## Cherry Dessert Bake-Off / Bake Sale / & Bingo!

*May 20th after church*

Please call or text Jennifer McKim @ 503-943-9060 if you would like to:

contribute cherry baked goods *or*  
compete in the cherry cook-off!

### ***More from Pastor Matthew:***

***Man, sometimes I wish I could split myself in half and be in two places at once.*** There are so many good things happening in our faith communities and our world, and we want to make the world a better place, but sometimes there are so many needs and so many causes that we must make agonizing choices of what is most important, and also we need to strive to keep commitments once they are made. For example, this Saturday our Eco-Reformation Team planned a Eco-Reformation hike at Hagg Lake. We'll meet at 9:00 A.M. at church and drive to the lake. We'll want to carpool because it costs seven dollars per car to park at the lake.

At the same time this wonderful outing is taking place, an outing that serves our goal of learning to love the planet God gave us and to learn human habits and ways to nurture and protect our natural environment. If you don't love something you won't care for it. Someone said and so we get out into nature to commune with God and God's creation of which we are apart.

At the same time, on Saturday, many people from various religious traditions and various race, class and circumstance, plan to gather at a prison in the Dalles Oregon. The purpose for this action is to raise awareness of the plight of families torn apart by detaining and deporting undocumented citizens. What is most inhumane, is that families of those incarcerated are not even allowed visiting hours so that sons and daughters, spouses and brothers and sisters and parents can see each other. The pain and damage this may do to families is inhumane. I so want to go to the Dalles and stand with the Latino people and the individuals who are detained, and their families and to protest these cruel practices and policies.

But I made a commitment to go on the hike with the Eco-Reformation Group. I can only pray for the ones detained in detention and their families, and hope that is enough. Even though it is hard to want to be in two places at once, part of my learning is that it is also important to keep commitments. This is not easy for me to do because I am pulled in different directions all the time by external and internal pressures and struggles.

I am also learning, from this last week I took for my wife and I to have a vacation to see our son Zach, I realize that I so need regular times of rest and going off to a lonely place to pray, as Jesus did. And I learned that I am not needed here at Calvary all the time. You have the strength, depth of emotion and capacity to care for one another and the world around you. And God is with us all. So, let us be free to love and serve the Lord. ***Amen.***

## Eco-Reformation News



### Food is on the brains of your Eco-Reformation Team.

We hear a lot about heart healthy eating, brain foods, eating to lose weight, etc. However, have you ever thought about eating healthy for you AND our planet? Thoughts to consider:

Eating organic is one way, but not the only way, to eat a healthier diet for you and the planet.

Environmental Working Group has found that the produce on the “dirty dozen” list has the highest levels of pesticide residues. It is recommended that you buy these items organic or from pesticide-free farms when you can. The “clean fifteen” are least likely to contain pesticide residues.

2018 Dirty Dozen: strawberries, spinach, nectarines, apples, grapes, peaches, cherries, pears, tomatoes, celery, potatoes, and sweet bell peppers.

2018 Clean Fifteen: avocados, sweet corn (if not GMO), pineapples, cabbages, onions, frozen sweet peas, non-GMO papayas, asparagus, mangoes, eggplants, honeydew melons, kiwis, cantaloupes, cauliflower, and broccoli.

Reducing the amount of meat you eat can make a huge dent in climate change. Livestock rearing is a major cause of greenhouse gases, in part because of the methane produced by the animals and the massive slurry pits that accompany large farms. The diversion of water and grains to animal-rearing is less efficient than directing the grains to human consumption. Lamb and beef have significantly higher negative climate footprints than cheese, pork, chicken, and tofu.

Reducing your consumption of dairy products can help you be healthier, save you money, and reduce your greenhouse emissions.

Eating locally with the seasons reduces transportation fuel, packaging, and unhealthy additives. This supports your local economy too. Shipping by boat (apples, oranges, bananas) is more efficient than shipping by plane (asparagus, berries) or grown in a hot house (tomatoes, lettuce).

Eat what you buy and reduce food waste. Food waste in landfills creates methane. Try composting.

Eat less prepared food and eat more fresh whole foods. This is generally healthier for you and reducing packaging waste reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Grow your own food, even an herb or one tomato plant helps. It's fresher, cheaper, and more nutritious.

—from Leslie Mayfield

**\*\*\*\*Come join us Tuesday, May 8 at our next Eco-Coffee to discuss food. We'll meet at 2:00 pm at Primrose & Tumbleweeds, 248 E. Main St. in downtown Hillsboro.**





## Stewardship

*If Christ has made you free, you are free indeed! (John 8:36)*



*What does the Children of Israel wandering in the desert for forty years,  
the taking down of the Berlin Wall,  
and Stewardship have to do with each other?*

I was a sophomore in high school when the Wall went up. I was working for the North Pacific District when the Wall came down. I remember a report coming out a few years later. The Wall had come down, the people were free, and they did not do any work. Why? Because for 28 years they had been told what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. Now there was no one to tell them what to do.

I have wondered why the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years. They had lived in slavery for a couple or three generations. When God through Moses liberated them, they had no idea how to live on their own, how to live in community with no one telling them, what to do, where to do it, and how to do it. They had to learn how to live free in community.

I have just read that stewardship is an American word, coined around 1776. It was that year when England no longer paid the salary or ministry of a congregation. In the past, the clergy and the church were secure in the idea that their livelihood and congregation were not the individual responsibility. In 1776, the War for Freedom changed everything. The powers that be now needed to teach the congregations how to care for their pastor financially and the community.

1776 was a long-time ago, over 200 years ago. The congregations still think of separation of church and state and meaning the state cannot tell us what to do and if we enter the public area we are crossing that line of church and state. Separation of Church and State, meant the state would no longer foot the bill for the churches and Mission Support.

“As members of the ELCA, our faith in a loving God frees us to be generous and to boldly participate in God’s work in the world. Stewardship is no longer simply about paying the church’s bills. It is about how congregations can together live out God’s call to love our neighbor. We are open to the Holy Spirit’s invitation to participate in and contribute to God’s work in the world using all of the gifts that God has entrusted to our care. Mission Support — the portion of offerings that ELCA congregations share with synods and the churchwide organization — unites us in this vital, life-giving work.” ELCA.org

*—from Cathie Carlisle*



## May Fellowship & Study



### Calvary Book Club

The book club will meet on Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:00 pm, hosted by Michele Cage and Leslie Mayfield. The book selection is The Book of Joy, by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu.



### Lunch Bunch

Lunch will be on Wednesday, May 9th at 11:30 am at Elmer's Restaurant in Hillsboro.  
Questions? Contact Inge Eriksen.



### Quilting and Knitting

The group will meet on Saturday, May 5th 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)**

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

### **Calvary WELCA News**

#### **Our April meeting was our one day Women's Retreat**

#### **“Cultivating Presence through Spiritual Practices”**

**Facilitated by Pastor Dorothy Cottingham**

**Saturday, April 21, 2018**

The retreat was an opportunity to deepen our connection to God and one another. Our time together was prayerful, creative, playful, and restful.

Update: The attendance was wonderful at our retreat. We were well fed spiritually and literally. Spiritual practices we learned about included Lectio Divina, Examen, finger labyrinths, and the Anglican Rosary. We closed with a Taize worship service. We had the opportunity to make and renew friendships. We were treated to a delicious morning treat of scones, fruit, and munchies by our very own “snack fairy”. Thank you! Lunch was a wonderful variety of mini sandwiches, two salads, coffee, teas, and dessert of course: cheese cake with fresh berries. Our lunch tables were gorgeous thanks to Judy W. and Inge!

*As the saying goes “a picture is worth a thousand words”  
so enjoy the pictures on the next page...*

**Join us for our Next Meeting: May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

Heads up: Our June Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> will be a potluck brunch to celebrate the arrival of summer and a two months' break.







## Pr. Matthew's Sabbatical

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus came onto the scene with immediacy and strength. He came back from his wilderness experience, having faced down Satan, and began teaching with authority. He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news." He cast out a demon in the synagogue. He cured Peter's mother-in-law of a fever. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. Jesus was on the move.

Then Jesus did a curious thing. "In the morning while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed." Throughout the Gospels, we find examples of Jesus withdrawing from the people, taking some time away from his ministry to rest and to pray.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America encourages congregations to allow sabbaticals for clergy and full-time associates in ministry. St. Mark recalls Jesus telling his disciples to "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile," noting that "many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." (Mark 6:31). The ELCA recommends sabbatical leave at regular intervals. Experience shows the congregation's ministry directly benefits from such study, growth, and renewal. All parties benefit. Throughout Holy Scripture accounts of sabbath are clearly set apart by rest, quiet places, and time for restoration. God gives the Sabbath pattern as a time of renewal, a time to be reminded of whose we are and what we are called to do, a time of rest that refreshes us for life.

When I took the call to be your pastor here at Calvary, the call committee included periodic sabbaticals in the Call Agreement. My first sabbatical took place in my seventh year of ministry, here, and now, seven years later, the council has graciously offered me a sabbatical this summer. I am grateful.

My sabbatical will begin the first day of July. I will have sabbatical time for six weeks, and plan to tag on to that two more weeks of vacation time for a total of eight weeks which puts us at the end of August. My hope is to finish my novel. But I will also need rest and recreation. I plan to spend three to five days in silent retreat at the Trappist Monastery in Lafayette, following the Benedictine rule of worship, meditation, work and rest. No one talks at breakfast and lunch. The rest of the day is spent in silence as well. The only time one talks is at dinner. I remember the last time I spent a week there. On the fourth day I came back from dinner and sat in my little room. I thought, "Gee I was chatty today." Even that little bit of talking at dinner felt like too much socializing. What a relief it was to not have to talk.

I plan to write like crazy, and hope to work with a writing coach, probably from the Attic Institute in NE Portland. I will spend some time at the beach and some time in Seattle where my novel takes place. My twin brother and I hope to work on some of the songs I have written as well. I will not spend a lot of time thinking about you. However, I know that this time away will give me perspective and energy and new direction for ministry.

A sabbatical is also good for the congregation. You will have time to reflect for yourselves what ministry means to you, and how you are called as a congregation to know God's love and live out the Good News. During my last sabbatical both the congregation and I read a book about Benedictine patterns of worship and life. At the end of the summer we compared notes. This year, I will read Bonhoeffer's book Life Together which holds a lot of wisdom about what it means to be a true Christian Community. I hope you will join me in reading Life Together this summer. When I come back, we can ponder together, what is God's dream for us at Calvary Lutheran Church? I encourage all of you to keep attending church and stay connected to God and each other. If you have any questions or comments about my sabbatical feel free to talk to me, Betty Adams and other council members.



***God's Peace, Matthew***





## *Easter at Calvary*



## *Thank you!*

Dear Calvary Friends,

Thank you so very much for the very generous wedding present! As I said on the thank-you note posted on the bulletin board, I love working here and I'm grateful to know all of you.

Maggie, our Preschool Director, took this picture of Pr. Matthew, Mike and I. Matthew did such a good job—I loved our wedding ceremony. It was held at my church, St. Bede's Episcopal Church, in Forest Grove.

And yes, I have a new name. It is now officially Janis Potter O'Shanecy, and I'll go by Jan O'Shanecy.

Thanks again!

*Jan*



## In Our Prayers



Judy Reed, Martha Sabourin, John Hartner, Helen Jerde, Diana Tompson, Tomi Deveraux, Natalie Allen, Jen Basile, Alice Crume, Jerry Baugh, Katyann, Jon Lewis (Air Force) and Ermine Todd (Army) and all the members of our military, Brittany Dougall, The Christian-sen's great-granddaughter Pippa, Sharon Janzen, Dick Highhouse, Mary Crandall, Sharon Schmadeke

## Happy Birthday to You!

May 2	Lucy Allen
May 3	Ruth Morgan Signa Perger Zachary & Kimberly Bailey
May 4	Jim Bany
May 6	Shirley Clergy Austin Giese
May 11	Nick Pena
May 13	LaRayne Rowland
May 17	Henry Bosak
May 23	Annie Goff
May 26	Logan Wesel Ted & Deanna Parker Susan & Ermine Todd III
May 27	Bonnie Brown Linda & Allen Crandall
May 29	Eric Oberhelman
May 31	Katrina Hiebel



### May Calendar

May 1	Blood Drive, set up at 12:30
May 2	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
May 5	Synod Gathering, 9am
May 5	Quilting & Knitting, 9am
May 6	Sunday Worship, 10am Family Promise Week
May 8	Eco-Coffee, 2pm
May 9	Men's Bible Study, 10am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am Bible Study, 1pm
May 13	Sunday Worship, 10am Council Meeting, 11:30am
May 15	Social Committee Meeting 1pm Care Committee Meeting, 2pm
May 16	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
May 19	WELCA, 9:30am
<b>May 20</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday Worship, 10am</b> <b>Youth Cherry Bake-Off &amp; Bingo</b>
May 22	Blood Drive, set up at 12:30 Book Club, 7pm
May 23	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
May 27	Sunday Worship, 10am
May 30	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm