

November 2019

Greetings from Pastor Matthew

Bishop's Convocation



Grow in God's love
Serve in Jesus' name
Welcome everybody.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
937 NE JACKSON SCHOOL RD
HILLSBORO OR 97124

Crossways

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing this at the end of the second day of the Bishop's convocation at the Best Western hotel on Agate Beach on the Oregon coast. The vast ocean and the wind-swept beach are beautiful to look at but mostly we sit inside engaged in relational conversation. A new Bishop, or any kind of leader, might be tempted to address the troops, explain our situation, show that they have a vision, and hand out marching orders. Some leaders might want to show they are powerful, wise, and in control, whether or not they really feel that way inside themselves. Actually, none of the Bishops I have served under have been that authoritarian. That's not how church works. Christian community is relational.

Our new Bishop, Laurie Larsen Caesar introduced her new Bishop Associates (they thought the word "Assistant" made them sound like secretaries taking notes on a typewriter). The Bishop's Associates each have amazing gifts for inviting others into relationship. Even to say "we" are inviting "others" distorts our true relationships. Sometimes we assume that we are the ones inviting others, whereas it might be that the others are accepting us into relationship. Bishop Laurie and her Associates practiced mutual invitation. They each took turns asking each other questions about the Whirlwind Tour they have been on, and which will continue in months to come, and they asked each other somewhat personal questions such as, "Who are the people who have helped you find your authentic voice?" And they admitted that all three of them were in the process of finding their voice of leadership as they begin the work of newly elected Bishop and Associates. In these conversations Bishop Laurie, Associates to the Bishop Melissa and Juan Carlos each were willing to share their experiences traveling, entering into conversations with people throughout the Oregon Synod, and finding their voice, their embodiment of the work and the spirit that will guide them. In other words, our leaders were willing to be vulnerable to each other and to us pastors. There is freedom in that vulnerability, freedom to be our authentic selves together.

Our Bishop then invited us pastors to break up into small groups and tell each other who helped them find their authentic voice, and when we have spoken our truth powerfully. When has fear stopped us? What was underneath that fear? What practices renew you? My pastor colleagues and I were able to share the answers to those questions with each other because we were forming trust, and trust comes from telling our stories. You may think this is a strange way to create a community, or to launch new vision for the church. But this is the most effective way. By being vulnerable to each other we also invite the Holy Spirit into our lives. And the Holy Spirit is doing the same thing with those whom we have not yet met. We spent a lot of time at Bishop's convo listening and telling our stories.

Now, I want to introduce you to a colleague of mine, Pastor Brennon who is both a pastor and a truly professional opera singer. Bishop Laurie had asked Pastor Brennon to tell us about what it means for a singer to find their voice. He spoke several times throughout the three days at Bishops Convo. I wish I could tell you everything he said, but I can say that his talk about how a singer finds their voice and uses and cares for their voice, all this talk about singing also served as a metaphor for all of us as Christians, how we may find our authentic prophetic voices. One reoccurring theme was that we don't find our voice alone, and that we need each other to learn and teach and practice with each other how to be our prophetic selves in the midst of community.

Then we worshiped together. And in the evening, we sang songs in harmony led by the well-known Portland singer, Marilyn Keller. I played drums for her and it was a pleasure to play for such a fine musician. On the second night of the Convo, we put on some music and danced.

Peace, Pastor Matthew

From the Council President...

Choice

Grow in Gods Love, Serve in Jesus name and Love Everybody is our mission here at Calvary. I introduced the Invitation to Outreach in my report from the Oregon Synod gathering in Eugene earlier this year. The Council has decided to learn more about 2 of the ministries: The Flame and Mid-Willamette Latino Ministry. You can find out more at oregonsynod.org/index.php/creativecommunities. The Congregational Council will also be working on Reconciling in Christ or RIC. You can find out more at www.reconcilingworks.org/ric. A committee is being formed headed by Shari Young and Jennifer McKim for the RIC work and we will begin having one on one conversations with members soon. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to myself, Pastor Matthew, Shari, Jennifer or any member of the Congregational Council.

The Bible can always help and guide us. I first looked to John 1:12: “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” It is up to us to have faith and to believe. God has given us choice. Next, I look to Paul. I like how he explains choice in his letters to the Galatians 5:13-15 The Message (MSG): “It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don’t use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that’s how freedom grows. For everything we know about God’s Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That’s an act of true freedom.” I like this because it tells us we have free will and choice. But not all choice is easy. Many times choice will be difficult.

As 2019 comes to a close and we look to 2020, the Congregational Council is looking at ways that we can engage all the members of Calvary, as well as our immediate community. We are looking at how we can grow God’s love in ourselves and those around us. How to expand how we serve in Jesus name and how we can truly show our love to everybody. I believe to make this happen we will have to make some hard choices and we must walk by the Spirit. I invite you to walk with me and the Congregational Council as we begin the RIC process and we look to ways we can work with the Creative Community members here in our area.

Brent Young

President Congregational Council

Calvary Lutheran Hillsboro



Thankoffering Service & Stewardship

On Sunday, November 17th, there will be two ways that we will offer our thanks to God and our support of Calvary Lutheran Church:

- ♦ **WELCA ThankOffering Service**—Join us in celebrating the work of the Women of the ELCA, church-wide and here at Calvary. We will bless our quilts and shawls and have an opportunity to make an offering in support of the life-saving ministries of the Women of the ELCA.
- ♦ **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.

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

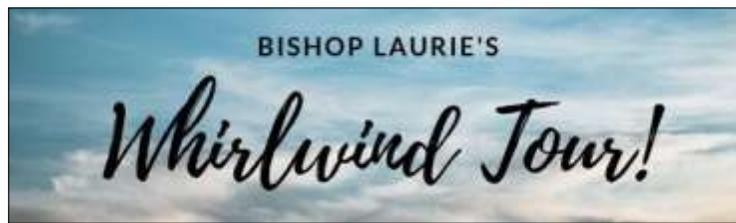
"How do we become people whose security base is God and God alone? How can we stand confidently with rich and poor alike on the common ground of God's love? How can we ask for money without pleading, and call people to a new communion without coercing? How can we express not only in our way of speaking 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).



**We are thrilled to announce that the details and dates for the
Portland area Oregon Synod Portland Whirlwind Tour**

November 9 and 10th, 2019



What is it this all about, you ask?

- A chance for lay people, deacons, young adults, elders, pastors, and all others to come together around food and friendship, and to begin to discern God's future for us.
- A chance to reflect, sing and pray together, listening deeply for the movement of the Spirit in our church. And outside our church.
- A chance to hear more about their vision and horizon for ministry.
- A chance for us to hear more about YOUR vision and horizon for ministry.
- A chance to laugh, listen, and share together, as equals.
- A chance to encounter new faces in the office of the Oregon Synod; newly elected bishop, Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar; newly elected Vice-President, Greg Shea; and recently appointed Bishop's Associates Juan Carlos La Puente and Pastor Melissa Reed.

Please invite your friends, your pastor, your parents, anyone you know who cares about this world. We will gather, pray, hear a few thoughts from synod leaders, and share our own thoughts and feelings about mission and vision in our contexts. Before you come, ask yourself:

- What would you like a bishop to know about your neighborhood and your neighbors?
- What are the challenges and fears you face?
- Where do you find hope?
Where is Spirit tugging on your soul to act, to speak, to sing?

Saturday, November 9, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **St. Matthew Lutheran Church**, Pr. Jim Doherty. 10390 SW Canyon Rd, Beaverton, OR 97005

Sunday, November 10, 1-3:30 p.m. (snacks provided for those rushing from worship around the metro area) **Prince of Life Lutheran**, Pr. John Reutter-Harrah. 13896 S Meyers Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045



FIVE MINUTES OF FAITH, coming in 2020!

-Shari Young

Starting this January, 2020, we will hear from someone in our church family once a month, sharing a story of faith for up to five minutes during our worship service. This gives us an opportunity to sharpen our listening skills *and* practice talking about God and our faith with each other. We joke that Lutherans aren't very good at evangelism. I think we evangelize more than we know! We don't have to stand on a street corner with a bull horn quoting scripture and waving a Bible in one hand to be an evangelist.

When people start talking trash about others, do you choose not to participate? People notice these things. Maybe someone is having a bad day, frustrated and needs to just vent a few minutes. You stay and listen. After the person is done talking, you say, "I'll keep you in my prayers." Eventually it comes up in conversation that you go to church every Sunday, or that you do this Family Promise thing, or that you go to Book club or Bible study, or you handed out lunches at Shute Park and really enjoyed it! People notice these things. They'll remember your actions, your kind words, your listening support, and that you used the word prayer without hesitation, and also said that you go to church. All of that adds up... to me that's a very powerful form of evangelism. You are an example of a follower of Christ and that sets you apart. People notice. You walk the walk.

Admittedly, maybe we need some practice talking the talk. So, the person sharing their "five minutes of faith" will hang out after worship in the courtyard room, so we all can continue talking. Maybe it's as simple as saying thank you for sharing. Or maybe their share struck you deeply, reminded you of something, encouraged you to take some kind of action. That could really be a blessing to share with the person as well. Be honest and authentic – eloquence isn't required.

IT'S NOT GOOD NEWS, IT'S THE BEST NEWS EVER!

Those are the words of a song by contemporary Christian band, MercyMe. The chorus simply sums up what our evangelism should be about. Maybe this will help inspire you too!

What if I were the one to tell you
That the fight's already been won
Well, I think your day's about to get better
What if I were the one to tell you
That the work's already been done
It's not good news
It's the best news ever



From our Eco-Faith Ministry:

Microplastics in Oregon? What can we do about it?

Until a recent OPB study, no one had looked at or at least published data on plastics in Oregon's waters. OPB (assisted by Portland State University) scientifically tested for microplastics at eight sites in the Columbia, Willamette, Deschutes and Rogue Rivers. Microplastics were found at every site – even in the pristine, unpopulated area of the upper Rogue River watershed. Based on samples, they estimated that more than 57 million microplastic particles passed through Portland in one day (600 particles per second), making their way toward the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. Two kinds of microplastics were found: fibers and particles. Fibers come from clothing, fishing nets, and ropes. Particles come from other plastics breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces. The study found considerably more plastic fibers than particles in our rivers.

Did you know that some of your clothes can release 730,000 synthetic fibers per wash? When these fibers end up in our waterways, they become microplastic pollution. Oregon Environmental Council suggests that considering the US population goes through 660 million loads of laundry weekly, our washing machines are critical in the fight against microplastic pollution in Oregon's environment, our bodies, and globally. They suggest the following tips to reduce our output of microplastics:

Choose natural fibers: Being mindful of the clothes you buy is also a great way to prevent the release of microplastics in the wash. Shopping for clothing made out of natural fibers such as cotton, wool, and silk, and avoiding synthetic fibers such as polyester and spandex can significantly reduce the amount of microplastics released in the wash. Bonus: natural fibers regulate body temperature better, keeping you warmer in the winter and cooler in summer.

Adjust your settings: During a washing cycle, clothes undergo mechanical stress from getting tossed around as well as chemical stress from detergents – that's how clothes get clean. But these processes are also what release microfibers into your wastewater. Avoid using hot water settings and long wash cycles to reduce mechanical stress on your clothes. Washing in cold water will not only release fewer microfibers, but it will also reduce wear and save energy.

Switch soaps: Using fabric softeners and detergents designed for delicate or synthetic fibers can reduce the number of microplastics released in a wash. Fabric softeners help reduce friction between fibers, i.e. mechanical stress. Be sure to shop for non-toxic products to avoid creating additional health concerns in your home or releasing unnecessary chemicals into our wastewater systems that ultimately end up in rivers and oceans.

Wash your clothes less: Rather than washing your clothes after every wear, only wash your clothes when you need to. The average person in the U.S. washes their jeans after only wearing them twice. However, washing your jeans after wearing them 10 times can result in a 77% reduction in your water and climate impact. Washing less often will also make your clothes last longer!

There are some cool products available to capture microplastics before they go into your wastewater, like this microfiber ball that catches microfibers from within your washing machine, and these wash bags that you put your clothes in to capture the fibers as they are released. These products range from \$12 to \$50.

Microplastic pollution needs to be addressed by individual and systemic changes. While work is being done around the globe to develop solutions, we can change our laundry routines to help keep microplastics out of Oregon's rivers and our bloodstreams.

- ◆ **EcoFaith/Social Ministry Meeting: Wednesday, November 20 at 3:15 PM**
- ◆ **Advent Church Clean Up Morning: Saturday, November 23, 9 am to noon.** Let's beautify our building for the Advent season! Join your EcoFaith and Buildings & Grounds volunteers to get our church looking good to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.



**21st Annual Interfaith Shared
Thanksgiving - Celebration and Community Meal**

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 24, 2019

5:00 pm

**At the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2020 NE Jackson School Rd, Hillsboro OR 97124**



Family Promise Week

@ Calvary

Begins Sunday, November 17th

Would you like to volunteer?

**There's a sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway or contact
volunteer coordinator Susan Todd.**





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 19, 2019



Refreshments: Thank you to Esta and Edie for the delicious continental breakfast and beautiful decorations!

Business Meeting

Team Reports:

The treasurer's report was presented.

Calvary WELCA's constitution and bylaws updates were approved.

A brief discussion was held on future options to address the decreasing size of WELCA attendance versus maintaining the status quo for whoever gathers in His name. WELCA members are encouraged to ponder this and be prepared to discuss options in January.

Ministry Reports:

Cradle Roll purchased a Holy Communion book by Daniel Erlander. The Spark magazine will be discontinued for now. The magazine will be restarted later when needed for Sunday School children.

Book club is reading *East of Eden* and will be meeting on Tuesday, October 22 at Sally's home. Edie is co-host for the evening.

Art share on November 14 will focus on abstract art, structured greeting cards, and Danish stars. The Danish stars will be part of Calvary's Christmas decorations.

God's Family Reports:

Sister congregations: ChristChurch is hosting a sew/craft-in on November 1 and 2. They will meet Friday evening and Saturday.

(Calvary has quilting/prayer shawl knitting scheduled for Saturday, November 2)

Events:

Thank offering service is November 17.

Bible Study: Thanks to Cathie for creatively leading our study of "the ache of grief" in this year's "No hard feelings?" theme.

Next meeting:

Saturday, November 16

9:30 am refreshments

Hosted by Kayse and Anita

10:00 business meeting

10:30-11:30 Bible Study

"Stewarding the gift of joy"

All women are welcome! Come for the morning or any part that works for you.

November Fellowship & Study



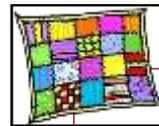
Calvary Book Club

There will be no book club meeting in November. We will be meeting December 3, 2019 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. Everyone brings cookies!



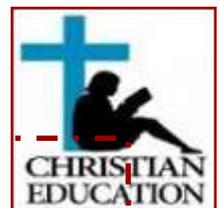
Lunch Bunch

Lunch will be on Wednesday, November 13th at 11:30 am at The Old Spaghetti Factory in the Tannasborne area.
Questions? Contact Inge Eriksen.



Quilting and Knitting

The group will meet on Saturday, November 2nd 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.



Art and **C**raft **S**hare is a time when people share their expression of creativity to give others the experience in using diverse media (inks, oils, paper, beads, strings, etc.) to give their creative imaginations exercise.

Last month we welcomed Kathleen, a new participant from outside the Calvary Lutheran community. She came because she heard about our exploration of various art mediums. She also tried her hand at card making and the “Danish” Christmas Star. She will be back in November when we will still make cards and “Danish” Christmas Stars and do more exploring with the abstract art of acrylics.



November 14 – cards, decorations, and acrylic abstract art – Marteena Sander and Cathie Carlisle

December 12 – Window Stars to Christmas tags and acrylic abstract art – Cathie Carlisle, Marteena Sander, Nancy Leupold

January 9, 2020 – Valentine project – Inge Eriksen and Cathie Carlisle

There is no right way to do Art. The correct way is “Just Do It.” Here is an opportunity to invite a friend to a non-worship event held at the church.

The second Thursday of each month from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. RSVP’s are not necessary but helpful.

E-mail: cmcarli@yahoo.com; or call house phone 503.649.5045; cell and text message: 503.388.4774

Come one – come all.

Have a “Ball”

Share your experience. Share camaraderie.

Shelter at Orenco Station



A collaborative effort of local churches, businesses, foundations and the Washington County Community, coming together to serve and house adults experiencing homelessness.

**We will open Monday December 2nd, 2019
Hours of Operation:
Open Daily at 5:30pm**

The Shelter at Orenco Station serves homeless men, women and couples without children during the coldest months of the winter. The shelter provides a safe, warm place to stay overnight. During the winter months of December, January and February the shelter remains open for 90 consecutive days. In order to best serve our homeless friends, the SOS Shelter operates as an enrollment program. This means that once you are "enrolled" into the shelter you have a guaranteed bed until the shelter closes. The only way to lose your spot is to miss two consecutive nights or two nights in a 7 day period. Upon arrival the shelter welcomes guests and volunteers and require both to sign in for the evening. Later in the evening a warm dinner is served along with other resources available. In the morning a breakfast is provided. The shelter is hosted at Sunrise Church, Hillsboro and is made possible by the support of over 500 volunteers from 36 area churches and by members of the greater Washington County community. Volunteers are vital to shelter operation and perform various tasks such as check-in, preparing an evening meal and serving as evening & overnight host.



In Our Prayers



Gail & John Eilmes, 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, Mary Crandall, Sharon Schmadeke, 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
	Marteenia Sander
Nov 26	Dan Bosshardt
Nov 29	Kelsey Cleveland

**Turn back your clock on
Sunday, November 3rd**



November Calendar

Nov 2	Quilting & Knitting, 9am
Nov 3	All Saints Sunday, 10am Finance Committee Meeting
Nov 5	Blood Drive, set-up at noon
Nov 6	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
Nov 10	Sunday Worship, 10am Council Meeting
Nov 13	Bible Study, 10:30am Lunch Bunch, 11:30am Bible Study, 1pm
Nov 14	ArtShare, 2pm
Nov 16	WELCA, 9:30am
Nov 17	Sunday Worship, 10am Pledge In-Gathering Day ThankOffering Service Family Promise
Nov 20	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm Eco-Faith Meeting, 3:15pm
Nov 24	Sunday Worship, 10am Building Clean-up
Nov 27	Bible Study, 10:30am Bible Study, 1pm
Nov 28	Happy Thanksgiving!