



THE CALVARY CALLING

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay, California

December 2022

Hello, Calvary folks!

Here we are in December, before we know it! This month marks the end of a year that I have been your bridge pastor. What an unexpected pleasure to be such a part of a worshiping congregation. Your welcome of me and Mary still endures. Your industrious and faithful commitments to Calvary are still going strong. The programs, new and old, that you have designed over time still have integrity. Your welcome of new people and new ideas remains impressive. Your financial support of Calvary's ministry continues to be steady. And your general cheerfulness of character is a shining mirror, reflecting Jesus' light.

The church of Christ today faces many challenges. For many people, personal faith in God is akin to a running joke. Also, long-time institutions have come increasingly under question. (Well, the bumpersticker says it all: "Question Authority."). And there are plenty of reasons to question churches, with ongoing revelations of systematic suppression of wrongdoings.

But I paraphrase Martin Marty, editor of *The Christian Century* magazine, who remarked that as Christians, our central story is one of dying and rising. We are not part of a continually progressing, ever more righteous, entity. Thus, our corporate history is one of ups and downs, and more ups, and more downs. The pattern goes on.

It is BECAUSE of the church's rollercoaster history that Marty counsels church attenders and faithful to keep the course. If we're looking for perfection, we won't find it here. If we're looking for getting it right most of the time, we won't be able to locate that here either.

But we can repeat what the disciples said when Jesus asked them if they too were going to leave him along with the others. It was actually Peter, wasn't it, who is recorded as saying, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!"

That's the point, isn't it. We are in a church, speaking broadly, not just in Morro Bay, that is a bit battered, barely seaworthy, needing constant maintenance, dependent entirely on the work of the Holy Spirit.

And yet, we live! If we die with Christ, we will also LIVE with Christ! That is the truth about us as individuals and as a community. It is what has brought Calvary Lutheran Church into its 68th year. And it will be what leads the people of Calvary into its next adventures in faith. The power of the resurrection, in us.

Blessed to be among you,
Pastor Brian



PS Don't miss the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 11 during the service! It's sure to be inspiring and entertaining!

News From Pastor Brian

Sunday Night Zoom meetings

This group began as a discussion group for the first two seasons of *The Chosen* drama. For some months, after we covered all sixteen existing episodes, we developed some alternative topics to discuss, including how God is active in our lives, to some peripheral videos about *The Chosen*, its characters and plots, to some religiously-themed movies. Now, though, Season Three has opened in theaters, and on December 11th, Sunday, it will be available online. So starting on December 11th, at 7:00 pm, our discussions will re-center on episodes of Season Three. If you were part of this group previously, now is the time to get back in.

If you don't know what the fuss has been all about and want to find out, then I urge you to power watch the first two seasons, and then join us not the 11th. I can tell you that you won't be sorry you did!

We will probably take a break on the 25th and 1st, due to holidays and so will extend discussion of this season halfway into February. If you want to join, let Pastor Brian know and he will add you to the Zoom invitation list. His phone number is 925-285-7256 and his email is bsteinwebber@gmail.com. Remember, you can Zoom from your own home! No going out at nighttime!

Men's Group

Just a reminder that men of all personalities, shapes and ages are welcome to this ongoing informal gathering on the first Mondays of the month at 1:00 pm at the Stein-Webber house (1302 17th St. in Los Osos). Come if you can. It will be entertaining, uplifting and fun.

Council Highlights

We have received a total of \$10,869.09 in donations and yard sale proceeds toward the heater replacement. Balance left to raise is \$595.91.

The group agreed that it would be a good idea to reinstate the Prayer Pal Program. One of the children has been keeping in touch with the Prayer Pal assigned to him in the beginning.

Free CPR classes will be offered by Marcy Mullen. The group decided to address this after the first of the year.

The lights in the Fellowship Hall don't always come on and need to be updated. Bids are being considered for new lighting.

The ceramic tile floors in the Narthex and restrooms need professional cleaning and sealing. Bids are being considered.

Plans are underway to start the Advent and Christmas Season.

\$ Treasurer's Report \$

As of October 31, 2022: Income - \$10,766.53. Expenses - \$7,041.66. Income was at 119.84% of the 2022 Budget for the ten (10) months ending 10/31/2022. Expenses were at 111.66% of the 2022 Budget for the same period.



Outreach Committee

Gifts for the Iglesia Angel Tree children and families are due on December 11. Nancy Padilla, Sandy McMillan and Katie Edson will deliver the gifts on December 15. This year Calvary is providing gifts for 17 or the 700 Iglesia children who are needing Christmas gifts! Gift cards are also welcome. Contact Nancy Padilla, 760 521-1708 if you would like to donate.

Scriptures for December 2022

December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 Luke 1:46b-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

December Anniversaries

December Birthdays

Bruce & Cindy Haener 12/17/1977
 Joe & Angelina Rice 12/27/2011

Carrie Forster-	Alexander McKee 12/17
Osterthaler 12/4	Ken Brocks 12/18
Cindy Haener 12/5	Brenda Pool 12/12
Isabella Jacoby 12/6	Debbie Chrismen 12/15
George Tway 12/10	Ron Forster 12/17
Ina Davenport 12/12	Alexander McKee 12/17
	Jack Senter 12/30

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from the family of Edith Tway

Our family sends a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with Edith's Memorial. It was a lovely tribute that would not have been

possible without the support of so many wonderful people.

We are thankful for all of you. Thank you!

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Happy Birthday!

Remember in Prayer

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Kurrle - Hope for good Neurology care for seizures Dan & Kathie Sperow - Recovering from Covid Ina Davenport - Health issues Sean Osterthaler - Recovering from surgery Aaron Brochtrup - Concussion from vehicle rollover Janelle Muff -Healing after surgery Joanne Kulczyk – recovering from a fall Pastor Brian - recovery from Bell's Palsy Family of Edith Tway who passed on October 12 Pastor Jim Berg – dealing with health issues L.C - Improved mental health Sally Mingo, Jennifer Kurrle's mother - knee injury Arthur Hende, Kea McKee's brother - spine surgery Paul Weggenmann - Jean Senter's cousin - Health issues Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas - in on-going home rehabilitation care. Linda Luke- recovering from recent procedure and to gain weight and strength Rebecca Aparicio, Nancy Padilla's mother-in-law - living in a nursing home Pastor David Ryal - Health concerns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becky Padilla- responding well to treatment for cancer Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother Lia, Ina Davenport's friend- recovering well from a broken back James Hecker- experiencing new complications following bladder replacement surgery Christopher Buckles, Kate Anderson's son Katie Brochtrup- facing oral surgery Marcia and Rick Walt, friends of Cindy Haener Elaine Grawe- Recovering from recent fall Darel and Betty Sorenson - Betty remains in nursing care on Hospice Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother For Laura Salazar and her family Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry For those who are contracting the new COVID-19 omicron variants, and that we might continue to observe mitigation guidelines For the people of Ukraine, for strength, healing and protection, and changes of heart for those attacking them. |
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December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*Please remember in your prayers.</p> <p>Worship services are live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org</p>				1 *Carol Frasier	2 *Elaine Grawe	3 Worship Planning Committee 10:00
4 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Joyce B. Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	5 *Bruce & Cindy Haener Coffee Group 9:00 La Parisienne Men's Group 1:00 Stein-Webber Residence	6 *Victor Hansen	7 *Herb & Patti Harsch Bible Study 10:00	8 *Judy Kalin Finance Committee 4:30	9 *Woody & Nancy Koppl	10
11 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Katie E. Children's Christmas Program During Service Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	12 *Jennifer Kurrle Morro Bay Community Dinner 4:00	13 *Jason & Stacey Lange Council Meeting 5:00	14 *Mike & Janet Lorenzo Bible Study 10:00	15 *Jim & Linda Luke	16 *Jeff & Kea McKee Coffee Group 9:00 Wayward Bakery Los Osos	17
17 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Cindy H. Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	19 * Sandy McMillan	20 *Tyler Mitchell	21 *David & Janelle Muff	22 *Gary & Eileen Orback	23 *Mark Orback	24  Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 5:30 Lay Assistant: Nikki R.
25  Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Nikki R.	26 *Brenda Ouwerkerk	27 *Nancy Padilla	28 *Bob Penzel	29 *Joe & Angelina Rice	30 *Kevin & Nikka Rocha	31