



## THE CALVARY CALLING

Dear friends of Calvary,

The latest two prominent mass shootings have had an impact on me, and I know upon you. The one in Monterey Park was very close to where I grew up. My aunt lived in that city and our family would visit them fairly often. The one in Half Moon Bay, well, Mary and I passed by those nurseries as we'd visit friends in that city.

I was also struck that the shooters in each case were elderly Chinese people, which was shocking. Despite China's vast population, only a few handfuls of crimes associated with guns are committed there each year. One commentator I read confirmed this assessment. Their conclusion was that these shooters took such drastic action because they had become steeped in the American culture, where gun ownership is widespread and gun ownership is supported on the Second Amendment to the Constitution under the Bill of Rights. (And, in one case, there was probably mental illness involved, and in the other, intimations of severe workplace mistreatment.)

Which is all to say that it is likely, barring contravening national changes, that we as a country are bound to continue the current trend of an average of ONE AND A HALF MASS SHOOTINGS (incidents where at least four people, not counting the shooter, are shot at) PER DAY.

I don't know how to grieve this much suffering, with the concentric circles around victims and their families, and around perpetrators and their families, and the loss of the sense of safety for the entire population. Believe me, I am not against firearms per se. My son Philip, who showed us at a very early age how he could make a gun-like object by taking a bite out of a cookie, is a great aficionado of various weapons. He owns guns and other things that shoot projectiles (handling them with great care), he likes going shooting in the wilderness or at ranges, and even invents gun peripherals such as scopes, arrow attachments, and such. We love our son, and wish him well in his endeavors.

I understand, therefore, the attraction of items that project power, and their proper uses. And I also am coming to my own bursting point on the matter. Gun violence is a public health threat. When the number of automobile deaths grew more and more, the industry and government collaborated on the introduction of seat belts, and now on warning systems of impending collisions and other improvements. When the lead and asbestos were determined to be great threats to human health, they were banned from use in paint and pipes and insulation and other building materials.

The main reason why there are so many gun deaths in this country (the most, I believe, through self harm) is because there are so many guns at hand. My personal growing desire, besides resolving to continue praying for the potential perpetrators and inevitable victims of gun violence, is to do something about it all. I would like to have a conversation with people of Calvary on all sides of the issue. I would like to see if there is any direction of action that might arise from such conversations.

I know it's huge. I know that better and more energetic people than me have been very busy on the matter for years and years. My question in this place and at this time is, who in Jesus' name is willing to join me in thinking about solutions? And who might we join with outside our community?

With love and care,  
Pastor Brian



Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Lenten season, will be on Wednesday, February 22nd. There will be a service at 6:00 in the sanctuary. The service will entail the order for confession and forgiveness, the imposition of ashes and holy communion. All are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Starting the next Wednesday, March 1st, and continuing for all of the Wednesdays in March, we will have soup suppers followed by a short worship service. The emphasis in worship will be on healing stories of Jesus. Look for a sign-up sheet to bring soup and bread.



Once again, all men are invited to meet at the Stein-Webber house for conversation, debating and mutual support. We gather on Monday, February 6th, 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Two cairn terriers, Jack and Riley, are the welcoming committee, and will probably fall in love with you, especially if you throw balls for Riley. The plus is that they are hypoallergenic! Let Pastor Brian know if you will be coming.

### The People's Sermon

Five members and Pastor Brian have begun a three-month series taught by seminary professor Shauna Hannan on making the preparation, delivery and assessment of sermons a communal responsibility. (Assessment of a sermon is NOT assigning it a grade, but rather thinking more about what it means!) The names of those participating are Gail Brochtrup, Kathie Sperow, Joyce Bauer, Jim Luke, and Rachel Jacoby.

Please keep this group in your prayers as they devote their time to this endeavor, and then bring the whole congregation into the conversation!

### Local Ordination

Our local group of Lutheran congregations reaches from Bethel Lutheran Church in Templeton to Bethania Lutheran Church in Solvang. On Saturday, February 18th, there will be an ordination of a new pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Lompoc. The person is a woman whom Pastors Brian and Mary know from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. She is Diana Washington from the Los Angeles area. The pastors will be going to the event, and invite anybody else who is interested to car pool with them. Common support among our congregations can make a big difference!

### Scriptures for February

February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] Psalm Psalm 112:1-9 [10] 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16] Matthew 5:13-20	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-81 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

# Retirement Party

Sunday, February 19, 2023, 11:00 - Fellowship Hall

Ina Davenport is retiring!



Come and wish her well and thank her for her many, many years of service to Calvary.



## Council Highlights

This is the last year for the President, Gail B. and the Treasurer, Sandy M. to be on the Council before having the required one year break in-between terms. Nancy K. has offered to train with Sandy M. to replace her as Treasurer next year. At the end of next year the Council will also need a new president and vice president. It is recommended to have a new secretary as well, as our constitution specifies that offices should only be held for 2 consecutive years. For this year officers are as follows: Co-presidents - Gail B. and Joyce B. Secretary - Janet L., Treasurer - Sandy M. with Nancy K. in training for next year's Treasurer replacement Hospitality - Nancy Padilla, who is no longer on the Council but has offered to continue to provide this important service and attend Council meetings as a guest.

Pastor Brian updated the group on his contact with members who are needing pastoral care. He also reported that:

- Pastor will attend a memorial service for a dear friend and colleague Judy Larson on Saturday, 1/14. Brenda Ouwerkerk will deliver the sermon.
- There are four people interested in the workshop for lay preaching. The workshop will last for 4 weeks and will be held every-other week. Pastor will pass on more information as he receives it.
- Pastor received a question from a member about why the offering plate is not brought forward during the offering prayer. The group agreed that it would be a good idea for the offering plate to be brought forward and placed on the altar during the passing of the peace. A Council member will bring the offering forward each Sunday.
- The St. Olof Choir will be performing at the Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, February 2. He highly recommends seeing them.

## Outreach Committee

Last year the twelve Disciples collected 688 pounds of food for Iglesia and our food pantry during Lent. This year we hope to collect even more when the Disciples "go to the beach". Watch for them to appear in the Sanctuary with their beach bags on the first Sunday in Lent and be prepared to fill them with goodness!



The monthly luncheons provided by the Outreach Committee and friends are well attended and lots of fun with amazing food! Remember that you don't need to bring anything to these luncheons but your appetite! Please come and enjoy this meal provided for your enjoyment the last Sunday of each month.



## Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 2022, Receipts: \$8,862.00. Expenditures: \$8,709.60. Receipts were at 120.11% of the 2022 Budget for the twelve months ending 12/31/2022. Expenditures were at 103.54% of the 2022 Budget for the same period.

## Letter From Our Compassion Child, Charite

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church,

Your child Charite and her family greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. They thank you for taking care of them. They appreciate it very much! Charite is in Primary and they are taking end of first trimester examinations. (This letter was written before Christmas.) Charite and her family are in good health. They are happy that it is raining, because it has been some time without rain. The family is farming pigs. *In response to a question posed by Katie Brochtrup, Charite responded as follows, "Tell Katie that Charite knows how to read the Bible. Her favorite Bible verse is John 3:16."* In closing, the family wished all of us a Happy New Year of 2023. **Please keep Charite and her family in your prayers.**



## Caring and Sharing

The pantry is full for now! Many thanks to Nancy Koppl and Kathie Sperow for donating money to fill the pantry. Thanks also goes out to our shoppers, Sandy McMillan, Katie Edson and Nancy Padilla. And a special thank you to Katie Edson, who checks the library/food pantry weekly and fills it as needed. Well done good and faithful servants! Please remember our hungry neighbors and our friends at Iglesia as you do your grocery shopping. Or, if you prefer there is now a collection jar located in the fellowship hall right by the coffee station.

Thank you also to Cindy Haener for providing a Thrivent Gift card that was used to purchase new warm blankets for Iglesia. The three shoppers delivered the blankets along with some food to Iglesia on January 26.



*thank  
you*

## ♥ CPR and AED TRAINING at Calvary ♥

On Saturday, Feb. 4 Marcy Mullens, a certified trainer will provide a FREE Adult CPR class in the Fellowship Hall. The class will begin at 9:30 and finish at 12:00. If you feel the need for a certification card, you can demonstrate proficiency at the end of the class and pay a small fee for a card which is good for 2 years. Approximately a dozen folks have signed up, but there is plenty of room for more participants. **RSVP to Gail Brochtrup (805-772-0237)** so we can set up the room accordingly.

## Books Are Cool!!

Calvary's dear friend Alice Kolb has donated a lot of books for all of us who love to read with a book in our hand rather than an electronic device. They are displayed in the Fellowship hall and will remain there for the month of February. Feel free to help yourself, or leave a book of your own.

## Congratulations

to Glenna Baker who is now officially a grandmother! On January 25, Glenna's daughter and her husband welcomed their first child, Macy Raylynn Good. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 oz and already looks like she loves her grandmother! Welcome to the world little Macy!



## Please Remember in Your Prayers

- Ron Forster - recovering from pancreatitis
- Gary & Eileen Orback whose home was damaged in the storm
- Kathie Sperow - recovering from a mild heart attack
- Michon Kelly - that God opens her eyes to the right path
- Betty Johnson - recovering from infection and blood clot while undergoing chemotherapy
- Jennifer Kurrle - adjusting to new medication
- Ina Davenport - Healing of her arm
- Aaron Brochtrup - still unable to return to work - neck pain, headaches, cognitive and neurological trauma
- Janelle Muff -Healing after surgery and blood clot
- Joanne Kulczyk – recovering from a fall
- Sally Mingo, Jennifer Kurrle's mother - knee injury
- Jean Senter and family - death of her cousin Paul Weggenmann
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas - in on-going home rehabilitation care.
- Linda Luke - to gain weight and strength
- Jim Luke - supporting Linda's recovery
- Rebecca Aparicio, Nancy Padilla's mother-in-law - living in a nursing home
- 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- recovering from oral surgery
- Marcia and Rick Walt, friends of Cindy Haener
- Darel and Betty Sorenson - Betty remains in nursing care on Hospice
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother
- 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.

## February Birthdays

Carol Frasier	2/4
Connor Schuldt	2/4
Lanaya Schuldt	2/4
Joyce Bauer	2/12
Mary Stein-Webber	2/20
David Schafer	2/23
Katie Brochtrup	2/21

### Happy Birthday!

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## February Anniversaries

Dan & Kathie Sperow	2/23/76
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### Happy Anniversary!

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**Calling all Prayer Pals!** All of our children now have a Prayer Pal! There will be an informal meet and greet soon so that Prayer Pals can spend a few minutes during the Fellowship Hour to get to know each other. Date of the meet & greet will be announced soon.



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### Do you have any old eye glasses?



Calvary is now collecting your old eye glasses for the Lions Club who will distribute them to those in need. Look for a donation box in the Fellowship Hall soon! Thank you!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>February 2023</b> <b>*Please remember in your prayers.</b> Worship services are live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org			1 *Katie Edson Bible Study 10:00	2 *Ron & Audrey Forster	3 *Carrie Forster- Osterthaler	4 CPR 9:30-12:00
<b>5</b> Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Cindy H. The People's Sermon Group 6:00 -8:00 PM	6 *Carol Frasier  Coffee Club 9:00 Foghorn Morro Bay  Men's Group 1:00	7 *Elaine Grawe  Finance Committee Zoom 5:00	8 *Bruce & Cindy Haener  Bible Study 10:00	9 *Victor Hansen  Council Meeting 5:00	10 *Herb & Patti Harsch	11
<b>12</b> Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Mary S. Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	13 *Judy Kalin  Morro Bay Community Dinner 4:00	14 *Nancy Koppl  	15 *Jennifer Kurrle  Bible Study 10:00  Outreach Committee 1:45	16 *Jason & Stacey Lange	17 *Mike & Janet Lorenzo  Coffee Club 9:00 Buttercup	18
<b>19</b> Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Nikki R.  The People's Sermon Group 6:00 -8:00 PM  Ina Davenport Retirement Party 11:00	20 *Jim & Linda Luke  	21 *Jeff & Kea McKee	22 *Sandy McMillan  Bible Study 10:00  	23 *Tyler Mitchell	24 *David & Janelle Muff	25 Worship and Music Planning Committee 9:30-11:00
<b>26</b> Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Joyce B.  The People's Sermon Group 6:00 -8:00 PM  <b>Brunch 11:00</b>	27 *David & Janelle Muff	28 *Gary & Eileen Orback				