



THE CALVARY CALLING

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay, California

December 2020

Calvary is blessed to be one of the many American Lutheran churches who have adopted the tradition of “Chrismons™” on our Christmas tree. This tradition originated at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957 when Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer, an Ascension member, began making monograms of and symbols of Jesus Christ. From the website of Ascension Lutheran Church, “because these designs have been used by Jesus’ followers since biblical times, they are the heritage of all Christians and serve to remind each of us of the one we follow. All Chrismons™ Ornaments are made in a combination of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God and the Son of Man.”

The Chrismons™ Tree tradition has continued at Ascension Lutheran Church for over fifty years. Mrs. Spencer stated that a tree was never finished until someone came to see it and have the story of Christ explained to them through the ornaments. Today the original ornaments are joined by



gifts from around the globe.



If you’d like to learn more about the tradition of the Chrismons™, Ascension Lutheran has an online store for patterns and finished ornaments.

This year, because of the pandemic, Calvary’s “elves” placed the tree in the large window, nearest the pulpit and the side lawn, so that passersby could still enjoy this beautiful tradition.

Pastor's Pen: Advent, Preparation and Perspective

December has arrived and with it the likelihood of a very different Christmas season. I confess that I am ok with that. With COVID restrictions still in play, large family gatherings are not recommended, as is unnecessary traveling or gathering in person in our sanctuary. As challenging as that is, the job before us is to adjust our sails to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Christ our Savior.

A few years back I bought a hundred pairs of magic angel glasses for a Christmas Eve service. The front of the sanctuary was decorated with multiple Christmas trees decked out in white twinkle lights. At a certain point in the service everyone put on their glasses. You could hear an audible gasp of delight from everyone! These so called "magic" glasses appeared to change the lights into rainbow angels! The more you looked around, the more the angels seemed to dance!



It changed our lens on how we experienced the night, which is exactly the opportunity we have now, if we take advantage of it.

We get to change our lens.

As we begin the annual season of hope, we already know how the story turns out or at least how it should turn out. The light and the hope is already here, already in us, already surrounding us. The world needs each of us to shine brightly beginning today. Opening ourselves to a different perspective can bring a sense of hope in the midst of despair—allowing joy to creep in no matter what.

This is also the season of preparation, a time to remain alert to the coming of the good news in the form of a tiny baby-- good news so close we can almost touch it. That's the perfect perspective for this Advent. In fact, I was asked recently if I would ever be willing do something dangerous, like sky dive or bungee jump. I said yes, but only if I could know for sure that I would land safely. Joy in the midst of anxiety is like that. Christ Jesus is God's assurance that you will land safely.

Welcome to Advent, the season of daily reminders that all is well. And if I'm still your interim next Christmas, we'll have to get some of those magic angel glasses!

In Hope, *Pastor Robyn*

P.S. Thank you to Jim and Linda Luke for the beautiful lighted Nativity displayed on our western lawn.



Council Highlights

- The Treasurer reports that the current balance in the General checking account is \$23,602. Income is at 108% of budget, and expenses are at 105%.
- Calvary's Membership List will now only include active members. Visitors and non-member donors will be entered on an Excel spreadsheet to be tracked separately.
- Eighteen pledges totaling \$41,300 for 2021 have been received. Last year we received 28 pledges which totaled \$62,412. Gary Brochtrup, Kate Anderson and Janet Lorenzo will help with the budget creation for 2021. (Pastor's note: Pledges don't always show the complete picture of a congregation's financial health. See the first bullet point.)
- Ministry Exploration Team (MET) interviews are finished. The information will be summarized for privacy and categorized to prepare for sharing with the congregation and voting on the items of most importance.
- The Historical Society is interested in renting one of our vacant offices. Council agreed on a rent of \$100 a month. The office would be used mainly for storage and copying photos on their own machinery.
- Some of Bill Olson's photographs have sold, and there are many still available.
- Fire extinguishers have been updated, and the company donated one additional extinguisher.

Outreach Committee

The little library structure and food pantry are a big success - the neighborhood has taken it over and is keeping it filled!

Coffee Club is now meeting twice a month, on the first Monday and the third Friday of each month. On Friday, November 20 we enjoyed coffee and pastries from Buttercup Coffee in Morro Bay.



Plans for Christmas Eve were firmed up. (See Advent Worship Schedule on page 4.)

Fund raisers for Iglesia were discussed. One idea was to donate food items for them to make tamales to sell. Pastor Robyn and Nancy Padilla will mention this idea in a meeting on Wednesday regarding assistance for Iglesia.

We are looking for a large TV to use on movie nights. If someone has a large TV they would like to donate, please let Pastor know.

There are four people interested in donating for the memorial bench to be placed by the library structure. Stay tuned!

Nancy Padilla has volunteered to chair future Outreach Committee meetings. Thank you Nancy!

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE WELCOME THE CHRIST CHILD THIS ADVENT SEASON

As we prepare for the sacred birth of Jesus, you're invited to join our Advent Series, "I Believe." You can find us on Facebook LIVE as follows. Our candlelight services will be broadcast on **Saturday evenings** at 5 PM, or you can watch on Sunday mornings via our website.

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 5- "I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship"

December 12- "I Believe in God: Ode to Joy"

December 19- "I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace"

December 24- "We Believe" Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (broadcasting on Facebook LIVE at 5:30 PM)

December 27- Lessons, Carols, and More (back to broadcasting on Facebook LIVE, Sunday, 10 AM)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE SHORTEST ANNUAL MEETING EVER!

December 6th we'll meet briefly via ZOOM... to table all church business until **January 10th**. Yes, you read that correctly. Our constitution includes conducting our business over two meeting dates, however this year we will be introducing an amendment to hold only one annual meeting in future years. In order to be in compliance with the current bylaws, we will still need to meet on December 6th. Look for an email with the ZOOM link. We look forward to celebrating with you in more detail on January 10th when we can announce that our leadership council is fully

staffed, our finances are stable, and when we will vote on the one bylaws amendment.

MEALS FOR THE MUFFS

Janelle Muff and her family are so very appreciative of our prayers and the generous and delicious meals that have been prepared for them while Janelle undergoes chemotherapy. Keep those prayers coming!

We are looking for folks who are willing to prepare and deliver a dinner during the month of January.

Please contact Gail Brochtrup, 805-772-0237 if you can help.



Year End Giving--Year End Hope

Dear Members and Friends of Calvary,

We come to you with a humble and prayerful request.

The year 2020 is finally coming to an end. Hallelujah! We are united in the hope that 2021 will begin to see a return to better times.

We are very aware that this year has been full of surprises and unknowns. Several have commented during our stewardship pledge drive that you will continue to give however naming a specific amount was a challenge. Please know that we understand.

As we prepare our new 2021 budget, we are preparing it based on giving trends and not on the recent giving pledges. Also we are adding a fund for the eventual hiring of your new pastor. We've been fortunate to have an interim pastor who did not require us to pay for health insurance or a salary at synod guidelines. When it comes time to extend a call to a new pastor, the costs will likely be higher.

As you prepare to close out your own finances for the year, please consider making a year-end gift to Calvary. You can designate the gift to the general fund or perhaps the fund for the new pastor, or a bit of both. Anything postmarked on or before December 31 can be included in your tax deductions as churches are tax qualified nonprofits.

Finally, if you plan to make changes to your will or estate, please consider a bequest for Calvary. We thank you in advance.

In Christ,

Pastor Robyn Provis and your Calvary Leadership Council



December Anniversaries

December Birthdays



Carrie Forster-Osterthaler	12/4
Cindy Haener	12/5
Sheryl Barker	12/6
George Tway	12/10
Sharron Jackman	12/11
Von Carney	12/12
Ina Davenport	12/12
Brenda Pool	12/12
Debbie Chrismen	12/15
Ron Forster	12/17
Alexander McKee	12/17
Ken Brocks	12/18



Von & Heidi Carney - 12/1/1974
 Bruce & Cindy Haener - 12/17/1977
 Joe & Angelina Rice - 12/27/2011
 Gary & Cindy Lee - 12/25/1985

Prayers of Concern

- Janelle Muff - Cancer
- Heidi Carney - Cancer
- Von Carney - Illness
- Ken Donohoo - Cancer
- Kate Anderson - Eye surgery
- Brenda Ouwerkerk - aging parents
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother broken hip
- Betty Sorensen - recovering at home after a fall
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mom - health
- Iglesia - May their needs be met
- Covid 19 - May those who are infected heal, and may others follow the restrictions to stop the spread.



Iglesia Angel Tree



Calvary will be participating again this year in the **Iglesia Angel Tree**. All the children on the list have been adopted, and we are requesting another list.

Another way you can help is to purchase a grocery store gift card for a family. Presents and gift cards need to be delivered to Calvary by Sunday, December 13th. If you would like to participate, please let Nancy Padilla know as soon as possible. You can reach her by: text or phone: 760-521-1708, or by email:

grandmanancita@gmail.com.



Ministry Exploration Team

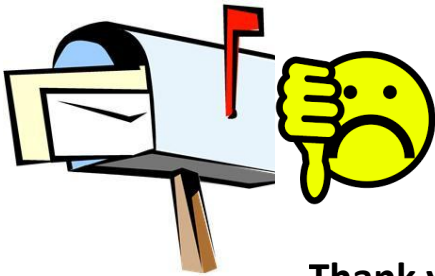
The MET will meet on December 3rd via Zoom to review interview Summaries to determine how to best organize and distribute information gathered. Stay tuned for the opportunity to vote on what members have expressed is most important in our search for a permanent pastor.

Calvary's PO Box

Please remember to use Calvary's new address when corresponding by mail:

Calvary Lutheran Church
PO Box 386
Morro Bay CA 93443-0386

No one is checking the mail box located on the church property, so if you send mail there, it could sit unattended for some time!



Thank you!

Scriptures for December

12/6

First Reading
Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Second Reading
2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel
Mark 1:1-8

12/13

First Reading
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126

Luke 1:46b-55

Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel
John 1:6-8, 19-28

12/20

First Reading
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Second Reading
Romans 16:25-27

Gospel
Luke 1:26-38

12/27

First Reading
Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Psalm 148

Second Reading
Galatians 4:4-7


Gospel
Luke 2:22-40

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>*Please remember in your prayers.</i></p>		1	<p>2</p> <p>*Mark Orback</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom 10:00</p>	<p>3</p> <p>MET via Zoom 2:00</p>	<p>4</p> <p>*Brenda Ouwerkerk</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Worship Service Live Facebook 5 PM</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Worship Service Recording Available at Morrobaylutherans.org</p> <p>Annual Cong. Meeting via ZOOM at 11 AM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>*Nancy Padilla</p> <p>Coffee Club 9:00 Tidelands Park by the restrooms</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>*Kathy Penn</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom 10:00</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Council Meeting (Time TBA)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>*Bob Penzel</p> <p>Outreach Committee 1:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Worship Service Live Facebook 5 PM</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Worship Service Recording Available at Morrobaylutherans.org</p>	<p>14</p> <p>*Brenda Pool</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>*Kevin & Nikki Rocha</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom 10:00</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>*David Schafer</p> <p>Coffee Club 9:00 Buttercup Bakery</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Worship Service Live Facebook 5 PM</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Worship Service Recording Available at Morrobaylutherans.org</p>	<p>21</p> <p>*Randy & Carol Schuldt</p>	22	<p>23</p> <p>*Ronnie Smith</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom 10:00</p>	<p>24</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="color: red; font-style: italic;">Christmas Eve Worship</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">5:30</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Live-Streamed on Facebook or watch on the website</p> </div>	<p>25</p> <p>*Darel & Betty Sorensen</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> </div>	26
<p>27</p> <p>Worship Service Live Streamed on Facebook 10:00 AM, and Posted later to morrobaylutherans.org</p>	<p>28</p> <p>*Dan & Kathie Sperow</p>	29	<p>30</p> <p>*George & Edith Tway</p> <p>Bible Study via Zoom 10:00</p>	31		



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
"Come Share Our Joy"

(805) 772-8457 * www.morrobaylutherans.org * 480 Monterey Ave., Morro Bay * PO Box 386, 93443-0386