



# Calvary Calling - April 2020 News

Calvary Lutheran Church \* 480 Monterey Ave., Morro Bay \* 805 772-8457 \* [www.morrobaylutherans.org](http://www.morrobaylutherans.org)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE BISHOP:

Dear members and friends of the Southwest California and Pacifica Synods,

The apostle Paul reminds us in a passage from Philippians that we are to seek not our own interests, but to do that which will help others. These days, looking to the interests of others means doing all we can to safeguard the health of our neighbors during the current worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. In our letter last Thursday, we encouraged you to cancel all mid-week gatherings, but gave no recommendation on the question of cancelling Sunday worship, leaving that decision to pastors and church councils. In light of today's call by the President and the Virus Task Force to cancel all gatherings of more than 10 persons for the next 15 days, **we have decided to strongly urge our congregations to suspend all in-person worship gatherings through Palm Sunday, April 5, at least, and perhaps beyond.** We know this will disrupt congregational life, and deprive our people of the comfort of gathering with others to hear the gospel and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, but we believe this action is in the best interest of protecting the public health, and thus of serving the neighbor.

**We also strongly urge congregations to encourage those who use their buildings for worship, community gatherings, AA groups, etc., to meet virtually rather than on church property for the time being. We further urge office staff to consider if they can do their work at home.** Additionally, **congregations would be best served by discouraging their members from coming by the building unless invited.** We intend to model this at our two synod offices as well. Dr. Anthony Fauci, who is a part of President Trump's task force on the virus and serves as the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases says that what seems like an over-reaction is actually the right reaction to the severity of the situation. If the disease spreads at a fast rate, it would overwhelm our hospital system, and we would not have the respirators needed to save lives. At a time like this, it is best, in our opinion, to err on the side of caution.

**We encourage congregations to continue to gather the faithful virtually even while we must be physically apart.** We know that this is a stressful time for all. We encourage Conference pastors and deacons to meet weekly via Zoom and are willing to have our staff members set up times for that to take place. We also encourage you to think about the implications for your congregation of a possible future intensification of the quarantine: a "shelter in place" directive. This would necessitate even virtual worship be led from homes.

**We also encourage those who are able to continue to make their faithful, generous offerings to their congregations.** We know that many will be unable to do this, especially if they lose their jobs or work hourly in an industry that has been hard-hit by this situation. Congregations often survive month-to-month, and pastors, deacons, and other staff have bills to pay, as does the church. We will come out on the other side of this and will need those staff members to continue to provide ministry both during and after this period of separation.

**Finally, remember that you do not go through this alone. God is with you and will help you to make the right decisions as you "look to the interests" of your neighbors.** We know you will find ways to share the gospel, pray for one another, protect the health of all, and see God at work in these very difficult times. God be with you and guide you as you make these decisions.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Guy Erwin  
Bishop Andy Taylor  
March 16, 2020

## April Brings Sorrow and Joy

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“We are now on the Lenten journey- the pilgrimage which began on Ash Wednesday when we solemnly confessed our sins and received the ashes- the symbol of our brokenness and mortality. From this event we walk toward Holy Week and Easter where we will remember, celebrate and participate in Christ’s death and resurrection. “Lent exists for the sake of Easter. During Lent, we do battle with everything in our lives to which we must die. We also practice, in a very intentional way, the new life which is the gift of Easter. Thus we do the Lenten disciplines- prayer, fasting, meditating, reading, almsgiving, Scripture study, simplifying, peacemaking, advocacy for the poor and hungry and doing deeds of love and mercy.

“On Easter Day, we return to the worship room to celebrate with unrestrained joy! By raising Jesus from the dead, God says YES to Jesus’ life, his teaching, his servanthood, his kingdom and his crucifixion. Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!” (text from Daniel Erlander publications)

We don't know how long we will be unable to gather. Let's try to remember to check in on each other and use this time to rest and become closer to God and witness him working in our lives! Also, remember that in addition to the daily devotion emailed to you each day, check the Facebook page, (Calvary Lutheran Church of Morro Bay) and the website, (morrobaylutherans.org) for daily devotions and recorded sermons on Sundays.

If you have any special needs or are struggling with life during this time of isolation, please call or email the church office and remember that although we are not gathering, prayer has not ceased.

Blessings, and  
Happy Easter  
Gail Brochtrup



**NOTE: Pastor Ryal is providing Bible Study via telephone conference on Wednesdays at 10:00. Please contact Alice Kolb, (805) 234-7823 for directions on how to join.**

**NOTE: Nick and Becky Mendoza are keeping Lolo's open (by themselves) for take-out orders. Their catering menu is available as well and items on that menu are discounted by 20%. Hours: 12-8, Monday - Saturday, closed Tuesdays, Sunday 12-7.**

## Stewardship during Lent

Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing animals and education to struggling communities. For example: Heifer gives beehives to families in Guatemala who use the honey and wax for income and medicine; families in Rwanda become healthier when they receive pregnant heifers; goats, guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens are frequently given to impoverished families. You can make a difference by picking up a Heifer bank and filling it with coins, bills or even a check. Traditionally, the filled banks have been returned to Calvary on Easter. Due to our inability to gather, the boxes will be collected the first Sunday we are able to safely be together. Please consider being a part of our stewardship to people and communities in need worldwide!

## Cancellations

- The City of Morro Bay has cancelled the City Wide Yard sale. The BBQ will also be cancelled. There may be a yard sale at a later date, when it is safe to do so as we have already collected many items!
- Wednesday Lenten Soup
- Palm Sunday Pot-Luck on April 5
- Weekly Bible Study (there is Bible Study via telephone conference-see **NOTE** on page 2)
- April Outreach Committee Meeting
- April Coffee Club
- April Council Meeting

## Important Tips to Keep You Safe:

1. **HANDS** - Wash them often.
2. **ELBOW** - Cough into it.
3. **FACE** - Don't touch it.
4. **FEET** - Stay more than 6ft. apart.
5. **FEEL Sick?** - STAY HOME!

## Our Compassion Child

As you know, we have a Compassion Child named Charite who lives in Rwanda. At this time, Compassion International has contacted us with the following information:

To prevent spread of the virus, Rwanda closed its borders and banned citizens from leaving home, except for essential services such as health care, food shopping and banking. Schools are closed and large gatherings, including sports, social and religious events, are prohibited through March 29. All Compassion child development centers have stopped group activities and meetings. They ask that we pray for the following:

- Protection from the virus for all children registered with Compassion Rwanda and their families.
- Health and safety for all Compassion staff, front line church staff, and child development center volunteers in Rwanda.
- God's provision for people who are unable to work during this time of quarantine in Rwanda.

Please keep Charite and her family, as well as people everywhere, in your prayers.

## Things that are NOT Cancelled:

Going outdoors is not cancelled;  
Listening to music is not cancelled;  
Quality time with family is not cancelled;  
Reading a book is not cancelled;  
Singing out loud is not cancelled;  
Laughing is not cancelled;  
Dancing is not cancelled;  
Praying is not cancelled;  
Sharing HOPE is not cancelled.  
Let's embrace what we have and give thanks!

## Calvary Worship

Pastor Liz will remain available to us until nearly the end of May. She will continue to provide daily devotionals and weekly sermons\* posted on Calvary's website and FB page for at least the next few weeks. There are already some "fill in" pastors scheduled for the weeks that Pastor Liz is not available. Let's look forward to who God chooses to bless our congregation with!

\*The weekly Sunday sermon will be live streamed on Hope FB page at 10:00, and the recorded sermon will be posted on the Calvary FB page afterwards, and a link provided to view the sermon on the Calvary website.

## Council Highlights

Current balance in the General Checking Account is \$18,045. Income is at 27%, and expenses are at 18%. This is very good news for the middle of the 1st quarter of 2020.

Pastor Liz's last day with us will be May 24. After that, there will be various supply pastors scheduled each Sunday. The schedule will be posted in the monthly newsletter.

Pastor Liz will be available to help us with the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process. The Council voted to pay Pastor Liz for up to 10 hours of her time to train interviewers. People from the congregation will be selected and trained to do the interviewing using a pre-determined script. The purpose of the AI process is to ensure that everyone's voice and concerns are heard. This has been put on hold due to sheltering at home.

Plans for Holy Week and Yard Sale/BBQ were discussed. This information is irrelevant at this time due to sheltering at home.

Council voted to have Edie Orloff back in May for another concert if sheltering at home restrictions have been lifted by then.

It was noted that there is an extra divider panel in the Fellowship Hall. If it was turned sideways it could be hung on the wall in the Youth area to place all of the items that are currently taped on the wall. Council voted to use the panel in this manner.

## Outreach Committee

The Community Library project is complete! There are already books in it! Please remember to save books you have finished and don't want to keep so we can stock the shelves. A prayer box will be added for people to request prayers to be said for themselves or loved ones.



Many, many thanks to Ken Brocks for building this beautiful little library structure, and to Nancy Koppl for the idea!

## Change of Address



There is no one to collect the mail from the mail box at the church. Please remember to use Calvary's new mailing address:

PO Box 386  
Morro Bay, CA 93443-0386

Thank you!

## Prayer Concerns

- Heidi Carney - cancer
- Kathie Sperow - recovering from neck surgery
- Mark Shuck - Gail Brochtrup's brother who lost his youngest son, Bryan
- Corona virus- may those who are infected heal and may others follow the restrictions to stop the spread. May our government and law makers made good decisions, and may our health care workers and first responders get the tools and equipment they need to keep themselves safe while helping others.
- Mike - Kathie Sperow's brother-in-law - aggressive tumors, waiting for surgery when hospital is available.
- Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz - Pray that they are safe and provided for and that we may resume food donation deliveries soon.

## Business Advertising Opportunity

Do you have a business or offer a service that you would like to advertise in our newsletter? Calvary will list your business or service information, along with a business card or description in the newsletters. If you're interested, Call Janet Lorenzo (805) 234-5089, or Gail Brochtrup (805) 772-0237.



## Scriptures for April

### Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Matthew 26:14--27:66  
Matthew 27:11-54 (alternate)

### Friday, April 10, Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13--53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 (alternate)  
John 18:1--19:42

### Sunday, April 12, Easter

Acts 10:34-43  
Jeremiah 31:1-6 (alternate)  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
Acts 10:34-43 (alternate)  
Matthew 28:1-10  
John 20:1-18 (alternate)

### Sunday, April 19

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

### Sunday, April 26

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35



## April Anniversaries

**Randy & Carol Schuldt - 4/8/1969**  
**Joe & Debby Hoeflich - 4/20/1991**

### Congratulations!



## April Birthdays

Gwen Muff	4/1
Janelle Muff	4/3
Alice Kolb	4/4
Bob Clemensson	4/11
Dan Sperow	4/13
Jason Lange	4/16
Allan Davis	4/17
Hayden Christmen	4/20
Mike Lorenzo	4/23
Carol Schuldt	4/24
Brenda Ouwerkerk	4/30



## Meet The Congregation!



### Mark & Corinna Nielsen

Mark and Corinna Nielsen are fairly new to Calvary. They were actually married here at Calvary in August! They live in Morro Bay but are only able to attend services (normally) every other Sunday, as Mark's work takes him out of the area. Corinna works at Cuesta College, and Mark works for Southern Calif. Gas Co.

They both enjoy water sports, especially sailing and in fact that is how they met! Mark also enjoys building surf boards.

It is such a joy to see them when they can make it to church. We are blessed to have them!

# April 2020

## \*Remember in Prayer

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 *David Cooper	2	3 *Myles & Jo Anna Crebs	4
5 Palm Sunday  Sermon live-streamed on Hope FB page 10:00	6 *Don & Barbara Dallmann	7	8 *Allyson & Jim Dallmann-Mang	9	10 *Ina Davenport  Good Friday (No Services)	11
12  Sermon live-streamed on Hope FB page 10:00	13 *Allan & Beth Davis	14	15 *Ken & Valerie Donohoo	16	17 *Rosalie Draeger	18
19 Sermon live-streamed on Hope FB page 10:00	20 *Laverne Draeger	21	22 *Katie Edson	23	24 *Ron & Audrey Forster	25
26 Sermon live-streamed on Hope FB page 10:00	27 *Carrie Forster-Osterthaler	28	29 *Carol Frasier	30		