



Calvary Calling - June 2020 News

Calvary Lutheran Church * 480 Monterey Ave., Morro Bay * 805 772-8457 * www.morrobaylutherans.org

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A Word From Our Bishop Cont'd:

Again, we do not think resuming in-person worship ahead of the public health advisories is a good choice. It would be neither wise nor faithful for us to endanger our elders and those communities of poverty and color who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Nor would it be faithful to expose ourselves and our friends to contagion, or to rush into gatherings that are more likely to harm us than to bring us the peace we desire.

We call on the pastors, deacons, and lay leadership of our synods to comply with the standing public health directives in their localities. We recognize that as these directives continue to change, we will stay in dialogue with you. Our faithfulness to God is shown by our love of our neighbors, and in this situation there is a clear witness to be made—the one that best shows care for others.

May God bless and protect us all.
 Bishop Mark W. Holmerud
 Bishop R. Guy Erwin
 Bishop Andy Taylor

May 22, 2020

A Word From Our Bishop:

Dear People of God of the congregations of the Sierra Pacific Synod, the Southwest California Synod, and the Pacifica Synod:

Grace and peace to you, in the name of the risen and ascended Christ!

It is with concern that we reach out to you today, on the eve of Memorial Day weekend and the last Sunday of Easter, having just witnessed in a televised message by the President of the United States a statement declaring that the nation's churches should open for public worship this weekend. We understand the strong desire of our people to worship together, particularly on a meaningful weekend like this one. We wish to state for the sake of our church and its people that we believe the advice to re-open this weekend is at odds with the prevailing medical understanding of the course of this virus and the ways to prevent its spread.

We call on you to continue to listen to those state and local public health experts who, using the best medical and scientific information available, have already given us sensible guidelines to follow in our states and in the counties of our synods. Churches remain places of particularly high risk for contagion, and recent cases in many states have confirmed that opening prematurely can be catastrophic. We cannot ensure, in all our congregations, the sanitation and distancing requirements necessary to be together for worship. Nor has the risk of infection decreased in many parts of our synods—and both a reduction in infections and effective measures to block contagion will be needed before we will be able to gather in person again.

This is not a question of religious liberty. Nothing earthly—no government, indeed no virus—can come between us and the love of God. The decision to quarantine us for a time is a public health decision, and we are obligated, for our own good and the good of our neighbor, to do the right thing—which in this case is to refrain from non-essential gatherings. Our faith is not optional—indeed it is "essential" to us as Christians—but it does not override our higher duty to consider our neighbor's welfare in a time of medical emergency.

Though in normal times people of faith gather every week for praise and proclamation on the day of Christ's resurrection, we are not absolutely required to do so in spite of every obstacle. We have alternatives right now; we do not need to be able to gather together physically in order to worship God—for God hears our prayers wherever we are and whenever we are. We may pray, we may hear the proclamation of the Word, and we may read and study the scriptures—we may even assemble in digital communities on Sundays—without endangering ourselves and others by gathering together in our church buildings.

Lutherans, in particular, know that there is nothing sacred about a church building except as our sentiment makes it so, and that God is as accessible to us in personal intercession as in corporate prayer. Again, we say, this time of separation is not a time of separation from God. You may cultivate and even expand and intensify your faith in this time of sheltering at home. God is with us in each of our homes right now as surely as God is with us anywhere. And at the appropriate, safe time, we will gather again for the face-to-face worship we so miss and for which we ardently long. We share a hope that will come soon.

Continued

June Worship At Calvary

Council has studied a detailed document on re-opening the church prepared by Pastor Liz, in addition to researching guidelines from Synod, and trying to make sense of the State and Federal regulations.

Our Insurance Company has stressed that we must comply with our local, state and federal regulations. Originally, churches would not be allowed to gather until Phase III of the State Plan, and we are just in the beginning of Phase II. The governor recently changed that directive, allowing churches to re-open, if they follow a long list of requirements. However, Bishop Guy is strongly recommending that churches proceed with extreme caution in order to keep everyone safe.

We will have on-line worship with Pastor Liz until June 7. For the weeks of June 14, 21 and 28 we can enjoy worship services provided by Synod. Synod will email a link for these worship services that will be shared with members and also will be posted on our Facebook page and our website, morrobaylutherans.org. Each service is made up of contributions from a variety of people and churches. This is a good time to get a feel for how other Lutheran churches are worshipping!

When we are able to gather again we must still practice good hygiene. Thanks to Thrivent Financial, we have purchased 4 touch-free hand sanitizer dispensers and disposable masks. Social distancing will be mandatory and the doors and windows will be wide open to prevent unnecessary touching of door handles as well as to provide good air flow.

As a dear friend told me recently, "This sheltering at home is forcing us to be mindful of our many blessings and finding ways to reflect on our spiritual lives and find grace."

Sincerely, Gail Brochtrup,
for Calvary's Church Council

Welcome to our New Interim Pastor

The Synod has chosen for us an Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robyn Provis. Council has met with her via Zoom and had several Zoom discussions about her particular skills before eventually deciding unanimously to welcome her to Calvary.

Pastor Robyn is originally from our area. Her children attended Morro Bay High School and Pastor Robyn attended Cal Poly. Her first career was in Communications and Public Relations which led her to many years consulting with congregations. She attended Lutheran Seminary to deepen her understanding of the Lutheran faith and the congregations she was serving when she felt the call to become an ordained minister. Since that time, she has spent numerous years in the mid-west in various ministerial capacities, including Called Minister and Hospital Chaplain. She has special training in helping congregations in transition and enjoys walking with them as they prepare for their futures.

Pastor Robyn will be with us for a year, living in the Parsonage while serving as our full time minister. Her job is to help us determine our needs and wants with the eventual goal of calling a new pastor. She loves the Lord with all her heart and is ready, willing and able to help Calvary move from the past and into the future that God imagines for us. Please join us in welcoming Pastor Robyn who plans to drive from Ohio with her little dog Archie, hopefully arriving around July 5th!

Look for an introductory video on June 1 from Pastor Robyn. It will be emailed to all and posted on our FB page and website.

Worth Noting:

Bible Study is now being done via Zoom. Contact Gail Brochtrup, 805-772-0237 for details on how to get started with Zoom. It is not hard, really!

From Nick & Becky Mendoza: Hello Loyal Lolo's patrons. We are grateful for the support during the last two months. Your generosity has been amazing! Starting on Tuesday, May 26 we will be offering dine-in service. We will continue to offer take out. Our hours will be 11am to 8pm, daily. Closed on Monday. Reservations recommended (805-772-5686). Let us show you how much we appreciate you.

Prayer From The Bishop

Merciful God, we know that your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all people living with this illness, or who are living with anxiety about this illness, for which there is not yet a cure. Be with those who tend to the needs of the sick. Strengthen us all in body and spirit, console us when anxious, comfort us in grief and hearten us in discouragement. Help to remind us that you claim us as your own, and are with us wherever we go. Through Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

Our Compassion Child

In Rwanda schools, places of worship and Compassion centers are closed until September. A curfew is in place from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., and masks must be worn in public at all times. Center workers are communicating with beneficiaries and caregivers by phone where possible. They have been able to provide care and support to the most vulnerable children, including those who are malnourished and have medical issues, and staff is working with local governments to provide food to families. Sponsor gifts to children and families are being delivered as electronic cash transfers. The Compassion Rwanda office is also working with local staff to offer counseling support. Please keep Charite and her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Council Highlights

Council met via Zoom on May 14. The Treasurer reports that offerings are coming in the mail regularly. Income as of 5/13 is \$30,261.00, 42.89% of our 2020 Budget. Expenses total \$23,597.51 as of 5/13/2020, 31.6% of our 2020 Budget.

\$5,027.00 was received from the SBA Payroll loan. The funds were originally electronically deposited into the Endowment checking account. Funds have been transferred to the General Checking account.

The remainder of the meeting taken up with a discussion of the possibility of a new interim pastor and trying to figure out how and when to resume in person worship.

June Anniversaries

Tom & Joyce Bauer - 6/15/1974

Kevin & Nikki Rocha - 6/17/2000

Ken & Valerie Donohoo - 6/21/1970

Congratulations!



June Birthdays

Gary Brochtrup	6/2
Donald Dallmann	6/2
Gary Orback	6/5
Travis Chrismen	6/9
Ken Donohoo	6/22
Olivia Rice	6/27
Elaine Grawe	6/29



Virtual Camps For Children

Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences is offering a Children's Message and Camp Song based on the ELCA Lectionary Year A calendar every Sunday so your church members can experience the joy of camp from their home. For the foreseeable future, LRCC will continue creating Virtual Campfires, and on Saturday July 25, their Eleventh Annual Summer Banquet will move online! Until it is safe to gather at camp again, LRCC's focused prayers are with the women and men on the front line in this struggle.

Worship On The Web

Did you know? For recordings of the Sunday worship service, check out our Calvary website at morrobaylutherans.org. On the "Sermons" tab you will find the recorded sermon and the printed liturgy so you can follow along. In addition to sermons you can enjoy a devotion every day on the "Daily Devotions" tab.

Calvary Congratulates Graduates!

Cassi Gough, fiancé of Aaron Brochtrup
Graduating from Fresno State University
Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with
emphasis on Victimology



Prayer Concerns

- Heidi Carney - cancer
- Kathie Sperow - death of her father and step-mother
- Brenda's Ouwerkerk - passing of her husband, and mother -serious health concerns
- Betty Sorensen - hospitalized after a fall, had surgery and will need to recover at a rehab. facility
- Elaine Grawe, broken ankle
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mom, health concerns
- 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.
- Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz - Pray that they are safe and provided for and that we may resume food donation deliveries soon.

Scriptures for June

Sunday, June 7

Genesis 1:1--2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 14

Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]

Sunday, June 21

Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday, June 28

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42



June 2020

*Remember In Prayer

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *Gary & Cindy Lee	2	3 *Mike & Janet Lorenzo Virtual Bible Study 10:00	4	5 *Scott McCorkhill	6
7 - Sermon on Hope FB Page 10:00, on Calvary FB page and website 11:00	8 *Jeff & Kea McKee	9	10 *Sandy McMillan Virtual Bible Study 10:00	11 Council Meeting via Zoom 1:00	12 *Nick & Becky Mendoza	13
14 Synod Sermon on YouTube - Link will be emailed and available on FB and our website: morrobaylutherans.org	15 *Tyler Mitchell	16	17 *David & Janelle Muff Virtual Bible Study 10:00	18	19 *Bill Olson	20
21 Synod Sermon on YouTube - Link will be emailed and available on FB and our website: morrobaylutherans.org	22 *Gary & Eileen Orback	23	24 *Mark Orback Virtual Bible Study 10:00	25	26 *Brenda Ouwerkerk	27
28 Synod Sermon on YouTube - Link will be emailed and available on FB and our website: morrobaylutherans.org	29 *Nancy Padilla	30				