



THE CALVARY CALLING

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay, California

November 2021

PASTOR'S PEN - GRATITUDE AS A DISPOSITION

I can barely wrap my head around the reality that my retirement from pastoral ministry is weeks away. I'm enjoying reviewing the past twenty years. I've met so many amazing people who've taught me what it means to be grateful. Calvary Lutheran will forever stand out in my memory as a caring group of friends who are grateful to God for everything you have. You are definitely a glass half full group of saints! I am grateful to have walked with you as you prepare to call a settled pastor.

The word gratitude gets thrown around a lot. Ever since Oprah Winfrey suggested we all keep gratitude journals; the world has kept track of the things they've received or avoided. Biblical gratitude is a little different. The word for "gratitude" in Greek is χάριτι (chariti), translates as "extending favor towards" and means giving grace, favor, gratitude, or kindness. The more common English definition is often focused on personal benefits received. In the bible gratitude is about the character disposition of being thankful for God's graces, along with the readiness to return kindness and grace.



Here are a few of the things I give thanks to God for. I'm grateful to have a testimony of Jesus Christ; to know he lives and walks with each of us. I'm grateful for the many elderly Lutherans I've gotten to know who are now Saints in Light. I stand on the shoulders of Ed S. who fought at Pearl Harbor, rescuing sailors from the waters surrounding the sinking of the USS Arizona. Ed grew up to teach Sunday School for nearly 50 years, inspiring at least four young people who became ELCA pastors. I stand on the shoulders of one Shirley R. who was a faithful communion server until her Parkinson's took away her ability to hold her tray steady. After that, until the day she died, Shirley would stand in the back of the sanctuary during the peace, point at people, yelling sweetly, "I love you!" At her celebration of her life, we ended the service yelling out, "Shirley. We love you." I could spend the next decade remembering the wonderful experiences of ministry and thanking God for each one of them. I won't forget Katie B's contagious smile, Ina's musical gifts and sense of humor, Brenda's devotion to family, Janelle's courage, Janet's resilience, Valerie's heart and, and, and. The list goes on. This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. Let us continue to cultivate thankful hearts. Thank YOU for being you.

In Gratitude,
Pastor Robyn

All Saints Day, Stewardship, and Looking Forward



Our stewardship campaign, “Doing What Love Requires” culminates in our celebration of All Saints Day on Sunday, November 7. We’ll celebrate and honor our loved ones who are now “saints in light.” We stand on the shoulders of all those who have gone before. They watch over us, whispering to our spirits, guiding us into God’s future.

On All Saints Day we invite you place a photo of a loved one who has passed on our altar in sacred memory. We’ll name them out loud, pausing to reflect on how they too did what love requires in their own lifetimes.

Covid has brought particular challenges, but we have done “What Love Requires.” We’ve faithfully worn our masks to care for neighbor and self. We’ve gotten our vaccinations and we’ve kept our social distance. That’s one way we’ve shown love, mercy and kindness. The next step is to ensure that our ministry as Calvary Lutheran Church of Morro Bay is resourced for the next year and beyond. Please bring your pledge cards to church November 7 when we will offer a prayer of consecration over our hopes for a bright future. Thank you for taking the time to reflect deeply on your own stewardship.

Advent

We are planning a very special Advent worship series this year. The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season November 29th, how can our church become a house where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life?

No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. Hope waits for us at Advent. Hope waits for us to trust. Hope waits for our commitment to a land that’s kind and just.



Advent 1: “Making Room,” HOPE, November 28

Advent 2: “A Place at the Table,” PEACE, December 5

Advent 3: “How Much is Enough?,” JOY, December 12

Advent 4: “A Room with a View” LOVE, December 19

Christmas Eve: “The Inn”, December 24

Sunday after Christmas: “Dwelling”, December 26

This Advent we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. **There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy!**

Our Compassion child, Charite, from Rwanda has reached out to her sponsors- that's us!

Charite is studying in Primary One. She is in the third term. She had spent one year without studying because of Covid 19. They hope this letter will find you well.

*Dear friends,
Your child Charite and her family are happy to get time to write to you and to thank you. They wish you to have God's peace. They thank you for the good things you always do for them like: praying for them so that God blesses them; giving them monthly gifts which are used to buy things Charite gets at the project; writing to them; and telling them how your family is doing. May God bless you.*

Please keep Charite and her family in your prayers.

The Ministry Site Profile was approved by the Council at the October 14th council meeting! Interview questions for the first round of interviews have been selected. The next step is to do a "practice" interview so the questions can be fine-tuned if needed. Pastor Amy Beverage of Templeton has graciously offered to be our guinea pig! Stay tuned!



Speaking of Compassion...We have learned that Compassion International has many more children signed up who have not yet been assigned a sponsor. They are asking for donations of \$25 to give to these un-sponsored children. Council has requested a Thrivent Grant of \$250 so that we may give 10 children a Christmas gift. Any families who wish to make a financial contribution to Compassion International on behalf of a child in need are welcomed to do so. You may place the offering, marked Compassion Christmas Gift, in the offering plate at church, or mail it to our P.O. Box 386, Morro Bay CA 93443-0386.

Council Highlights

The Council voted to approve the MSP with one abstention (Pastor Robyn abstained, which is typical for an interim). The Finance Committee agreed that the maximum amount that Calvary could afford to pay a new pastor would be between \$1,500 to \$2,000/month salary plus the parsonage which was valued at \$50,000/year (rent & utilities). Gary Brochtrup researched the tax implications if we rented out the parsonage. Calvary will be able to retain the tax exempt status for both property taxes and income tax purposes.



- Advent begins on November 29. This Advent we will be welcoming the Christ child while also imagining our hearts and lives as an INN that houses the holy. How can we carry the love of Jesus into our lives and neighborhoods?
- Pastor Robyn will provide training after worship on November 14th for those interested in taking Communion to those who are homebound.
- The Building Use Policy has been revised but needs more work. There is a group that is interested in using our building for a 6-month seminar. The Executive Council members will work on finalizing the policy.
- There are three Council members whose terms are ending this year, but all three are eligible for another term. Those three members will consider if they are able to commit to another term. There are also two vacancies which will be filled if possible.
- The yard sale was a huge success bringing in \$2,586.04. The Council voted to spend \$250 on ELCA Good Gifts, asking our own youth to decide which gifts to choose. The remaining funds will go into the General Fund. Left over clothing and other useful items that are in good shape will be donated to Hospice Thrift Store and Iglesia.

Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2021

Income - \$5,081.00; Expenses - \$4,890.53. Income at the end of September is at 105.2% of our 2021 Budget for the first 9 months of 2021. Expenses are at 89.8% of the 2021 Budget for the same period.

Outreach Committee



Ken Brocks has completed a wonderful bench to go beside our library/food pantry. The bench is now available for members to place a plaque memorializing a love one. Prices will be coming soon. Many, many thanks to Ken Brocks!

The member list was reviewed, and several people were identified that would appreciate someone calling to check on them. Some of the people on the list will be contacted by committee members. If you would like someone to call you to chat and catch up on what's happening at church or in our community, call Janet Lorenzo, 805 234 5089. We miss all those who have not yet felt safe to return to in-person worship and we want to keep in touch!



Let's talk Turkey! This year the Los Osos Community Dinner assigned to Calvary happens to fall on Thanksgiving. We have been asked to roast 8 - 10 pound turkeys which they will provide! Please consider helping with this - the turkeys can be roasted a day or two in advance and sliced up for easy storage. The rest of the Thanksgiving dinner (potatoes, gravy, stuffing, etc.) is being donated by various groups and grocery stores. With these

generous donations, and the wonderful turkey roasters from Calvary, people who may not otherwise have a Thanksgiving dinner will have a feast! Let's search our hearts and remember how Jesus fed the multitudes and make Thanksgiving happen!

You may also want to consider helping in the kitchen packing the food boxes. These two wonderful ladies, Barbara and Maureen from St. Benedict's are at the Los Osos Community Center every Thursday, preparing food and packing the boxes for hungry people to pick up. Nancy Padilla and Janet Lorenzo have been helping on each Calvary assigned day and report that it is a fun and rewarding experience. Even though you won't see the people receiving the food, you know that each box you pack is helping feed those who are less fortunate. Barbara and Maureen are pleasant and fun to work with, and they will assist you every step of the way. Call Janet Lorenzo, 805 234 5089 or Nancy Padilla, 760 521 1708 if you are able to help bring Thanksgiving happiness to many!



Scriptures for November

November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28
1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44	Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11, 14 -25 Mark 13:1-8	Daniel 7:9,10,13,14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

November Birthdays

Audrey Forster 11/2
 Samantha Rocha 11/12
 Joe Hoeflich 11/14
 Rosalie Draeger 11/21
 Kathie Sperow 11/23
 Herb Harsch 11/26
 Karen Vail 11/30



November Anniversaries

Chris & Kate Anderson
 11/7/1985



Change of Address:

Aaron and Cassi
 Brochtrup
 3822 Morris Ave.
 Clovis, CA 93619





Remember in Prayer

- Marcia Shep- Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother facing serious surgery on her foot
- Mikey Vedrin, grandson of Pastor Robyn- newly diagnosed with West Nile Virus, which may mean he does not have MS
- Edith West- Brenda's mother, recovering from Covid
- Katie Brochtrup
- Samantha- great niece of Sandy McMillan, recovering from a car accident, recently moved to a Children's Hospital in WA state (where they live)
- Jacob Rocha and Maggie Muff- away at college
- Cathy- a friend of Nancy Padilla's who is struggling
- Our Stewardship Response- "Doing what love requires" so that we may be able to call a new Pastor and move forward with our mission
- Heidi Carney, cancer treatment
- Janelle Muff
- Elaine Grawe
- Darel and Betty Sorenson
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's elderly mother
- Sherry Barker, resident at Bayside Care Center.
- Iglesia - May their needs be met
- Covid 19 - May those who are infected heal, and may others follow the restrictions to stop the spread. May vaccination rates increase.

Orange Praline Yams

1. Boil 4 pounds fresh yams until fork tender. Drain, then let cool, then peel & slice them. Place the yams in a large bowl and add the following:
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ cup Orange juice- freshly squeezed is best, 1 Tbsp. orange zest, 2 tsp. Salt and pepper to taste, 1 tsp. Ground ginger, $\frac{1}{2}$ stick melted butter, $\frac{1}{3}$ cup light brown sugar, 1 egg
2. Use a hand mixer mix all ingredients until smooth
3. Place into a greased (I use Pam) casserole dish
4. For topping, mix together: $\frac{2}{3}$ cup light brown sugar, 1 stick melted Butter, 1 cup chopped pecans, 1 tsp. ground cinnamon- spread over top of yams
5. Cover with foil and refrigerate until ready to bake. *Can be made a day ahead.* Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 min. Until golden brown and bubbly. (Leave foil on for about the first half of cooking time.)

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*Please remember in your prayers.</p> <p>**In-Person Worship subject to change</p>	<p>1 *Carrie Forster-Osterthaler</p> <p>Coffee Club 9:00 Sun & Buns</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 *Carol Frasier</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 *Elaine Grawe</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 **In-Person Worship service With Holy Communion 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Katie E.</p>	<p>8 *Bruce & Cindy Haener</p>	<p>9 Finance Committee 5:30 via Zoom</p>	<p>10 *Victor Hansen</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>11 Council Meeting 5:00</p> <p>Veteran's Day </p>	<p>12 *Herb & Patti Harsch</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 **In-Person Worship service 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Cindy H.</p>	<p>15 *Joe & Debby Hoeflich</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 *Woody & Nancy Koppl</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 *Jennifer Kurrle</p> <p>Coffee Club 9:00</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 **In-Person Worship service With Holy Communion 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Jim L.</p>	<p>22 *Jason & Stacey Lange</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 *Mike and Janet Lorenzo</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>25 Los Osos Community Dinner</p> <p></p>	<p>26 *Jeff & Kea McKee</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 **In-Person Worship service 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Joyce B.</p>	<p>29 *Sandy McMillan</p>	<p>30</p>				



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
"Come Share Our Joy"

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