



THE CALVARY CALLING

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay, California

December 2021

Welcome Pastor Brian Stein-Webber!

Pastor Brian Stein-Webber is a native Californian, growing up in South Pasadena. He is a life-long church person and was nurtured at Messiah Lutheran Church in Pasadena. He met Mary, who would become his spouse, at California Lutheran College. After graduation, they taught English Conversation at schools in Kumamoto, Japan with the LCA.

Upon returning to the States, they taught in parochial schools for a year and then they both entered Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. Their first call as associate pastors was to Mount of Olives Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Arizona. Second, they both served at Christ Lutheran Church in Long Beach, California. Their two children, Philip and Juliana, were born during the Long Beach years.



Brian was called to serve in Admissions, Annual Fund and Alum Relations at Pacific Seminary in 1995. Mary had been studying for a counseling degree at Fuller Seminary, so when they moved to the Bay area, she doubled as a pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland while starting her counseling practice. Brian enjoyed working with the students and constituents at PLTS.

In 2000, Brian was called to serve as Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, a group of 85 congregations of all faiths who worked together for mutual understanding, chaplaincy services, social ministries and a coherent voice in the public square. A year later, he coupled that work with taking over for Mary at the church in Oakland as pastor there, as Mary transitioned to full-time counseling.

In 2012, Brian was called back to PLTS as Director of Seminary Relations, where he remained until earlier this year. He helped facilitate the merger of the seminary with California Lutheran University as well as became Interim Chief Administrative Officer for a time, helping the seminary to move its campus to the downtown Berkeley area.

The Stein-Webbers vacationed in Cayucos since moving to the Bay Area in 1995, and determined that they would retire there. That move came in 2019, while they both were working. They now live in Los Osos. Brian officially retired in March of this year, and Mary is due to retire in a month.

Both of them have become familiar with Calvary Lutheran Church during these past years. Since Pastor Robyn announced her own retirement from a splendid year and a half at Calvary, Brian was contacted by synod staff to consider filling in as Long-Term Supply Pastor, and he has happily agreed to do so.

Pastor Brian loves worship and music, and will be happy to accompany this congregation as you move into the next phase of your life together in the gospel.

Pastor's Pen: Make of Our Hearts, a Manger, a House for the Holy



The season of Advent brings with it an important invitation. Advent invites us to enter the season with the heart of a child and the substance of an adult. If you're open to that challenge, I ask you to remember back to when you were a child, that time when you thought Christmas was about Santa and reindeer and getting presents. Then somewhere around the age of eight, your parents told you the hard truth about, shh, that guy in the red suit. Often that truth comes when we are deemed old enough to believe that there is nothing left to believe in. Thankfully Advent can teach us that there is much to believe.

Advent marks not only a historical event but a current one, in which Christ is being born among us again and again-- born in our actions and in the way we care for each other. Advent can help us shake off the stupor of living in a fast and chaotic world.

Another truth is that we get out of Advent what we put into it. We are not pretending that Jesus has not been born so that we can be surprised again Christmas morning. By opening our eyes to the wonder of belief, we bring the miracle of Jesus' birth back into our everyday awareness.

This year our Advent theme is ***"The Inn: Housing the Holy." We'll be asking God to make our heart a manger, a house for the Holy, A warm and sturdy place where hope, joy, peace and love can grow.***

As we wait for Christmas and for the ultimate reign of God's return, we are called to live as if it were already here. We are called, as Walter Brueggeman said ***"to be a community rooted in energizing memories and summoned by radical hopes."***

I pray that we all enjoy the journey, the wonder and the hope of this most blessed season. And I thank God for each one of you, grateful for the blessing of walking with you these last eighteen months. You are so blessed to have Pastor Stein-Webber join you in this ministry. I eagerly await news of where God is leading you.

Merry Christmas.
Pastor Robyn

Farewell Pastor Robyn

Pastor Robyn's last day with Calvary will be December 26. We will show our appreciation for the energy, leadership and great ideas she has shared with us by providing a "Farewell Fiesta" luncheon with Mexican food after services on that day. This day is made even more special as Bishop Brenda Bos will be with us to send Pastor on her way and offer blessings on her retirement. Please join us on December 26 for this very special service and fellowship after.





THE SHOW MUST GO ON! Even with COVID (and very few young people), we still want to enjoy the joy and meaning of a Christmas pageant. On December 12th, our entire service will become a service of music and readings, when we will do a live read-through of a pageant written by Pastor Robyn. Ina Davenport has made calls to recruit participants, however we'll find a place for everyone. Even if you don't take or want a speaking part, we'll all be singing the carols Ina has selected.

The pageant is titled "**Star of Wonder, Star of Light,**" and revolves around a church in rehearsal for their annual program. Some cast members will be sitting on the stairs of the chancel, others will be in the congregation. And yes, there might be a donkey or wise man in a pew! We'll begin the live read through when three angels come in the back,

wondering why "the boss" would send them to earth without telling them their mission. Almost immediately they realize that they are back at Calvary-- the church they were members of when they were alive! Together the cast, congregation and the angels realize that the true message of Christmas is alive at Calvary, which frees up the angels to report this good news to "the boss."

The pageant will take place Sunday the 12th with a quick 30-minute run through after services on December 5th. Please stay for the run through if you can but definitely join us on the 12th. Let's give glory to the reason for the season with our unique DIY (do it yourself) pageant.



We will be decorating our worship space with Poinsettias again this year. The cost of a Poinsettia is \$10. If you would like to help, place the money in your regular offering envelope with "flowers", and the amount included, marked on the outside. There is also a sign-up sheet in the "We Are The

Church" binder if you would like to dedicate your Poinsettia to a loved one, or email Janet Lorenzo, lorenzo.janet1@gmail.com with your dedication. Deadline to purchase a Poinsettia is Sunday, December 5.

The Ministry Site Profile is posted! The Call Committee participated in a practice

interview with Pastor Amy Beverage of Templeton and gained some valuable interview insight!

Now we wait for someone who is interested in meeting us! Stay tuned!



Worship Team Welcomes Your Participation

The Worship Team is in need of volunteers to assist the Pastor during worship, as well as setting up the communion table the day before Communion Sundays. Here are some ways you could help: **Assisting the Pastor** involves reading the Scriptures and Psalm of the day, leading the Apostle's Creed and Prayers of the Church. **Communion Assistants** are needed to assist the Pastor to administer the Sacrament on Communion Sundays. **Ushers** are also needed. On Communion Sundays the usher directs people to the Altar for Communion. **The Altar Guild** is responsible for setting up for Communion the day before Communion Sunday, placing the Altar linens and cleaning up after the service. Training is available for all of these things. If you would like to know more, either call Joyce Bauer, 805 748 4748, or sign up in the "We Are The Church" binder on Sunday.

Council Highlights

Stewardship response to date: 18 pledge cards have been received. Total pledged is \$50,040.00 for 2022. (General Fund = \$23,600; Local Use Only = \$26,440.00) Amount pledged for the 2021 budget was \$42,500.00.

The gag indulgences auction held on Reformation Day brought in \$74!

Rev. Russ Gordon was appointed by the synod to serve as our bridge interim. Rev. Gordon was the long-time pastor of Mount Carmel in SLO before retiring. However, Rev. Gordon's plans may have changed, and Synod is still working out the details of who will be our bridge pastor beginning the first Sunday in January.

The photo wall is in process. Jim Luke thinks he has almost all of the photos. Coffee Mondays and Fridays are available to anyone who wants to join in.

Training for those who would like to deliver Communion to those who are homebound will be put off until the Bridge Pastor is here.

ADVENT begins on Nov. 28. This year Advent will have the theme of "THE INN: Making Room for the Holy". Christmas Eve Service: "The Inn." 5:30 PM.

There is a new Building Use Policy to provide guidance and cost information to those who would like to use our buildings.

The Nominating Committee is looking for one member for the Endowment Committee and one member for the Audit Committee. There are also two Council Member vacancies which are optional to be filled. The Committee has not had any positive responses yet.

Sunday after Christmas (Dec. 26) we'll welcome Bishop Brenda Bos. She will be with us to send and release Pastor Robyn on that day.



Treasurer's Report as of October, 2021

Income - \$9,092.45; Expenses - \$4,205.36. Income at the end of October is at 109.8% of our 2021 Budget for the first 10 months of 2021. Expenses are at 88.6% of the 2021 Budget for the same period.

Net income from Calvary's yard sale totaled \$3,016.45.

Outreach Committee



Donations have been delivered to Iglesia. A \$250 Thrivent Gift Card was approved, and hygiene and cleaning products have been purchased for Iglesia as well.

A second Thrivent Gift Card has been approved to purchase Lutheran Good Gifts. Funds in the amount of \$250.00 will be sent to support ten "unsponsored" Compassion children. Yard Sale proceeds will be transferred from General Fund to Designated Fund #3217 PeliCan to cover the donation.

Calvary will participate in the Iglesia Christmas Angel again this year. Nancy P. will provide details as she gets them. Beautiful Christmas stockings will be provided again this year for each child by our sewing members and in fact are already done!

Scriptures for December

December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Psalm -Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52



Calvary is proud to have our very own WWII Veteran, Richard (Dick) Williams, pictured here with his son-in-law, Ken Foran. Both were honored at the Atascadero Veterans Memorial Foundation's annual Veterans Day ceremony. Ken Foran was the talented artist who created our new stained glass. Thank you for your service to your country and to Calvary.



Thanks to a generous grant of \$250 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, we have chosen to provide gifts To **ELCA Good Gifts**.

Across the world, ELCA is working to improve the lives of impoverished and vulnerable people in the hope of lifting them up through education and provisions based on their stated

needs. ELCA Good Gifts catalog contains real examples of projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. In the **God's Global Barnyard** section there are animals such as pigs, chicks, goats and honeybees. There is a **Water** section including water filters, wells and latrines. **Women and Children** offers such things as school fees and uniforms, microloan for women and solar powered lanterns. Finally, the **Agriculture** section helps communities set up vegetable gardens, provides fruit trees and more.

Cindy Haener's granddaughter, **Gracie**, selected the following gifts from **God's Global Barnyard**: a goat and a flock of chicks; a piglet; 3 hives of bees; and 2 weeks of food for a refugee family. (Gracie hoped to order a "piglet and manure" however that item was not available.) Thank you Gracie for helping us to care for others around the world!



Coffee Club

Janet Lorenzo will host the Coffee Club on Monday, December 6 at 9:00. Coffee and goodies provided! Bring a sun hat and a sweater and come prepared to relax in the sun or shade and enjoy some special Christmas treats and good old fashioned Calvary Fellowship! **492 Ash St, Los Osos - RSVP 805 234 5089**
(Parking is a challenge on this street, so carpool if you can.)



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



December Anniversaries

Bruce & Cindy Haener - 12/17/1977

Joe & Angelina Rice - 12/27/2011



Remember in Prayer

- Marcia Shep- Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother, foot surgery
- Chris Koppl- fell off a roof. Has 5" inch cut and a wrist fracture.
- Family of Rosalie Draeger- long time member, passed away at the end of October
- Joyce Bauer's departed sister- Margaret "Peggy" Cosgrove, may she rest in peace
- Mikey Vedrin, grandson of Pastor Robyn- still trying to determine if he has MS or West Nile.
- Christopher Buckles, Kate Anderson's son, very ill
- Sharron Jackman- recovering from surgery for an infection in her abdomen
- John Anderson- heart surgery and other complications
- Katie Brochtrup
- Samantha- great niece of Sandy McMillan, recovering from a car accident
- Jacob Rocha and Maggie Muff- away at college
- Cathy- a friend of Nancy Padilla's who is struggling
- Antonia Tway - moving to the Seattle area to start a new job. Congratulations.
- Heidi Carney
- Janelle Muff
- Darel and Betty Sorenson
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother
- Sherry Barker at Bayside Care Center
- Iglesia - May their needs be met
- Covid 19 - May those who are infected heal, may others follow the restrictions to stop the spread. May vaccination rates increase.

December 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 *Nick & Becky Mendoza</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 *Tyler Mitchell</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 **In-Person Worship service With Holy Communion 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Linda L. Rehearsal for Christmas Program 11:00-11:30</p>	<p>6 *David & Janelle Muff</p> <p>Coffee Club 9:00 Lorenzo Residence</p>	<p>7 Finance Committee Via Zoom 5:00</p>	<p>8 *Gary & Eileen Orback</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 *Mark Orback</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 **In-Person Worship service 10:00 with Christmas Program live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Cindy H.</p>	<p>13 *Brenda Ouwerkerk</p>	<p>14 Finance Committee Via Zoom 5:00</p>	<p>15 *Nancy Padilla</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>16 Council Meeting 5:00</p>	<p>17 Bob Penzel</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 **In-Person Worship service With Holy Communion 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Nikki R.</p>	<p>20 *Joe & Angelina Rice</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 *Kevin & Nikki Rocha</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 *David Schafer</p> <p style="color: red;">Christmas Eve</p>  <p style="color: red;">Candlelight Service 5:30</p>	<p>25</p>  <p style="color: red;">Merry Christmas!</p>
<p>26 **In-Person Worship service 10:00 Bishop Brenda Bos joins us to bless and release Pastor Robyn- live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Joyce B. Pastor Robyn's Goodbye Luncheon</p>	<p>27 *Randy & Carol Schuldt</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 *Ronnie Smith</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 *Darel & Betty Sorensen</p> 	<p></p>

