



THE CALVARY CALLING

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay, California

March 2021

NEXT STEPS AND SURVEY RESULTS

This past week, Calvary's Ministry Exploration Team, met jointly with the M.E.T. team from Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, San Luis Obispo. We met to discuss how our value voting survey had gone, things we've learned about our congregations and how this process will lead us to the next steps in identifying and calling new pastors for each of our churches. We want to thank you for your participation and share with you the responses you most resonated with. As you recall there were three questions, 1) How do you experience God in your life; 2) What do you treasure most about Calvary; and finally 3) What are your hopes for Calvary's future.

Question #1- How do you experience God in your life? (Here are the top 4 responses)

56% said "in acts of kindness and service, caring for others, people doing good things and in the goodness of souls."

54% said "knowing God is always with me."

49% said "in nature, feeling close to God when away from others, in my own backyard, sunsets, nature's power and beauty."

44% said "in church, reflecting on sermons, during communion, in connecting with God's family, Christmas and other celebrations, feeling connected to a friendly community/congregation."



Question #2 What do you treasure about Calvary (Here are the top 4 responses)

74% said "the worship, music, organ, piano and singing."

72% said "the people, a church family that feels like family, friendships, memories of people, strong connections, accepting, nice, the familiarity."

44% said "the sermons, biblical, uplifting, and relatable with personal stories and illustrations."

41% said "the social fellowship, events like potlucks, women's cluster, small groups like coffee club, feeling involved, feeling valued, open discussions, personal contact, being supported by my village."

Question #3-With God's help, what do you hope for Calvary's future? (Here are the top 4 responses)

67% said "a pastor who notices needs, is comfortable with emotions, is open minded, tolerant, a great speaker, extroverted, good at conflict management, one who likes working with youth, a pastor who can involve all generations, and who can balance tradition with new ideas."

59% said "growing with more visitors, a welcoming attitude, open hearts/minds, visitors seen as potential family members, not as mere numbers."

49% said "stability in membership, finances and programming for all ages."

44% said "welcoming unique differences and gifts, visitors feel welcomed and embraced for their unique gifts, inclusivity, diversity, reaching out to more men."

Our next step is to write a narrative about who we are and where we are feeling called. This narrative, along with demographic information about our area, will eventually be shared with pastoral candidates. Stay tuned. Your input has been and is critical. Thank you.

Pastor's Pen: WALKING THROUGH THE DOORS OF HOPE

There's a sweet video making the rounds on social media. It features a young boy from India who asks, **"What do you practice?"** With the wisdom of an elder he pronounces that when we practice kindness we will become better at kindness. And when we practice worry or anger, we will increase our ability to see worry and anger in everything. By extension, when we practice recognizing God in our midst, we will become good at seeing God, whenever and however God enters in. As we prepare for Easter, I appreciate this little boy's wisdom. I need his reminder. Do you? Is Easter too good to believe?



When the women at the tomb told the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he told them he would, the disciples called it **"nonsense!"** When something is too good to believe, our mind dismisses it as nonsense. Have we practiced suspicion more than we've practiced looking through the lens of possibility?

HOPE UNBELIEVED IS ALWAYS CONSIDERED NONSENSE

Mary Magdalene didn't recognize Jesus when he was right in front of her! Until he called her by name, she thought him to be a gardener. Cleopas and his friend on the road to Emmaus mistook Jesus for a fellow traveler until he broke bread with them. When Jesus stood on the shoreline and called out to his fishing disciples, Peter and the others could not recognize him. Not seeing Jesus, even when he's in our midst is very human. Lent can help. It invites us to be more intentional about turning our attention to Christ, in particular as we follow him to the cross and to his resurrection. Lenten mindfulness encourages us to practice looking through the lens of Easter hope. Matthew 28:20 reads, **"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

When we CHOOSE to walk through the doors of hope, looking back at where we have been and where we are now, we are more open to seeing the concrete evidence of God's presence in our life and world. We need the practice, otherwise we learn the hard way that **hope unbelieved is always considered nonsense. However, hope BELIEVED is an engine of change and the energy of transformation.** For Christians the resurrection is that door of hope. Jesus's entire ministry shows us that he will always bring life out of death. Death will never again have the last word. That's something we can count on.

In about a month we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We will stand on the faith of those who were given the news of the resurrection before us. And HOPE-fully, we let it change us forever, transforming us the bearers of hope and agents of change for others. Thank you for allowing me to walk with you on this journey.

Peace, Hope & Possibility,

Pastor Robyn

P.S. If you'd like to view the video, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "What do you practice?"



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

Council Highlights

- Plans for Lent and Holy Week are in the works
- Thirty nine surveys have been completed. Results will be shared soon.
- Synod is planning a virtual youth group to connect youth at different churches with each other and will soon offer a workshop for Council Presidents.
- The Synod Conference Assembly will be held on "Holy Humor Sunday", April 11.
- The current balance in the Chase General checking account is \$20,123.75 as of February 11, 2021.
- Actual Income for January 2021 was \$3,612.00; Actual Expenses were \$5,826.45. There was a Budget shortfall of \$2,214.45 in January.

Outreach report

The first Community Dinner in February went really well. Several trays of steaming hot casseroles were delivered to the Morro Bay Vet's Hall in time to be packaged and served to guests. Next is the Los Osos Community Dinner on March 25. We are still looking for volunteers to help with this dinner. If you're interested, contact Nancy Padilla, 760 521-1708 or Janet Lorenzo, 805 234-5089.

The Outreach Committee will resume meeting in March to talk about other ways to serve the community and our congregation. Please remember our food pantry when you do your grocery shopping. Hygiene items are also popular and much needed items to add to the food pantry.

A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great. Proverbs 18:16

Katie Brochtrup is Ready to Help



Are you looking for someone to chat with over email? If so my name is Katie and I'm willing to chat with you. Write me a note



and soon I will email you back.

Write to me at katiebrochtrup@gmail.com.

Hope to hear from you soon!



To mail a letter or your tithing check to Calvary, please do not use the street mailing address. Please use:

PO Box 386, Morro Bay, CA 93443

Thank you.

March Birthdays

Carly Muff 3/2
Robin Karas 3/4
Georgina Tway 3/4
Sophia Lorenzo 3/5
Alesio Lorenzo 3/6
Randy Schuldt 3/9
Jennifer Chrismen 3/13
Jacob Rocha 3/15



March Anniversaries

Garry & Alice Kolb - 3/10/1974
Gary & Eileen Orbaack - 3/11/1968
Mike & Janet Lorenzo - 3/26/1968



Remember in Prayer

- For the family of Nathan McLean (22 years old) killed in a single car crash on Sunday. (Feb.) Nathan and Aaron Brochtrup were friends since childhood.
- For James Hecker and his family. James is experiencing a lot of painful side effects from Cancer treatments. (James is Gary and Gail's brother in law.)
- Sherry Barker (member of Calvary who lives at Bayside care center). Sherry continues to have one serious health issue after another and is feeling overwhelmed by the isolation of COVID. She requests prayers and cards if you are so inclined. She is at nursing station #1, Room 26, Bed 3.
- For Baby Jack, a three week old micro preemie.
- Heidi Carney, cancer treatment
- Janelle Muff, cancer treatment
- Diane Williams, recovering from gallbladder surgery
- Nancy Padilla's family for the recent death of Uncle Rueben
- Elaine Grawe - loss of her daughter and mother
- Family of Ken Donohoo & Von Carney
- Mark Shuck (Gail Brochtrup's brother) on the one year anniversary of the death of his youngest son, Bryan.
- Brenda Ouwerkerk - aging parents
- Darel and Betty Sorenson
- Marcia Shep- Jennifer Kurrle's' grandmother, recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Mercedes Stevens- Katie Edson's elderly mother
- Iglesia - May their needs be met
- Covid 19 - May those who are infected heal, and may others follow the restrictions to stop the spread.

The New Serenity Prayer

By: Fr. James Martin, SJ

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God.
At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.

It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.

NOTE: WE'VE RECENTLY BEGUN OUR PRAYER PARTNERS EMAIL CHAIN.
IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE PRAYER REQUEST UPDATES, OR IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST,
PLEASE EMAIL PASTOR ROBYN AT REVROBYN@EARTHLINK.NET

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March Scripture Readings

March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
<p>Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22</p>	<p>Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21</p>	<p>Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33</p>	<p>Mark 11:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1--15:47 Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]</p>

March 2021

**Please remember in your prayers.*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *Carol Frasier Coffee Club 9:00 A.M. Top Dog	2	3 *Elaine Grawe Bible Study via Zoom 10:00 Soup Supper via Zoon 6:00	4	5 *Bruce & Cindy Haener	6
7 Worship service live- streamed on Facebook 10:00 and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Assistant: Joyce B.	8 *Victor Hansen	9	10 *Herb & Patti Harsch Bible Study via Zoom 10:00 Soup Supper via Zoon 6:00	11 Council Meeting Time TBA	12 *Joe & Debby Hoeflich Outreach Committee 1:00	13
14 Worship Service live- streamed on Facebook 10:00 and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Assistant: Cindy H.	15 *Bob & Sharron Jackman	16	17 *Gunther Junck Bible Study via Zoom 10:00 Soup Supper via Zoon 6:00	18	19 *Judy Kalin Coffee Club 9:00 Tidelands Park	20
21 Worship Service live- streamed on Facebook 10:00 and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Assistant: Nikki R.	22 *Robin Karas	23	24 *Alice Kolb Bible Study via Zoom 10:00 Soup Supper via Zoon 6:00	25	26 *Woody & Nancy Koppl	27
28 PALM SUNDAY Worship Service live- streamed on Facebook 10:00 and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Assistant: Brenda O.	29 *Jennifer Kurrle	30	31 *Jason & Stacey Lange	Maundy Thursday Service online.	Good Friday Service online.	



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
"Come Share Our Joy"

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



Facebook Live 10 a.m. & at www.morrobaylutherans.org

PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY OF THE PASSION MARCH 28TH

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST (service online)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND (service online)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH (possibly in person)

WITHOUT KNOWING OUR COUNTY'S COVID STATUS IN APRIL, WE CANNOT DEFINITELY ANNOUNCE AN IN-PERSON EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE.

Stay tuned please.



VIRTUAL SOUP SUPPERS & DEVOTIONS CONTINUE

March 3, 6 PM

March 10, 6 PM

March 17, 6 PM

March 24, 6 PM

**ZOOM Link and devotion handout can be
found on our website.**