



THE CALVARY CALLING

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay, California

March 2022

Dear folks of Calvary,

One thing I like about churches, Calvary included, is that GENERALLY they are places of peace and unity. Exceptions to that rule probably abound, and you can think of times and places that to prove it, but at their best, churches as a whole seek to rely on God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The fruits of this reliance are, among others, patience, kindness and love.

The purposes of news organizations, on the other hand, can be quite different. Especially organizations that cover the nation and the world. These folks, admirable as they might be, besides telling us about the admirable and the pertinent, also publicize the scandalous, the ridiculous, the frightening and the dangerous. Bravo. But the fruits of watching too much of this kind of TV news are often fear, mistrust, anger and indignation.

There is also a tendency among news people (and any people for that matter) to over-catastrophize events, both present and future. "The storm coming through will be a once-in-a-century event! "This election will affect our lives for the next generation!" "If you don't get involved in this political struggle, you'll be sorry!" "Those OTHER people (*think race, class, occupation, region, philosophy, temperament, language*) are THE WORST EVER!"

All of this doomsday thinking can put us on edge. And as I have learned from Mary, when we are tense all the time, our body continually produces a substance called cortisol. In short bursts, cortisol helps us to react quickly to danger. In drawn-out "bursts," cortisol leads to weight gain, fatigue, bone and muscle weakness, depression and more.

The very basic challenges of living our lives are many. And, frankly, they are enough, without adding more. Sure, we should be aware of what's happening in our world, our governments, our communities, our families. But we don't need to mainline the woes of the world.

My advice (borrowed from others): Ration your consumption of news. Seek to understand what's going on in the world, but don't let it consume you. Read the Bible and think on it. Watch shows that don't trigger your alarm bells every ten minutes. Yes, climate change is happening, and it will have great consequences. On the other hand, do what you can in the moment.

The sermon my home church pastor preached on the Sunday of my baptism was "Consider the Lilies of the Field." You probably know the reference. If not, read the sixth chapter of Matthew. Jesus is enjoining us not to worry about tomorrow, but to be content with the concerns for the day.

Once again, you can probably think of exceptions about the day-to-day approach. Some things require our attention over long periods. But, as much as we try to plan, we only can live in the moment. My college friend Shawn, a faithful Christian, a CFO for most of his professional life, who got an MBA from Harvard, told me this about retirement: "You can plan all you want, and you should, but life always throws you curves, and things never turn out exactly as you had planned."

I do feel that you, the people of Calvary Lutheran, are mostly living in the present. You are mostly doing the tasks that are before you, in faithful and loving ways. That is the best I could hope for you. Being "present to the present" allows us to evaluate what we're doing and to decide whether to hang on or let go. Being present makes us alert to the new ideas that the Holy Spirit might be bringing our way.

Peace is already with you.

Pastor Brian



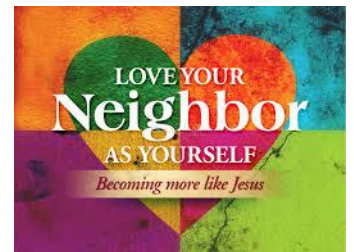
With gathering in person back in place at Calvary Lutheran, the church council is pleased to schedule in-person mid-week services during Lent. This is a revered tradition in many congregations, and helps us focus on the unique parts of this church season, namely introspection, prayer, modesty of habits, extra study of the Bible, simple worship, and for some, forgoing of some practices.

Ash Wednesday, March 2, will entail a service of confession, imposition of ashes and communion, starting at 5:30 pm.

On Wednesdays, March 9 through April 6, there will be a soup supper in the fellowship hall at 5:30 pm, followed by a simple service in the sanctuary. All Wednesday events will be starting at 5:30 pm and will take place in the fellowship hall and the sanctuary.

This year's Lenten Project

As a part of Calvary's outreach, and as a nod to our current study of the disciples, the church council has approved the placement of twelve empty boxes in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, one for each disciple. They will be filled over Lent with items to be delivered to the people at Iglesia Santa Cruz in Santa Maria.



You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items, especially rice, dried beans and masa (corn flour), as well as hygiene items for adults. You can buy large batches of some of the food (such as is available at Costco, for instance) and they will be broken down to smaller amounts at their church.

Lent is a traditional time to consider the blessings we have received through God's providence, and to consider how we may in turn bless others. If you have any questions, you may contact Nancy Padilla at 760-521-1708.

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Offering Envelopes - Don't Forget Yours



Offering Envelopes are now available in the Narthex. An envelope is included in the box that asks for a \$3 donation, however, the actual cost is \$5.30. If you can make a donation to cover the actual cost it would be appreciated. Please remember to pick up your envelopes next time we are back in church in-person. Thank you!

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Treasurer's Report as of January 2022

Income - \$6,715.30; Expenses - \$7,422.78. Income at the end of January was at 79.7% of our 2022 budget for the 1 month ended January 31, 2022. Expenses were at 93.0% of our 2022 budget for the same period.



Council Highlights-What Happened at the Last Meeting?

Pastor Brian suggested that, because the Covid numbers have steadily decreased, and the mask mandate will be dropped as of February 16 it would be good to open for in-person worship on February 20. Council voted to return to in-person worship as of February 20 while continuing with masks and social distancing for at least the next couple weeks.



Pastor is offering a class on Lutheranism. The class would last approximately four weeks.

There are fifteen participants viewing "The Chosen" series and attending the discussion group. The discussion segment is recorded.. Pastor Brian will send out the link to the recording.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. The group voted to resume our traditional soup suppers during Lent starting on Wednesday, March 9. Soup suppers will start at 5:30 and include a short worship service after, ending by 7:00.



Outreach Committee

Calvary Outreach Committee continues to brainstorm on ways to help our sister church, Iglesia in Santa Maria and fill our food pantry.

Plans are underway for Lenten and Easter celebrations.

Community Dinners - The Los Osos and Morro Bay Community Dinners continue to be a success. There are so many wonderful volunteer cooks helping out. There is always a need to help with serving as well at the Los Osos Dinner, and after Covid dies down servers will be needed at the Morro Bay dinners as well.

Musician's Corner

I want to share with you some great news. Pastor Brian and I are working on some new Liturgies for April. Up until now we have been using Setting 3 which is familiar to all of us. We used it all during Pastor Bergs time with us. We have also been using Setting 10 which is familiar to us. By April we will be learning setting 6 which has a jazzy feeling and setting 7 which has a Spanish feel. If you have any questions about these settings please let me know. I will be glad to schedule practice sessions if you wish.

Blessings, Ina

Meet Our Intern, Laura Salazar

Pastor Brian, members of the Executive Committee and Jim Luke (thank you Jim for accepting the role of internship committee representative from Calvary) were introduced formally to **Laura Salazar, who is about to become an intern deacon of our conference.** Her term of internship will run March through the end of October this year. This internship will fulfill one of the requirements for her being ordained as a deacon after she receives a call. She has been studying at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (where I worked for almost fifteen years). Deacons are Ministers of Word and Service, and they are intended to be connections between congregations and outside communities. Their motto is "Engaging the World."

Intern Salazar will be devoting the major part of her time to community organizing, with the rest in evangelism, preaching, and liturgies. Community organizing, in this case being faith-based, is predicated on a five-step process of: 1) interviewing persons and understanding what they see as significant issues in the community; 2) Clarifying goals; 3) Developing strategies for action; 4) Carrying out a Campaign; and 5) Evaluation and Reassessment. Intern Salazar's internship will involve one round of these steps, and will involve all congregations in the conference. **Yes, we would expect her to be in Calvary's pulpit before long!**

The Chosen Series

You've heard about it, you've formed an opinion about it, you've come, you're close to coming! All these reactions might be true for you about our Sunday evening discussion class on The Chosen TV series.

We have about a dozen folks from Calvary and around who have become regular attendees, which is appropriate because Jesus chose twelve main disciples to follow him and later to talk about him. But, there were more than twelve people who traveled with Jesus and became apostles. Which is all to say that we will welcome newcomers to this invigorating conversation about a provocative and, at many points, beautiful depiction of Jesus' ministry with people.

March 6th will mark the fifth meeting of sixteen planned. The time is 7:00 to 8:00 pm each Sunday, and it takes place on Zoom. If you want to join, I recommend that you watch the first five episodes of the program before you come on the 6th. And by all means, let me know your interest, so that I can include you in the Zoom invites.

Pastor Brian

Scriptures for March 2022

March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17--4:1 Luke 13:31-35	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

On Sunday, February 20 we celebrated a special birthday for our Council Co-President Joyce Bauer. Joyce is also on the Outreach Committee and is the person responsible for Altar Guild.

Happy birthday Joyce, and many happy returns!



Dill Chicken Soup

- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 1 small onion chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/cup uncooked pasta
- 1 1/2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups frozen peas
- 10 cups baby spinach
- 1 TBSP dill weed
- 2 TBSP lemon juice

A tasty, easy recipe for Soup Suppers!

Throw it all in a pot and simmer until pasta is tender!

Community

Lenten SOUP Suppers

Come and enjoy a cup or a bowl of yummy homemade soup at 5:30 on each Wednesday during Lent, starting on March 9 through April 6! There will be a brief service after the soup. It's a great time to enjoy fellowship, dinner and maybe a little dessert. Look for a sign-up sheet in the "We Are The Church" binder and start planning your soup!

Thank You Valentine!

Calvary received a very special Valentine from Daisy Troup 45127. This Daisy group of young girls (led by Angelina Rice (McKee) wanted to thank us for allowing them to use our patio and office building for their monthly Daisy meetings. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!



March Anniversaries

Gary & Eileen Orback - March 11, 1968

Mike & Janet Lorenzo - March 26, 1986



Happy Birthday!

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

Iglesia

At the end of every month, this dedicated team (pictured left to right, Sandy McMillan, Nancy Padilla and Cindy Haener) delivers all the good things generous Calvary folks have donated to Iglesia. Pastor Esteban Salazar (pictured far right) gratefully receives these items and is always welcoming, gracious and thankful!



Calvary continues to support Iglesia by collecting food and other needed items. They are currently **in urgent need of dry beans, rice, Maseca, all purpose flour, small pasta, cooking oil, and hygiene products.** If you cannot deliver your donation to the church on Sunday, you can call Nancy Padilla, 760 521-1708, or, Janet Lorenzo, 805 234-5089 to arrange for pick up.

Calling All Prayer Partners

The **listing of people needing prayers** that shows up in the *Prayers of the People* in worship is kept as current as possible. Additionally, Calvary has a team of dedicated "prayer partners" who pray regularly for our needs. If you have needs to add to that list, you may contact Gail Brochtrup (ggbrochtrup@gmail.com) or Janet Lorenzo (lorenzo.janet1@gmail.com) And if you have answers to prayer from that list, or update to existing concerns, please share those also with Gail or Janet.

Remember in Prayer

Obituary - Grace Poletti



Morro Bay has lost a sweet, generous, caring individual.

Grace Poletti was a lifelong local, raised on a ranch in Cayucos. After several years of illness, Grace passed peacefully on January 21 at the age of 96. Grace was a faithful member of St. Timothy's, and she was a friend of Calvary through her association with Jim Berg and the Morro Bay Police Dept. Grace served for many years as the unofficial "grandma" of the Police Explorers. She knew each Explorer girl and boy, including Ashlee Dyson and Aaron Brochtrup. Grace was honored numerous times for her volunteer work in the community. No matter how busy Grace was she always made time to decorate her house for every holiday inside and out. She took great pride in her home and always welcomed family, friends and neighbors who came to visit. "Grandma Grace" as she was commonly known to many was happy to claim all that she knew as hers. She was quick to spoil and always had one or two dollar bills to hand out. Grace is survived by her grandson Joey Pettit and his family, several great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Grace was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, William in 2001 and their only child Shirley Pettit in 1988. Grace will be missed!

- Linda Luke- recovering from brain surgery - doing well
- Pastor Jim Berg- home from hospital, on oxygen while recovering from blood clots
- Edith Tway- numerous medical problems
- Georgina Tway- attending in-person classes at San Francisco State
- Becky Padilla- cervical cancer
- Judy Larson- Pastor Brian's friend recovering from a brain bleed
- Marcia Shep- Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- Ina's friend Lia- recovering from a broken back
- James Hecker- brother-in-law of Gary and Gail B- awaiting bladder replacement surgery
- Jim Nelson- friend of Pastor Brian, recovering from heart attack
- Mikey Vedrin, grandson of Pastor Robyn
- Christopher Buckles, Kate Anderson's son
- Sharron Jackman-recovering from abdominal surgery
- Angelina McKee Rice- gave birth to her third child- Henry- 9 lb.14 oz!
- Katie Brochtrup- awaiting tests and treatment for issues regarding Cerebral Palsy
- Marcia and Rick Walt- friends of Cindy Haener, they have health problems and challenges finding a new place to live
- Heidi Carney
- Janelle Muff
- Elaine Grawe
- Darel and Betty Sorenson
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother
- Sherry Barker at Bayside Care Center
- Iglesia - May their needs be met
- Regarding Covid 19 - Thanks that rates are declining, may we all continue to follow the mitigation guidelines
- May we be safe from new variants

Pastor David Ryal has shared with us some upcoming local events:

Grief Share is a free weekly support group starting on Monday, February 28 at 6:00 pm at Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship in Morro Bay. For more information, contact randy@rockharborcf.com or 805-772-7365.

On March 6, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, the County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department will present a **Suicide Prevention Seminary: A Community Based Approach**. That event will also take place at Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship, 1475 Quintana Rd, Morro Bay and will feature a presentation by Dr. Victor Silva-Palacios. That event is also free.

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*Please remember in your prayers.</p>		1	<p>2 *Herb & Patti Harsch</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Service 5:30</p>		<p>4 *Nancy & Woody Koppl</p>	5
<p>6 Worship service With Holy Communion 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Nikki R. "The Chosen" via Zoom 7:00 -8:00 PM</p>	<p>7 *Jennifer Kurrle Coffee Club 9:00 Top Dog</p>	<p>8 Finance Committee via Zoom 5:00</p>	<p>9 *Jason & Stacey Lange Bible Study 10:00 Soup Supper 5:30</p>	<p>10 Council Meeting Via Zoom 5:00</p>	<p>11 Mike & Janet Lorenzo</p>	12
<p>13 Worship service 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Nikki R. "The Chosen" via Zoom 7:00 -8:00 PM</p>	<p>14 *Jeff & Kea McKee Morro Bay Community Dinner 3:45</p>	15	<p>16 *Sandy McMillan Bible Study 10:00 Outreach Committee 1:45 Soup Supper 5:30</p>	<p>17</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>18 *Tyler Mitchell Coffee Club 9:00 La Parisienne</p>	19
<p>20 Worship service With Holy Communion 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Katie E. "The Chosen" via Zoom 7:00 -8:00 PM</p>	<p>21 *David & Janelle Muff</p>	22	<p>23 *Gary & Eileen Orback Soup Supper 5:30 Bible Study 10:00</p>	24	<p>25 *Mark Orback</p>	26
<p>27 Worship service 10:00 live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org Lay Assistant: Jim L. "The Chosen" via Zoom 7:00 -8:00 PM</p>	<p>28 *Brenda Ouwerkerk</p>	29	<p>30 *Nancy Padilla Soup Supper 5:30 Bible Study 10:00</p>	<p>31 Los Osos Community Dinner 5:00</p>		

