



THE CALVARY CALLING

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay, California

August 2022

Greetings, Calvary folks and friends,

There is a phrase used by some Christians a lot, which is, "Be in the world, but not of the world." It is derived from the words of Jesus in his last long talk with the disciples in the gospel of John. He is telling them that the world hated him (wanted to kill him) and so the world would also hate THEM. And that Jesus was praying for them in those circumstances. But Jesus was not praying that they would leave the world. Therefore, Christian disciples repeat those words about being "in the world but not of the world."

The question that might come up immediately is, What does Jesus mean by the "world"? The Greek word behind "world" is **cosmos**, which also means something in English. To most of us, it means the universe, all that there is. To Jesus -- who by the way was speaking in Aramaic, not Greek, but that's all we have -- **cosmos** could have meant several additional things. It can mean the world order, or the inhabitants of the world, or existence, or, and this might be most important, a **way of life**.

It's important to remember that when God created the world, God called it **good**. And when God created humankind, God said, Oh, that's **very good**. So in many ways, it is a joy and a privilege and an outright gift for us to be living in the world, with all of its beauty and peace and power and surprises.

Mary and I are reading one of Madeline L'Engle's fiction books called Many Waters, which is about Noah and his family and the flood. It involves time travel by some twin teenagers. What they find in Noah and Matred's oasis (Matred is Noah's wife) is a community that is largely depraved. People and **nephilim** (giants) are scheming, lying, power-hungry, neglectful of their environment, dangerous. You know the story. Sending a flood seemed not to be such a bad idea.

Today, we are witness to our own share of lying and thieving and character assassination, of bad temper and irritability and meanness. All this is part of what Jesus meant by "the world." That which hates the goodness in which they were created.

Now I understand that any trait of the aforementioned list might at one time find its home in any one of us. And that it is Jesus who eventually becomes the one through whom all things are made new, and it is not our role to save ourselves.

But here is the point to which I'm driving. God does not desire for us to leave the created world, or to ignore it, OR condemn it. But we must know that in the midst of all the things that might make us despair, God is present. Though there is much to discourage us -- just check into the news -- we have an anchor that gives us the space for joy and love and compassion and care.

Calvary Lutheran Church is just one of such communities that can be a breath of life and a show of light in our community. Not because we are so holy, or so set apart, but because we can live in peace and contentment, and of course, joy, love, compassion and care.

We don't retreat, but with the power of Christ, we engage in pain and hurt and resentment and partner with God to help heal it.

That's an exciting task and assignment. Let's be in the world, for God's sake.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Brian



Church Business



Council Highlights



1. The first Men's Group went really well with six men attending. There were some reunions, and a great time was had by all. Most are looking forward to the next one.

2. Pastor reminded us to let him know if there is something we would like for him to send out via his email blast by Friday mornings.

3. Meals were delivered to Elaine Grawe. She is doing well and enjoying some outside time as she recovers.

4. Pastor is pleased that attendance is steady and not decreasing! Covid cases are going down, but could go back up again at any time. We will keep asking people to mask up for now.

\$ Treasurer's Report For June, 2022 \$

June 2022 income was \$11,362.00 and expenses were \$6,607.37. Income at the end of June was 116.41% of the 2022 Budget for the six (6) months ending 06.30.2022. Expenses were at 113.53% of the 2022 Budget for the same period.

Outreach Committee

Due to the increase in Covid cases, the brunch that was scheduled for July 31 will be postponed until we can safely gather and serve food inside.



Trina & Mike, neighbors of Calvary, would like to help keep the library/pantry full by giving a check each month so that whatever food items are needed can be purchased. Sandy M. will let Janet L. or Nancy P. know when the check arrives, and the Outreach Committee will purchase food.

There are Thrivent funds still available. The Outreach Committee decided to split the funds between Iglesia and Prado Homeless Shelter and buy new underwear and socks for everyone!

Call Committee Update

Synod has advanced the name of a potential part time pastor who is interested in speaking to the Call Committee about specifics such as housing and finances. This conversation is likely to occur sometime in August. Meanwhile, Council and the Finance Committee will be taking a very close look at our finances with the goal of determining if we are in fact ready to look for a settled pastor at this point. Another option would be to carry on with a Bridge Pastor until such time as our finances are stronger.



Rummage Sale - October 1st

Calvary is gearing up for yet another Rummage Sale on Saturday Oct. 1. Yes, it is a lot of work, but also a good opportunity for fellowship, not to mention the financial benefits. (We made a lot of money from our last Rummage Sale!) So, start looking through your garages and closets and put aside items that you no longer need. We

have some storage for smaller items. Contact Gail or Janet, or simply bring your donations on Sundays. Let's make this sale another Calvary success! Proceeds will go to the Furnace Fund.

Second Stained Glass Window

Our second stained-glass window is done and has been installed, and it is stunning! Many thanks to Ken Foran, Richard Williams' son-in-law for this beautiful addition to our narthex.



The Cranes Have Moved on From the Narthex

Many of us have enjoyed the huge flock of cranes hanging in the Narthex for about 3 decades. To make visual room for our new and lovely stained glass windows, they have been relocated. The years have not been kind to these little guys. They are in need of dusting and re-stringing. If you are crafty and can think of a way to repurpose them, please let one of your council members know!



Thriving Leadership Formation Program

Might you be interested in being part of a regional online group that would help Calvary Lutheran folks to conceive of and design specific ministries for our community? The leaders of this program from California Lutheran University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary are looking right now for eager participants.

I, Pastor Brian, believe that there are some of you who would benefit both your own walk with Jesus and the congregation's ministries in our neighborhood by taking part in the program.

You would attend twelve weekly sessions online, and be part of a cohort that practices mutual support, spiritual practices, mentoring and coaching. As the materials say, you will be leaning toward relational, creative, Spirit-led and compassionate forms of possible ministry in the Morro Bay Area.

If this excites your interest, please speak right away with me. You may email me at bsteinwebber@gmail.com!

Sunday Night Zoom Gatherings

A few weeks ago, the Sunday night Zoom gathering finished with the available episodes of *The Chosen*. The group is very excited that Season 3 will be available some time in November.

In the meantime, we have greatly enjoyed gathering for an hour on Sunday evening and talking about matters of faith and life. So we are continuing these conversations under a slightly different umbrella. Instead of talking about the weekly episodes, we are having a more wide-ranging discussion about our experiences during the last week when God showed up in our lives.

Yes, that sounds a little woo-woo. But once we have gotten started, we realize that God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit are alive in our days and are essentially speaking to us, or at least showing us signs. We are finding that once we become open to the idea of God being active in our lives, we notice more!

The point of this article is that this is NOT a closed group. There is no INSIDENESS to it. It is a welcoming, open group that welcomes anyone who wishes to join in on the back and forth conversation.

So if you would like to join in, please talk with me (Pastor Brian) personally or email me at bsteinwebber@gmail.com. Then you will receive the Zoom invitation each Sunday to participate. I hope you are intrigued!

Scriptures for August 2022

August 7

Genesis 15:1-6
 Psalm 33:12-22
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
 Luke 12:32-40

August 14

Jeremiah 23:23-29
 Psalm 82
 Hebrews 11:29--12:2
 Luke 12:49-56

August 21

Isaiah 58:9b-14
 Psalm 103:1-8
 Hebrews 12:18-29
 Luke 13:10-17

August 28

Proverbs 25:6-7
 Psalm 112
 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Luke 14:1, 7-14



August Anniversaries

Sorensen, Darel & Betty	8/19/1941
Mendoza, Nick & Becky	8/18/1984
Stein-Webber, Brian & Mary	8/20/1978
Lange, Stacey & Jason	8/25/2007

Happy Birthday!

Mollie Lange	8/3	David Muff	8/21
Nancy Padilla	8/4	Brian Stein-Webber	8/21
Ronnie Smith	8/4	Nalani Jacoby	8//21
August Muff	8/10	Kevin Rocha	8/22
Betty Sorensen	8/19	Jeff McKee	8/29

Remember in Prayer

- Denise Kenealy and her husband Mike, son and daughter-in-law of Robin Karas. Denise is dealing with suddenly accelerating auto-immune disease.
- Linda Luke- completed chemotherapy
- Rebecca Aparicio, Nancy Padilla's mother-in-law- recovering from a stroke
- Edith Tway- recovering from home, at last
- George Tway- supporting Edith
- Becky Padilla- dealing with cervical cancer
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- Lia, Ina Davenport's friend- recovering well from a broken back
- James Hecker- recovering from a complicated bladder replacement surgery
- Tim Stein, Pastor Mary's brother- living under hospice care
- Marcia and Rick Walt, friends of Cindy Haener
- Heidi Carney
- Janelle Muff, for continuing good health
- Elaine Grawe, recovering from brain surgery
- Darel and Betty Sorenson, as Betty remains in nursing care
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- ministering boldly in Santa Maria, and for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting the new COVID-19 omicron variants, and that we might continue to observe mitigation guidelines
- For the people of Ukraine, for strength, healing, protection, and changes of heart
- Christopher Buckles, Kate Anderson's son
- Katie Brochtrup-adjusting well to her baclofen pump

August 2022

***Please remember in your prayers.**

Worship services are live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *George & Edith Tway Coffee Club 9:00 Top Dog, MB	2	3 *Georgina Tway Bible Study 10:00	4	5 *Toni Tway	6 Worship Planning Committee 1:30
7 Worship Service 10:00 Lay Assistant: Nikki R. "How God is Showing up in Our Lives" via Zoom 7:00 -8:00 PM	8 *Diane Williams Morro Bay Community Dinner 3:45	9 Finance Committee via Zoom 5:00	10 *Richard Williams Bible Study 10:00	11 Council Meeting 2:00	12 *Kate Anderson	13
14 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Cindy H. "How God is Showing up in Our Lives" via Zoom 7:00 -8:00 PM	15 *Joyce & Tom Bauer	16	17 *Gary & Gail Brochtrup Bible Study 10:00 Outreach Committee 1:45	18	19 *Ken Brocks Coffee Club 9:00 Nautical Bean, Los Osos	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 Lay Assist: Joyce B. "How God is Showing up in Our Lives" via Zoom 7:00 -8:00 PM	22 *Heidi Carney	23	24 *Bob Clemensson Bible Study 10:00	26	26 *David Cooper	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 Lay Assistant: Joyce B. "How God is Showing up in Our Lives" via Zoom 7:00 -8:00 PM	29 *Myles & Joanna Crebs	30	31 *Ina Davenport Bible Study 10:00			