



THE CALVARY CALLING

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay, California

January 2023

Dear Calvary friends,

I recently wrote my contribution for the annual report. It was a compendium, from my perspective, of the activities, issues, new programs and celebrations of 2022 for this congregation. There was a lot to write about!

So I will not be saying much in this space this month. Instead, go the Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 8th, which will take place directly after the worship service. At that meeting, you will vote on the new Church Council and the budget for 2023. I give my recommendations for both. But you should see for yourselves.

I have been to a bunch of congregational meetings in my lifetime, and they are usually interesting and productive. In times of internal conflict, they can be trying. But it is still important for the main governance of a congregation be grounded in assent by its members.

That said, some of you who are active at Calvary are not officially members. Becoming members is usually done as a part of worship. Ask me if you want to do that. But member or not, you should feel comfortable in coming to a congregation-wide meeting. Even if you can't vote, you can still make a difference.

I was just looking over the Sunday attendance of worship services here. I was pleased that, even though we pretty much began the year under COVID quarantine and mandatory masking, the final average worship attendance for the whole year was 33. That's good. And there about 50 total people who have a habit of coming to worship. And then, perhaps a couple dozen more people who belong to Calvary but aren't able, or have perhaps temporarily stopped coming, many of whom view the services on Facebook.

Speaking of Facebook, the number of views seems to average about 40 per Sunday. That may be duplicative, but still, about as many people who come to worship watch it online. That's good!

It feels good to be co-leading this congregation, where people's faith is alive, and curiosity as well.

Peace and good will in the new year,
Pastor Brian



The **Annual Meeting** will take place on **Sunday, January 8**. This year there are no bylaws changes or other major votes, however we will be voting on the 2023 budget as well as ratifying the slate of council members. Please plan to join us that day.

News From Pastor Brian

The Chosen Discussion Group

Once more, I will recommend that you watch this compelling and "farthing" program. And if you're inclined, to join a group of us on Zoom to discuss individual episodes. On January 8th, we will take up with Episode 3 of Season 3. We have already covered the Sermon on the Plain and the disciples going to various places for a rest, and then the sending out of the now "apostles" around the countryside, to do signs and wonders in Jesus' name. They haven't returned from those missionary journeys yet. And on the 8th, we will speak of Jesus' visit back to Nazareth, and the people's rejection of him as the Son of God. It's very emotional. If you want to join us, talk with me, Pastor Brian, or email me at bsteinwebber@gmail.com.

Men's Group

We are continuing gathering men of the congregation and beyond for discussion and uplifting conversation. Meetings are on first Mondays of the month, 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the home of the Stein-Webbers, 1302 17th St. in Los Osos. For January, since the 2nd is a holiday, we will meet on January 9th. You can attend unannounced, or else let Pastor Brian you plan to come. No fees, no obligations!

Worship Planning Workshop

Interested persons are gathering about every six weeks to plan liturgy and hymns for Sunday mornings. The next such meeting is Saturday, January 7, 9:00 to 10:00 am in the sanctuary. There is always room for more. If you want to join this group, it would be good to let Pastor Brian know of your plans. There are no requirements to come other than an interest in our worship services!

Council Highlights

We have received a total of \$11,079.09 in donations and yard sale proceeds toward the heater replacement. Balance left to raise is \$385.91.

The lights in the Fellowship Hall Lighting in the Fellowship hall has been upgraded to LED bulbs. Total cost was \$1,030.18 less \$600.00 donated by Alice Kolb to pay for the labor. Net cost for Calvary = \$430.18.

The Council is still working on getting bids for cleaning the tile floors and washing the high windows.

Annual Report is due and will be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 8.

\$ Treasurer's Report \$

As of November 30, 2022 - Income - \$12,623.00. Expenses - \$8,317.11. Income was at 122.10% of the 2022 Budget for the eleven (11) months ending 11/30/2022. Expenses were at 104.10% of the 2022 Budget for the same period.

Outreach Committee

The gifts for 17 Iglesia children along with 30 stuffed Christmas stockings and \$250 in gift cards were delivered on Tuesday, 12/20. There were 700 Iglesia children needing gifts this year. (See photo in the "Christmas at Calvary 2022" article on page 4.)

The monthly brunches will start up again on the last Sunday of each month. At the brunch, everyone who had a birthday in that month will be celebrated. (See article on page 3)

Stay tuned for more information on reinstating our Prayer Pal Program. (See article on page 3.)

Scriptures for January 2023

January 1

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-8
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To:

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Kate Anderson | 1/9 |
| Jennifer Kurrle | 1/12 |
| Nancy Koppl | 1/18 |
| Nikki Rocha | 1/19 |
| Gunther Junck | 1/24 |

DID YOU KNOW...

Calvary celebrates "milestone" birthdays and anniversaries? We define a milestone birthday as a 75th birthday and then every 5 years after. Milestone wedding anniversaries are celebrated starting with 50 years, and every 5 years after. In December we celebrated milestone birthdays for Ina Davenport and Ken Brocks

Happy Anniversary to:

Woody & Nancy Koppl -1/31/87



Speaking of BIRTHDAYS, long-time members Nick and Becky Mendoza are proud new grandparents. Their oldest son, Chase, and his wife Maya, have a new son! His name is Luca Anthony Mancuso Mendoza. Luca was born on Dec. 15. He weighed 7 lb. 1 oz. and measured 9 inches long. Baby and new parents are doing well.



Sunday Brunch

Brunches Are Back! Plan to come and be treated to a brunch - THATS RIGHT! Be treated - you don't have to do a thing but show up! Your creative and energetic Outreach Committee members and helpers will treat everyone to a delicious meal after the service on the last Sunday of each month. Also, everyone who has a birthday in that month will be celebrated with a special dessert. We can't wait to treat you!

Would You Like To Be A Prayer Pal? Calvary's Prayer Pal Program pairs each child with an adult. Both are encouraged to get to know each other and pray for each other. Prayer Pals celebrate special days together during the Fellowship Hour, (Valentine's Day, Christmas, etc.) It's a fun and rewarding way to get to know and include our youth in activities as well as teaching them the value and power of prayer! If you would like to have a prayer pal, contact Janet Lorenzo, lorenzo.janet1@gmail.com, or any Outreach Committee member.



Christmas at Calvary 2022

We Love Our Neighbors - Even Neighbors far, far away!

In December, a \$250 Thrivent Gift Card made it possible for the Sunday School children to select these animals from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. The animals will be distributed to needy families around the world, along with education about how to best help the animals thrive, so that the families will thrive. Thank you Thrivent, and thank you children for your excellent and thoughtful choices.

\$15-Rooster(Ellie)
\$60- goat and chicks (Olivia)
\$50- goat (Melina)
\$30-piglet (Nalani)
\$30-piglet (Bella)
\$50- share of fish farm(Charlie)
\$10- chicks (Nalani and Bella)
\$5- To be used where there is the greatest need.



Angel Tree

A big THANK YOU to for all who participated in Angel Tree for Iglesia Santa Cruz. There were presents for 17 children, filled Christmas socks for "our" 17 kids, and 13 unfilled socks for Iglesia to fill (with treats from Calvary and other churches), and gift cards (grocery store and Visa cards). Thank you for all your help and support! Nancy Padilla, Sandy McMillan and Katie Edson

The Little Star

Calvary Children's Christmas Program

Calvary children, with the help of a couple adults entertained the congregation on Sunday, December 12 with a Christmas story starring, you guessed it! A big star and a little star, with many other characters to help tell the story of that long ago Christmas. Nancy Koppl did a wonderful job of directing and prompting, and the children were amazing and very convincing in their roles. I think it was pretty evident that the adults enjoyed themselves as much as the children.



January 2023

***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 New Year's Day Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Joyce B. | 2 *David Schaffer | 3 *Randy & Carol Schuldt Coffee Club 9:00 Hungry Fisherman | 4 *Ronnie Smith Bible Study 10:00 | 5 *Darel & Betty Sorensen | 6 *Dan Kathie Sperow Epiphany Service 5:30 | 7 Worship Planning 9:00 Un-decorating 10:00 |
| 8 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Nikki R. Annual Meeting 11:00 Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM | 9 *Pastor Brian and Mary Stein-Webber Men's Group 1:00 | 10 *George Tway Finance Committee 5:00 | 11 *Toni Tway Bible Study 10:00 | 12 *Georgie Tway Council Meeting 5:00 | 13 *Richard Williams | 14 |
| 15 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Cindy H. Guest Preacher Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM | 16 *Diane Williams Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 17 *Kate Anderson | 18 *Tom & Joyce Bauer Bible Study 10:00 Outreach Committee 1:45 | 19 *Gary & Gail Brochtrup | 20 *Katie Brochtrup Coffee Club 9:00 LaParisienne | 21 |
| 22 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Brenda O. Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM | 23 *Ken Brocks | 24 *Heidi Carney | 25 *Bob Clemensson Bible Study 10:00 Los Osos Community Dinner 4:00 | 26 *David Cooper Iglesia Delivery | 27 *Miles & Joanna Crebs | 28 |
| 29 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Lay Assistant: Katie E. Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM Brunch 11:00 | 30 *Ina Davenport | 31 *Valerie Donohoo | | | | |