



THE CALVARY CALLING

Dear Calvary folks,

Happy new year to you all! Well, you might think that I'm jumping the gun, because that greeting might more properly given in the next month's newsletter. But you know I'm not too demented, and you've probably already figured out that I am not referring to the calendar year, but to the church year. We just worshipped in the last Sunday of the CHURCH year, and as I am writing this, we are preparing for the first Sunday of the next church year, the First Sunday in Advent.

When I announced this change in worship on Sunday, there was some whooping going on! Which says to me that you are excited for a change from the long season of Pentecost, which follows the formation of the disciples, and by extension, the formation of the church of Jesus.

And who can argue with the Advent deep blue paraments? (My computer just autocorrected that last word to "parakeets".) And the anticipatory green and red and white of Christmas. All of our seasonal memories are awakened, and even though the days continue to get shorter and the nights longer, our spirits rise up within us. We join with heart and soul into the current theme of waiting and anticipation. The young people can't believe that it is "that time of year" again!

And that's why it is a "happy" Happy New Year, because this is our chance at getting born again in faith and life.

In my earlier interfaith work, a Jewish rabbi asked me and a ministerial group what we thought was the most important festival of the Jewish year. We answered Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and Rosh Hoshana (New Year) and Pesach (Passover). No, said the rabbi, though each of those is very important.

No, he said, the most important festival is Shabbat (Sabbath), the weekly congregational encounter with the Divine. (Oh, he added, if only as many people came to Shabbat worship as came to the High Holy-days!)

Let me tell you that I am very much looking forward to lighting the Advent candles and waiting with bated breath for the 24th and 25th of December, and worshipping with carols and candles and the warmth of family on Christmas Eve and the quietness of the world on December 25th.

AND, I still get LOTS of energy from meeting on regular Sunday mornings with you all, with you who are dear friends already, and always expecting someone new to surprise us with grace. I find joy in sharing your lives, and marking important milestones, and sharing in the Lord's Supper together, and laughing and crying together. What an honor it all is.

So, when the time comes, I look forward to saying Merry Christmas to All! and Happy New Year! And then I anticipate settling down again into the blessed rhythm of daily and weekly blessings from belonging to the communion of saints.

May your December be filled with light!

Pastor Brian



parking lot construction has been rescheduled to January. Stay tuned!

Scriptures for December

December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38	Isaiah 61:10--62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40



Actual **receipts** for October were \$10,485.44 and **actual** expenses were \$10,021.81 for a positive balance of \$463.83. Total in the checking account is \$54,185.24.

-- We have re-instituted participation in **three music licensing programs**, by which we are able to direct support to the musicians who have written music that we use in streaming and reproduction for our worship services.

-- The **new worship streaming system** is in place and showing forth beautiful new video for those who wish or need to watch worship services online. I have noticed that the piano is not connected to a

microphone so is pretty quiet on the recording, but I think we can remedy that problem pretty easily. Thanks to ALL those who participated in putting the system together, especially Janet Lorenzo, Pastor Mary Stein-Webber, Mike Lorenzo, Ken Brocks and volunteer helper Marshall Funk-Pihl from Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church in San Luis Obispo.

-- The repairs to the **west sanctuary windows** have been completed.

-- Average **worship attendance** for October was 38, compared with 31 last year.

-- It is being proposed that a **new paid church position of Office Manager and Bookkeeper**, which will cover all of the tasks that have been done on a volunteer basis by current Church Treasurer, Sandy McMillan will be added to the proposed 2024 budget. Sandy has expressed her interest in filling that position, as she is stepping down from her elected position.

-- The **Children's Christmas Program**, led by Nikki Rocha, will take place during worship on Sunday, December 10th.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2023: Receipts: \$10,485.44; Expenditures: \$10,021.61. Receipts were at 122.29% of the 2023 Budget for the ten months ended 10.31.2023. Expenditures were 94.54% of the Budget for the same period.

December

it truly is the most wonderful
time of the year!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 5:30

Christmas Day Worship Service – 10:00



Iglesia Angel Tree, Christmas 2023



Thank you to all who have “adopted” a child from Iglesia. Generous Calvary givers are making Christmas happen for 18 children this year! Christmas gifts need to be at Calvary by **December 17**. Please remember to place your gifts together in a box or large bag clearly labeled with your child’s name and number. If you are donating items to fill the Christmas stockings (made lovingly by Cindy Haener and Brenda Ouwerkerk), please have those items at the church by **December 10**.

Thank you for MAKING **CHRISTMAS HAPPEN** for Iglesia children this year!

Heartfelt Thank You from Brenda Ouwerkerk

On behalf of my family, I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to everyone that made my mom, Edith West’s memorial service on November 4th so meaningful and joyful.

To everyone who helped set up and clean up, you are all amazing. To all the fabulous, creative cookie bakers, thank you. It was a beautiful spread and the only thing missing was 10 gallons of cold milk!

I would especially like to thank Cindy Haener for being my right and left hands when things got a little overwhelming for me. And, most of all, with gratitude and much appreciation, thank you to Pastor Brian for doing double duty, as piano player extraordinaire and as the warm and loving leader of Calvary. He even added a surprise, special song, just for me! I am so blessed to have my Calvary family. I love you all.

Who Doesn't Love a Live Performance?!

Join us on **Sunday, December 10** for a live performance by our very own Sunday School children! The program will take place during the service. Many thanks to Nikki Rocha and Nancy Koppl for their creativity (and patience?!) again this year, and to our Sunday School children who bravely participate in this well-loved annual program, and their families who support them!



AND...



Christmas Potluck

Who Doesn't Love a Potluck?!

You're in luck! Our annual Christmas Potluck will be on Sunday, **December 17** after the service. Bring a hot dish, or a cold dish, or even if you don't bring ANY dish, we will make a wish that you will join us anyway as there is always plenty of food, and it wouldn't be the same without you!

Speaking of Food...

There are many in our community that could use some extra help this holiday season providing food for their families – please remember our neighborhood pantry and our friends at Iglesia as you're doing your holiday shopping this year. If we all do a little, it goes a long, long way for those who are not blessed with the means to buy food.



Remember in Prayer

- Katie Edson and family who lost her mother on November 28
- Wyatt Owen – 1 month old great nephew of Katie Edson – RSV in critical care
- Tom Bauer – recovering from surgery
- Joyce Bauer – recovering from double surgery
- Elaine Grawe
- Nancy Padilla – multiple dental procedures
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Robin Karas – Home from Bayside and recovering
- Christian – Heidi Carney's son – dealing with multiple ailments
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello's sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- Wes, brother of John Cribb – facing the choice between kidney dialysis and kidney transplant
- Byron Nelson - friend of Jacoby's - Cancer
- Mike Johnson - lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter – dealing with frontal temporal lobe dementia and aphasia.
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport – preparing to move to assisted living
- Aaron Brochtrup - for perseverance and patience while he works to recover from his injuries
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas – learning to live with condition
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- James Hecker- weighing treatment options for persistent infection
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting COVID
- For an end to the war in Ukraine
- For the earthquake victims in Afghanistan
- For the people of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of senseless gun violence



December Birthdays

Carrie Forster-Osterthaler	12/4
Cindy Haener	12/5
Isabella Jacoby	12/6
George Tway	12/10
Ina Davenport	12/12
Brenda Pool	12/12
Ron Forster	12/17
Alexander McKee	12/17
Ruth Anello	12/18
Ken Brocks	12/18
Jack Senter	12/30

Happy Birthday!



+

December Anniversaries

Bruce & Cindy Haener – 12/27/1977
Joe & Angelina Rice – 12/27/2011

Happy Anniversary!



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*Please remember in your prayers.</p> <p>worship services are live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org</p>					<p>1 *Kate Anderson</p>	<p>2 Decorating 9:30</p>
<p>3 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Jean S. First Sunday of Advent! The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM</p>	<p>4 *Tom & Joyce Bauer Coffee Club 9:00 Inn at Morro Bay Sermon Feedback and Feedforward 9:30</p>	<p>5 *Gary & Gail Brochtrup</p>	<p>6 *Ken Brocks Bible Study 10:00</p>	<p>7 *Heidi Carney</p>	<p>8 *Bob Clemensson</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Cindy H. Sunday School Christmas Program during the service</p>	<p>11 *Myles & JoAnna Krebs Morro Bay Community Dinner 4:00 Sermon Feedback and Feedforward Zoom 9:30 Confirmation 6:00</p>	<p>12 *Ina Davenport Finance Committee Zoom 5:00</p>	<p>13 *Valerie Donohoo Bible Study 10:00</p>	<p>14 *Katie Edson Council Meeting 5:00</p>	<p>15 *Ron & Audrey Forster Coffee Club 9:00 Mi Casa</p>	<p>16 Worship & Music Committee 9:30</p>
<p>17 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Katie E. POTLUCK! 11:00</p>	<p>18 *Carrie Forster- Osterthaler Sermon Feedback and Feedforward 9:30</p>	<p>19 *Carol Frasier</p>	<p>20 *Elaine Grawe Bible Study 10:00</p>	<p>21 *Bruce & Cindy Haener</p>	<p>22 *Victor Hansen</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Andy J.  Service 5:00 Worship Assist: Gail B.</p>	<p>25 *Herb & Patti Harsch <i>Merry Christmas!</i>  Worship Service 10:00</p>	<p>26 *Woody & Nancy Koppl</p>	<p>27 *Jennifer Kurrle</p>	<p>28 *Judy Kalin</p>	<p>29 *Mike & Janet Lorenzo</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Jean S.</p>						