



## THE CALVARY CALLING

Dear friends of Jesus at Calvary,

Mary and I have subscribed for a long time to *The Christian Century*, a magazine that has generally catered to mainline Protestants. The latest issue has an article by Peter Choi, executive director of the Center for Faith and Justice in San Francisco. The subtitle of the article is "Five Ways I see a new generation reorienting its Christianity."

I found myself agreeing with each of the "Five Ways" as I reflected on how the church has and will change in order to be effective in this new society where religion no longer has a privileged place. That is perhaps the main point, that places of worship cannot rely on tradition or popular support as much today, and so must learn again what it means to be friends of Jesus in our place and time.

So here are Choi's points (with my interpretations), and how even our congregation might be moving.

1. **From triumphalism to lament.** Since we are no longer "in charge" or "in power," we learn how Christians have lorded it over others, and figure out how Christ's glory was truly a humbling of himself. That's our model.
2. **From morality to dignity.** We should indeed seek to be moral beings, discerning with the Spirit's help what is honorable and pleasing and good. But we cannot use our own sense of morality to rate other people's behavior. Instead, we can assume that others are doing best according to their own lights, thus affording dignity by default to others.
3. **From certainty to mystery.** Confirmation instruction and preaching, when I was first ordained, seemed to be primarily about providing answers to life's questions. Indeed we have some blessed assurances, and life-giving points of view. But it is also a sign of maturity that we do NOT have all the answers, and that much of what is holy is also difficult to explain.
4. **From superiority to mutuality.** This movement is much like #1, with the addition that others will have just as much wisdom and insight as we do, and that much of life for everybody is learning and working together.
5. **From rhetoric to embodiment.** This movement can be summarized as moving from "talking the talk" to "walking the walk." When it comes right down to it, people don't care how much we know until they know how much we care. And caring is best when shown in concrete actions.

So there you have it. As a retired pastor, in a bridge pastor status with you all, I have much less to prove than I did at a younger age. And that is probably a very good thing, as we seek to do what we can do in allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in our way of being little Christs in the community of Morro Bay and surroundings!

With love and care,  
Pastor Brian

# More Info from Pastor Brian:

## Synod Assembly

Please hold Pastor Brian and Nancy Koppl in your prayers as they attend virtually the annual assembly of our Southwest California Synod. It will be held at California Lutheran University on June 2nd and 3rd and will involve hearing reports from our synod staff and other people, voting on representatives, holding workshops (we'll have to skip those!) and passing resolutions. (One of those resolutions is to recommend that our church body drop the term "Evangelical" in our denominational name because for most people in the country, it means something quite different than what we are!)

## Central Coast Conference

All Calvary folks are invited to attend the annual conference of our local group of Lutheran congregations, including those from Templeton, Atascadero, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, Lompoc and Solvang. We will hear an upbeat presentation on fundraising by CLU's Vice President of Advancement, Regina Biddings-Muro. Regina was one of Pastor Brian's bosses when he worked at the University. The Conference will take place on Saturday, June 10th, 9:30 am to 12:00 noon at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church at 1701 Fredericks Avenue in San Luis Obispo. Let Pastor Brian know if you are planning on attending!

## Presentation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Calvary Lutheran Church will host the Central Coast Readers Theater in a presentation of Oscar Wilde's farcical play *The Importance of Being Earnest* on Sunday, June 11th at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary. It's a fun way to enjoy the theater! The troupe asks for a donation of \$10 at the door to cover expenses.

## High School Graduates to be honored

We will be honoring Samantha Rocha and Gwen Muff, who both will be graduating from Morro Bay High School this month. They will be in worship on Sunday, June 11th, and will come forward for recognition and blessing. Samantha will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall, and Gwen will be going to UCLA. We are certainly proud of both of them, and wish them well in their continued studies and growth!

## Scriptures for June

June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
Genesis 1:1--2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	Hosea 5:15--6:6 Psalm 50:7-15 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35—10:8	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39



-**Receipts** for April were \$12,701.25 and **expenses** \$6,705.34, for an overage of \$5,996.91. The year-to-date has an overage of \$6,349.39.

-- **Liability insurance** for the coming year will be due soon at a premium of about \$7,000.

-- The designated fund of **Worship Banners** has been expanded to include Church Decorations of all kinds.

-- A portion of the balance in the general checking account will be **invested in an interest-bearing account**.

-- Two bids to **repair the front parking area** were received and

compared. Nancy Koppl has been in touch with the building inspections department regarding current requirements for handicapped parking spaces. A committee of Nancy Koppl, Sandy McMillan and Pastor Brian was appointed to further investigate the matter and report back to the Council. When and if a proposal is accepted for repair, the matter will be brought to the full congregation for vote.

-- Some informal bids were received for **repair to the broken fence and gate on the back patio**. Gail Brochtrup has been organizing the pre-work and will continue to do so. Should the repair job estimate be over \$2,500, that proposal will also be brought to the congregation for a vote.

-- The Council approved a proposal to **wash most of the windows** in complex for about \$600.

-- The Council will advertise suggested charitable organizations which families of our recent departed members, **Betty Sorensen and Edith Tway**, have designated as possible ways to honor their loved ones.

-- The Council approved the date of June 11th, Sunday, during worship, **to honor our current high school graduates**, Samantha Rocha and Gwen Muff..

-- The Council approved a congregational survey to determine if, and under which conditions, Calvary members might in the future **entertain the idea of sharing our facility with another worshipping congregation**.

## Outreach Committee

and Katie Edson.

The pantry is full thanks to a Thrivent Gift Card donated by Gary and Gail Brochtrup, and our shoppers, Nancy Padilla, Sandy McMillan

The new group, "Caring for God's Creation" will meet again in June and work on the display for the Fellowship hall.

Summer activities for our youth were discussed. Some exciting ideas were brought up. Nancy K. will check with parents regarding interest and availability.

## Treasurer's Report

As of April 30, 2023 - Receipts: \$12,701.25. Expenditures: \$6,705.34. Receipts were at 117.08% of the 2023 Budget for the twelve months ending 12/31/2022.

Expenditures were at 99.05% of the 2023 Budget for the same period.



## Pastor has a brand new stool!

We have all held our breath as Pastor gets up off the floor after doing the Children's Conversation! Thanks to Cindy Haener and Brenda Ouwkerk for providing a little comfort for Pastor during his time with the children!

## Pentecost Sunday

Thanks to Cindy Haener and Brenda Ouwerkerk for creating our fabulous Pentecost decorations. It seems as though the Holy Spirit is breathing on the one closest to the heater vent. The decorations are beautiful and inspiring, and as you can see were not easy to create! Thanks also to Andy Jacoby and Kevin Rocha for helping to get the decorations up there!



It was a great day with everyone in red, and a lovely brunch after the service. The decorations will remain in the Sanctuary for the next four weeks. Come and see!

## Please Remember in Your Prayers

- Chris Senter - undiagnosed illness
- Darel Sorensen and family, in the death of Betty
- The people of Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, whose entire church building burned up on Easter Sunday afternoon
- Donna Cuvelier - friend of Gail B., numerous health concerns
- Family of Ryan Loomis - Cindy Haener's nephew who died in an auto accident in Arizona
- Heidi Carney - Diagnostic tests
- Kate Anderson
- Ben - Kathie Sperow's grandson recovering from trauma
- Ina Davenport - recent fall
- Linda Hermann - mother-in-law of Katie Edson's daughter, leukemia
- Betty Johnson - recovering from infection and blood clot while undergoing chemotherapy
- Aaron Brochtrup - starting physical therapy to treat lower back
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas - continuing to make progress in recovery
- Linda Luke - to gain weight and strength
- Jim Luke - supporting Linda's recovery
- Becky Padilla- responding well to treatment for cancer
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- James Hecker- ongoing abdominal pain
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting COVID
- For the people of Ukraine, for strength, healing and protection, and changes of heart for those attacking them

## June Birthdays

Gary Brochtrup	6/2
Gary Orback	6/5
Olivia Rice	6/27
Elaine Grawe	6/29



## June Anniversaries

Bauer, Tom & Joyce	6/15/1974
Rocha, Kevin & Nikki	6/17/2000

*Happy Anniversary!*



# Congratulations to our High School Graduates!



Gwen Muff

During her four years at Morro Bay High School, Gwen has earned excellent grades and completed many AP classes. She participated in cadaver lab, a teaching careers class, and she was an anchor on the school's live newscast, "Spyglass Today." Gwen will leave high school with multiple awards including the Elks Lodge Senior of the Month as well as varsity letters in swimming and water polo. She bravely took on the role of goalie for her water polo team during her junior year after being a field player and helped her team qualify for CIF playoffs. Gwen is headed to UCLA in the fall where she will major in Psychobiology. She plans to continue her education after four years to become an occupational therapist. She is excited to play on the UCLA Club Water Polo team and looks forward to discovering places to hike in Los Angeles.

Samantha Rocha is also graduating from Morro Bay High School. While at MBHS, Samantha was on the varsity cheer team all 4 years, part of the stunt team for two, and part of band for 4 years where she played two instruments, the flute and piccolo. All while maintaining an above 4.0 thru the years. She has also participated as a competitive cheerleader at CCE (Central Coast Elite) for the past 10 years. Being part of multiple teams and traveling every spring to competitions. Samantha has been accepted to Cal Poly and plans to attend this fall.



Samantha Rocha



Georgina Tway



**Congratulations also go out to Georgina Tway who has graduated from San Francisco State with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in Zoology! What an accomplishment!**

**Congratulations!**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>June 2023</b></p> <p><b>*Please remember in your prayers.</b></p> <p><b>Worship services are live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org</b></p>				1 *Kate Anderson	2 *Tom & Joyce Bauer  Synod Assembly	3 Synod Assembly
4 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Andy J.  The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	5 *Gary & Gail Brochtrup  Coffee Club 9:00 Mi Casa Morro Bay  Men's Group 1:00	6 *Ken Brocks	7 *Heidi Carney  Bible Study 10:00	8 *Bob Clemensson	9 *Myles & Joanna Crebs	10 Central Coast Conference 9:30-12 Mt. Carmel
11 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Nikki R.  Honoring Graduates During Fellowship 11:00  Presentation of The Importance of Being Earnest 2:00  The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	12 *Ina Davenport  Morro Bay Community Dinner 4:00	13 *Valerie Donohoo  Outreach Committee 1:45  Finance Committee 5:00	14 *Katie Edson  Bible Study 10:00	15 *Ron & Audrey Forster  Council Meeting 2:00	16 *Carrie Forster-Osterthaler  Coffee Club 9:00 Buttercup	17
18 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Cindy H.  The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	19 *Carol Frasier	20 *Elaine Grawe	21 *Bruce & Cindy Haener  Bible Study 10:00	22 *Victor Hansen	23 *Herb & Patti Harsch	24
25 Worship Service With Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Brenda O.  <b>BRUNCH! 11:00</b>  The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	26 *Woody & Nancy Koppl	27 *Jennifer Kurrle	28 *Mike & Janet Lorenzo  Bible Study 10:00	29 *Jim & Linda Luke	30 *Jeff & Kea McKee	