



THE CALVARY CALLING

Hello, Calvary folks!

This has been a strange month for me, and by extension, for you. I didn't know in May that I would spend the end of that month and the whole of July dealing with my beleaguered body. Nor that the struggle would promise to continue well into August. "I'm not old enough for all of that," I might have said. Well, the reality is that my own body had its own path, taken without my express permission. Imagine that!

The good news is that my BPH and whatever is happening to me is in a context. And that context is the body of Christ, and the fellowship of the saints and the arena of lifelong friendships. I don't wish physical challenges on anybody, and mine are not very high on the ultimate hierarchy of troubles, but I count myself fortunate to have been the recipient of so many good wishes and prayers and concerns of others. Thank you. Thank you. Thank God.

Mary pointed me to an article in the latest issue of *The Christian Century*, in which the Anglican author, Martha Tatamic, talks about ultrarealism. She takes the concept from marathon runners, who are encouraged to take things as they are, to notice and accept beauty and inadequacy together, and to realize that life is happening in all of its forms, and to rejoice in it.

Ms. Tatamic is a priest, and says that this same ultrarealist attitude works in church leadership as well. She notes that professional church people are often looking for the latest trick to grow a congregation, or to be concerned that she is doing things right, providing the very best kind of direction she can. The result, as you might imagine, is often anxiety and burnout and depression.

It would appear, and I agree, that there are no guarantees about how much we can control what is going on around us. In a church, through our care and concerns for others, we encounter everything under the sun, that spans the full spectrum of human experience and emotion. Our task is not to try to direct it, but to live in it, with our God-given tools of prayer and fellowship, liturgy and sacrament, kindness and ministry.

There is no other measurement for "how we are doing as a congregation" other than a sensitivity to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. Those are the words we begin our worship with, and they are completely adequate to our task of living out the gospel.

And we don't manufacture ourselves the mystery and power that is in the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. They come ready-made with these potentialities. It is only for us to be open, to receive, to be blessed.

I'm pretty sure the people of Calvary Lutheran are on that track. By God's grace.

Pastor Brian

More from Pastor Brian:

Sermon Feedback and Feedforward

Jean Senter, Rachel Jacoby and Pastor Brian continue to participate in this effort to assess a former sermon and speculate on the possibilities for the one upcoming, held on Zoom on Monday or Tuesday morning (depending upon other events). I can say with confidence that the times have been a blessing to me (Pastor Brian) and a real help in formulating early some approaches to preaching the next Sunday.

To participate, you don't need to be a Bible scholar, or even be greatly acquainted with Holy Scripture. All you have to have is an excitement about the Word of God and a willingness to share your own personal perspective. If this concept appeals to you, then let Pastor Brian know, and I'll make sure that you receive the Zoom invitations.

Discussion Group on *The Chosen*

Our Sunday evening Zoom group is now about to start the third season of *The Chosen*. What a delight to be welcoming persons who are not otherwise involved with Calvary nor living in the area. I LOVE what the Zoom app enables us to do!

There is no requirement that one has seen all of the initial episodes, though I imagine if you join us, you're going to want to binge watch what has preceded to this point. If you are on the fence regarding the matter, please speak with Pastor Brian or anybody else who has cleared most of their Sunday evenings to join in the group.

I said last Sunday, and it's worth repeating that watching *The Chosen* is similar in impact to visiting the Holy Land in person. It brings life and focus and joy (and some sorrow) to enliven our understandings of Jesus the person and Savior.

Scriptures for August

| August 6 | August 13 | August 20 | August 27 |
|---|--|---|---|
| Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21 | 1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33 | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 | Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20 |



Council voted to accept Toste's bid of \$25,190, and up to \$30,000 in case of unforeseen overage, paid for out of our General Fund with a concentrated fund-raising effort in the following months to replace some of the money. There will be a congregational meeting on July 30 to vote on accepting the bid.

The windows will be washed soon, and there will be a Saturday work day in the fall to detail out our church and make it shine for the upcoming holiday season. The trees will also be getting a haircut soon!

The Nominating Committee is exploring new Council members to replace outgoing members next year.

There will be a pancake breakfast and free-will offering, benefitting our Compassion child, Charite in September.

Outreach

For the month of August there will be a collection of school supplies for Iglesia children. There is a list of needed items, along with the usual food items, next to the collection box in the Narthex.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is now meeting every other month. If you have any ideas for the committee, or if you would like to join, contact Janet Lorenzo or Nancy Padilla.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts: \$9,772.00. Expenditures: \$15,760.65. Receipts were at 111.35% of the 2023 Budget for the six months ending on 06.30.2023. Expenditures were at 97.27% of the 2023 Budget for the same period.



Please remember the children of Iglesia when you're doing your shopping. School supplies are desperately needed: backpacks, pencils, erasers, glue sticks, markers, colored pencils – there is a complete list next to the collection box in the Narthex, along with the usual food items that they can always use. Thank you, generous Calvary givers!

Mail from Rwanda

We received another letter from Charite in Rwanda. Her birthday is August 21 and she will be turning 12 years old. Calvary has been supporting Charite through Compassion International since she was a preschooler. Through our monthly donation, recently raised to \$43, an education, school uniform, nutrition, health care and Christian values are provided. Charite is part of a large family who make their living in farming. Charite says they have been harvesting beans and are thanking God for a good harvest. Recently there were heavy rains in Rwanda which caused floods that killed people and destroyed houses. Charite and her family thank God for protecting them, and they are happily alive and well.

On September 24, we will be having a PANCAKE BREAKFAST to raise funds for our monthly support of Charite. Come enjoy the pancakes, eggs, breakfast meats and give what you can for our ongoing support of this faraway member of our faith community!

Pancake Breakfast



Please Remember in Your Prayers

- Kathie Sperow – recovering from covid
- Pastor David Ryal - covid
- Christian – Heidi Carney’s son- multiple ailments
- Dick Williams – treatment for lower back weakness
- Pastor Brian – recovering from a recent medical procedure
- Maddison Schwenoha – friend of Sophia Lorenzo – multiple injuries from car accident
- Tom Anello’s sister – undergoing treatment for cancer
- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- Joyce Bauer – thanksgiving for having her consultation
- Ruth Anello – Recovering from orthopedic surgery
- Wes, brother of John Cribb - recovering from kidney surgery
- Byron Nelson - friend of Jacoby's - Cancer
- Mike Johnson - lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter - illness
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ben - Kathie Sperow's grandson recovering from trauma
- Ina Davenport – preparing to move to assisted living
- Linda Hermann - mother-in-law of Katie Edson's daughter, leukemia
- Betty Johnson - recovering from infection and blood clot while undergoing chemotherapy
- Aaron Brochtrup - for perseverance and patience while he works to recover from his injuries
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas - continuing to make progress in recovery
- 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, protection, and changes of heart for those attacking them

August Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Nancy Padilla | 8/4 |
| Ronnie Smith | 8/4 |
| August Muff | 8/10 |
| David Muff | 8/21 |
| Brian Stein-Webber | 8/21 |
| Nalani Jacoby | 8//21 |
| Kevin Rocha | 8/22 |
| Jeff McKee | 8/29 |



August Anniversaries

Brian & Mary Stein-Webber
8/20/78

Happy Anniversary!



| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">August 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*Please remember in your prayers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship services are live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org</p> | | <p>1 *Andy & Judy Cantrell</p> | <p>2 *Jean Clemmons</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00</p> | <p>3 *Joy Olson</p> | <p>4 *Kate Anderson</p> | <p>5</p> |
| <p>6 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Mary S.</p> <p>The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM</p> | <p>7 *Tom & Joyce Bauer</p> <p>Coffee Club 9:00 Foghorn MB</p> | <p>8 *Gary & Gail Brochtrup</p> <p>Finance Committee 5:00</p> | <p>9 *Ken Brocks</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00</p> | <p>10 *Heidi Carney</p> <p>Council 2:00</p> | <p>11 *Bob Clemensson</p> | <p>12 Worship & Music Committee 9:30-11</p> |
| <p>9 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Nikki R.</p> <p>The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM</p> | <p>14 *Myles & Joanna Crebs</p> <p>Morro Bay Community Dinner 4:00</p> | <p>15 *Ina Davenport</p> | <p>16 *Valerie Donohoo</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00</p> <p>Outreach Committee 1:45</p> | <p>17 *Katie Edson</p> | <p>18 *Ron & Audrey Forster</p> <p>Coffee Club 9:00 Buttercup</p> | <p>19</p> |
| <p>16 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Katie E.</p> <p>The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM</p> | <p>21 *Carrie Forster-Osterthaler</p> | <p>22 *Carol Frasier</p> | <p>23 *Elaine Grawe</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00</p> | <p>24 *Bruce & Cindy Haener</p> <p>Iglesia Delivery</p> | <p>25 *Victor Hansen</p> | <p>26</p> |
| <p>23 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Cindy H.</p> <p>BRUNCH!! 11:00</p> <p>The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM</p> | <p>28 *Herb & Patti Harsch</p> | <p>29 *Nancy Koppl</p> | <p>30 *Jennifer Kurrle</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00</p> | <p>31 *Mike & Janet Lorenzo</p> | | |