



THE CALVARY CALLING

Hello, Calvary folks!

Some weeks ago, we learned that a relative of a Calvary member was using the church property for respite from the streets. The church council took the matter under advisement and determined to find out what we might do, and what services were available in our community for people living on the streets.

One of the persons we talked with was Rev. Caro Hall, who while serving St Ben's Episcopal Church was a leader in Los Osos Cares and the wide variety of programs they run. Carol most likely was instrumental in the development of those programs!

She steered us to a program in SLO which sends a contact team out to Morro Bay every Friday. This time, a manager told us that we could schedule a visit for our campus friend. Both he and Caro emphasized that the most important factor in helping someone was to get to know them as a human being.

Gary Orback had already gotten started along this line, with his conversations on Saturday mornings, when he and his son Mark take care of the grounds of the church. I followed up with our campus friend, and attempted to establish a personal, trusting relationship, saying that we would like to help our new friend in whatever ways we could. And in the meantime, he would be allowed, temporarily, to stay on the property as he needed.

One thing led to another, and the council determined to see about renting a port-a-potty for convenience and health's sake, as an experiment. Cindy Haener was in contact with providers, and spoke with the staff at Harvey's Honey Huts, who asked if the item was for a construction project. Cindy answered that it was to provide facilities for someone. The staff member then said that, in that case, and because we were a church, that the port-a-potty would come free of charge for as long as we needed it. "It's a commitment of the family that owns the company," she said.

Well, this seemed like a push from the Holy Spirit. In the meantime, our church member reports that her relative is surprisingly changing his behavior in many ways, for the good. Wow.

Then on Sunday last, another church member, who has been living in her car recently, parked on the streets in Morro Bay, came to our brunch, and we got talking. And she reported that it is not easy sleeping in public in your car in the city. There is a municipal code against it, of course. But then the Holy Spirit came knocking again, and with Cindy being there, I suggested that she might consider parking overnight in our parking lot. And there is a port-a-potty there!

This seems to be part of God's humor. We have been clear among ourselves that this is all a temporary fix, that permanent housing for both of our friends ought to be the end goal. And that we are not developing a program, but rather responding to the situation in front of us, in an experimental sort of way.

I guess that's as good as any definition of Christian ministry. I don't think any of us at Calvary might have an idea about where this is heading, except that we are leading with love of neighbor, which involves reasonable hospitality and real human interaction. In a way, it's nice not to know what will ultimately happen, since it keeps us fixed on the present. Where the Holy Spirit seems to have the most fun inhabiting and blessing.

In holy uncertainty,
Pastor Brian

More from Pastor Brian:

Confirmation Starting

We have, now, three young people entering sixth grade, and so we will be providing Confirmation instruction to them for the next two years. The meetings will be about twice a month on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm. We will attempt to have as many as possible of them in person, but if a student will be out of town, we will switch to online. We will study the Bible, the Luther Catechism, some church history and some understanding of other faiths. The process will conclude with the rite of Affirmation of Baptism on Pentecost Sunday in 2025. If you know someone else of this approximate age who would benefit from Confirmation/Catechism instruction, please let Pastor Brian know at bsteinwebber@gmail.com.

Bible Study

After a hiatus, given the health situation of both teachers (the other being Pastor David Ryal) we are starting up again on Wednesday, September 6th, at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. This is not only Bible STUDY, it is also Bible WONDERMENT, Bible INVESTIGATION, Bible HUMOR and Bible INVOLVEMENT. We also take time to pray for people on our minds and hearts. Any questions? Ask Pastor Brian

Discussion Group on *The Chosen*

If you want to take part in a weekly Sunday evening discussion on what Pastors Brian and Mary (and many others) consider to be the best creation and depiction of Jesus and his disciples (and many others), please come to this Zoom meeting on Sundays at 7:00 to 8:00 pm. We have been on break a few weeks, but will now continue with Season 3's eight episodes. Perhaps, and maybe likely, after a few months of that, Season 4 will be available for viewing!

If you decide to jump in, you might want to have a discussion with a current participant to bring you up to speed. But the characters and plot line and scenes should already be largely familiar to you!

Sermon Feedback and Feedforward

We continue on MOST Monday mornings, 9:30 to 10:30 am, on Zoom, to discuss both the sermon of the day before as well as the lessons for worship of the following Sunday. Believe me, Pastor Brian loves to hear ideas and interact with the participants. This is a two-way communication, inspired by our congregation's recent participation in The People's Sermon class. You'll need to talk with Pastor Brian if you want to try it out, so he can send you a Zoom invite each week.

Scriptures for September

September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	Jonah 3:10--4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16



Confirmation will start in September. Lessons will probably happen twice a month, and Pastor would like one other adult to attend. Families have been notified and details are in the works.

Jim Luke and Nancy Padilla have agreed to be on the 2024 council. Two other people will be approached.

Jim Luke has offered to provide some special music once a month. We will continue to put feelers out there for a Music Leader.

Marshall Funk-Pihl from Mt. Carmel is willing to help us select a camera and help with learning how to operate it.

There will be a Saturday work day on September 16 starting with a pizza lunch at 12:00.

The Outreach Committee will be meeting this month and deciding what earth-friendly product we will be displaying next. Stay tuned and hopefully we will have some samples for you.



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2023 Receipts: \$13,835.00; Expenditures: \$6,63.68. Receipts were at 117.04% of the 2023 Budget for the seven months ended 07.31.2023. Expenditures were at 94.85% of the 2023 Budget for the same period.

Wow! Look What We've Done! Thank you to all who donated backpacks and school supplies for the children of Iglesia. Your generosity has been over-whelming and so much appreciated.

A special thank you as well to:

Cindy Haener provided a Thrivent Card that was used to buy MORE school supplies!

Brenda Ouwerkerk also provided a Thrivent Card that was used to buy food.

Linda Luke's cousin, Paul Melodia donated \$500 that was used to buy underwear, socks, t-shirts/tops, pants, and cleaning supplies.

And, as always, we are thankful for our thrifty shoppers, Gail Brochtrup, Nancy Padilla, Katie Edson and Sandy McMillan



Don't Forget

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!



Nancy Padilla and Janet Lorenzo accepted this Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the wonderful cooks at Calvary! We were honored and proud of our church family. What we do is a small part of the services provided at the Community Dinners, but our help is imperative to ensure the success of serving those who are less fortunate. **Thank you so much for helping to make the dinners a success!**

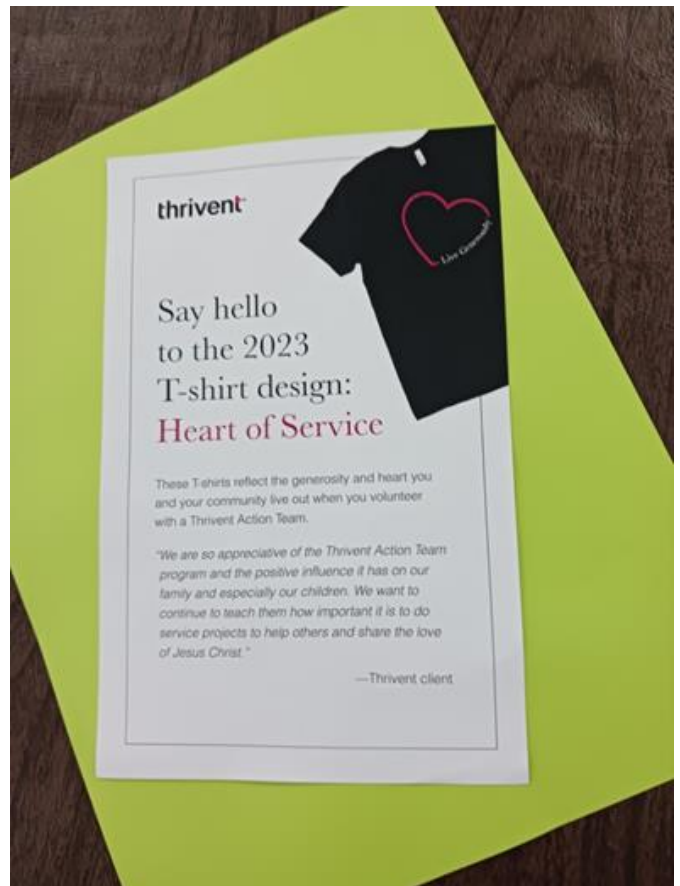


FOR SALE!

These Thrivent T-Shirts are available for sale in the Narthex. For a donation of \$5 you can wear one of these fashionable t-shirts and support our Compassion Child, Charite at the same time! Let's all get one and wear them on the same day and have a picture taken!

Change of Address:

Darel Sorensen
1097 E. Springfield, apt. 208
Reedley, CA 93654





Good-byes are hard. In June we said goodbye to Linda Luke. Her light will be missed.

Linda DeRenzi was born April 15, 1948 in San Francisco. She went to Catholic school in her early years. Her immediate family moved to Fremont, CA where she attended Washington HS. She then went to San Francisco State University and worked at Capwells.

In Dec 1970 best friends George and Charlotte got married. At their wedding rehearsal, Linda—who Charlotte chose as her Maid of Honor, and Jim, who George chose as his Best Man, met for the first time. At the wedding, Linda caught the bouquet and Jim caught the garter. We started dating regularly after the wedding and on Valentine's Day 1971—I asked her to marry me. She responded with “What’s your draft status?” (Vietnam) Long story short—I joined the National Guard after college. We got married in Fremont @ Santa Paula on May 15, 1971.

We lived in Milpitas, CA for several years while Linda worked full-time and went to Law School. Then we moved to Visalia in the late 1970's as Linda got hired as a lawyer for Legal Aide. I subsequently got hired as an administrative assistance for Tulare County. Linda also sewed and danced belly dancing. We could not have children of our own, so we adopted a young girl at about 7—named Sunshine. Less than 2 years later, a friend of Linda's asked her if we “wanted another Sunshine in our lives”. We adopted her as well. Those are our two daughters.

We traveled to many places in our lives—China, Italy (3 times), France, Greece, and the Hawaiian Islands—particularly Maui & Kauai where we own timeshares. We lived a marvelous life together from 2000-2009, and Linda sewed, belly danced and hula, and was a lawyer for 40 years. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 and had successful surgery in 2010. Then we had many more incredible years from 2011-2021. Including coming regularly to Morro Bay starting in 2011. Linda danced hula in Los Osos. We bought our home here in 2014 (2 houses on one lot), remodeled both homes and moved here in June 2021.

Then, in Feb 2022 Linda got dizzy while dancing at hula practice. That led to a brain surgery to remove a small tumor from her cerebellum and, upon discovery that she had metastatic breast cancer cells in her brain and a period of many months of treatment, we did get to take one more vacation to Kauai in the summer of 2022. Then I cared for her at home for almost a year before she passed peacefully on June 25, 2023. She was not in pain when she went home to God.

I was asked how I would deal with her passing. I said I cried and I will certainly cry again. But she taught me how to love and that is something I will always remember. Thus, I will carry her love for me and mine for her with me for the rest of my days. And I celebrate her going home to God, where she can reconnect with Noni, Popi and her parents and other relatives.

The Lessons of a Heart Attack

By, Pastor David Ryal



Monday started like every other day. Get up, get ready for the day, and then off for the day's activities. It included a stop at the lab for my monthly blood work to track my transplant progress. Five years out doing well.

Then home for daily devotion with Vicki. We got ready to go to our weekly breakfast, which includes a mile walk to and from the restaurant. Then it happens: a mild chest pain. It felt different than anything before. We took the two-mile walk (pain still there). Did three errands (pain still there). Rested for an hour (pain got worse). So, I fetched Vicki and off we went to the ER. At ER, all tests that were done came back negative, Blood work, EKG and chest X-Ray. So, I got moved down the priority list. We do not leave, as I knew something was not right.

FIRST LESSON – LISTEN TO YOUR BODY AS YOU KNOW IT THE BEST.

During the next two and a half hours, pain level fluctuated between a 2 and a 5 on the scale of 10.

SECOND LESSON – BE PATIENT.

At 3:00 pm the pain level shot up to 8 as I felt Blood Pressure has gone up. Triage nurse was free so I asked to get a BP check.

THIRD LESSON – INTERRUPT AND ASK.

BP was 220/117, she called for a stat EKG, that test got the technician running to find the doctor, doctor came and said 'you are having a heart attack right now'.

LESSON FOUR – LET GO AND LET GOD.

I was taken to ER #4. The doctor stated he does not understand how earlier EKG missed this. Second blood work came back positive with heart enzyme that shows heart attack. The first test was negative.

FIFTH LESSON – REMEMBER MAN - EVEN WITH HIS SCIENCE – IS NOT PERFECT.

From there I was taken to the Cardiac Operating Room. It took 10 minutes to go from the waiting room to the operating room. If I had gone home, damage could have happened to the heart.

LESSON SIX – DON'T TELL ME GOD WAS NOT INVOLVED ESPECIALLY AFTER MY TRANSPLANT EXPERIENCE OF FIVE YEARS AGO.

Life does flash in front of you. Will I see Vicki again? Am I ready to exit this life in time and meet Jesus and the Father in eternity?

LESSON SEVEN – BE PREPARED TO EXIT TIME.

In the OR, I saw my heart beating up on the monitor. Watching it work as it beats and pumps blood convinces me that this is no evolutionary machine made of flesh. It does way too much to have just happened or evolved.

LESSON EIGHT – EVOLUTION IS THE MYTH.

Watching the doctor do his thing to clean an artery and put in a stent brings a realization.

NINTH LESSON – DOCTORS ARE GOD'S TOOLS. YOU CAN NOT SAY THIS IS NOT A MIRACLE.

After everything was over, I was wheeled to ICU for night observation. Then I found out that many in the hospital know my story since they had planned to send me home and now were glad, I stayed.

LESSON TEN – GOD'S WISDOM VS. MAN'S WISDOM. NO MATCH.

Remember in Prayer

- Reverend Caro and Jill – seeking to resolve conflict with neighbors
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Robin Karas – Back at French Hospital
- Mark Shuck – Gail B.'s brother – recovering from shoulder surgery
- Pastor David Ryal – recovering from heart surgery and being monitored for other conditions
- Christian – Heidi Carney's son – dealing with multiple ailments
- Dick Williams – receiving treatment for lumbar spinal stenosis
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello's sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- Joyce Bauer – being monitored for condition
- 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 illness
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport – preparing to move to assisted living
- Linda Hermann - mother-in-law of Katie Edson's daughter, leukemia
- 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
- 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 in Turkey suffering from the earthquake, and the IMPACT Missionaries
- For the people of Ukraine, for strength, healing, protection, and changes of heart for those attacking them

September Birthdays

Jim Luke	9/1
Melina Jacoby	9/4
Heidi Carney	9/7
Diane Williams	9/11
Tyler Mitchell	9/14
Kea McKee	9/23



August Anniversaries

Jack & Jean Senter – 9/2/1956
Herb & Patti Harsch – 9/1/1957

Happy Anniversary!



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 2023 *Please remember in your prayers. Worship services are live streamed on Facebook and posted to morrobaylutherans.org					1 *Jim Luke	2
3 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Katie E.	4 *Jeff & Kea McKee 	5 *Sandy McMillan Coffee Club 9:00 Nautical Bean Los Osos	6 *Tyler Mitchell Bible Study 10:00	7 *David & Janelle Muff	8 *Gary & Eileen Orback	9
10 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	11 *Mark Orback	12 *Brenda Ouwerkerk Finance Committee Zoom 7:00	13 *Nancy Padilla Bible Study 10:00	14 *Kevin & Nikki Rocha Council Meeting 5:00	15 *Ronnie Smith Coffee Club 9:00 La Katrina Embarcadero	16 Pizza Lunch & Work Day 12:00
17 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Cindy H. The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	18 *Darel Sorensen	19 *Dan & Kathie Sperow	20 *George Tway Bible Study 10:00 Outreach Committee 1:45	21 *Georgie Tway	22 *Toni Tway	23 Worship & Music Committee 9:30 – 11:00
24 Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 Worship Assist: Brenda O. PANCAKE BREAKFAST!! 11:00 The Chosen Zoom Discussion Group 7:00 -8:00 PM	25 *Diane Williams	26 *Dick Williams	27 *Glenna Baker Bible Study 10:00 Los Osos Community Dinner 4:00	28 *Jean Clemons Iglesia Delivery	29 *Joy Olson	30