

MorroBayLutherans.org

The Calvary Calling

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER, 2017

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✦ FROM THE PASTOR ✦



This time of year one of the biggest challenges I see is to keep things positive. Yes it is a wonderful season filled with lots of joy and celebration but there is a lot of negative stuff as well. And in the midst of it all we try to keep the focus on Jesus. How in the world do we do this? For me the answer is reflected in the words of the Apostle Paul found in **Philippians 4:4-9.**

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Rejoice, trust, pray, and focus on the good stuff as the peace of God surrounds you. Simple thoughts and goals but only possible with the strength that God gives us in the Holy Spirit. As the saying goes: “God is good all the time.” “All the time God is good.” Let us look for the goodness of God this season.

You and I have been truly blessed so look for the little baby, Jesus. He is small and easy to miss but he is everywhere if you have eyes to see. Behold! Unto us is born a Savior, he is Christ our Lord. We want and need a savior so often in this life and Jesus is the only one who can truly help. Open your eyes this season and look for this little child who promised to be with us always, even to the close of the ages. And as you look for him, look at the world through his eyes. He saw a world worth coming to and saving. He saw a world worth loving. Let his love inspire you to love others around you as he loves.

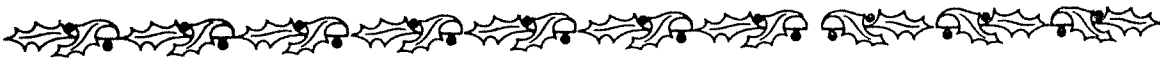
*Merry Christmas,
Pastor Jan*

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



The Church Council met on Wednesday, November 8th. After a devotion and prayer, Pastor discussed emergency situations at churches and the best procedures for handling them. The general thought is that the standard response to an active shooter is Run, Hide, Fight.

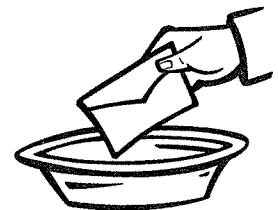
After reviewing the finances and hearing that October was a very good month financially, we learned of a very positive stewardship response. It was decided that we were close enough to our goals that we could go ahead and recommend a 2% raise for our employees with a special request of the congregation for ways to raise a little bit more money (\$2,000.00) to make that possible. The Nominating Committee for this year is Joyce Bauer, and Toni Tway. (If you have any suggestions for congregational leadership or want to volunteer please let them know.) We ended the meeting by reviewing coming events, and talking about goals for 2018.



GENERAL FUND/LOCAL USE ONLY FUND EXPLANATION

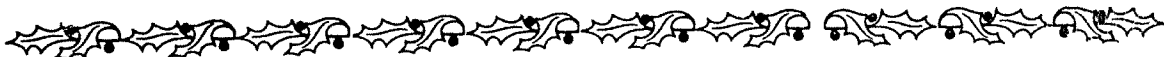
The Council asked for an explanation of the designation of funds used in the offering system:

General Fund -- These funds are used for the expenses of the congregation. The first 5% of these donations is passed on to the ELCA and the Southwest California Synod.



Local Use Only -- These are funds designated for congregational use only to be used for general operating expenses. No portion of them is passed on to the ELCA or Synod.

Please make sure your offering envelopes are clearly marked on the correct line with the amount of your contribution so it goes where you planned for it to go.



STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE



The Church Council and Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for their wonderful response to the stewardship appeal. We received 14 more pledges than last year and the amount pledged was \$16,000 higher than last year. Most of the pledges are being increased from 10% to 15%. Again, thank you!



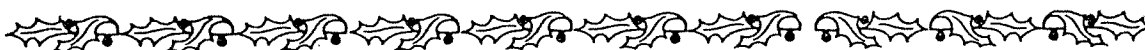
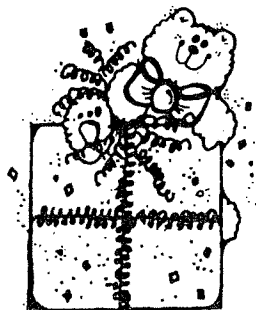
ANNUAL MEETING, PART 1

Our Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 1 will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3rd, following the worship service (approx. 11:00). The purpose of this meeting will be to elect church officers, adopt a budget for 2018, and approve Trust Fund expenditures. We urge everyone to be present for this important meeting. Your vote counts!



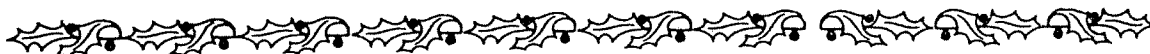
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Carrie Forster
- 5 Cindy Haener
- 6 Sherie Barker
- 10 George Tway
- 11 Sharron Jackman
- 12 Von Carney, Ina Davenport, Brenda Pool
- 15 Debbie Christmen
- 17 Ron Forster, Alexander McKee
- 18 Ken Brocks



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

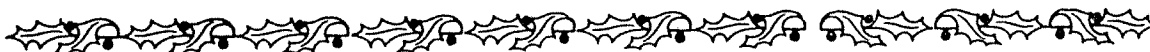
- 1 Von & Heidi Carney, 43 years
- 17 Bruce & Cindy Haener, 40 years
- 26 Don & Barbara Dallmann, 55 years
- 27 Joe & Angelina Rice, 6 years
- 28 Gary & Cindy Lee, 32 years



PRAYER LIST



- ♥ Bob Penzel and family, Michele died on Thursday Nov. 23
- ♥ Marty Bennett (Nancy Berg's mother), hospitalized and recovering from surgery to repair hip replacement hardware and a broken bone
- ♥ For health and growth for God's church here at Calvary
- ♥ Participation and success for our holiday activities and for our new Youth Group
- ♥ Comfort for those who have lost loved ones in the recent acts of violence
- ♥ Peace for the Middle East
- ♥ Protection and courage for the many Christians in the world that are being persecuted
- ♥ Pray that the Lord would turn the hearts of the whole world toward Him and that everyone would worship Him as their Lord and Savior



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

On Sunday, November 26, Kate Anderson officially joined our Calvary church family. Welcome Kate! Please make a point to introduce yourself if you haven't already, help make her feel welcome, and pray for her this month.





SYMPATHY

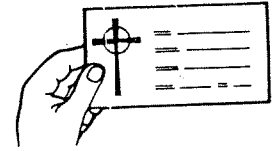
Our deepest sympathy to Bob Penzel, his family and friends as we all mourn the loss of Michele on November 23rd. It is hard to say goodbye to someone like Michele who always had a smile, and was always willing to help out in any way she could. May God comfort us all during this time of loss.



GIVING AT YEAR END

The end of the year is a good time to make a gift to the church. It could be a memorial gift you wanted to give or maybe you want to finish up your pledge amount. Maybe you've been especially blessed this year and want to give a special gift. Now is the time to make that gift if you want to include it in your charitable deductions for tax purposes this year. Year-to-date contribution statements will be available in the entryway on Sunday, December 3rd, to help you with your tax deduction and charitable gift planning. These are not bills that must be paid. All gifts must be in the offering by Sunday, December 31th or sent to the church office postmarked by December 31st to be counted in your 2017 giving.

We offer to God

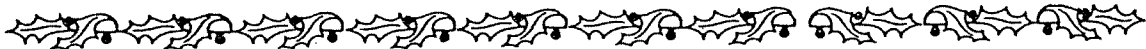


"AWAY IN A MANGER" 2017



"AWAY IN A MANGER" 2017 -- The Christmas season is upon us and it is time to finish putting things together for our "Away In a Manger" community outreach open house for 2017. This has been a wonderful program over the years for our congregation and for our community, but to make it a reality it takes lots of time and energy. **All of you** need to be part of it! Once again we need to have nativities to display, cookies to eat, and music to share. But more than that we need **YOU**. We want

you to share your nativities and help out in any way possible-- this needs to be an **all-Calvary** effort. This means we want **everyone** to bring their nativities to display. So dig out your sets now or, if you don't have one, make one or purchase one that appeals to you, and bring them all to church by Friday, December 9th. You could even borrow one from a friend or neighbor! We also need everyone to invite their family, friends and neighbors to join them here -- help get the word out!!! Hang posters and hand out postcards! Let's make this the biggest and best "Away In a Manger" yet and help share the true meaning of Christmas with our friends and our community! If you can help this year please talk to Pastor Jim.



YOUTH GROUP BOAT PARADE EVENT

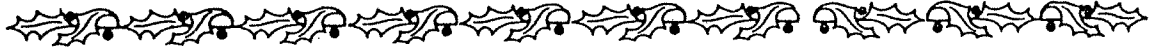
The Youth Group will be having a holiday get together on Saturday, December 2 at 5:00 p.m. All 7th-12th graders are welcome. We will be having Holiday fun starting at the church and making our way to watch the Morro Bay Boat Parade. Make certain to wear comfy shoes and warm clothes.



YOUTH GROUP GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER

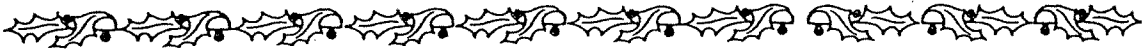


Save time and stress AND help our Youth Group! Sunday, December 10 and Sunday, December 17 the youth group can wrap all of your Christmas presents. Please drop off your gifts after the worship service, make certain they are clearly labeled with to and from, and pick them up later that day. We will also need donations of gift wrap, gift bags, tissue paper, ribbons, bows and tags then leave the wrapping to us!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

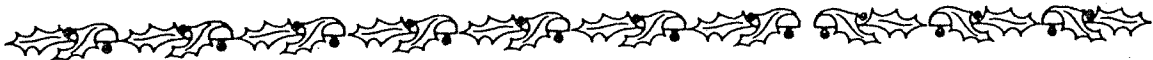
This year's Sunday School Christmas Program will be presented on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for worship that morning. Come prepared for a morning of Christmas faith, fun, music and fellowship!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

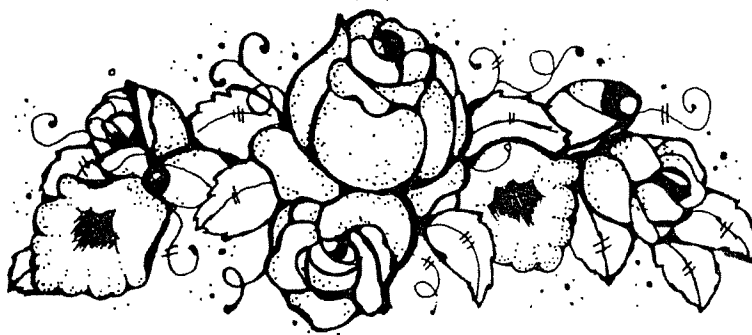


We would like to have a profusion of poinsettias to help set the mood for Christmas season worship services. If you would like to help provide one of the plants to decorate our worship space, please sign up as the list is passed in church or call the church office (772-8457). Cost for the poinsettias this year will be \$7.00 and the money should be placed in your regular offering envelope with "flowers", and the amount included, marked on the outside.



2018 FLOWER CHART

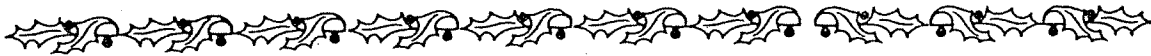
The 2018 Flower Chart is now posted on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Cost for providing altar flowers is \$35 per week. If you would like to help provide altar flowers for a Sunday be sure to sign up soon! Remember, if no one provides flowers, the money to pay for the flower arrangement has to come out of the General fund. Flowers may be picked up after the worship service and may be dedicated to any occasion or person by calling the church office or filling out the little card available on the bulletin board by the chart. Thank you!



NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES



Offering envelopes for 2018 will be available in the entryway in early December. Please pick up your labeled envelopes and PLEASE use them whenever possible when giving your offerings to Calvary. This makes it easier for you to keep track of your giving and for our offering counters to give appropriate credit for contributions. If you would like to have offering envelopes and do not find a labeled set on the table, call the church office (772-8457) to request them.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

10:00 a.m.-- Fourth Sunday of Advent

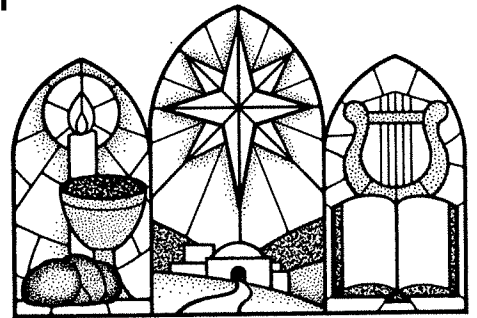
The Worship Service will include the Sunday School Christmas program. It will be a fun and festive morning!

5:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion –
Child care will be available

8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion



Christmas Eve Service

☆Bring your family, friends and neighbors and join us for worship on this holy day!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

We will be having a busy, happy month of December as we prepare for the Christmas Program and learn about Martin Luther and the Christmas Tree. Thank you to Nikki Rocha for heading up the program again this year! Merry Christmas!!!

Sunday, December 3 – The First Sunday of Advent

Christmas Program parts will be handed out and everyone will read through the script for the first time

Sunday, December 10 – The Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Program rehearsal

Sunday, December 17 – The Third Sunday of Advent

Lesson: Martin Luther and the Christmas Tree
Craft: Baby Jesus Christmas Tree Ornament

Friday, December 22

5:00 Dress Rehearsal for the Christmas Program

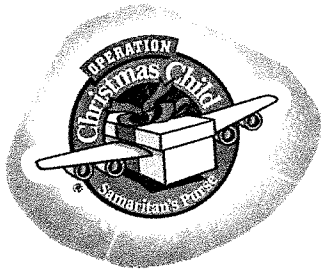
Sunday, December 24 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

Treat Bags will be handed out after the morning Worship Service

Sunday, December 31 – No Sunday School

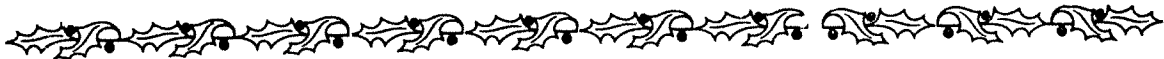


SUNDAY SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP PROJECT NEWS



We are happy to announce that we packed and shipped 100 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. We hope that soon we will be able to tell you where our boxes landed. Thank you for your continued support of our Sunday School stewardship projects. We look forward to bringing you more opportunities to share with others in the year ahead!

We are always in need of support for our Compassion Child, Charite, and any help is gratefully accepted. The next *special* project will be "Fill the Ark" for Heifer International during the season of Lent ☺



CHRISTMAS GIFT LETTER

Dear fellow Calvary Lutheran Member,

I'm sending you a special greeting for the Christmas season as we remember the birth of our Lord Jesus, who is the Christ.

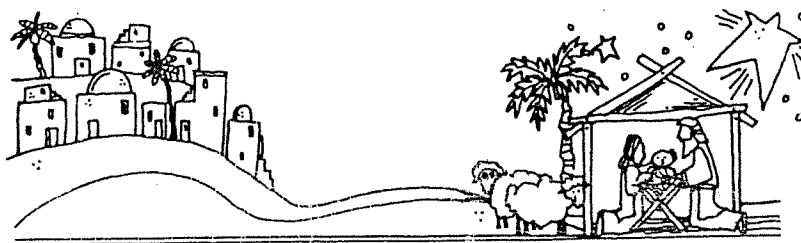
As we enter the Holiday season, now is a good time to reflect on our many blessings. An important one is Calvary Lutheran Church and the leadership of Pastor Jim and Nancy. There are many ways we can express our gratitude for this leadership, and I trust you to find the most appropriate for you and your family.

If you would like to give a special monetary gift to Pastor Jim and Nancy to show your love and appreciation for them, it can be done in several ways. You may give your gift to one of the Church Council members, mail it to the church office or place it in your regular offering envelope and mark it "Pastor Gift". Pastor Jim and Nancy are always there for us and this is our opportunity to say "thank you." The gift will be presented on Christmas Eve.

This is also a good time to remember the rest of the Calvary staff who contribute so much to our Church. If you would like to make an additional monetary gift, please mark it for church staff.

Yours in Christ,

Randy Schuldt,
Congregational President



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Psalm 126

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 24 (10:00 a.m.) – Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:4b-55

Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 24 (5:30 & 8:00 p.m.) – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 2:11-14

Psalm 96

Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Revelation 21:1-6a

Psalm 8

Matthew 25:31-46



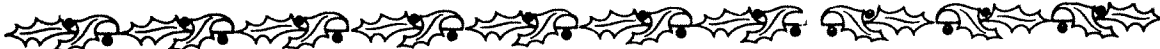
*For unto you is
born this day in
the City of David
a Savior, which
is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:11



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Notes</u>
10/29	49	12	61	Reformation Celebration
11/5	46	8	54	All Saints' Sunday
11/12	48	11	59	Martin Luther Birthday Party
11/19	54	9	63	
11/26	42	6	48	



STAFF:

Pastor - James D. Berg
Office Secretary - Nancy Berg
Worship & Music Director – Nancy Berg
Organist – Ina Davenport
Janitors – Debbie and Jennifer Chrismen
Groundskeeper – Mark Orback
Nursery Attendant – Aldina Dunn

2017 COUNCIL OFFICERS:

President – Randy Schuldt
Vice President – Joyce Bauer
Secretary – Sharron Jackman
Treasurer – Barb Dilts


SAINTS IN SERVICE FOR DECEMBER


Readers

Dec. 3 Cindy Lee
 10 Randy Schuldt
 17 Joyce Bauer
 24 Alice Kolb
 31 Don Dallmann

Greeters

Dec. 3 Jennifer Kurrle
 10 Robin Karas
 17 Kate Anderson
 24 _____
 31 _____

Communion Assistants

Dec. 3 Sharron Jackman, Don Dallmann, Elaine Grawe
 17 Sharron Jackman, Joyce Bauer, Don Dallmann
 24 Joyce Bauer, Sharron Jackman

Clicker Operator

Dec. 3 _____
 10 _____
 17 _____
 24 _____
 31 _____

Usher

Dec. 3 _____
 10 Bruce Torgerson
 17 Gary Orback
 24 _____
 31 _____

Refreshments

Dec. 3 Bruce Hagiwara, Barbara Dallmann
 10 Away In a Manger leftovers
 17 Birthday Cake
 24 Barbara & James Dilts
 31 _____

Altar Guild

	Set Up	Clean Up
Dec. 3	Sharron Jackman, Beth Davis	_____
17	Beth Davis, Sharron Jackman	_____
24	a.m. --Sharron Jackman / p.m. --Joyce Bauer	

Altar Flowers

Dec. 3 _____
 10 Brenda Pool
 17 Poinsettias
 24 Poinsettias
 31 _____

*O come,
 O come,
 Emmanuel*





DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Sunday Morning Schedule:</u> 9:00 Adult Learning Class 10:00 Worship and Sunday School	<u>Holy Communion:</u> December 3rd, 17th & 24th	*To Be Remembered in Prayer			1 *Jim & Penny Henriksen	2 9:00 Worship Team Rehearsal 10:00 Common Threads 5:00 Youth Group
3 11:00 Annual Meeting, Part 1	4 2:00 Finance Committee Meeting *Joe & Debby Hoeflich	5 10:00 Bible Study	6 *Bob & Sharron Jackman	7 <u>Away In a Manger</u> Set-Up 2:00—5:00 6:00—8:00	8 <u>Away In a Manger</u> Set-Up 2:00—5:00 6:00—8:00 *Gunther Junck	9 9:00 Worship Team Rehearsal <u>Away in a Manger</u> Final Set-Up 9:00—12:00 Open House 1:00—4:00
10	11 *Judy Kalin	12 10:00 Bible Study	13 6:00 Council Christmas Dinner Meeting *Robin Karas	14	15 *The Kolb Family	16 9:00 Worship Team Rehearsal
17	18 *Woody & Nancy Koppl	19 10:00 Bible Study	20 *Jennifer Kurrle	21 8:30 Newsletter Crew	22 5:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal	23 9:00 Worship Team Rehearsal
24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 10:00 a.m. 5:30 & 8:00 p.m.	25 Happy Birthday Jesus!!!	26 Church Office Closed Dec. 26—January 3	27 *Gary & Cindy Lee	28	29 *Mike & Janet Lorenzo	30 No Worship Team Rehearsal
31 No Adult Learning Class						