

August 2020

CALVARY CROSSROADS



Calvary Episcopal Church

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Sundays, 10:30 am and Thursdays, 11:30 am

August Message

The Rev. Dr. Austin L. Leininger



Happy August, Calvary Family!

With the start of school coming up in just a short week, it feels like we're diving back into the program year almost a month early this year. Thus far, 2020 has been a year of many changes. Our Calvary family has weathered the COVID storm with steadfast community, determination, versatility, creativity, and compassion. We've been reaching out to each other week after week to ensure that everyone feels cared for and valued, we've added bible study, our Wednesday evening book group on Antiracism, and recently our Wednesday morning family gathering for bible stories and family check in. This fall, we'll be adding a Zoom worship service on Sunday mornings, giving us another chance to check in with a slightly different style of worship that is somewhat of a hybrid between Thursdays and Sundays. Down the road a bit, we're brainstorming some ways to include another worship service that is less liturgical and which, we hope, makes room for some new community to emerge, with the help of the Spirit, and to join our Calvary family. Striving to honor and keep both our Anglican heritage and our Episcopal tradition, as well as keeping room for the work of the Spirit that will help lead us into the church of the future, Calvary continues to walk the

balance between tradition and creativity that helps keep us growing and thriving into the future—whether in person or isolated by COVID-19!

Some of what our tradition brings with it, as we've been discussing over the past year in our diocese, in our parish, and with our Sacred Ground conversations and our antiracism book group, is a history of clericalism and power disparity, preserving an imperial hierarchy that left many cast aside, and kept most out of the elite spaces occupied by privileged "straight" "white" "men." Each of these terms is loaded with centuries (or millennia) of weight that have created structures, systems, civilizations, societies, and worldviews premised on supposed inequalities between genders and races, and a social contract of procreation, all of which allowed an artificial social hierarchy of inequity and a privileged subset of the population to be developed. Over the millennia (in the case of genders and the social contract), and centuries (in the case of races—which dates only back to the 15th century), these inequities have been justified by abuse of scripture, institutionalized and propagated by the building and spread of empires, solidified in our cultural and societal structures and memory, and have resulted in centuries and millennia of abusing each other. Today, as we struggle even to begin to be able to see these now invisible systems and structures, we begin the work of trying to dismantle centuries and millennia of embedded genderist, racist, and heterosexist systems and structures, and to see each other, for the first time in a very long human history, as equally God's children, equally made, equally loved, and equally worthy.

Other parts of what our tradition brings with it is a history of creativity, innovative change, apology, and seeking to live into our baptismal promises of seeking and serving Christ in one another, recognizing and honoring our common human dignity, and striving for justice and peace. It is in this context that we continue to strive toward a church and society of equity, opportunity, mutual respect, reparation, and healing. Calvary's fierce determination to take care of each other, joy in exploring new paths and expressions of our faith, and mutual compassion as we strive to live forward into our mission while leaving no one behind, position us well for the conversations of the past three years and up to the present on gender and gender expression, human sexuality, racism, and creative worship.

As those conversations have and continue to lead us into action, we learn, grow, and strive to live ever more fully into our calling to live as Christ's hands and heart in our world.

The constant and urgent changes this year that have led us already to August in 2020 have left many of us feeling breathless, but it is a race well worth running, and we continue to strive forward with the breathlessness of joy and hope that come from this marathon we are all running together. Though more change is sure to come, some from our desire and some from outside necessity, a few things that will remain constant are our family's commitment to each other and to our faith, our commitment to the integrity of our worship, and our indomitable spirit. In Paul's words from our recent lectionary, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, [nor social isolation, nor COVID-19], nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."



Austin

News from the Pews

A hearty thank you to Father David Jones for keeping up much-needed grounds work around the church! From replacing the buttresses at the front doors, to weeding, and pruning – he even replaced the lock for our ladder shed! A nice reminder that outdoor maintenance is safe and makes for happy trees 😊



COPA Report. Following recent success in achieving the expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CEITC) for undocumented workers with young children, COPA leaders are working on three vital fronts.

1. Housing: With local unemployment dramatically increasing due to COVID 19, many families in our city are having difficulty in keeping up with rent payments. To this end we are inviting Santa Cruz City Council Members to weekly COPA house meetings where local families can share their stories of need. The city council members have expressed interest in searching for available funds.

2. Testing/Contact Tracing/Supported Isolation: Information is being gathered from local officials on these topics in order to set up a PowerPoint presentation that can be available for use by COPA institutions.

3. Law enforcement & Safety: COPA leaders will join other community members in meeting with Chief of Police, Police Officers Association Union members and the Watsonville City Council members to work on law enforcement policies. The Salinas Chief of Police has agreed to follow a similar process.

Family & Youth Report. During our family Zoom gatherings in July, we read the stories The Lost Sheep and The Creation in our Bishop Tutu's Storybook Bibles. We then talked about ways to care for each other and ways to care for our precious Earth. As per Patricia's suggestion, we now bring our art materials so as we admire the illustrations in our Bibles we can also do our own drawings and colorings. Sharing what we are drawing and a plethora of many other things in our lives is an important part of our gatherings, like when Marie shared her family pet snake and when Opal and Eda shared their newly "emerged" live butterflies. Claire and Kay shared their favorite piece of driftwood that is shaped just like a snake. Many stories and feelings are shared and before we know it an hour has gone by. However, families should keep in mind that it is not required to stay with us for any length of time. It is okay to pop in just to say hello. We just like keeping in touch. Our next Zoom will be Wed, August 5 at 10:30 Am.



The Bishop Tutu's Storybook Bible is available through Cokesbury.Com for \$13.49.

Announcements

Outreach Sunday, August 23 -- - Each month we focus on a Calvary outreach ministry and collect a special offering for that ministry over the course of 4 weeks. Starting August 23 and through September 20, **we support COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action)**. Founded in 2003, COPA's mission is to develop the leadership skills of ordinary people to engage effectively in public life with power to negotiate with public and private sector leaders to change the economic, social, political and cultural pressures on their community. Calvary is one of 22 member churches, synagogues, public schools, labor organizations, and nonprofits in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. COPA leads community campaigns in the areas of housing, public safety, education, health care, immigration, and economic development. They also assist member organizations, including Calvary, in strategic planning and train leaders for effective community building. **To support COPA, make checks payable to Calvary with COPA in the memo line and send the checks to the church office at 532 Center Street in Santa Cruz 95060.** For more information about COPA, contact Al Reetz, alsonjareetz@gmail.com or 831-713-7371. Thanks for your support!

FORWARD DAY-by-DAY and you!

If you have been missing the daily readings included in the quarterly editions of Forward Day-by-Day that we get at Calvary, you can subscribe to it on-line for FREE! Just go to: www.ForwardMovement.org for details. The website has a myriad of information. If you don't have access to a computer, you can call 800-543-1813 or write them at 412 Sycamore St. Cincinnati, OH 45202 to subscribe to the quarterly booklets. The booklet cost is \$13.00 for one year, or \$22.00 for two years. Forward Movement also produces learning experiences with the Church Next programs that Calvary Adult Forum has frequently used to learn and discuss many topics of interest to us. The daily readings can provide us with hope, solace and reflection in these times. Elizabeth Chandler, Worship committee

OFFICE CLOSURE: The staff has been asked to work from home, and committees are asked to meet via Zoom. If you need pastoral care, or to contact any of the staff, please reach out via email or telephone. Father Austin: text or call 831-350-1344 or email aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org. Please text Nicole: 831-325-9390 or email: nmacargel@gmail.com.

Bible Study with Father Austin Tuesdays at 11 am. Please email Father Austin directly (rector@calvarysantacruz.org) to ask to be included in the Zoom email list and to provide an email address for the invitation!

Thursday Service with Father Austin Thursdays at 11:30 am. Please email Father Austin directly (rector@calvarysantacruz.org) to ask to be included in the Zoom email list and to provide an email address for the invitation!

Calvary Book Club – will meet next via Zoom on **Friday, August 21 at 3:00 p.m.** to discuss **Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian** by Paul F. Knitter - "Narrates how esteemed theologian, Paul F. Knitter overcame a crisis of faith by looking to Buddhism for inspiration. From prayer to how Christianity views life after death, Knitter argues that a Buddhist standpoint can encourage a more person-centered conception of Christianity, where individual religious experience comes first, and liturgy and tradition second. Moving and revolutionary, this book will inspire Christians everywhere." - from the publisher. For more information and to get on the club email list, contact Martha Dexter, mmdexter@gmail.com.

A Gift of Music. As Shelter-in Place and Online services continue, Calvary Choir is hoping that we can, in some small way, help to ease the stress of this difficult time. Our video performance of Handel's "Let the bright seraphim" and "Let their celestial concerts," heard on May 24, The Sunday after Ascension Day, was a great hit. Here is a link to the video so you can enjoy it again and again.

<https://calvarysantacruz.org/index.php/music/calvary-choir-recordings/>

SUPPORT: During this time of virtual-church, we have no way to pass the plate other than offering the option to donate online or mail in a check to Calvary. Please feel invited to make an offering by clicking the "Donate" button on our website, or by mailing a check to the Calvary office: 532 Center Street, S.C., CA 95060.

Spread the Word! As Calvary has moved online for the time being, we need help in spreading the word to all those who may be interested in attending—regardless of how far away they may be! We've had viewers from Spain, New York, Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Arizona—and those are just the viewers we know about.

If you know of someone who isn't on our calvary email address who might appreciate knowing about our Sunday service and other online (Zoom) gathering .

Calling All Lectors! If you are already a lector, or if you would like to be a lector while we're online, please reach out and let us know if we can put you on a digital rotation for Sunday and Holy Week readings! Lectors will need to be able to record themselves reading their assigned reading (voice only is fine) and email the recording to Father Austin for inclusion in the livestream worship. Most smartphones have a voice recording app, which should allow many if not most of you to contribute if you so desire. Please email Father Austin: rector@calvarysantacruz.org,

Treasurer's Report

There are no big surprises on the June Income Statement or Balance Sheet. The very good news is that pledge income continues to surpass our expectations. At this half-way point in the year we are \$8579 over budget. Calvary parishioners are really stepping up in this time of crisis. 12-step Income and Facilities Rental are understandably the big income problem, at (\$4632 and (\$9631) below budget respectively. A little bit continues to trickle in for each account. Food Not Bombs rents the kitchen to prepare food to distribute off-campus and netted us \$920 for the month, a bit less than half of our budgeted amount. A fraction of the 7:00 a.m. AA group (Sought Through Prayer) has been meeting, with appropriate social distancing, in the parish hall (the rest meet via Zoom) and they continue to pay their total rent.

Another bit of good news: that particular group recently voted to make a \$700 special donation to Calvary in gratitude for letting them continue in-person meetings. Total income ended up being (\$2450) under budget. The expense side of the Income Statement ran fairly close to budget except for one account: our Gas & Electric bill was (\$732.28) under budget! It seems the solar panels are doing their job. Several of the other expense accounts were modestly under-budget, so that we ended up (\$2804) under budget on the expense side of things, putting our net operating income at \$353 over budget for the month. Year to date, we are \$499 over budget. Our 2020 budget is a deficit budget of (\$4531), so we have a ways to go to make that up, but things could certainly be much worse.

Our Balance Sheet is stable. The gains in the stock market seem to be settling out with our Trust Fund only \$847 up from last month. But that's better than down!

All in all, we are holding surprisingly steady through this time of crisis. Thanks be to God! Let's hope it continues. Submitted by Cathy Watson

Did you know?

The Stewardship Committee meets monthly on the fourth Friday of the month at 11:00 am, via Zoom. We are preparing for our upcoming pledge drive and welcome your ideas and participation. If you would like to join us please email Alice Lopez at enna.lopez@yahoo.com.

Next Meeting: August 28, 2020 at 11:00.

Thank you for your support! We are stewards of God's love, grace and mercy.

Vestry Notes

The Vestry continues to meet during the summer. In our June meeting we discussed several things. Of interest to the parish at large:

- Fr. Austin had a nice vacation with his family and expressed gratitude for parishioners who kept services going while he was away.
- Due to the recent solar installation and shutdown of the office, we are saving money on utilities and photocopying.
- The Green Initiative project is just about complete.
- The Worship Committee is discussing resumption of an 8:00 service on Sunday mornings, beginning in September. This service may end up being something like the Liturgy of the Word followed by a discussion of the lections, and may serve as a transition into the Adult Forum.
- Supplies in our food pantry, which we cannot use because our own food pantry ministry is on hiatus during the pandemic, will be donated to other local food pantries. We have permission from Second Harvest to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Gong, Clerk of the Vestry

Crossroads Articles. If you have an article to submit to the Crossroads please email to enna.lopez@yahoo.com by the 27th day of the month.

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