

# September 2020

## CALVARY CROSSROADS



*Calvary Episcopal Church*

Calvary Episcopal Church  
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Sundays, 10:30 am and Thursdays, 11:30 am

### September Message

#### The Rev. Dr. Austin L. Leininger



Greetings, Calvary Family, and welcome to September!

My customary greeting of “happy September” seems a bit out of place considering all that’s going on in Santa Cruz, surrounding cities, and in the world right now, but I do hope for a happy September for us all! I think a recent email from Liz Wesolowski characterizes our year to date well: “So far 2020 is like looking both ways before crossing the street and then getting hit by an airplane.”

I have appreciated so much the check ins from across our parish family over the past week to report in on safety of both people and homes, as well as for the gestures of generosity, mutual care, and prayers for safety both for my own family and for others in need. As I reported on August 25th, my family is back home in safety with the two fire breaks immediately to our west and north that are keeping the fires from reaching Santa Cruz. My heart breaks for those who have lost their homes and livestock, as well as for those who are still unsure if their homes are still standing.

As my son, Anthony, is fond of saying, “first we had threat of murder hornets, then COVID-19, now fires,” and as I keep cutting him short, I add, “and we’re not going to ask ‘what’s next’ (because we don’t want to invite anything ELSE to come our way this year!).”

So here we are in September! Schools are yet to reopen because too many teachers have been evacuated, and September 1st we’ll be on day 172 of the quarantine, but on this Sunday, September 6, we will be including a blessing of the electronic devices (and the educational support personnel known as Parents, etc.) during our Family Service (in lieu of backpacks, which we aren’t using this year), and kicking off the Season of Creation that will carry us to St. Francis Day on October 4th!

During this intensely chaotic and crazy time in our lives, we are reminded of Jesus’ words of encouragement to Peter in our readings from a couple Sundays ago, that with an enduring faith built on the firm foundation of God’s presence throughout our lives and community, even the gates of Hades won’t prevail against us; and in the words of our Psalmist from the same week, “Our help in in the Name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.” The outpouring of mutual care and support throughout these past 172 days has been immensely comforting, and has made all the difference in the world to many of us. Instead of feeling unmoored, drifting in isolation, and fighting off despair, we have the reassurance of knowing we are not alone, that we are part of a family that cares about us and for us, and that we will weather this time of uncertainty and chaos together—in Paul’s words, as One Body.

And so in the midst of the pandemic, in the midst of fires, in the midst of all the storms surrounding us (to draw from another recent lectionary Gospel), we are called to inner peace, to reassurance in God’s presence with us, and to continue to hope, to care, and to reach out with all the abundance of God’s love to the world around us.

With that in mind, please reach out if you need anything in this difficult time! If you are evacuated and need a place to stay, groceries, clothing, toiletries, prayer, reassurance, or just the comfort of a listening ear of someone who loves you, reach out! We are here for each other (as well as for those outside our doors)—you are not alone.

God be with us all during this time, and may we find the bright hope of a better tomorrow made manifest soon!

I’ll leave you with a link to a laughter-invoking Hamilton parody made by an Episcopal priest for his parish (and for general enjoyment). May it lighten your day and

bring a smile to your face.  
<https://youtu.be/CFduNE4pXAQ>

You are in my thoughts and prayers, Calvary family!



Austin

## Musical Notes

By Murray Walker, Music Director

We enter a new program year like none other. Instead of eagerly anticipating singing together at our first rehearsal after the summer break, I am fretting about how to create something worthwhile on Zoom. Instead of setting up an exciting schedule of services and events for the whole year, I'm accepting the fact that there will be no Evensongs, no live recitals, no Special Choral Eucharists, and probably no Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Instead of the beautiful Christmas Lessons and Carols in our warmly decorated church, I am planning a pre-recorded video presentation. However, inspired by my colleagues in the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM), all of whom are faced with exactly the same dilemmas, I am reminding myself and our choir members that our mission, to help our community experience that mystical place where the human and divine intersect, continues. Even in these dark and frustrating times, music can help us find those connections we long for, both with one another and with God.

Luckily, we have technology to help us fulfill this mission. Our virtual choir will appear on your computer screen on Sunday, 13 September, starting off the Season of Creation with Beethoven's classic anthem, "The Heavens Are Telling the Glory of God."

In discussion with the Worship Committee, we have decided that, going forward, our live-streamed services will contain three verses of three hymns, an anthem, a sung Sanctus and Fraction Anthem, plus a prelude and postlude. Kylan will continue to create his lovely piano improvisations on hymn tunes for the preludes; the postludes will feature musicians from our congregation, including Kylan.

I am mostly choosing hymns from my Favorite Hymns list, all requested by parishioners for our occasional Favorite Hymn Sundays. All are welcome to contribute to that list anytime. Simply send me an email to [mwalker@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:mwalker@calvarysantacruz.org).

Technology also gives us the opportunity to hear music anytime we wish. The Music Page of Calvary's website (<https://calvarysantacruz.org/index.php/music/calvary-choir-recordings/>) features all the virtual choir anthems we have created so far (new ones will be added), and

several archive recordings of Calvary Choir. Kylan has just assembled 30 minutes or so of the hymn-based piano preludes he is creating for our livestreamed services. I am listening to Kylan's preludes as I write this; they are both soothing and inspiring. We will get them up on the church website soon!

## Family & Youth Report

By Teacher Sonja Reetz

Big changes for families in August! School started for many and then school ended for many. The fire caused additional distress and some relocation. Through it all we are determined to stay in touch and are now zooming on Sunday mornings 10:00 to 11:00 am. We find that one hour goes by very quickly as we read stories from our Tutu Storybook Bible and share many stories of our own. At one of our gatherings we generated a list of devices and programs for blessing at the September 5, first Sunday service: iPhones, iPads, chargers, Chrome books, wifi towers, the grid - also programs such as Khan Academy, Zoom, etc. We urge families to join us on Sunday mornings if only for a "hi and good bye".

## COPA Report

By Sonja and Al Reetz

Through these challenging few months, COPA's organizing work has never let up. In addition to launching a strategy to engage and inform families about COVID-19 and its impacts, COPA leaders have had the following wins:

- \$1.1m in Rental Assistance in Santa Cruz County
- With our IAF sister organizations across California, the expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit to include undocumented tax filers
- A commitment from the Watsonville Police Department and City Council to participate in 10 House Meetings to listen to residents stories and concerns about policing
- Another \$2m to continue Esperanza Care in Monterey County

September will be another busy month as we continue to hear stories from local families and as we bring these stories to our local officials. With elections coming up soon we will be working on setting up forums with county supervisor candidates such as with John Leopold and Manu Koenig. *(COPA does not endorse a particular candidate but the idea is to come together with a common agenda.)*

Please consider joining us as we meet and strategize with leaders from other COPA institutions.

## Announcements



**United Thank Offering - Outreach Sunday, September 27.** Each month, we collect a special offering designated for one of our outreach ministries. This month we support **the United Thank Offering (UTO)**. The UTO is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. We at Calvary are invited to spend the next 4 weeks focused on the importance of gratitude and grit by collecting funds and supporting missionaries and congregations both at home and abroad. The United Thank Offering awards grants for new projects and programs that work to alleviate poverty domestically and internationally. In 2019, the UTO funded 39 grants totaling more than \$1.53 million. **Our weekly outreach offering will go to the United Thank Offering through October 18.**

**The Importance of UTO Ingatherings:** This year United Thank Offering Grants are **focused on COVID-19 relief projects** so donations to the United Thank Offering through our Calvary Outreach Program will be directed to those efforts. "We are all eager for things to feel normal again, but this is not the time to stop being grateful or being the church from wherever we are. COVID-19 is not taking a break and is having a terrible impact in so many places; it's time for each of us as The Episcopal Church to remember our blessings and share our offerings in gratitude to create blessings for others around the country and the world." Sherri Dietrich, president of United Thank Offering Board

**How to Donate:** In normal times we donate to UTO by placing cash or checks in the special blue UTO envelopes or bring our blue UTO boxes to church on UTO Sunday. But we are not living in normal times so here are ways to donate in this special time: **Donate online** at [unitedthankoffering.org](http://unitedthankoffering.org) and click on the "Give" button; or **mail your check** made out to DFMS (include "UTO Ingathering" and your church's name in the memo line) to: United Thank Offering, DFMS—Protestant Episcopal Church, PO Box 958983, St. Louis, MO 63195-8983 For more information about the United Thank Offering, contact Sarah Peterson at [skpete123@gmail.com](mailto:skpete123@gmail.com)

**Thursday Interactive Worship.** Thursdays at 11:30, Father Austin and others gather on Zoom for Morning Prayer with conversation around the assigned readings and the saint of the day. Join us for some mid-week worship, conversation, and fellowship! Please email Father Austin directly ([rector@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:rector@calvarysantacruz.org)) to ask to be included in the Zoom email list and to provide an email address for the invitation!

**Diocesan Budget:** Austin will be attending the Board of Trustees' special budget meeting on September 10th to update the proposed diocesan budget for 2021. With changes to finances and financial planning due to COVID-19, the diocesan board is holding a special meeting to approve changes to the 2021 diocesan draft budget before the deanery meetings where the draft budget will be presented on September 20th. Charmion Burns has agreed to lead Morning Prayer both for the regular BOT meeting on September 24th as well as for this special meeting on September 10th.

**Outreach Offering --** Each month we focus on a Calvary outreach ministry and collect a special offering for that ministry over the course of 4 weeks. 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](mailto:alsonjareetz@gmail.com) or 831-713-7371. Thanks for your support!

**Calvary Book Club** – will meet next via Zoom on **Friday, September 18 at 3:00 p.m.** to discuss **When We Were Orphans** by Kazuo Ishiguro - shortlisted for the Book Prize in 2000, the book is set over a period of 50 years in London and Shanghai and focuses on the story of a young London detective born in Shanghai who was orphaned at nine when his parents disappeared. "Masterful, suspenseful and psychologically acute, *When We Were Orphans* offers a profound meditation on the shifting quality of memory, and the possibility of avenging one's past." - from the publisher. Ishiguro was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2018 and is the celebrated author of several books including *The Remains of the Day* and *Never Let Me Go*. For more information and to get on the club email list, contact Martha Dexter, [mmdexter@gmail.com](mailto:mmdexter@gmail.com).

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



**Carol Walker has some give-away items:** 1. Synergy Sofa Sleeper from Costco, purchased in July 2018. The bed is full-sized with a 3" memory foam mattress. Excellent condition. Very comfortable for a sofa bed. 2. Sealy Thorton Firm full-sized mattress and foundation. Purchased at Mancini's Sleepworld in August 2018. Has been encased in bed-bug proof/allergy covers since day one. Also excellent condition. Contact Carol: Carolmail133@gmail.com

**Join us Wednesdays on Zoom beginning September 16th from 5-6 pm for a new adult ed series on Ethics in the Anglican Tradition!** Austin has offered to provide readings, insights, and join us in conversation for seven different weeks of looking at how we in the Episcopal Church address the ethics of a variety of challenging topics. From marginalized peoples, LGBTQIA+ and racism to the environment, fires, and pandemics, we'll be taking on and discussing some of the principle issues of our time. Kicking off the series, we'll get a handle on the fundamentals of ethical theory, then dive into the fun and challenging world of theological ethics. Come join us for some fellowship, fun, and what is sure to be some scintillating conversation! We'll meet Wednesdays from 5-6pm, September 16th-October 28. To sign up (i.e. to receive materials and Zoom invitations), please contact Austin directly: [rector@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:rector@calvarysantacruz.org)

**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 ap, which should allow many if not most of you to contribute if you so desire. Please email Father Austin: [rector@calvarysantacruz.org](mailto:rector@calvarysantacruz.org),



**Musical Soulmates**  
**Celebrating Collaboration**  
*presents*

   
Shannon D'Antonio | Violin | Kate Alm | Piano

*Benefitting*

 **NAACP**  
Santa Cruz County

 **MiM**  
MUSIC IN MINISTRY

**Saturday | November 7, 2020 | 5:00 pm**  
**Celebrating the Americas and Their Influence**  
featuring **Shannon D'Antonio, Violin**  
with **Kate Alm, Piano** and friends

**TICKETS | \$30 plus fee; Donations also accepted**  
**Calvary Episcopal Church**  
**LIVESTREAM**

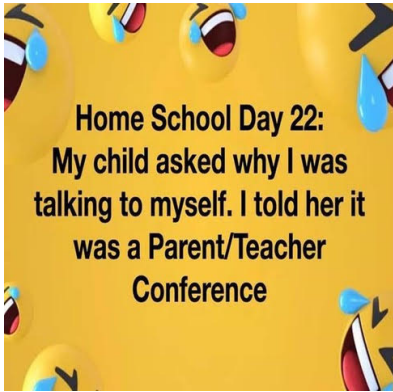
**EVENTBRITE:**  
Search "Musical Soulmates"

**More Info | 831.227.7535**

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## Humor Me

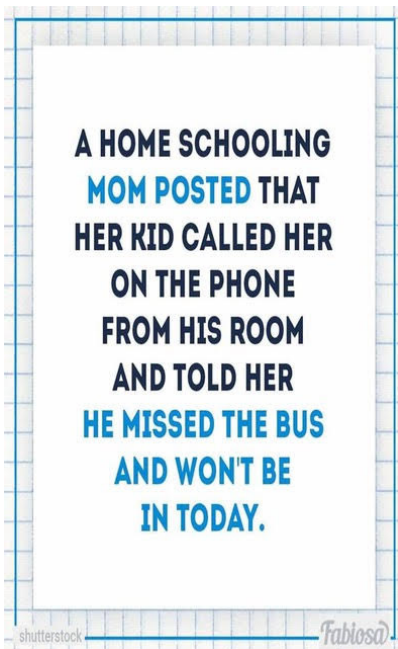
Thanks for the submissions from **Elizabeth Chandler** and **Chandra Souza**



It may take a village to raise a child but I swear it's going to take a vineyard to home school one.

New monthly budget: Gas \$0 Entertainment \$0  
Clothes \$0 Groceries \$2,799.

Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID-19, but to stop eating.



When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.

Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over 6 weeks.

Worst. Apocalypse. Ever.

Day 37: The garbage man placed an AA flyer on my recycling bin.

People keep asking: "Is coronavirus REALLY all that serious?" Listen y'all, the churches and casinos are closed. When heaven and hell agree on the same thing it's probably pretty serious.

Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.

Home School Day 1: I'm trying to figure out how I can get this kid transferred out of my class.

Putting a drink in each room of my house today and calling it a pub crawl.

Okay, the schools are closed. So do we drop the kids off at the teacher's house or what?

Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We wander around the house looking for food. We get told "No" if we get too close to strangers and we get really excited about going for walks and car rides.

The dumbest thing I've ever bought was a 2020 planner

Enjoy your day. You don't have anything else to do.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Report  
August 2020

Once again, there are few surprises in the July financial reports. We continue to be ahead on pledge income - up \$1900 over budget for the month of July and up \$10,500 over budget year to date. This is great news. Plate income remains steady and just about at budget year to date. Unfortunately, as we've noted during past months, 12-step Income and Facilities Rental are giving us the biggest hit during this pandemic, with a combined income that is (\$14,525) under budget year to date. Adding it all up, we are just \$900 over budget for the month of July and (\$5,550) under budget in income year to date.

Although the situation with the pandemic has caused a drop in our income, specifically in the rental of our facilities, it has also caused some corresponding drop in expenses. We are down in almost every category, for a Total Administrative Expense of (\$1900.00) under-budget for the month of July and (\$4,375.00) year to date. Under-budget in expenses is a gain for us, so this is more good news.

The bottom line for the month of July is a Net Operating Income of \$2572.00; year to date our Net Operating Income is a negative (\$730.00). Under the circumstances, this could definitely be worse. But, as I remind everyone every month, we are working with a deficit budget of (\$4500.00), so we have some ground to make up.

There are no big surprises on the Balance Sheet for July, either. Our Trust fund went up \$2200; the stock market seems to have made up its March losses. Good news again!

So, my official analysis is: we're hanging in there!

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](mailto:enna.lopez@yahoo.com).

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

- The solar panels and non-use of church buildings continue to save us money in utilities expenses.
- The Worship Committee is planning a new service, to take place at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. It is likely to consist of the Liturgy of the Word and a short homily, and will lead into an Adult Ed-type of discussion of the week's lections. It will be held via Zoom and the congregation will be able to participate in the discussion. Stay tuned for when this service will begin.

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](mailto:enna.lopez@yahoo.com) by the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

## Vestry Notes

Vestry Report  
August 2020

The August meeting of the Vestry was postponed a week due to the disruption caused by wildfire in the areas. We did have a quorum, so were able to take care of business.

- Father Austin is reaching out to everyone in the parish who is known to be displaced or otherwise affected by the wildfires.
- Next week either Father Austin or John Blymer (Jr. Warden) will do a final walkthrough of the church campus with MYNT, to see all of the energy-conserving upgrades that have been installed.

### Calvary Vestry Members

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