

Calvary Church  
2343 Country Club Blvd  
Stockton, California 95204

Non-Profit Organization  
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Stockton, California  
Permit No. 161

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Address label

### COMING UP @ CALVARY

Don't miss these exciting events! More information is available online and in service.

Learn to navigate loss and pain  
at the next  
Calvary School of Theology:  
**The Theology of Grief**  
Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
7:00-9:00pm

Christmas Offering Info  
**Use the enclosed envelope**  
to return your Christmas Offering,  
above and beyond your regular  
tithes and offerings. Thank you for  
your generosity!

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

#### **FREE Professional Christmas Photos for your Family!**

\$150 value, our gift to you this Christmas  
Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
After the service

New Year's Eve  
**Worship, Prayer and Party**  
PLUS, we'll reveal the guiding  
theme  
for 2022 for Calvary  
Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
7:00-9:00pm

Enjoy fun and fellowship  
while learning to knit!  
Join us for  
**KNIT NITE**  
Fridays, 6:30-9:00pm

# THE CALVARY PRESS



Publication of Calvary Church, 2343 Country Club Blvd, Stockton, California 95204

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## Weekly Ministries

Sunday Worship Service  
10:00am

Sunday Prayer Night  
7:30-8:30pm

Wednesday Prayer Walk  
2:00-3:00pm



### Silent Night for a Not-So-Silent Village

The story of Jesus is a story of *Immanuel*. It means God is with us. It's a word which captures the meaning of the Gospel, that Jesus came to live in our midst.

It also means Jesus came to live incarnationally – he came to serve and not to be served. John 1:14 from the Message translation captures it best when it says that God became 'flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.' He came to get close to us, to share life, and to give us the greatest news of all time!

Jesus came to give the message of *incarnation*. Jesus came to be the incarnation – the tangible presence of God in a man who was both fully human and fully God.

If the meaning of Christmas is *Immanuel*, then we must as Christians share this good news with a lost, broken and hurting world. So how can we 'pay it forward' this Christmas? How can we make Christmas about the meaning of *Immanuel* (God with us), and not about family, gifts, meals or parties?

The more I reflect on this question, the more convinced I am that our purpose is to bring the *presence* of God wherever we go by bringing the *peace* of God to a divided, distracted and disunified world.

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1818 a young pastor named Joseph Mohr was invited to attend a special Christmas production at the home of a parishioner in the small village of Oberndorf, Austria.

The church organ had broken and it left the entire musical crew scrambling to find another venue to hold the production.

Would they find another venue in time? Would the new space fit everyone? What would the newly jobless organist do? Would Christmas be saved?

(Continued on page 4)

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Thank you for your generous giving above and beyond your tithes and offerings. Your Christmas offering has enabled us to bless children around the world through Operation Christmas Child, support the launch of Iglesia Vida and bless our neighbors through various outreaches!

Use the enclosed Christmas offering envelope to return your special offering above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings.

Note: We are no longer forwarding appreciation gifts to staff directly due to IRS rules, but your special offerings this Christmas will be included in performance bonuses for the Calvary staff, as determined by the Board.

## CALVARY BOARD REPORT

October 2021 Financials	
Income:	\$40,609.98
Expenses:	<u>\$11,980.32</u>
Net Income:	\$28,629.66

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**Thanksgiving:** Aiko Aoyama, Anthony & Kim Chhim Atkinson, Allen & Myra Fong, Susie Hamamoto, Marissa Ishiharu, Janice Ishimaru, Dean & Liane Komure, Mary Lam, Charise Masada, Nancy McFadden, Sam & Sumi Motoike, Jerry & Karen Nakamura, John & Kelly Nakashima, Ren & Julianne Nakashima, Dorothy Nishioka, Carolyn Sakai, Duane & Jeannie Sakoda, Tak & Linda Saito, Kate Salamon, Kurt Shigematsu, Tim & Hisako Smith, Kisaye Takahashi, Judy Takemoto, Roy & Emily Takeuchi, Sam & Kinuyo Tanaka, Jim & Sally Tsunekawa, Gene & Marcy Wong, Ted & Sue Yoneda, Ruth Yoneshige

**Christmas:** Anthony & Kim Chhim Atkinson, Sam & Sumi Motoike, Jerry & Karen Nakamura, Carolyn Sakai

**Operation Christmas Child:** Janice Ishimaru, Jerry & Karen Nakamura, Dorothy Nishioka, Jim & Sally Tsunekawa, Gene & Marcy Wong, Ted & Sue Yoneda

**In Memory of Tom Horita:** Mayko Horita

**Compassion Child:** Jerry & Karen Nakamura

**In Memory of Jean Yukiko Okamoto:**  
Ted & Sue Yoneda

**Spaghetti Feed:** Aiko Aoyama, Don & Cindy Shiromizu

**In Memory of Miki Kagoshima:** Jeannie Matsumoto

**Birthday Fund:** Anthony & Kim Chhim Atkinson

**In Memory of Roy Yoneshige:** Beverly Yoneshige

**Deacon's Fund:** Anthony & Kim Chhim Atkinson,  
Sam & Sumi Motoike, Jerry & Karen Nakamura

### Investing in God's Kingdom through YOUR Investments

As you consider end-of-year giving, did you know that you can support our mission to help people find their way back to God through your retirement and investment accounts?

Special offerings and recurring giving come in all shapes and sizes -- from donating IRA dividends, to stocks, bonds and even donating real estate.

Your financial investment in God's church is a kingdom investment in God's mission to reach our city with the love of Jesus.

For more information on how to give through retirement and savings accounts, as well as potential tax incentives, please contact Sally Tsunekawa: sltsune@gmail.com, (209) 478-8543, or Karen Nakamura: karennakamura55@gmail.com, (209) 478-1277.

## DEACON'S CORNER

### PRAYERS and THANKSGIVINGS:

- Thank you for Ike's help in the basketball outreach ministry.
- Thank you that Jessie has been released from the hospital.
- Thank you for your gift of prayer.
- For those who attend Calvary's basketball outreach, that all will come to a saving relationship with Jesus.
- For the children of the Calvary Sunday School program, that all will come to salvation in Jesus.
- Healing for Dave.
- Prayers for pastor Emi and family.
- Manhattan Bible Church, searching for a Bible believing pastor.
- Operation Christmas Child.
- Newborn named London, need of surgery.
- Friend named Al, who has been hospitalized for diabetic complications.
- For Ruby, resolving allergy issues, wisdom to the medical staff.
- Mike S., recovering from heart surgery.
- Prayers for Elmer Galicinao's family and friends. Elmer was called to be with the Lord. Thank you for his salvation thru Christ.

### CONTINUOUS PRAYERS:

- Preston, healing from Alcohol addiction.
- Duran, God guidance and blessings upon his family relationships.
- Afghan Christians who are being targeted by the Taliban for their faith
- American citizens trying to get back to the US.
- Afghan women and girls.
- Those working behind the scenes and under cover in Afghanistan, striving to rescue the stranded.
- Healing of the Covid virus.
- Tatsumi, arthritis in the knee.
- Healing prayers for Joe
- Guidance for the Calvary basketball program in sharing the salvation of Jesus.

Our prayers for God's blessings and guidance for Calvary, our Pastor and family, the congregation, and Converge, and all Christian Churches to be a light to the world.

- Brother Ike and the Wings of Healing church.
- Revival for this country. Prayers that this country returns to following Jesus and that all Christian churches unit in the name of Christ.
- Keep this country free to continue to freely honor our Lord Jesus Christ.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD REPORT

Partnering with Samaritan's Purse: "We're taking the Good News to the END OF THE EARTH" through the shoeboxes. Boys and girls who receive the shoeboxes are invited to participate in Samaritan's Purse follow-up discipleship Program: The Greatest Journey, to learn how to faithfully follow Christ and share Him with others. We filled 55 boxes this year!

A BIG THANK YOU to all who made donations of gifts to put in the boxes and for the monetary donation; the crew that helped get the boxes & supplies ready to pack; those who helped pack the boxes; and the children who made handprint cards to send to each child. We could not do this missions ministry without the help of each one of you.

Please continue to pray for those that will be receiving the boxes & teaching the discipleship program.

- Submitted by Joyce Nakashima

## PASTOR'S LETTER (continued from page 1)

Last minute, someone came through and opened their home. Joseph Mohr loved the special service in the parishioner's home. In fact, he loved the production so much that it inspired him to take a longer route home to think more about what he had seen and heard.

He set off on a longer path, one which winded its way in and over the village. When he reached this area, a sort of peak, he was able to see the entire village in crystal detail. It was at peace. It was tranquil.

But it hadn't always been that way. Two years earlier the town had been bitterly contested over in the Napoleonic wars. As a result, the town was split down the middle – half of it went to the Bavarians, half to the Austrians. This had not, historically, been a place of peace. And yet on this evening, as he overlooked the city, Mohr was deeply moved by its beauty and its tranquility. It's peace. He suddenly remembered a poem he had written a few months earlier. A poem which read:

Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright ...  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

That is how the song Silent Night came to be. It's a song that owes its existence to a malfunctioning organ, that led an inspired man, to look upon a peaceless town and write .... Heavenly Peace has come. Heavenly Peace has won. Sleep now in peace. Silent night.

In this unlikely song we find the peace of Immanuel for a divided and distracted world. We find that true peace comes from God through his son Jesus. True peace comes when you bring the presence of God with you to every life space God places you this Christmas.

Grace and Peace,

*Andrew J. Phillips*

Pastor Andrew

## CATALYST MINISTRY UPDATE

This past month, 6 members from our Catalyst young adult ministry were blessed with the opportunity to be able to take a trip to Southern California for a local missions trip! On this trip we were able to partner with two organizations: the O.C. Rescue Mission Center and the Church of Southland. One of the takeaways from this trip is that we were able to see God's provision in ways that we never imagined. In our partnership with the Church of Southland, we served exactly 209 families through their food pantry (which was the most they've ever served before, and just so happens to be the exact number of our Stockton area code)! You can call it a coincidence, but we call it God's provision in our year of provision! We are very grateful to have been able to have this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus outside of Stockton and we thank you for your prayers and support for this trip!

This month, we also started back up our in-person life group meetings on Wednesday nights. We were blessed with the opportunity to be able to share this life group with other young adults from our new church plant Iglesia Vida! In short, God has been working in so many incredible ways this month and even still, the best is yet to come! Pray for our ministry as we continue seeking to catalyze young adults lives' for Christ.



### KNIT NITE!

Come learn how to knit or crochet Twiddle Muffs for dementia and Alzheimer patients. Easy, fun and on the care centers' wish list. Materials and instruction provided!

Every Friday from 6:30pm to 9ish in the Social Hall.

No need to sign up. Just come as you are!!

Great fellowship and delicious potluck food!

Call Sally @ 209.478.8543 for more information.

SUN	M	T	W	TH	F	SAT
28 <b>Worship Service:</b> 10:00am  <b>Prayer Night:</b> 7:30pm – 8:30pm	29	30 <b>Small Group:</b> 7:30pm – 9:00pm	1 <b>Small Group:</b> 10:00am	2 Weekly Email Newsletter	3 Office closed  <b>Open Gym and Worship Service:</b> 6:00pm – 9:00pm  <b>Knit Nite:</b> 6:30pm – 9:00pm	4
5 <b>Worship Service and Christmas Photos:</b> 10:00am  <b>Holy Communion</b>  <b>Prayer Night:</b> 7:30pm – 8:30pm	6	7 <b>Small Group:</b> 7:30pm – 9:00pm	8 <b>Small Group:</b> 10:00am	9 Weekly Email Newsletter	10 Office closed  <b>Open Gym and Worship Service:</b> 6:00pm – 9:00  <b>Knit Nite:</b> 6:30pm – 9:00pm	11 <b>Catalyst Christmas Party:</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm
12 <b>Worship Service and Knit Nite Dedication:</b> 10:00am  <b>Prayer Night:</b> 7:30pm – 8:30pm	13 CP Deadline	14 <b>Small Group:</b> 7:30pm – 9:00pm	15 <b>Small Group:</b> 10:00am	16 Weekly Email Newsletter  <b>Calvary School of Theology, The Theology of Grief:</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	17 Office closed  <b>Open Gym and Worship Service</b> 6:00pm – 9:00pm  <b>Knit Nite:</b> 6:30pm – 9:00pm	18
19 <b>Worship Service:</b> 10:00am  <b>Prayer Night:</b> 7:30pm – 8:30pm	20	21 <b>Small Group:</b> 7:30pm – 9:00pm	22 <b>Small Group:</b> 10:00am	23 Weekly Email Newsletter	24 Office closed  <b>Christmas Eve Carol Service:</b> 5:00pm-6:00pm	25 <b>Merry Christmas from Calvary!</b>
26 <b>Worship Service:</b> 10:00am  <b>Prayer Night:</b> 7:30pm – 8:30pm	27 Office closed	28 Office closed	29 Office closed	30 Office closed	31 Office closed  <b>New Year's Eve Worship Night &amp; Year of Announcement:</b> 7:00pm- 9:00pm	1

## BIBLE TRIVIA

In the Old Testament, which prophet foretold of Jesus' birth? \_\_\_\_\_

Who were among the first to see Jesus as a baby? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the gifts the Wise Men brought when they went to visit Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented to the Temple as a baby? \_\_\_\_\_