



CALVARY BY THE SEA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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October 30, 2024

Dear Calvary by the Sea Members and Friends,

Ever since my teenage years when I was commissioned to serve the local church as a minister, I've had a dream. **I dream of a big Sunday party for the God who unites us by faith, hope, and love, but love is the greatest!** Love is the greatest, because it is patient, kind, endures all things, and it never fails. Did you hear me? **It never fails, never.**

In the midst of life's challenges and joys, I invite us into this stewardship season, into a season of reflection, prayer and response. A season that invites us to use our wealth, our time and energy to extend God's love. Therefore, be assured that *when you invest into God's love, it never fails.* **The local church is one of the most visible signs of God's love.**

The point is this, **Calvary by the Sea has a bold mission for 2025 that further builds upon God's love.** As God sends us into the New Year, we boldly aim to serve, care, and create community for and with:

- ***Our families, children and youth*** through spiritual formation programming and events
- ***Our 'Ohana Groups*** and serving our community through ***God's Work. Our Hands***
- ***Our queer and trans siblings and friends***, to be champions of inclusion, being a spiritual leader among churches celebrating inclusion at Pride Connection, parades and events
- ***Our siblings and friends of color*** (black, brown, indigenous/native, and Asian) by working towards racial reconciliation and equity among our leadership and ministry teams.

We boldly aim to extend that community by becoming a leading congregation in the ELCA denomination, using our growth, intersectionality, multi-ethnicity and our prophetic voice to influence and affect church vitality through participating in ELCA Churchwide initiatives and in the Hukilau Conference.

To chase after such a mission of love will demand every single one of us. **Can you join us this year in reaching this mission of love by participating with your time, money and energy?**

During the month of November each of us will have time to pray about our commitment to the church's mission. We'll reflect on the Stewardship Campaign theme, *"Faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love,"* through sermons on this passage of wisdom by Rev. Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa, Minister Grace Lee and myself. In addition, you will hear stories from fellow stewards about how and why they give financially to CBTS.

Then, **in the middle of the month you will receive another stewardship mailing. This one will include a pledge card** for you to record your financial intention to support the church in 2025. Knowing the congregation's collective anticipated offerings will help our Council and staff plan a responsible budget in support of our compelling mission.

Together we will dedicate our Pledge Cards on Sunday, November 24th, asking God to extend faith, hope and love through Calvary by the Sea in the coming year. If you will not be able to join us that Sunday, you may mail or email your pledge to the church office or at info@calvarybythesea.org, so it can be dedicated with the others.

Our prayer is that every member and supporter will make a pledge.

If you have never made a stewardship pledge before, please step out in faith this year. If you have given regularly to the church, consider making a significant increase for 2025. Generous pledges in any amount are appreciated and will mark important progress toward our mission of love.

2025 will be a season of God's love that will never fail!

Love and Justice,

Pastor Moses
The Rev. Dr. Moses D. Barrios, Senior Pastor

CBTS Stewardship Committee:
Rev. Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa, Chair
Eric Hasha, Associate Minister
Jaime Wong-Lopez, Member
Zoe Lewis, Member