

THE PROCLAIMER

JAN/FEB 2023

A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CALVARY CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH IS
CHRIST-CENTERED
BIBLE-BELIEVING
GOSPEL-MOTIVATED
COMMUNITY-BUILDING

OUR MISSION IS TO
PROCLAIM THE GOOD
NEWS OF JESUS
IN WORD AND DEED
HERE, NEAR, AND FAR.

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HOLIDAY LUNCH AT THE VAN BEEKS

On December 4, Carrie, Maddie, Lily and I hosted ten of the widow and widowers of the Calvary community in our home. Karen De Kam (and her husband, Daryl) and Marion Sandfort were there representing the Shepherding Team and Pastor Eli was also able to join us for food and fellowship.

While we have not been able to continue this tradition every year of our ministry together, Carrie and I started this tradition in our first year of full-time ministry in 2008 in California. Our vision for this time together continues to be the same: provide a simple reminder of the love and care of the covenant community to those who have experienced loss.

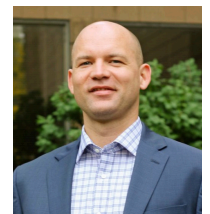
More so than any other time of the year, people want to be with their family during the holidays. Especially for those who have lost their spouse, the holidays are often a reminder of the empty seat at the family table. Not only this, during Advent we look forward to the coming of Christ

and His Kingdom to earth when there will be no more tears or pain.

While the body of Christ cannot replace our beloved immediate family members, we believe our church community is meant by God to be a family; brothers and sisters in Christ who are a source of community, love, warmth, and relationship. One of the images of God's covenant people throughout the Old and New Testaments is that of a family.

It's strange to think about, but we believe this kind of care for one another is yet another extension of the vows we make to each other at baptism. While our widows and widowers were baptized a long time ago, the vows made at their baptisms endure. When they were baptized, a promise was made to
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Editorial by
Nick Van Beek
Lead Pastor
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...Editorial continued from page 1

them, their parents and to God that the body of Christ would minister to them throughout their lives.

Additionally, we believe this is yet another way the church is counter cultural. When people experience loss in our culture, our culture is very quick to leave them alone. By ministering to those who have lost loved ones, the church embodies the love of God and the compassion of Jesus.

As this holiday season concludes, I invite the covenant community to think of ways to minister to people in your lives who have experienced loss not only during the holidays, but always.

May we be a covenant community that embodies the love and compassion of God to those who have experienced loss!

By Pastor Nick



LIFE GROUP UPDATE

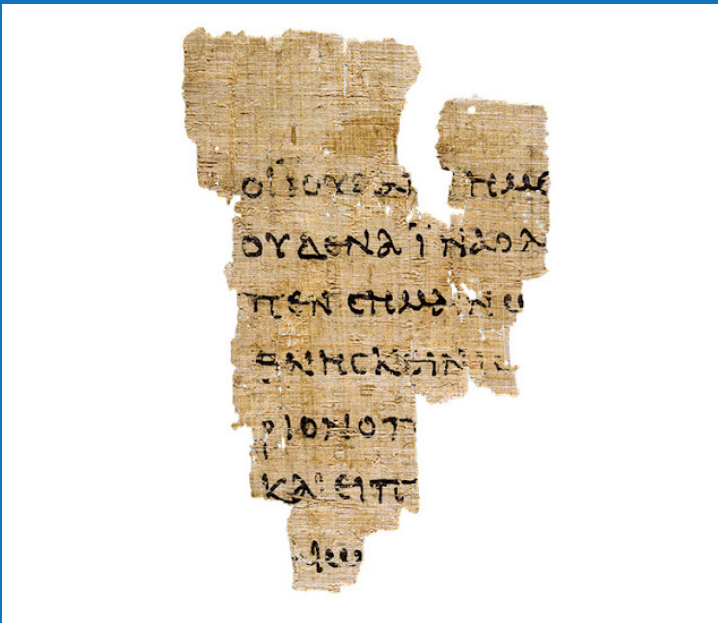
HERE

Learning from Case for Christ

Life Group has been reading Case for Christ by Lee Strobel, who was a journalist for the Chicago Tribune who investigates the legitimacy of the gospel of Jesus. His journey began when his wife became a Christian. Strobel was concerned that his wife would no longer be any fun, but found out she became a more joyful, virtuous person. Strobel decided to research for hours, interview scholars, and wrestle with tough questions about Jesus. The book is preparing us for conversations with non-Christians and building our own faith.

Below are some main points that we have learned from the book.

- The time between Jesus' life (30s AD) and the four gospels (70s-100s AD) is much shorter than the life of Alexander the Great (300s BC) and the writing of his biographies (100s AD). The shorter time in between often improves accuracy.
- Irenaeus was a church leader who wrote in 180 AD about the authorship of the gospels, "Matthew published his own gospel... Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, himself handed down to us the writing of Peter's preaching. Luke, follower of Paul, set down a gospel... John, the disciple of our Lord, produced his gospel."
- Textual critics of the Bible claim Matthew and Luke got their material from Mark and another source whom they call "Q" which is short for the German *quelle* which means source. They argue Matthew and Luke are not credible since they only copy from two others' sources. Though there is no historical findings or evidence of Q.
- The variants in the New Testament have no major ramifications. A variant is a difference between New Testament texts and common examples are different spellings of names, different word order in the Greek sentences, and some different vocabulary. No variants construe the message of Christ incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and glorified.
- The early church was guided by the Holy Spirit in selecting books for the Bible. The Gospel of Thomas was excluded because it has bizarre statements that don't align with the rest of the Scriptures. One example is, "Let Mary go away from us, because women are not worthy of life."
- Homer's Iliad has 650 Greek manuscripts. The New Testament



P-52 with verses from the gospel of John

has 5000, by far the most transmitted text in ancient history.

- The oldest fragment of the New Testament is a piece of papyrus called P-52 which has verses from the Gospel of John and dates back to 120 AD. P-52 is located in the British Museum in London if you ever want to see it.
- Many non-Christian sources record stories about Jesus and his followers.
 - Josephus was a Jewish historian who wrote the Antiquities that includes many accounts of Jesus and his disciples.
 - The Roman historian Tacitus wrote in the 100s AD "Nero fastened the guilt on a class called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of Pontius Pilate."



The Great Isaiah Scroll

- "Nero fastened the guilt on a class called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of Pontius Pilate"
- The Roman governor Pliny the Younger wrote to Emperor Trajan, "They had met regularly before dawn on a fixed day to chant verses in honor of Christ as if to a god. If they persist, I order them to be led away for execution."
- The Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947 by shepherds in the Caves of Qumran outside of Jerusalem include hundreds of Old Testament manuscripts written between 250 BC and 68 AD. The scrolls affirm the translation of the Old Testament has been passed down accurately. The longest manuscript discovered was a full text of Isaiah.
- Archaeological evidence supports accounts of the New Testament, including the pool of Bethesda in John 5 with five porticos and the pool of Siloam in John 9, which was discovered because of a broken pipe in the city of Jerusalem.



Pool of Bethesda with five porticos or archways

Life Group
 6-8pm
 1st & 3rd
 Wednesdays

Eli Groenendyk
 Pastor of
 Discipleship
 pastoreli@
 calvarycrc.net



LEADING THE MISSION

Council Update

HERE

Calvary's Council wants to let you know what we are doing, and that's what this Update is about. At the same time, we want to know your thoughts, ideas, and questions. If you have any questions about what the Council or any of our teams are doing, please contact any deacon, elder, pastor, or team member.

Commons Renovation

The Council continues to spend a significant amount of time on the upcoming Commons Renovation. We are very grateful for how fantastic and generous your response was to the pledge drive for the renovation. You provided \$979,600 in pledges toward the project and the project is estimated to cost \$1,070,000. Your pledges exceed 90% of the project cost! That is fantastic! In addition, you have already given \$395,400 of those pledges in 2022. That puts Calvary in a very good cash position and helps us control the short-term cost of borrowing. In addition, at our November 6 Congregational meeting, over 95% of the votes cast were in favor of the project. The generous pledges, the interest and excitement many of you have verbally expressed toward this project, and the 95+ % vote approval are very positive confirmation that Calvary should proceed with this project. Thank you!

We signed a contract with BDH (architect for the project) to complete the design and on January 11 we will meet with BDH to kick off the final design effort. Once the design is complete, we will send it out to multiple construction companies for bid, conduct a thorough review of each bid, and negotiate a contract with the selected construction company. Several schools (Avail and Agamim, among others) rent our sanctuary and commons area for their year-end graduation programs. We expect construction to start in mid-June, shortly after those graduations.

Ministry Fund

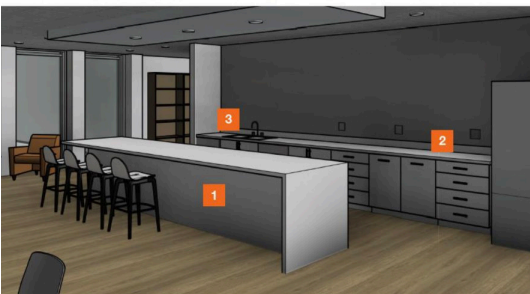
As of the end of November (half way through our Fiscal Year) the congregation has given \$299,000 to the Ministry Fund, compared to a mid-year budget of \$330,000, which puts us 10% below budget. We are not alarmed by that but we do ask you to consider a modest increase in your Ministry Fund giving such that we can close that gap in the next few months. Our tenants have paid just over \$340,000 in lease payments in the past six months, which contributes significantly to our overall budget.

Council Nominations

The Council Nominations Committee will begin in earnest in January to prepare for our May Congregational Meeting. Please begin thinking and praying about who you could recommend as a potential Deacon or Elder nominee. Also pray about whether you are being called to the office of Deacon or Elder.

Other Activities

The Council and Teams are involved in many other activities, some of which are understandably confidential. Following are just a few examples to give you a flavor of what we are doing.

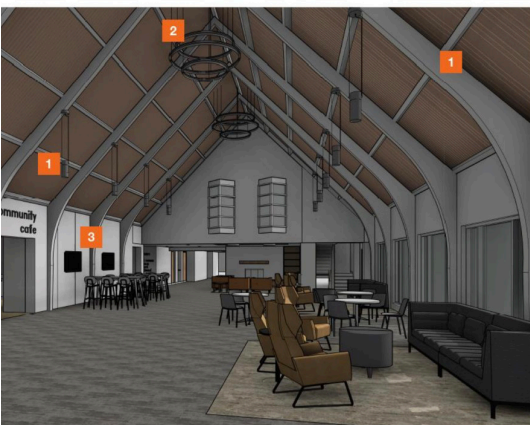


Cabinetry

- 1 - Island with storage
- 2 - Coffee location
- 3 - Dishwashers and sink

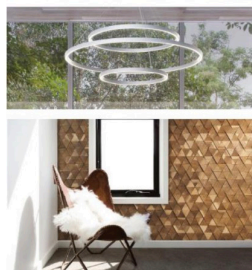


hardware



Gathering

- 1 - Direct-indirect pendants
- 2 - Decorative pendants
- 3 - Wood feature wall



Our pastors strongly prefer to be at Calvary, leading and participating in worship. However, they also feel called to occasionally help area churches who either don't have a pastor or whose pastor is away for a period of time. Both of our pastors have preached/led worship at area churches several times over the past few months. At Calvary, our pastors coordinate and lead the New Member's Lunches/Classes that occur regularly and our pastors (and we) are very thankful for the many people who have participated recently and have expressed interest in joining Calvary.

Pastor Nick and Elmer Jelgerhuis attended the September 19-20 meeting of Classis Lake Superior. Classis LS is a regional group of 25 congregations from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ontario and Manitoba that meets three times a year and supports a variety of ministries. If you want to know more, go to www.classislakesuperior.org.

The Administrative Team (AT) monitors our budget, our facility needs, and communicates regularly with Jake Kamp (Facility Mgr.) and Dianne (bookkeeper.) Among many other tasks, the AT meets regularly with our primary tenants (Agamim Charter School and Berry Patch Preschool) to maintain good relations and coordinate significant issues. Jake conducts the week-to-week and month-to-month communication and coordination with our tenants. The AT was thrilled that Jake and a fearless volunteer (Steve Abbring), recently replaced all the burned-out lights in our sanctuary. Jake organized the timing, the rental manlift, the bulbs, removal of pews, etc. Steve went 35 feet up in the lift, reached out this way and that way, and replaced all the bad bulbs.

Our Shepherding Team (ST) is composed of four Deacons and four Elders and they strive to stay in touch with everyone in our congregation, paying special attention to those going through challenging times. Our pastors are deeply involved in this shepherding work as well. The ST is very active but much of their work is understandably confidential and sharing examples would not be appropriate.

The Youth Ministry Team coordinates all youth activities (too many to list here.) Of the many activities and responses for which we are very thankful, just one is the many young people who are approaching Pastor Eli and

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CALVARY COUNCIL

Elders

Jason Byers
 Karen DeKam
 Ruth DeVries
 Elmer Jelgerhuis
 Casey Soerens
 Jon Van Hulzen
 Paul Vliem

Deacons

Andrew Feikema
 Karen Groen
 Joel Kamp
 Matt Koelewyn
 Marion Sandfort
 Marcus VanderBrug
 Roseanne Van Marion

Officers

Council Chair:	Elmer Jelgerhuis
Council Vice-chair:	Jon Van Hulzen
Council Clerk:	Andrew Feikema
Consistory Chair:	Nick Van Beek
Consistory Vice-chair:	Elmer Jelgerhuis
Consistory Clerk:	Jon Van Hulzen
Deacon Chair:	Matt Koelewyn
Deacon Vice-Chair:	Andrew Feikema
Treasurer:	Marcus VanderBrug
Deacon Clerk:	Joel Kamp

Shepherding Districts

District 1: A – Groenendyk
 E: Jason Byers, D: Roseanne Van Marion

District 2: Hall - Liddle
 E: Ruth DeVries, D: Joel Kamp

District 3: Marcus - Schumi
 E: Jon Van Hulzen, D: Karen Groen

District 4: Smith – Z
 E: Karen DeKam D: Andrew Feikema

Council Teams

Shepherding Team: Jason Byers, Karen DeKam, Ruth DeVries, Andrew Feikema, Karen Groen, Joel Kamp, *Marion Sandfort, Jon Van Hulzen, Rosanne Van Marion, Pastor Nick

Administrative Team: Matt DeKam, Dianne DePenning, *Elmer Jelgerhuis, Matt Koelewyn, Jake Kamp, Marcus VanderBrug

Youth Ministries Team: *Pastor Eli, Deb Attema, Kim Attema, Casey Soerens, Pam Schmidt

** indicates chairperson*

...Update continued from page 5

stating they want to make public profession of their faith in our Lord and Savior. Pastor Eli meets individually with them multiple times to challenge and teach and test their faith. They then meet with a few Elders and Pastor Eli, and finally stand in front of all of you and publicly profess their faith. It is a huge blessing to see so many of our young people taking this step.

Calvary's Worship Planning Team is very active in the wide range of providing some input, to fully coordinating, many worship activities at Calvary. They led Calvary to be more structured with our

accompanists, praise team, and choir director. They (with Elders) provide input on sermon series. They are the predominant force behind the artistic and visual aspects of our sanctuary stage and are very involved in the many special services that occur during the holidays.

Those are just a few examples of how our pastors, Council, Team members, and so many others, are involved in making Calvary's light shine.

Elmer Jelgerhuis
Council Chairperson
On behalf of Calvary's Council

SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

Interview with
Tim Schmidt

NEAR



Where do you work?

North States Industries. We make baby and pet safety gates and play yards, and bird feeders. You might have one of our Toddleroo or My Pet or Village Collection items in your home and didn't even know it!

What are your roles and responsibilities?

I've been the Chief Financial Officer there for two years, and am responsible for leading the Finance team and providing financial guidance to the organization.

What are you currently working on that excites you?

We are working on some great new customer opportunities to grow in 2023 and always trying to improve our operations.

Since God is sovereign over every sphere, how do you see God at work in your work?

God always gives you what you need, but not always

what you want. If there has ever been a time to remind me of that it has been these COVID years. I was in a job transition early in the pandemic but had a sense of peace and optimism, and ended up in a much better situation than I would have had at my prior employer. God's plan has a way of sneaking up on you. All the varied experiences I've had over my career somehow have all come together to prepare me for the challenges of my current role.

I also have a sense that God had a particular purpose for me, and feel like He brought me there to come alongside my boss at a time when she particularly needed a partner and advisor.

Are your coworkers Christians? Have you had opportunities to talk with them about what they believe? Have you been able to share your faith in Christ with them?

Some are Christians, some are not. I have had some discussions with coworkers about beliefs. Some with different beliefs have challenged me to think about how I can better articulate what I believe. I've found that my life priorities (church, Christian education, family) and the grounding that my faith provides have opened the most doors for discussions. You don't always see immediate change in people, but I trust that the Spirit is working in hearts. I've found that most people will let you pray for them if you ask, even if they say they don't believe!

By Tim Schmidt

COMMUNITY BUILDING

15 things you didn't know about Leon Van Der Pol



1. I grew up on a small dairy farm one mile south and half a mile west of Priam, Minnesota. We milked 10-20 cows. The raw milk was placed into a separator to separate the milk from the cream. The cream went into cans that were picked up by a milk truck. The cream became butter. My dad also grew crops of soybeans, corn, oats, wheat and alfalfa.
2. There were eight siblings in the family, six boys and two girls.
3. I attended Prinsburg grade school and then transferred to Raymond high school.
4. I made Profession of Faith in the Prinsburg Christian Reformed Church.
5. In the fall of 1972, I enrolled at Hutchinson Area Vocational Technical Institute and completed a 1600-hour course in Mechanical Drafting.
6. My first drafting job was in New Ulm, Minnesota.
7. I moved to the Twin Cities area in the spring of 1977 to continue my drafting

- profession. I was employed for fifteen years for a contract house drafting firm. Some of the places that I was assigned to work include: Control Data, America Medical System Inc, Sperry (now Unisys Corporation), and FSI International, Inc.
8. I took downhill skiing lessons at Buck Hill and Afton Alps. I enjoyed ski trips out west. Some of the areas I skied were Jackson Hole, WY; Mt Rose, NV; Squaw Valley, CA; and Vail Ski Resort, CO.
 9. In 1981 I bought my first motorcycle, a Yamaha 400 Special Two. I had it for about 11 years and I put about 33,000 miles on it. In 1992 I purchased my second motorcycle, a 1991 Honda 750 Nighthawk and rode it to Denver, CO, for my nephew's

wedding.

10. In the late 80's, I rode my Yamaha 400 Special Two to the EAA Air Venture Show in Oshkosh, WI. I saw the SR-71 Black Bird and great air shows. I then drove to Mackinaw City, MI and toured Mackinac Island.
11. My roommate's father worked at LTV Iron Mine in Hoyt Lakes, MN. He gave me a personal tour of the mine and taconite pelleting plant. I was allowed to sit in one of the big mining trucks.
12. In 2008 I bought a three-bedroom home in Crystal, MN.
13. I have been working on the Facilities Maintenance Team at Calvary Church since March 6, 2006.
14. I retired July 5, 2022, after working 28 years for Heinrich Envelope Co. as an Envelope Machine Operator.
15. I am currently sewing a main sail for my fifteen-foot MacGregor Venture Catamaran. It is between 80% and 90% completed.



Worship Service Schedule

January 1

Worship led by Pastor Eli
Overcoming Temptations
Luke 4:1-15
Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

January 8

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Psalms: The New Year's Psalm
Psalm 65
Offering: Honduras Discretionary
Fund

January 15

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Psalms: The Pursuit of Happiness
Psalm 1
Offering: New Life Family Services

January 22

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Psalms: Lamenting and Growing
Psalm 6
Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

January 29

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Psalms: Eager Patience
Psalm 40
Offering: Cadets

February 5

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Amazing (Cadet Sunday)
Offering: World Renew

February 12

Worship led by Pastor Eli
Psalms: #Blessed
Offering: Resonate Global-
Sytsma

February 19

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Psalms: The Batman Psalm?
Psalm 73
Offering: Ministry Fund

February 26

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Words from the Cross: Father,
Forgive
Offering: Christian Ed. Fund



CALVARY BIRTHDAYS

HERE

January Birthdays

Jan 2	Amos Vliem	Jan 23	Piper Moser
Jan 6	Tim Schmidt	Jan 24	Vicki Hall, Scott Mellema
Jan 7	Joni Hall	Jan 25	Jack Van Marion
Jan 8	Eli De Kam	Jan 26	Natalie Hoekman
Jan 14	Missy Kamp	Jan 27	Peter Harkema
Jan 15	Jaclyn Brouwer	Jan 29	Lydia Post, Linda Ribbens
Jan 16	Emilyn Bosch, Addison Koelewyn	Jan 30	Breanna Beckering
Jan 17	Paislee Olson-Bengry	Jan 31	Zach Rindels
Jan 18	Nate Hall		
Jan 20	Maggie Feikema		

February Birthdays

Feb 3	Wren Wingblade, Molly Zylstra	Feb 17	Kris Herman
Feb 5	Sarah Zwagerman	Feb 19	Paul Vliem
Feb 11	Dave Blankespoor, Simon Bosch	Feb 20	Sharon Asche
Feb 14	Zayna Oliver	Feb 22	Wayne Tobak
Feb 16	Ruth DeVries, Donna Mulder, Paula Rindels	Feb 23	Pat Douma, Malachi Rindels, Carrie Van Beek
Feb 17	Peter Bosch	Feb 24	Caden Orcutt
		Feb 28	Ruth Muyskens



www.calvarytwincities.org

 calvarycrchina

 calvary.gram

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