

THE PROCLAIMER

MAR/APR 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2-3 Pastor Eli Article
- 4 Sphere Sovereignty
- 4-5 Leading the Mission
- 6 Community Building
- 7 Service Information
- 7 Community Group

HONDURAS REFLECTIONS

This past February, I had the privilege of joining the team from Calvary on the journey to El Guanacaste, Honduras for the third time. The goal of this partnership in Honduras has been community development through sharing the good news of Jesus in word and deed. As always, it was a great trip with too many things to share! That said, there are some things about this trip that stick out.

First, I had the privilege of spending several hours with 15 Honduran pastors, many of them Christian Reformed. Both pastors from El Guanacaste were present.

I led a discussion on the ministry challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic. It was fascinating to hear many of the same struggles, fears, and examples of God's provision and goodness that we experienced here in the states.

I also led a discussion with them on what they believe they need to help them flourish as pastors. While it was a blessing to hear their hunger and thirst for theological training and education, it was sobering to learn how limited their training has been. Some of the pastors admitted to not leading the sacraments on their own because they have not been trained how to do so. Given that spiritual transformation is a key

...continued on page 2



Editorial by
Nick Van Beek
Lead Pastor
pastornick@calvarycrc.net



... Editorial continued from page 1

part of community transformation and development, I'm hopeful that we can find ways to nourish these hard-working pastors with the training they seek.

I was also pleasantly surprised at the level of trust, affection, and familiarity the people of El Guanacaste had with us. Since it had been three years since we visited last, I was concerned that we had lost some of the connection that we had developed with the community. By God's grace and the work of His Holy Spirit, it felt like we picked up right where we left off. Finally, the projects that World Renew and Diaconia Nacional are hoping to implement with our help are profoundly exciting. While there is much work to do related to the project, the ideas very much feel like the culmination of God's sovereignty in this partnership: our Reformed Worldview (our call being to renew and restore all things), our mission as a local church (to proclaim the good news of Jesus in Word and deed...), the relationships with World Renew and Diaconia that already existed because of the De Kam's ministry there, etc.



Like so many of you, I desperately want my Christian faith to matter. I want to be part of the building of God's Kingdom. I want to bring Him glory. I want to share the Good News of Jesus with people who don't know him. I want to help facilitate the transformation of lives and communities.

Our partnership in El Guanacaste is clearly one way that God is using Calvary to do all these things. May God continue to bless our partnership with El Guanacaste!

By Pastor Nick Van Beek



The Gospel and Basketball at Jefferson High School

Combining my desire to be more involved in my community and my love for basketball, I decided to coach girls basketball at Bloomington Jefferson High School the past two seasons. My hope was to help players with their game and be a light of Christ in the public schools.

We can't expect people outside the church to always come to worship services out of the blue. We are sometimes called to go out to where they are. Coaching is a great way to connect because of the time together through a season with the shared interest of sport.

I quickly learned some of the girls on the team were Christians so I asked them if they wanted to start a little FCA Bible study (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). They said there was an FCA at Jefferson but it was only once a month and not many high schoolers went. We decided to start another one specifically for the girls basketball players on a weekly basis.

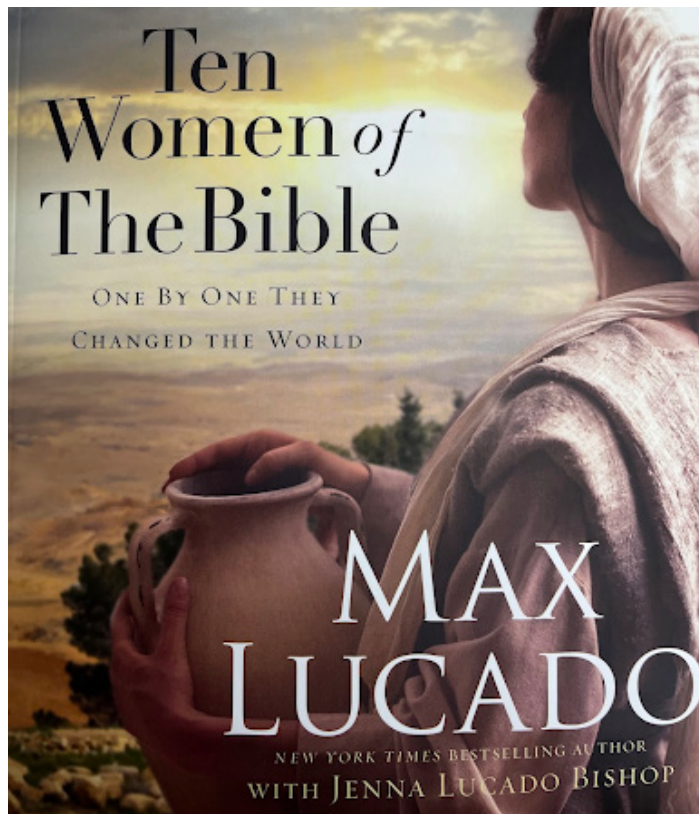
I suggested studying women of faith from the Bible and they liked that idea. After

practice on Thursdays, we sit on the bleachers (usually three to five players and me) and open the Bible. We have read the stories of Sarah, Rahab, Esther, the Samaritan woman, the Canaanite woman, Martha of Bethany, and Mary Magdalene. The girls have mixed faith backgrounds. Some grew up in church but stopped going after confirmation. Some have only gone to church camp and know little of the Bible, the gospel, or Jesus. Some faithfully attend their church. This has been a really cool opportunity because some are hearing the stories of Scripture for the first time.

When reading Esther, one player on the edge of her seat exclaimed, "Did she die!? What happened when she appeared before the king?!" When reading about Jesus and the Samaritan woman, one girl said, "Wow! Jesus was really nice to her. He wasn't racist or sexist at all!"

After discussing the stories of these incredible women of faith, we ask how it impacts us. We have talked about the meaning of faith, how being a committed Christian at school is uncommon, and how they see God working in them now and in the future. We always connect the story to Christ's life, death, and resurrection. To close, we pray together, usually I lead it but sometimes a player will volunteer. And by the way, I bring cookies to increase their energy. They are tired after practice!

This experience has affirmed for me the need for the gospel outside our Christian circles. Sometimes our culture supports the teachings of Jesus, and sometimes culture is in direct opposition to Jesus. Without someone to connect with, some people have no real grasp of the peace and purpose we receive in Christ. I hope and pray the Spirit continues to guide these teenagers and their families to follow Jesus.



We are learning about women of faith during our Bible study using this book as our guide.



The Jefferson Jags (white jerseys) defeated the #3 ranked Holy Angels Stars (black jerseys) in a very close game (I'm in the blue jacket and khaki pants clapping). Our weekly Bible study has made this season about more than hoops

Eli Groenendyk
Pastor of
Discipleship
pastor.eli.calvary@gmail.com



SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

Interview with Patrick Schulte

NEAR



Where do you work?

I work for Metro Transit at the Nicollet Garage location.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

I'm a Bus Operator and Mentor. It's important that I arrive at work on time and get passengers to their destination in a safe, friendly and timely manner. I also walk alongside newer drivers as they navigate their new career, supporting them with any questions that they may have.

What are you currently working on that you are excited about?

Metro Transit now offers the Transit Assistance Program (TAP), which makes transit more affordable for people with lower incomes. Signing up is easy and you can ride on buses and trains for only \$1—even during rush hour. I've found that passengers are

quite appreciative of being informed of this program.

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

As I go about my workday, I'm reminded of Philippians 2:4, where we learn about unity through humility, looking out for the interests of others, not only our own. Also, in Matthew 5:16 Jesus tells us to let our light shine before men.

I'm blessed to have layover time between bus trips, some longer than others, which is one of my favorite times of the day because I'm able to use that personal time to focus on the Bible, read books on theology and take notes from lectures dealing mainly with presuppositional apologetics, a passion of mine.

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

While I'm blessed to work with other Christians, some that I work with are not, and while I've had opportunities to talk with them about what they believe and have been able to share my faith in Christ with them, thus far it's been somewhat limited, mainly leading by example. However, my prayer Lord willing is that my time spent learning about non-Christian worldviews over the past few years will prepare me to become a more effective witness for Christ as I politely engage my colleagues more fully going forward.

LEADING THE MISSION

HERE

Council Update

Commons Renovation

BDH, the Architectural firm designing the Commons Renovation, will deliver the final design drawings about the time you read this article. Once the design is complete, we will transition from the Design Phase of the project to the Construction/Execution phase. Craig Veurink and the Commons Renovation Team have done a great job developing the vision, concept, and design phases of the project. They guided Calvary to engage BDH, a very good selection as an Architectural firm, and they spent many hours working with BDH to complete the design.

Now that we're transitioning to the construction phase, we need different leadership skills for the project. Steve Abbring, who has a degree in construction management and a lot of experience in that area, has agreed to be Calvary's Project Manager as we go into the construction phase. The Commons Renovation Team will remain involved in furniture selection, signage and lettering definition, and in other ways. It is possible we may need to make a few minor design changes as we get into the construction and we will lean on the Commons Renovation Team to help with that. What I'm trying to say is, by the power vested in me, I hereby bestow the title of Senior Executive Project Consultants on all the Commons Renovation Team members. Leadership of the project will transition to Steve and we assure you, Steve is going to do an

excellent job (no pressure Steve.)

We have three contractors lined up to bid the project. We will conduct a thorough bid review and then engage with the best contractor. We plan to kick-off construction on June 12 and current projections indicate we should be complete by mid to late September.

Annual Congregational Meeting Planning

The Council has started our preparations for the annual Congregational Meeting which will occur in May. The Nominations Committee is engaged and working the process that will lead to the nominees of Deacon and Elder that we will present to the congregation. We are also developing the budget for the coming fiscal year and will present that for approval.

F2023 Ministry Fund

In our last report we indicated Ministry Fund giving was 10% below budget. Thank you for responding to that and increasing your giving! As of the end of January, you have given \$434k to the Ministry Fund compared to a YTD budget of \$440k which means we are essentially on track. Thanks! Please continue your faithful financial support of Calvary. We need to collect another \$226k by the end of May to meet our budget and to continue fully funding all of Calvary's ministries and the ministries we support.

Other Updates

The Council is very thankful that Pastor Nick and the Honduras Team were able to visit our partner village, El Guanacaste, Honduras again this year after two years of no visits. The visit was very positive and impactful for our team and for El Guanacaste. Please plan to join us for lunch on March 5, after the worship service, when the Calvary team will tell us about their visit, and provide details about a very exciting potential opportunity for Calvary to partner with El Guanacaste on an upcoming agricultural project. Lunch will be provided.

Pastor Eli and the Youth Ministry Team announced Calvary's youth will go on a Serve trip to Thunder Bay on July 8 – 15. We will host 60 to 70 kids at Twin Cities Serve on July 29 – August 5. VBS is scheduled for June 12 – 16.

Calvary will host Classis Lake Superior meetings on March 6 and 7. Pastor Nick, Elder Karen De Kam, and Deacon Rosanne Van Marion are Calvary's delegates to the meeting.

By Elmer Jelgerhuis
Council Chair

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*

COMMUNITY BUILDING

15 things you didn't know about Cindy TeBrake



1. The youngest of four kids
2. I have nine nieces and nephews; 16 great nieces and nephews; four great-great nieces and nephews
3. I am closer in age to seven of my nieces and nephews than my oldest brother
4. I have been a nurse for 42 years
5. I grew up in west-central Minnesota
6. My graduating class had only 36 students
7. I am closer in age to my sister's three daughters than I am to her
8. I played both basketball and volleyball in high school.
9. I made the game winning basket with a buzzer beater
10. I met my best friend in kindergarten and we are still friends today
11. I have season tickets to the Guthrie Theater with a friend
12. I love to go to Chanhassen Dinner Theater for their concert series
13. I love to work on my yard in the summer
14. I took Amtrak to Chicago with a friend - it was the first time on a train and in Chicago for both of us
15. I love to read mystery/ detective books

March Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--------|----------------------------------|--------|--|
| Mar 1 | Grace Schmidt,
Barb Zwagerman | Mar 10 | Sophia Marcus,
Alisha Stewart | Mar 19 | Evan Koelewyn |
| Mar 2 | Marcia Pulscher,
Vonnie Vanden Berg | Mar 11 | Tara Bosch,
Julia Brouwer | Mar 22 | Connor Van Hulzen |
| Mar 4 | Michelle Brouwer,
Stuart Collins
Marion Sandfort | Mar 13 | Carrolle Hop | Mar 25 | Joseph De Penning,
Janet Ledebroer |
| Mar 7 | Blakely Groenendyk | Mar 16 | Steve Bosch,
Sarah Hooyer | Mar 28 | Jill Nieman |
| Mar 9 | Aleida VanderBrug | Mar 18 | Thelma Buss,
Alan Rindels | Mar 29 | Ron Vis |
| | | | | Mar 30 | Dianne De Penning,
Connie Spoelstra |
| | | | | Mar 31 | Elianna Van Hulzen |

April Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|--|--------|--|
| Apr 1 | Holland Kobes | Apr 13 | Eva Hedman,
Verla Maynard,
Andy Terpstra | Apr 22 | Levi Abbring |
| Apr 2 | Daniel Beekman,
Steve Hall | Apr 15 | Kim Attema, Bob Buys,
Ethan Hoekman | Apr 23 | Kay Harkema, Shannon
Hoekman, Karen Meyer |
| Apr 3 | Brian Liddle | Apr 16 | Joe Schumi | Apr 24 | Cheryl Boonstra |
| Apr 6 | James De Kam,
Ivy VanderBrug | Apr 19 | Hannah Groenendyk
Jon Van Hulzen | Apr 25 | Annika Veurink |
| Apr 10 | Isaac Wu | Apr 20 | Katherine Zylstra | Apr 28 | Kyle Fopma,
Nick Van Beek |
| Apr 11 | Zach Staudt, | | | Apr 29 | Bridget VanderBrug |
| Apr 12 | Burt Boonstra | | | Apr 30 | James Buchholz |

Worship Service Schedule

March 5

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Words from the Cross:
Today, Paradise
Offering: Urban Homeworks

March 12

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Words from the Cross:
Behold, Your Son
Offering: VEAP

March 19

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Words from the Cross:
Why Have You Forsaken Me?
Offering: New Creation Baptist
Food Shelf

March 26

Worship led by Pastor Eli
Words from the Cross:
Into Your Hands
Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

April 2

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Words from the Cross:
I Am Thirsty
Offering: Ministry Fund

April 7- Good Friday

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Luke 8:40-56
Words from the Cross

April 9

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Words from the Cross:
It Is Finished
Offering: World Renew

April 16

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Act. Love. Walk
Offering: GEMS

April 23

Worship led by Pastor Nick
God's Pictures
Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

April 30

Worship led by Pastor Nick
God's Pictures: Passover
Offering: Ministry Fund

CALVARY COMMUNITY GROUPS

Sunday School is for all ages to deepen their faith through study. Ages 3 through grade 8 are using the Gospel Project curriculum, high school students are studying vocation and calling during Young and Reformed, and adults have education opportunities as well.

Sun | 9:15am

Anchor is a youth group for grades 6-12 that includes worship, service, and community building activities.

Sun | 5pm | Refuge

Praise Team worships the Lord through music and leads the church to do the same.

Sun | 9:15pm | Sanctuary

Choir practices during WNA and enhances worship through song.

1st and 3rd Wed | 6:30pm | Choir Room

Life Group is for young adults who want to deepen friendships while delving into God's teachings.

Wed | 5:30pm | Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Night Alive starts with fellowship over a meal; GEMS, Cadets, Bible Study, and Choir begin their programs at 6:30pm.

1st and 3rd Wed | 5:30pm | Fellowship Hall

GEMS stands for Girls Everywhere Meet the Savior. GEMS is for 2nd through 8th grade girls to learn and grow as they discover who God created them to be.

1st and 3rd Wed | 6:30pm | Middle Level Classrooms

Cadets is for 2nd through 8th grade boys. Its purpose is to share Christ's love through Bible study and activities.

1st and 3rd Wed | 6:30pm | Mid Level Classrooms

Volleyball meets in the gym. All are invited, so bring your friends!

Friday | 7-9pm | Gym


Senior Adventures studies Scripture passages related to Sunday's sermons and is led by Pastor Nick.

2nd Wed | 1:00pm | Library

Please join us! Check out Calvary's website for more activities and groups at www.calvarytwincities.org



www.calvarytwincities.org

 calvarycrchedina

 calvary.gram

5300 France Avenue South
Edina, MN 55410-2020
952-831-6264



CALVARY
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
CHURCH

5300 France Ave. S
Edina, MN 55410