

THE PROCLAIMER

JUL/AUG 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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"SIMPLY JESUS" COUNCIL READING

One of the things that I enjoy most about being a member of the Calvary Council is we spend 30 minutes reading, discussing, and praying together at each of our two monthly meetings. We have read devotional books, leadership books, ministry books, theological books as well as the CRCNA Human Sexuality Report last year. These readings and discussions are always a rich time of insight, wisdom, team building, and sharing.

As our new council members join us this month, we will start a new reading on a theological and historical book called "Simply Jesus" by NT Wright. As a scholar, historian, theologian and ordained clergyman, Wright wishes to bless the church with a fresh vision of who Jesus is by going into greater depth on the historical and cultural context of Jesus' life and ministry. There are many, many books about Jesus in the world. "Simply Jesus" seeks to bring the substance of the historical and cultural dynamics into our day to

help us in our love of Jesus, our understanding of what he did, and our hope for the already-not-yet Kingdom.

We will eventually have a copy of this book in our library. For now, if you would like to join us in reading this book, we will be reading roughly one chapter for each meeting (two per month) which started June 26. I also want to note that while NT Wright is a world-renowned scholar, his writings are considered by many to be very accessible! Do not be afraid to read this book!

In one of his more recent "Our Shared Ministry" articles in the Banner, General Secretary Zachary King wrote about much of the research surrounding church growth.

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



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In this article, he makes a very important observation about the realities of people coming to Jesus having very little to do with church programming:

“This truth is so simple and yet counterintuitive. It’s simple because we recognize that people come to faith because they encounter Jesus, who offers them hope in the midst of hurt and despair. We know that Jesus, through his Spirit, is present in a community that longs for him. This truth is counterintuitive because we often assume it is our activity that brings people to God—our events, our programs, our facilities. People might be attracted to good programming, but they will want to stay in a Spirit-filled community where people are meeting Jesus and being fed by his Word.” (The Simple and Counterintuitive Truth about Church Growth, Zachary King).

The hope through our reading of “Simply Jesus” and all our devotional/reading times together as a council is that our leadership bodies are composed of people who love and long for Jesus.

May we be a church where people meet Jesus and are fed by his Word!

By Pastor Nick Van Beek



MINISTRY UPDATE

HERE

Praise the Lord Our Church Family Keeps Growing!

We welcomed thirteen new members to Calvary Christian Reformed Church this spring. It is humbling to hear how the Holy Spirit is working through our church to make disciples for Christ in the Twin Cities. Here’s a little bit about them and their stories.

Bruce and Donna Mulder live in Eden Prairie. They are a blended family and have three children. Daughter in Monticello, Minnesota, daughter in Sioux City, Iowa, and a son in Albany, New York. They have six grandchildren and have been married 27 years. They moved from Willmar, Minnesota to downsize and be closer to the airport. They winter in Mesa, Arizona as they are not fond of cold and snowy Minnesota winters anymore. They are both retired. Donna worked in the Mental Health field and Bruce worked in the Medical field of Imaging. They transferred to Calvary from Rock of Life CRC in Willmar, MN. They enjoy the warm welcome, the sermons, the music, and all the children that come up for the children’s messages. Fun facts: Donna is a paper crafter of greeting cards and scrapbooks. Bruce enjoys walking, golfing, and Pickleball.

Judy Drenth grew up on a farm outside Ellsworth, MN and went to church at Bethel Reformed Church. She attended Northwestern College (Go Red Raiders!) for two years then transferred to Iowa State for software engineering. She worked and lived all over the country - St. Louis, Iowa, Kansas, California, and upstate New York. She currently lives in Burnsville. Judy watched the Calvary YouTube a for a few services before coming in person. She feels at home in this church. She has connected with Marion Sanford through the Sewing Club. Her faith in Christ is her guide in life and she appreciates how Calvary’s messages are educational. Fun fact about Judy is that she is a power lifter.

The Dykstra family lives in Champlin. Jon and Jess both grew up in Iowa and oddly enough went to high school with Pastor Nick. Jon is an Architect at Alliance in Minneapolis specializing in science and technology buildings. Jess is a nurse at North Memorial hospital in a trauma specialty care unit. Colton and Ava attend Avail Academy in Blaine. Colton is a 4th grader. He is quick witted, athletic and enjoys a challenge. Ava is in 2nd grade. She is a fierce but gentle protector, an animal lover and enjoys crafting presents for her friends. Bennett is four and attends preschool. He is a brave heart warrior that steps to his own beat. He had a miraculous recovery from severe heart failure at birth. God's fingerprints on him have been evident throughout his life. The Dykstra family is grateful to have found a church with a strong foundation in theology, faithful preaching, and discipleship with a lot of families and kids.

The Leptuck family lives in Edina. Kristen grew up here in Edina and Dan is from Malvern, PA. They both attended Connecticut College where they met. They have three children: Cecilia (13), Charlotte (10) and Korvan (8). Kristen and Dan moved to Minnesota when Cecilia was three months old to be closer to Kristen's family and raise their kids in this community. The Leptuck kids attend Avail Academy in Edina and that is how the family was introduced to Calvary Church. They first came to Calvary after Maddie Van Beek and Cecilia became close, and they started hearing about the church through the Van Beek family! They were "in between" churches when they first attended a service at Calvary. With both the Avail and Calvary communities being so welcoming, and after learning about the CRC, they knew Calvary would continue to be a great fit.

By Pastor Eli

Eli Groenendyk
Pastor of Discipleship
pastoreli@calvarycrc.net



Commons Renovation

Sherburne-Slater, the contractor we selected for our Commons Renovation, started the Commons renovation the week of June 19. They could have started the week before, but that was VBS week and we asked them to hold off until the 19th and they were very accommodating. As we've mentioned in previous updates, there will be various levels of messiness as the project proceeds. We expect we will be able to use the sanctuary each Sunday during the project. Please be respectful of the areas in the Commons that Sherburne has roped off and please keep your children from "exploring" the tools or materials in the roped off areas.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Thank You to everyone who attended our annual Congregational Meeting on May 21! We had an excellent turnout. As you know, we held the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, after church. It was an experiment and based on the great attendance and feedback, it was very successful. We plan to do it again next year.

You approved the budget the Council presented and approved the nominees for the offices of deacon and elder.

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Council

At our June meeting we thanked deacons, Andrew Feikema and Marcus VanderBrug, and elders, Karen De Kam and Casey Soerens for their years of service on the Council. We welcomed Josh Abercrombie and Brenda Liddle as deacons and Matt De Kam and Eileen Rosenwinkel as elders as they begin their three-year terms on Council.

The Council elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Elmer Jelgerhuis

Vice Chair: Jon Van Hulzen

Clerk: Paul Vliem

Treasurer: Josh Abercrombie

We look forward to reading and discussing *Simply Jesus* by N. T. Wright for our Council devotions.

F2023 Ministry Fund

Our fiscal year (F2023) ended on May 31. As a congregation you contributed just over \$655,000 to our Ministry Fund compared to a target of \$660,000. The Ministry Fund is the fund that pays our staff, utilities, maintenance, etc. Our lease income was just over \$720,000 for F2023 and we were able to keep our expenses slightly under budget. We ended the year in good financial condition. Thank You Calvary!

By Elmer Jelgerhuis
Council Chair

New Giving Opportunity: Campus Ministries Fund

Calvary Church has regularly supported a variety of ministries that align with our mission: To proclaim the good news of Jesus in word and deed, here, near, and far. The Deacons are excited to introduce a new, regular offering cause that supports the "near" part of this mission in a unique way. In the past year, Calvary and the Deacons have had the opportunity to learn more about two organizations at the University of Minnesota that work to build a Christian community. The Calvary Campus Ministries Fund has been set up to support both Anselm House and Chi Alpha.

Anselm House has been on the campus of University of MN for 40 years and seeks to make meaningful spiritual connections with anyone on campus; through their values of hospitality, character, faith, and knowledge. Anselm House provides ways for staff and students to integrate faith, life, and learning in community through various events and programs including Gatherings, Groups, and Cohorts.

Chi Alpha is another ministry at the University of MN and is part of the Assemblies of God. Chi Alpha serves to lead students into a genuine and growing relationship with Jesus Christ through their values of real devotion, real community, and real influence. Chi Alpha offers ways to get connected to other students and to God including large groups, small groups, and relationships with student leaders. John Konkel teaches Physical Education at Avail Academy, and also has been a staff member with Chi Alpha since 2007. He serves as a chaplain to fraternities on campus and has been able to help lead many to find hope and healing in Jesus Christ. John shared that during the Covid epidemic, many students were anxious and were looking for answers. This led them to seek out Chi Alpha and consequently, Jesus.

The Deacons are pleased to share this opportunity to connect with these two local ministries at the University of MN with Calvary. This Calvary connection will help financially support them as they seek to minister to those on campus. Although this new ministry cause is labeled as "near", students come to the University of MN from around the world, so only God knows the far reaching consequences of campus ministry.

To learn more about these vibrant ministries, check them out online.
www.anselmhouse.org www.chialphamn.org



ANSELM
HOUSE



By Matt Koelewyn
On behalf of the Council

CALVARY COUNCIL

Elders

Jason Byers
Matt De Kam
Ruth DeVries
Elmer Jelgerhuis
Eileen Rosenwinkel
Jon Van Hulzen
Paul Vliem

Deacons

Josh Abercrombie
Karen Groen
Joel Kamp
Matt Koelewyn
Brenda Liddle
Marion Sandfort
Rosanne Van Marion

Officers

Council Chair: Elmer Jelgerhuis
Council Vice-chair: Jon Van Hulzen
Council Clerk: Paul Vliem
Consistory Chair: Nick Van Beek
Consistory Vice-chair: TBD
Consistory Clerk: TBD
Deacon Chair: Matt Koelewyn
Deacon Vice-Chair: TBD
Treasurer: Josh Abercrombie
Membership Clerk: Randy Hedman

Shepherding Districts

District 1: A – Groenendyk

District 2: Hall - Liddle

District 3: Marcus - Schumi

District 4: Smith – Z

*Council is in the process of updating
Shepherding Districts and Council Team
assignments*

Council Teams

Shepherding Team:

Administrative Team: Matt DeKam, Dianne DePenning, *Elmer Jelgerhuis, Matt Koelewyn, Jake Kamp, Josh Abercrombie

Youth Ministries Team: *Pastor Eli, Deb Attema, Kim Attema, Mateo DeKam, Pam Schmidt

Worship Team: *Pastor Nick, *Pastor Eli, Katie Abbring, Steve Bosch, Aleida VanderBrug, Erica Liddle, Kari Zylstra
** indicates chairperson*

Calvary's Behind the Scenes Ministry: The Visit Team

"Calvary has a Visit Team?" asked a friend awhile back when I mentioned, in passing, that I was making a visit to a Calvary member later that week. I wondered how many other Calvary members were not aware of this ministry, and then Pastor Nick asked if I'd write an article about our Visit Team in the next Proclaimer... perfect timing!

The idea for forming a Visit Team came from the Shepherding Team in the fall of 2014 out of concern for Calvary's significant aging population and a desire to better minister to this important part of Calvary's family. Members who exhibited the gift of hospitality and possibly had more discretionary time (they were retired) were identified and asked if they might be interested in making monthly visits to Calvary members who, due to age or circumstance, might find themselves somewhat isolated and in need of fellowship. Twelve women said "yes" to participating! Eventually, some of their husbands also joined in making visits. Visits began in January 2015, and continue to the present.

There are currently 13 people receiving regular visits from the Visit Team. As coordinator of the team, I make a visit schedule three times a year with each schedule covering a four-month period. Each team member usually makes one to two visits per month, and team members are paired with either another member of the team to make a visit or may make visits with their spouse. Visits most often take place at the home of the person being visited, but also take place at a coffee shop or over a meal at a restaurant or in the home of the Visit Team member. There is a lot of flexibility!

This ministry has been a blessing to both the people being visited and those making the visits. New relationships have been formed and friendships have deepened. It continues to be an important arm of Calvary's Shepherding Team. During the difficult season of Covid team members wrote notes or made phone calls to their assigned members. Team members who are snowbirds write notes or make calls during the months they are out of town. It's a great way to stay connected!
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Current members of Calvary's Visit Team are:

Sharon and Dalen Asche
Cheryl and Burt Boonstra
Pat and Dave Blankespoor
Kathy and Don Klompeen
Norma Koster
Phyllis and Nelson Nibbelink
Faye and Scott Ross
Linda and Tim Ribbens
Marion Sandfort
Cel Schrottenboer
Connie VanderTop
Jan Zahorsky
Barb and Duane Zwagerman

If you have any questions about this ministry or any of these people I would happily answer your questions. If you would like to join the Visit Team, please contact me, and I will add you to the team. If you would like to receive visits from the team, contact me or your district elder or deacon, and you will be added to the visit schedule. Whether you are making visits or receiving them, you will be blessed!

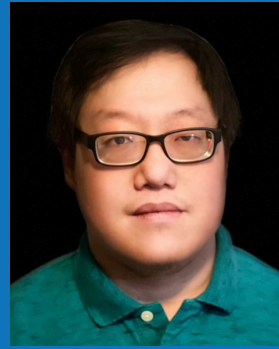
By Linda Ribbens
Visit Team Coordinator



SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

Interview with
Isaac Wu

NEAR



acting like a role model for them and becoming a leader at work that others can follow, and adding more tasks for me as well.

Where do you work?

I work at an Amazon Warehouse Fulfillment Center in Shakopee, MN.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

My job title at the fulfillment center is Warehouse Associate. This means that I work in all different types of departments. I started as a Picker role and worked my way up to more responsibilities like filling out customer orders, loading and unloading trucks, as well as being stocker for both inbound and outbound filling out inventory. There are lots of responsibilities. Last month my manager asked me to help out on nights we were struggling a little bit to meet customer demands so I worked until around 8.30 pm for three weeks. I have a lot of fun with my roles at work.

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

Well if you talk about my career, I'm really excited to have the opportunity to potentially move up within the company. I like the potential of having more roles and responsibilities; like assisting associates if they need help,

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

It's a little bit complicated since I can't mention God or talk about religion. I may risk losing my job. Unfortunately, it's kind of complicated and I try to keep it to myself. There is one person I know at work that is a dedicated Christian and he knows his stuff. We look to each other for prayer. We know the world is a sinful place and pray silently for one another and others and hope that they change their hearts and follow God in the near future.

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?

Yes, in fact, I know a couple of people. One is a dedicated Christian like I mentioned earlier, he has known God and has followed God all his life. The other one has the potential to follow Christ. There are others I do not know well but all we can do is pray for others.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

15 things you didn't know about Duane and Barb Zwagerman



1. Duane was born in Sheldon, IA and Barb was born in Chamberlain, SD. Both moved to Brooten as very young children. They met in Young People's Society at the Brooten Christian Reformed Church, which is also where they were married on August 21, 1970.
2. Duane was drafted into the Army in November of 1971, and served as a surveyor in the army. After training he was stationed in Baumholder, Germany. They lived there for about one and a half years and were able to do lots of traveling and learn about life in Europe.
3. Duane sport parachuted from a helicopter. One of the side benefits of military life!
4. During Duane's military duty in Germany, they lived off base, and their German landlord had been an American prisoner of war during World War II. Mr. Loch, their landlord, was a victim of Nazi propaganda that caused him to be suspicious of anything they told him about the US.
5. When they were first married they were caretakers for the Kandiyohi County Historical Society and lived in the Sperry House Museum in Willmar.
6. Duane's working career was in the construction industry and later for the Christian Labor Association. Their working careers were done in Willmar. They moved to Bloomington in 2010 after retiring.
7. Barb worked for 35 years for West Central Steel, Inc. as VP of Purchasing. WCS is a steel service center supplying new steel to a variety of industries, such as construction, farm machinery, and other misc. manufacturing.
8. Duane had quintuple bypass surgery January of 2006 on our last day of meetings/vacation in Tucson, AZ. The Lord always puts the right people in the right place at the right time. They are so grateful Al and Marianne Koning, great friends from the Willmar CRC, were wintering in Tucson at that time and were by their side.
9. They are blessed to have three sons, Ross, Derek and Nathan. Along with daughter-in-law's, they also have five grandchildren.
10. They both enjoy volunteering and helping other people. Duane helps fellow neighbors here at Applewood Pointe of Southtown with a variety of jobs, whether it is fixing a TV or AC, washing a car or moving a piece of furniture. Barb volunteers at Bridging and Presbyterian Homes in Bloomington and Mesa Gateway Airport when in AZ. They are a part of the Visiting Team at Calvary. They appreciate the great opportunities to get to know their church family better.
11. They both love to travel and see God's creation. Their favorite place is probably Chile in South America.
12. On a fishing trip to Canada, with Nathan and Sarah, they were part of a search and rescue effort. It is very easy to get lost with all the water, trees and rocks in the lakes up there that all look exactly alike! When Nathan and Sarah arrived back at the lodge for a fish fry, Duane and Barb were nowhere to be found. Yep, they were the ones that needed to be rescued!!!
13. In 2020, they decided it was time to get out of the Minnesota winters and enjoy some warmer temps without snow and ice. They purchased a home in Mesa, AZ and enjoy sharing their home with family and friends.
14. Duane enjoyed two trips to northern Canada hunting caribou (it took the second trip to actually shoot one!). They have donated the mounted head and antlers to the cabin Nathan and Sarah enjoy up north.
15. For several years, while living in Willmar, they hosted young adults who were volunteering to serve in Carpenters Tools International. The group are musicians who traveled the U.S. and abroad ministering to people through music. They hosted two to four people at a time, anywhere from six weeks to a year. They had two girls from Australia who stayed with them for a year, and the girls' parents stayed with them for a month. Great memories of God working in our lives.

Worship Service Schedule

July 2

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Fruit of the Spirit: Love
Offering: Honduras Discretionary Fund

July 9

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Fruit of the Spirit: Joy
Offering: World Renew

July 16

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Fruit of the Spirit: Peace
Offering: TC SERVE

July 23

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Fruit of the Spirit: Patience
Offering: Christian Education Fund

July 30

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness
Offering: Ministry Fund

August 6

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness
Offering: Urban Homeworks

August 13

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness
Offering: Campus Ministries Fund

August 20

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness
Offering: Christian Education Fund

August 27

Worship led by Pastor Eli
One Hit Wonder
Offering: VEAP

CALVARY BIRTHDAYS

HERE

July Birthdays


- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| July 1 | Julie Terpstra | July 17 | Kari Zylstra |
| July 2 | Bruce Mulder | July 21 | Shannon Soerens |
| July 3 | Shirley Attema | July 22 | Pam Schmidt |
| July 4 | Grace Soerens,
Leon Van Der Pol | July 23 | Eric Talsma |
| July 5 | Deb Attema | July 24 | Hailey Miedema |
| July 7 | Jim De Penning,
Connie Vander Top | July 16 | Patricia Collins |
| July 14 | Josh Abercrombie,
Dalen Asche | July 27 | Julia Kusters,
Joseph Veurink |
| July 15 | Hayden Veurink | July 28 | Mia DeJong |
| July 16 | Jon Dykstra | July 30 | Willa Feikema |
| | | July 31 | Len Attema |

August Birthdays

- | | | | |
|--------|--|--------|---|
| Aug 1 | Daniel Leptuck | Aug 15 | Andrew Feikema |
| Aug 3 | Angela Orcutt | Aug 16 | Daniel Stewart |
| Aug 4 | Steve Groen
Sue Zwiers | Aug 19 | Claire Beckering |
| Aug 6 | Abby Vis | Aug 20 | Darin Beckering,
Marv Beekman |
| Aug 7 | Lily Van Beek | Aug 21 | Jake Kamp,
Norma Koster |
| Aug 11 | Callahan VanderBrug | Aug 23 | Miles Beckering,
Roseanne Van Marion |
| Aug 12 | Todd Korthuis,
Brenna Schulte,
Heiko Veldman,
Christine Veurink | Aug 25 | Heidi Van Hulzen
Glenn Vander Top |
| Aug 13 | Karen De Kam | Aug 26 | Nathan Zwagerman |
| Aug 14 | Carol Rudie | Aug 29 | Gabi Soerens |



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