

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

PROCLAIM THE GOOD

NEWS OF JESUS
IN WORD AND DEED
HERE, NEAR, AND FAR.

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## **REDISCOVERING CHURCH**

Twice per month, (once during full council meetings and once during team meeting nights) the full council of Calvary Church gathers for devotions, discussion, and prayer. The Council selects a book and then spends 30 minutes at each meeting discussing the required reading for that meeting followed by a time of prayer.

This past month, the Council began reading and discussing the book, "Rediscover Church: Why the Body of Christ is Essential." The book is written on the premise that because of the global pandemic, political, social and cultural strife, many Christians have stayed at home for worship or haven't been worshiping at all. The challenges of the past few years have made it easy for people to pull away from their church community no matter how involved/connected they had been.

As a council we chose this book not because scores of people from Calvary fit this narrative,

but because there is value in reminding ourselves why church matters. The council did affirm/ celebrate the vast majority of the Calvary community has stayed committed to in-person worship despite the challenges and that LiveStream worship has been a valuable tool, not a crutch. However, when you attend worship Sunday after Sunday, year after year with few interruptions and few reminders, it's easy to forget why you go at all. Even people who attend church regularly need reminders of why the church is essential to our spiritual lives.

One of the first lines of the book is, "...a Christian without a church is a Christian in trouble."

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



#### ... Editorial continued from page 1

As a council, we believe this to be true, but we want help as leaders in articulating why we believe this to be true. This article is not only an invitation to join us in reading this book (available on Amazon for \$8.99), but to join us in wrestling with why the church matters, why worship/sacraments matter, why gathering matters, why worshiping in person matters, why our relationships with each other matter, why discipleship with one another matters.

To this end, our fall sermon series (starting Kickoff Sunday, September 11) will be called "Follow Me." It is a sermon series about the basics of what it means to follow Jesus and why. The series will cover a variety of discipleship topics: individual worship, corporate worship, prayer, service, generosity, rest, among several others.

We invite you to join us in "rediscovering church" and reminding ourselves of why we do the things we do to follow Jesus and glorify God well.

May we be a church committed to following Jesus well!

By Pastor Nick



## **ANCHOR UPDATE**

HERE



From left to right: Levi Abbring, Eli DeKam, Peter Bosch, Eli Groenendyk, Camryn Rettig, Abby Vis, Gabi Soerens, Alaina Terpstra, and Grace Soerens with their toes in the sand of Lake Michigan on their Serve trip to Muskegon.

## Serving Muskegon In Jesus' Name

A brave group of nine crawled (somewhat groggily) into a rental van at 6:00 am on July 9. The sugary donuts Camryn brought made the early morning a little sweeter. The destination was Muskegon for a SERVE trip. After two summers of mission trips being canceled due to COVID, the highlight of summer ministry was back in motion! For more than half of the group, this was their first SERVE experience. They were eager for the journey but did not know what to expect. We were only in Muskegon for less than an hour before the host church shuttled us over to Lake Michigan to enjoy the sunset on the beach. We didn't know anyone from the other church groups yet so we played football and walked the beach as a Calvary squad. Except Grace. Her social butterfly wings were flapping the first night. My goal for the rest of the group was to branch out, and that is what they did.

Every morning, we were sent off with our small group (a mixture of teens from different churches) to serve the community. Every night the host team fed us dinner. We ate like kings and queens because the host team told us they spent more than \$8000 on food! The worship band led us in singing praises to the Lord and a rotation of pastors taught us the Word of God. We discussed the messages and reflected on the day in our small groups. The nights finished with free time and games such as kickball, basketball, block ball, and laser tag. Yep, laser tag in the woods behind the church building.









The teenagers and the adult leaders had a wonderful week of Christian community. When a group commits to serve together, eat together, and worship together for a week, the Spirit shapes people to be more like Christ. The teenagers found joy in serving the community in Jesus' name. They found comradery in other Christian students from other towns. They strengthened their relationship with Jesus as their Savior and Lord of their lives. Here are a few stories from them:

Alaina Terpstra - We went to Deborah's house to clear out her garage and stain her deck. But then it rained so we huddled in her garage and got to play with her grandkids on a little basketball hoop. It was really fun to hang out with Deborah and her grandkids and reach out to them by hanging out.

Gabi Soerens - I had a super cool experience at Love INC, which stands for In Christ. They partner with other churches to provide for people trying to avoid homelessness. My small group prayed for them and they prayed for us. It was cool working with other believers throughout the week.

Abby Vis - On Thursday I worked in the community garden by pulling weeds and harvesting fruits and veggies. I talked to the volunteer ladies there and I learned they set out produce on the church driveway for impoverished people to take. Sometimes they have kids who have never eaten fruits like raspberries or strawberries come and it's cool to see how much they like healthy foods.

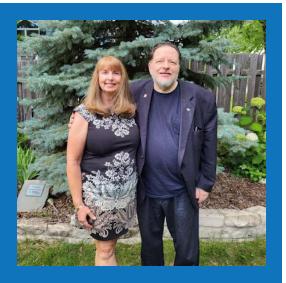
Eli Groenendyk
Pastor of
Discipleship
pastoreli@
calvarycrc.net



# COMMUNITY BUILDING

HERE

15 things you didn't know about Brian and Brenda Liddle



- As a child, Brian fell ill with scarlet fever and strep throat at the same time. An experimental drug saved his life.
- 2. Growing up in a Pennsylvania Dutch (German) dairy/farming community, 4 year-old Brenda's mom took her to a farm to watch them milk the cows. Looking at the white milk running through the glass tubes, little Brenda asked the farmer when the cows gave chocolate milk. The farmer and milk hands roared with laughter!
- 3. Both Brian and Brenda grew up on the East Coast (Long Island, NY and Lebanon, PA).
- 4. In high school, Brenda was a synchronized swimmer and played flute in the Cedar Crest High School marching band (She learned the rules of football so she wouldn't be bored). Brian played quarterback and linebacker for the Sachem High School football team and was in the Junior Naval Reserve (leading the 12 man drill team, playing drums, and throwing rifles).

- Brian's dad, Chet, was the battalion commander of JNR.
- Brian and Brenda's fathers were WWII veterans (Chester Liddle United States Navy SeaBee; Ralph Heffner United States Army).
- 6. Both Brenda and Brian are dog people! They each grew up with a dog (Ginger & Brandy) and have had two dogs while married (Parker & Luke).
- 7. After having full scholarships to both Juilliard and Curtis Institute of Music (and choosing Curtis), Brian auditioned for 33 orchestral bass jobs before winning the audition in MN in 1995 (the same year Erica was born!)
- 8. Brenda and Brian met on a blind date after being set up by neighbors of Brenda's aunt and uncle (with whom she was living while earning her Masters in Speech Pathology). The neighbors, who played in the Philadelphia Orchestra (where Brian was subbing after graduating from Curtis Institute of Music), thought it

- was a match made in heaven.
- 9. One summer early in their marriage Brenda and Brian spent a week during August sweating and eating bing cherries & cottage cheese by the lone window AC unit in the bedroom of their 3rd floor Philadelphia apartment. (The high was in the 100's, the low in the 90's. It was HOT!). In that same apartment, Brenda would put on Brian's loafers when she entered the kitchen at night to stomp on the cockroaches.
- 10. Brenda's favorite place to vacation is Stone Harbor, NJ, and when she first moved to MN she was sadly disappointed by Midwesterners' idea of the "beach"! (Lakes are NOT the same thing).
- 11. Working as a musician with the Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras, Brian has toured in Germany, Austria, Cuba, Italy, Japan, Finland, South America, the Netherlands, and the UK.
- 12. In September 2022, Brenda will begin her 20th year of working as a paraprofessional at Avail Academy (and her students can't believe she's over 30!)
- 13. Brenda has been a Pioneer Club/ GEMS volunteer at Calvary for 22 years.
- 14. During the 2014-2015 sixteen month MN Orchestra lockout, Brian became a licensed conceal and carry/personal protection course instructor.
- 15. Brenda wishes life were a musical and everyone knew the words.



#### Where do you work?

I am a lawyer at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. Faegre Drinker is a law firm with offices in 19 cities in the United States and international offices in London and Shanghai.

#### What are your roles and responsibilities?

I work in the business litigation group. Our group represents clients in a wide range of lawsuits. My primary areas of practice are in corporate litigation – disputes about corporate governance, transactions, and contracts – and in trade secret litigation. I am also involved in our firm's pro bono practice representing veterans in claims for disability and other compensation.

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

In Henry VI, Shakespeare wrote: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." A common sentiment! Nobody wants to get involved in a lawsuit if they can help it.

But on the opposite side, it means people call me (and my fellow litigators) only when they really need us. So the most exciting aspect of my job is probably that we get to help our clients in some of the most important issues that they are facing. Getting involved in a lawsuit is a stressful, typically high-risk proposition. Whether we are representing large companies, family-owned businesses, or individuals, we have the opportunity to walk alongside our clients and guide them through these situations.

As an example, generally our military veteran clients have repeatedly tried on their own to get the benefits to which they are entitled. But even for people experienced with the government bureaucracy, it can be challenging to navigate the rules and regulations to get the right answer. It is gratifying to come into the situation, advocate on their

behalf, and help break through the frustration that they have so often experienced.

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

We live in a broken world, and without the brokenness caused by sin, my job wouldn't exist. But I believe that God uses the justice system to address the problems caused by sin. I think we can see this most clearly by comparing our experience in America to places around the world. There are so many countries where people cannot trust the authorities to protect them, and they cannot trust that they will even be given a chance at justice if they plead their case. Of course, the American justice system is not perfect - not by a long shot - since it is still run by sinful humans. Even so, I see God's hand at work in providing us with an institution that helps mediate the effects of our sin.

# 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?

Many of my coworkers are Christians. (One of my co-workers even preaches on a regular basis at a church here in the Twin Cities although he is a Baptist, so I tell him that he doesn't get full credit for that). We have a fairly diverse workplace, and I would say that people are generally fairly open about their religion. Or maybe that is just me. In any event, I try to be open about my faith and open to conversations with my colleagues. As anyone who follows the Supreme Court's decision knows, there have been a lot of decisions over the past several years that touch on issues that go to the heart of where we are as humans. Since lawyers are keenly interested in these cases, they are often topics of discussion and they have provided the opportunity for several conversations with colleagues that went beyond the law to deeper issues of faith.

#### **LEADING THE MISSION**

Council Update

HERE

You do not want to miss this article as it is filled with drama, humor, and highly entertaining antidotes.

In June we welcomed five new Council members. reassigned Shepherding district elders and deacons as needed, established Council teams, and elected officers. We also closed our books for Fiscal 2022. We thank all of you and praise God that we continue to be in a good financial position. Congregational giving was a little below budget (\$634k given vs. \$660k budget) but lease income exceeded our budget by a little and we were able to keep expenses below budget. We ended the year with a modest amount of excess cash. We asked two Calvary members who work in the finance world to review our financial books. They conducted their review, offered a few suggestions, which we are implementing, and indicated that our bookkeeping and finances are in very good order. We owe a big thanks to Dianne DePenning (our Bookkeeper), Marcus VanderBrug (Treasurer), and Tim Ribbens (recently retired Council Chair, retired CPA, and always willing to help and provide advice on Calvary's finances) for our financial books being in great shape!

Congregational giving in Fiscal 2023 (this June and July) is right on budget. Thank you for that. Ministries Fund giving is not always exciting as it "only" pays for electricity, snow plowing, etc. But wait, it also pays for our awesome pastors and staff, and many other very important things. Please continue to give generously to our Ministries Fund so that Calvary remains healthy, vibrant, and growing.

As we've stated many times in the past year, we have re-engaged the Commons Renovation Team (CRT). In July the Council dedicated the majority of our meeting to the Commons Renovation topic and invited several CRT members to provide a complete update on the background, vision, design, purpose, cost estimates, and an initial schedule for the renovation. We will be providing much more information to all of you in the coming months and will be seeking your input on the renovation.

At our Congregational Meeting, we told you the Administrative Team (AT) and Council believed our Facility

## **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:
Council Vice-chair:
Council Clerk:
Consistory Chair:
Consistory Vice-chair:
Consistory Clerk:
Deacon Chair:
Deacon Vice-Chair:
Treasurer:

Deacon Clerk:

Elmer Jelgerhuis
Jon Van Hulzen
Andrew Feikema
Nick Van Beek
Elmer Jelgerhuis
Jon Van Hulzen
Matt Koelewyn
Andrew Feikema
Marcus VanderBrug
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

Team (Jake's team) was understaffed. We consulted several other churches of similar size and confirmed our concern. The F2023 budget (Jun 2022 to May 2023) you approved at the Congregational Meeting, included funds for a larger custodial staff. In light of that, we were very happy to be able to hire Kay Harkema to a 30 hours per week position. Kay is already doing a great job in her expanded role on our Facilities Team and we ask you to thank her (and everyone else on the Facility Team) when you see her.

We have nearly completed some sorely needed, major maintenance to our building. The roof over the library area was leaking, was in very poor condition, and didn't meet current codes. We had the roof redesigned to meet codes and we replaced it this summer, along with the multiple (very old) A/C units mounted on that roof. We also replaced several furnaces (some dating to the early 1970s) and A/C units in other portions of the building, along with outdated dampers and controls for those units. The last A/C unit in that project will be installed this month and the project will be complete.

We're sure you've all noticed the plantings are all in (and blooming!) around our new patio. Thank you to everyone who helped make that happen.

Our student and adult guests at Twin Cities SERVE indicated it was a great week and a success. The national SERVE director visited and observed

activities during the first several days of TC SERVE and told Pastor Eli and Pastor Travis Deur (from Faith CRC) that they were impressed, everything was well organized, and they were confident TC SERVE was on its way to being a great success. Those who benefited from the SERVE projects were also very appreciative. Pastor Eli and Pastor Travis signed us up for Twin Cities SERVE 2023!

We're updating the picture directory. If you haven't submitted a picture, or had your picture taken for our new directory, please contact Jason Byers (jasondene@hotmail.com).

The fall meeting of Classis Lake Superior (regional body of Christian Reformed Churches) will meet on Sept. 19 & 20. Calvary will send a Pastor, Deacon, and Elder as delegates.

The Council dedicates 30 minutes of each meeting (twice a month) to devotions and we are currently studying the book, Rediscover Church, Why the Body of Christ is Essential. It has generated a lot of great discussion and Pastor Nick's article on the cover page of this Proclaimer provides many more details.

You are all invited to The Great Calvary Get Together (all-church picnic) after the worship service on Sunday, September 11. Please put it on your calendar!

By Elmer Jelgerhuis Chair of Council

## Calvary Has a New VEAP Representative!

Thank you for your recent contributions to our Back to School Drive for VEAP. We collected 69 backpacks and \$1607.55 designated for the purchase of scientific calculators. With dramatic increases in the prices of food, clothing and housing, our low income neighbors need our help more than ever. Your contributions to this drive will help ensure that the children of these

neighbors have what they need to start their school year successfully.

It has been a huge blessing to serve as Calvary's VEAP representative for the past nearly 20 years. I continue to be amazed at how hard VEAP works to serve our low-income neighbors, who live paycheck to paycheck, many of them working more than one job. VEAP not only provides emergency food relief, but advocates tirelessly, with the cities it serves, for adequate,

...continued on page 8

#### ... Article continued from page 7

affordable housing. They work with clients on budgeting, and make them aware of services available to them. They provide transportation to doctor appointments for the elderly and others who need it. They have vans that provide fresh fruit and vegetables to neighborhoods that cannot afford these necessary foods. They give rent assistance when needed to keep people in their homes. The positive impact VEAP has on our community is immense, and they cannot do it without their supporting churches, local businesses, and hundreds of volunteers from these churches and our community.

Because Tim and I will be spending more time with our children and grandchildren in Arizona for part of the year, it is time for me to retire from my duties with VEAP. I am happy to announce that Eva Hedman has agreed to take over my position as Calvary's VEAP representative. I'm so grateful for her willingness to step into this rewarding position, and know she will do an awesome job! I'm so grateful for Calvary's faithful support of VEAP over the years, and am confident that support will continue as Eva takes the helm.

By Linda Ribbens



## 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

Adult Sunday School will go through the book <u>Compassion & Conviction</u> to discuss the Christian view of political engagement. Sun I 9:30am

**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. It's 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 I 7-9pm I 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

#### **Worship Service Schedule**

#### September 4

Worship led by Pastor Nick New Creation

Offering: Resonate Global-Sytsma

#### September 11

Worship led by Pastor Nick Follow Me: The Church

Offering: Honduras Discretionary

Fund

#### September 18

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Follow Me: Follow

Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

#### September 25

Worship led by Pastor Nick Follow Me: Individual Worship Offering: Ministry Fund

#### October 2

Worship led by Pastor Nick Follow Me: Corporate Worship

Offering: World Renew

#### October 9

Worship led by Pastor Nick Follow Me: Growth

Offering: New Creation Baptist

Church Food Shelf

#### October 16

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Follow me: Prayer

Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

#### October 23

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Follow Me: Service

Offering: Urban Homeworks

#### October 30

Worship led by Pastor Eli Follow Me: Evangelism

Offering: VEAP

## **CALVARY BIRTHDAYS**



#### **September Birthdays**

Sep 1	Noah Vliem	Sep 13	Brynlee Vis
Sep 4	Phil Hop,	Sep 14	Cheryl Rettig
	Ed Schrotenboer	Sep 16	Jannes Kamp
Sep 5	Joel Kamp	Sep 18	Gerrit Hedman,
Sep 6	Keegan Mellema,		Hazel Staudt
	Maddie Schmidt,	Sep 19	Greg Marcus
	Noelle Zwiers	Sep 22	Brad Zwagerman
Sep 7	Katie De Kam	Sep 26	Heather Mellema
Sep 10	Sam De Penning,	Sep 28	Karen Groen
	Arie DeJong,	Sep 30	Matt DeJong

#### **October Birthdays**

Mike Miedema

Oct 1 Oct 2	Erica Liddle Lauren Hedman, Lindsey Petersen	Oct 18	Kathy Klompeen, WinAnn Schumi, Joy Vliem
Oct 3	Cindy TeBrake	Oct 19	Andrew Beekman,
Oct 6	Evelyn De Kam		Gerb Korthuis
	Craig Downey,	Oct 20	Steve Abbring,
	Fern Kobes,		Rod Broekhuis
	Phyllis Nibbelink	Oct 21	Axel Moser
Oct 7	Lisa DeKam	Oct 22	John DeVries,
Oct 8	Stan DeVries		Randy Hedman
Oct 10	Elmer Jelgerhuis,	Oct 23	Carole Korthuis
	Jonathan Posthuma,	Oct 24	Max Rindels
	Tim Ribbens,	Oct 26	Jason Byers, Libby Kamp
	Casey Soerens		Don Klompeen,
Oct 12	Mark Zwiers		Madelyn Van Beek
Oct 13	Theo Schmidt	Oct 31	Clarence Ledeboer,
Oct 17	Harris Hubers		Linda Marcus,
Oct 18	Mateo De Kam		Cheryl Vis



www.calvarytwincities.org

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#### **Pastor Nick Van Beek**

Lead Pastor, pastornick@calvarycrc.net

#### Pastor Eli Groenendyk

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



Date: Sunday, September 11 - following the worship service

Where: Back parking lot

What: Enjoy pig roast sandwiches, chips and dessert

Play yard games, relay races and water balloon games

We would love to see everyone there for fellowship and time of connection!