

THE PROCLAIMER

NOV/DEC 2022 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** Ministry Update
- 4** Sphere Sovereignty
- 5** Community Groups
- 6** Calvary Birthdays
- 7** Community Building

THEOLOGY CLASS: THE RISE AND FALL OF MARS HILL CHURCH

This year, we are using The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill (produced by Christianity Today) to engage in theology. One of the central things we are doing as a class is reflecting biblically and theologically about the content of the podcast. The podcast tells the story, it's our job as Christians to think about how the Bible and our theological framework/worldview helps us understand the confusing things that happen.

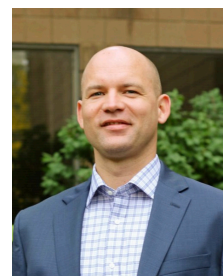
For example, it's clear that Mars Hill Church valued the gifts of speaking and charisma above godly characteristics like humility and kindness. Why do we in the church value the gifts of leaders in the church above their character? What does the Bible say about the characteristics of leaders/pastors? How do we understand the tension between the good fruit of a ministry and the hurt, pain and sin that exist in that same ministry?

The questions the podcast raises help us as Christians learn how to think biblically and theologically about the different things that happen in our world. It's our goal to use the podcast to develop these important Christian skills.

Several of you have mentioned to me that you would love to be part of the class, but you are involved in something else on Wednesday nights. If you would like to listen to the podcast, you can find it wherever you listen to podcasts. You can also google "The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill" and you can find the episodes on Christianity Today's website.

...continued on page 2

Editorial by
Nick Van Beek
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... Editorial continued from page 1

To those of you who are listening to the podcast but are not able to come to class, I invite you to reflect on the same questions I give to the class each week as they listen:

1. What truths/principles from scripture are present in the content?
2. What does scripture have to say about the content (affirming or rebuking)?
3. How does our theology as Reformed Christians connect or disconnect with the ideas present?

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive a link for each episode of the podcast, please send a request to me via email: pastornick@calvarycrc.net.

May the Spirit enable us all to think biblically and theologically about all the things that happen in our culture and world!

By Pastor Nick



All our guests and Gray Ducks outside MOA before the scavenger hunt.

MINISTRY UPDATE

HERE

The Fruit of Twin Cities Serve

Why did our church host a week long Serve missions trip? Why did we bring in 40 teenagers and adults from Michigan, Montana, and California? Was it worth it?

Yes! Absolutely. Here are five reasons why:

1. Faith formation for our guests

According to the evaluations they filled out before they left, all 40 guests said their relationship with Jesus was strengthened because of Twin Cities Serve. One high school girl said she committed to Christ for the first time!

Most of the Serve participants commented that serving at Susan Koppendrayner's farm was their favorite worksite. A teen from Montana wrote, "Susan lost her husband but is still very strong in her faith and loves the Lord. It taught me Jesus is always working."

An adult leader from California wrote, "I was able to see God at work in the greater community. I was able to connect with students from my home church as I listened to their 'pillow talk.' I listened to their doubts and challenged them to seek wisdom from the Scriptures."

2. Faith formation for our Gray Ducks

We had 19 high school students from Calvary and Faith CRC who provided hospitality for our guests. They washed dishes, led games, served at work sites, made announcements, shepherded teens to the worship services, sang on the praise team, and even

were MC's for the talent show! Not only did they have tons of fun, but they were encouraged in their faith in Christ. They attended all the nightly worship services and witnessed the faith of our guests. They realized there are teens all over the country who are loving the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

3. Activates our church to serve in the community (and show off the Twin Cities!)

Twin Cities Serve equipped adult volunteers from our church to help as site leaders at Avail Academy, Bibles for Missions, YMCA Retreat Center, and other local non-profits. This demonstrates our commitment to be a blessing in the Twin Cities. We also got to bring the out-of-towners to fun places like the Mall of America, Valley Fair, and a few of our 10,000 lakes.

4. Strengthens our relationships with Christian Reformed Churches

When we took the work teams to Susan's farm, there were eight Christian Reformed Churches working together! There were five churches from Minnesota and the three visiting churches. It was an awesome example of unity in the body of Christ.

Teens from Michigan, Montana, California with Libby Kamp and Peter Bosch paint Susan Koppendraye's farmhouse during TC Serve.



Matt DeJong and his praise team led everyone in singing praise every night. Pastor Eli was the speaker who preached the Word.

5. Utilizes our entire facility for God's Kingdom

We rent out lots of our space most of the year, which is a blessing to our tenants and our community. But it is wonderful to use the whole facility for Christ-centered ministry. We have incredible spaces for discipleship and it was fulfilling to the gym, wallyball court, Refuge, Gathering Place, kitchen, cafeteria, and classrooms used for God's kingdom.

ThereforeGo Ministries gave us a very positive review so we are hosting again from July 29-August 5, 2023. We are hoping to fill up to 60 participants next summer! There will be plenty of ways to help out and you will hear more about it when the time comes.



The Montana church team enjoys Bush Lake Beach.

Eli Groenendyk
Pastor of
Discipleship
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SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

*Interview with
Jack Brouwer*

NEAR



Where do you work?

Children's Minnesota (formerly known as Children's Hospitals and Clinics of MN). We operate two main hospitals in Minneapolis and St Paul, an ambulatory surgery center and outpatient radiology center in Minnetonka, and primary/specialty clinics scattered around the Twin Cities and suburbs.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

My title is "IT Clinical Applications Manager, Ambulatory and Revenue Systems". When fully staffed, I manage a team of nine who support Children's electronic medical records (EMR). The Ambulatory portion of my title is for seven primary care locations located in the "community" (not on any of our main campuses). The Revenue portion of my role is supporting the organization's scheduling, registration, and billing applications. My entire career has had some tie to medical billing. If you have a medical claim or explanation of benefits that you don't understand, feel free to pull me aside and I'll try to help you out.

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

I am currently heavily involved in a year-long project overhauling our scheduling and registration systems to be the "latest and greatest", a much more user-friendly and efficient way to improve the pre-visit experience for our patients and families. However, being in leadership of a relatively small independent hospital system, I often get pulled into "all hands on deck" type opportunities or global hospital initiatives. IT is currently supporting an earlier than normal surge of respiratory illness (RSV-like symptoms), a potential increase in measles cases, and fallout from COVID and its variants.

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

Birth, illness, and death (especially in children) are often natural conversation starters in the wonders and miracles of God the Creator and the impact of sin in our world. While I am not directly involved on the front line, by supporting the front line workers I and many others are an extension of the care Children's doctors and nurses provide children and families at times when they are the most vulnerable.

God is absolutely at work at Children's MN. I can definitely say that I've been witness to miraculous recoveries on one side, devastating death on the other side, and everything in between. Many people I meet, once they know where I work, share a "Children's Story" with me. These experiences leave an indelible mark on the families and cause many to cry out in prayer to their Lord and Savior for grace and healing. At least quarterly during leadership meetings, we start by listening to a family story to ground us in the work we need to do. While the presenters are usually complimentary of Children's care and expertise, almost all point to their faith as the means by which they were able to get through it.

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?

Like many places of employment, while we are not encouraged to share our faith, we also are not prevented or hindered from doing so. Many of my coworkers are Christians, but many are not. As I mentioned above, illness and death either at work or in their

own families will often raise the question of “Why do bad things happen to good people?” I have had the opportunity to use these times to share my faith in Christ to those grasping at answers. On a more basic level, offering a simple gesture of letting people know you are praying for them also opens the doors to further conversation.

VEAP Fall Drive

VEAP has a huge impact on our low income neighbors. For our fall drive we will collect personal care items and foods to accommodate special dietary needs as well as food staples.

Suggested Items

Special diet:

- Low sodium
- Gluten Free
- Diabetic Friendly

Personal Care:

- Toilet paper

Pantry Staples:

- Rice & pasta
- Dried beans
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Tuna
- Fruit juices

Drive Dates November 6-27

Goal 75 pounds



CALVARY COMMUNITY GROUPS HERE

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 52 Great Bible Studies for Youth, and adults are discussing the book, Compassion & Conviction.

Sun | 9:15am

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

Sun | 5-6:30pm | 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.

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

Wednesday Night Alive starts with fellowship over a meal; GEMS, Cadets, Theology Class, and Choir begin their programs after.

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

Theology Class (Rise and Fall of Mars Hill) Led by Pastor Nick; for men and women of all ages.

1st and 3rd Wed | 6:30pm | Room 306

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 Tuesday | 1:00pm | Library

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

Worship Service Schedule

November 6

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Follow me: Mission

Offering: Christian Education Fund

November 13

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Follow me: Generosity

Offering: Honuras Medical Assist

November 20

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Follow me: Stewardship

Offering: Ministry Fund

November 25- Thanksgiving

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Follow me: Gratitude

November 27

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Follow Me: Rest

Offering: Resonate Global- Systma

December 4

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Gifts of Christmas - Gold

Offering: World Renew

December 11- Lessons and Carols

Worship led by Pastor Eli

Gifts of Christmas - Frankincense

Offering: Christian Education Fund

December 18

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Gifts of Christmas - Myrrh

Offering: New Creation Baptist

Church Food Shelf

December 24- Christmas Eve

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Offering: VEAP

December 25- Christmas Day

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Offering: Ministry Fund

CALVARY BIRTHDAYS

HERE

November Birthdays

Nov 1	Matthew Harkema, Gray Moser	Nov 18	Olivia Byers Eileen Rosenwinkel
Nov 6	Joel Abbring, Maggie Kamp	Nov 19	Susan Covell, Aaron Hooyer, JoAnn Tobak
Nov 7	Dan Kobes	Nov 25	Hazel Abbring, Jacob Zwiers
Nov 8	Thias Feikema	Nov 26	Carol Bengry
Nov 12	Carol Burkauskas, Marlys Buss, Matt De Kam	Nov 27	Brenda Liddle, Karl Wingblade
Nov 17	Angela Byers	Nov 29	Carter Miedema
Nov 18	Ken Buss, Mira Byers,	Nov 30	Avery Zwagerman

December Birthdays

Dec 2	Allison Miedema	Ezra Vliem
Dec 3	Ryan Tedjasukmana	Dec 13 Pete Burkauskas
Dec 4	Rich Kobes, Ilene Peterson, Tim Zwiers	Dec 15 Nelson Nibbelink
Dec 5	Stacy Waldron	Dec 18 Rebekah De Penning, Josiah Soerens
Dec 6	Scott Ross	Dec 25 Jeff Harkema, Tom Buss, Eli Groenendyk
Dec 9	Ray Maynard, Maverick Staudt, Nathaniel Zylstra	Dec 26 Craig Herman, Marcus VanderBrug
Dec 10	Kara Feikema	Dec 30 Taylor Miedema, John Pulscher
Dec 11	Ed Rosenwinkel	
Dec 12	Tricia Beckering,	

Holiday Worship Schedule

November 24, 10:00 am - Thanksgiving Worship
December 4, 10:30 am - Advent Communion Worship
December 11, 10:30 am, Lessons and Carols Service
December 18, 5:00 pm - Children's Christmas Program
December 24, 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25, 10:30 am - Christmas Day Worship

COMMUNITY BUILDING

15 things you didn't know about Marion Sandfort



1. I grew up on a dairy farm near Silver Creek MN, attended a one-room schoolhouse, and the Silver Creek Reformed Church. (The same church as Janette Kamp.)
2. I am a descendant of a sister of Jane Seymour, the third wife of King Henry VIII.
3. I learned to drive an Allis Chalmers tractor when I was eight years old. That tractor has been restored and is owned by my sister and brother-in-law. I milked cows, slopped hogs, fed chickens, cultivated corn and did many other farm chores.



4. I have an "I Like IKE" campaign button.
5. Larry and I met at First Christian Reformed Church then located at 15th Avenue and Lake Street. Ours was one of several marriages that began as friendships in the Youth Group.
6. Boating and camping have been favorite family activities since the early '70's. The St. Croix River is still my favorite place to be. I skied slalom in 2017. One year the inner mermaid in me wore a mermaid costume (ask me to see the picture).
7. I am ambidextrous. My left hand is used to pitch a ball, bowl, and play corn hole. One grandson is also ambidextrous.
8. My version of "monster cookies" has been renamed. My grandchildren are very excited when a package of "g'ma cookies" arrives in the mail for birthdays, back-to-school, and other occasions.
9. I drove a school bus for

Calvin Christian School (now Avail Academy) for 37 years. I should write a book about some of those experiences!

10. I worked in the Calvary Church office for 23 years.
11. I build rock cairns among my plants. I have also built them in California, Oregon, and Switzerland. Rocks need to be stacked.



12. I dislike onions! Intensely!
13. I gave my children wings! Daughter Sherri, her husband, and their three sons live in New York City. They fly to Switzerland each year to visit his family. Son Curt, his wife, and two daughters live in Oregon on the Umpqua River where they enjoy boating and waterskiing. He is a really good grill master.
14. I enjoyed my "80-going-on-60" birthday in AZ. The celebration included climbing Victory Mountain in Verado with family. It was wonderful!
15. Everyday I look for JOY, and every day I find it!



CALVARY
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
CHURCH

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