

# THE PROCLAIMER

JAN/FEB 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.**

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## THE INCARNATION AND CALVARY CHURCH

This past Advent and Christmas season, we celebrated the incarnation of the Word made flesh; the coming of the God-man, Jesus Christ to us. The incarnation of God in the flesh is a profound mystery and counter-intuitive idea but was necessary for God to restore and redeem us. If God doesn't stoop down to meet us on our level and become one of us, He cannot represent humanity on the cross.

The theology of the incarnation has an important place in our traditions each year and we celebrated it in many ways; we learned about the prophecies of the Messiah during Advent, we lit Advent candles to symbolize the coming of the light of the world to the darkness, and we celebrated with the giving of gifts among many other things.

But what struck me this past Christmas season was the ways we as a church lived and are living out the incarnation of Christ through our ministry. You may have noticed that the Edina Chorale began having concerts

in our building again this past December; hundreds of people from our community came into our building and enjoyed great music and community. I believe this to be an incarnational ministry; we are inhabiting the community by being a physical presence and we are letting the community inhabit our building to benefit them. In a world full of loneliness and isolation, our church is providing a place where community and music can be enjoyed, and lives can be enriched. We believe it is important to communicate to the community that we care about them, that we are here among them, and we want to be generous with our resources as God is with us.

Additionally, it has been a great joy to see so many of you help

*...continued on page 2*

Editorial by  
**Nick Van Beek**  
Lead Pastor  
[pastornick@calvarycrc.net](mailto:pastornick@calvarycrc.net)



*...Editorial continued from page 1*

at the New Creation Food Shelf serving alongside our brothers and sisters there. Every time I serve there, I'm reminded of the humanity of that service. The Food Shelf is very close quarters; it's impossible not to touch each other, you are working directly with people in need, you are helping people to one of the most basic needs of life, and you are meeting flesh and blood human beings in their hunger and neediness.

I'm not making the claim that we are the perfect presence of Jesus and are not in need ourselves. I'm saying that as the church of Christ, we are called to the same incarnational ministry. We incarnate ourselves in the flesh to meet people where they are and minister to them. In the same way that Jesus left the comfort and glory of heaven, so we are called to leave our comfort to serve and sacrifice.

It's easier and more comfortable to stay at home on a Saturday morning and relax or do our own chores. It would be easier for us as a church to keep our doors closed, not allowing the community to put wear and tear on our building and make it dirtier. But to do so is a failure to embody Jesus to those around us. To do so would be a failure to be the presence of Christ in our broken city.

The incarnation of Jesus is a beautiful, profound mystery which has tremendous meaning and significance. However, the only reason it truly has significance is because it happened! The incarnation does not have significance simply because it's a cool idea with neat traditions.

If the incarnation is to have any meaning, it must happen. The incarnation cannot merely be a theological concept to us that we celebrate only with traditions; it must be a lived concept. If we as a church truly believe in the incarnation, then we must find ways to be the presence of Christ to our community.

I'm thankful that as a church, we are finding new ways to be an incarnation of the love, hope, and peace of Christ to those around us! May we continue to do so in these and many other ways!

By Pastor Nick

## ANCHOR UPDATE

HERE

### Youth Pastors of Edina Unite

On the first Thursday of the last three months, the youth pastors of Edina have met together to encourage, learn from, and pray for each other. We share the highs and lows of youth ministry and how we can better serve the teens and tweens of the Twin Cities. The group was initiated by Nicole Smalley of Colonial Church and draws in a total of 15-20 youth ministry workers from multiple churches located in Edina, such as Christ Presbyterian Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Good Samaritan Methodist, Edina Community Lutheran, Woodale, and Calvary Christian Reformed.

Our churches take turns hosting the meetings. Calvary hosted the group in the Refuge on December 2, 2021. Everyone repeatedly thanked Calvary for hosting and they were amazed with our youth ministry space. The relationships being formed have been encouraging and the conversations have been fruitful.

I have enjoyed getting to know the other youth pastors in Edina. It is encouraging to see other people strongly committed to making disciples for Christ of the youth. Our group has shared many good laughs together about stories from youth ministry. You simply cannot make this stuff up! It is clear that we all experience many moments of pure joy loving the youth of our churches.

We have also shared the challenges we face as youth leaders and the challenges and questions our youth experience on a daily basis. Stress, anxiety, COVID, social media, loneliness, sports, grades, belonging, purpose, friends. We discuss how these



topics impact our faith and the faith of our youth groups. In response to these issues, we have shared helpful resources including books, conferences, and podcasts, including the fascinating and sad podcast called The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill.

The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill tells the story of the growth and collapse of a megachurch in Seattle within 20 years. As leaders in youth ministry, the podcast has reminded us what we are here for: not just to increase attendance or be in control, but to comfort, encourage, and strengthen God's people for God's glory. We are youth pastors to teach God's Word and imitate Christ. We seek to be in step with the Spirit and bear the fruit of love, joy, and peace. We do not use technology to boost our personal platforms, but to communicate to our churches and display the fulfillment of following Christ. We do not sanction our selfish desires with God's blessing, but we pray along with Christ, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done."

We represent many different branches of the global church. With so many differences between denominations, sometimes it is hard for churches to "get along." I appreciate that many Edina churches

are working together to make their youth ministries more meaningful. Despite our theological and worship differences, everyone loves kids and wants to care for them. That being said, I strongly value being Christian Reformed. Hearing how other churches do things gives me some good ideas, but it also strengthens my Reformed identity. I thank God for what we have going at Calvary and for the commitments and accountability we have as a Christian Reformed Church.



*Claire, Natalie, Breanna, and Maddie enjoy a scavenger hunt around Calvary's facility located in Edina. Place is important for youth ministry. The Edina youth pastors focus on how we can minister to the youth in Edina and in the Twin Cities.*

**Anchor**  
5-7pm  
Sundays,  
in the Refuge

**Eli Groenendyk**  
Pastor of  
Discipleship  
[pastoreli@calvarycrc.net](mailto:pastoreli@calvarycrc.net)







## CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

*a center of Calvin College*

### Survey Results Regarding Calvary's Health

In September and October Pastor Nick led us through a sermon series on Jesus' words to the seven churches of Revelation. We reflected on Jesus' encouragements and rebukes to the seven churches and we considered what that says to us at Calvary today. If Jesus were to talk directly to us today, what would he say about what we are doing here in the Twin Cities and beyond? For example, is our worship meaningful and are our members growing spiritually? Are we having a positive impact on the world around us?

Last spring, the Calvin University Center for Social Research gave us a great opportunity to answer some of those questions along with 150 related questions. They asked each of you to participate in a survey regarding various aspects of Calvary Church and Calvary's ministry. We recently received the results of that survey and it offers us a perspective on what Calvary is doing well and some areas where we could improve.

Each of Calvary's 204 adult members received the survey and 41 of you responded. When we asked the Calvin University Center for Social Research how we should view a 20% response rate, they told us that was far better than average and we should be happy that so many of you took the time to respond.

At our November meeting, the council reviewed the survey data and we agreed that the results of the survey are overwhelmingly positive, very encouraging, and a cause for celebration and thanksgiving! The survey responses indicate in many ways that Calvary is a strong and healthy church that is effectively advancing God's Kingdom in the Twin Cities and beyond. While Calvary is not perfect and the survey helps us to see areas in which we can improve, the council is tremendously thankful for the ways that God is clearly at work in our church.

The report is full of statistics and we know statistics put a lot of people to sleep so we will only quote a few of them. If you would like a copy of the full survey results, please request a copy from Cheryl at [crettig@calvarycrc.net](mailto:crettig@calvarycrc.net).

Following are a small sample of survey responses:

"Our church strongly urges us to apply the Bible to every area of our lives"— 87% of you said that is "Definitely True" and 95% of you said that is "Definitely True or Mostly True."

"Our congregation is characterized by vibrant worship that engages people of all ages"— 85% of you said that is "Definitely True or Mostly True."

"Our leaders, including volunteer leaders, inspire us to grow spiritually"— 90% of you said that is "Definitely True or Mostly True."

"My church helps me think through the complex issues facing our world today using kingdom values"— 91% of you stated "Definitely True, Mostly True, or Somewhat True."

"I'm committed to my church's mission/vision and I'm willing to make sacrifices for it"— 98% of you stated that is "Definitely True, Mostly True, or Somewhat True."

As we stated, the Council and Pastors are extremely encouraged by survey results like these and we praise God for this!

Overall, the survey results indicate our members have a strong prayer and spiritual life, you are being equipped by Calvary, you have faith in the volunteer and staff leadership,

We know some of you were not able to respond to this survey and we understand that. We thank those who were able to respond. This input is very valuable to Calvary. The Council is celebrating the very positive results of the survey, is praising God for the work he is doing through Calvary, and is determining what actions we should take with regard to the areas listed for improvement.

# SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

*Interview with  
Andrew Feikema*

NEAR



## **Where do you work?**

I'm a Senior Vice President & Relationship Manager in U.S. Bank's Global Industrials & Services Division, part of our Corporate Banking Group.

## **What are your roles and responsibilities?**

I serve as the primary point of contact at U.S. Bank for a number of large public and private companies (typically with \$1 billion or more in annual revenues). My portfolio is primarily Twin Cities based and comprised of large, well-known manufacturers, service companies, distributors, broadcasters, and even a couple sports teams. In my role, I work to provide all the banking and financial needs a company may have. This can include very large loans and lines of credit, capital markets products (like loan syndications, public bonds, private placements, derivatives, and foreign exchange), operating accounts, treasury management, credit card processing, corporate cards, acquisition related services, and much more.

## **What are you currently working on that excites you?**

As my job title implies, my role is very relationship-oriented and most of my clients have worked with us for many decades, and I've had the privilege to work with many of my clients for more than fourteen years now. To build on the efforts of so many that have come before me while developing my own personal relationships with executives and management is really exciting to me. Nearly every day at work is unique and comes with a wide variety of opportunities and challenges, which can be exciting and interesting from a professional and

personal development standpoint, though can also be quite stressful sometimes.

One thing I really enjoy is seeing large, complex projects and financings come together. When you hear in the news about a company acquiring another or a large project like a warehouse or building being constructed, there's someone like me behind the scenes helping facilitate and support that.

The bank is also big on community involvement and actively supports the organizations I'm involved with like Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota, Avail Academy, Urban Homeworks, and the foundations of a few of my clients. I really enjoy being able to give back in this way.

## **What in your job reveals God's sphere sovereignty?**

While large companies have historically focused on the interests of shareholders, there's been a growing emphasis over the years in acting with the interests of stakeholders. This includes taking into consideration employee interest and betterment, making things more efficient and sustainable, improving processes and convenience, and acting in the interests of the community at large. While this all plays out on a macroeconomic scale, the companies I work with act with integrity and compassion every day to make God's creation a better place.

## **How do you see God at work in your job?**

Corporate Social Responsibility has become so important over the years, with DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) being two key focus areas. I see a lot of parallels with DEI efforts in Calvary's social justice work, as many corporations including U.S. Bank are taking steps to make their workforce more inclusive and welcoming to diverse backgrounds. The numerous companies focusing on ESG in recent years have made huge strides in the areas of sustainability, process improvement, pollution reduction, and being good stewards of resources and God's creation. I have regular client conversations on both topics and see these strategies at work firsthand.

**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?**

In my role, the people I work with, both in my workplace and at my clients, have diverse backgrounds, views, and beliefs. Everyone I interact with is treated with the utmost

professionalism, dignity, and respect that every child of God deserves. I've occasionally had the opportunity to share my faith based solely on the way I carry myself at work. I have a number of co-workers and clients that are Christian and have been able to share in these beliefs and foster strong relationships with them. Most interestingly, I've often found that, by something as

simple as including my Church Council and Avail Academy involvement in my LinkedIn and corporate bios, opens the doors to relational evangelism opportunities with folks I wouldn't have otherwise expected it from. The opportunity to share His good word can sometimes come from unlikely places.

By Andrew Feikema

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

*15 things you didn't know about Steve and Joni Hall*



1. Steve was born in Grand Rapids, MI but then moved to Prinsburg, MN.
2. Steve spent most of his life living in Orange City, IA and Sioux Center, IA.
3. Steve is the second son of the five sons of Howie and Vicki Hall.
4. Steve could fix almost anything even as a child. His grandma would give him old clocks to fix and he wired the home that his parents built in Sioux Center.
5. Joni was born in St. Paul, MN but spent most of her life in the suburbs of Minneapolis.
6. She started attending Calvary Church in Bloomington with her family when she was five years old. They had been attending First CRC near Lake Street in Minneapolis but moved to Bloomington in 1966.
7. Joni's dad owned Normandale Veterinary Hospital, and Joni worked there from 8th grade up until 1990.
8. Steve's first job after graduating from Dordt was with Control Data Corporation.
9. Joni spotted Steve and a friend sitting in the balcony of Bloomington Calvary in 1978 when he moved to Minnesota. She remembered telling a friend, "I'll break up with my boyfriend if I can go out with Steve Hall!"
10. Steve was told of Joni's interest but he just laughed and said that "She's too young."
11. On June 27, 1981 Steve asked Joni to go "just as friends" to the movie, "Raiders of the Lost Ark."
12. On October 2, 1981, just two months later, they were engaged and they were married on April 3, 1982.
13. Steve and Joni have three grown children, two awesome children-in-law and two beautiful grandchildren, Finley and Howie Abercrombie.
14. Steve is always happy and spends most of his day whistling.
15. Joni is almost always happy except when Steve is whistling.



## Worship Service Schedule

### January 2

Worship led by Pastor Eli

John 6:53-69

Remain in Christ or Turn Away?

Offering: VEAP

### January 9

Worship led by Pastor Nick

1 Samuel 17

David and Goliath

Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

### January 16

Worship led by Pastor Nick

1 King 3:16-28

The Wisdom of Solomon

Offering: New Life Family Services

### January 23

Worship led by Pastor Eli

Joshua 2:1-22

Rahab and the Spies

Offering: Cadets

### January 30

Worship led by Pastor Nick

2 Kings 5:1-16

Naaman

Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

### February 6

Worship led by Pastor Eli

Joshua 1:9

Joshua

Offering: SALT/Arrive

### February 13

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Daniel 5

The Writing on the Wall

Offering: Honduras Fund

### February 20

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Numbers 21:21-39

Balaam's Donkey

Offering: World Renew

### February 28

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Esther 9:1-4

Esther

Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

## CALVARY BIRTHDAYS

HERE

### January Birthdays

Jan 2 Amos Vliem

Jan 6 Tim Schmidt

Jan 7 Joni Hall

Jan 8 Eli De Kam

Jan 14 Missy Kamp

Jan 15 Jaclyn Brouwer

Jan 16 Emilyn Bosch,  
Addison Koelewyn

Jan 17 Paislee Olson-Bengry

Jan 18 Nate Hall

Jan 20 Maggie Feikema

Jan 23 Piper Moser

Jan 24 Vicki Hall,  
Scott Mellema

Jan 25 Jack Van Marion

Jan 26 Natalie Hoekman

Jan 27 Peter Harkema

Jan 29 Lydia Marcus,  
Linda Ribbens

Jan 30 Breanna Beckering

Jan 31 Zach Rindels

### February Birthdays

Feb 3 Wren Wingblade,  
Molly Zylstra

Feb 5 Sarah Zwagerman

Feb 11 Dave Blankespoor,  
Simon Bosch

Feb 16 Ruth DeVries,  
Paula Rindels

Feb 17 Peter Bosch

Feb 19 Kris Herman

Feb 19 Paul Vliem

Feb 20 Sharon Asche

Feb 22 Wayne Tobak

Feb 23 Pat Douma,  
Malachi Rindels,  
Carrie Van Beek

Feb 24 Caden Orcutt

Feb 28 Ruth Muyskens

### Offering Totals

Calvary Ministries Fund Fiscal  
YTD 11-30-21:

Actual: \$246,982.38

Budget: \$330,000.00

Down: 25.16% from Budget

Christian Ed. Fund: \$2,482.00

Honduras Team: \$1,771.00

New Creation Baptist Church  
(NCBC) Food Shelf: \$3,169.13

SALT/Arrive: \$1,266.25


Urban Homeworks: \$1,130.90

VEAP: \$3,003.75

World Renew: \$300.25



[www.calvarytwincities.org](http://www.calvarytwincities.org)

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