

THE PROCLAIMER

MARCH/APRIL 2024 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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AN INVITATION TO SIT FURTHER FORWARD

It's a question I've been asked at every church I have served: Why do so many people sit so far back in the sanctuary?

To be fair, I get it. My family and I visited another church recently and without thinking, we sat near the back. If I can help it, I don't like to be on display, especially when I am worshipping as a "normal person." It's nice to be able to get to the restroom without people noticing. If we feel led to raise our hands or clap in worship, we don't want to do so wondering what others might think of us. If we get distracted or fall asleep in worship (which I'm sure never happens at Calvary!), it's better that fewer people notice!

There are some who believe that a choice in where we sit in the sanctuary is indicative of some sort of spiritual reality. I read one article where a pastor associated several signs of spiritual unhealth with sitting near the back. I do not believe this is true or fair. I have witnessed the "back pew

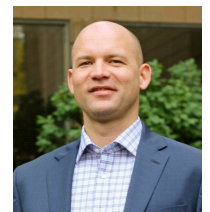
phenomenon" at both healthy and dying churches, as well as churches of different traditions and denominations. However, I do believe there are practical reasons to sit further towards the front in worship.

So, I'd like to invite you and your families to consider sitting closer to the front of the sanctuary instead of the back or the balcony. Here's why:

1. Because the back is nicer for visitors. Whatever fear or discomfort we may have in sitting toward the front of the sanctuary in worship, visitors tend to have more. It's scary to be in a big sanctuary with a bunch of people you don't know engaging in worship that is unfamiliar.

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



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Visitors are often scared they will do something out of place and draw unwanted attention to themselves. It is a service to our visitors to leave the back pews open.

2. Because the back is nicer for young families. We want to be welcoming to everyone including families with young children. They benefit especially from the pews toward the back because of the ease of leaving as needed (for the nursery, restroom, noise, misbehavior, etc.). We don't ever want young families to skip church because they are uncomfortable bringing their young children into the sanctuary. It is a service to them to leave the back pews open.

3. Because you can hear the music and voices of the congregation better. The acoustics of our sanctuary are such that the best place to hear the music of the Praise Team as well as the voices of our congregation are not from underneath the "overhang." The sound in the sanctuary has a harder time getting underneath the balcony overhang. The sound and singing are best in the middle of the sanctuary on the bottom level.

4. Because when most of the congregation sits toward the back and in the balcony, it looks like

the sanctuary is empty. Our sanctuary is bigger than we need it to be. When we congregate in the back and in the balcony, our worship services can feel lightly attended or sparse. To visitors, this may send the message that our congregation is struggling or in trouble.

5. Because it's good to try out a different place. While there is value in having "our spot" and being near the same people during worship each week, there is also value in trying out a new spot and being near new/different people during worship.

6. Because I'm not scary. At least, I hope I am not! I'll admit, when people sit so far back in the sanctuary, it can feel like they are trying to stay as far away from me as possible and it makes the pulpit feel like an island. I've learned to get over this; but when I see the front six pews open, I often catch myself wondering, "What about me is so scary that people must sit so far back?"

I hope you read this article in the spirit in which it was intended: a spirit of love and kindness. I'm not trying to guilt anyone into sitting toward the front. This is clearly not a spiritual or a scriptural issue that I have felt convicted to share. But, it is worth an invitation! Thanks for considering.

By Pastor Nick





From Left: Ron and Karen Vrieze, Katie and Ken Perkins, Ally and Tanner Hulstein, Nick and Carrie Ellens (with Leila, Jack, and Caleb), and Kyle Fopma

MINISTRY UPDATE [HERE](#)

Welcome New Members

On January 21, Calvary welcomed eleven new members of all ages. We praise God for his faithfulness in their lives and we thank the Holy Spirit for connecting them to our church. They are all wonderful people who have spiritual gifts to be used for the kingdom of God.

At every new members' lunch, I read through Ephesians 2 which says, "you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." Providentially, this was the text Pastor Nick preached on January 21 and it was the Sunday that worked for all the new members to be officially welcomed into our covenant community. Here's what they shared to the church to help us continue building friendships with them as we follow Jesus together.

Kyle Fopma is from Sioux Center, Iowa, and attended Dordt University. He moved to the Twin Cities to work for Delta Airlines, and is currently getting his pilot's license. When Kyle was a boy, he would worship at Calvary when his family visited the area. Kyle connected to Calvary as an adult through the Life Group on Wednesday nights and Calvary Hoops on Sunday nights. He appreciates the togetherness of our church.

Ron and Karen Vrieze live in Inver Grove Heights. They have three sons and six grandchildren. Ron is Carl Vrieze's brother. They have been worshiping in the Christian Reformed Church for many years. Ron has served as an elder at other congregations. Ron and Karen appreciate the pastors, the praise team, and the people of Calvary. They said Pastor Nick and Pastor Eli are "truly servant leaders," the praise team has a "commitment to excellence,"

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and “there’s a buzz in the commons and the cafe that you want to be a part of.” Karen added that she appreciates all the generations at Calvary, “All the way from the little ones to the gray haired ones” and “the effort Calvary makes to engage our community.”

Ken and Katie Perkins live a few blocks away from the church building at 54th and Penn Ave. Katie works as a product designer and Ken works for Kroger Foods. Katie said, “We were doing some church shopping and found Calvary online. We really liked what we saw, and were more thrilled when we came in person.” Ken added, “The sermons have really spoken to us. We have really grown in our faith after a dry spell, so we are very thankful for that.”

Ally Hulstein married into Calvary, an effective marketing tactic! She came with Tanner while they were dating when he was already a member. She said, “We value the small groups and the friendships we have made. I appreciate the depth of theology in the preaching here.” Ally and Tanner recently moved to Chaska and Ally teaches art at Glencoe High School.

Nick and Carrie Ellens have three children, Leila, Jack, and Caleb. They live a short bike ride away, as they do almost every Sunday with Nick’s box bike that can fit all the kids. Nick works for a medical device company in Chanhassen. They moved to Minneapolis from Colorado in July of 2023. Carrie (Groen) grew up at Calvary and is the daughter of Steve and Karen, who are a tremendous help with the kids. Nick said, “At Calvary, there is political mixing, socio-economic mixing, which is what the church should represent. We have been really welcomed into the community. We feel at home here.”

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



LEADING THE MISSION

Council Update

HERE

The process of nominating potential deacons and elders to serve on Calvary’s Council for the next three years is in process. If you suggested potential nominees – Thank You – we always need your input. If you have been contacted by the Nominations Committee and asked to consider serving, thank you for praying about your decision and for considering the nomination seriously. A few people have accepted being nominated, there are several others who are considering it, and we are on track in the nomination process.

Save the Date – Our Annual Congregational Meeting will occur after the worship service on **Sunday, May 5**. Calvary will provide lunch and everyone is encouraged to join us for lunch and the meeting. In addition to selecting deacons and elders for the upcoming three-year terms we will also present the budget for Fiscal Year 2025 and provide several other updates on Calvary.

In February, we provide Calvary’s staff with annual Performance Appraisals (PAs) for the prior year. The Elders are called to work with the pastors and therefore the elders conduct Pastor Nick’s and Pastor Eli’s PAs. Cheryl and Mia report to Pastor Nick and he performs their PAs. Jake reports to the Administrative Team (AT) and the AT does his PA. And Jake conducts PAs with each of the people on his staff. I fully realize these are very boring, completely uninteresting, put-you-to-sleep details - but I share them in the hope of assuring you that we love everyone on our staff, we have a fantastic staff at Calvary, and we hold them accountable.

Calvary’s Deacons are in the process of developing guidelines for selecting the causes that Calvary supports through our offerings. We want to support a variety of causes consistent with our **Here, Near, and Far** mission statement, consistent with our dedication to Christian

Schools, and consistent with Calvary's overall mission. The guidelines have gone through a first draft review and will be finalized soon.

Pastor Eli and our Youth Ministries Team recently produced and distributed great training videos for everyone involved in our Nursery and our Youth Ministry. If you are a Nursery or Youth Ministry volunteer and you have not watched these videos, please do so. They are short, to the point, and very relevant. Even if you are not involved in those ministries, feel free to watch the videos, as you will learn more about Calvary. There are links on our website, or you can ask Pastor Eli how to find them.



Soon we will be installing glass doors/walls at the north and west ends of the Commons to assist Agamim (Charter school leasing our educational wing) to keep their students in the areas leased by Agamim. Our building is large, has many hallways and stairwells, and we want to make it easier for Agamim to guide their students through the areas leased by Agamim. The doors will be propped open on Sundays and will not affect Calvary's traffic flow. Agamim applied for and received a grant to install playground equipment on our property. We fully support this and sometime this spring, you will see playground equipment installed in the NW corner of our parking lot.

By Elmer Jelgerhuis
Council Chair

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:	Elmer Jelgerhuis
Consistory Clerk:	Jon Van Hulzen
Deacon Chair:	Matt Koelewyn
Treasurer:	Josh Abercrombie
Deacon Clerk:	Joel Kamp
Membership Clerk:	Randy Hedman

Shepherding Districts

District 1: A – E
E: Jason Byers, D: Roseanne Van Marion
District 2: F – L
E: Ruth DeVries, D: Joel Kamp
District 3: M – Soerens
E: Jon Van Hulzen, D: Karen Groen
District 4: Spoelstra – Z
E: Eileen Rosenwinkel D: Brenda Liddle

Council Teams

Shepherding Team: Pastor Nick, Jason Byers, Ruth De Vries, Karen Groen, Brenda Liddle, Joel Kamp, Eileen Rosenwinkel, *Marion Sandfort, Jon Van Hulzen, Rosanne Van Marion, Paul Vliem

Administrative Team: Josh Abercrombie, *Elmer Jelgerhuis, Matt Koelewyn, Matt De Kam, Jake Kamp

Youth Ministries Team: *Pastor Eli, Jamie Abercrombie, Mateo DeKam, Kara Feikema, Pam Schmidt * indicates chairperson

COMMUNITY BUILDING

15 things you didn't know about Joe and WinAnn Schumi



1. Joe and WinAnn Schumi are long-time members of Calvary Church. WinAnn started attending Calvary Church in the late 1960s, with Joe joining her after they married.
2. Born in Washington D.C., WinAnn (then Winifred Ann Ettesvold) grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. WinAnn was named after her father Winfred, who always went by Win. WinAnn attended Calvin Church with her family, went to Calvin Christian High School, and this may be a big surprise, attended Calvin College.
3. WinAnn excelled at piano, learning as a young girl, teaching lessons as an adult, accompanying her friends and children, and leading music during her many years serving through the Friendship Ministry.
4. Despite her short stature, at only 5 feet 4 inches, WinAnn played basketball in school. She spent many summers at the lake and loved to water ski, something she taught both her daughters on their annual summer pilgrimage to Michigan.
5. After a brief stint teaching mathematics at Trinity College in Illinois, WinAnn returned to Minnesota to work at her alma mater and rose through the ranks to become the University's Associate Vice President for Research. She retired in 2008, after which she was in demand as a consultant. After she retired for real, WinAnn enjoyed volunteering at United Hospital.
6. Joe Schumi grew up in Saint Paul, Minnesota and has lived pretty much within a 10 mile radius his whole life. (This was a good thing because before WinAnn taught him to drive, he could only get around by bus.)
7. Joe did all his higher education at the University of Minnesota, including his Ph.D. It was during that program that Joe and WinAnn met, as she was pursuing a Masters degree in Statistics. You can say he would not have his doctorate without her, since she typed his thesis.
8. Joe's high school classmates referred to him as a "brilliant lad" in the school yearbook. Indeed WinAnn was surprised at how many ladies came up to Joe at his 25th high school reunion to thank him for all the homework help.
9. Although he never learned to skate, Joe was a true hockey fanatic. His favorite team was the Gophers, and he held season tickets for nearly half a century. Every year, he would take a few days off to watch the MN high school hockey tournament. Once upon a time, he coached a women's hockey team. This was long before he had kids, though he did his best to get his second daughter into the sport for a few brief years.
10. Joe and WinAnn married in August 1970 in Grand Rapids, MI. They went to Mackinac Island on their honeymoon where WinAnn had the "best fish she ever had in her life" for dinner.
11. Joe and WinAnn have two daughters, Jennifer and Melissa. Jennifer is married to Mike Cisneros and they live in St. Paul, MN. Melissa is married to Dennis Jones. They currently live in Colombia with Joe and WinAnn's two granddaughters Madeleine and Isabella.
12. Over the years, Joe and WinAnn traveled to lots of interesting places, Australia, England, France, Indonesia, Lesotho, New Zealand, Peru, and South Africa, and many trips to Italy, where Joe practiced his Italian conversation and WinAnn practiced her Italian leather shopping. Their favorite vacation spot was undoubtedly Sanibel Island, Florida, where they spent a few weeks every year for at least thirty years to rest and recharge with family and friends. Their favorite places on the island were the Lighthouse Café for breakfast and the Timbers for dinner.
13. Joe and WinAnn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2020 with a shower of cards from near and far. Thanks to everyone who helped make that anniversary so special.
14. The Schumis were involved in many different parts of

church life at Calvary, including both serving on the Council and WinAnn serving on the Worship Committee. WinAnn loved being part of Friendship Ministry, working with the group and spending time with her partners. Their Calvary Connects group, which met steadily for many years, was a wonderful source of friendship and fellowship and many excellent meals, according to informed sources.

15. Unfortunately, Joe and WinAnn have not attended church since their health declined precipitously in 2020. After periods at an assisted living community in St. Paul, they now both reside in specialized care facilities in Edina. All the Schumis are abundantly thankful for the steadfast support and fellowship of the Calvary family during these difficult years.



SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

Interview with
Darin Beckering

NEAR



Where do you work?

I have worked as a financial advisor for over 20 years. The first seven years I worked for Charles Schwab and the next ten years I worked for TD Ameritrade. Three years ago, I started my own Registered Investment Advisory firm called Elevation Wealth Management where I have the title President and Senior Wealth Advisor.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

Along with running the day to day operations of a small business, my main role is to help clients with comprehensive financial planning. This includes investment management, estate planning, retirement planning, cash flow analysis, college planning, social security optimization, risk management, and charitable giving.

What are you currently working on that excites you?

For much of my career I primarily focused on financial planning and investment management for clients. Now that I run my own business, I get excited about building a business that can truly improve people's lives and help steward the assets that God has given us.

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

God wants us to be good and fruitful stewards of His wealth. In order to do that, though, we have to start with the right attitude. That means recognizing that He owns everything in this universe, and that He gives us all of the financial resources that we have. It also means recognizing that He has the authority to give someone else much more than He gives us, even if we don't think it's fair. I see God wanting us to continue growing in our journey of faithful stewardship, immersing ourselves in His wisdom and peace.

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 my current coworker is a Christian but in my previous jobs I have worked with many non-believers including many clients that are non-believers. I have always made it a point to share my faith in Christ with them. I try to live this out by first building a relationship with them and then leading by example. If I can model Christ in my everyday work, others will see the difference and naturally want to learn more. I can remember one time inviting a coworker to church with me after having a conversation with him about God's Grace. He had been going through a divorce and had a void in his life. I shared with him that God can restore all situations and that he can find healing in Christ. To this day we have maintained a relationship and quite often talk about our faith.

Worship Service Schedule

March 3

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Seven Signs:
The Paralyzed Man
Offering: New Life Family Services

March 10

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Seven Signs:
Feeding the 5000
Offering: VEAP

March 17

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Seven Signs:
Walking on Water
Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

March 24

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Seven Signs:
The Man Born Blind
Offering: NCBC Food Shelf

March 31

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Seven Signs: Raising Lazarus
Offering: Calvary Ministry Fund

April 7

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Seven Signs: The Eighth Sign
Offering: World Renew

April 14

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Rise Up (GEMS Sunday)
Offering: GEMS

April 21

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Becoming God's People:
God Rescues
Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

April 21

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Becoming God's People:
God's Name
Offering: Calvary Ministries Fund

CALVARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Calvary Family! We like wishing you a happy birthday. If you're a member of Calvary, your name is automatically included in the birthday lists of the Proclaimer. If you're a regular attender and would like to have your birthday included, please contact Cheryl Rettig in the church office and let her know. If for any reason you'd like to have your name removed from the list, please let the church office know that as well by emailing: secretary@calvarycrc.net

March Birthdays


Mar 1	Grace Schmidt, Barb Zwagerman	Mar 13	Carrolle Hop
Mar 2	Marcia Pulscher, Vonnie Vanden Berg	Mar 15	Cecilia Leptuck
Mar 4	Michelle Brouwer, Stuart Collins, Marion Sandfort	Mar 16	Steve Bosch, Sarah Hooyer
Mar 7	Blakely Groenendyk	Mar 18	Thelma Buss, Alan Rindels
Mar 9	Colton Dykstra, Alex Gorter, Patrick Schulte, Aleida VanderBrug	Mar 19	Evan Koelewyn
Mar 10	Sophia Marcus	Mar 22	Connor Van Hulzen
Mar 11	Tara Bosch, Julia Brouwer	Mar 25	Janet Ledeboer
		Mar 28	Jill Nieman
		Mar 29	Ron Vis
		Mar 30	Dianne De Penning, Nick Ellens, Connie Spoelstra
		Mar 31	Elianna Van Hulzen

April Birthdays

Apr 1	Holland Kobes	Apr 15	Ethan Hoekman
Apr 2	Daniel Beekman, Steve Hall	Apr 16	Joe Schumi
Apr 3	Brian Liddle	Apr 19	Hannah Groenendyk, Jon Van Hulzen
Apr 6	James De Kam, Ivy VanderBrug	Apr 20	Katherine Zylstra
Apr 10	Isaac Wu	Apr 22	Levi Abbring
Apr 11	Zach Staudt,	Apr 23	Kay Harkema, Shannon Hoekman, Karen Meyer
Apr 12	Burt Boonstra	Apr 24	Cheryl Boonstra
Apr 13	Eva Hedman, Forrest Kobes, Andy Terpstra	Apr 25	Annika Veurink
Apr 15	Kim Attema, Bob Buys	Apr 26	Ally Hulstein
		Apr 28	Kyle Fopma, Pastor Nick
		Apr 29	Bridget VanderBrug



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