

THE PROCLAIMER

MAY/JUNE 2021

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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LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

A tool for connection or disconnection?

The question was asked long before the pandemic:

Is Livestream Worship good or bad?

Many people instinctively wonder; how could it be a bad thing? Making worship services more readily available to all certainly cannot be bad, right?

Well, for those of us who are tasked with discipling the people of God long-term, the question is not so simple. Seeing Livestream worship through an Augustinian lens, Livestream is a good thing that can be twisted into something bad. Is it possible that by providing such a tool, we are inadvertently enabling people to stay disconnected from the body which we believe is vital for growing in faith?

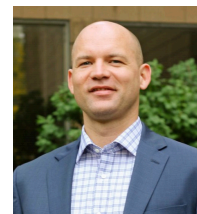
Livestream Worship is, of course, meant to help people stay connected and to worship with God's people digitally even though they are not able to be physically

present. During the pandemic, this tool has been a tremendous gift to us all. Since March 15, 2020, Calvary has published 183 videos on our YouTube Channel that have around 50,000 views. It has been an incredible tool that many of you have faithfully used and shared.

But, should we provide it long-term? Will people twist the intention of this tool for connection into a tool for disconnection? After all, if I can satisfy my religious duty by worshiping on Sunday morning but stay in my pjs sitting on my comfy couch with the ability to pause the service at my command, I might be inclined to stay home.

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Editorial by
Nick Van Beek
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On the other hand, there are good ways to utilize Livestream worship. People take vacations, families take much needed rest from the busyness out at a lake, kids get sick and must stay at home, people are patiently waiting for herd immunity; by its very nature, the snowbird must fly to warmer weather in the winter! Many of these people want to stay connected to their church family. Livestream has become a great tool for many people to stay connected and committed to their covenant community.

“

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”

Pastor Eli and I met with Steve Hall (our AV guru) a couple of weeks ago to have a conversation about the sustainability of our Livestream ministry. We agreed that providing this ministry resource long term is going to take more volunteers, more resources, and more time. However, we believe this is a tool that we wish to continue to provide.

All we ask is that this tool not be abused.

If Livestream worship is ever an excuse for you to stay at home, you are misusing the tool.

If Livestream worship is something you tune into with the family while enjoying a weekend camping, you are using it right!

We are committed to providing this ministry resource long-term. Please join us in committing to providing it to the best of our ability, using it well and for the glory of God!

Pastor Nick

MINISTRY UPDATE

HERE

This covenant community is for real

In 1 Corinthians 12, Apostle Paul describes the church like a human body. “When one part suffers, every part suffers with it. When one part rejoices, every part rejoices with it.” He is teaching the church in Corinth how to operate as a covenant community. The believers in the church do life together. When someone is experiencing pain and sadness, the people of the church are with them experiencing that same pain and sadness. When someone is celebrating a gift from God, the people of the church celebrate with them.

This is exactly what Hannah and I experienced with the trial leading up to Blakely’s birth and the joy of her arrival. That is why I can confidently say this covenant community is for real. Calvary Christian Reformed Church of the Twin Cities doesn’t pay lip service when we say, “We are there for you. If you need anything, let me know.” We live it. We do it. We make it happen.

And going through the heartache of being separated from Hannah for a week when she was in the hospital with a kidney issue because of COVID protocol, but then rejoicing with the healthy birth of our baby girl, we thank God for the people of Calvary for suffering with us and rejoicing with us.

We know now Blakely is a tall girl. Apparently her length pressed up against Hannah’s kidney during pregnancy which caused Hannah extreme back pain and other potential issues. After a rough night of back pain, I took Hannah to a clinic. When they saw she was five months pregnant, they sent us to the emergency room. The fear of the unknown hit me. What’s wrong? Is Hannah okay? Is the baby okay? Is this something simple or more severe?

Upon arriving at the hospital, they ran some tests which confirmed the baby was okay. I remember holding my breath when they searched for the baby’s heartbeat. But figuring out Hannah’s pain was more complicated because of the pregnancy. They couldn’t do certain tests because of potential harm to the baby. And once they



figured out Hannah wasn't in preterm labor, they asked me to leave because of COVID protocol. So I spent the rest of the week at home alone when my pregnant wife was suffering intense pain. Not a fun week. In addition to calls with my family, I began receiving texts, calls, and gifts from friends from Calvary. At that time, the messages meant so much. The prayers meant so much. I knew I wasn't alone and I knew my brothers and sisters in Christ were offering up prayers to our Sovereign Lord.

When Hannah was finally allowed to come home, we received meals, gift cards, short visits, and more calls and texts. Calvary members entered our pain and comforted us. They knew what was going on. They cared.

On March 7, we drove to the hospital for a much more exciting reason. The baby was coming! When we rolled into the OB, some of the same nurses who cared for Hannah during her kidney problems were working and they said, "Hannah! Good to see you again! This time you'll bring a baby home with you." And thanks be to God, that's what we did.

This time Calvary entered our joy. The church celebrated with us by forming a meal train, giving more gifts, more cards, and more texts. We were excited, but we could sense how excited Calvary was for us.

Blakely is doing great and we thank God for her health and how cute she is. We are enjoying newborn snuggles, funny faces, and her wiggles. We are grateful the Sovereign Lord has surrounded us with such a supportive covenant community and we are so glad Blakely will be growing up with the kids and families of Calvary.

Eli Groenendyk
 Pastor of
 Discipleship
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COMMUNITY BUILDING

15 things you didn't know about Tim and Sue Zwiers



1. Tim and Sue are both in the Guinness Book of World Records for participating in the largest group of people clog dancing in wooden shoes.
2. Sue's parents own a cabin in Wisconsin, and the family loves spending summer weekends there.
3. Tim and Sue met on the track team at Calvin College. Tim was a triple-jumper and Sue was a sprinter.
4. Sue is an eleven-time All-American in track. She's still fast - just ask Darin Beckering!
5. Tim and Sue lived in New Mexico for three years before moving to the Twin Cities.
6. All three of their children were baptized at Calvary.
7. They are the proud owners of three apple trees, one cherry tree and one lemon tree.
8. Tim is a school social worker at Face To Face Academy in St. Paul. It is a charter school serving at risk high school students.
9. Sue is currently a nurse at Children's Minneapolis in the operating room. Before that, she was a labor and delivery nurse for thirteen years.
10. Tim is attempting to build a cedar strip paddle board.
11. Tim enjoys making home-brewed beer and cider.
12. Their favorite vacations usually involve a national park and their pop-up camper.
13. Sue has broken three bones - arm, leg and thumb. Tim has broken zero bones, but he has had ACL surgery twice.
14. They have owned three houses. The first two were dumps that they completely renovated, the third is more of a fixer-upper.
15. Their family has cinnamon rolls and scrambled eggs every Sunday morning.

May Birthdays

May 2	Camryn Rettig	May 9	Molly Sandbulte	May 19	Brayden Beckering,
May 3	Matthew Beekman, Cade Mellema, Sam Workman	May 10	Ben Rindels		Darcy Terpstra
May 4	Nicole Staudt	May 11	Kristin Koelewyn, Dave Terpstra	May 20	Ed Attema,
May 5	Kyla Orcutt, Carey Rettig	May 12	Carolyn Liddle, Cel Schrotenboer		Tanner Hulstein
May 6	Jesse Post	May 14	Camden Mellema	May 22	Ian Zwagerman
May 7	Jack Zylstra	May 15	Judah Kobes	May 26	Matt Koelewyn, Michael Schmidt
May 8	Janette Kamp	May 16	Shar Jelgerhuis	May 28	Asher DeKam
May 9	Katie Abbring, Mark Douma, Lucy Vliem	May 18	Soren Moser	May 30	Wyatt Hoekman

June Birthdays

June 1	Jack Brouwer, Daryl De Kam, Carl Vrieze	June 9	Emily Kobes, Aaron O'Donnell	June 18	Faye Ross
June 6	Marta De Kam	June 12	Richard Rosenwinkel, Truman Van Hulzen	June 19	Pat Blankespoor
June 7	Kathleen Beekman, Duane Zwagerman	June 14	Abby Schemper	June 22	Alaina Terpstra
June 8	Ally Terpstra, Craig Veurink, Braden Vis	June 16	Sam Zylstra	June 23	Michelle Hoekstra
		June 17	Nick Hoekman	June 24	Katherine Beekman
		June 18	Marilyn DeVries,	June 27	Andrew Bosch
				June 29	Grace Attema

Worship Service Schedule

May 2

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Genesis 1:26-2:1

In His Image: Image Bearers

Offering: Children of the Promise

May 9

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Leviticus 11:1-8;44-45

In His Image: God Most Holy

Offering: Honduras Discretionary Fund

May 16

Worship led by Pastor Nick

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

In His Image: God Most Loving

Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

May 23

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Psalms 145:1-21

In His Image: God Most Good

Offering: World Renew

May 30

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Habakkuk 1:1-6, 1:12-13,

2:2-4, 3:1-2

In His Image: God Most Just

Offering: Calvary Ministry Fund

June 6

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Luke 18:9-14

In His Image: God Most Merciful

Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

June 13

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Titus 2:11-14

In His Image: God Most Gracious

Offering: VEAP

June 20

Worship led by Pastor Nick

Deuteronomy 7:7-11

In His Image: God Most Faithful

Offering: Calvary Ministry Fund

June 27

Worship led by Pastor Nick

James 5:7-11

In His Image: God Most Patient

Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

CALVARY VBS

HERE



What: Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

When: June 14-19, 9:15 AM-11:45 AM

Ages: Three years old - 6th grade

Please join us! Check out Calvary's website to register by May 24.

www.calvarytwincities.org

We also need volunteers to be story time readers, teachers, and other important positions. Middle school, high school, college students and adults are encouraged to volunteer and support this important mission!

Recent Offering Totals:

Cadets: \$1,045.75

SALT: \$703.30

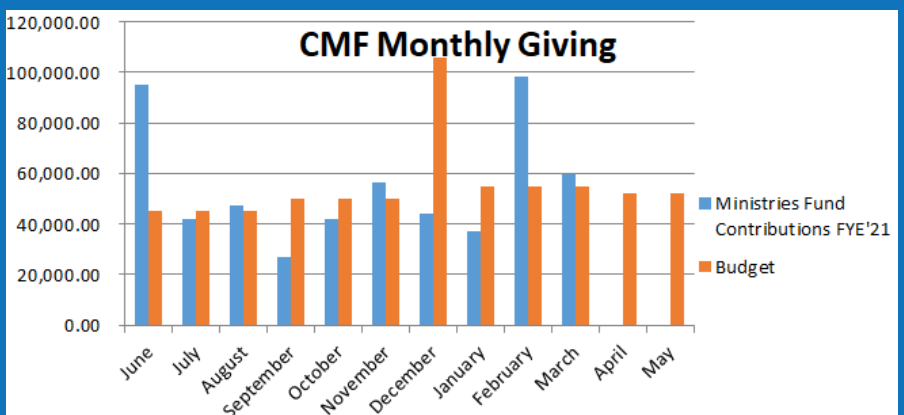
World Renew: \$1,766.00

Urban Homeworks: \$1,276.00

Honduras Team: \$1,807.75

Christian Ed. Fund: \$5,988.81

VEAP: \$4,176.00



GRADUATE PROFILES

College Graduates

Theo Schmidt

Theo graduates from Bethel University in May with a degree in Finance. While at school Theo enjoyed playing baseball, spending time with friends and participating in the Royals Investment Fund. Another highlight was the fall semester of 2019 where he spent time in Austria, Poland, Ireland and France with a group of Bethel students and professors. Theo plans to work part-time at Golf Galaxy while he pursues a full-time job in his field.



Theo Schmidt

Sam De Penning

Sam graduates from Dordt University on May 7, 2021 with a BS degree in Engineering. He met his fiancée, Rylie Brown, at Dordt who also graduates with a BS degree in Engineering. Their wedding is planned for September 19, 2021. The couple will be living in Ames, IA where Sam will attend grad school at Iowa State and Rylie will work for Interstates Engineering.

High School Graduates

Julia Anne Brouwer

Julia graduates from Southwest Christian High School this May. While at SWCHS, Julia was involved in Student Council as Senior Class President, National Honor Society, DECA officer and member, School Ambassador, acted in a winter play, and enjoyed playing varsity softball.



Julia Brouwer



Hailey Miedema

for four years (co-captain), volleyball for three years, and symphonic band, tennis, & basketball for one. Julia plans to attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas where she plans to major in astrophysics and astronomy in order to one day work for NASA or a similar research organization.

Hailey Joy Miedema

Hailey graduates from Southwest Christian High School. While at Southwest, Hailey was involved in Student Council, National Honor Society, various committees, and played volleyball all four years. This fall, Hailey plans to attend Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she plans to major in Biology/Pre-Medicine.

Middle School Graduates

Brayden Beckering

Brayden graduates from Avail Academy in Edina in May. He has enjoyed making many friends at Avail, gaining a great education and forming relationships with his many teachers over the course of nine years. He was involved in basketball, soccer, band, choir and track and field at Avail. Brayden will attend Southwest Christian High School in Chaska in the fall of 2021. He plans to continue playing soccer, basketball and participating in band.

Matthew Lee Beekman

Matthew graduates from 8th grade at Avail Academy. He has attended Avail Academy since kindergarten participating in basketball, soccer, band, choir and science and history day competitions. Matthew will attend St. Croix Lutheran Academy in the fall.

Cade Mellema

Cade graduates 8th grade from Avail Academy. Cade has attended Avail since Kindergarten and is thankful for all the friendships he has made. Cade will attend Southwest Christian High School in the fall.



Brayden Beckering



Matthew Beekman



Cade Mellema

SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

Interview with
Kay Harkema

NEAR



Where do you work?

I have been working at Southview Animal Hospital for the last two years. I have worked in a veterinary hospital in a variety of positions from kennel assistant, Certified Veterinary Technician, to hospital manager for the last 40 years.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

After leaving my role as hospital manager at a different hospital, I am lucky to be able to use my experience to assist the management at Southview Animal Hospital wherever needed. Southview is a busy Animal Hospital and urgent care facility that is growing fast.

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

I enjoy a better work-life balance while being able to support many coworkers and help them keep up with our growth. We have fourteen doctors with over 80 support staff and are open seven days a week. I love being able to assist with our online pharmacy, client education, support staff training, as well as

helping with inventory and accounts receivable.

What in your job reveals God's sphere sovereignty?

Southview Animal Hospital has in its mission statement; "We are committed to offering state-of-the-art diagnostic services and exceeding client expectations at all times, using trust, respect, and integrity as our guiding principles. We promise to take care of our client's pets as if they are our own." I see this every day; our staff genuinely believes in helping pets and their people. We take care of God's creatures and the ones who love them.

How do you see God at work in your job?

We are advocates for pets. We also work with many rescue groups who care for the animals as they are getting ready for adoption. We are opening another hospital that is exclusively for rescue animals. We deal with not only the happy times but incredibly stressful times in a pet owner and pet's life. We all try to be a voice for the voiceless, be empathetic, and caring to their owner. This creates a lot of stress and compassion fatigue in our profession. We try to support and care for each other as coworkers and friends.

Are your co-workers Christians? Have you had opportunities to talk to them about what they believe? Have you been able to share your faith in Christ with them?

I do have some wonderful coworkers who are Christian, and we are able to share our faith and support one another. Being in management, I am careful and respectful of discussions of faith with others, but I do try to show and live servant leadership. I try to be kind, empathetic, available, and lead by example. I always have a kind word, a smile and a friendly face and an open door to my coworkers.



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