



THE PROCLAIMER

SEP/OCT 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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WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE: COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP NIGHT

One of the emphases of reformed theology that I have grown to love more and more is covenant theology: God calls out a people (not persons) for Himself to accomplish His purposes and walk the journey of faith together. While many other traditions segregate the generations in worship and discipleship, we try to bring them together.

While there are ways Calvary already does this, we see another opportunity to strengthen our covenantal and baptismal commitments to one another: Wednesday Night Alive (WNA). WNA occurs on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, September-May. The communal meal starts at 5:30 pm with discipleship opportunities starting at 6:30 pm. WNA has been a great discipleship opportunity for GEMS, Cadets, Choir, Life Group, and other ministries for years. Additionally, the mealtime before these opportunities is a time of rich fellowship and an opportunity

to connect with people whom we might not otherwise connect.

This year, we want to expand Wednesday Night Alive so that there is something for everyone and we all have an opportunity to serve each other and be discipled.

We are doing this in several ways:

1. We are offering a Women's Bible Study for women of all ages.
2. We are offering a Theology Class (Words about God) for men and women of all ages.
3. We are providing childcare in lieu of Pioneer Club and requiring that those who utilize childcare either help lead or participate in a program.
4. We are asking everyone to take an opportunity to serve

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Editorial by
Nick Van Beek
Lead Pastor
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... Editorial continued from page 1
each other by providing childcare on one or more nights, providing a meal (many people commit to this as a group) for one or more nights, or both! The Meal Sign-up is already available (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/k5olwd>) and we hope to have the Childcare Sign-up available soon. The more people that sign up for meals and childcare, the less of a burden this is on all of us!

The main thing we need help with is to have someone be the coordinator for childcare. This person would provide and maintain a childcare signup to meet childcare needs for the year on Wednesday Night Alive Nights. If you (or a team including you) are willing to help us fill this role, please speak with Pastor Eli.

We realize that with several programs happening on the same night, there may be things that you wish you could attend but cannot. We believe the benefit of having all these activities on the same night where we can be with and serve one another is worth it.

In sum, we invite everyone at Calvary to serve and participate in WNA in some way as a way of being discipled, loving one another through service, inviting friends and neighbors, and to maintain our baptismal commitments to each other. We hope you will join us for this night of covenant discipleship!

May God bless us as a covenant community as we seek to keep our baptismal promises to each other!

By Pastor Nick

ANCHOR UPDATE

HERE



Building the Kingdom in the Twin Cities

By participating in Twin Cities Serve Day, our church has been building the Kingdom of God in the Twin Cities. That sounds cool - building the kingdom of God - but what does that actually mean? What is the kingdom of God? How are we building it? Why does that matter?

The Kingdom of God is the kingship of Christ over God's world and God's people. Jesus is the king of the universe. Everything was made by him, through him, and for him. He rules over the universe with power and justice and grace. As God's people, Jesus also rules over our hearts. Jesus is our Savior and he is also our king. We submit to him as our king. We are his servants. The word "worship" in Greek actually means to bow down, or bend a knee. So when we worship Jesus by singing or praying or serving or obeying, we are, in a sense, bowing down before him, showing our highest allegiance is to Christ our king.

Jesus repeatedly taught his followers about the Kingdom of God. It was important to Jesus that his followers knew about the Kingdom of God so they knew how they could build it.

1st truth - The kingdom of God is not of this world. The disciples who wanted to fight were wrong. Jesus wanted to shift their intense focus on the kingdom of Israel, which was eventually destroyed, to the Kingdom of God, which will last forever. In the middle ages, the crusaders who tried to kill all the Muslims in the name of Jesus were wrong. The kingdom of God is not of this world. The kingdom of God is more of a reign than a realm. The kingdom of God is more a power than a place. A Reformed theologian named Louis Berkhof said, "The kingdom of God does not grow by force and violence, but by Word



and Spirit, by truth and wisdom, by justice and holiness, and by grace and mercy.”

2nd truth - The kingdom of God is already here and now. The kingdom of God is not of this world, but the kingdom of God is IN this world. The kingdom of God is not FROM this world, but it has COME TO this world. The kingdom of God came to earth in a new and powerful way when King Jesus came to earth. During his earthly life, Jesus was re-establishing the Kingdom of God by his words and by his actions.

Not many, if any, kings would die in place of their people. Most sacrifice their people to save themselves. But Jesus sacrificed himself to save his people. The main event of re-establishing the Kingdom was Jesus’ death and resurrection. Ever since then, the Kingdom of God has been growing.

3rd truth - The kingdom of God will come in its fullness. A Reformed theologian named Geerhardus Vos said it well. “Jesus, through the labors of His ministry, began to realize the Kingdom on earth, that his was a gradual process, that the labor on the Kingdom, to which His followers devoted themselves after Him, and which is still continued by us, is actual Kingdom-producing labor, that this will go on through the ages of history up to the point set by God for the termination of this world-order, at which point through a catastrophe of world-transforming character the eschatological Kingdom-state will be introduced.”

4th truth - We are building the kingdom of God in the Twin Cities. When we make someone happy by gifting them a free car wash, we are building the kingdom. When we pack food for hungry children across the world, we are building the kingdom. When we carry groceries to the cars of hungry families, we are building the Kingdom. When we provide a newly painted house for a family in need of housing, we are building the kingdom. When we sort items for Bibles for Missions that raise money for Christian discipleship, we are building the kingdom. When we serve a local Christian school by helping them lay mulch, we are building the kingdom. When we serve our community by removing buckthorn from a local park, we are building the kingdom. When we pull weeds, we are building the kingdom because we are obeying God’s command to work the earth and subdue it, bringing order to chaos, caring for God’s world. When we build relationships with Christians from other churches, we are building the Kingdom.

We are a part of something special, something WAY bigger than us. By serving, playing, and worshipping, we are building the Kingdom of God in the Twin Cities. Nothing is more satisfying or fulfilling or exciting than building the Kingdom of God in this world.

Eli Groenendyk
Pastor of
Discipleship
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COMMUNITY BUILDING

HERE

15 things you didn't know about Gerb and Carole Korthuis



1. They were born and raised in Lynden, WA
2. Gerb worked a chicken farm until the age of 16
3. Gerb delivered groceries for a local grocer from 16 through college
4. Gerb taught 4th grade for one year
5. Gerb enlisted in the Navy 1962 for flight training
6. They were married in Pensacola, FL in 1963
7. They moved to Corpus Christi, TX for Advanced Flight Training
8. Gerb made 14 Landing and Take-offs on an the aircraft carrier USS Lexington
9. They were transferred to the island of Guam - the mission was tracking typhoons
10. Their son Todd was born in Guam in 1965
11. They were transferred to Jacksonville, FL - tracking hurricanes in the Atlantic
12. Their daughter Stephanie was born in 1968
13. Gerb flew for Northwest Airlines from 1968-1998 - piloted the following crafts 727, 707, 757, DC10, 747
14. They built a house on Lake Minnetonka with a fellow pilot
15. Gerb served three times on Calvary Council

Bonus Factoids:

16. They lived in nine homes - the current home for 50 years
17. They did daycare for two grandchildren for three years - flying to and from Grand Rapids, MI each week
18. They have a condo in Clearwater, FL...why? No snow

SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

Interview with
Lisa DeKam



NEAR

Where do you work?

I work as a Physical Therapist at the Melrose Center, where we treat patients with eating disorders across a variety of levels of care, from outpatient to intensive residential care.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

As a Physical Therapist at Melrose, my role is to evaluate and treat patients in our Physical Awareness and Rehabilitation Center (PARC). Eating disorders can become intertwined with exercise behaviors, so we work with patients to develop skills and strategies toward balanced movement plans that support physical and mental wellbeing.

In practice, that takes several forms. A large part of our PT care is focused on patient education, both around the physical elements of our bodies' energy demands and the mental health components that impact our movement planning and behaviors. I lead both one-on-one sessions and group sessions for skill building and recovery. In one-on-one sessions, I work with patients to identify treatment goals, barriers to recovery that support the eating disorder, and strategies for addressing those challenges.

Our group class options include movement-based sessions (ie. mobility and balance training) and strategy groups (ie. family based treatment). Occasionally, our patients will be limited by pain and/or orthopedic dysfunction that limits participation in our programming, so I'm also responsible for treating those concerns.

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

For the past ten plus years, I've worked at Melrose as an on-call PT, and this summer, I transitioned to a regular position, now working three days/week. When I worked on-call, I would typically see patients only for their initial PT session. In my new role, I'm able to follow patients from the initiation of their PT care through discharge. This allows me to get to know our patients better and to have a deeper understanding of their needs for recovery. I'm grateful to be learning more about strategies to effectively address the mental health components behind dysfunctional exercise.

I'm also excited about the ways that COVID is reshaping how we deliver care. While COVID has created some significant hurdles, it has also given us an opportunity to reconsider and update various elements of our programming.

What in your job reveals God's sphere sovereignty?

Eating disorders have the second highest mortality rate of all mental health disorders and can have a profound and life-altering impact

on mental and physical health. For many of our patients, an eating disorder markedly disrupts their lives and relationships. Trauma, substance abuse, anxiety, depression, self-harm, and many other factors can be part of the picture as our patients relate to who they are and how they live a life of purpose and meaning. We care for patients with a full spectrum of worldviews and aim to support the recovery of each person. Our treatment plans are naturally influenced predominantly by the sphere of healthcare. As a Christian, I know that every person has intrinsic worth regardless of shape or size, perceived beauty, skin color, achievement, intelligence, athletic ability, past behaviors, etc. because God made them in his image. God's order governs the sphere of healthcare whether we realize or acknowledge it explicitly or not. Science reveals what God ordained. While there are some limitations to what I can openly share regarding my personal worldview, I can help others to value and appreciate their bodies and can support their healing as they relate to their physical "self" through movement.

How do you see God at work in your job?

Part of the education that we provide to our patients includes discussion of the metabolic processes that occur in our bodies. I'm constantly amazed when I consider God's creative power and wisdom in how He forms and

cares for the physical elements of our bodies.

I also see God at work in how he restores His image in people and brings people into community. At work, we talk about how two of the best friends of eating disorders are fatigue and isolation. When we are isolated from others and when our bodies are struggling to function, it can be difficult to live in our purpose. Witnessing our patients restore relationships, physical function, and mental wellbeing is a picture to me of God's goodness in stepping into our lives to fix and restore our broken parts.

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?

Since our rehab department at Melrose is fairly small, I work with a handful of coworkers on a regular basis, and it's natural to learn about my peers' families and lives outside of work. I've found that conversations about what we're thankful for and challenged by in daily life are where I'm able to share my faith in Christ. For example, my coworkers know about the death of our son Micah and about some of the other ways that pain and joy have shown up in our family in recent years. Sharing about God's goodness and the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit in the midst of these circumstances has been one way to share my faith with those around me.

Worship Service Schedule

September 5

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Grateful to God: Story Telling
Psalm 118
Offering: VEAP

September 12

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Forsaking Church
Revelation 2:1-7
Offering: Children of the Promise

September 19

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Suffering Church
Revelation 2:8-11
Offering: Honduras
Discretionary Fund

September 26

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Conforming Church
Revelation 2:12-17
Offering: World Renew

October 3

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Tolerating Church
Revelation 2:18-29
Offering: Ministry Fund

October 10

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Seven Churches:
The Sleeping Church
Revelation 3:1-6
Offering: Christian Ed. Fund

October 17

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Enduring Church
Revelation 3:7-13
Offering: VEAP

October 24

Led by Pastor Eli
Offering: Ministry Fund

October 31

Led by Pastor Nick
The Lukewarm Church
Revelation 3:14-20
Offering: World Renew

CALVARY BIRTHDAYS

HERE

September Birthdays

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

October Birthdays

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

Recent Offering Totals:

Christian Ed. Fund: \$2,164
VEAP Back to School: \$2,780
VEAP (general): \$2,049.25
Urban Homeworks: \$1,195.75

VBS Offering for Feed My
Starving Children: \$519.03
Calvary Ministries Fund:
June '21: \$46,175
May '21: \$29,225

LEADING THE MISSION

Council Update

HERE

It is time for a brief update on what the Council and various teams have been working on the past several months.

Council

- We completed and approved the budget for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2022, that was presented at the annual Congregational meeting held in May 2021.
- In June, we elected new officers.

Chair	Tim Ribbens
Vice-chair	Elmer Jelgerhuis
Clerk	Andrew Feikema
Treasurer	Marcus VanderBrug
- We began reading and discussing the report on the Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality that will be considered by Synod 2022. We expect to complete this reading by January 2022. If you are interest in reading this report, here is a link to access the report:
- https://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/human_sexuality_report_2021.pdf
- Each month we review the reports of the various teams (see below).
- Classical church visitors will be meeting with the pastors and the full Council during our regular September Council meeting. This visit is a routine, required visit that occurs every three to five years.
- Pastor Eli and Tim Ribbens (elder) will be attending the September 2021 Classis meeting

Elders

- Chaired by Pastor Nick
- Provide regular feedback in connection with Pastor Nick's sermon series and Pastor Eli's Anchor teachings
- Continue to provide leadership for COVID-19 compliance matters and the transition back to routine worship protocol
- Oversaw and encouraged the worship service held in the Gathering Place on July 18

Deacons

- Chaired by Andrew Feikema

- Respond to benevolence requests and transportation needs within the congregation
- Assisting in fostering and strengthening our ties with New Creation Baptist Food Shelf, including starting to take periodic offerings
- Currently discussing support of a new missionary family through Resonate Global Mission in the future. Watch for upcoming news.
- Recently completed the Christian Education Fund process for the 2021-2022 school year for church families

Shepherding Team

- Chaired by Randy Hedman
- Assigned new elders/deacons to shepherding districts; updated the district groupings based on growth within in the congregation Planned congregational meal for the Gathering Place worship service
- Conducted training for new Shepherding Team members

Administrative Team

- Chaired by Elmer Jelgerhuis
- Oversight by Facilities Manager Jake Kamp
- Planning for the complex replacement of Roof Three (above Jake's office and the library); the estimated completion date is late summer of 2022 due to severe construction material shortages
- Stage refurbishment, including sanding and refinishing the stage floor and updating the back wall, is nearing completion
- The patio project has finally received all the needed approvals by the City of Edina and Water Quality Commission. Hope to have it substantially completed yet this fall.
- Completing a significant update with the security cameras we have in the building. By September there will be approximately 50 cameras in the building and parking lot, all tied to a system that can be quickly monitored by Jake, by Agamim, and by others via their computers or cell phones.
- Investigating whether the house immediately north of the church facility (owned by Calvary) could become functional for ministry purposes. Consulting with contractors to assess the likelihood, and estimated costs. ...continued on pg. 8

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- The renovation of the commons area of the church remains on hold hoping for construction costs to reduce after recent substantial increases in labor and material costs

Youth Ministries Team

- Chaired by Pastor Eli
- Held Vacation Bible School for a full week of ministry for over 50 children from Calvary, Avail Academy, and the community
- Planned and led Twin Cities Serve Day with collaboration with Faith CRC and Pease CRC, including work sites across the Twin Cities and a worship service and games at our church facility
- Organizing the Fall Fest to be held September 11
- Preparing for Sunday School to commence September 12, including recruiting teachers, selecting Bible studies and setting schedules

Thank you for your unity in Christ. Please join us in regularly praying for the members of Calvary Church, as well as serving and supporting each other when needed.

By Tim Ribbens
Chair of Council



HONDURAS UPDATE

FAR



July was a busy month for the staff of Diaconia Nacional as they conducted assessments in the communities that have partnerships with churches from the US and Canada. Diaconia Nacional asked community members for specific examples of where transformative change has occurred, and the responses are a blessing to read.

In El Guanacaste, we heard that the church and community were encouraged by volunteers from Calvary coming to them, working alongside them as equals, adapting to their culture, sharing in daily life, and encouraging them. The result was that the community members were inspired and motivated to serve others around them, especially those in need. The women in particular gained confidence and now feel more comfortable speaking up and becoming more involved in community meetings.

World Renew and Diaconia Nacional (DN) are continuing to work with community leaders as they implement the community plan. In El Guanacaste, there is a group of farmers – seven men and three women – who have signed up for training in a new agricultural program, the aim of which is to establish sustainable farming practices and marketing which will bring improvements in food security and livelihood to community members. Church partnerships allow members to exchange ideas and share knowledge in project planning for communities. Mateo De Kam and Ed Attema recently had an opportunity to meet virtually with staff from World Renew and DN to discuss the timeline and implementation of the agricultural program in Guanacaste.

We will hear more about the project in coming months and ask for prayers for the community as they work together. Pray for Pastor Modesto and the church in their ministry to the community, and for an opportunity for us to meet with them in person, soon.

By Linda Marcus



www.calvarytwincities.org

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