

CALVARY COURIER

October 2020

Council News

September, 2020

Council reflected on the Healthy Church topic of *Generous Stewardship*, based on *II Corinthians 8*. We are challenged to joyfully share the time, talent and treasures that are entrusted to us. May we be faithful stewards of God's creation, and supportive of local and global ministries that share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Worship services will conclude at Caldwell Park on September 27. In person services continue at Calvary on October 4 at 10:00 a.m., preceded by Sunday School and Education classes at 9:00 a.m. Resumption of evening worship services will be considered by Consistory in October.

Join us for Encore praise and worship on the Calvary east lawn at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, September 27. Bring your lawn chairs.

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for November 9.

Church committees are requested to identify members who are completing terms of service in 2020. Names of nominees for committee membership are to be provided to the Admin Council.

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. II Cor. 8:5

*"Prayer is a big thing,
pray, pray, pray.
God is good and He
is in control..."*

- Hattie Van Wyk

Words of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers of healing and encouragement after my surgery. Recovery is going well. I'm feeling very blessed and thankful. Sheri Plate

We would like to thank you for the many cards, calls, flowers, memorial gifts, and personal condolences shared during this very difficult time. Each act of kindness brought comfort whether through tears or through smiles. We also wish to express a special thanks to Pastor Sheldon who shared an enduring friendship with Hattie and to Gerry and Marilyn Harms, her caring church shepherds. Hattie treasured her Calvary family, and we praise God knowing she is now celebrating in heaven.

—The Family of Hattie Van Wyk

Thanks Church Family at Calvary for all the birthday greetings you sent me on my 90th Birthday. I thank God for the many blessings He has given me over these past 90 years, which you as my church family are included!

Blessings: Bernice Vermeer

Joel & Jeannie Huyser

- For the faithfulness and generosity of God's people. We were able to make our fundraising goals this year in spite of the pandemic.
- That Joel was able to preach by video in three churches during the month of July. Two of the services were at the same time! The wonders of modern technology!
- We had intended to visit one church in Denver, two churches in Iowa, and two Michigan churches this summer. We had also hoped to visit Jeannie's family in Denver and attend my mother's 96th birthday celebration in Iowa. Because of the pandemic we were unable to make any of these trips. But we are thankful for continued good health and the ability to work from our home with zoom!
- For the growing number of mission network developers in North America.
- The pandemic has changed our work so much. Joel is unable to travel to visit missionaries and local partners in Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. He is able to keep in touch with people by zoom. But there is a great deal of uncertainty as to when travel can resume. On the other hand, missionaries have also been unable to travel back to North America to visit supporting churches. Pray for wisdom for the leadership of Resonate in these uncertain times.
- Latin America in particular continues to suffer from the health and economic consequences of the pandemic. We fear what might be developing in Africa as the pandemic takes root there. Pray for God's hand of mercy. Pray that the church would be able to faithfully bear witness to the hope of the Gospel.



Nick In't Hout (center) with other local ministry leaders.

Mike & Megan Ribbens



We have been making something new. It has been our hunch for some time that formation and soul care of our children is regularly outsourced to schools and churches. Our team in Eastern and Southern Africa has been wrestling with how we reposition the family to become a place of formation for mission.

With restrictions to learning in a classroom or at churches, key support and care has been cut off to many children. Since March, our church family, Following Jesus, has not worshiped in a church building. But that hasn't, nor should it, stop us from worshiping as a church family or in our homes. [Cue the hymn line: "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people."] While our church has been worshiping virtually since March, we are excited to virtually reach into family homes!

Taking advantage of the fact that across Eastern and Southern Africa, families were (and many still are) under "stay at home" guidelines or orders, Megan has been working with our team members in Kenya and Uganda to create "Sawubona Families." Sawubona is an isiZulu greeting and means "We see you." The aim is to strengthen families and their faith in Christ by engaging scripture through play-based activity prompts that center on familiar African practices. Our first activity prompts, covering the Fruit of the Spirit, will be delivered virtually on Whatsapp over the next 10 weeks. Starting on September 23, participating families in Kenya, South Africa and Uganda will receive a weekly activity guide which can be adapted to their family needs and context. This is a new way of reaching out to families for us. We want to test if this virtual outreach helps families to see God, to see each other, and to see their neighbor.

Sawubona Families have been invited. We are eager to launch our first activity next week Wednesday! Families were in a desperate place pre-Covid and many are struggling to access hope at the moment. By engaging these playful activities together, we are trusting God will breathe hope and joy in this season of hardship. Please pray this innovative way of being in mission together with families draws in children and adults to fully experience the love of God and practice the Fruit of the Spirit.

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Ryan Benbo 1	George Duren 2	
4 Arlene Bogaards Katie Hoksbergen Brad Jungling	5 Kim Bandstra Matthew Vos	6 Marilyn Harms* Norma Van Weelden* Nate Klingenberg	7 Kate Roozeboom Emily Vos	8 Marie Van Maanen*	9 Bill De Groot* Rob Van Beek Logan Blom	10 Linda Zuidema
11 Marilyn Sterk	12 Gabriella Wood	13 Twyla Van Wyk Sam Disselkoen	14 Emily Sytsma	15 Millie Burghorn Lori Vande Zande	16 Bruce Ribbens	17 Robin Vos
18	19 Noah Wood Victoria Holdsworth	20 Hannah Roozeboom	21  28	22 Sheila De Haan Orville Bultsma Adrielix Bautista- Melenciano	23 Paisley Robinson	24
25 	26 Bernice Van Gorp*	27 Mary Van Arendonk	28 Jim Lanser	29 Mike Roozeboom	30 Jeanette Roose* Meyer Vande Voort	31