

CALVARY COURIER

June 2024

Thanks for the Helping Hand!

A BIG Thank you to Calvary volunteer crew from District 4 headed up by Joe Hoksbergen as they decided to do a service project at Joshua Christian Academy that was aimed at spending a few hours at the Main campus on the east side of Des Moines.

The crew arrived about 9 AM on April 20 ready for a variety of tasks comprised of:

- Removing and loading up the remains of two dying trees where 6-8 men were involved.
- Doing some landscaping
- Replacing old ceiling tile in one of the offices
- Washing walls, desks, and floors
- Library organization
- Shampooing carpeting and many other tasks

Both young and old could find tasks they could perform easily

A time of listening to Chris Hurley, a founder of the school 15 years ago, of recent happenings in the school like accreditation, talking about some changes at each of the 3 campuses. A big change being new leadership under Mr. Joseph Jackson

JCA thanks Calvary for using your talents and abilities to make a difference in a school that ministers to urban kids in the Des Moines area, you have shown the hands and feet of Jesus, you have shown servant heartedness in our fast-paced world.

Thanks again for your continued support through your gifts but also your prayers and your hands on helping, JCA recognizes there are many great non-profits to give to, but we thank you for choosing JCA and may God richly bless Calvary Church.

Welcome to Calvary Church, Rachel Jochems



I was born and raised near Pella, Iowa. I attended Peoria Christian Grade School and Pella Christian High School. I graduated in 2008 from high school. My parents are Jim and Barb Jochems, and I have younger sister Valerie and brother-in-law Elijah. My dad passed away in 2006.

I became a nanny in the fall of 2008 for the Richards family and was with them for eleven years while earning a bachelor's degree in early childhood education online. Then I cared for the Dykstra family for four years. I will be starting with the Van Hal family soon.

I enjoy crocheting for myself and others and scrapbooking memories.

Calvary Church extends a warm welcome to you,
Rachel. (Submitted by Rachel Jochems)

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Thank YOU!

Thank you for all your prayers and visits this past year as Donald fought cancer. We really appreciated everyone that drove him to Des Moines for radiation last fall. Thanks also for the cards, food, visits, flowers, and memorial after he passed. It carried us through a difficult time. Thank you Pastor Sheldon, Pastor Brad, and the elders for your visits, prayers, and special messages at the funeral. Everyone's kindness and thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. The family of Don Van Wyk

Thank you to everyone for your continued prayers, cards, food, gifts, hugs, and etc. during a difficult health year. Thank you Pastor Sheldon for your visit, our elder Jerry Bandstra who brought a meal every Sunday for about six weeks, and to our district leaders, Marilyn and Gerry Harms, who helped bring and line up food. Many of you called and brought meals on your own also. Most of all, praise God for grace, mercy, patience, peace, and continued healing as I begin physical therapy in the next couple of weeks.

In His Care, Margaret Duren

Council Highlights, May 20, 2024

Council President, Mike Jansen, opened the May meeting reading from Acts 2:42-47 and "A Healthy Church" from Church Health Council Devotions. We prayed to God for His awesome power in the rain storms we received recently. We are thankful for all the many volunteers at Calvary who make the church run well; to those who assisted with Orville Bultsma's estate and loaded up all his possessions in a few hours. A special thanks to Jim and Christy Van Zee for cataloging and boxing everything up. We are thankful for those who volunteered for the Tulip Time shuttle that continues to receive many compliments and gratitude. Thanks also go to those who volunteered at Joshua Christian Academy, doing service projects around the campus.

Pastor Brad reported on consulting with Bethel CRC in Sioux Center about managing a large congregation. He also expressed thanks for the long time staff members and their willingness to mentor interns. Pastor Brad reminds the congregation that attendance typically falls in the summer due to family vacations and services at Red Rock but all come back in the fall.

Pastor Nate attended the D6 training for youth pastors in Orlando. He received encouragement and affirmation that we are taking the right approach. He also did not recommend taking a baby to Disney World. He is currently planning two youth group trips for the summer. He encourages all committees and groups to plan ahead by intentionally develop new leaders to take over when the current ones retire. Pastor Nate is also mentoring Levi Schelhaas to be a youth leader.

Pastor Sheldon attends Council meetings 4 times a year and was not scheduled to attend this Council meeting.

The Council attended a retreat on May 11 with Pam Dykstra, who led training on Crucial Conversations. Many times being "Iowa nice" to get along is not always the right approach. Sometimes a hard conversation is the nice thing to do. She also provided us a text book and work book to study.

The Council approved "**A Renewal Pathway in Modest Steps**" proposal by Elaine May for a healthy church using the following steps to begin this summer:

Step One: A whole church scripture reading plan for the summer that ties to Sunday worship. The purpose is similar to the 40 day prayer and bible reading plan for the council. We want to set the tone and establish a foundation that invites everyone to be involved and Christ is at the center.

Step Two: Tend to the relational health of the Council. Relational health and trust is essential for conversations around mission and vision. This doesn't have to be serious face to face conversations, although they may be necessary. Take advantage of the warmer weather, barbeque together, go fishing, and have some fun.

Step Three: Host a Thriving Essentials course in the fall, get leaders on the same page, moving in the same direction on mission, discipleship, discernment, and leadership. Recommend inviting current, past and future leaders to the course. This would be a church-wide course for the 4 topics above with help from a trained consultant.

Step Four: Thriving Congregations Survey: a simple survey for measuring the health of Calvary church and for measuring the health of your own walk with God.

Step Five: A meeting to discuss the results and to develop a corporate goal and for each Council member to identify a personal goal for the next year.




Step Six: Make sure the goals are tended on a regular basis over the next year. Don't let the urgent material crowd out the goal. See what it's like to work together toward a purpose. Engage a coach for accountability and to build momentum.

The Council approved new carpet for the Youth House. The Building & Grounds committee informed the Council that the sewer line from the Youth House is clay tile and is decaying, plugging the line. The committee is getting quotes to replace it.

The Council discussed a proposal to change the calendar for office bearers to run from June 1 to May 31. This better coincides with most of the church's programs. Further discussion will be done at the July council meeting with a vote taken then.

Kyle Van Wyngarden closed the meeting with prayer.

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Dan Van Kooten	3 Nathan Dockter	4 Tracy Dickel	5 	6 Seth Van Gelder	7 Anna Victoria Sagredo-Martinez	8 Mark Roozeboom Gerrit Steenhoek* Jennie Veenstra*
9 Noah Carley	10	11 Annaliese Admiraal	12 Addie Bierma	13 Evy Verschuure* Jose Melo	14 Sarah Blom	15 
16 	17 Holli Kelderman	18 Carol Verhey Kevin Vos Max Sagredo-Martinez	19 Kami Roozeboom	20	21 Jesse Roose	22 Josh Blom
23 Joshua Van Hal	24 Micah Hoksbergen	25 Itamar Melo Rodriguez	26 Bill Nikkel*	27 Joan Bandstra*	28 Verland Engle* Carter Pommer Quinn Pommer	29 Rosetta Roose Henry Rus
30 Russ Van Wyk						