

CALVARY COURIER

September 2024

SERVE in Abingdon Virginia

Early in the morning on July 26th the Calvary Youth Group departed Pella for their annual SERVE trip. This year we'd spend 7 days in Abingdon, VA. After two days of travel filled with singing along to our favorite songs, fun conversations, and plenty of naps, we arrived at our destination. There were 79 attendees in all, hailing from Iowa, Michigan, and Ontario.

Our first day included the traditional unpacking and getting-to-know-you games. We introduced ourselves and broke up into what would be our small groups and work groups for the week. Each student and leader mixed in with the rest of the attendees in order for each group to include people from every place.

Each day after was filled with morning devotions, working hard at our work sites, brown bag lunches with all the Gatorade or lemonade we could drink, and worship time to close the days. We all worked hard, and we enjoyed playing different games whether it be volleyball, basketball, spicy Uno, Euchre, or Settlers of Catan! A highlight for many of the students was the worship time. We met in the basement of the church, where their youth group would normally meet. We worshiped in song, prayer, and listened to God's word and message.

The theme of the week was, "Fill Your Cup." This theme was inspired by the passage in Galatians 5: 22 – 23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Each night and each morning we were challenged to consider what our metaphorical cups were being filled with. Were we filling them with ourselves, our own selfish ambitions, sins, loves, or desires? OR were we being filled with God's love and Spirit, and were our cups overflowing with the Spirit's fruit?

This trip is a highlight for me as a Youth Pastor. If I could make it a requirement that all our students, leaders, and parents go to SERVE, I would! I believe God is at work in this trip and often shows up for our students and leaders through it. I've seen students come out of their shell, discover new gifts and talents, make lifelong friends – even a spouse, but more than that I've seen how this trip can be a transformational experience that students hold on to for the rest of their lives. Students come to faith on SERVE. They grow in faith on SERVE. They share their faith on SERVE. THAT is what makes it all worthwhile.

So, I would like to say, "Thank You!" to all our members for your support of the Youth program here at Calvary CRC and for trips like SERVE. I hope you all are aware of how God is using your time, talents, and treasures to pour into the next generation of believers.



In This Issue:

- SERVE Update
- Birthday Calendar

Schedule of Start Dates!

Wednesday Night Activities :
(GEMS, Cadets, Youth Group)
Sept. 4

Spanish Bible Study: Sept. 4
Thursday Night Alive: Sept. 5

Children's Worship: Sept. 8
Oasis: Sept. 11

All Sunday School: Sept. 15
Men's Bible Study: Sept. 11

THANK YOU!

Thanks for prayers and cards for return to good health, and thanks for prayers and cards for our 60th anniversary. We are blessed.

Gene and Norma Roose

ADDRESS UPDATE!

Jo Ann Blom's Address:
Independence Village Rm 201A
2604 Fifield Road
Pella, IA 50219

September 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Andrew Syisma	2 Alaina Herdegen	3 Barb Van Gorp	4 Angela Vande Zande	5 Logan Gallaher Gerry Harms* Josh Pommer Lucy Stravers*	6 Jim A. Van Zee Noah Carley	7 <i>happy birthday</i>
8 	9	10 Eric Vande Zande Katherine Mick	11 Amy Bandstra Krista Van Gelder Noah Nunnikhoven	12	13 Tim Roose Mark Vos Emma Sanders	14 Gavin Ulferts Derek Vander Ark
15 Mary Elsloo*	16	17 <i>happy birthday</i>	18 Geneva Jansen*	19 Brooks De Vries	20 	21
22 Peter Bierma Eric Van Wyngarden Geneva Van Zanten*	23	24 Teresa Ulferts Alek Vink Steve Theune	25 Jo-Ann Blom* Reagan Rus Bennett Klingenberg	26 Emily Dockter	27 Alex Sandbulte	28 Bernie Spoelstra* Lois Van Houwelingen Jo Vermeer
29 <i>happy birthday</i>	30 Ellie Clendenen					