

CALVARY COURIER

August 2025

Council Highlights – July 21, 2025

Mike Jansen opened the meeting by reading Matt 20:20-28 and “Servant Leadership” from “Church Health: Council Devotions” and opened with prayer. As Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, we are all called to be servant leaders. How do we encourage people to lead? Tell them they can do it, and could be good at it. Affirm their gifts. Encourage the youth, affirm them, and build community. Grow and nurture church leaders for the long term, not a last minute invitation. We prayed for a smooth transition for Pastor Brad and his family in their move to Pease MN. We prayed for Pastor Sheldon as he has led 3 funerals in two weeks. His eye condition is stable and unchanging. He receives an injection for it every other month. We prayed for Ron Fulker with his heart condition. May the doctors’ be able to diagnose it correctly and that he responds to treatment. We also prayed that Randy Nugteren be patient as he waits for tests, results, and treatment for his skin cancer.

Pastor Roger Sparks has agreed to be our interim pastor as a Specialized Transition Minister (STM). He plans to be in Pella in early September. Admin is working on a contract per Thrive guidelines for his approval. We are asking him to preach at least 60% of the time (same as Pastor Brad). The deacons will put together a transition team to furnish the parsonage.

Pastor Roger will work with our Vision Team that is developing what Calvary’s Motives are (the Why). Following that with the Map (the How) and the Marks (the Measurements). Both Thrive and Pastor Roger recommend finishing these three objectives before launching a Search Committee in 6 months. But the Search Committee could be active in the Vision process.

Pastor Nate reported that May is transition time and preparation for summer activities. He was the emcee/leader of VBS in June, took the youth to Chicago Westside, and then is going to Calvary CRC in Edina, MN, July 26 with 10 kids to SERVE. He and Caitlin are preparing to welcome a new baby due in September. Pastor Nate was very encouraged by the “Take 5 Minutes” after the July 21 service where congregants were asked to talk with others they do not know well. He is also asking for volunteers for the youth programs that start in the fall.

Chaplain Brandon Mick was invited to give an annual report of his activities at Vermeer. Working at Vermeer during his cancer treatments has been a challenge but rewarding. Many employees were initially hesitant to discuss their troubles with him given his own troubles. But after starting a conversation they opened up because they felt they could relate to him more now. So Brandon felt he has been blessed.

Bryan Bandstra reported on his activities with Celebrate Recovery at The Well. “Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find freedom from your hurts, hang-ups, and habits through Christ Jesus.” They deal with addictions and mental health issues using a bible-based 12 step program.

The Consistory has decided that the District Elders will no longer lead services at Bethel Mission due to lack of volunteers and a Bethel requirement for a trained member to be present. Pastor Sheldon has informed Bethel Mission of our decision. It may continue if there are members from the congregation and a member with training by Bethel willing to lead a service.

Cory Mass closed the meeting with prayer.
Bill Strong, Council Clerk

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THANK YOU!

Thank you Calvary Church - for all of your support to us since my surgery for a broken ankle on May 5 - from Pastor Sheldon's visits at the hospital to cards, phone calls, prayers, food and visits while I was homebound. It's been a test of patience and a lesson in humility and you are all so appreciated. We are thankful for the healing that is taking place! Thanks be to God for His mercy.

Nancy and Lee Veldhuizen

Disaster Relief for Hurricane Helene

Thank you so much for funding my trip to Asheville, North Carolina! It was such a blessing to be part of a disaster relief team from hurricane Helene with Mission Discovery. While I was there I worked on painting a park pavilion, starting a church garden and witnessed the blessing barn! But there were also projects going on that our team helped with like stair and fence building and brush clean up. While I was there the most valuable thing that I learned was empathy. At the beginning of our week we had a devotion over the passage of Jesus weeping. This was a reminder to me about how Jesus rejoices with us, but also feels our suffering. We were able to show one another and the people of Asheville Jesus' compassionate heart by laughing with them and crying with them. I could not be more grateful for that week. Thanks again for the prayers and funding!

Meredith Van Wyk



CHECK OUT: ReFrame Ministries Resources!

Kids Corner Devotions: God's Grand Story: Samuel Serves - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "God's Grand Story: Samuel Serves" at www.kidscorner.net. Want to hear a cool story about a kid God spoke to at night? Samuel was just a kid like you, and God used him in amazing ways—this devotion will inspire your whole family to listen for God's voice, obey with courage, and shine his light every day! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Kids Corner eBook Collection: Faith Practices.

Groundwork: Unfaithful People and God's Grace - God famously instructed Hosea to marry an unfaithful woman and used his marriage to Gomer as a symbol of all that was wrong with Israel in their relationship with God. Join Groundwork as we dig into Hosea 1-3 to study this prophetic relationship and recognize its invitation into an honest reflection on our own relationship with God and our need for his grace as his people today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Dear Calvary,

Thank you so much for helping support me for YWAM. I've just finished my third week of the lecture phase. Our speaker the first week taught an introduction to discipleship (becoming more like Jesus, holding others accountable, faith and obedience). The second week's speaker discussed the character and nature of God. This past week we discussed hearing the voice of God. This week we are discussing Following Jesus.

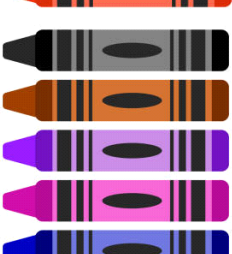

It's incredible to get to build a deeper relationship with God and to see him working through other people's lives. Not only have I enjoyed my classes but getting to know the other students has really been a blessing. I've gotten to go hiking a couple of times, camping and climbing with my extracurriculars.

Please pray for rest, an open heart towards what God says and that everyone would remain safe and healthy. Thanks Again!

Cora Bierma



August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pam Gallaher	2 Bev Rozendaal
3 Liam Johannes	4 Brayden Vink	5 LeNora Van Weelden*	6 Jessica Allen	7 Aubrey Blom	8	9 
10 Leann Nunnikhoven	11	12 Amy Herdegen Elva Vos* Matt Disselkoen	13 Leland Van Kooten	14 Sarah Dockter Cathy Vroom	15 Lea Huisman	16 Casey Van Weelden* Becky Disselkoen
	18 Carter De Haan Kristen Mass	19 	20 Gabrielle Clendenen	21 Cass Rozendaal* Owen Verhoef	22 Jamin Schutte Luther St Clair	23 Nyah Melo Rodrigues
24 Alva De Boef* Colt Kelderman	25 Kevin Herdegen	26 Jett Kelderman Dawn Wood	27 Rob Bandstra Marv Bruxvoort* Lillian Nikkel* Lucas Disselkoen	28	29 Phyllis Lanser Gene Roose*	30 Lucille Van Wyk
31 Megan Vande Voort Andy Wood						