

# CALVARY COURIER

October 2025

## Council Highlights – Sept 15, 2025

Mike Jansen opened the meeting by reading II Cor 3:17-18, Luke 14:25-33, and “Intentional Disciple-Making” and with prayer. He prayed for comfort and peace for Jim B. Van Zee’s family as Jim has entered into glory; for Steve Veenstra who is having a biopsy to determine if he has cancer; for Willa Branderhorst who fell and for her sister helping her; and thanksgiving for Randy Nugteren’s tumor shrinking.

Pastor Roger will be preaching Sunday evening, Sept 28, instead of a hymnsing. There are no plans for hymnsings in the near future.

Pastor Roger is thankful for the welcome and all the kindness shown to him and Dianne. They are happy with the parsonage and the furnishings. He looks forward to getting to know more of us all. He has been attending staff, Admin, PMW, and the Vision Committee meetings and visited with several members. He and Dianne will be on vacation Oct 1-7 to visit their daughter in Visalia, CA. This was scheduled before coming to Calvary.

From Pastor Nate to the Council: I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Council, Staff, and the Education Committee for their grace and support during the month of August in which we welcomed the early arrival of our son Oliver. With an unexpected delivery date and a 3-week NICU stay, I was blessed by Calvary for being given the chance to be present with Caitlin in the hospital while we awaited delivery, present with Caitlin and Oliver as he began his NICU stay, and present with our son Bennett when I returned to Pella for a part-time week. I would like to specifically thank Randy Nugteren for his work covering my preaching responsibilities, Kevin Vos and Roger Van Hal for their visit to the hospital as shepherding elders, and Kyle Van Wyngarden as Education Committee chair for taking on the challenge of getting Calvary ready for the start of another education year. Caitlin and I are incredibly grateful to you all. Thank you!

Joe Goodyk presented the 2026 budget for Council approval. There will be a 5% decrease in the overall budget from 2025. The Council approved a change in how Ministry Shares are calculated. The CRCNA no longer asks for a per member amount. Instead they recommend giving a percentage of the total budget before Ministry Shares. It is widely accepted to make a tithe percentage of 10-15% before adding in the Ministry Shares. The Deacons recommend giving 15% in 2026. The percentage of giving will be reviewed every year. The Congregation will have a say in the budget at the annual Congregational Meeting set for Monday, November 10, at 7:30 pm.

The Evangelism committee requested approval to discontinue usher service. It was determined that since there are only a few regular ushers, many folks just walk in and seat themselves. Greeters are posted at all three entrances to welcome the people who are arriving so ushers are not needed to greet people. Ushers will still be provided for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas services.

Cindy Gritters closed the meeting with prayer.

Bill Strong, Council Clerk

## In This Issue:

- Council Highlights
- Calvary CRC – 70 Years of Blessings
- Birthday Calendar

## Calvary CRC – 70 Years of Blessings

On September 16, 2025, Calvary Christian Reformed Church had her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Under the auspices of First Christian Reformed Church of Pella, now Connect Church, and the Second Christian Reformed Church of Pella, now Cornerstone Church, Calvary Church was born. The purpose for the creation of Calvary Church was due to the overcrowding in the other churches. Church services were first held at the Pella Christian Grade School and later at the Pella Christian High School. In December of 1955 the property at 1003 Broadway was purchased for \$19,000 for Calvary Church's first parsonage. On February 27, 1956, a proposal was presented to the congregation to purchase the three-acre property on which Calvary Church is now located. On May 28, 1958, a dedication service was held for the new church building.

Calvary Church was started by 57 families and seven individuals as charter members. Today there are two of those charter members still living and continue to be members at Calvary-Joey Bandstra and Donna Gosselink. There are also four children of charter member families that continue to be members at Calvary: Keith Roozeboom, Jim A. Van Zee, Carol Ribbens and Jay Vermeer.

During her 70 years Calvary's congregation has been served by eight pastors, two care pastors, and three youth pastors, along with a host of many volunteers. During those early years, women of the congregation served harvest suppers for fund raisers for the new church.

Ministry and Missions have always been important to Calvary Church. Almost immediately, groups formed for Bible Study and spiritual growth such as Catechism, Sunday School, Women's Bible Studies like the Willing Workers, the Lamplighters, and Mission Circle, along with Men's Society, Young People's Society, Mr. and Mrs. Society (now Thursday Night Alive) and Adult Sunday School. The Calvinettes (now GEMS) and Cadets also had an early start at Calvary. In 1964, the Calvary Wayside Chapel was built by the Mr. and Mrs. Society. The Red Rock Dam Services began in 1969. The Monday evening and Tuesday morning Coffee Break groups started, as well as Mainly Music. The Calvary website was started, along with Video Ministry and Tulip Time Shuttle outreach. Dr. Lawrence Den Besten was Calvary's first missionary. Today we support 22 missionaries and organizations. Calvary Church has also help organize four Christian Reformed Churches: Faith Christian Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa in 1968, Trinity Christian Reformed Church in St. Louis, Missouri in 1969, and Grace Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in 1995. Calvary also helped with the founding of the New Life Prison Church at the Newton Correctional Facility in Newton, Iowa in 2011. Over the past 70 years Calvary has had 812 baptisms, 762 professions of faith and 413 people of our congregation have passed away (from the ages of newborn to 101).

On Calvary's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary two large plaques were made and placed in front of the church. One read, "To the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, The Only God Be Honor and Glory Forever and Ever Amen." I Timothy 1:17. The second plaque read, "Enlarge the Place of Your Tent...Do Not Hold Back. Lengthen Your Cords; Strengthen Your Stakes." Isaiah 54:2

Calvary Church grew and grew! At one point members of the congregation were assigned, by alphabetical order of their last name, to sit in the Fellowship Hall during the morning worship. In 2006 Calvary began having two morning worship services for a period of time. The campus at Calvary has also grown. In March of 1963, plans were made to build the new parsonage just west of the church. In 1999, the property at 1360 Orchard Street was purchased and became the second parsonage. Also, in 1999, the property at 1354 Orchard Street was purchased and became Calvary Youth House. On June 8, 2000, the congregation approved adding on an educational wing on the west side of the church. They also approved adding on to the Youth House. A new office expansion addition was approved in 2006, and on November 12, 2012, the congregation approved to build the new entrance and southwest educational wing. Calvary's first church van was purchased in 1999, and the first church minibus was purchased in December of 2003.

As a congregation, we enter our 70<sup>th</sup> year of Calvary Church's existence and enter with a time of change and transition, but also, a time of great opportunities as we search for a new pastor to lead us. However, our purpose and moto have not changed, "Know God, Live With Purpose." We strive to fulfill the goal on the plaque: "Enlarge the Place of Your Tent...Do Not Hold Back. Lengthen Your Cords; Strengthen Your Stakes." Isaiah 54:2. To God be the glory, great things He has done.



Written by:  
Christy Van Zee, Calvary Church Historian & Archivist



# October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			 1	George Duren* 2	Noch Lauer 3	Arlene Bogards Katie Hoksbergen Brad Jungling 4
Kim Bandstra 5	Marilyn Harms* Norma Van Weelden* Nate Klingenberg 6	Kate Roozeboom Emily Vos 7	Marie Van Maanen* Nathan Johannes 8	Bill De Groot* Rob Van Beek Logan Blom 9	Linda Zuidema 10	Marilyn Sterk 11
Gabriella Wood Dalton De Vries 12	Twyla Van Wyk Sam Disselkoen 13	 14	Greg Horstman Lori Vande Zande 15	Bruce Ribbens 16	Robin Vos 17	 18
Noah Wood 19	20	21	Sheila De Haan 22	 23	24	25
Bernice Van Gorp* 26	Mary Van Arendonk 27	Jim Lanzer* Mike Lauer 28	Louisa Sandbulte 29	30	 31	