

CALVARY COURIER

November 2025

Council Highlights – Oct 10, 2025

Mike Jansen opened the meeting by reading Matt 25:31-40 and “Justice and Righteousness”. He led prayers for Jerry Bandstra doing well after his surgery; prayed that a room at the Cottages would open up for Willa Branderhorst and gave thanks for her daughter’s help; prayed for healing and recovery from cancer for Mia Schippers and for Randy Nugteren; thankful for the congregation’s support for the chili cookoff, GEMS, and Cadet fundraisers. We also gave praise and thanks for the men and women willing to serve on Council next year, for the large attendance at Family Night with Mainly Music, and 28 young mothers who have joined MomLife. We are grateful for Pastor Roger and Dianne coming to preach and assist Calvary during our time without a Pastor of Worship.

Pastor Roger has been involved with preaching, making pastoral calls to members and families, and substitute teaching for Jerry Bandstra’s catechism class. He and Dianne had a wonderful time visiting their daughter in California for a week.

Pastor Nate kicked off the new church calendar year with events for the Youth groups and continued working with young members interested in professing their faith.

Pastor Sheldon preached at New Life, met with the family of James B. Van Zee and officiated his funeral. He is encouraged that many church members are contacting their district elders and deacons first before him.

Contrary to what was reported last month, there will be hymnsings on the fifth Sunday night of the month as recommended by the Program, Music, and Worship Committee with Consistory approval.

The agenda for the annual congregational meeting was set. The meeting will be Monday, Nov 10 at 7:30 pm. We will be affirming the list of new elders and deacons and selecting 4 elders and 3 deacons for office. There will be a presentation from the Vision Team and the annual budget will be presented and voted on. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Joe Goodyk reported on the September Classis meeting. Classis approved a \$25,000 grant to a church plant in Denver led by Rev Christian Sebastia; approved helping Unity Christian School secure an interest-free loan for its \$3.2 million building project; and approved an increase of \$6000 to support four seminary students.

Cindy Gritters closed the meeting with prayer.

Bill Strong, Council Clerk

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Calvary Church Young At Heart Fall Adventures

Terrace Hill, Botanical Garden, State Capitol Building - It was a beautiful day on Friday, September 26, 2025, when the Calvary Church Young At Heart group enjoyed a day in Des Moines, Iowa, learning about some of the history of Iowa. The day started with a tour of Terrace Hill, the Iowa Governor's Mansion. Terrace Hill was built in 1869 for Des Moines' first millionaire, Benjamin F. Allen. It was designed by architect William W. Boyington. After the financial ruin of Allen, Terrace Hill was purchased by Frederick M. Hubbell in 1884. The Hubbell family owned Terrace Hill until they donated it to the State of Iowa in 1971. In 1976, it became the Iowa Governor's Mansion. The Iowa governor lives on the third floor of this amazing mansion. After visiting Terrace Hill, we went to the Des Moines Botanical Garden, where we enjoyed the lush plants on the inside and the beautiful waterfalls and gardens on the outside. We also enjoyed a delicious lunch at Flora Café. In the afternoon we toured the beautiful Iowa State Capitol Building. Also known as the Iowa State House, the Iowa State Capitol Building was built between 1871-1886. It is one of the most beautiful capitol buildings in the United States. It's 23-karat gold leaf dome, which stands 275 feet tall and is seen for miles around. Inside the Capitol, the marble staircases, the beautiful wood carvings, the hand-painted stenciled wallpaper, and the original furnishings are nothing less than awe-inspiring. After a full day of learning and of enriching our pride in Iowa, we enjoyed a stop at Jersey Freeze Ice Cream in Monroe to satisfy our taste buds.

Lake View Camp - Although it was a hot sunny day on Thursday, October 2, 2025, our trip to Lake View Camp south of Pella was not disappointing. Lake View Camp is one of the missions that Calvary Church supports. We were met by staff who welcomed us and provided us with a delicious meal of either barbecued Pella bologna sandwiches or a chicken salad sandwich. Lunch also included three different salads, a relish tray, and a choice of bread pudding or an almond bar for dessert. During lunch we broke into groups. We sat at round tables, leaving one empty chair to allow a staff member to join us. While eating our delicious meal, we could ask our guest staff members any questions about the camp.

After lunch, we took a wagon tour of the campgrounds. We saw God's creation in the ponds and trails. We learned more about the different summer camps that are held, including the Angel Tree Camp. We witnessed joy and enthusiasm from the staff members and heard testimonies that were shared by Diana Brummel and her staff about what they were doing. God's love and provision was very evident through them. As they shared their capital improvement plans, it was clear that their reliance on God's plan was first and foremost.

Before we left the camp, we were able to see the barbecue house that was built with the memorial funds given in memory of Calvary Church member Don Van Wyk. This structure enables the chefs to cook in rain or shine and is a very useful addition to the camp.

What is Lake View Camp? According to the camp mission statement: "We are a Christian camp that has a dream to see people understand their significance in life. We want every child and young adult to experience the love of God and live a life that is full of love." What happens at Lake View Camp? It is "a place where lives are changed and foundations are built." A testimonial from a camper states: "At camp, God reminded me that I don't have to be perfect to be used. He desires to make me usable, and He desires to use me."





November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Jackson Wood
2 Emma De Haan Nathan Rus	3 Lance Nunnikhoven	4	5 Jean Engle* Jana Rus	6 Norma Roose* Larry Ribbens	7 Ryan Bouwkamp Lyla Van Beek	8 Roger Jansen* Denise Roose Crystal Cerrios
9 Melissa Wehrle Scott Huisman Beth De Vries	10 Nora Sandbulte	11 Abrianna Mass Ryan Nugteren	12 Norma Roose* Larry Ribbens	13 Goldie Dingeman* Jay Schelhaas	14 Blake Gallaher	15
16 Belkys Gil	17 Morgan Carley Lenora Van Norden*	18 Betty Elscott Lisa Schelhaas	19 Galyn Vande Zande	20 Isaiah Rus	21 Micah Herdegen Christy Van Zee	22
23 Cosette Clendenen Karla Hofman Daniel Roose John Van Gorp	24	25 	26 Jeff Robinson, Daryl Pommer	27	28	29
30 Ernest De Jong*						