

# CALVARY COURIER

December 2025

## CALVARY ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

The annual congregational meeting was held November 10, 2025. Council President Mike Jansen opened the meeting by reading Matt 20:20-28 and Servant Leadership from the Healthy Church devotionals. He then offered a prayer for the meeting.

There were 94 members present at the meeting.

Pastor Sheldon led a prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance in the selection of Elders and Deacons.

The Affirmation ballots were collected. Five absentee ballots were approved for acceptance.

Eric Vande Zande presented the Ministry Focus Committee's vision on Calvary Church. A digital copy of his presentation will be made available.

The staff was recognized and thanked by name for their contributions to Calvary. Gifts for the staff were picked up by their shepherds to be given to them later.

New Elders and Deacons were selected by lot to serve. Elders selected are Larry Ribbens, Andrew DeHaan, Rod Jansen, and Tim Roose. Deacons selected to serve are Becky Disselkoen, Leanne Hogan, and Jeff Poortinga.

Joe Goodyk presented the 2026 Church budget for approval. The proposed budget for the staff was approved with the exception of the HSA (Health Savings Account) line item. Finance Committee will look into whether it is legal for Calvary to provide HSA funding. The Facilities, Education, and Worship Support sections were approved. Support for the Young Adult line item was questioned. There currently is no Young Adult program but the plan is to start one. Coffee Break expenses are included in the Evangelism budget. After approval of the Missions section the entire budget was approved.

An explanation was given for how Ministry Shares are determined. The denomination has changed the funding for Ministry Shares from a per member based amount to a request for 10-15% of the church budget or "tithe" before Ministry Shares are calculated. The Deacons will determine what the percentage will be each year based on giving from the previous year. For 2026 it is set for 15%.

Pastor Roger closed the meeting with prayer and Pastor Nate led the congregation in the singing of the Doxology.

## In This Issue:

- **Calvary Congregational Minutes 2025**
- **Young At Heart Veterans Day Program – "The Final Salute"**
- **Birthday Calendar**

## Young At Heart Veterans Day Program – “The Final Salute”

The Young at Heart group, joined by others from the community, gathered on Thursday, November 13, 2025, to honor our veterans. The afternoon began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by recognition of our veterans and surviving spouses, acknowledged by the branches in which they served. A prayer was then offered for our veterans and for our country.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Lanae Strovers, daughter of John and Barb Van Gorp. Lanae grew up in Pella and graduated from Pella Christian High School in 2002. She later earned her degree in Mortuary Science from Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in 2008. Throughout her career, she has served families with deep compassion, including her work at Hamilton Funeral Homes in Des Moines, where she continues to serve part-time. Two years ago, she stepped into a new full-time role with the National Funeral Directors Association, traveling nationwide to teach both students and experienced directors how to best support grieving families.

In 2018, Lanae founded what has now become a meaningful nonprofit organization known as The Final Salute. The project began during her personal journey with hip dysplasia, which required nine surgeries over five years. Many recoveries kept her on bed rest for up to three months at a time. Hoping to stay useful, she contacted the funeral home to ask if there was any work she could do from home. Their answer was yes: they asked her to begin calling families connected to unclaimed urns stored in the funeral home’s basement.

From that small beginning, The Final Salute has grown significantly. Under Lanae’s leadership, the organization has provided respectful services for the unclaimed remains of over 80 civilians, 42 children, and 84 veterans and their spouses. The services held for children became especially meaningful to many parents in attendance, offering a sacred moment to mourn children they themselves had lost through miscarriage.

This past October, the 2025 Unclaimed Veterans Service was held at Lutheran Church of Hope in Waukee. The cremated remains of 13 veterans and one veteran’s spouse were laid to rest at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery near Adel. One of the individuals honored was a Civil War veteran. Next spring, The Final Salute will provide a service for approximately 400 unclaimed civilian remains, which will be buried in twelve donated plots at the Avon Cemetery in Des Moines.



Where do these unclaimed remains come from? They arrive from funeral homes, storage units that have been auctioned, salvage yards, apartment buildings, abandoned homes—and in one case, an urn found abandoned on the side of the road.

Lanae’s work stands as a testament to the power of compassion, remembrance, and community. The next service for the Unclaimed Veterans will be Saturday October 3, 2026 – all are invited to attend.

After Lanae’s presentation, there was time for questions and a period of fellowship with one another.



# December 2025

| Sunday  | Monday                                | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|   | 1<br>Judy Kelderman<br>Linda Wichhart | 2   | 3<br>Rick Blom  | 4<br>Karl Ribbens                                       | 5<br>Danielle Roose   | 6  |
| 7<br>Brayden Wehrle<br>Landon<br>Nunnikhoven  | 8                                     | 9<br>Ramona<br>Starkenbourg<br>Marla Ver Meer   | 10<br> | 11<br>Kim Bolt<br>Edgar Gritters*<br>Katie Verhoef      | 12<br>Diane Vos   | 13<br>Marinella Van Hal*<br>Ben Disselkoen |
| 14<br>Gerrit Vande Zande  | 15<br>Janet Jansen*<br>Brad Nikkel    | 16<br>Jon Lauer<br>Roger Van Hal<br>Phil Goodyk | 17<br>Beth Van Maanen   | 18<br>Fran De Haan<br>Linda Rus*<br>Caitlin Klingenberg | 19<br>Damaso Urena  | 20<br>Laverne Roose*                       |
| 21<br> | 22<br>Evelyn Rozendaal*<br>Evie Mick  | 23<br>Ron Fulkner                               | 24<br>Mary Pommer   | 25<br>Abbey Lauer                                       | 26<br>Bruce Groenendyk  | 27   |
| 28<br>Marsha Wetter   | 29<br>Ron Wichhart*                   | 30  | 31<br>Malachi Van Beek<br>Barb Jochems<br>Jason Clendenen                                 |   |  |  |