

CALVARY COURIER

January 2026

Youth Group Service Trip to The Well

On Nov. 19, Calvary High School Youth Group used their Wednesday night meeting time to step out of the youth house and enter into the community by joining The Well for a service night. Our students and leaders spent the evening helping sort donations in the stockrooms of the thrift store as well as assembling parts and packaging for Vermeer in the Well Works workshop. All this work was done with the intention of helping not just The Well, but the people The Well seeks to serve. We do this because we believe it is important to show our students how being a follower of Christ isn't just about being someone who knows and loves Him in concept but being someone who is willing to live for Him in action! Acts of service such as joining The Well for service nights are just some of the many ways we can tangibly live into the life Christ calls his followers to live. Of course, we believe that EVERYTHING we do – whether in word or deed – should be done as a means of worship to glorify God and express our gratitude for who He is and what He has done, but it's always good to follow that up with these kind of intentional nights of service – pouring into the community and by extension the people God has called us to love.



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Council Highlights – Dec 15, 2025

Mike Jansen opened devotions by reading Deut 6:4-9, Mark 10:13-16 and from "Children and Youth Ministry" from Guide For A Healthy Church. We offered prayers of healing for Lisa Groenendyk with meningitis and for Luella Bandstra and Fran Poortinga with heart problems. We asked for comfort for Nora Van Weelden's family and comfort for the Iowa Guardsmen who were killed. We gave thanks for the children's Christmas program and prayed for students taking exams this week.

Welcomed new Council members who were observing the December meeting. The new members will be installed Sunday, January 4. They received orientation on access to Google Drive, Breeze, email, and the handbook. All announcements that need immediate attention are sent by text.

Pastor Roger was out of town December 16-19 for a doctor's appointment in Sioux Falls. He has visited several widows, attended staff and committee meetings, and led the internment ceremony for Vern Van Zanten.

Pastor Nate continued his leadership with the youth. He plans to start a Young Adult Care Team and has written a plan for the team. He will be on vacation Dec 26 – Jan 2.

Pastor Sheldon met with the family of Vern Van Zanten and officiated his funeral. He continues to meet with the sick, shut-ins, and widows and anyone else who need extra care.

At the November Congregational Meeting, the legality of providing a Health Savings Account (HSA) to Pastor Nate was questioned. Calvary's accountant firm, Welgaard, determined that Calvary can contribute to an HSA for Pastor Nate regardless of if he is enrolled in a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) or not. It is Pastor Nate's responsibility when filing taxes to account for this contribution accordingly. If his family is not enrolled in a HDHP, then he cannot take advantage of the tax breaks for HSA's and must report this contribution as normal income to be taxed. Currently, Calvary contributes directly to an HSA account at Marion County Bank for Pastor Nate, and this is reported on his W2 as such.

The Council set the meeting schedule for 2026. The Council will meet on the third Monday of Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Oct and Dec to conduct church business. The Deacons and Elders will meet separately after the Council business meeting. The Council will meet Aug and Nov to discern Calvary's direction. The Deacons and Elders will meet after the discernment meetings at their discretion. The Shepherding District Teams will meet Feb and Apr. No Deacon or Elder meetings after the shepherd meetings. No meetings in June.

The Council elected Eric Vande Zande as President and Tim Roose as Clerk. The Consistory elected Randy Nugteren as Consistory President and Rod Jansen as Consistory Clerk/Recorder. The Deacon officers will be:

Chairman of Deacons: Shawn DeVries
Vicar (Deacon Vice President): Joe Goodyk

Secretary of Deacons: Cindy Gritters
General Treasurer: David Van Hal
Assistant General Treasurer: Leanne Hogan
Special Collections/Missions Treasurer: Randy Kelderman
Benevolence Funds Treasurer: Cory Mass
Building Fund/Capital Improvement Treasurer: Cindy Van Weelden
Memorial Fund Treasurer: Becky Disselkoen
Classical Ministries: Jeff Poortinga

The Admin Council will be Eric Vande Zande (Council President), Randy Nugteren (Consistory President), Tim Roose (Council Clerk), Rod Jansen (Consistory Clerk), Shawn DeVries (Deacon Chair), Leanne Hogan (Asst Treasurer) and Pastor Roger. Kevin Vos is leaving after serving a 2 term as a retired elder advisor. Bill Strong will take his place. Mike Jansen has agreed to serve a 1 year term as an advisor to help with the transition. Roger Van Hal will continue as an advisor.

Rob Van Beek closed the meeting with prayer.

Calvary Church Welcomes Tyler Dafflitto



Tyler was born August 10, 1999, at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, to Mary and Dane Dafflitto. He grew up in Newton, Iowa. While growing up he participated in jazz band, marching band, regular band, soccer, cross country, track, and swim team which is where Alexis and he were mutual friends. After high school, he traveled to the east coast to pursue trade school to learn how to

work on cars. Upon returning home, he worked as a tech at Dewey Dodge for two years. He later started working at Vermeer Corporation as a welder on third shift. While at Vermeer, he enlisted into the National Guard and became a 91F small arms artillery repair man. Tyler married Alexis De Vries on July 29, 2023. Alexis is the daughter of Thomas and Jill De Vries who also attend Calvary Church. Tyler received his E5 military rank a week before his daughter Seraphina was born. Tyler is currently a robotic welder at Co-line on third shift. His hobbies include playing video games, cooking/grilling, outdoor activities including hiking, fishing, recreational shooting, PRS shooting, and hunting.

Welcome to Calvary Church Tyler. We rejoice with you in your adult baptism and profession of faith.

Thanksgiving Donations

Thanksgiving Funds Overview:

- Chicago Westside School \$1,000.00
- New Life Prison Ministry \$1,180.00
- Pella Food Shelf \$3,810.00
- Knoxville Food Shelf \$50.00
- Mobility Worldwide - IA (PET) \$1,715.00
- World Renew \$2,395.00
- The Well \$855.00
- World Renew - Disaster Relief \$300.00
- Luke Society \$2,965.00
- Resonate Global Missions \$3,450.00
- Pathways of Pella \$1,345.00
- Reframe Ministries \$785.00
- Hospice of Pella \$2,050.00
- Rehoboth Christian School \$1,240.00
- Roseland Christian Ministries \$1,005.00
- Laura Hessing Memorial \$100.00
- Red Rock Ministries \$50.00
- Hope Ministries - (Bethel) \$1,500.00
- Calvary (As Needed) \$765.00
- Joshua Christian Academy \$2,085.00
- Bible League \$755.00
- Crossroads of Pella \$920.00
- REMM \$1,050.00
- Pella Christian Grade School \$295.00
- Crossroads Prison Ministries \$135.00
- Christian Opportunity Center \$880.00
- Many Hands for Haiti \$2,195.00
- Calvary - Missions Fund \$500.00
- Pella Christian High School \$150.00
- World Hunger \$50.00
- Calvin University \$100.00
- Calvin Seminary \$100.00
- Grace Therapeutic \$500.00
- o Grand Total: \$36,275.00

Our Foundation and Future: A Historical Vision of Growth

As our church uncovers God's vision for Calvary in this next season, Jim Van Zee thoughtfully explores the rich history and foundation God has woven from Calvary's foundation.

Our Foundation and Future: A Historical Vision of Growth

Did you know that the vision for Calvary Church's future was beautifully articulated way back in 1956?

As the Finance Committee prepared a 12-page report on funding the construction of our church building, they included a brief history. That history contains a powerful sentence—a prayer and a vision—that still speaks to our mission today:

"We pray that He has and will cause us to grow, not only materially and numerically, but also spiritually in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; That we may be an instrument in His hand toward the extension of His Kingdom, the up building of His people, and the spread of His gospel unto the salvation of sinners."

A Legacy of Faith and Growth

This single sentence centers on the word "grow." Our early leaders didn't just thank God for the growth they had experienced; they petitioned Him to continue blessing us—spiritually, materially, and numerically.

They understood the core mission of the church. They believed that if we remained faithful to that mission, God would bless us with continued growth. This growth isn't just about the size of our building or the number of people in the pews; it's about the depth of our faith.

Transformation: Our Mission in a Word

If we had to sum up the mission of the church in a single word, transformation would be an excellent choice! The Bible gives us a perfect picture of this transformed life in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

That's the essence of transformation—a life changed by Jesus Christ. As a church, we are called to be an agent of this change:

- We are called to change people's lives right here in our community.
- We are called to change our culture and our world by sharing the Gospel.

When we gather for worship, we create an opportunity for a transforming encounter with Jesus. It's in God-centered worship that we express our deep gratitude for the free gift of His grace. And because we've received this incredible gift, our highest priority remains the same as our founders' vision: to share the good news of the Gospel with others.

Let's continue to pray and live out this powerful vision for growth and transformation!

January 2026

