

CALVARY COURIER

April 2026

Council Highlights March 2026

Devotions: Council president Eric Vande Zande opened the meeting with devotions from *The Good News We Almost Forgot* by Kevin DeYoung, reflecting on Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 2 and how we gain knowledge of our true condition.

Prayer: The Council offered prayers for Goldie Dingeman who is struggling with headaches, Curt Vink whose father passed away, and for Randy's brother Dan Nugteren in the loss of his wife Rose. Prayers were also offered for safe travels for those on spring break and for the success of the pastoral search committee.

Sharing and Appreciation: The Council expressed appreciation for the support and participation in the GEMS and Cadets fundraisers held recently and for the Sunday morning service that recognized these ministries. Appreciation was expressed for preaching in recent services and for the use of Powerpoint slides to help focus our attention on the message.

Pastoral Updates: Pastor Roger reported on his activities during February and March which included preaching 9 times and various meetings. He noted his member visits and expressed appreciation for the video broadcasts of services done by the video ministry team that many shut-ins enjoy.

- Pastor Nate described the progress to date of the Young Adult Care team that has begun to meet. He described several social events with Young Adults over the holidays as well as the formation of a Young Families group that is going well.

- Pastor Sheldon's written report summarized his activities in January and February.

Mutual Censure: During a time of mutual censure the Council discussed ways in which the work of the Council could be improved as well as ways in which things have gone well. Encouragement was offered for all.

Background Check: The Council approved a proposal to implement a background check done by a third party for everyone who works with children in church sponsored programs. The intent is to complete this before the fall education season begins.

Budget: The Council discussed the 2026 budget. An error was discovered after the congregational vote was held in November. Once corrected the actual budget was about \$5,600 higher at \$695,112.59. This amount is still 5% lower than the previous year. It was decided by consensus that no further action needed to be taken regarding this.

Sanctuary Renovation: A review of the costs for the work revealed that additional padding for the pews needs to be purchased. A motion was approved to transfer \$20,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Building Fund to bring the total dollars allocated to \$140,000 for this work. The work is projected to be started and completed in July.

Members: A request from Daniel Jungling that his membership be transferred to Bethel CRC in Sioux Center was approved.

SERVE: A proposal from ThereforeGo Ministries for Calvary to host a SERVE team in the future was presented. SERVE is a one week mission trip that introduces high school and middle school students to spreading the Gospel through missional living and issues of justice. Our church would take responsibility for hosting the students and planning their activities. The Council expressed interest in a more detailed proposal in the future.

Closing: Elder Rod Jansen closed the meeting with prayer.

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Library Update

THANK YOU to the church members who participated in our Library Winter Reading Program! We had 20 adults read 64 books and 12 children read 117 books!
Reading IS Snow Much Fun!

LIST OF BOOKS ADDED TO OUR CHURCH LIBRARY IN THE PAST 8 MONTHS

Spiritual Living & Biographies:

Good Boundaries and Goodbyes	Lysa Terkeurst
Sound Theology	Randall Dean Engle
Saving Our Children In A World Gone Crazy	Jeff Keaton
There Is Blessing In The Battle	Marijka Michmershuizen
Following Jesus In A Warming World	Kyle Meynaard-Schaap

Children:

God Is Three In One	Jennifer Bosma
When God Makes Scribbles Beautiful	Kate Rietema
Grandma's Blessing	Michelle Medlock Adams
From God To Me: Bible Stories Collection	Bible League International

Juvenile:

Double Cross Down Under	Marianne Hering
Being Baxters	Karen Kingsbury and Tyler Russell
Drought, Wind, and Fire	Marianne Hering
This Is The Summer	Elizabeth Graver

Fiction:

Sunrise Reef	Irene Hannon
Midnight On The Scottish Shore	Sarah Sundin
An Unexpected Grace	Tracie Peterson & Kimberley Woodhouse
Capture The Moment	Suzanne Woods Fisher
Cornered	Lynette Eason, Lynn Blackburn and Natalie Walters
When Stars Light The Sky (Set of 3)	Elizabeth Camden
The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill (Set of 3)	Julie Klassen
The Lost Heiress (Set of 3)	Roseanna M. White
The Keeper	Charles Martin
All We Thought We Knew	Michelle Shocklee
From The Valley We Rise	Elizabeth Musser
One Wrong Move	Dani Pettrey
Two Seconds Too Late	Dani Pettrey
The Christmas Ring	Karen Kingsbury
The Collector of Burned Books	Roseanna White
Never Fall Again	Lynn Blackburn
Break My Fall	Lynn Blackburn
Target Acquired (Set of 3)	Lynette Eason
My Beloved	Jan Karon
Track of Courage	Susan May Warren



Young At Heart Learn About Dog Training

Recently, the Young At Heart Group learned about dog training when one of Calvary Church's young adults came to give a presentation. Erika Sytsma recently spent 20 weeks at the Conifer Canine Dog Training College in Spencer, Indiana. She also brought her dog, Ace, a beautiful black lab, along with her.

Erika showed us various videos of the dog training she completed while at the college. She explained that dogs can be trained for many things, such as detection, trailing, and apprehension. She also said that dogs are born with certain instincts, and some breeds are better at certain tasks than others. For example, a German Shepherd is well suited for police detection work.

Erika showed us a video of dogs trained to trail a person. All of us shed dead skin cells and leave behind certain scents as we move. These can be detected by trained trailing dogs, allowing them to follow and locate a missing or wanted person. Dogs can also be trained to detect cancer in people or sense a diabetic attack in a person before it happens.

Erika has trained Ace in bedbug detection. Before the program, she hid Q-tips and other items throughout the Fellowship Hall with bedbug scent on them. Ace did a great job locating each one. Thank you, Erika and Ace.

We had an informative time, and Ace was a real hit with our group. We enjoyed tasty treats and good conversation after the presentation.



ReFrame Ministry Resources

Kids Corner Devotions: Courageous Twists and Turns - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Courageous Twists and Turns," at www.kidscorner.net. Feeling scared is okay, and being brave means trying even when your heart feels nervous. With God's help, you can face hard things and do what's right, just like Jesus did. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

Groundwork: Jesus on the Cross - Jesus' journey to the cross was done. But even as he hung dying on the cross, he showed compassion and mercy when he offered words of salvation to a crucified thief and established a new kind of family. Join Groundwork as we study Luke 23:39-43 and John 19:25-27 to experience the eleventh and twelfth Stations of the Cross and discuss how God continues to offer us that same mercy and belonging today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

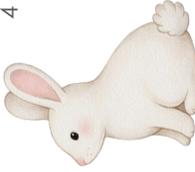


**ReFrame
Ministries**

God's Story. Today's Media.



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dave Verschuure*	2 Tricia De Haan Darlene Klein*	3 Jenna Vande Zande Tanya Roose	4 
5 Lee Zondervan	6 	7	8	9	10 Kimmy Marsh Ryan Van Kooten	11
12 Ryer Vande Zande	13 Jemma Schutte Martie De Boef	14 Marj Sikma*	15 Clair Van Wyngarden Aaron Sanders	16	17 Dan Jungling Dorothy Van Kooten* Marilyn Veenstra*	18 Wavern De Vries Ed Vande Pol*
19 Eden Verhoef	20 Brenda Van Hal	21 Rhett De Vries Remington De Vries	22 	23 Jill De Vries	24 Jonathan Dookter Stacy Schutte	25 Bryan Bandstra
26 Donna Gosselink*	27 	28 Amy Van Wyk Grant Roose	29	30 Howard Vroom		