

CALVARY COURIER

October 2026

September Council Highlights

Devotions: Council opened with devotions from The Good News We Almost Forgot by Kevin DeYoung, reflecting on Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 6 and the rich biblical teaching on Christ's atonement—His expiation, redemption, reconciliation, and propitiation. Council was reminded again of the centrality of the cross and the good news that through Christ we are forgiven, made right with God, and set free.

Prayer: The Council prayed for Pastor Josh and his family as they consider the call extended to him. Prayers were offered for Mom's Life, Sunday School, GEMS, Cadets, and all Wednesday night ministries. Prayers were offered for favorable weather for local farmers during the harvest season. Council also prayed for those receiving elder and deacon nomination letters, asking for clarity and willingness as they discern their call to serve.

Sharing and Appreciation: Council celebrated strong participation in recent fellowship events and expressed appreciation for new volunteers in nursery and GEMS. Gratitude was shared for the creativity and initiative of the new knitting club, led by two young women. Council also noted the value of the Prayer & Praise email and the continued fruitfulness of Calvary's discipleship ministries.

Pastor Nate reported on a full summer of youth ministry—Serve Trip, Chicago Trip, preaching responsibilities, and volunteer recruitment. All fall volunteer positions were filled, a significant improvement over last year.

Pastor Sheldon's written report was reviewed.

Nominations: Council continues working through elder and deacon nominations. Several positive responses have been received, and additional letters will be sent to ensure a full slate. Council members will personally follow up with nominees, encouraging thoughtful conversation and discernment.

Letter of Call: Council unanimously approved the Letter of Call for Pastor Josh Van Engen. The letter follows denominational guidelines and outlines preaching expectations, leadership responsibilities, and compensation. The signed call letter will be sent to Pastor Josh for prayerful consideration.

SERVE 2027: Council affirmed Calvary's commitment to hosting SERVE in 2027. Hosting will involve adjustments to youth programming and require strong congregational participation. SERVE director Amanda Roozeboom will guide Calvary through the process. Council sees this as a meaningful opportunity to bless young people, serve the community, and live out our mission "Every day, Everywhere."

Classis: Delegates reported on recent Classis activity, including updates on emerging churches, denominational resources, and opportunities for congregational involvement.

Financial & Administrative Items: Council reviewed the first reading of the 2027 budget, discussed ministry shares and staff compensation. Council also affirmed the practice of reporting staff compensation as a combined total rather than individually.

Closing: Council closed in prayer, asking for God's continued guidance as Calvary seeks to be real people living in grace, growing in faith, and following Jesus every day, everywhere.

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Welcome the Melo Rodriguez Family

José Melo and Esmirna Rodriguez are originally from the Dominican Republic, where they were both born and raised. Throughout their lives, they have been blessed with opportunities to live, work, and serve in different countries—experiences that have strengthened their faith, broadened their perspective, and deepened their appreciation for family, community, and God's guidance in every stage of life.

Before making Pella their home, the family lived in Kingston, Jamaica, where they spent several years. José worked there in executive leadership positions within the technology and telecommunications industry, leading large-scale business transformation, information technology, and telecommunications projects throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Throughout his career, he has served in senior leadership roles with multinational companies, helping organizations modernize their technology infrastructure, improve business operations, and lead multicultural teams across several countries. He enjoys solving complex challenges, mentoring others, and continuously learning about leadership, innovation, business strategy, and emerging technologies.

Esmirna has dedicated much of her professional life to education. She is passionate about helping young people learn, grow, and discover new opportunities through language and culture. Today, she teaches at Pella Christian Schools, where she has the privilege of sharing both the Spanish language and Hispanic culture with her students while encouraging them to become lifelong learners.

The Melo Rodriguez family has called Pella, Iowa, home since 2023. They have quickly come to appreciate the warmth, kindness, and strong sense of community they have found here. They are thankful for the friendships they have built and are especially grateful for the opportunity to become part of the Calvary Church family.

Family is at the center of everything they do. Their oldest daughter, Nyah, recently graduated from Pella Christian High School and is beginning an exciting new chapter as a freshman at the University of Iowa. During her years at Pella Christian, she participated in volleyball, soccer, and cheerleading. She looks forward to continuing her education while embracing new opportunities and experiences in college.

Their second daughter, Paloma, is now a sophomore at Pella Christian High School. She enjoys learning, spending time with friends, and being actively involved in school activities. She is a member of the school's tennis program, has participated in cross country, and enjoys riding her bicycle whenever she has the opportunity. Her parents are proud of the thoughtful, kind, and determined young woman she is becoming.

Their youngest son, Itamar, is eight years old and attends Pella Christian Grade School. He brings endless curiosity, enthusiasm, and joy to the family. He especially enjoys playing with his classmates and friends, and his cheerful personality keeps everyone smiling.

As a family, they enjoy traveling, discovering new cultures, spending quality time together, and supporting one another in every stage of life. They enjoy family movie nights, exploring new places, sharing meals, and celebrating both their Dominican heritage and the opportunities God has provided through living in different parts of the world. José especially enjoys playing golf whenever Iowa's weather allows, appreciating both the challenge of the game and the time it provides to enjoy the outdoors. Together, they believe that every new experience is an opportunity to learn, grow, and serve others.

Above all, José and Esmirna seek to build a Christ-centered home where faith, integrity, humility, compassion, and service guide their daily lives. They are grateful to have found a church family at Calvary where they can worship, grow spiritually, build lasting friendships, and serve alongside others.

They are excited about this new chapter in their lives and look forward to getting to know the Calvary family better in the years ahead.

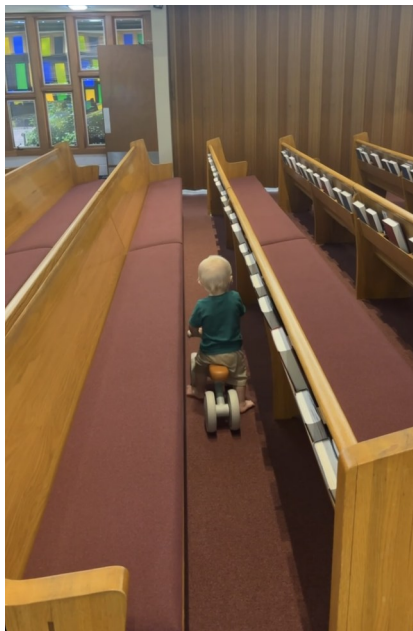
Calvary Church extends a warm welcome to you, Melo, Esmirna, Nyah, Paloma & Itamar.



THANK YOU, KELDERMAN FAMILY, FOR 45 YEARS AS CALVARY'S CUSTODIANS

When the Arvin Kelderman family was asked to become Calvary Church's custodians in September of 1981, they wondered how it would ever work. They had four children: Peggy was 7, Ryan was 6, Curt was 4, and Randy was 1 and a half years old. After considering the advantages of the job: they could walk to work, take the kids along, have flexible hours, and have another income, they took the job. Their starting wage in 1982 of \$8600.00 would certainly help their family. Their job included not only taking care of the church building, but also the church campus by mowing the lawn, planting the flowers, raking the leaves and removing the snow. These responsibilities remain the same today.

In the early years, Arvin went to church at 5:30 AM to unlock the doors, to check on things, and do some cleaning before breakfast at 7:00 AM. He left for work at Ulrich Motor at 7:30 AM and came home at lunch so he could adjust the heat and lights for the afternoon meetings at church. After work, he would go back to church to adjust the lights for the evening meetings. When all the evening meetings were over, he would go back to the church and make sure all the lights were shut off, the heat was turned down and the doors were locked. After lunch on Sundays, two of the four kids took turns going to church with him. They would change the song numbers on the song boards in front of the church, straighten the songbooks and Bibles in the pews, remove the bulletins from the racks and pick up the songbooks and Bibles left on the 50 chairs used for the morning service in the Fellowship Hall. (Have you ever noticed that even today all the books in the racks are in a straight line, from front to back?) Mopping the Fellowship Hall floor always had a set routine. Everyone would grab a mop stick, and they usually started on the west side and worked across the room in 5 or 6 tile strips. One Saturday after a Friday night wedding, the job was not done well enough the first time, so they had to mop it again. Because the boys had a "bad attitude," they mopped a third time- everyone was very quiet! During the services, the Kelderman family would always sit in the back pew on the right side, since Arvin was also responsible for operating the sound system, which consisted of approximately a 12"x 12" box with 4-6 switches on it.



The Arvin Kelderman Family
Arvin, Randy, Curt, Ryan, Peggy, Judy
Church Custodians

At that time Calvary Church consisted of the sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall, and the hallway that now is the library and Children's Worship rooms. All the floors were tiled floors. The campus consisted of the church grounds and the Pastor's parsonage grounds on Maple Street. The Kelderman's have certainly seen a lot of changes over the past 45 years. Each time a new building proposal was passed, they took a deep breath and a big sigh of relief when every project was completed. As the campus grew, cleaning responsibilities increased. The west educational wing was built in 2000, the office addition was added in 2007, and the new entry way and the south educational wing were added in 2013. The purchase and addition of the Youth House property and the purchase of the 1360 Orchard Drive property meant more cleaning and two more yards to care for. Each addition brought more restrooms to clean for a total of 12 restrooms with 21 toilets, and 16 sinks to clean, along with mopping all the floors every week. Even though remodeling and renovations caused messes, the finished projects were always rewarding and appreciated. During the Kelderman tenure there were 39 remodeling and construction projects completed.

Kelderman's Continued

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Now, you might think that the summers might be an easy time for the Kelderman family, since there were no church activities going on. Well, this was not the case. Every summer after Bible School was over, the Kelderman's would begin their deep cleaning of the whole church and the Youth House. This would mean wiping every table, every chair, cleaning the kitchen cupboards, washing all the windows, cleaning the lights and much, much more. Every nook and cranny were cleaned.

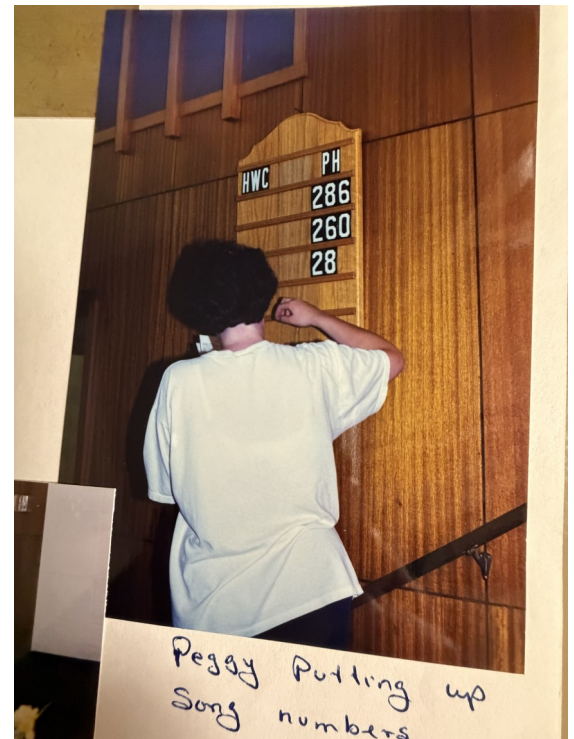
The Kelderman family certainly has some memories. too many to share here, so if you see them you might want to ask them. Some of the kids remember removing black shoe marks from the floors, picking up cigarette butts out of the rocks by the north doors, scrubbing and waxing floors, and looking for lost jewelry in the vacuum bag and finding it. A couple of the boys helped the contractors with the new additions, and a few pranks took place. The grandkids often helped during the summer. They remember washing racks of chairs and polishing the pews with Kleen and Shine. They also trimmed bushes and mowed lawn at the church, parsonage, Youth House, and Pastor Sheldon's house. In the fall they raked and picked up many leaves. A couple of the grandsons did most of the electrical work and hung the lights in the Fellowship Hall. A special memory of the grandkids was when every Sunday night after the church service they would all go along with Grandpa to the church to shut off the lights and lock the doors, with some of the youngest ones being pushed in a stroller.

They also had a few surprises and exciting times, like discovering vandalism on desks and tables, liquid soap spread on the lady's bathroom floor, catching bats in the church, finding a non-member sleeping under a church pew and having monitors and alarms sounding off in the middle of the night. Now, that's some excitement!

A few things have changed: no more tile floors to be stripped and waxed, no more pews to polish up with Kleen and Shine, and the sound board today has way more than 4-6 switches. Now Arvin can lock and unlock some of the doors, and he can adjust the temperature with his phone from home. The Kelderman family is now four generations. Great-grandson Luke is riding his tricycle through the benches when Grandma Michelle cleans the sanctuary.

The Kelderman family goal has been to make Calvary CRC an inviting, pleasant, and comforting place for all people who enter the doors. They are so thankful for all the support and laughter over the years. They feel their family, 3 generations, have been richly blessed. GOD HAS BEEN SO GOOD!

We at Calvary Church want to express our deepest gratitude to the Kelderman family from our congregation for all your hard work and faithful service to us. It is all very much appreciated! May God bless you in your retirement.



Young At Heart– Christmas and Butterflies

The Young At Heart group gathered in August to celebrate “Christmas in August.” We played games, we gave some nice and some funny gifts to each other, and we enjoyed some snacks and refreshments together.

In September, Sher Fulker presented a program on the Monarch butterfly to the Young AT Heart friends. Sher, up until just recently, has been raising the Monarchs for many years. Why does she do so? Sher claims one of her favorite verses in the Bible is, “Psalm 104:24: “O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures.” She feels compelled to do this also because the Monarch Butterfly has such a high rate of fatality. Sher has raised the Monarchs during all their stages: the egg, to the larva (caterpillar), to the pupa (chrysalis), and to the adult butterfly. A female Monarch may lay hundreds of eggs in her lifetime, but predators are a high risk to the life stages of the Monarch. Wasps, ants, spiders and some birds are the causes of fewer than only 10% of the Monarch eggs surviving. Also, the only food supply for all stages of the Monarch is milkweed plant, and there are fewer milkweed plants around than there used to be.



Sher not only raised the Monarchs but also tagged them for migration research. Monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains migrate to Mexico to hibernate for the winter. That last generation that migrates to Mexico are called Methuselah Monarchs because they live so much longer. Some of Sher's Monarchs have been found in Mexico after a 1,500-mile journey. God is truly an amazing God. We only need to look at creation and the Monarch butterfly to see how amazing He is.

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October 2026

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