



CALVARY

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



CHURCH PROFILE

January 2026

WHO WE ARE

Calvary is a community that prioritizes love, acceptance and service, not only in shared Sunday worship, but every day of the week. We strive to be a place where everyone belongs, compassion is shown, and individuals can be their authentic selves. Calvary is navigating a leadership transition and, due to changes within the Christian Reformed Church, is in the process of most likely disaffiliating from the denomination while seeking to balance tradition and change. We are grateful for our past, aware of current challenges, and hopeful for a future marked by growth, both numerical and spiritual, and a deeper engagement with the wider world. (see “Who We Are” document, May 2025)

MISSION

We are here to share the transformational love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

VISION

We will see people experiencing the gifts of God's goodness. People will be valued, belong, and know peace, hope, and purpose.

VALUES *Who we are at our very best*

- 1 We love each other well and live together in the messy. We will disagree but we value unity over agreement.
- 2 We are welcoming and promote belonging together in our imperfections.
- 3 We are an authentic, loving community, growing together.
- 4 We practice grateful generosity with our time, talents, resources and facility. We also collaborate purposefully with our community and ministry partners—to accomplish more than we could do alone.



CALVARY'S CORE BELIEFS

- 1 Calvary believes in one Triune God, as revealed in the Scriptures and in Creation, and affirmed in the Church's ancient creeds.
- 2 Calvary believes in the all-encompassing love of the Father, the saving work of Jesus Christ and the transcending power of the Holy Spirit.
- 3 Calvary deeply values being part of the Reformed tradition with its history, structure, Church Order, and the Reformed Confessions.
- 4 Calvary's leaders affirm these Confessions in their historical context, also allowing individuals and leaders to struggle with and potentially disagree with specific teachings under the supervision of Calvary's Church Council.

CALVARY'S CORE APPROACH TO MINISTRY

- 1 Belonging comes before belief; belief comes before Godly behavior. Intentional ministry fosters all three.
 - a. You don't have to be perfect to be part of the Calvary family. Like in Jesus' ministry, any who wants to belong can belong; there are no barriers.
 - b. Belief is defined by a deepening understanding of God's grace.
 - c. Godly behavior is defined by behaving like Jesus—loving God and loving others—and by demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit.
- 2 Belonging, belief, and Godly behavior can only happen through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

CALVARY'S CORE COMMITMENT TO HUMILITY

- 1 Because no one understands God perfectly, Calvary holds its beliefs with humility, valuing unity over uniformity.
- 2 Because human relationships are also complicated, Calvary does not have all the answers and does not have all the messy aspects of relationships figured out. We do affirm that each person at Calvary is richer because of their relationships with others, especially those from different backgrounds and cultures.
- 3 Calvary is deeply aware of the power dynamics that can intentionally or unintentionally function in churches. Calvary resists the tendencies to view people as "us" and "them;" as those able to help and those needing help.

RECENT HISTORY

Following a major and difficult transition of asking Doug Kamstra, who served at Calvary for 30 years, to discontinue being pastor at our church, Calvary emerged in 2012 with Mark VanDrunen as its pastor and a renewed commitment to being a church for our community. Our membership grew in amazing ways and within a year John Quist, our previous youth leader, returned to staff as both youth leader and church administrator. During the early years of Pastor Mark's tenure, our Coffee Spot ministry began with Sara Jewett as a part time social worker and diaconal ministry coordinator. By October of 2017,



the Lighthouse Community Center spun off of the Coffee spot to launch a community center based out of our church with Shanna Grigoletti as its director. These three staff members have been an invaluable and

stabilizing presence for our church family. In that same fall of 2017, Calvary added Heather Strooboscher as a part time pastor for congregational life. In the spring of 2018, Pastor Mark and several Calvary members began Daffodil Ministries, an organization to help survivors of domestic abuse. As Calvary approached the new decade in 2020, it was a vibrant and growing expression of God's goodness.

As with many churches, COVID hit Calvary head on. Our staff felt the stress of polarization and quarantines. Also, similar to many churches, in-person church attendance dropped off as people watched online. In addition, a job description dispute between Pastor Heather and the Personnel Committee and Council led to Pastor Heather choosing to leave in 2021. This time was also formative for us as a church as we responded to the George Floyd murder with a statement on Racial Justice and we also were led to publish a Statement of Confession to the LGBTQ+ community as an outgrowth of our faith, lament and calling. In May of 2024, after a few years that included a sabbatical and family medical leave, Pastor Mark felt called to step away as our pastor and from ministry. In September of 2024, Pastor Harold Veldman became our Specialized Transitional Minister (STM) and he led us through a period of reflection and review. We appointed a transition team, held multiple listening circles, and hosted a Mission Values Workshop (February 2025) which helped better identify who we are as a church and who God continues to call us to be. A strong theme coming out of the

RECENT HISTORY (CONTINUED)

workshop was the value to “love each other well and live together in the messy, we will disagree but we value unity over agreement.” We are also aware that we are our best selves when we are flexible, especially as life continues to send us challenges.

Finally, because of Synod’s 2024 and 2025’s decision to require Christian Reformed Church leaders to agree to strict confessional beliefs, many leaders and members in our church realized that Calvary’s values and recent history didn’t align with that strict confessional adherence even though, as a congregation, we maintain a traditional view of marriage. This has led Calvary to move towards disaffiliation the past 15 months. This has involved phone calls and visits with members, town halls, listening circles and finally a resolution to disaffiliate (approved by the congregation in December 2025), which council hopes will be realized by Summer of 2026.

Throughout the blessings and challenges of this recent history, members of Calvary have been rooted in God’s forgiving grace and goodness to Calvary. We remain positive that our essential calling to our community will grow even more under a new pastor!



CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS

The majority of Calvary members are white, middle class, and have a history in the Christian Reformed Church, however, over the last decade Calvary has become increasingly diverse in church background, race, and economic status. While not reaching the representation of the City of Wyoming, the diversity is notable when compared to many other Christian Reformed Churches.

Increasingly, the people who have joined Calvary come from other denominations, have no particular attachment to a denomination, or are new to the church in general. In terms of race, Calvary is majority white, a small but increasing minority black, and few Hispanic, Asian, and other racial categories. Through our community programs such as Coffee Spot and Lighthouse, many working class and those who live paycheck to paycheck have started attending Calvary. Indeed there are many who consider Calvary their church home even without attending Sunday services or becoming official members.

By the numbers, Calvary includes 160 active adult confessing members and slightly over 200 altogether, though the average Sunday attendance varies quite a bit. In general, around 100 members attend Sunday services. Some Sundays see a much smaller group or a larger crowd depending on the calendar, what's happening on a particular Sunday, and the coincidence of some less than every Sunday families. Up to a quarter of our weekly church attenders sit at the tables in the Fellowship Hall just outside the sanctuary instead of in the pews, many

of these are from the local community and prefer the ability to get up and move around. We also have regular attendees who watch our services online either live or throughout the week.



Calvary is a somewhat older congregation with many middle aged and retired members with grown or almost grown children with a smaller, but sizable group of younger adults (20s-30s) and a small number of children. Our Sunday school classes are around 6 kids in the elementary class, around 7 kids in the middle school class, and 7 teens in the high school youth group. There are also around 5-6 preschool and under children who attend nursery and children's worship. There is around a 2:1 ratio between married and single adult members and fairly evenly split among those who have grown children, children at home, or no children though leaning more towards having grown kids.

CHURCH AS A COMMUNITY CENTER

Long ago we realized that we have a large beautiful facility that can be a blessing to our community and we set out to find ways to make it available throughout the week. We started by adding **laundry facilities** and established a **Coffee Spot** which is now open to the community Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This ministry functions like a drop-in center where people can build relationships, enjoy conversation over a cup of coffee, utilize the available computers and WI-Fi, warm up or cool down depending on the weather, do their laundry, and meet with staff for support and help connecting with resources.

We also have a **Community Garden** on our property that we make available to neighbors and church members alike. It has become a vibrant spot for growing healthy food as well as friendships with our neighbors.

The Lighthouse Community Center operates out of our facility, partnering closely with the Coffee Spot, serving low income and unhoused in the Wyoming area. They work to equip and empower our neighbors to overcome social and economic hardships and to thrive by providing resources, support and hope. They offer many different programs and activities including a daily drop-in center, hygiene pantry, cooking classes, Pilates, clothing exchange, food distribution, and more. All of their programs reflect the values of dignity, compassion, equality and respect.

Twice a month we provide a **Feeding America Food Truck** servicing over 200 families and we host monthly community dinners.

Daffodil Ministries facilitates safe, sustainable housing, supportive relationships, and connections to local resources to survivors of domestic abuse in our community. Both Lighthouse and Daffodil are independent 501(c)(3) non-profits started by members of Calvary and remain closely supported by the church.

Our building is used as office space for **VIS (Volunteers in Service)** and **Koinonia Counseling Center**. We serve as a polling site, partner with Kent ISD Adult Special Education program located across the street, offer meeting space to a local girl scout troop, and our gym serves as a pickleball site. Even our onsite church parsonage is rented (at a reduced rate) to a recent refugee family. Currently, our church is also temporarily hosting a Congolese church, called The Way, as their regular meeting site is unavailable for a few months.

Over the years we have opened our doors to various outside groups including a basketball outreach, Teens Encountering Christ (TEC) youth weekends, Potter's House school retreats, and several small church plants. These ministries have ebbed and flowed as the Spirit has led. We've made it a priority to say "yes, let's see if we can make this work" as our default and the community and Calvary continue to be blessed through these relationships.

CHURCH STRUCTURE

CHURCH STAFF

Harold Veldman

Specialized Transition Pastor

John Quist

*Church Administrator &
High School Youth Leader*

Renee Marcusse

Church Office Assistant

Shanna Grigoletti

*Lighthouse Community
Center Director*

Sara Jewett

*Coffee Spot & Diaconal
Ministries Coordinator*

Joshua Gardner

Worship Director

Bobbie Brailey

Custodian

Leon De Lange

Accountant

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY CALVARY

Ben & Kari David

with Hope Speaks in Uganda

Jesse & Jari Rodriquez

*with Resonate Global
Missions in Nicaragua*

George & Sarah de Vuyst

*with Resonate Global
Missions, leading training
events for Healing Hearts,
Transforming Nations in
Europe, Africa, and
North America*

2025-2026 ELDERS

Steve Weeda ('27)

Chair/Council

Lois Craven ('28)

Vice Chair/Council

Jim Quist ('26)

Treasurer

Lance Griffioen ('26)

Clerk

Doug Bouws ('27)**Dale Elders ('27)****Matt Jewett ('26)****Mark Westrate ('28)**

2025-2026 DEACONS

Tim VandeZande ('26)

Chair/Deacons

John Christians ('27)

Treasurer

Carol Lamer ('27)

Clerk

Marilyn Brinks ('27)**Jan Luyk ('28)****Steve Willemstein ('28)**

NONPROFITS ASSOCIATED WITH CALVARY

**Lighthouse Community
Ministries**

Daffodil Ministries

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Cadets

(boys 4th-8th grade)

Children's Worship

(3 yr-1st grade)

Circle Groups

(short term small groups)

Coffee Spot**Community Garden****Food Truck****Hand2Hand Ministries**

*(providing food for local
school children)*

High School Youth

(9-12th grade)

Pickleball**Sunday School**

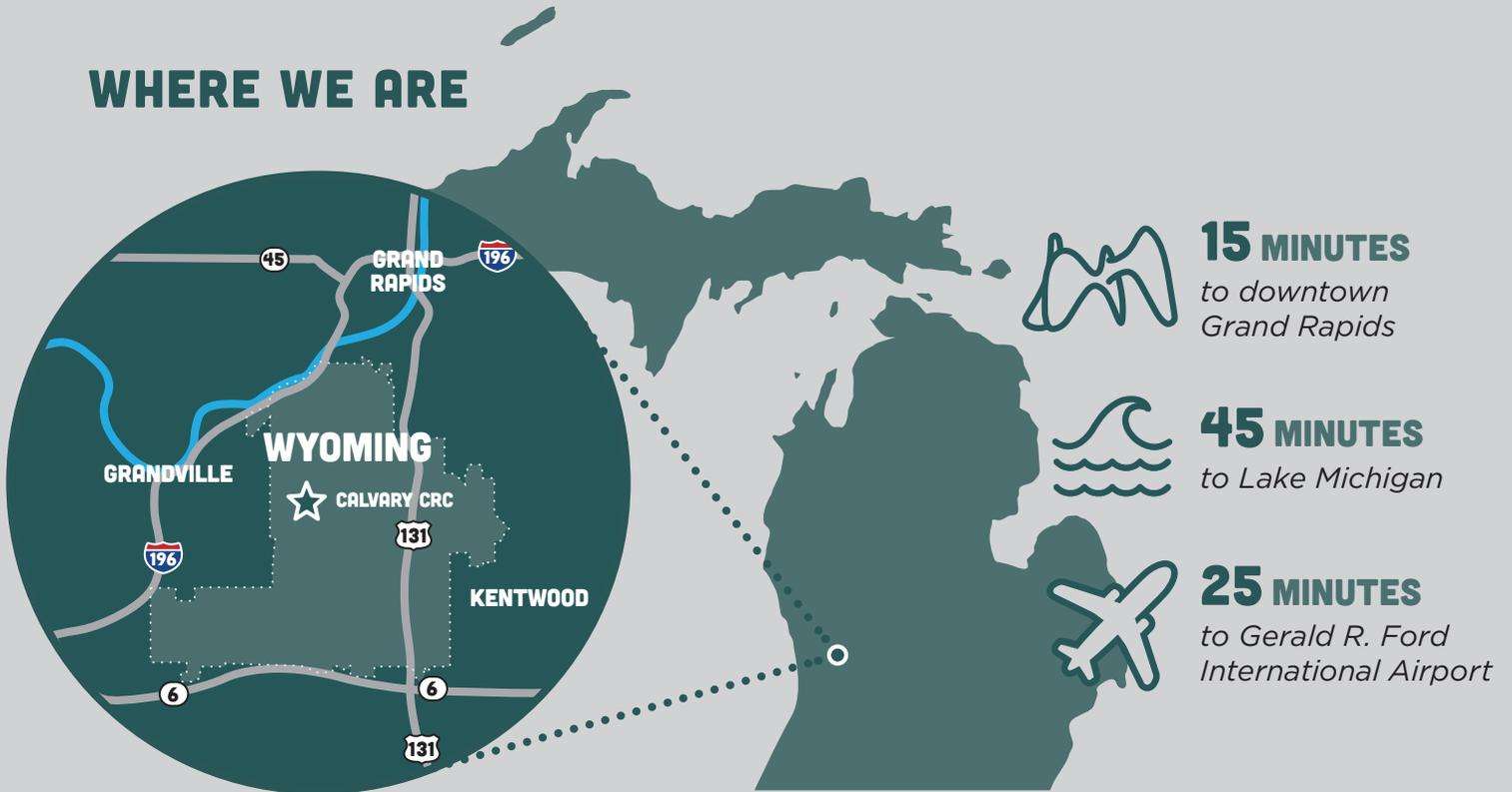
(K-8th grade)

TNT Senior Group**Women's Bible Study****Men's Bible Study**

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building and Grounds**Christian Education****Finance****Personnel****Worship Visual Arts**

WHERE WE ARE



WYOMING, MICHIGAN

Directly bordering Grand Rapids, Wyoming is a large suburban city with a population of over 76,000 residents, making it the second most-populated city in West Michigan. The city is known for its strong industrial history and a diverse community, with a notable Hispanic population. Traditionally known as a working class community, the city also has pockets of affluence. The neighborhood that surrounds Calvary is part of the Wyoming and Godfrey Lee school districts which are majority Hispanic with the K-8 grades being

at 80-90% eligible for free and reduced lunch programs based on family incomes and poverty level. Calvary members live in both the nearby neighborhoods and also the more affluent areas of Wyoming, as well as nearby Grandville, Byron Center, Jenison, Kentwood and Grand Rapids. Children of Calvary attend the local public schools as well as Grandville Public, Grand Rapids UPrep and several local Christian schools—Potter’s House, Anchor Point, and Grandville Calvin Christian.

WYOMING, MICHIGAN DEMOGRAPHICS BASED ON 2023 CENSUS DATAKEY

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Population:** ~76,865
- Median Age:** 33.8 years
- Median Household Income:** \$72,163
- Homeownership Rate:** 67.2%
- Poverty Rate:** 10.85%
- U.S. Citizens:** 93.4%

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Educational Attainment:

The most common educational levels for the working population are high school or equivalent and some college.

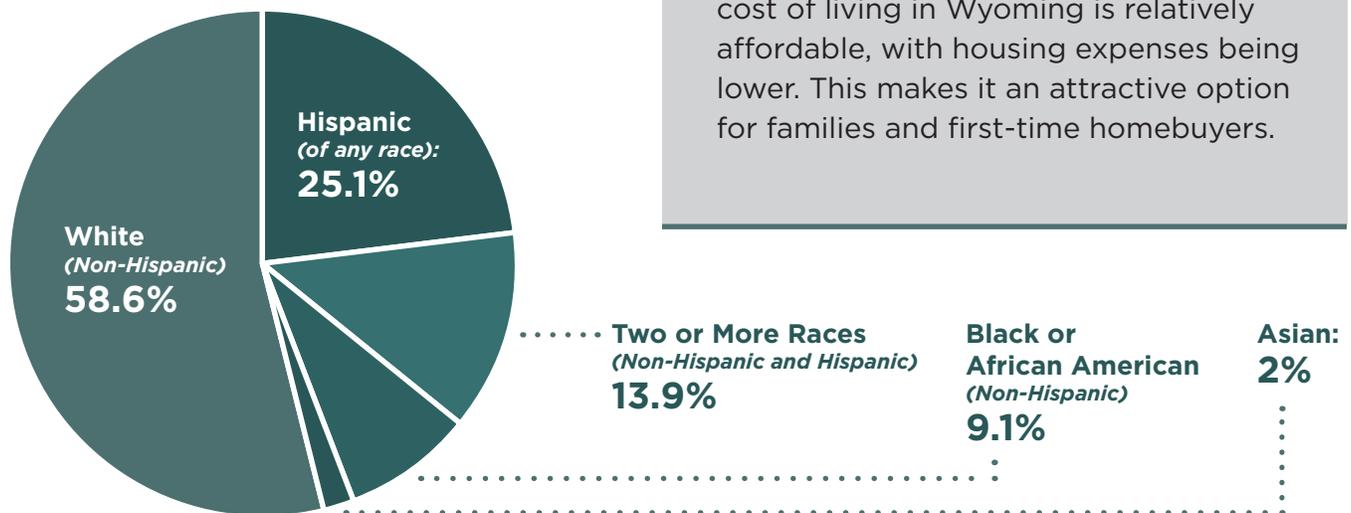
Most Common Industries:

Key employment sectors for residents include manufacturing, healthcare, social assistance, and retail trade.

Commute:

Most residents drive alone to work, with an average commute time of 21.4 minutes.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION



KEY FEATURES AND LIFESTYLE

Proximity to Amenities:

Wyoming is just minutes from downtown Grand Rapids, providing easy access to its job market, arts and culture scene, museums, and entertainment venues. The coast of Lake Michigan is only a 45-minute drive away.

Outdoor Recreation:

The city boasts more than 20 parks and 700 acres of public green space, including Lamar Park and Buck Creek Nature Preserve. Residents can enjoy walking trails, fishing, playgrounds, splash pads, sports fields, and disc golf.

Community and Events:

Wyoming fosters a strong sense of community through events like the summer concert series at Lamar Park and the annual 28th Street Metro Cruise car show. It also has a vibrant and active library with programming.

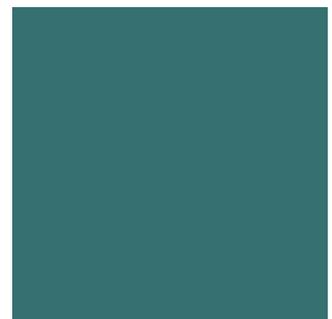
Cost of Living:

Compared to the national average, the cost of living in Wyoming is relatively affordable, with housing expenses being lower. This makes it an attractive option for families and first-time homebuyers.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Calvary is seeking a Senior Pastor to lead and partner with our congregation as we live and grow in our faith and share the transformational love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors. We are open to both male and female candidates. We seek candidates that are trained in the Reformed faith and, preferably, have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience as a pastor. We value qualities of

leadership and humility; wisdom, curiosity and insightfulness; transparency with good communication skills; integrity, compassion, empathy and flexibility. We are eager to welcome a pastor who will join us as we live in the messy middle of faith and life in today's culture, in our little piece of God's kingdom here on earth.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:

Lead Pastor

Reports To:

Calvary Consistory (Elders)

Usual Hours:

Full time, salaried

Job Overview

The Lead Pastor promotes the spiritual health, growth and wellbeing of the congregation through preaching, teaching, prayer and administration of the sacraments. The Lead Pastor is accountable to the Consistory in doctrine, life and duties. The Lead Pastor ensures that all of the ministries of the church are being implemented consistent with Scripture, the goals of the church and in accordance with the Reformed faith.

1. Worship and Preaching

- a. Promotes the vision and mission of Calvary Church to the congregation and the community
- b. Provides primary preaching responsibilities, sermon planning and coordinates the preaching schedule
- c. Coordinates worship services with worship/music coordinator and serves as worship leader
- d. Encourages spiritual growth and a daily walk of faith

2. Congregational Life

- a. Leads in empowerment of leaders and members in pastoral care
- b. Provides pastoral care to members and regular attenders
- c. Conducts baptisms, funerals, pre-marriage counseling, weddings and professions of faith

3. Discipleship, Outreach and Community Engagement

- a. Coordinates and delegates responsibilities for discipleship ministries
- b. Promotes, coordinates and equips leaders and volunteers in outreach ministries
- c. Participates in and serves as a role model for outreach and community engagement
- d. Fosters a servant heart in the membership of Calvary
- e. Represents Calvary in church relations, ministerial groups and classis

4. Leadership

- a. Participates in Calvary's Council and Consistory meetings
- b. Sets the direction for church staff, providing direct supervision and support

5. Other duties as assigned by the Consistory of Calvary**Qualifications**

1. Is a committed Christian demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit, speaking freely about a personal relationship with the Lord
2. Is an ordained minister in a Reformed church (CRC, RCA, PCUSA)—or qualified candidate
3. Has a demonstrated ability to perform the job duties as detailed above and has the skills to provide clear leadership to staff

HOW TO APPLY

Thank you for your interest in the Lead Pastor position at Calvary Christian Reformed Church.

To apply, please send:

- Resume / CV
- Cover Letter
- And any other supporting information

to the Pastor Search Team through this confidential email address:

pastorsearch@calvarywy.org

If you have any questions about the position or the search process, you may also email the committee at **pastorsearch@calvarywy.org** or contact the church office at **616-534-0934**.

We will begin processing applications the last week of March. Contacts of any kind remain confidential to the committee.

Kristi Potter

Chair, Pastor Search Team

SEARCH TEAM MEMBERS:

Julie Brill

Lois Craven

Council Vice President

Nick Elders

Pastor Harold Veldman

Transition Pastor/Advisor

Pastor Roger Visker

Steve Weeda

Council Chair

