



# Calvary Lutheran Church

## Congregational Meeting Agenda

### May 18, 2025

#### OPENING

Call to Order

Laura Aupperle

Reflection

Pastor Zach Dean

#### REPORT

Deaconship

Mark Nocero

#### BUSINESS

R.I.C. How We Got Here, *page 2*

Deacon Tanya Behnke

R.I.C. Welcome Statement, *page 3*

Bill Bushman

Constitutional Update

Pastor Zach Dean

Cell Tower Lease Update

Pastor Zach Dean

Renovation How We Got Here, *page 4*

Pastor Zach Dean

Renovation, *page 5*

Michael Decker

#### CLOSING

Closing Prayer

Deacon Bob Lewis

Adjournment

Laura Aupperle

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# Reconciling in Christ

*Where we've been and how we got here: a timeline.*

## May 2023

Calvary's council votes to begin the process to become RIC, appointing a core team: Dcn. Tanya Behnke, Bill & Daisy Bushman, Megan Conklin, Pr. Zach Dean, Tom Dyer, and Dcn. Bob Lewis. Michael White joined the team in 2025. The team spends 2023 prayerfully exploring other congregations' processes.

## Summer 2024

A book study was held to build a theological framework for this process. *God and the Gay Christian* was well-received by participants. Pride and the Emanuel 9 were commemorated in worship services.

## Late 2024

A welcome statement is drafted by the core team over the course of multiple meetings as they lived with the statement, allowing different parts to grow on them and seeing what needed adjusting.

## Early 2024

Two forums were held: Ellis Farmer of Our Saviour, Patchogue, led a conversation on why congregations should become RIC. Jennifer Lehman, from Good Shepherd in King of Prussia, PA, led a conversation on the experience of transgender Christians and the importance of affirming communities.

## Fall 2024

Two video forums, one on a Sunday and one midweek, were held to help people with "clunky questions" that come up when dealing with questions of welcome in the church. *Source: ReconcilingWorks*

## 2025

Multiple feedback forums are held on the welcome statement, after each the core team met to discuss changes, balancing that with the explicit need for welcome to meet the requirements of a statement.

## Welcome Statement

*Currently, Calvary meets three out of four criteria to be considered a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The last criteria is having a welcome statement. Adopting this statement meets the fourth criteria to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation.*

Calvary is committed to fostering a diverse community—  
one where all can receive and share God's love,  
and this means everyone, including you!

Calvary welcomes...

- people of varying sexual orientations, gender identities,  
and gender expressions;
- all races, ethnicities, cultures, citizenship, and immigration statuses;
- any physical, mental, and emotional abilities;
- any shape, size, and age;
- anyone struggling with addiction or on a recovery journey;
- and whatever your marital status, family structure,  
political affiliation, faith tradition, education level,  
economic status, employment, or talents!

**Regardless of who you are, there is always a place for you here.**

As a community of faith, we encourage and provide  
opportunities for one another to learn and grow together,  
so that the values of justice, racial equity, and accessibility  
continue to expand and embrace all people.

Join us in answering God's call  
to be a more welcoming and nurturing church!

# Renovation

*Where we've been and how we got here: a timeline.*

## Spring 2023

The congregation is invited to brainstorm how Calvary might become more physically and spiritually inviting. All are encouraged invited to visit other houses of worship over the summer to learn and fill out physically and spiritually inviting surveys.

## Fall 2023

The worship & music and property committees gather to review the congregation's learnings, and create a list of priorities, which matches a list created in the mid-2010's. Council approves the list, which includes: bathrooms, kitchen, worship space, entrance, parking lot, windows.

## January 2024

The resolution governing the use of cell tower funds is updated to prioritize capital improvements. A resolution is presented to create a renovation task force to address the six main priorities. Both measures are adopted by the congregation unanimously at the annual meeting.

## Summer 2024

The renovation task force (with council approval) begins working with an architecture firm, Garten Associates, on possible ideas to meet Calvary's needs. The congregation views these ideas and provides verbal feedback. An idea is chosen and adjustments are made.

## Fall 2024

A feasibility study is conducted with the congregation to measure excitement and priority levels for different areas of the project. Both levels are very high. The renovation task force meets with a representative of the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, who provides a vote of confidence in funding help.

## 2025

Money is budgeted for window replacement this year as well as next-steps with Garten Associates. The task force finalizes an idea with the firm and needs construction drawings to be made before solid numbers can be put together for project approval by congregational vote at a future meeting date.

# Renovation

*Adopting this idea allows the architect to move forward with construction drawings. These will allow us to seek bids from contractors, gaining perspective on actual costs of the idea to be presented at a future meeting.*

**Idea Summary:** (1) A 520 sq. ft. extension provides a larger narthex and additional entry for easier access to Calvary's green space and prayer garden, plus a more welcoming facade, (2) three new, ADA compliant restrooms, (3) a new kitchen, (4) a coat room, (5) new windows throughout the building with emergency egress for the Sunday School classroom.

