



# Don Acker

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

I thank the Good Lord that I am given the opportunity (and the health) to utilize the skills I have learned over the last 45 years of working industrial engineering and construction. I look forward to continuing to make repairs and improvements to our facility and to continue in fellowship with the members of the Property Committee and the Men's Group.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I have been involved with the Property Committee for over 30 years. I served on the church council 10 to 12 years ago as the Property Committee representative. I have participated in at least 10 mission trips with our youth assisting with the numerous building projects. I have driven my old yellow van loaded with tools and building materials to Laredo, El Paso, McAllen and the Oaks in Oklahoma. I was deeply involved with the construction of the Family Life Center in 1998, the renovation of the Sanctuary and the recent kitchen remodel.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

We live in Richland Hills and attend the 8:00am service. I typically prepare five carafes of coffee and blow off the sidewalks prior to the beginning of the service.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

My wife, Meg, and I joined Calvary in 1990. We have one daughter, Lauren.



# Catherine (Cat) Andejeski

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

I lead with my heart and faith. I believe we all should function as a team supporting each other's strengths and weaknesses to accomplish the objectives and well-being of the Congregation and Staff. In all things I place the teachings of Christ as my guide for living. I consider others first and enjoy greeting new visitors and helping introduce people who may not know each other. I am an organized critical thinker who looks for where a need may be.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I have been involved with the Home Bound Members Visitation Team, the Altar Guild, Calvary Café, the Church Council on the Outreach Committee, the Stewardship Committee, serving as Lector at the 11:00am service and anywhere I have been asked to help.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

We usually worship at the 11:00am but have frequently attended the 8:00am and 9:30am as well.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I was a returning guest for 2 years, then became an active member 4 years ago, so a total of 6 years.



# Sharon Bartells

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

As the administrative manager for a foster care agency, I supervised a team which was responsible for filing documents, tracking required trainings and paying foster parents. This required team building skills, an instinct for recognizing talents, analytical abilities and ability to create reports. Also, I was responsible for minimum standard compliance which required interpreting somewhat vague regulations.

Now that I am retired, I have time to give. I would bring these skills to the church council as well as my heart for service, especially for those who are often ignored by the system. Calvary is my family and I would be honored to serve in any capacity I can.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I serve as a Stephen Minister and worship assistant as well as participating in the Ladies' Bible study, Pastor Kyle's Wednesday Bible Study, and Yarnwinders. I am a Parish Lay Minister and a very active member of the Via de Cristo community. In addition, I have co-facilitated several Enneagram workshops here at Calvary.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

My husband and I attend the 9:30am service

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

My husband and I joined Calvary in January of 2015.



# Phil Beckman

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

If elected to Congregation Council, I would bring a deep passion for community and a commitment to building meaningful relationships. I value opportunities to connect people and strengthen our shared sense of purpose and fellowship.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I have been actively involved in Music and Worship, singing in the Sanctuary Choir and serving as an Assisting Minister

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

I typically attend the 9:30am or the 11:00am service depending on at which service the choir is singing.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I transferred back to Calvary in January of 2024.



# Jessica Chambers

## **What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

I fully believe that the children of the church are its future and after serving on the Council for the last two years, I have been able to bring a mindset that can take what we do now and how it will impact the future of the church. I hope to grow current relationships and continue to have meaningful conversations with others outside of the Council to get opinions, thoughts, and ideas that we can incorporate those into our current goals. I will continue to provide the council with leadership, kindness, critical thinking, and my time to accomplish our goals. I am excited for this opportunity to support our church and its members with kindness, confidence and excitement!

## **In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

As a current Council Members, I have served as our Membership and Personnel Chair for the past two years. My family and I currently dedicate our time to the Youth and Family Ministry at Calvary. We have three boys; Nate (Junior), Brayden (8th Grade) and Cooper (1st Grade)! My husband (Jake) and I are both involved with our Sunday School Program, where I teach, and he is one of the admins that supports the Program.

## **Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

My family and I typically attend the 9:30am service during the holidays and the 11:00am service during the Sunday School year.

## **How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

My husband and I have been members of Calvary for 13 years and so thankful for our incredible church family.



# Susan DeFanti

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

I was an RN for 34 years. I developed critical thinking skills as a nurse. Critical thinking skills help me to be knowledgeable at solving difficulties. I also learned delegation as a nurse. Dividing jobs to make things more manageable for everyone. I am very creative and enjoy finding new ways of completing tasks. Becoming a part of Church Council will enable me to become of service to our church family. Being of service to others is what Christ calls us to do in our lives. This would be very meaningful to me.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I have mainly been involved in the music ministry as a member of the choir since 2001

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend.**

Initially, my husband Don and I attended 11:00am service with our 2 daughters. Since they are now grown, we attend the 9:30am service

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

Our family has been members since 2001.



# Kay Downing

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

With approximately 20 years of experience as both a teacher and a librarian, I bring a strong foundation of organization, communication, and leadership to support the mission and work of the council. My experience has enhanced my skills in financial accountability, strategic planning and collaborative leadership. Beyond my professional background, I value integrity, clear communication, compassion, and a service-first mindset. I approach challenges with a solution-oriented and collaborative mindset, and I believe in creating welcoming environments, and service-oriented qualities that I would bring to serving on the church council if elected

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

My involvement has primarily been through serving in the Nursery Ministry, supporting families and helping create a safe environment for young children. While this is my main area of service so far, I am eager to grow my involvement in other ministries and bring my skills and energy to areas where there is a need.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

I usually attend the 9:30am or 11:00am services, depending on family and ministry commitments.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member of Calvary for approximately 8 years, during which the church has been an important part of my family's spiritual life and community.



# Candace Harris

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

I will bring strong leadership, collaborative, and communicative skills that developed through both my professional and volunteer experiences in education and church. I have volunteered for Day Camp for several years and enjoyed every second of the moments I shared with everyone involved. I am thoughtful, organized, and committed to listening to others with empathy and respect. I enjoy problem-solving, working as part of a team while helping to create a welcoming and mission-driven environment that reflects Calvary's values.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I have been most involved in Children's Ministry and the experiences have deepened my connection to the congregation and given me more of an appreciation for the many ways Calvary serves both its members and the community.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

I attend the various services, depending on my schedule.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member of Calvary for 13 years. During that time, I have grown in faith, developed lasting relationships, and found meaningful ways to serve and contribute to the life of the church.



# Jeff Huston

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

If elected to the council I will bring my enthusiasm for Calvary's mission to serve the people of Calvary and its ministries, now and in the future. My career in medicine developed my ability to work well with people one-on-one, and to be a valuable member of numerous hospital committees. As a doctor, I bring the ability to examine situations from many different perspectives to explore alternatives to ensure the right solution is chosen.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I currently volunteer at NEED, I have attended Adult Ed, Tai Chi and the Wednesday Cafe.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

I attend the 9:30am service

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member at Calvary for 7 years.



# Michael Kammerdiener

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

I have been on Lutheran church councils for 29 years, including the four years at Calvary. I have been church council president for at least 9 years, including 3 years at Calvary. I had been congregational treasurer for over 10 years. I was chairperson of a Mission committee that lead the consolidation of two Lutheran congregations into a new congregation, as well as the construction of a new church building on a neutral site in 1999. I was a member for 8 years (chairperson for 3 years) of the ELCA Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Outreach Committee I have been on numerous Calvary Youth Mission Trips as Adult Mentor.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I have been a member of the Calvary Property Committee for over 8 years. I was also a member of the Finance Committee while serving on Calvary Council.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

I attend various worship services as my wife Sandy is a member of the choir.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member at Calvary for just over 11 years and had attended when visiting our son for extended periods for 3 years before joining.



# Mary Keller

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

I will continue to be a servant leader supporting the congregation in accordance with Calvary's mission: God's Heart Human Hands. I am passionate about Calvary and living out its faith through action. I am dedicated, motivated, open to new ideas and will work hard to enhance Calvary's ministries.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I have participated in a variety of ministries at Calvary, including the Finance Committee, Council, Handbells, Orchestra and Room In The Inn.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

I most often attend the 9:30am service but also attend the 8:00am and 11:00am services.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member of Calvary for more than 20 years.



# Debra Machos

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

With a servant's heart and a propensity for action, I will strive to contribute strong leadership and organizational skills to further the ministries of Calvary Lutheran Church. I am richly blessed by serving among the people of Calvary and cherish the inspiring diversity of gifts within our congregation. With joy and thanksgiving, I will serve the congregation to the best of my ability.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

Currently I serve through Congregation Council, Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee, Pastoral Care Committee, Self-Care for Caregivers, Offering Counters, Orchestra and Handbells.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

Our family worships regularly at 8:00am, 9:30am or 11:00am depending on what our plans are for the day.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member of Calvary for 31 years.



# Jake Moore

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

Through my experiences, I bring the ability for collaboration, delegation and leadership skills.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I am involved with the youth ministry, Club 4-5-6, and the Foster Breakfast.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

My family and I typically attend the 11:00am worship service.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member of Calvary since 2018.



# Nancy Shane

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

My personal skills that I bring to the work of the council, if elected, is my passion for studying the word of God and sharing his love with others. I am a dedicated Bible Study Fellowship Children's leader and have a passion for teaching the little ones about Jesus. I am retired from a career in education of 23 years.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

Over the years I have taught Sunday School, worked with the confirmation ministry, served in the Via de Cristo ministry and served on council for two terms. I enjoy attending the women's retreat and my Via de Cristo small group is very important to me. I am currently leading the "Roots and Wings" group of confirmation age Moms and love helping with Room in the Inn.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

Greg and I typically attend the 9:30am service.

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

We have been members of Calvary for 30 years.



# John Michael Slezak

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

The skills I plan on contributing to the Council is my willingness to learn, my youthful vigor and servant leadership.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I have been most involved with the Men's group, the Property Committee and the Orchestra, in which I play the tuba.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

I typically attend the 9:30am service

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member at Calvary for 24 years.



# Tyler Strouse

**What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

If elected to serve on the Church Council, I plan to contribute my skills in collaboration, communication, and organization to help strengthen our church's mission and community life. I value teamwork and believe in creating space for all voices to be heard. My background in *Via De Cristo* and over 15 years of experience officiating ice hockey have taught me the importance of stewardship, accountability, and compassion in leadership. I strive to approach challenges with patience, humility, and prayerful discernment, always seeking what best serves the congregation and glorifies God.

**In which of Calvary's many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I am dedicated to supporting the church's ministries, encouraging participation, and fostering an environment of faith, hope, and love in all we do together. Some of the ministries I've been most involved with include *Via De Cristo* (VDC), Men's Chicken Ministry, and Room at the Inn.

**Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

I typically attend the 9:30am service

**How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

I have been a member at Calvary for 5 years.



# Val Wilkerson

## **What personal skills and characteristics are you planning on contributing to the work of Council, if elected?**

I believe that, in order to be well suited for a task, one has to be wholly committed to its mission and objectives. I have complete faith in and the utmost respect for our pastors and staff at Calvary and I am one hundred percent committed to supporting them in their work. I also believe that our commitment as a church community to do the work of “God’s Heart” with our “Human Hands” is vitally important. I am grateful every day of my life that the wonderful people of Calvary are my church family and I am thankful for every opportunity to show that gratitude by serving in any way I can. Calvary Lutheran Church is a truly special, Spirit-filled place and I am fortunate indeed to have a home here.

## **In which of Calvary’s many ministry areas have you been most involved?**

I am currently involved in several ministries at Calvary including Altar Guild, Stewardship and Visitation Committees, and NEED, in addition to serving as Usher Coordinator for 11:00am worship.

## **Which worship service(s) do you typically attend?**

My husband, Eddie and I attend 11:00am worship, along with my 93 year old father.

## **How long have you been a member of Calvary?**

Eddie and I both grew up at Calvary. His family are charter members and my family became members in 1960, when I was four years old (I see y’all doing the math!). I have attended Sunday school here as a child and taught Sunday school as an adult. I assisted my mother with altar care as a teenager and now serve in that capacity myself. Eddie and I were both confirmed here and have looked on with such pride in our hearts each year as more of our beloved young people experience that accomplishment in their own lives. We were also married at Calvary almost 40 years ago and now we are members of the “old guard” witnessing new generations having their weddings and baptizing their babies and we feel truly blessed to be able to celebrate them. When the Church Council Nominating Committee reached out to me I was excited because, “with the help of God”, I want to give back to the Church family I love so dearly.