



September 3, 2023

Church office hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday—Thursday

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon

616-451-8467 Office@CalvinCRC.org www.CalvinCRC.org

**“But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”
– Amos 5:24**

Season of Creation

This morning we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, a gracious gift that God provides to Christ’s body, the church. All who have been baptized into Christ and who desire to honor him with grateful and obedient living are invited to participate in this sacrament, discerning that this bread and cup are signs and seals of God’s love for us and that we who participate are members of Christ’s body.

We serve gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

Ten o’clock

September 3, 2023

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: Three Preludes on “Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid” [#523]

Charles Callahan; Alfred V. Fedak; David Cherwien

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: “Sing Ye a Joyful Song”

Antonín Dvořák

Sing ye a joyful song unto the Lord,
who hath done marvelous, marvelous things.
Praise the Lord all the earth! Sing praises, shout and be joyful.
Let the sea roar and all that is therein,
the round world and all they that dwell there.
Lift your voices, floods and tempests.
Mountains, clap your hands for joy.
Let the fields laugh and sing with waving corn,
and let all the trees of the forests be joyful!

* Opening Hymns: “Amid the Thronging Worshipers”

#511:1-3

“God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises”

#519:1,2,4

* God’s Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Confession: “Not What My Hands Have Done”

#624:1-3

* Assurance of Pardon

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

front cover of hymnal

* Song of Response: “Glory Be to the Father”

#961

(Children may come forward during this hymn.)

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Message for Children

Blessing for Children

Leader: People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

All: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

All: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

* Hymn of Preparation: “Creator, Spirit, by Whose Aid”

#523:1-3

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:4b-14

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **RIVERS OF LIFE**

Prayer of Application

CHRIST WELCOMES US TO THE TABLE

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us –
even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
whose life, death, and resurrection opened to us
the way of everlasting life.

Therefore, we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper
the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross
by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world.

In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again,
we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices.

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
that the bread which we break
and the cup which we bless
may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Grant that, being joined together in him,
we may attain to the unity of the faith
and grow up in all things into Christ our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf,
and these grapes from many hills into one cup,
grant, O Lord, that your whole church
may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.
Even so, come Lord Jesus!

* Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(God has given us his peace, and we are invited to offer that peace to one another. Many people do this by shaking hands, but if for any reason you would rather not shake hands, you are encouraged to pass the peace with a smile and a nod, as you say, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

Institution and Invitation

Distribution Anthems: "O Jesus So Gentle, Jesus So Sweet"

J.S. Bach

O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet, thy Father's task didst thou complete.
From heaven high and kingly crown to lowly man thou camest down.
O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet.

O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet, thy Father's wrath for us didst meet.
For all our sins hast thou atoned. Thy Father's love for us hast won.
O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet.

O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet, grant that we see thy love so great.
All that we have belongs to thee; thou hast redeemed us, set us free.
O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet.

"How Great Thou Art" [#553]

Prayer

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: "Let Justice Flow"

#295:1-3

* Invitation to Offering: Gwen Overbeek

* Offertory Prayer for Benevolence

Deacon: God, your generosity to us is abundant and gracious.
Everything we have comes from you.

**All: Receive our gifts of our time, our selves, and our possessions.
Help us to grow in gratitude and joy as we follow Jesus.**

* Benediction

* Doxology: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow”

#964

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen, amen.**

* Postlude: “Fugue”, from “Concerto #4 in G”

Matthew Camidge

Liturgist: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Preacher: Rev. Brad Zwiers

Ministry of Music: Trudi Huizenga

Organist: Kenneth Bos

Scripture Reader: Steve Triezenberg

Audio/Video: Graham Rayburn, Sarah Frisch

Calvin CRC Announcements for September 3, 2023

WORSHIP Today, 10 AM

Morning worship: We begin a worship series during the Season of Creation. Rev. Brad Zwiers preaches from Genesis 2:4b-14 and we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Trudi Huizenga leads us in ministry of music.

Evening worship: Due to the holiday weekend, we will not hold our usual first-Sunday-of-the-month service of prayer and singing. It will be postponed to another date.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, September 10, 10 AM and 5 PM

Morning worship: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will continue our series in the Season of Creation with a sermon from Ezekiel 47:1-12. We will welcome Helen VanWyck to lead us in ministry of music. We will hear testimonies from our CYG high school youth group participants in the Philadelphia Service-Learning trip. We will commission Erin Hubka as our new Director of Children's Ministries, and the offering will be for Mission Outreach.

Evening worship: We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a time of singing and sharing prayer requests.

Season of Creation: The River

Rivers are beautiful, powerful, live-giving, and frightening. In scripture, they are often a metaphor for the presence of God. During the Season of Creation this fall, we will spend four weeks hearing texts about rivers. The Bible invites us to consider what this image can tell us about the presence of God in our lives and in our world today.

September 10: "Everything will live where the river goes"

– Pastor Rebecca preaches from Ezekiel 47:1-12

September 17: "Flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb"

– Pastor Rebecca preaches from Revelation 22:1-7

September 24: "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty" – Pastor Brad preaches from John 4 and 7

COUNCIL NEWS

SECURE ONLINE GIVING is now available. Please use the "giving" link on <http://www.calvincrc.org> or on mobile by using the QR code.



CHURCH FAMILY

The flowers today are given in gratitude of my heart donor and her family. Ten years ago this week, I was given the gift of a new heart. We remember their gift of grace with these words, written by Judy:

“Without Emily’s gift, there is no transplant, no hope, no story. But with Emily’s gift of a heart, indescribable grief glimmers into hope, life springs from death, and agonizing loss becomes a gift. Two families are forever connected, two communities remember; stories are shared, and friendships begin.”

Judy and Dan Bode

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

CHOIR NEWS: The Cherub and Covenant choirs will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6, at 6:15 PM in the children’s choir room downstairs. All children in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited and welcome to attend. Hope to see you there to begin our choir season for 2023. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 24, Music Dedication Sunday. Of course, the beautiful voices of the Cherubs and Covenant Choristers will be singing. We are “Lonely” for you! 😊

TLC, CHILDREN’S WORSHIP, WORSHIP AND WONDER, AND CATECHISM begin September 17.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS

GALLERY WALL: The artwork on display is from Allory Netz, a life-long member of Calvin Church who has been active in our children’s programs, music ministries, and flute duets with her mother. She is Brian and Amy Netz’s daughter, a ninth grader at Unity Christian High School. Allory has always enjoyed making art. Drawing and painting portraits and landscapes are her favorites.

BOOK CLUB begins a new season on Monday, September 11 at 3:00 PM in the Lounge. Our book is *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. The reading list is available in the library. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, contact Pat Elders.

FALL KICKOFF LUNCH: It’s time to sign up for the Fall lunch which will be held after the morning service on Sunday, September 10. Please join us as we celebrate the Fall season of our church year. Many programs will be starting up again and representatives will be available to answer questions. Check the flyer in your mailbox and turn in your reservation slip to the box at the TRIP table. Reservations can also be made by emailing or calling the church office. Hope to see you there.

SANCTUARY CHOIR: If you are between the ages of 11 and 101 and if you love to sing, we have a place for you in the Sanctuary Choir. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the balcony beginning this week.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Save the date – we will begin on Wednesday, September 20 at 2:30 PM in Room 1. Contact Pastor Rebecca for a copy of the study guide or with any questions.

MEMBERS OF DISTRICTS 1 & 5 are invited to save Sunday, October 22 for a district get together after church and coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

LOVING AND LEARNING BOOK STUDY: Copies of *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church*, are available at the table in the narthex. *Goodreads* claims: “Unique among most debates on homosexuality, this book presents a constructive dialogue between people who disagree on significant ethical and theological matters, and yet maintain a respectful and humanizing posture toward one another.” Be aware that the book contains frank discussions of sex. The first discussion will be held on September 24, and we will address the first section of the book. The following three sections will be discussed on October 8, October 22, and November 12.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Classis GR East Racial Justice committee is planning a road trip to Detroit on Saturday, September 23. Join us on a bus tour that will leave Calvin Church at 7:30 AM. We will first visit and tour the Second Baptist Church and the underground Railroad Museum, have lunch, and then tour the Charles Wright Museum of African American History arriving back to Calvin Church later that evening. The cost is \$30. Contact Cindy Burch to register or if you have questions.

CALENDAR

	<i>Today, Sunday, September 3</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Cindy Lanning Burch
	Nursery Volunteers: Lori Feenstra, Hannah Triezenberg
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Anjean Stegink
	Coffee Servers: Paul and Tanya Bulthuis
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Cindy Brink
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Cindy Lanning Burch
	<i>Monday, September 4, Labor Day</i>
	Office closed
	<i>Tuesday, September 5</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
	<i>Wednesday, September 6</i>
6:15p	Cherub Choir and Covenant Choir rehearsal in Room 9
7:00p	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal in the Balcony
	<i>Thursday, September 6</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
	<i>Next Sunday, September 10</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Tamara Baker
	Nursery Volunteers: Marissa Dierlam, Jenna Buist
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Lori Feenstra
	Coffee Servers: Mark and Wanda Sytsma
11:45a	Ministry Fair and Church Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Marissa Dierlam



Growing in DiscipleshipTransformed for Ministry

Welcome to Calvin Church

In Worship:

- Our worship proceeds unannounced and follows the printed liturgy.
- Reprint and streaming licenses are One License A-730126, CCLI#2532147, and CSPL#175060.
- The Prayer of Confession is from *The Worship Sourcebook*.
- Our Easter banner represents our joy in our Lord's resurrection: the purple conveys the reality of Christ's royalty; the blackness, symbolic of His death, moves from the onset easing into light, symbolizing life out of death. It is a promise fulfilled, giving us reason for hope in the truth of the eternal life to come.
- Large-print resources are available at the Information Desk.
- Our facility is equipped with the Loop hearing system.



For Children:

- Ages 0-2: Infant and toddler nurseries are available.
- Busy Bags for young children are on the picket fence in the Atrium.
- Bulletins for older children are in the rack in the Narthex.

Fellowship and Information:

- Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following the morning service.
- "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams