



**I AM THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD;  
I KNOW MY  
SHEEP AND MY  
SHEEP KNOW ME.**

*John 10:14*

**February 25, 2024**

# **“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” – John 10:11**

## **Second Sunday of Lent**

Liturgist: Pastoral Intern Evie Dykhouse  
Preaching Pastor: Rev. Brad Zwiers  
Organist and Choir Director: Kenneth Bos  
Ministry of Music: Sanctuary Choir and Joyringers  
Pianist: Lisa Meyer  
Joyringers Director: Melanie Tolsma  
Scripture Reader: Natalie Poortenga  
Audio/Video: Brian Netz, Sarah Frisch

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**Ten o'clock**

**February 25, 2024**

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### **GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

Prelude: “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” [#239]

Raymond H. Haan; Paul Manz

Handbell Prelude: “Golden Moments”

John C. Dare

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: “Serenity Meditation on Psalm 23”

Dorothy Frisch

\* Opening Hymns: “Christ, the Life of All the Living”  
“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”

**#137:1-3**

**#138:1-3**

\* God’s Greeting

### **WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Righteous God,

in Christ you became sin for us.

You took what we are so that we might become what you are.

But we confess that often we ignore our sin.

We confess that too often we do not confess.

We keep silent about the sin that clings to us.

But our sins are too great a burden for us.

**All: Forgive us. In Christ take away our iniquity.**

**You are our stronghold, our hiding place.**

**May we confess our sins, that we might then rejoice**

**and be glad in you and in the righteousness**

**that flows over us as a mighty stream of grace. In Christ, Amen.**

\* Assurance of Pardon

\* Hymn of Assurance: “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”  
(Sung to the tune of #239)

**#424:1,2,4**

## **WE PROFESS OUR FAITH**

Profession of Faith: Arie TerBeek

\* Congregational Response

Leader: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I welcome you to full participation in the life of the church. I welcome you to its responsibilities, its joys, and its sufferings. “May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Heb. 13:20-21)

**All: Thanks be to God! We promise you our love, encouragement, and prayers.**

\* 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.)

Prayer

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.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

Anthem: “Jesus, Lead the Way”

Music: Adam Drese, arr. Richard Proulx

Text: Nicolous von Zinzendorf

Jesus, lead the way through our life’s long day,  
and with faithful footsteps steady we will follow ever ready.  
Guide us by your hand to the promised land.

Jesus, still lead on ‘til our rest be won.  
And, although the way is cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless;  
Guide us by your hand to the promised land.

Jesus, be our light in the midst of night.  
Let not faithless fear o'er take us, let not faith and hope forsake us;  
May we feel you near as we worship here.

When in deepest grief, strengthen our belief.  
When temptations come alluring, make us patient and enduring;  
Lord, we seek your grace in his holy place.

Jesus, still lead on 'til our rest be won;  
if you lead us through rough places, grant us your redeeming graces.  
When our course is o'er, open heaven's door.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

**Amen.**

\* Hymn of Preparation: "Christ, We Climb with You the Mountain" **#131:1-2**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-21

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\* Hymn of Response: "Jesus the Lord Said, 'I Am the Shepherd'" **#125:3-4**

Sermon: **I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

Prayer of Application

## **WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE**

\* Invitation to Offering: Gwen Hendrikse

\* Offertory Prayer for Cadets and GEMS

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. Amen.**

\* Benediction

\* Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**#965**

**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.**

\* Postlude: "Two Short Fugues in D Minor"

Johann Pachelbel

## **Calvin CRC Announcements for February 25, 2024**

### **WORSHIP Today, 10 AM Second Sunday of Lent**

*Morning worship:* Rev. Brad Zwiers continues our Lent series on the "I am" statements of Jesus in the gospel of John by preaching from John 10, "I am the Good Shepherd." The Joyringers and Sanctuary Choir lead us in ministry of music, and we celebrate the Profession of Faith of Arie TerBeek

### **WORSHIP Next Sunday, Third Sunday of Lent**

*Morning worship:* We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will preach from John 6, "I am the bread of life." The offering will be for Benevolence.

### **Lent sermon series:**

March 3 – "I am the Bread of Life" John 6 – Pastor Rebecca

March 10 – "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" John 14 – Pastor Rebecca

March 17 – "I am the True Vine" John 15 – Pastor Brad

(We will take a break for Palm Sunday and Easter, and conclude the series the Sunday after Easter.)

April 7 – "I am the Resurrection and the Life" John 11 – Pastor Brad

**Staff notes:** Pastor Rebecca is on vacation February 22-26.

### **COUNCIL NEWS**

As the next steps in our continued congregational discernment around the Loving and Learning Together document, Council has scheduled a town hall meeting for Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 PM. Those who would like to speak briefly at this meeting need to sign up by contacting council president Donna Houskamp ahead of time. Council has also decided to ask for a congregational vote on Loving and Learning Together, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 10 after the morning worship service. Absentee ballots may be requested through the church office. See the recent emails for more information about this process, or contact a council member, the church office, or one of the pastors. Your council is grateful for your continued partnership in the mission of the church.

## **CHURCH FAMILY**

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**85+ YEAR OLD BIRTHDAYS:** 3/8 Celia Steele (93)  
3/8 Jan Walhout (87) 3/5 Joy DeBoer (92)  
3/10 Wayne VanWylen (95) 3/15 John Stegink (90)  
3/23 Rich Wevers (91) and Gert Bokhout (86)

**COLLEGE AND CAREER AGE BIRTHDAY:** 3/23 Lydia Tolsma (19)

**Ellen Meyer** (district 2) passed away on Sunday, February 11. We grieve with her husband David, along with Corrin, Lisa, Josh, Nate, and Lydia Meyer, even as we put our hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ellen's memorial service will be held at Calvin Church on Saturday, March 2 at 11 AM.

**THANK YOU:** We would like to thank each and every one of you for the prayers, cards, emails, and visits we were blessed with during Bob's recent stay at the Meijer Heart Center. The results were a gift from God, and your support helped bring that about. We are very grateful to be a part of the Calvin Church family.

*Bob & Beth Schoone-Jongen*

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES**

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**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:** 3/5 Franklin Knapper (3)  
3/7 Abi Lizewski (16) 3/12 Wesley Visker (9)  
3/21 Jack Rayburn (9) 3/26 Ruby Nunn (10)  
3/30 Ezra Dierlam (2)

## **MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS**

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**LENTEN EXHIBIT:** The artworks on display in the Atrium are from Calvin Church's permanent collection.

**THE DEACONS ARE COOKING!:** The deacons would like to invite you to a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall TODAY at noon. The main course is provided by the deacons and the accompanying sides are assigned by last name. We are looking forward to the fellowship!

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR:** Join us for coffee, cookies, puzzles, games, and conversation Monday, February 26 in the Atrium from 1-3 PM.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The next Bon Appetit breakfast will be held March 1. Contact Marcia Huizinga for more information.

**FAMILY ASSISTANCE** is always looking for deals and shopping ahead. Hats and gloves are starting to be on clearance in stores. If you are willing to keep an eye out and pick up a few (kids and adults) to help us stock up for next winter, we would greatly appreciate it! Donations can be dropped off in the church office.

**FESTIVAL CHOIR:** This year's Maundy Thursday service on March 28 will be a Service of Tenebrae (Shadows) featuring a retelling of the Passion story through the eyes and voice of Matthew. Please consider joining our Festival Choir to participate in this service and also on Easter Sunday. The Festival Choir will rehearse on three Wednesday evenings at 7 PM beginning on March 13.

### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Do you desire a Christian education for your child that is joyful, academically challenging, and screen free? Trinitas Classical School is a community of Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox Christians committed to cultivating lives of faith, reason, and virtue. We are now enrolling full-time students in grades K-8 and home school partners in grades 5-8. **Join us for Discover Trinitas Night Tuesday, February 27, 6:30-8:00 PM or a Drop-In Tour on Tuesdays 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM** You can find more information on our website [www.trinitasclassical.org](http://www.trinitasclassical.org).

# CALENDAR

	<b><i>Today, Sunday, February 25, Second Sunday of Lent</i></b>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Julie DeKoster
	Nursery Volunteers: Tim Molenbeek, Annelise Hendrikse
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Suzi Steketee
	Coffee Servers: Bob and Beth Schoone-Jongen
11:20a	Worship and Wonder in Room 9
	Catechism
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Kurt Frisch
	Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall
6:30p	CYG Bible Study in the Catacomb
	<b><i>Monday, February 26</i></b>
1:00p	Fellowship Hour in the Atrium
	<b><i>Tuesday, February 27</i></b>
	Voting Location
9:00a	Family Assistance
7:00p	Loving and Learning Town Hall meeting
	<b><i>Wednesday, February 28</i></b>
5:30p	Junior Bells rehearsal in the Bell Room
5:45p	Allegro Ringers rehearsal in the Prayer Room
6:15p	Cherub Choir and Covenant Choir rehearsal in Room 9
7:00p	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal in the Balcony
	<b><i>Thursday, February 28</i></b>
9:00a	Family Assistance
	<b><i>Saturday, March 2</i></b>
11:00a	Ellen Meyer memorial service
	<b><i>Next Sunday, March 3</i></b>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Tom Hendrikse
	Nursery Volunteers: Curt Overbeek, Abi Lizewski
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Lori Feenstra
	Coffee Servers: Bob and Beth Schoone-Jongen
11:20a	Worship and Wonder in Room 9
	Catechism
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Kristy Ippel
3:30p	CYG activity



I Believe that faith in Christ is strengthened by knowing why the Christian Faith is right, and why *all* the other religions are wrong. While Jesus told us to have childlike faith, and to follow Christ trustingly, we also need to be able to defend our faith as well, which helps us fulfill another calling: to spread the good news. After all, we need a good response to somebody wondering why to follow Christ and not some other belief. So how does a good Christian follow Christ trustingly, and also understand it well enough to justify our faith in Christ to others? The ideas of childlike faith and defending my faith have been significant in my growth of my faith.

I haven't really had a good defense of my faith for a long time. I always went to church for as long as I can remember, and I always believed it readily. But I wasn't able to give a very deep explanation of why Jesus is the way to eternal life. Yet my defense of my faith still grew. After a while I saw how the outside world and Christian belief fit together, how to rest assured that I'm right practicing the "right" religion and the people practicing other religions are wrong and that I don't need to go join them. Like Gideon sought proof of God's miraculous power before he went into battle with Midianites, I sought proof of God's very existence, and proof that Jesus is Lord, because I didn't want to simply rely on childlike faith. So I thought about God out of fear of what happens after death. I greatly feared being wrong about Christianity, and still do.

Childlike faith is a difficult thing to define. Children tend to be very trusting and dependent. Childlike faith is a "trusting and depending on Jesus's word" kind of faith. Does this mean it's a blind faith? I believe that, although it *can be*, it isn't necessarily. And it is better than blind faith. It is easy to want proof. I wanted proof such as Jesus, angels, or both coming down to earth for everyone to see and be shown to everyone (in a non-frightening way, as Angels have a habit of scaring people). But would that really work? And that seems to miss the point of having a sort of childlike faith. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." But the idea still is probably preferred to more than not seeing because if he came down for everyone to see It'd be a fact and would be proven. People crave certainty, and that's why childlike faith is difficult.

But defense of faith isn't like this. It isn't pointing to a reality that everyone can see. It's studying the word of God and helping each other (and those we seek to convert) interpret it. And perhaps the studying and interpreting is a better proof than a miracle anyway. This is how defense of faith is able to avoid interfering with having a childlike faith.

Some of the most influential aspects to my development of a defense of my faith were through thinking, God's word, reading great works of literature, and sharing brief lessons of Philosophy from my Dad. These experiences and reflections made the world and faith make sense. They fit things together.

There are many things in my own personal experiences that have given me increased comfort in Christianity. If I watch a movie for instance, that has a universalist message that's supposed to be profound and powerful, it often ends up to me feeling empty as a result of trying to appease non Christian viewers.

Anything that tries to put something other than Christianity at the center of focus at its core feels wrong and off putting. But I think this is part of why many people aren't Christian. They see Church as something that's nice but "isn't for them." They might think that they never would have liked Church anyway and have subconsciously labeled Church as some social club instead of an assembly of people who come to worship God. As I learn how the world works, I gain educated guesses of how God is working, and where Evil is working. It works for Evil powers to make the Church seem like just another activity or establish false religions or make a new way of thinking of Christianity by hiding a few devastating lies in

what is otherwise good truth. To get a general gist of what is much easier to find than to find a more precise truth from God, is beneficial to evil. It seems that many don't know which divine influence to follow-if any at all. This leads to universalism. To a universalist view being a "good person" is similar in many ways to how a Christlike, righteous person would act. What being a righteous person means is defined for us by God, but others can only guess at what the righteous thing to do is. And this is where lies can spawn and develop. I would wonder why so many think so differently. But Mathew 7:13-14 helped me with that. *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."* And this leads me to talking about the Bible.

The Bible is a book like no other. It is very rhetorical. God uses ways most effective for humanity to convey his many messages to us. He uses irony, metaphors, and many other types of figurative language. The Bible has layers of meaning and truth like no other work of literature that ever has or ever will be published. Until Jesus comes again, humanity will never understand everything in it. Different contexts, the customs of the time, and the different words of Hebrew or Greek used before being translated, add depth and deeper meaning still. I have depended on this book like no other. The constant parallels between modern life and what is written in the Bible cannot be mere coincidences. Other religious texts pale by comparison (I have a copy of an English translation of the Qur'an). When I decided to take a look at the English translation of the Qur'an, it felt like a copy of the style of the Bible without the meaning, without good news. But the Bible has layers of meaning that the best authors humanity has ever had could not orchestrate themselves. And while the Bible had many human authors, God orchestrated it, and he is the best author there ever has been and ever will be.

I have been comforted by works of literature as well. *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan is one such work of literature. I remember reading an illustrated children's version of the story, and though I failed to see it at the time, the entire narrative is filled with metaphors of God's ways of bringing people to him, and salvation, despite the follies and evils of the human world. C. S. Lewis has had a greater positive impact on me still, with his seven books series from *The Magician's Nephew* to *The Last Battle*. They were fun reads for my small child self, but deeply comforting for my current self who sees their relation to what we know of God's

plan. C. S. Lewis's book, *Surprised by Joy* has probably been the best work of literature save for the Bible for my faith. The story tells of Lewis's childhood, and his great faith journey. Lewis was a Christian during childhood, but stopped believing as he felt Christianity as a burden he didn't want. During his adulthood however, he extremely reluctantly inched back toward Christ.

Lewis characterizes his conversion as a Chess game, where his pieces represented his defense of Atheism, and the other pieces was God coming to bring him back to salvation. Before returning to Christianity, Christianity was a great fear for him, and he avoided it best he could. He eventually got Checkmated by God. Although I never became Atheist or anything other than Christian, I could relate to Lewis. Although I wasn't scared to return to Christianity, I was certainly scared of the idea of staying Christian just because that was how I was raised. I didn't run away the same way Lewis did, but I spent time thinking about why I believed in Christianity. Naturally, one stays in the religion they were brought up in. I would wonder how I could be certain of my faith, and not just believe because everyone around me says I should believe.

Another help has been little lessons of Philosophy taught by my father, who's passionate about the subject. As I began to see its value, I gained some of that passion myself. Most details I don't remember, although some I do. (But I could look them up. I have all the philosopher information in a binder.) I probably know more about philosophy than most now though. Anyway, what sunk in for me was how the philosophy over all those years related to what I believed. I seldom was good at articulating my particular thoughts on the philosophers, but I spent time thinking about the good arguments of the God-believing philosophers and the also good, but weird and flawed arguments of those who didn't believe in God. Another thing this did for me was emphasize the importance of childlike faith. None of the philosophers could really ever definitively prove anything deeper than common knowledge. If anything, they proved that even common knowledge can't be proved. So, can our human logic and explanations really prove that Christianity is the truth? Childlike faith is essential.

I have asked God to strengthen my faith, and He has done so. Although I have been Christian my whole life, I have never been more certain of the faith. That does not mean I don't wonder, question or continue to try to grow in it however.



## **Growing in Discipleship ... ...Transformed 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 black dominating our Lenten banner symbolizes the death of our Lord, the red expresses Christ's suffering, and the branch is a symbol of his crown of thorns. These symbols are not meant to be concerned only with death and suffering. The thorny branch is white and flowering to indicate that from suffering triumph will come, and the red orb symbolizes Christ's victory. Just as the sun illumines, quickens, and comforts, so Christ as the "Sun of Righteousness" gives new life to his own.
- 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.
- Preschool: The Little Children (TLC) gathers in the nursery prior to the morning worship.
- K-2<sup>nd</sup>: After the Children's Message the Children's Worship ministry meets downstairs in Rooms 11 & 13 until the conclusion of worship. Parents meet their children there following the service.
- 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](http://www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch)
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams)

Church office hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday—Thursday  
Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon  
616-451-8467    [Office@CalvinCRC.org](mailto:Office@CalvinCRC.org)    [www.CalvinCRC.org](http://www.CalvinCRC.org)