

# Sola Scriptura

The Reformers recognized subordinate religious authorities.

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**2017 MARKS THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY** of the Protestant Reformation. Starting with this Reformed Matters column, we'll commemorate the anniversary by highlighting its five rallying themes: Scripture Alone (Sola Scriptura), Faith Alone (Sola Fide), Christ Alone (Solo Christo), Grace Alone (Sola Gratia), and Glory to God Alone (Soli Deo Gloria).

**THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION'S** slogan about religious authority, *sola scriptura* ("Scripture alone"), doesn't mean what some people think it means. In fact, the way a lot of people have taken it is something all the Reformers repudiated. *Sola scriptura* is not honored by someone sitting in an easy chair with a Bible in his lap, deciding for himself what is true—or by televangelists (or others) declaring they have "discovered something new in Scripture."

At the Diet of Worms in 1521, Luther boldly responded to the German emperor that he could not recant what he had taught since it was based on Scripture rightly interpreted. But Luther was shaken when the Archbishop of Trier then accused him of subjectivism—of thinking that he alone, in all the history of the church, had understood Scripture rightly.

Such an allegation would hardly bother many Christians in our day. Shaped by our individualistic North American culture, a Christian might well shrug off that challenge with a "So what? I

know I'm right!" Luther recognized, though, that subjectivistic individualism was a path into darkness, not toward light. So he wrestled with the question. The answer he came to, in short, was that Reformation slogan we have all heard but many misunderstand: *sola scriptura*.

For the Reformers, "Scripture alone" did not mean "Scripture all by itself." Rather, Scripture was "alone" as the only *unquestionable* religious authority, not the only religious authority. As Luther struggled with the archbishop's challenge in the months after the Diet of Worms, he came to recognize that his understanding of Scripture was not unique: he found it in many church fathers (the common term for the respected pastors and theologians of the ancient church). He heard it proclaimed in the creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian). He saw it set forth by the ecumenical councils (Nicea, Constantinople, Ephesus, and Chalcedon), which defended the apostolic proclamation of who Christ was and what he had accomplished, and of how that all related to God as Father and as Holy Spirit. These ancient worthies served as religious authorities for Luther and the other Reformers. Luther discerned that the stuff he had come to oppose was the clutter that had obscured that faithful ancient teaching over the course of centuries, down to his day.

For Luther and the other Reformers, Scripture was the ultimate religious authority. It was the norm by which other claimants to religious authority must be measured. If they

stood the test, they could be respected as lesser religious authorities—below Scripture but superior to anybody's private ideas. The Reformers recognized subordinate religious authorities—the faithful teaching of the church fathers, the creeds, and the doctrinal deliverances of the ancient ecumenical councils—since these were faithful to Scripture.

This shouldn't be surprising to us. We affirm *sola scriptura* but we also embrace what are called secondary standards: the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort. These three "forms of unity" are superior to any of our private opinions; they are meant to guide us into faithful understanding of Scripture. We also accept the contemporary testimony "Our World Belongs to God" and the Belhar Confession as guidance for life in the present day—superior to private judgment, normed by Scripture.

Living, thinking, and believing like this honors what the Reformers intended in their bold affirmation about religious authority, *sola scriptura*. ■

STUDY QUESTIONS ONLINE



**James R. Payton, Jr.**, is the author of *Getting the Reformation Wrong: Correcting Some Misunderstandings* (InterVarsity Press, 2010). He

is professor emeritus of history, Redeemer University College, and attends Ancaster Christian Reformed Church in Ancaster, Ont.

# ADS

**Deadlines:** April issue is 3/7/2017; May issue is 4/4/17. Details online.

**Prices:** Most ads are \$0.39<sup>US</sup> per character (min. 150 characters including punctuation and spaces). A discounted rate of \$0.32<sup>US</sup> per character and \$50 per photo applies to Anniversaries, Birthdays, Obituaries, Denominational and Classical Announcements, and Congregational Announcements.

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## Denominational and Classical

### Announcement of Candidacy

We are pleased to announce that **Matthew Kaemingk** has now completed his academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director

### Meetings of Classis

**CLASSIS ZEELAND** will meet on Thursday, May 18, 2017, 4PM, in the Bethel CRC of Zeeland.

### Financial Aid

**STUDENTS FROM CLASSIS ILLIANA** who intend to engage in full-time ministry in the Christian Reformed Church after theological studies are now invited to apply to the student fund committee for educational assistance for the 2017-18 school year. Applications forms for conditional grants and further information can be obtained by contacting Pastor Dan Roels, [pastor.dan.roels@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dan.roels@gmail.com) or 708-474-7717.

### Retirement

**PASTOR GARY BOMHOF** is retiring June 2017 after 40 years of faithful service in Ont., Man., and AB. His retirement will be marked with a special worship service at 10:00 AM June 4, 2017 at First CRC, Red Deer, followed by presentations and lunch. Please send pictures &/or stories to [Crcbomhof1976.2017@gmail.com](mailto:Crcbomhof1976.2017@gmail.com) or First CRC, 16 McVicar St., Red Deer, AB T4N 0M1.

## Congregational

### Church's 75th Anniversary

**FIRST CRC IN MOUNT VERNON, WA** is planning its 75th anniversary celebration May 12-14, 2017. For information call 360-336-2405 or email [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstcrcmv.com)

### General

**WITH GRATITUDE TO GOD**, Immanuel CRC of Wyoming, MI invites all present and former members to a final Celebration Service on May 7 @ 9:30 to praise God for the 68 years of ministry in the Wyoming area.

## Miscellaneous

**MOLINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** Moline, MI - Celebrating 100 Years of Faithful Growing - Picnic June 3, 2017, 3-7 PM. [www.molinechrsch.org](http://www.molinechrsch.org). 616-877-4688; Facebook

## Birthdays

### 95th Birthday

**GERTRUDE VAN HAITSMAN** of 230 S. State #99 Zeeland MI 49464 will celebrate her 95th birthday on March 9. We praise God for His blessings and faithfulness for these many years.

### 90th Birthday

**PETER TERPSMA** celebrated his 90th Birthday on Feb. 14. His wife, Mary and sons David, Peter & Sally, Dan & Jessica & 8 grandchildren & 5 great grandchildren wish him a Happy 90th. Greetings may be sent to 9719 Avalon Dr. Parrish, FL 34219

## Anniversaries

### 70th Anniversary

**GEERS**, Harold and Elaine of 725 Badwin, Jenison, MI will celebrate their 70th anniversary on Feb. 28. Their family praises God for His faithfulness!

### 60th Anniversary

**KERKSTRA** Ray and Betty (Bolt) of 16138 Hackney Dr. Orland Park, IL 60467, will celebrate 60 years of marriage on March 8, 2017. Their 5 daughters and spouses, 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren are grateful for their love, encouragement and witness of Christ's love in marriage and in life.

## Obituaries

**BRUINIUS, DOROTHY M.** "Dot" Bruinius, nee Hartog, age 79, of Frankfort, IL passed away on January 4, 2017. Beloved wife for 61 years to Bernard "Butch" Bruinius. Loving mother of Bernard Jr. (Karen), Terri (Craig) Boonstra, Glenn (Valerie), Dawn (Scott) Gibson and the late Jackie and John. Cherished grandmother of 16 and great-grandmother of 7. "Mother" of My Dung Cong (Tuan Tran) and their family. Dear sister of Jacqueline (George) Van Ryn, Henry (Bonnie) Hartog, Karen (late Terry) Blummer and Diane (John) Decker. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews.

**BRUXVOORT, CORNELIA** (Kay), age 94 of Newton, IA, went home to be with her Lord on January 13, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman, and is survived by her son, Don (Theresa) Bruxvoort; her 3 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

**DEBOER, PETER POUSSMA**, age 87, from Grand Rapids, MI, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Peter is

survived by his wife, Joy; his children: Bonnie Nyenhuis, Walter and Jesslyn DeBoer, Peter and Nancy DeBoer, and Susan and Bill Steketeer; his 11 grandchildren; and his 5 great grandchildren. Soli Deo Gloria!

**FAUBLE, DARLENE**, age 70, of Wyoming, Michigan went home to be with the Lord on December 14, 2016. She was preceded in death by her father, Lloyd, and brother, Ray; and is survived by her mother, Barbara, siblings: Gloria Fauble, Kathy McIntyre Fauble, Douglas and Claire Fauble, and Penny and Philip Thomas; and many nephews and nieces.

**KLOMPIEN, JENNIE**, age 88 of Manhattan, MT went home to her Lord on 12/25/16. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence, and sons Edwin and Ron. She is survived by her sons Larry (Lorraine), Wayne (Linda), Ken (Cindy); daughter, Cheryl; daughter-in-law, Marlys, 17 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild. Memorials to Manhattan Christian School, 8000 Churchill Road, Manhattan, MT 59741 are appreciated.



**LEENSVART, MAXINE W. RYSKAMP**, age 96, passed away in Denver, CO January 15, 2017. She was a member of Third CRC where a Memorial Service was held January 19, 2017. She was originally of Grand Rapids, MI and taught for 35 years at Sylvan Christian School. She was preceded

in death by her husband of 21 years, Jacob, sister Elaine Hofman (Len), son-in-law Dick (Shirley). Survived by sister Joyce Pettings, brothers-in-law, Paul Pettings and Leonard Hofman. Also, survived by step-children, Linda Geels (John), Nancy Bierling (Bob), Marcia Mains (Jeff), Jean Fielding (Bob), Joan Pettings (John), 16 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Memorial gifts may be sent to: Christ's Body Ministries, P.O. Box 18834, Denver, CO 80218-0834. Mickey will be greatly missed by her family. "Blessed are those who die in the Lord."

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**SHARDA, KATHLEEN**, of Grand Rapids, MI was called home by her Lord on Saturday, January 14, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Martin Sharda, MD; her children: Joan Sharda, Christine Sharda, Claire

and T. J. Sapunarich, Anne and Scott Rush, and Tom and Jennie Sharda; and her grandchildren Hannah, Andrew, Rachel, Grace, Rebecca, Caleb, Jessica and Sarah Grace.

**SJAARDEMA, DON**, 94, of Bradenton, Florida died Jan. 21, 2017 in Bradenton, Fla. He is survived by wife, Ruth, of 71 years, 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 19 greats. Services were held at Bradenton CRC, with burial in Arlington.

**VANDER POL, IRENE** (Vander Veen) age 92, of Ontario, CA went to be with her Lord and Savior on Dec. 25, 2016. Preceded in death by her husband, Marines. Survived by a daughter Joanne (Fred) Rosenbloom, grandchildren, Brian (Laura) Hogerhuis, Steve (Dawn) Rosenbloom, Robin Rosenbloom, and 3 great-grandchildren.

**VELTKAMP, MARVIN J.**, age 86, of Grand Rapids, MI was called to his heavenly home on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. Marve is predeceased by his wife, Irene (Keegstra) and is survived by son, Randy (Debra) Veltkamp of Holland, MI; daughter, Karen Poortenga of Grand Rapids, MI; son, Marvin (Joy) Veltkamp of Kalamazoo, MI; 9 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

**VELZEN, JANE (RYSKAMP)**, age 95; February 3, 2017; She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 67 years, Bernard Henry Velzen. Jane leaves behind her children: Pat and Gary Nederveld of Grand Rapids, Mary Jane and Jim Voogt of Colorado, Ginny and John Bylsma of California, and Jack and Sally Velzen of Minnesota; grandchildren: Allen and Emily Nederveld, Anne Nederveld and Bob Frazho, Steve and Cindy Nederveld, Eric Voogt and Alison George, Rachel Voogt-Clayborn and Trevor Clayborn, Jason and Tara Voogt, Dustin and Cindy Bylsma, Joel Bylsma and Jeanette Feddes, Andre Bylsma, Ben Velzen, and Chris Velzen; 24 great grandchildren.

**VEN HOUSEN, ANNE**, nee Van Byssum, age 95, went to be with her Lord on January 9, 2017. 522 Birchwood Dr., Yorkville, IL 60560. Beloved wife of the late William; loving mother of Yvonne (Edward) Buikema and Lu Ann (William) Stefek; devoted grandmother of Todd (Carolee) Buikema, Amy Buikema, Christopher Stefek (John Caine), and Kevin (Kristin) Stefek; great-grandmother of Isabella, Kaitlin, Nicholas, and Lauren Stefek, Peter, Matthew, Joseph, and Andrew Buikema; fond sister of the late Edith Tazelaar; fond aunt of Myrna Dryfhout. Memorials to Providence Life Services are appreciated.

**ZYLSTRA, JEAN** (Teune) age 94 of Western Springs, Illinois passed away November 4, 2016. She is survived by her husband Ed, children Patricia (Byron) Hoekstra, Paul (Nancy) Zylstra, Cynthia (Carl) D'Acosta, 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

## Employment

**CAREGIVERS NEEDED** Are you interested in working for the best living assistance services company in West Michigan? Visiting Angels is looking for people who can be excellent, not average; make a connection with our clients; be perfectly dependable; practice compassion and work with integrity. Contact Heather at 616-243-7080 or heather@vangels.com. www.vangels.com

**CHAPLIN** Unique Chaplain Position; Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff NJ, a faith-based facility founded by RCA and CRC church leaders over 100 years ago and that specializes in both mental health and elder care, is looking for candidates to join an active and vibrant pastoral care team that includes four other chaplains. The opportunity exists for a full-time, long-term care chaplain to serve as the primary chaplain in the skilled nursing care program. Applicants should be ecclesiastically endorsed, ordained and be able to work with a diverse population from a reformed perspective. Board certification is preferred as is experience in working within an elder care context. Job descriptions are available upon request. Interested candidates please contact Rev. Jim Knol, Director Pastoral Care at 201-848-5801. www.christianhealthcare.org

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS COUNSELOR** (20 hrs/week) Support a comprehensive developmental counseling program for all students to improve the educational outcomes for those experiencing barriers to learning. Duties: working with parents to facilitate and conduct evaluations and referring students as needed for additional support. Qualifications: Master's Degree in counseling or social work with appropriate licensure and clinical experience. Please contact Lance Engbers, Headmaster, at lengbers@whitinsvillechristian.org or 508-372-3246.

## Church Position Announcements

**PASTOR, NEERLANDIA CRC:** Have the opportunity to experience Alberta's clear blue skies and Northern Lights all within driving distance of the majestic Rocky Mountains. Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church, located in the rural community of Neerlandia, Alberta, Canada, is seeking a full time ordained pastor. We are an active, multi-generational congregation of 150 families with a strong foundation of over 100 years of ministry. Our style of liturgy is a blend of contemporary and traditional with a strong emphasis on music and praise. We are looking for an experienced pastor with commendable preaching and teaching skills who looks forward to forming a cohesive multi-pastoral team. To explore this opportunity with us, please contact Simone Tuininga, mstuininga@xplornet.com.

**CO-PASTOR:** Trinity CRC, Edmonton, Alberta is growing and seeking a co-pastor to complement our current pastor and youth director in Biblical preaching, visionary leadership, and pastoral care in our increasingly diverse and vibrant congregation. Direct inquiries to TrinityCRCpastorsearch@gmail.com

**PASTOR** Faith CRC of Tinley Park, IL, is prayerfully seeking a full-time Senior Pastor. To explore this opportunity, please contact Doug Terpstra, preferably by email at doug@alanhorticultural.com or by cell at 630-514-0993

**PASTOR** Searchlight Ministries in Jamestown, Michigan is a community-minded church, which strives to be authentic, accepting, come as you are (both inside and out). Searchlight is focused on building relationships, committed to an open and vulnerable communal prayer time, and serving others. If interested, contact Herb Kraker at herb@dialogos-studies.com or Lynn Kraker at 616-821-8440.

**SEARCHING FOR FULL-TIME PASTOR** We are Calvin CRC in Holland, MI. We have thriving ministries, vibrant worship, friendly people, and lots of energy. What we are missing, though, is a pastor to work with us to reach the lost and challenge us with motivating messages. Our mission is to Seek God's heart and Share God's love. If you can hear God calling you in our direction, please send us your resume: searchteam@calvinministries.org or Search Team, Calvin Church, 387 W. Lakewood Blvd., Holland, MI 49424.

**2 PASTORS NEEDED** 2 Pastors – Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church, Calgary, AB –seeking 2 pastors to serve our congregation in Calgary, Alberta. We are a large multigenerational community-focused church which utilizes a contemporary liturgical worship style. Calgary is a city that offers everything - from sports to arts, prairies to mountains. Job descriptions will be creatively crafted to compliment God given gifts to serve our church community in the areas of preaching, education, worship, pastoral care and community engagement. To receive a church profile or to learn more about our current pastoral vacancies; please contact Hessel Kielstra: email hessel@vyefield.ca or phone 403-669-0714.

**YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR** North Street CRC, (Zeeland, MI) a church that strives to be "deeply rooted, ever growing, and bearing fruit," seeks a full time youth director to help us in leading and directing our youth programs. Please visit our website www.northstreet-crc.org or email Brian at northstreetsearch@gmail.com for more information

**PASTOR:** Heritage CRC, consisting of 675 members in Byron Center, MI is seeking a full time Pastor of Preaching and Worship. Is God calling you to serve in this growing West Michigan community? Please indicate your interest in this position to searchteam@heritagecrc.net.

**PASTOR** "Community CRC, Dixon's Corners will be a community that is passionate about loving God and all people." We are a rural church just south of the Nation's Capital, Ottawa, Ontario looking for a full time PASTOR who is passionate about worship, spiritual growth, community care and prayer. Elementary and secondary Christian

education available in our area. Please contact our Search Team at crrc.vacancies@gmail.com to request our Church Profile and to forward your Ministerial Profile.

**LEAD PASTOR** Edina (Minneapolis), MN: Calvary CRC seeks to replace our retiring lead pastor. To explore this opportunity, contact pastorsearch@calvarycrrc.net

**PASTOR:** First Christian Reformed Church in Brandon, Manitoba is looking for a full-time pastor. At this time we are vacant and our door is open to welcome a new pastor to our church and community. Visit our website at www.firstcrrcbrandon.com and/or contact us at firstcrrc@mymts.net

**PASTOR** Westend CRC in NW Grand Rapids is looking to hire a new pastor. We're a multi-generational church with over 350 active members and have welcomed many new young families in recent years. We're looking for someone to love us, challenge us, and join us in reaching out to our community. If you're interested, please visit www.westendcrrc.org or email June Atsma at JuneAtsmaSearchWestend@gmail.com. There are some great things happening at Westend, and we would love to have you be a part of what God is doing here!

**FULL TIME PASTOR** Bridge of Hope Ministries, a CRC church in Sioux Center, IA, is seeking a pastor to lead our congregation. "Come as you are, Grow in grace, Go and serve others." Please visit the employment tab on our website for more details. www.bridgecrrc.org.

**FULL-TIME WORSHIP DIRECTOR:** Shalom Christian Reformed Church (Sioux Falls, SD), a growing and vibrant congregation, is seeking a dynamic full-time worship director. This person must display a strong personal relationship and love for Jesus Christ. The worship director will have a passion for leading worship that supports Shalom's vision statement: Growing in Christ, Showing God's Glory. The qualified applicant will need to be capable of expressing our Reformed faith within the worship setting utilizing a broad range of musical skills. Three years or more of experience is preferred. If interested, please visit our website for a full job description: http://shalomcrrc.org/about/career

**PASTOR:** Gateway Community CRC in beautiful Abbotsford, BC, Canada is seeking a full time Pastor of Preaching and Congregational Care for our congregation of 664 members. We are seeking an individual who is people-oriented and has a strong desire to faithfully preach the Word, nourish the spiritual growth of the congregation through pastoral care and teaching and to join a growing, energetic team. Visit gatewaycrrc.org for church profile and full ministry role description. Please indicate your interest by contacting Marcel deRegt, Executive Pastor, at marcel@gatewaycrrc.org or call 604-859-5908

**WORSHIP COORDINATOR** First CRC in St. Thomas, Ontario is seeking to fill a 16-20 hour per week position for a Worship Coordinator. This position requires music proficiency and an ability to plan a variety of worship styles in a multi-generational setting within the Christian Reformed perspective of Blended Worship. Visit our website at www.firstcrrcstthomas.com for more details. Email a cover letter and resume to firstcrrcstthomas@gmail.com or by mail to 320 Elm Street, St. Thomas, ON N5R 1J7

**WORSHIP DIRECTOR** Talbot Street Church in London, Ontario is seeking a full-time worship director. Modern missional bent with guitar musical skills required. Inquires at office@talbotstreetchurch.com

**DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION** (20 hrs/week) Provide oversight of all Spiritual Formation activities to ensure program excellence, spiritual influence, and a cohesive experience for faculty, staff, and students. Duties: chapel planning/leadership and service on the Spiritual Life Committee. Qualifications: experience in chaplaincy or youth ministry. Please contact Lance Engbers, Headmaster, at lengbers@whitinsvillechristian.org or 508-372-3246.



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Application reviews will begin immediately. Qualified persons committed to a Reformed, Biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to follow the faculty application procedure at the link below.

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**HOPE HAVEN CEO** Hope Haven Ministries is a \$40 million non-profit organization based in Rock Valley, Iowa. Affiliated with the Reformed Church, it began in 1964 as a way to meet the needs of children in the area with hearing impairments. Today, it serves special needs individuals and their families living in 30 Midwest communities through residential, employment, mental health, recovery, religious and international outreach services. Hope Haven is looking for a leader with a strong faith and financial background. The next CEO should be someone who is comfortable working with a board structure and in a highly regulatory, and ever changing, social services industry. Tommy Thomas and Laura Coverstone of JobfitMatters are assisting Hope Haven in this important search. To view an Introductory Video about the search, the full Opportunity Profile and Process of Candidacy, see the posting at [www.jobfitmatters.com/hope](http://www.jobfitmatters.com/hope).

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**TRUE BLUE CAREGIVERS** is an agency that offers in home (non-medical) care to seniors. We are intentionally small allowing us to build relationships and tailor our services to each clients unique needs. Learn more about us at [truebluecaregivers.com](http://truebluecaregivers.com) or call 616-406-6819. Owned, by Calvin alums who serve the greater Grand Rapids area. True Blue Caregivers, the small company with a big heart.

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**TRUE BLUE CAREGIVERS** offers in home (non-medical) care to seniors wanting to stay in their home. We are intentionally small so that our experienced, consistent, and caring staff can provide the personalized care you need. We are owned, and operated by Calvin alums who serve the greater Grand Rapids area. We offer all the services of other companies but at a more affordable price. Contact us at 616-459-6819 or [truebluecaregivers.com](http://truebluecaregivers.com) We provide background checks on all employees, have excellent references and offer experienced care for those with Parkinson's Disease.



Christian Reformed Church

ABORIGINAL MINISTRY CANDIDACY COMMITTEE  
CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE CHAPLAINCY  
AND CARE MINISTRY DISABILITY CONCERNS

# Congregational Services

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE  
PASTOR CHURCH RESOURCES RACE RELATIONS  
SAFE CHURCH SERVICELINK WORSHIP MINISTRIES

The ministries of Congregational Services are focused on serving Christian Reformed churches like yours through:

## Faith Formation Ministries



Encouraging and equipping congregations to grow as disciples of Christ

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## Worship Ministries



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# *Venture Meets Vision*

The CRCNA's Ignite Fund matches visionary disciples with venture capital, helping to kickstart innovative and collaborative ministry ideas in your neighborhood, your church or your classis. The Ignite fund has equipped and advanced more than 85 denominational and local ministry projects.

**Yours could be next.**

# Happy 150th Birthday, Canada!

There's a lot to celebrate about Canada. As a nation of many peoples, we have plenty to work on together, like equity for Indigenous peoples and refugees. The Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue's new Action Centre helps connect you with your elected officials for advocacy on issues that matter to the CRC in Canada.

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Centre for  
Public Dialogue

## Crossroad Bible Institute is now Crossroads Prison Ministries



**CROSSROADS**  
PRISON MINISTRIES

CONNECTING **PRISONERS** WITH **MENTORS**  
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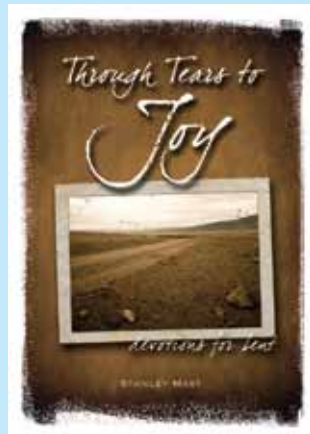
# Free Resources for Lent in the Digital Library

The new CRC Digital Library gives churches and members free, online access to hundreds of Faith Alive titles, including these resources for Lent and Easter. Visit [crcna.org/Library](http://crcna.org/Library)

Plus, CRCs now save 20% on print editions.



This Lenten devotional guide explores the biblical motif of “forty” through the stories of Noah, Moses, the exodus, Elijah, and Jonah. All of these narratives foreshadow the gospel—they are reminders of Easter morning in light of the “forties” that have come before.



This collection of daily Lenten devotions reflects on the meaning of Jesus’ suffering and the meaning of suffering in the world. Follow Jesus on his journey, and see how he transforms sorrow into joy.



This *God Loves Me* storybook tells the story of Easter (found in John 20:11-18) in simple words a young child can understand, along with a prayer and suggestions for learning-through-play activities.



The Lent section of *Seeking God's Face* offers a user-friendly approach to the “daily office” form of prayer and devotions. Each day of prayer includes an invitation into God’s presence, readings from a psalm and other Scriptures, prayer suggestions, and a closing blessing.

# Punch Lines

What has made *you* smile lately? Got a joke or funny incident you'd care to share with your wider church family? Please send it to *The Banner* at 1700 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407; or email it to [letters@thebanner.org](mailto:letters@thebanner.org). Thanks!

**F**ollowing a discussion about miracles, the teacher took the class to the zoo. As they walked along, they saw a lion and lamb in the same cage. The zookeeper overheard one of the amazed students say, "That's a miracle!"

"Not really," he replied. "Every day I put another lamb in the cage."

—George Lieuwen

**A**ccording to my medical records, my blood is Type C. But I think it's a Type O.

—Dave De Wit

**P**atient: How much will it cost to have this tooth pulled?

Dentist: Fifty dollars.

Patient: You charge fifty dollars for thirty seconds of work?

Dentist: Well, if you prefer, I can work more slowly.

—Dick Bylsma

**A** four-year-old prayed: "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

—Carla Van Den Hout

**A** patient was wheeled into an emergency room. The nurse on duty asked the patient, "On a scale of one to ten, with zero representing no pain and ten repre-

senting excruciating pain, what would you say your level is now?"

The patient shook her head. "Oh, I don't know. I never was very good with math."

—Jan Veltkamp

**T**he person who invented the door knocker got a No-bell prize.

—R. Smit

**M**y husband was having breakfast at a local diner with our 2-year-old granddaughter. Because she was talking rather loudly, he asked her to talk a little bit softer. She replied, "Why? We're not in church!" He told her that she might be bothering some of the other people. Before he knew it, she blurted out loudly, "Sorry, people!"

—Diana Leyendekker

**J**oseph of Arimathea arrived home one Friday night and

told his wife that he had given their tomb to someone else to use.

A bit upset, she demanded, "How could you do that? After all the time and money you spent building it! It was just finished and has never been used. What are we going to use now for ourselves?"

Joseph answered, "Don't worry. It's only for the weekend."

—Sue Lauritzen

**W**hat can you do with a sick chemist?

If you can't helium or curium, then you have to barium.

—L. Knoops

**A** father was skating on an outdoor rink with his two children, ages 8 and 4.

A TV reporter spotted them and asked if they had made New Year's resolutions.

"Yes," replied the dad. "I am going to the gym more often and am going to watch my diet."

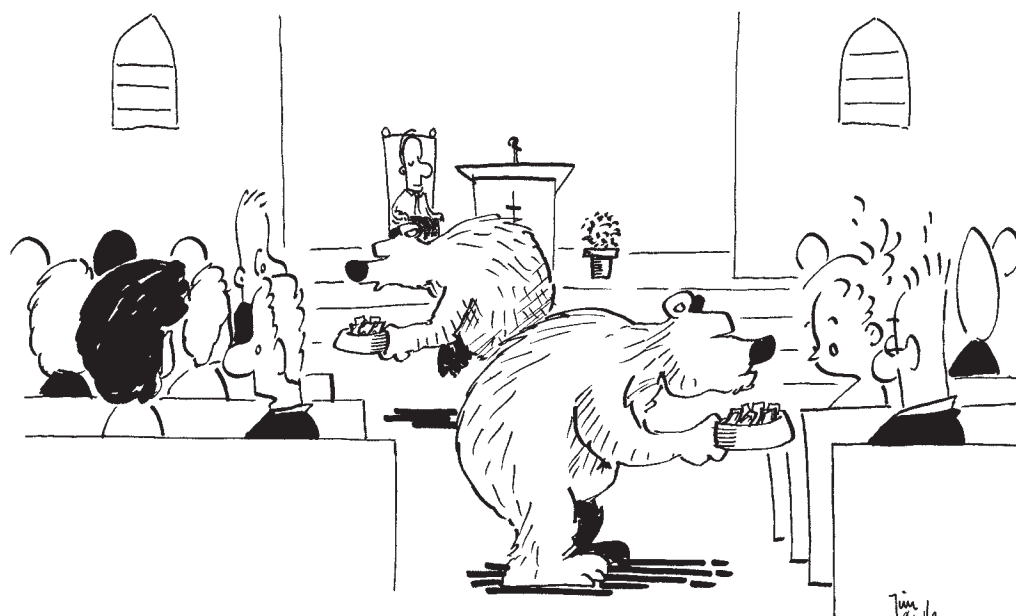
The 8-year-old, nodding all the while, said, "I am going to eat only healthy food, no junk food."

The young lad waited his turn, and then said, "I am going to eat pizza every day."

—Betsy McClure

**W**hen our granddaughter was 4 years old and her brother was 9 months old, their mom warned little Kyle several times not to climb onto a certain end table, as he was likely to hurt himself. After he ignored her and kept trying to do so, his big sister Megan said to their mother, "He's being real naughty. I thought that's why we had him baptized!"

—Sandy Sall



"And they have a tendency to collect more, too . . ."

# Can you donate to support the cost of sending *The Banner* every month?

Eleven years ago, members of the Christian Reformed Church voted to have *The Banner* reach everyone in the denomination. We want that to continue, but we need your help. A crucial piece of *The Banner's* annual budget is an annual contribution from people like you.

We send only one appeal letter to *Banner* recipients per year—and from it we need to raise over \$300,000. Please watch your mailbox for the donation packet and prayerfully consider how you can support *The Banner* with a donation this year.



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