

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan

November 19, 2023 10:00 AM

 *Invites the congregation to stand, as able*

Bold Text is spoken in unison by the congregation



The Sanctuary main floor is equipped with a loop system for the hearing impaired

We are happy you are here this morning!

Third Reformed Church celebrates the gospel of Jesus as the way God moves people from exclusion to embrace by grace through faith. As a gospel community we are fully inclusive of all people who seek to know, love, and follow Jesus in a life of faith regardless of race, class, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for our sins
to set us free from the present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,
to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

God of Wonders

Marc Byrd

Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Dave Doherty

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**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.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

INVITATION TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Blessing

Congregation: **May the Lord bless you as you worship and learn.**

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Dismiss

The people offer a sign of peace to one another

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOD'S WORD

Galatians 6:11-18 (NT pg. 168)

MESSAGE

Don't Back Down

The Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 209

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND LONGING

...ending with THE LORD'S PRAYER (printed inside the hymnal cover)

✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING *My Friends, May You Grow in Grace*

Timothy Meaney

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ POSTLUDE

Prelude in F Major

J.S. Bach

If you brought an offering this morning, please put it in an offering plate, located on the tables in the narthex.

Offerings may also be mailed to the church, made online at: <https://thirdgr.breezechms.com/give/online>

or made by scanning the QR code below.

Make an Offering



Assisting God's people in worship this morning are:

The Rev. Jeffrey Petersen, Senior Pastor,

Margo Taylor, liturgist,

Jennifer Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries,

Pam Lockwood, Director of Music,

Praise Team,

Tyler Nichols, Lead Audio and Visual Technician,

and Josie Breukink, audio technician.

NURSERY AND TODDLER ROOM (LITTLE LAMBS)

We provide care during worship for our little ones, from birth through 3-years-old. The nursery and the toddler room are both located at the southwest end of the building (rooms 104 and 105) near the church office. A great big thank you to Holly Crow for taking care of our little ones this morning. [Click here to sign-up to help on a future Sunday](#)

ARE YOU VISITING?

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please take a moment to fill out a “visitor card,” found in each pew, and give it to one of our pastors. Or, simply scan the QR code below and fill out a “visitor form.”

Contact Information



Please join us for a time of fellowship following the worship service, and for a cup of coffee or punch and a sweet treat.



FAITH FORUM (Formerly called 2nd Hour)

Please come join us from 11:30 am – 12:15 pm in the youth room, following worship and a brief time of fellowship. Faith Forum is for everyone! This morning two of our members will share how spiritual disciplines have affected them.

LOCKING DOORS

Third has turned into a busy place during the week. It is for this reason we need your due diligence in locking doors. If you are the last to leave, please make sure to check doors. Thanks much.

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS

TODAY (November 19)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Keith and Paula Boeve

Beverly Haycraft and Martha Katt

Coffee and Cookies:

Jim and Karen Vanden Bos

NEXT WEEK (November 26)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Jim and Mary De Korte, Bill Dykstra

Coffee and Cookies:

Laura Blauw and Nancy Zwart

UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE

December 3

Ron and Deb Roden, Lisa and Henry Kuiper

December 10

Chris and Leslie Muller, Brock Shoemaker

December 17

Ben and Shannon Maddox, Nancy Mc Intyre

December 24

It's Christmas Eve! "God bless us, every one (Tiny Tim)!"

December 31

The Teitsma Family

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

Our children, ages 4 years (must be 4 by Sept. 2023) through 5th grade, will be invited to dismiss to their own worship space. This fall, kids will explore that God created us for community and learn how to reflect Jesus' love and treat one another with friendship. The children can be picked up following the service in the Children's Wing (east side of the building).

Children's Worship Volunteers This Week (November 19)

LEVEL 1

Allison Klinck

LEVEL 2

Amy Kent

There will be no children's worship next week, November 26.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

TODAY November 19	Worship Service Children's Worship Offered Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School	10:00 AM 11:30 AM
MONDAY November 20	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
TUESDAY November 21	Worship Planning Meeting Classis Executive Committee Meeting	10:30 AM 11:30 AM
WEDNESDAY November 22	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes Choir Rehearsal	12:30 PM 7:00 PM
THURSDAY November 23	Happy Thanksgiving!	
FRIDAY November 24	Church Office Closed	
SUNDAY November 26	Worship Service	10:00 AM

CRAFT/QUILT GROUP WORKSHOP

Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, quilting, etc., especially when you are with others who are likeminded? Pack up whatever you are working on at home and come join us on Tuesday, November 28 from 9:30 am – 12 pm in the drama room. Can't make it on the 28th? This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTIONS

We had 14 delicious chilis to choose from this past Wednesday evening at our annual Chili Cook-off! Our winners are: In 3rd place, Lance Bechtel with his "Grandma's Favorite Chili," in 2nd place, Mark Dietrich with his "Western Seminary Chili," and in 1st place, Bryan Hageman with his "Steak Fajita Chili." Honorable mention goes to Lucas Haycraft for his very first chili, "Red Bean Chili." Thank you to everyone who brought a chili to share. It was a fun evening of eating and community with one another!

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

- Continue to Remember our Friends – Nancy Bloem, Mary Boelkins, John Gorsky (Lisa Roskiewicz’s dad), Bonnie Kovacs, Len Nagel, Roger Ritsema, Leon and Kathy Siekman, Sandy Swan, and Joan Vila.
- Please continue to keep Karen Dean in your prayers as she prepares to have a hip replacement. She has been cleared for the surgery, which is scheduled for November 29. Karen’s address: 207 Laurelwood Ct SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49548
- Back in August, Marjean Tjoelker Dooley asked us to pray for her granddaughter, Natalie, who was 5 months pregnant. There was concern the baby was not developing normally due to an intestinal problem. Marjean is happy to share the news that her great grandson, Jude Smith, was born on Friday, November 15. He weighed in at 6 lbs 3 oz, amazing the doctors as he was much bigger than expected. They were able to do surgery immediately to repair Jude's intestines. The doctor who delivered him was so surprised that he remarked “it must have been divine intervention.” Marjean and her family are very thankful for your prayers and support and praise God for the gift of Jude's life!
- Please take time this week to pray for the missionaries we support through the RCA: Nathan and Nozomi Brownell – Japan, Adrian and Bernardeth Bobb-Kelly – Nicaragua, our missionaries in the Netherlands, and Brian and Donna Renes – USA.

If you are in need of prayer or know of someone who is, or if would like to receive prayer requests via the prayer chain, please contact Paula Boeve @ 616.581.5459 or psvsboo@aol.com, or call the church office. Prayer requests are sent out by Paula and received by you via email.

EAST LEONARD ELEMENTARY

Clothing is needed for East Leonard Elementary. If you have pants (jeans, sweatpants, leggings, etc.) or shirts that your kids have outgrown, please consider donating them to East Leonard, to keep in their “just in cast needed” closet (things happen – ya know!) All sizes welcome, but probably more needed for the younger kiddos! Please leave them on the floor under Tammy Schollaart’s mailbox. Thank you!

NORTH END COMMUNITY MINISTRY (NECM) FOOD PANTRY

We are collecting **crackers** this month. There is a table in the “gathering space” or space by the church mailboxes for donations. You may also make a monetary donation, which can be put in the white mailbox on the food donation table. (Next month we will be collecting shampoo.)



ADVENT

December 3

8:30 – 9:45 am - Advent Breakfast

Our Community Life Team, led by Laura Blauw, will be making and serving breakfast. Be sure to come and enjoy a nice hot breakfast before worship. If you would like to help cook and serve, please contact Laura Blauw or the church office.

5:30 – 7:00 pm - Christmas Tree Lighting and Hot Cocoa

Everyone is invited to join us in the evening as we gather on the front lawn to bring light to the corner of Michigan Street and Lakeside! We are planning for a special light display for the church this Christmas and look forward to sharing it with you! There will be hot cocoa and all the toppings, and maybe a carol or two, as we enter into this season of Advent and wait for the birth of our Savior, the light of the world.

December 17 - Lessons and Carols

Following Worship - Christmas Cookie Sunday

It is our tradition here at Third to share and enjoy our homemade Christmas goodies during fellowship time following worship. Dust off your treasured family recipes, and get your grocery list ready in preparation to bake for this annual tradition, or simply come ready to satisfy your sweet tooth!

Following Worship -12th Grade Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Quilts made and donated by our very talented ladies will be up for auction. And, are these quilts ever beautiful!!

December 20 – Wednesday Night Connection

6:00 – 7:30 pm - Christmas Carols and Cocoa

Join us for the last Connections of 2023! We will have a fancy Christmas dinner followed by Christmas carols and cocoa. Join us for this time of fellowship together as we celebrate the magic of Christmas and the birth of our Savior!

December 24 – Christmas Eve

10:00 – 11:00 am – Family Service

11:00 pm – 12:00 am – Candlelight Service

Christmas Dinner for NE Supper House Tuesday, December 19, 2023



Our Third tradition of serving the Christmas dinner at Supper House is set for Tuesday, December 19. Supper House is in need of volunteers from 4:45 – 6:30 pm, as well as gifts. A gift is given to each guest at the dinner. This tradition has become something many who serve and who are served look forward to!

You can help in three ways i.e. sign up in the connections center to volunteer at the dinner, donate a new unwrapped gift for any age (see list of ideas below), donate money to Supper House. Please put your unwrapped gift donations on the table in the hallway near the narthex. The “White NECM Box” for monetary donations is on the table in the gathering space (near the church mailboxes).

A few gift ideas:

Blankets	“Bag” Lawn Chairs
Pillows	Gas/Grocery Store Gift Cards (\$10-\$25)
Sleeping Bags	Small Oscillating Fans
Backpacks	Lotion, Bath Sets, Body Wash, etc.
Flashlights	Towels
Pots or Pans	Duffel Bags
Puzzles	Small Stuffed Animals
Inspirational Books	Small Toys, Books, Coloring Books
Insulated Mugs	Dolls
Carry-on Size Rolling Luggage	Art Supplies for Children & Adults
Candles	

We will be collecting gifts here at Third until Sunday, December 17. If you have any questions, please call or see Keith Boeve (616.560.9429).

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and love for NE Supper House!



December 2023

<i>Dec 2</i>	<i>Reece Kelly</i>	<i>Dec 17</i>	<i>John Plantenga</i>
<i>Dec 4</i>	<i>John Datema</i>	<i>Dec 19</i>	<i>Linda Karelse</i>
<i>Dec 7</i>	<i>Doug Besteman</i>	<i>Dec 19</i>	<i>Jeff Plantenga</i>
<i>Dec 7</i>	<i>Dianne DeBraber</i>	<i>Dec 20</i>	<i>Brad De Looff</i>
<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>Mary Cook</i>	<i>Dec 21</i>	<i>Lexi Schnelker</i>
<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>Deb VanEssen</i>	<i>Dec 21</i>	<i>Sandy Swan</i>
<i>Dec 13</i>	<i>Lindsey Dawes</i>	<i>Dec 22</i>	<i>Kristin De Looff</i>
<i>Dec 14</i>	<i>Dan Blauw</i>	<i>Dec 25</i>	<i>Linda Besteman</i>
<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>Madison Kabot</i>	<i>Dec 31</i>	<i>Jennifer Christy</i>
<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>Ellen Maddox</i>		



Third Reformed Church

**A community of Christ's disciples,
and the presence of Christ to our neighbors.**

YOUR 2023/2024 CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Kirk Breukink, Vice President
Melissa VanderLeek, Clerk
Walt Lockwood
Windy Schnelker
Ron Schollaart
Barb Teitsma

DEACONS

Karen VanderMeulen, Assistant Treasurer
Mark Dietrich, Chair of Deacons
Marc Coleman
Ryan De Korte
Ben Maddox
Brandon Slomp

PRESIDENT

Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

TREASURER

Ron Schollaart

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