

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan

November 3, 2024 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

All Glory Be to God on High

Nikolaus Decius

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, God called the world into being, saying,

“Let there be light!”

In the fullness of time, Jesus came from God to us, saying,

“I am the Light of the world.”

In our everyday life, we see the work of the saints,

the ones in whom God's light shines.

So let us give thanks for the saints this day,

and let us worship God.

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **751**

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, hear our prayer:

**For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness,
for the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us,
for the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist,
for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us.
We pray for the courage to admit our fault,
the strength to amend our actions,
and the hope that your grace awaits us.
Through Christ we pray. 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

 CHORAL ANTHEM

He Is The Rock

Michael Barrett

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOD'S WORD

Psalm 136:1-6 (*OT pg. 539*)

MESSAGE

The Lord's Song in a Foreign Land

The Rev. Dr. Neal Plantinga

WE RECEIVE THE GIFTS OF THE LORD'S TABLE

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 776

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Maxine De Looff
Ruth De Vries
Bonnie Kovacs
Roger Ritsema
Kathy Siekman
Leon Siekman
Jack Verbrugge

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

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.

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty . . .

. . . With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven
we worship and adore your glorious name.

-Sung-

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

Early in the morning

our song shall rise to thee

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty

God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Most righteous God . . .

. . . 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 . . .
. . . Even so, **come Lord Jesus!**

*Congregants are invited to come forward to receive and eat the bread and drink the cup.
The communion bread is gluten-free.*

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| ✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING | <i>The Blessing</i> | Kari Jobe Carnes |
| ✠ BENEDICTION | | |
| ✠ POSTLUDE | <i>How Firm a Foundation</i> | Traditional |

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. Dr. Neal Plantinga
The Rev. Olivia Stewart-Shoemaker, Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Reid Morris, liturgist
Jennifer Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries
Pam Lockwood, Director of Music
Adult Choir under the direction of Paul Boelkins
Praise Team
AJ Arechiga, audio technician
Ben Wicks, visual/livestream technician

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Bill Davidson - AM Coordinator

Len and Dianne De Braber, The Wilford Family - Greeters

Jim and Karen Vanden Bos - Coffee and Cookies

NEXT WEEK (November 10)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Chris and Leslie Muller, Steve and Lisa Roskiewicz

Coffee and Cookies:

Len and Dianne De Braber

UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE

November 17

Ted and Nancy Zwart, Millie Noordyke

November 24

High School Youth

December 1

The VanderLeek Family, Bruce and Susie Neckers

December 8

Ron and Tammy Schollaart, Joyce Bengelink

December 15

The Maddox Family, Nancy McIntyre

December 22

The Plantenga Family, Bryan and Cheryl Hageman

December 29

The Reid Morris Family

***Please call or email the office if you have a conflict with the date you are scheduled for.**

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 following worship today for a “prayer” potluck. Just follow the amazing smell down to the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited! Thank you to those of you who brought a side or dessert to share. And a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Paige Hendrickson for making what we know will be a very tasty and delightful entrée! We are thankful for your hard work and heart for the Third Reformed Church Family.

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 Bill and Barb Hamlin for caring for our little ones this morning. [Click here to sign up to help on a future Sunday](#)



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

All children, ages 4 years (must be 4 by Sept. 2024) through 5th grade, will be invited during the worship service to dismiss to their own worship space. The children can be picked up following the service in the children's wing (east side of the building).

- This last month of October, we talked about trusting God no matter what and having self-control by choosing to do what's best even when we don't want to. Last week's story was from 1 Samuel 24 about David and King Saul. This taught us to stop and think before we act.
- This new month of November, we will be focusing on two words – *Gratitude* and *Generosity*. God gives us good things, and we will practice being thankful for our blessings and finding gratitude in things around us. "Every good and perfect gift is from God." James 1:17a. We will also talk about making someone's day by being generous.
- Parents, be sure to review the take-home sheets / devotionals that go along with the weekly lesson to keep the lesson alive throughout the week. It's important to engage in these moments that are rooted in pointing our days to God. "God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life." 2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)

FAITH FORUM (2nd HOUR) ADULT EDUCATION – Meets 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

There will be no Faith Forum today. Be sure to join us next Sunday when the Rev. Anne Elzinga will give us her faith story.

FALL SCHEDULE OF GUEST PASTORS

November 3	Rev. Neal Plantinga (Communion Sunday)
November 10	Rev. Anne Elzinga
November 17	Rev. David Wygmans
November 24	Youth Sunday

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

- Continue to Remember our Friends – Nancy Bloem, Mary Boelkins, Len Nagel, Virginia Schollaart, Dee Scully, Sandy Swan and Joan Vila.
- Prayer is being asked for Char Van Slooten, Paula Boeve’s 90-year-old mother. Char fell this past week breaking her ankle. She is recovering and rehabilitating at Rest Haven in Holland. Please pray for healing and patience as Char adjusts to the current reality, as well as for Paula and her sisters, Cindy and Jane, as the coming weeks approach and decisions are made.
- 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.



ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER?

If you are in need of prayer or know of someone who is, or if you 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.

CHURCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

In September we introduced a new program that Third is participating in with Pine Rest, The Church Assistance Program (CAP). Each one of us (and everyone living in the home) has access to many services offered by Pine Rest, including 3 free counseling visits, elder care consultation, real estate consultation, and 100s of webinars on topics related to mental health and wellness. It is all confidential and between only you and the folks at Pine Rest. To learn more about the amazing benefits we all have access to, click the link below and follow the step-by-step instructions for the CAP Orientation Video.

[Click this Link to Learn More about CAP](#) and then from the top left-hand corner of the screen, where it says “This content is for EAP, CAP, and SAP Client members only,” select **Log In**. Then enter **EAP-client** for **BOTH** the username and password as they are case sensitive.

If you would like to make an appointment with Pine Rest, call 1.800.442.0809 (press 1 and follow the prompts). Please remember to say, “I have a CAP with Third Reformed Church.” A licensed counselor will return your call within 60 minutes.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

TODAY November 3	Worship Service Celebration of the Lord's Supper Children's Worship Offered Church Potluck Following Worship	10:00 AM
TUESDAY November 5	Worship Planning Meeting	10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY November 6	Young at Heart Gathering On the Menu: Fried Green Tomatoes, Caesar Salad, Filet Mignon, Spinach and Portobella Ravioli, Asparagus, Rhubarb Crumble Choir Rehearsal	12:00 PM 6:30 PM
THURSDAY November 7	Take Charge Meeting (70x7) Ele's Place Program	9:30 AM 5:30 PM
FRIDAY November 8	4/5 th Grade Gathering	5:30 PM
SATURDAY November 9	De Colores Board Meeting	9:30 AM
SUNDAY November 10	Worship Service Children's Worship Offered Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School 7/8 th Grade Youth Group 9/12 th Grade Youth Group	10:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM

YOUNG AT HEART

Our November luncheon is this Wednesday (November 6) at 12 pm in the lounge. The menu is grand (see above in the calendar). Cost is \$10. Plan to stay following the meal for Pastor Olivia's presentation. She will share stories about and pictures of her trip to Turkey. Please let us know if you plan to come by signing up at the Connection Center or by [Clicking this link](#).

WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS



Our annual chili cook-off is on **Wednesday, November 20 at 6 pm.**

This has become a favorite Third tradition - one you don't want to miss!

Dust off your famous family chili recipe or make a new one which some of us do each year. There will be a fun competition for the favorite chili of the night, with prizes for the top 3! Please let us know if you plan to bring a chili and/or dessert by [Clicking this link](#) or by signing up at the Connection Center. Or, just come and enjoy and eat!

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Sunday, December 1

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.

Sunday, December 8

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

Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn to bring light to the corner of Michigan Street and Lakeside! You will have the opportunity to create homemade ornaments that morning during 2nd Hour and we will hang them on the tree, and sing a carol or two! There will also be hot cocoa served by the middle school youth group with lots of fun toppings!

Wednesday, December 18

6 – 7:30 pm – Christmas Dinner

Join us for the last “Wednesday Night Connections” of 2024! We will have a Christmas ham dinner with a yummy dessert followed by Christmas caroling.

Sunday, December 22

10 – 11 am – Christmas Family Service

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.

Tuesday, December 24

8 – 9 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



- **Food Pantry** – In October we collected 93+ bottles of salad dressing for The Pantry. Nice job, Third! Thank you! This month we are collecting **crackers**. Please drop off your donation on the table in the “gathering space” or space by the church mailboxes. You may also make a monetary donation, which can be put in the white mailbox on the food donation table.
- **Christmas Dinner at Supper House** – Per tradition, we will be serving Christmas dinner at Supper House on Tuesday, December 17. We will also be collecting unwrapped gift donations for this event starting on November 17. This is one of our most enjoyable and rewarding outreach events as a church.

If you would like to get a head start, here are a few gift ideas:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 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 | |



Third Reformed Church

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

YOUR 2024/2025 CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Kirk Breukink, Vice President
Melissa VanderLeek, Clerk
Len De Braber
Walt Lockwood
Dawn Muller
Windy Schnelker
Barb Teitsma

DEACONS

Brandon Slomp, Assistant Treasurer
Marc Coleman, Chair of Deacons
Jason Crow
Ryan De Korte
Bill Hamlin
Karen Vander Meulen

PRESIDENT

Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

TREASURER

Karen Vander Meulen

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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