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# The First Sunday after the Epiphany: Baptism of the Lord

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan

January 12, 2025 10:00 AM

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 *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

*Faith of Our Fathers  
O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Michael Burkhardt  
Hal Hopson

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name,  
**worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

**the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.**

The voice of the LORD is powerful;

**the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **77**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,  
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
making us part of the body of Christ.

**We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.**

**We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,  
and show reluctance to welcome one another;  
we allow the past to hold us hostage.**

In your loving-kindness  
have mercy on us and free us from sin.

**Remind us of the promises you make in baptism  
so that we may rise to new life  
and live together in grace. 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

Luke 3:15-22 (NT pg. 52)

## MESSAGE

*Hearing the Voice*

Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### ✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 290

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*  
(Verses 1, 2, 4, 5)

MORECAMBE

### PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND LONGING

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

### ✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 60

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

### ✠ BENEDICTION

### ✠ POSTLUDE

*Toccata in F Major*

Dietrich Buxtehude

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*

*Elder Melissa VanderLeek*

*Brock Shoemaker, sound technician*

*AJ Arechiga, projectionist/livestream technician*

*Pat Burgess, organist*

## **THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING**

Bill Davidson - AM Coordinator

Gary Graeff and Kim Krause, Beverly, Lucas and Ivy Haycraft - Greeters

### **NEXT WEEK (January 19)**

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Mike, Becky, Teddy and Josie Debowski  
Steve and Marge Kemink

Liturgist:

David Wygmans

Coffee and Cookies:

Edy Borgondy and Tim Breukink

### **UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE**

January 26

Steve and Lisa Roskiewicz, Bill Dykstra

February 2

Bill and Barb Hamlin, Mark Dietrich

February 9

Ron and Deb Roden, Lisa and Henry Kuiper

February 16

The Schnelker Family

February 23

Brandon Slomp and Martha Garcia, David Wygmans

March 2

Tom and Marjean Dooley, Chad and Tiffany Van Dam

March 9

The Coleman Family

March 16

The Gebhart Family

March 23

Dave and Deb Ames, Reggie Turner

March 30

Chuck and Karen Vander Meulen, Gussie Farris

April 6

Joyce Bengelink, Millie Noordyke, Barb Struik

April 13

Ted and Nancy Zwart, Bruce and Susie Neckers

April 20

The De Korte Family

April 27

The Crow Family, Esther Woudenberg

May 4

Chris and Leslie Muller, Steve and Lisa Roskiewicz

May 11

The Teitsma Family

May 18

The Reid Morris Family

May 25

The Kent Family, Margo Taylor

**\*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



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2025. We ended the 2024 budget year with a significant shortfall. A plan is in place to evaluate and address this issue, which will require some time. Therefore, the consistory will bring a recommendation that we have an interim budget for 3 months. The reasons for this recommendation and the consistory’s plan will be fully explained at the meeting.



Join us today following worship and the congregational meeting in the fellowship hall for our annual soup luncheon! There is always enough for everyone. If you brought a soup and/or dessert to share today, thank you! We are also grateful for our Community Life Team!

## FAITH FORUM AND CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL (2<sup>nd</sup> HOUR @ 11:30 AM)

There will be no Faith Forum or Children’s Sunday School today. We will resume next Sunday (January 19) when Bill Dykstra will share his faith story.

## 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 Tammy Schollaart 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 through 5<sup>th</sup> 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). **\*Children may remain with their children's worship leader and group if you plan to stay for the congregational meeting following worship.**

### **January's Children's Worship**

This month in Children's Worship, we will focus on trusting in God in every season.

With every season comes new and different challenges but also the chance to experience incredible joy. Through sunshine, snow, clouds, rain or blue skies, seasons and weather are important to growth, but not just for the natural world. How we respond to each season of life helps us grow in maturity and can spur us to a deeper faith in God. This is especially true when it comes to our emotions. Just as seasons come and go, so do our emotions. And how we choose to handle those emotions can shape us and teach us a lot about how God cares for us. No matter what emotion we may be feeling or what we may face, because of Jesus, we can learn to trust that God knows how we feel. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience, and because of it, we can trust God no matter what. This week our story from John 11 will teach us that when we are sad, we are not alone. Our monthly memory verse comes from Psalm 31:24: "Be strong, all you who put your hope in the Lord. Never give up."

### **7/8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WINTER RETREAT @ CAMP GENEVA**

The weekend of January 24, 25 and 26 our 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group will be retreating on the shores of Lake Michigan at Camp Geneva. This "Avalanche" winter retreat, led by counselors at Camp Geneva, will be a time for worshipping and playing together! If you are not signed up to go, but would like to join us, please let Jen Kelly know. The more the merrier!

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

- Continue to remember our friends – Nancy Bloem, Mary Boelkins, Len Nagel, Virginia Schollaart, Dee Scully, Sandy Swan and Joan Vila.
- Congratulations to Brandon and Martha Slomp! They were married on Saturday, December 21, 2025. *May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Romans 15:5-6
- If you see Reggie Turner this morning, be sure to wish him a happy birthday! It's his birthday TODAY! Happy birthday, Reggie.
- "Dear Third Church, Brock, Willem and I are so thankful for the love offering you so generously gave. It could not have come at a better time as we had a leak in our basement a few weeks ago and had to have an emergency plumbing crew out on the Sunday right before Christmas. We are aware you work hard and are grateful and humbled that you provided us with this gift. Thank you." -Pastor Olivia



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](mailto:psvsboo@aol.com), or call the church office. Prayer requests are sent out by Paula and received by you via email.

## NORTH END COMMUNITY MINISTRY

**Food Pantry** – This month of January we are collecting **flour**. 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.

**Supper House** – Our next opportunity to serve at Supper House, which is located at St. Alphonsus Parish (224 Carrier St NE), is on February 18. We serve from 4:45 – 6:30 pm. Please sign up at Connection Center or by [clicking here](#) if you plan to come and help. It's easy and no experience is necessary. If you have any questions, see or contact Keith Boeve @ 616.560.9429.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

TODAY	Worship Service	10:00 AM
January 12	Children's Worship Offered	
	Congregational Meeting	Following Worship
	Soup Luncheon (Following Congregational Meeting)	12:00 PM
MONDAY	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
January 13		
TUESDAY	Staff Meeting	10:30 AM
January 14	Worship Planning Meeting	11:30 AM
	Elder Meeting	6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
January 15	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
THURSDAY	Take Charge Meeting (70x7)	9:30 AM
January 16	Ele's Place Program	5:30 PM
SUNDAY	Worship Service	10:00 AM
January 19	Children's Worship Offered	
	Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School (2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour)	11:30 AM
	High School Youth Group	5:30 PM

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS - DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP FOR US ALL

Join us on the following dates in the church fellowship hall at 6 pm:  
January 22, February 19, March 5 (Ash Wednesday), March 19, April 23.

**WEDNESDAY**  
*Night*



### YOUNG AT HEART – LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP FOR OUR RETIREES

Join us on the following dates in the church lounge at 12 pm:  
March 5, April 2, May 7





January is National Mentoring Month, a time to celebrate mentoring and the positive effect it has on young lives, a time to raise awareness of the need for more mentors to fill the waiting list of children at our partner school, and a time of gratitude as we recognize the volunteers who make a difference in the lives of children in our community.

We are thankful for our mentors who continue to show up in new ways – teaching our students life lessons that go beyond classroom learning. And we are thankful for our prayer partners who take the needs of the relationships before the Lord.

Contact Tammy Schollaart to learn how you can be involved in our Kids Hope USA mentoring program at Kent Hills Elementary School.

Current Mentors and Prayer Partners:

Pam Lockwood - (Walt)  
Laura Blauw - (Sandy Swan)  
Mark Dietrich - (Jim DeKorte)  
Ron Schollaart - (Brock Shoemaker)  
Jeffrey Petersen - (Nancy McIntyre)  
Ron Roden - (Jane Bolhouse)  
Bill Dykstra - (Mary Welscott)  
Brian Hageman - (Bernice Blauw)  
Dawn Muller - (Windy Schnelker)

We will be celebrating National Mentoring Month officially on January 26 when we welcome the Kent Hills Elementary Principal and the School Community Coordinator (who has been facilitating the student matching.) They will be introduced during worship and then will join us during 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Adult Ed.

## **CHURCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)**

Third has partnered with Pine Rest in a church assistance program. 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.



# 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**

### **REV. JEFFREY PETERSEN**

Senior Pastor  
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### **REV. OLIVIA STEWART-SHOEMAKER**

Pastor of Spiritual Formation  
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### **PAM LOCKWOOD**

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### **LISA ROSKIEWICZ**

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### **TAMMY SCHOLLAART**

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### **THIRD REFORMED CHURCH**

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