

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan

February 23, 2025 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

Hymn

Liz Story

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

**For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Everlasting God

Brenton Brown

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
**our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.**
**Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
and our hearts can no longer bear.**
**Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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 6:27-36 (NT pg. 56)

MESSAGE

Kind to the Wicked

Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

☒ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **101** *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

GORDON

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND LONGING

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

☒ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING *Bless and Keep You Forever*
(Edelweiss Tune)

☒ BENEDICTION

☒ POSTLUDE *Siyahamba*

Zulu Melody

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
the Rev. Olivia Stewart-Shoemaker, Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Jen Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries
Pam Lockwood, Director of Music
Praise Team
Walt Lockwood, sound technician
Kirk Breukink, projectionist/livestream technician

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Bill Davidson - AM Coordinator

Brandon and Martha Slomp, David Wygmans - Greeters

Laura Blauw and Nancy Zwart – Coffee and Cookies

NEXT WEEK (March 2)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Tom and Marjean Dooley, Chad and Tiffany Van Dam

Coffee and Cookies:

Jim and Karen Vanden Bos

UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE

March 9

The Coleman Family

March 16

The Gebhart Family

March 23

Dave and Deb Ames, Reggie Turner

March 30

The Schnelker Family, 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.**

Join us for a time of fellowship following the worship service,
and for a cup of coffee or punch and a cookie or two.



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. Thank you, Anna Wicks, for caring 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



CHILDREN’S WORSHIP

All children, ages 4 years 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 month in Children’s Worship we have been focusing on our uniqueness. Just as no two snowflakes are the same and all of our fingerprints are different, God has made us our own unique self! God made us. God knows us. And God loves us. We have learned about our unique selves and how we can make a difference in God’s world. Our memory verse is *how you made me as amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.* Psalm 139:14 NIRV

FAITH FORUM (ADULT ED/2nd HOUR)

This morning Tom Worm, LMSW, MPA, Lead Behavioral Healthcare Manger from Pine Rest will share a presentation with us titled “Addressing the Health Crisis of Loneliness and Isolation.” His introduction is as follows: “The surgeon general identified isolation and loneliness as a public health crisis. This training discusses the concerns created by isolation and loneliness, as well as the difference between these versus solitude. Comprhensive ways to increase healthy social connections will be discussed along with practical steps participants can take to build well-connected lives.” Join us in the youth room at 11:30 am.

Next Sunday, March 2, Eli Petersen will share his faith story.

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.



Continue to Remember our Friends – Nancy Bloem, Mary Boelkins, Len Nagel, Virginia Schollaart, Dee Scully, Sandy Swan, Char Van Slooten and Joan Vila.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jason Schnellker! Today is his birthday!

KIDS HOPE/KENT HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A huge thank you to this kind and generous church community for providing much needed snacks for the students at Kent Hills Elementary. I am so grateful for the many ways you continue to support them! I am also grateful for 2 more mentors (and prayer partners) starting this month. We now have 13 mentors making a difference!! There are more kids waiting for a mentor, maybe it's you!! 🤗🙏

-Tammy Schollaart

CHURCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

Third Reformed Church partners 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------|
| TODAY | Worship Service | 10:00 AM |
| February 23 | Children's Worship Offered | |
| | Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School (2 nd Hour) | 11:30 AM |
| | 7/8 th Grade Youth Group | 5:30 PM |
| | High School Youth Group | 5:30 PM |
| MONDAY | Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes | 12:30 PM |
| February 24 | | |
| TUESDAY | Staff Meeting | 10:30 AM |
| February 25 | Worship Planning Meeting | 11:30 AM |
| | Consistory Meeting | 6:30 PM |
| WEDNESDAY | Women's Bible Study | 9:30 AM |
| February 26 | Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes | 12:30 PM |
| | Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM |
| | Improv Class | 6:30 PM |
| | Narcotics Anonymous | 6:30 PM |
| THURSDAY | Take Charge Meeting (70x7) | 9:30 AM |
| February 27 | Ele's Place Program | 5:30 PM |
| SUNDAY | Worship Service | 10:00 AM |
| March 2 | Celebration of the Lord's Supper | |
| | Children's Worship Offered | |
| | Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School (2 nd Hour) | 11:30 AM |



ASH WEDNESDAY is March 5, marking the beginning of Lent (a 40-day season of preparation for Easter and remembrance of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice). We will have our traditional pancake dinner at 5:45 pm, served by our 7/8th Grade Youth Group. Dinner will be followed by worship at 7 pm.

...then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

-Genesis 2:7 (NRSV)

"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19 (NRSV)

MORE UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- March 19 Wednesday Night Dinner and Fellowship – "Spring is Coming"
- April 13 Palm Sunday Breakfast and Worship
- April 18 Good Friday Service @ Noon
- April 19 Community Easter Egg Hunt and Holy Pilgrimage
- April 20 Easter Sunday
- April 23 Wednesday Night Dinner and Fellowship
- May 11 Mother's Day
- May 18 Graduate Recognition Sunday
- May 26 Memorial Day



Do you think the soldiers realized that the battle and subsequently the kingdom was lost for “want of a nail”? If you google this quote, you will find the rest of the details for this centuries old proverb that illustrates the importance of the “little things” in life that can often make a big difference!

In the Young at Heart series at Third Reformed Church in year 2025, we are focusing on some of those “little things.” The luncheons are scheduled for **noon to about 2 pm** in the lounge unless numbers or conditions require a change in venue. The suggested donation is \$15 per person and the sign-up sheet is in the Connection Center. Signing up in advance greatly helps with the planning of food and some activities.

March 5th will begin the series with an overview of some of those little things,
April 2nd will focus on some of the little things in our legal system, and
May 7th will have Art DeLoof sharing the details of his work at Third Reformed Church.
We will break for the summer and resume this series on October 1st.

We hope to have you join us for as many of the dates as you are able and encourage you to invite your friends as well. Last year we enjoyed some great food, entertainment and socializing. This year we look forward to more of the same. -Len De Braber

NORTH END COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Food Pantry – Here we are in the last week of February. Thank you again for the many, many cans of soup we have collected this month. It is certainly a record. It is now time for us to collect **cooking oil**, which we will be collecting through March. 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 – Thank you to Paula Boeve, Edy Borgondy, Bill Davidson, Ron and Deb Roden, Windy and Abby Schnelker, Anna and Ben Wicks and David Wygmans for serving at Supper House this past Tuesday. It was a cold night, but you made it a warm evening for our guests. A special thanks to Annika Wicks who was the special volunteer of the night with her incredible energy and enthusiasm while serving. -Keith Boeve

Our next opportunity to serve at Supper House is Tuesday, April 8, 2025.



WE ARE BETTING YOU'VE HEARD THE WORD "BREEZE" AROUND THIRD

"Breeze" is the church management software that we use. All of our members are listed in Breeze and their information (address, phone, and email) is right at your fingertips via a computer or smartphone. You can also tithe through Breeze and see your giving history. If you do not have a "Breeze" account, we encourage you to get one. You will need to be invited by Lisa Roskiewicz for security reasons. Simply email the church office @ email@thirdreformedchurchgr.org and let Lisa know that you wish to be invited to be a "Breeze" user. When you receive the link to register, you will be asked to create a user name and password. (We can also deactivate your current account if you are having trouble and reinvite you, start over so to speak.)

After you have created a user name and password and have your own account, you can get the Breeze app! It's so cool to be able to access another member's demographic information very quickly and to both give and see your own giving history right from your smartphone. To get the Breeze app, load the app called **Breeze ChMS**. You will need to then enter our church ID, which is **Thirdgr**, and be prompted to put in your user name and password. You can stay logged in indefinitely. One of our favorite features is the built in GPS!

After you have become a "Breeze" user, be sure to email the church office a picture of yourself and/or family so we can download it into your Breeze profile.

Of course, we are here to help should you have any questions or need assistance. Simply contact Lisa in the church office during office hours.

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE

Come Serve With Us! Neighbors of Third Reformed Church need help getting to important medical appointments and to the grocery store or local food pantries. Volunteers In Service connects the people of God with opportunities like this to serve in the local community. Each transportation request is a 1x only commitment based on your availability and preferences for serving. Join us as we witness Christ's love and build the Kingdom of God through service! Learn more by contacting Cori at cscholtens@visgr.org or call 616-459-7500. www.visgr.org.



MARCH 2025
Happy Birthday

March 4 Brady Teitsma
March 13 Kim VandeBogert
March 20 Diane Plantenga
March 21 Mary Boelkins
March 22 Breckin Swiftney
March 23 Esther Woudenberg
March 24 Brandy Coleman
March 25 Dick Welscott
March 26 Ingrid Baird
March 26 Joan Vila
March 27 Brenda Bodwin
March 28 Shannon Maddox

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:13-14



Third Reformed Church

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

YOUR 2024/2025 CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Len De Braber, Vice President
Melissa VanderLeek, Clerk
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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