

† Eighth Reformed Church †
First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
Order of Worship

Prelude

Greetings and Announcements

Call to Worship/Advent Reading Joan Lankamp, Julie Aman

Reader: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

Reader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

*Opening Hymn # 245 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Opening Prayer

Special Music: Steve Chaffee
He and Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (see insert)

Prayers of the People

*Hymn of Preparation # 277 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Scripture: **Philippians 2:1-11**

Message: **“He Came for the Hurting”**

*Hymn of Response # 347

And Can It Be?

Offering and Offertory

**Doxology* # 815, Offertory Prayer

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn # 243

Emmanuel

Postlude

(*Please stand if you are able.)

Welcome!

Welcome to worship at Eighth Reformed Church on this First Sunday of Advent. Today as we worship, we begin the season of anticipation, hope, and preparation for the coming Messiah. Our prayer is that your time here will be uplifting and joyful. If you are visiting with us today, please sign our guest register in the Narthex, and if you are looking for a church home, we hope that you will return to worship with us again.

Church Office: 616-452-9417
Website: 8thchurch.org
Email: 8threformed@gmail.com

Our worship service is Sunday morning at 9:30 am.
It is broadcast on WYGR Radio “Jethro FM” at
94.9 FM or 1530 AM. You can also listen to our
service live on the web at Jethro.fm.

Opportunities for Worship and Service This Week

Pastor: Pastor Mark Bergsma

Organist: Paul Kerkstra

Pianist: Ruth Tacoma

Song Leader: Terry Grooters

Trumpet: David Ellis

Greeters: North door: Fred Diekman

Organ door: Todd Riemersma

Elder (organ door, post service): Tim Tacoma

Valet/Lift: Jodi Bultema

Parking Lot Guard: TBA

Ushers: John Deppe Jr., Larry Rudnik

Sound: Scott Diekman

Radio: Kevin VanHeukelom

Praying with Pastor: Doug VanderMeer, Rick Miller

Volunteer Deacons: John Stapel, John Deppe Jr.

Coffee/Cookie Donators/Servers: Marj Hendges, Deb Jacobson

Opportunities for Worship and Service Next Week

Pastor: Pastor Harry Koops

Organist: Paul Kerkstra

Pianist: Ruth Tacoma

Song Leader: Beth Pastoor

Trumpet: David Ellis

Greeters: North door: Fred Diekman

Organ door: Todd Riemersma

Elder (organ door, post service): Doug VanderMeer

Valet/Lift: Danielle Wagenmaker

Parking Lot Guard: TBA

Ushers: John Deppe Jr., Larry Rudnik

Sound: Scott Diekman

Radio: Beth Koops

Praying with Pastor: Doug VanderMeer, Rick Miller

Volunteer Deacons: John Stapel, John Deppe Jr.

Coffee/Cookie Donators/Servers: Terry & Lis Grooters

This Week's Events

Today:

9:30 a.m. Worship, followed by coffee in the Narthex.

11:00 a.m. No Sunday School Classes will meet today.

Monday:

1:00 p.m. Monday Bible Study.

Wednesday:

9:30-10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to Coffeetime downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy coffee, donuts and good fellowship.

Thursday:

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Christmas Tea table set-up for hostesses.

Friday:

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Women's Christmas Tea.

Church News and Future Events

Bulletin Announcements: Marilee Takken, the secretary, is in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please have all announcements to her by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday. "We are asking that ALL announcements for Marilee, the bulletin, or any other related items be put in the **black mailbox** on her desk in the church office. Previously some notes left on her desk disappeared. We trust this will remedy that problem." Thank you, Your Consistory.

Thank you to Steve Chaffee for blessing us with his ministry of music on this First Sunday of Advent.

Pastor Harry and Beth left Friday morning and will be home Monday night (DV). If you have any concerns, please contact your Elder-Deacon Team.

Attention Choir Members: We will sing next Sunday, December 8th. Please plan to arrive by 8:45 a.m. to warm up.

Quilting Ministry: This morning, the quilts we've made this year are on display in the hallway. The primary purpose of this ministry is to share bedding supplies with those in need. We have found an organization locally, Family Promise, that is in need of bedding supplies this year. Based on that, we've decided to limit the number of quilts we are selling. We have on hand 35 quilts and would like to gift 25 of them to The Family Promise for needy families. We will be selling 10 quilts – 5 Christmas and 5 non-Christmas. We know there are many people interested in purchasing a quilt so we feel a fair way would be to do it as a lottery system. We will have a sign-up sheet by each of the 10 quilts to be sold. Anyone interested in purchasing that particular quilt can sign the sheet for that quilt. If there are multiple people interested in any one quilt, we will draw a name from a hat to decide who can purchase that quilt. The average cost for materials to make a quilt is approximately \$40 to \$50. We have decided this year to sell them for \$40 each. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us share God's love through this ministry.

Pen Pals Wanted for Prisoner (Carl is a friend of Pastor Harry & Beth):
Carl Ahlquist #189181
Newberry Correctional Facility
13747 E. Country Rd. 428
Newberry, MI 49868

The Mitten Tree is up and ready to receive your donations of hats, mittens, scarves, slippers, and anything that will bring warmth to those in need.

Directory Update – New Phone #:
Marcia VanEeuwen, (616) 204-6365

Grandville Community Choir invites everyone to a free old-fashioned Christmas Concert next Sunday, Dec. 8, at 3:00 p.m., Grandville First Ref'd. Church, 3060 Wilson Ave. SW.

Church Activity Cancellations: In the event that Eighth decides to cancel services and/or activities, please tune your TV to Channels 8 (WOOD) or 13 (WZZM), our Prayer Chain, or Eighth Reformed Facebook page.

Prayer Concerns and Praises

We express our condolences to Pastor Mark & Judy Bergsma and their family in the sudden passing of Mark's brother, Steve, on Saturday, November 23rd. Memorial Services will be announced at a later date.

May the love of our Heavenly Father and the prayers of friends and family bring peace and comfort to the Bergsma family during this difficult time.

- ❖ Phyllis Schuitema had surgery on Friday, November 22nd. The surgery went well and she is recovering at home.
- ❖ Judy VanderMeer has been transferred to the HealthBridge Rehabilitation facility for therapy.
- ❖ Herm Schellenberg continues therapy at home.
- ❖ Gail Rinvelt (Shannon Wagoner's aunt) is recovering at Thornapple Manor after surgery on her broken leg last week.
- ❖ Phil Tymes had quintuple by-pass surgery last week and hopes to come home this week.
- ❖ Rick Boom is having another leg surgery this Wednesday. He has had numerous surgeries and is also dealing with PTSD after the industrial accident last January that left him with serious injuries.
- ❖ Deb Pierce (daughter of the late Louise Grimm) is at Butterworth Hospital with a serious infection which is complicated by her diabetes.
- ❖ Ernie Otto continues to be under Hospice Care.
- ❖ Homebound or in a Care Facility: This week we remember Ruth Horjus and Joy Stulp.

- ❖ Missionary of the Month: Please pray for Angel Lopez who lives near the El Paso, TX and Mexico border. He collaborates with Border of Grace Church where guests find refuge and a place of worship on their migration journey. He also educates other congregations about the border situation and provides advocacy resources for immigrants.

- ❖ Those dealing with health issues: Larry Rudnik, Michelle Strating (Dick & Lorraine Strating's daughter-in-law), Renee (Cindi Ralph's friend), Daniel Tubbs (Julie Aman's great-nephew), Tobias Wiese and Anna Wiese (Betty Holmes' grandchildren), Joan Emaus, Arvilla DeVries, Ron & Jenny Benedict, Glenn Bartman, Judie Heuvelhorst (Mary Roelofs' sister-in-law), Betty Holmes, Kim Wiggers (Arvilla DeVries' daughter), Heath Misiak, Joe (David Shaver's uncle), and RJ Poel.

Notes of Appreciation

Dear Friends at 8th Reformed Church, I want to take this opportunity to thank the "Prayer Shawl Ministry" - Beth, Barb and Linda - plus others for your wonderful gift given to me! I wrap the Prayer Shawl around my shoulders while on the elevator and as I walk to the chemo treatment area at Lemmen-Holton Cancer Care Center, it gives me the reassuring feeling that I am "Under His Wings", and it stays on the whole treatment! Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and prayers. ~R.J. Poel

Thank you to the congregation for the many expressions of sympathy - prayers, calls, and cards – since the loss of my sister, Leslea. My family and I appreciate your concern. Thank you all. ~Love, Betty Holmes

Thank you for the happy birthday cards and wishes I received from my church family. ~Steve Chaffee

Thanks to everyone who remembered us with cards and wishes for our anniversary. ~Kevin & Arlene VanHeukelom