

† Eighth Reformed Church †
Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
Order of Worship

Prelude

Greetings and Announcements

Call to Worship/Advent Reading Larry & Bernice Palma

Reader: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

*Opening Hymn # 256

Love Has Come!

Opening Prayer

Special Music: *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

Tim Tacoma

Apostles' Creed (see insert)

Prayers of the People

*Hymn of Preparation # 260

Worthy, You Are Worthy

Scripture: Luke 1:1-25 (page 1456)

Message: **“The Forerunner”**

*Hymn of Response # 282

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful

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 Third Sunday of Advent, let us “shout aloud and sing for JOY, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you” (Isaiah 12:6). 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 Harry Koops

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): Terri Oosterhouse

Valet/Lift: Jake VanderHart

Parking Lot Guard: TBA

Ushers: John Deppe Jr., Larry Rudnik

Sound: Scott Diekman

Radio: Jeff VanMeekeren

Praying with Pastor: Doug VanderMeer, Rick Miller

Volunteer Deacons: John Stapel, John Deppe Jr.

Coffee/Cookie Donators/Servers: Jodi Bultema

Opportunities for Worship and Service Next Week

Pastor: Pastor Harry Koops

Organist: Paul Kerkstra

Pianist: Ruth Tacoma

Song Leader: Pete Rusticus

Trumpet: David Ellis

Greeters: North door: Fred Diekman

Organ door: Todd Riemersma

Elder (organ door, post service): Pete Rusticus

Valet/Lift: Rob Pols

Parking Lot Guard: TBA

Ushers: John Deppe Jr., Larry Rudnik

Sound: Scott Diekman

Radio: Scott Pastoor

Praying with Pastor: Doug VanderMeer, Rick Miller

Volunteer Deacons: John Stapel, John Deppe Jr.

Coffee/Cookie Donators/Servers: Marsa Barclay, Joy Hendricks

This Week's Events

Today:

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

11:00 a.m. Pastor Harry's and the Young People's
Sunday School classes meet.

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.

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. If you leave a note for her, please put it in the black mailbox on her desk in the church office.

Dear Congregation, It's that time of year when we ask you to pray about names to submit to fill elder (2) and deacon (2) positions for 3-year-terms. As you do, please consider the guidelines on the bulletin insert. Names may be submitted in the offering plate or given to current consistory members no later than January 12th. Be sure to ask the person before submitting their name to see if they are willing to serve. No one is EVER obligated to serve in this capacity. Our retiring deacon is Rick Miller and Terri Oosterhouse is our retiring elder. (Two elder and two deacon positions are being filled as the size of Consistory is increasing - see Consistory Notes on back of bulletin.) Consistory will review the names submitted. After that, they will be submitted for the casting of lots at our February 16th Congregational Meeting (held during Sunday School time downstairs in the Fellowship Hall).

♪ **A Note of Thanks** to Tim Tacoma for sharing his gift of special music with us this morning during this beautiful Advent season.

Attention Choir Members: We will sing next Sunday, Dec. 22nd, so please plan to arrive by 8:45 a.m. to warm up.

Last Call!! You have one more chance to be included in our new church directory if you haven't already signed up. Beth Koops will be sitting in the hallway after the service so please see her if you want to be in the directory, want a different photo, or have a change to your information. We hope to have the new directories available by Sunday, December 29th.

From Our Missionaries (written 11/16/24): Greetings from the Bruxvoort home in Soldotna, AK. In this season of Thanksgiving, Elizabeth and I wanted you to know that we thank God for you all. We left you last fall having been much refreshed. Though we don't say it enough, we are truly grateful for your partnership with us. We pray you have a blessed Thanksgiving Season (all year long)!
~In Christ's Love, Brian & Elizabeth Bruxvoort

Winter Coat Drive: Winter coats are a necessity for Michigan winters. Not everyone has a coat. Over the next month we are collecting gently used and new coats for Alpha Center (the same folks we do the Diaper Drive for). There is a box in the back hallway along Burton St. to collect your donations. We will collect through January 5th, 2025. Thank you for your support.

From The Deacons: Starting in 2025, the Deacons will be providing 'giving receipts' upon request for only those using the envelope system. If an envelope box is needed, please contact one of the deacons.

Christmas Morning Worship: Please join us Christmas morning at 9:30 a.m. as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. The offering is designated for the "Jesus Film" Project.

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

- ❖ Gail Rinvelt (Shannon Wagoner's aunt) had a setback. She is home, but fighting infection in her knee where the hardware is, so she isn't able to begin therapy until the first of the year.

- ❖ Deb Pierce has been moved to MediLodge, 2786 – 56th St. SW, Wyoming MI 49418.
- ❖ Please pray for Kristi Schell’s daughter, Ashley and Al, as Al is dealing with a work related injury and job loss.
- ❖ Ernie Otto continues to be under Hospice Care.
- ❖ Homebound or in a Care Facility: This week we remember Ron Lankheet and Marv Nyenhuis.
- ❖ 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: Deb Pierce, Rick Boom, Phil Tymes, Judy VanderMeer, Phyllis Schuitema, 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

Thank you for the cards and get-well wishes after my broken hip surgery. I have some challenges but am blessed by each new day!
 “His mercies are new every morning! Great is Thy faithfulness!”
 ~Herman Schellenberg

I want to thank everyone for all the birthday cards. It’s wonderful being part of a caring congregation. Also, thanks for all the calls and prayers during my health issues.
 ~Cheryl DeWitt

To all the talented ladies in the Quilting Ministry, Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! for such a beautiful, handcrafted gift. The workmanship is wonderful and hopefully we will enjoy it for many years to come. It is soft and warm. The personalized note on it is very touching as well. For all who would like to see it close up it is on display in the fellowship area before the service and will be in the front of the sanctuary after the service. It was a heart touching, wonderful surprise at the end of the service. (Glad I didn't discourage Marcia from making an announcement)
Thanks again! ~ Pastor Harry and Beth

Each card added a little more frosting to my cake. Thank you for such a sweet birthday.
~Dorothy Cheadle

To my Eighth family, Thank you for all the cards and well wishes for my birthday. I feel so blessed by so many caring friends.
~Ruth Tacoma

I would like to express my thanks to my 8th family for all their prayers, cards, visits, calls, and meals during my recent recovery. Special thanks to the Prayer Shawl Committee for the beautiful shawl given to me by Barb and Ron Engels. Love to all...
~Sincerely, Larry Rudnik

Consistory Notes

1. Due to the blessing of church growth, Consistory felt it was prudent to increase the number of elders and deacons to five for each office. Based on that, our Congregational Meeting scheduled for Feb. 19, 2025, two new elders and two new deacons will be selected.
2. Deacons are currently working on year-end budget and setting up the budget for 2025.
3. Classis requests that periodically we do a review of service performance for the pastor, as well as, the elders and deacons. Some of you will be asked to participate in this exercise.