

**† Eighth Reformed Church †**  
**First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025 - 9:30 am**  
**Order of Worship**

Prelude

Greetings and Announcements

Call to Worship/Advent Reading Joe & Patty Amthor

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means “coming”.

**People: The kingdom of God is near.**

Leader: Be alert at all times; make your hearts ready.

**People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Prayer (all): Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert, watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn # 368

*He Lives*

Opening Prayer

Hymn #196

*O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

Prayers of the People

Hymn of Preparation # 327

*The Old Rugged Cross*

**Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13 (page 1413)**

**Message: “Hope vs. Hopeless”**

\*Hymn of Response # 358

*Because He Lives*

Offering and Offertory:

Two separate offerings will be received at this time.  
The first offering is designated for the General Fund,  
the second offering for Project Bible Runners.

\*Doxology # 815, Offertory Prayer

\*Benediction

\*Closing Hymn # 762 (vs. 1)

*What a Day That Will Be*

Postlude

(\*Please stand if you are able.)

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*Welcome!*

Welcome to worship at Eighth Reformed Church on this First Sunday of Advent. Today 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.

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### **This Week's Events**

**Today:**

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

**11:00 a.m.** Young People's Sunday School.

**Wednesday:**

**9:30 a.m.** Coffee & Donut Fellowship Time.

**6:30 p.m.** Freedom in Christ Class.

**Thursday:**

**12:30 p.m.** Ladies Christmas Tea.

## **Opportunities for Worship and Service This Week**

*Pastor:* Pastor Garrett Sweeney

*Organist:* Paul Kerkstra

*Pianist:* Sharon Byington

*Song Leader:* Pete Rusticus

*Trumpet:* David Ellis

*Greeters:* North door: Fred Diekman

Organ door: Todd Riemersma

Elder (post service): Jeff VanMeekeren

*Valet/Lift:* Jodi Bultema

*Parking Lot Guard:* TBA

*Ushers:* Marsa Barclay, Rick Soest

*Sound:* Scott Diekman

*Radio:* Kevin VanHeukelom

*YouTube:* Dawn Blocher, Nathan Wolfe, Doug VanderMeer

*Praying with Pastor:* Pete Rusticus, Shannon Wagoner

*Volunteer Deacons:* John Stapel, Larry Roelofs

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

## **Opportunities for Worship and Service Next Week**

*Pastor:* Pastor Harry Koops

*Organist:* Paul Kerkstra

*Pianist:* Linda Wolfe

*Song Leader:* Beth Pastoor

*Greeters:* North door: Fred Diekman

Organ door: Todd Riemersma

Elder (post service): Doug VanderMeer

*Valet/Lift:* Danielle Wagenmaker

*Parking Lot Guard:* TBA

*Ushers:* Ted Nelson, Larry Rudnik

*Sound:* Scott Diekman

*Radio:* Beth Koops

*YouTube:* Dawn Blocher, Nathan Wolfe, Doug VanderMeer

*Praying with Pastor:* Jeff VanMeekeren, Larry Rudnik

*Volunteer Deacons:* John Stapel, Larry Roelofs

*Coffee & Cookie Donators/Servers:* Bernice Palma

## **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 a.m. on Wednesday. If you leave a note for her, please put it in the black mailbox on the wall across from the church office door. Thank you.

**Pastor Harvey's Sunday School Class** will not meet today. It will meet next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, and the topic will be "Evolution or Creation: The Dinosaurs."

**Public Profession of Faith:** Next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we have the joy and privilege of sharing in the Professions of Faith by brothers, Nathan and Jacob Wolfe. Let us come together in celebration and thanksgiving for this special time in their walk with Christ.

**Mission Trip Report:** On December 14<sup>th</sup>, we look forward to Danielle Wagenmaker and Peg Potter sharing some thoughts about their mission trip to Malawi, along with two of their companions, Jake Tornga and April Palmbo.

**Thanksgiving Offering:** This is the final day to contribute to our special Thanksgiving offering. Two separate offerings will be received this morning. The first offering will go to our General Fund and the second offering for Project Bible Runners, who distribute Bibles in over 19 countries. The average cost for a hand delivered Bible is around \$7.00. Our goal is to collect \$3,500 for 500 Bibles. Thank you for your support. -8th Reformed Deacons

**Ladies Annual Christmas Tea:** Last call to sign up for the Christmas Tea! It is this Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP on the sheet in the hallway TODAY, and if you would like to sit with someone, indicate that on the sheet as well. Contact Diane Maitner, 616-481-6486, or Sally Herrema, 616-723-3516 with questions or concerns.

## **Directory Update – Change of Address:**

Robert DeYoung  
Fountain View of Lowell  
11537 Fulton St. E  
Lowell, MI 49331

**Quilting Ministry:** We will be displaying the quilts we've made this year next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The primary purpose of this ministry is to share bedding supplies with those in need. We will be donating to two organizations this year, Family Promise and Community Builders. We have 30+ quilts that will be displayed, 10 of which will be for sale. 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 we decide to sell. Anyone interested in purchasing that particular quilt can sign the sheet. 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, so the 10 quilts will be sold for \$40 each. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us share God's love through this ministry.

**Coffee Fellowship Time** will be held downstairs on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. Don't let this keep you from enjoying the fellowship. Remember the lift will help you get there and back.

**Congregational Devotional Project Reminder!** We hope you are starting to write your devotionals for 8th Reformed Church by the 8th Reformed people! All ages are invited to give their input to make a new daily devotional in the coming year. You may submit something short or long, a poem, a song, or a truth from God's word couldn't go wrong! You may submit as many devotionals as you like! Please put them in Sue Tacoma's mailbox or send to her email at [sktacoma@yahoo.com](mailto:sktacoma@yahoo.com). We would like your entries submitted by the end of this year, if possible, so that the devotional can be printed and distributed sometime next spring. Please attach your name to anything you submit. If you have any questions, see Sandy Workman, Mary Roelofs, or Sally Herrema.

**Grandville Community Choir's (Free) Holiday Concert** is next Sunday, December 7, 3:00 p.m., at Grandville First Reformed Church, 3060 Wilson Avenue. Everyone's invited! Refreshments following.

**Our Monthly Missionary:** Please pray for Yohannes Bekele and his family as he serves as the Director of the Christian-Muslim Relations Centre at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In this role, he equips pastors, evangelists, and other church leaders with the tools to offer a sensitive Christ-centered witness to their non-Christian neighbors.

**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**

- ❖ Judy Wynalda is having hip replacement surgery at Blodgett Hospital on Wednesday, December 3rd.
- ❖ Arvilla DeVries is having knee replacement surgery at Blodgett Hospital on Friday, December 5th
- ❖ Betty Holmes has returned to her home in Middleville.
- ❖ Don Wynalda continues to be under Hospice Care.
- ❖ Those Dealing with Chronic Conditions: This week we remember Helen Shaver (David Shaver's niece – cards can be put in the Shaver's mailbox), and Ron Oostdyk.
- ❖ Those who are Homebound or in a Care Facility: This week we remember Phyllis Blodgett and Ron Lankheet.

❖ Those Dealing with Health Issues: Brian Herweyer (Tim Tacoma's brother-in-law), Donna Miller (Rick Miller's mom), Mel & Connie VanderWest, Bob Dickerson (Pastor Mark & Judy Bergsma's son-in-law, Adam's, father), Elaine Yskes (Pastor Mark & Judy Bergsma's son-in-law, Josh's, mother), Lorraine Strating, Jim VerStrate, Tom Noble (Keith Warren's friend), Julie Aman, Robert DeYoung, Ron & Jenny Benedict, Brenda VanBeek (Joe VanBeek's sister), and Kathy Misiak.

### **Notes of Appreciation**

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Family, Thank you for all the birthday cards and happy wishes. I feel very blessed.  
~Kathie Billings

Thank you to our church family for all the birthday cards for myself and the anniversary cards for Mike and me. I was non-functional and what a spiritual lift when it was needed the most. We are blessed beyond measure to belong to a beautiful body of believers.  
~Mike and Kim Wiggers

Thank you for all the cards I received for my birthday. They were so much appreciated and made me feel very special.  
~Nadine Farran

A big thank you from the Bergsmas on behalf of their kid's parents, Bob Dickerson and Elaine Yskes. They so appreciate your cards, and especially your prayers as they recover!

Thank you to everyone who remembered our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with cards and wishes. Each one was truly appreciated.  
~Kevin & Arlene VanHeukelom