

Fourth Reformed Church

To celebrate and worship our Lord and King

17 December 2023

Welcome! If you are visiting this morning, we're glad to have you with us today.

In our text for today, we will see that we can have a sure hope in the promises of God. His Word is sure and will never fail!

Prelude
Worship Team

Is He Worthy?

Welcome
Call to Worship

Singing

O Come, All Ye Faithful (p. 145)
Away in a Manger (p. 157)
Angels We Have Heard on High (p. 132)
The First Noel (p. 136)

Prayer of Confession

Singing

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (p. 127)

Advent Wreath

Children's worship (ages 3-5) begins in room 3

Kingdom Prayers

Message

Dr. Branson Parler

HOPE FOR A WEARY WORLD: HOPE IN HIS WORD
LUKE 1:26-38 (p. 990)

Communion

Singing

Go, Tell it on the Mountain (p. 138)

Closing Blessing

Our offering this morning will be received following our worship service



This week at **Fourth**

Today

Greeters

Sam & Kristi Dennis
Next week: Jeff & Erin Broene

Nursery

Becky Berrevoets, Norma Boehm, Alexis Bolt
Next week: Erin Berrevoets, Nicole Donovan, Clara Broene

Scripture Reader
Children's Worship

Kristi Dennis; Next week: Steve Wammack
Ruby Parler, Kate Schalk
Next week: No Children's Worship

Coffee

Steve & Jeni Wammack
Next week: Paul & Amy Baragar

11:15 AM

CE Classes & Middle & High School Small Groups

12:00 PM

Lunch & Congregational Meeting

6:00 PM

Youth Group Christmas Party

Monday

6:00 PM

GEMS in the Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM

Fourth/Coit Cadets at Coit Community Church

Tuesday

10:00 AM

Women's Bible Study in the Fireside room

6:30 PM

Consistory Christmas Party at the parsonage

Wednesday

6:30 AM

Dude's Group – *New Beginnings, Michigan St*

Thursday

10:00 AM

Knitting Group at Rest Haven

Saturday

9:00 AM

Women's Passion Prayer in the Fellowship Hall

Praise & Prayer

Mike and Nancy Brinks are home and recovering. Pray for Mike as he continues to heal and pray for Nancy as she cares for him, while dealing with health issues in her own body too.

Tim Randall is finally home after his extended hospital stay. Pray for Dave and Linda as they care for Tim, and pray for Tim as he continues to require breathing treatments.

Announcements

Missionaries of the Month: The Gary & Rachel de León family

Gary and Rachel have several plans for the upcoming year that they want to share with their 4th family. They are adding two new programs that will be their main focus in 2024. The first is home visitation. This will be Rachel's role; she will be visiting refugee families in their homes, spending time sharing the Gospel, praying for families, and building relationships. She also hopes to add more team members to aid in this new role. Gary will be focusing on a job placement program. He plans on setting up a computer lab and offering job skills training in order for new arrivals to better prepare for the job market and increase their opportunities of obtaining employment. Please be praying for them as they prepare for these new endeavors! Donations for the de León family can be given anytime during the month of December.

Congregational Meeting/Chili/Bread/Dessert Cook Off

Join us today for a great time of eating, drinking and rejoicing together. We'll be meeting at noon in the fellowship hall to eat some delicious chili, bread, and desserts and voting for our favorites! We'll spend time together hearing stories of what God is doing through our ministries, review the 2024 proposed budget, and finish our elder and deacon recognition process.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This year we will celebrate Christmas together at a special Christmas Eve Evening candlelight service. We'll gather at 6:00pm for a time of worship and reflection on the birth of Jesus. We will not be gathering Christmas morning, but instead encourage you to spend time reflecting on the coming of Jesus into the world with your family and friends.

Christmas Cards

We want to encourage you to mail Christmas cards to those in our body who are not able to join us for worship. Let's spread some joy this season by blessing members of our church who are currently shut in (if you'd like a list, please see Mary Kay).

Small Groups

Over 40 people have already signed up for the relaunch of small groups!!! There is still time to jump on board as we kick off new groups in January.

Gardens Update

Next year is soon, and it will be a great year to connect with the community. One good way to do that is to have a community garden plot. Start thinking now if you'd like to have a plot to grow some delicious food for yourselves and connect with some neighbors! You can get a plot as small as 10x10 or as large as 20x20!

Rooted Youth Group Christmas Party Extraordinaire

Tonight, from 6-8pm, we'll be wrapping up the first half of the year with a Christmas party! While we won't be doing a gift exchange this year, we'll be packing our night full of unrelenting Christmas goodness. Don't miss out, because when people are talking about this for years to come, you'll be all "bah humbug" and stuff.

Hat & Gloves Needed

Hats and gloves for students at East Leonard School will be collected until December 31. Donations of new or gently used hats and gloves for K-5th grade students can be left in the box in the narthex.

Foundry class: Biblical Interpretation

Have you ever found that the Bible is sometimes a bit strange? Confusing? Hard to understand? Branson will be teaching a course on Biblical Interpretation for the Alliance of Reformed Churches cohort that meets at Community Reformed Church in Zeeland. This course walks through foundational principles of interpreting the Bible, outlines a Reformed doctrine of Scripture, and examines how we can faithfully apply and live out Scripture today. Classes will be held on Jan. 9, 23, Feb. 6, and 20 from 12pm-3pm. The cost is \$500/person, but the consistory has agreed to cover 50% of the cost, so it is only \$250/person. You can register online at [this link](#).

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Empowered by the Spirit
to **follow** Jesus together, **serve** others,
and **share** God's love.
