

# Fourth Reformed Church

To celebrate and worship  
our Lord and King

31 December 2023

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

As we prepare for a new year, many of us look to a new beginning with resolutions that will somehow better our lives. This morning we'll see what happens when God is the one who calls us to a new beginning, and how that impacts our lives for years to come.

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Prelude <i>Worship Team</i>	<i>Oh Come, All Ye Faithful (p. 145)</i>
Welcome Call to Worship	
Singing	<i>Joy to the World! (p. 125)</i> <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (p. 124)</i> <i>King of Kings</i>
Prayer of Confession	
<b>Offering for the de León family</b>	
Singing	<i>Oh Come, All You Unfaithful</i>
Kingdom Prayers <i>Children's worship (ages 3-5) begins in room 3</i>	
Message <i>Rev. Eric Schalk</i>	NEW BEGINNINGS EXODUS 3 (P. 56)
Communion	
Singing	<i>The Blessing</i>
Closing Blessing	

Our offering this morning will be received  
following our worship service

## This week at Fourth

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<b>Today</b>	<b>Greeters</b> Brian & Becky Tubergen Next week: Ken & Amy Coeling
	<b>Nursery</b> Julie Schalk, Caren & Nevaeh Bills Next week: Beth Rossiter, Erin & Clara Broene
	<b>Scripture Reader</b> Taylor Eising
<b>Children's Worship</b>	Don Couthie, Clara Broene Next week: Cindy Davis, Liam Baragar
	<b>Coffee</b> Bob & Connie Scherpenisse Next week: Dave & Richanda Bolt
	11:15 AM <b>No CE or Middle &amp; High School Small Groups</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 AM <b>Women's Bible Study</b> <i>in the Fireside room</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 AM <b>Dude's Group</b> – <i>New Beginnings, Michigan St</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 AM <b>Knitting Group</b> <i>at Rest Haven</i> 10:00 AM <b>Men's Bible Study</b> <i>in the Fireside room</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 AM <b>Women's Passion Prayer</b> <i>in the Fellowship Hall</i>

## Praise & Prayer

Continue to pray for **Marty Berthiaume** for healing and pain management as she recovers from her bowl obstruction surgery.

**Mike and Nancy Brinks** continue to covet our prayers through the recovery process. Pray for good health for Mike and Nancy, and that they can enjoy the Holiday Season with their family.

**Tim Randall** continues to have some struggles with his breathing. Pray for Dave & Linda as they try to sort out next steps for Tim, and pray that Tim's breathing would improve.

Branson's dad, **John Parler**, will be undergoing further tests and beginning radiation as some tests indicate that there is still some cancer present. Please pray for good results for the tests and strength for the radiation process.

## Announcements

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

Gary and Rachel have some additional prayer requests surrounding their family that they would love to share. Xavier (6) and Iker (4) are adapting well to their life in Spain. They love their school friends and are both doing well academically. Both boys are involved in two extracurricular activities: pickleball and piano! Gary's mother will also be spending the holidays with them in Spain. She has not seen Xavi or Iker since they left Guatemala, so they are all looking forward to her visit. They are also thankful to have a few days off in December in order to spend time with family and celebrate their 12th anniversary! A special offering will be taken during the service today for the de León family.

### 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 here, 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!

### Hat & Gloves Needed

Today is the last day for donations of hats and gloves for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students at East Leonard School. Donations of new or gently used hats and gloves for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students can be left in the box in the narthex. Thank you to everyone who has donated!

### 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](#).

### Sermon Notes

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

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