

Fourth Reformed Church

To celebrate and worship
our Lord and King

5 January 2025

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

Romans is often looked at as one of Paul's deepest and most theological letters, but it is more than that. It is a letter written to a group of house churches to help them grow in faith, and learn how to live that out. This morning we begin a new series on Romans, and we're doing so by starting at the end of the letter to see just who Paul was writing to, and what that practically means for us today.

Prelude	<i>Holy is the Lord</i>
Welcome Call to Worship	
Singing	<i>You've Already Won Blessed Assurance</i>
Prayer of Confession	
Singing	<i>Yet not I but Through Christ in Me</i>
Ordination & Installation of Elders & Deacons	
Kingdom Prayers	
Message	ROMANS #1 – THE CHURCH OF ROME <i>Rev. Eric Schalk</i> ROMANS 16 (P.1103)
Communion	
Singing	<i>The Church's One Foundation</i>
Closing Blessing	

Our offering this morning will be received
following our worship service

This week at Fourth

Today	Greeters Micah & Erin Meendering Next week: Ron & Marcia Schuur
	Nursery Taylor Eising, Caren Bills Next week: Norma Boehm, Becky Berrevoets
	Children's Worship Nicole Donovan, Ruby Parler Next week: Becky Tubergen, Nevaeh Bills
	Coffee Aaron & Wendy Wetzel, Nancy Springfield Next week: Phyllis Berrevoets, Sandy Moll
11:15 AM	CE Classes & Middle & High School Small Groups
Monday	6:00 PM Fourth/Coit Cadets at <i>Coit Community Church</i>
Tuesday	10:00 AM Women's Bible Study in the <i>Fireside room</i> 6:30 PM Consistory Meets in <i>Fireside room</i> 8:00 PM Elder & Deacon Meetings. <i>Those who feel led to confess their faith, desire baptism or transfer are encouraged to contact Pastor Eric prior to this meeting.</i>
Wednesday	6:30 AM Dude's Group – <i>New Beginnings, Michigan St</i>
Thursday	9:30 AM Men's Bible Study in the <i>Fireside room</i> 10:00 AM Knitting Group at <i>Rest Haven</i>

Praise & Prayer

Continue to pray for **Nancy Brinks** as she recovers from knee surgery and for Lorraine Smith as she recovers from a lumbar spine fracture.

Pray for **Tim Randall** as he receives treatment at the hospital for breathing issues. Tim has been in the hospital since Christmas, and has gotten worse this past week. Pray that God will be with Tim, Dave & Linda during this time.

Pray for **Norm Schalk** as he goes in on the 7th to have an outpatient procedure done on his heart to prevent future clot issue.

Pray for our Elders and Deacons as they meet this Tuesday for the first time in 2025.

Announcements

Missionaries of the Month: Words of Hope

Our church is joining Words of Hope to support gospel outreach in Indonesia, a country of 17,500 islands and remarkable diversity in language, culture, and religion. Through radio broadcasts in twenty tribal languages, the message of Christ is reaching communities, uniting believers, and strengthening the Church in this challenging region. Stay tuned this month to learn how you can pray and support this life-changing ministry. Donations can be given anytime during the month of January.

Adult Education

Join us this week for a discussion on why we're preaching Romans--backwards! Eric and Branson will be engaging your questions and thoughts, as well as sharing a bit more about why we're taking this unusual approach. Starting next week, we'll begin a new series: "The Big Story of the Bible (the Backstory of Romans)." We'll spend several weeks walking through the big story of the Bible so that we can understand what the issues are and what's at stake in Romans--and for us today!

Save the date: Tuesday, January 28th we are planning a chili cookoff at 6 p.m. Prizes for the best chili and the best bread/cornbread! There will be an open mic from 6:15 to 6:45 for singing, music, or reading aloud.

Rooted

Sunday Night marks one of the most important nights of your life. It's not the Lions game, though that is also important and happening on Sunday night, but I digress. It's the return of youth group and it is happening at the standard time of 6-8pm. It will be fun. It will be meaningful. And it will be done on time.

'The Forge' a gathering for Men.

We will meet for dinner at 6:30pm on Thursday, January 16th. Join us for a meaningful conversation man to man. Ten men gathered on December 19th at our first meeting. We had a great meal prepared by Tim and Norm. Try it out; each meeting is separate from all others. Join us when you can. No cost. Please sign up on the sign-up table so we know how much food to make.

Elder & Deacon Installation

This morning, we will be installing and ordaining new elders and deacons. Ryan Faasse will be installed as deacon. Erin Broene and Abbie Schalk will be installed and ordained as deacon. Brian Tubergen will be installed as elder. Jeni Wammack will be installed and ordained as elder.

A Praying Life

You are invited to "A Praying Life" seminar on February 7-8 at Rockford Reformed Church. This seminar is not for victorious Christians, but Christians defeated in the trenches, asking... How do I focus when I'm distracted with so much to do? How do I pray longer than five minutes? How do I ask when I've tried it before and it doesn't work? Delving into our frustrations, we look at Jesus' powerful yet simple teachings on prayer. We practice becoming child-like, patterning after Jesus' own teaching and style of praying. We learn to ask our Father anything – with eyes wide open to the story he is creating in our lives. Further practical tools and helps are explained and demonstrated. Throughout the sessions people have time to pray, making real what they learned. The cost is just \$10. You can register at:

<https://rockfordreformedchurchapl.eventbrite.com>.

Sermon Notes

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