

Fourth Reformed Church

To celebrate and worship
our Lord and King

21 December 2025

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

In our text this morning, we will see how King Jesus establishes his reign through patience and how he calls us to embody patience today.

Prelude *Joy to the World*

Welcome
Call to Worship

Singing *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
Angels We Have Heard on High

Prayer of Confession

Singing *Behold Our God*

Advent Wreath

Kingdom Prayers

Message
Dr. Branson Parler
UNHURRIED CHRISTMAS: THE POLITICS OF PATIENCE
LUKE 2:1-12 (P. 992)

Communion

Singing *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Closing Blessing

Our offering this morning will be received
following our worship service



This week at **Fourth**

Today	Greeters	Ryan & Morgan Faasse Christmas Eve: Don & Betsy Couthie Next week: Gideon & Taylor Eising
	Nursery	Nicole Donovan, Ruby Parler Christmas Eve: Taylor Eising, Caren Bills Next week: Norma Boehm, Becky Berrevoets
	Children's Worship	No Children's Worship Today Next week: Josh Schalk, Henry Coeling
	Coffee	Branson & Sarah Parler Next week: Norm Schalk, Kathy Burggraaf
	11:15 AM	No CE Today
	6:00 PM	Rooted Christmas Party
Tuesday	10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study <i>in the Fireside room</i>
Wednesday	6:30 AM	Dude's Group – <i>New Beginnings, Michigan St</i>
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Praise & Prayer

Continue to pray for the **family of Kongcheng's uncle, Alee Vang**. It's been an emotional week as they've fought against Alee being deported. At the time of writing this, his whereabouts are unknown. Pray that God would miraculously work to reunite this family.

Continue to pray for healing and encouragement for **Nancy Aukeman, Etta Denbesten, Sandy Gleason, Marge Jeltema, Bill Pyper, Linda Randall** and **Lorraine Smith**. Also continue praying for our neighbor, **Jess**, as she battles cancer. Pray that the treatments would be successful in healing her body.

Please be in prayer for our **Elders and Deacons** as they lead our church and for our **Small Groups** as they meet and encourage one another.

Pray for the homes on your street: that God's name will be glorified, His kingdom come, and His will be done. Expect great things!

Announcements

Missionaries of the Month: Mission Trip – We have an amazing group of kids here at Fourth. And, as we think about investing in their Spiritual formation, I want to encourage you to prayerfully consider helping to support these students as they take these steps of growth. At the beginning of June, we'll be heading down to McLain, Mississippi for a week-long mission trip. Our students will be exposed to some incredible needs, both physical and spiritual, and will be pushed to engage the world around them in deeper ways. These types of trips are intensely formative, while students are taking what they are hearing about the gospel into very practical situations. Please consider coming alongside the youth ministry in developing the next generation of authentic disciples of Jesus! Donations can be given throughout the month of December.

Christmas Cards

It's not too late to send cards to folks in our church who could use some encouragement and love. A list of those who have been unable to worship with us recently or long-term is available on the table in the narthex if you'd like to pick one up.

Christmas Eve Service

We will gather on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00pm for a candlelight service worshipping Jesus, and reflecting on his arrival in our world. Join us for a time of celebration and joy!

Office Hours & Early Bulletin Deadlines

Bulletin announcements for the December 28 bulletin need to be in by noon on Tuesday, December 23 and by noon on Tuesday, December 30 for the January 4 bulletin. Announcements can be left on the church phone at 616.454.1561 or emailed to: office@fourthchurch.com. Mary Kay will be on vacation from December 24 to January 5 with Amy Coeling coming in for a few hours the week of December 29 to complete the bulletin. Please reach out to Pastor Eric or your elder or deacon if needs arise during this time.

Calling young adults!

We are having a progressive dinner on Tuesday, December 30, a time to eat and connect or reconnect. Plan to meet at the church parking lot at 5:30 PM to carpool to several host homes for appetizers, a meal & dessert. RSVP to Erin Broene at 616.822.2926 by December 27, please include any dietary restrictions.

Directory Update

Tim Brinks new address is: 1323 S Bridge Street, Belding, MI 48809. Please make this change in your directories.

Rooted

Tonight, from 6-8pm, we'll celebrate Christmas with a special Rooted designed to bring your Christmas spirit to an appropriate level. Come join us, and don't forget to bring a gift for the gift exchange.

Rooted Small Groups

We'll be back in action in January. Merry Christmas.

Foundry course: Engaging the New Testament

Do you want to dig deeper into the New Testament? Do you want to understand what Jesus and Paul (not Calvin and Keller) mean by the gospel? To explore how "justification by faith" is about the ethnic makeup of the church? To understand how Acts 2 and the Holy Spirit only make sense in light of the Old Testament? To see how Revelation isn't really about "Left Behind" or the rapture but God's faithfulness in the first century and today? Branson Parler will be teaching this class, which meets at Remembrance Church on Wednesdays, Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 4, and 18 from 12pm-3pm and is FREE for people from Fourth Church. You can find more info and register at www.thefoundrygr.org/iml/gr-nt/.

Fourth Reformed Church



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