

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

December 6, 2022

Volume III No. 48

Final LIFT of the Year!

LIFT this week is our annual Parents Night Out with dinner and activities for kids and time for parent's to go and get things done! LIFT will resume on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Sunday Morning Worship

Our Advent Series, Echoes, continues in our 10:00 AM English service, and El Encuentro continues with their Advent season as well in our 11:30 AM Spanish service.

Choir Carol Service

Christmas Pageant



The Children's Christmas Pageant will take place on December 18 at 4:00 PM followed by a pizza dinner for all!

Mitten Tree Gift Deadline

Thank you for your gifts so far for the Mitten Tree. The final day to bring gifts there will be Thursday, December 15. As a reminder, some of your gifts will go to Third Reformed Church people, the rest will be distributed by Community Action House free to those in need.



event announcements and service announcements from our Third Church News so that we might reach people who are not on our mailing list or in our congregation.

If you enjoy Facebook and connecting with others there, we encourage you to take this next week to become Facebook friends with those in the Members of Third Reformed Church Facebook Group so that you might continue to be connected via Facebook once the group is shut down. We will delete the group next week Tuesday, December 13.

Intergroup Dialogue Participation Sign Up

Hey Friends,

A few weeks ago, you read that a consistory would be inviting you

to congregational conversation about human sexuality and gender identity using the practice of intergroup dialogue. This practice is about listening and understanding. ***The goal of these groups isn't to change anyone else's mind or to make a public statement.*** These groups are about having honest conversations with one another about these topics because we care about one another and want to show that we care for all of God's people.

Therefore we invite you to sign up by calling the church office. The sign up will be open through December 21st.

These groups will begin to meet the week of January 9th (date and time forthcoming) and wrap up before the end of February. They will be led by two facilitators each who will receive training with Elissa Lap-penga who is our main facilitator for these sessions. Elissa comes highly recommended by members of our congregation who experienced her work on intergroup dialogue at Freedom Village this past summer. Elissa will also be in church this Sunday and be available to answer questions after the service.

Please take a minute to say hello if you are interested in the group work.

Christmas Eve

The 5:00 PM service will be followed by a reception; because Christmas is on a Sunday and there is a 10 AM worship service the next morning, we will not be having a reception after the 11:00 PM service.

Members of Third Reformed Church Facebook Group Change

In recent days and weeks we have seen a serious uptick in spam posts to this group, some of which are distasteful and all of which are misleading and junk click-bait posts. Due to this, and because we do not have the staffing available to monitor this group (either as a public or private group), the decision has been made to delete it.

Third has several other official forms of communication including Third Church News, our website, and direct emails, which we use to connect with our congregation and the wider community. This includes both informational emails and prayer request emails. In addition, we have an organizational Facebook page and Instagram account, @trcholland, to which we post copies of public

Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to the team of decorators who came in last Friday and put their time, talent, and energy into making our spaces festive! Pictured are Pastor Janelle, Sunny Boeve, Jeanette Beagley, Katherine Hunsberger, Kathy VanTubber-



gen, Barb Moreau, and Elaine Tanis.

Announcements

Sunday Morning Education Series

December 11, 2022

Messiah

DR. CAROL BECHTEL, WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Carol will lead us in exploring the ways that the masterful art and poignant biblical framework of Handel's Messiah can lead us in wonder and worship during Advent, and beyond. Dr. Bechtel is an author of several Bible commentaries, also writing about faithful worship. Carol has a deep love for both music, language, and literature, and is a member of the faculty at Western Theological Seminary in Holland.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Corinthian Correspondence: The Cross Changes Everything.

A study with Rev. Dr. George Hunsberger.

This study takes place in room 22 on the lower level.

Sunday School Holiday Break

Sunday School for adults and children will not meet December 18, 25, and January 1. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will not have reception hours the week between Christmas and New Years. While staff will be working, it will be both from home and in the office and on varying schedules. If you have need to visit the church the week following Christmas, please make arrangements ahead of time so a staff member can meet you. Also, please note the office is completely closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday; as well as Friday, December 30, and Monday, January 2, for the New Year's holiday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We hope you will be willing to show your hospitality to both our congregation and community members by volunteering to help meet our holiday season event needs.

Bakers Needed!

We need cookies and/or bars for the receptions after the Choir Carol Service and Christmas Eve 5:00 Service. Call the church office to let us know if you're willing to help in this way. Please mark on your container if your dessert has nuts or is gluten-free.

Set Up/Servers/Clean Up Volunteers Needed!

We are also in need of volunteers to set-up, serve, and clean up for these events. Please call the church office to let us know if you're willing to help in this way.

Church Family News and Prayer Requests.

Third Church Family News

Sympathy

is extended to the family and friends of JoAnn Bremer who died on November 26 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following:

- Jonathan McMullen who has undergone testing and is awaiting test results.
- Jaime Amaro whose surgery has been postponed a few weeks.
- Tom Ten Hoeve who had surgery for a broken hip and is now in Resthaven for rehab.
- Steve and Dawn Vander Ark and their son Adam.

- Larry and Carla Sue health concerns.
- Jerry and Betty Van Wyngarden grandson's difficult surgery.
- Hospice Care: Lois Jalving.
- For students and teachers finishing up this semester.
- Pray for volunteers to help out during the Christmas season.

Remember in our prayers: Reno Lamania, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Don Maatman, Larry Loss, Lucille Schroeder, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Tom Norman, Eileen Resch, Elvira Garcia

Prayer Spotlight: The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village - Martha Beld, Margaret Doorenbos, Jack Kuiper, A.E. Lacy, Mary Heideman.

Missionaries: Jaime and Martha Amaro (Mexico), Albino and Sandy Rodriguez (Peru).

Financial Update

Oops!

At last month's congregational meeting, I reported that our financial picture was very strong through the end of October—our net revenue (income minus expense) was \$57K better than budget and our general fund giving was up almost 5% over last year. You took that news too seriously! As of the end of November, our general fund giving dropped below last year and our net revenue has fallen compared to the prior month. That's not terrible news as we are still better than planned, but the drop in giving is a bit of concern.

December is our "big" giving month which usually brings in approximately 20% of our income and we'll need over \$200K in general fund giving this month to reach our goals for the year. We hope you will continue in your support and make your year-end gift in the coming weeks if you've not already done so.

For those of you who like more detail, here is a 11/30/22 summary:

	2022 YTD	2021 YTD	YTD Budget	2022 Budget
Income	\$971,151	\$970,770	\$984,017	\$1,200,000
Expense	\$1,048,200	\$1,074,722	\$1,098,987	\$1,200,000
Net Revenue	(\$77,049)	(\$104,002)	(\$114,970)	\$0

Year-End Is Coming

If you are planning year-end gifts, remember that gifts need to be received by the church or postmarked by December 31 to be counted as a 2022 contribution. Because staff will be working from home between

Christmas and New Years, you may also drop contributions in the USPS drop box outside the church entrance during that time.

- If you are planning a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, remember that it takes your fiduciary time to turn around your request and send the church a check. With Christmas reducing the time available for that processing, you should initiate that process by mid-month.
- If you are considering a stock contribution, talk with your broker before making that transaction. If your stock has lost value, you may want the broker to sell your stock and send the church a check rather than transfer the stock. If, however, the stock has increased in value since you acquired it, you may want to transfer the stock to the church's account so you can avoid the capital gains.