

# THIRD CHURCH NEWS

## THE SEASON OF EASTER 2023



May 4, 2023

Volume IV No. 18

THIS COMING  
SUNDAY, May 7:

*""The Way Home""*

*Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes  
on John 14:1-14*

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# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY!

SERVICE . BRUNCH . MEETING . COMMUNION

The Consistory of TRC invites you to a congregational meeting to be held on May 7th during our morning schedule. We begin with a combined English/Spanish worship at 10am in the sanctuary, (with Spanish translation provided). After the hearing of the word and preaching, we will move to the fellowship hall for brunch and our congregational meeting, and we will close our time together with communion.

At the meeting we will get a financial update, receive a state of the church report, and approve a slate of new elders and deacons. A Zoom link will be available for the congregational meeting, however it will be a non-interactive link, meaning Zoom participants will be able to observe but not vote or comment during the congregational meeting. Most of all, we will celebrate our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the work God is doing in our midst. Join us!

## Proposed Slate of New Elders and Deacons

The Consistory of Third Reformed Church puts forward the following slate of names for Governing Elder and Deacon.

For Governing Elder:

- Mary Toppen-Palma
- Carl Folkert
- Harold Gazan

For Deacon:

- Lucia Torres
- Laura Baer
- Bethany Bulhuis
- Sandy Stielstra
- Jeff Voskuil

One additional note on Care Elders: The consistory approved a new model for congregational care last month that included a restructuring of our care elders. This restructuring plan was published in our March 23, 2023 edition of Third Church News. You can access proposal attachment that was included in that issue in previous issues of Third Church News.

This means that the number of care elders we needed this year was a bit in flux. At the April 18 meeting, one care elder agreed to be a quadrant leader and the others are either remaining care elders in their current role, retiring from their term or choosing to not renew their term. The nominations committee is hard at work filling the needs of the care elders for the next term and the care elders themselves are hard at work building the lay congregational care team. The list of names for care elder will come before the congregation for approval at a later date.

## Thinking about an Estate Gift?

—Dave Vanderwel, Assistant Treasurer

This past month the church received a gift from the estate of Cherry Overway, and this past week we received notice that Third will also be the beneficiary of a gift from the estate of a recently deceased member. We are deeply grateful for these demonstrations of the commitment these members had to sustain the ministry of the church which meant so much to them during their lifetimes.

You may also be considering including Third Reformed Church as a beneficiary in your estate plan and wonder how you would do that and what that might mean for the church.

Most estate plans include an addendum or appendix listing the beneficiaries of the estate which describes either a fixed dollar amount or percentage of the estate designated for each beneficiary. Those beneficiaries normally include a spouse, children, other relatives, and often charities to which the donor was committed. In these two most recent examples, the church was designated for a percentage of the estate. Your estate attorney can help you set up or revise your beneficiary designations.

When you designate the church as a beneficiary, you may either designate a specific purpose for which you would like the gift used (e.g., Mission Memorial Fund, building improvements, debt reduction, etc.) or leave the gift as undesignated.

When Third receives an undesignated estate gift, we will put the gift into one of our endowment funds (like the Future Fund which makes 5% of the fund balance available each year to fund unbudgeted program or building expenses, or the Mission Memorial Fund 5% of which funds mission shares annually). If you have questions about including Third Reformed Church in your estate plans, please contact Dave Vanderwel.

## Rev. Eddy Alemán, General Secretary of the RCA, to Preach May 21

Rev. Eddy Alemán will be preaching at both the 10 AM service and the 11:30 AM service, and will be delivering two different sermons.

- At the 10 AM English service, he will preach on Matthew 20:1-16 in a sermon entitled "The Unfair Generosity of God"
- Para el servicio a las 11:30 AM en Español, el título del Sermón es "Solo Cristo" y el texto Bíblico es Hechos 4:9-13

We are excited to welcome Rev. Alemán to Third Reformed!

## RCA Denomination-Wide Restructuring Zoom Meeting

—Larryl Humme, Director of Advancement, Reformed Church in America

You're invited! Join members of the RCA restructuring team and GSC staff leadership for a denomination-wide, virtual event on Thursday, May 11, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern. During this time, attendees will hear what the restructuring team has been working on and the outcomes around which they feel called to restructure, after much discernment. Attendees will have the ability to ask questions and provide feedback on what is presented in the Zoom chat. This invitation is for all RCA members, especially young people with a heart for the RCA's future. RSVP is required. To register, use this link: [rca.org/virtual-roundtable](https://rca.org/virtual-roundtable).

## Announcements

### LIFT is Finished for the Semester

Summer LIFT will run for six weeks, starting on June 28. If you'd like to be involved, contact the office.

### Volunteers Needed

The Women's Ministry Team needs helpful parking attendants during its Tulip Time fundraiser, Thursday, May 11 and Saturday, May 13. Shifts available are 9:00-11:30 a.m., 11:30- 2:00 p.m., and 2:00-4:30 (or til lot is full). Two persons are needed for each shift. Please call Gretchen Munroe to sign up at 616-920-9099.

### Parking Lot Closed

As the above announcement indicates, our parking lot will be closed at points during Tulip Time. First, it will be closed off this Saturday afternoon to ensure we have spots available for Austin and Maria's wedding. Then it will be closed to free parking and used to raise money for Women's Ministry on Thursday, May 11, and Saturday, May 13. Parking will be \$10 per car.

## Upcoming Mosaic Classes

May 7, 2023

*No Adult Sunday School Classes due to the Congregational Meeting*

May 14, 2023

*18th Century Pietism Part I: Freilinghuysen*  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Voskuil

Dennis will share in this second part on spirituality in the 18th century, through the lens of Theodore Jacobus Freilinghuysen, an early Dutch-American minister and theologian, in the context of the Great Awakening, English & German Pietism. Dennis Voskuil is a pastor, professor, and president emeritus of Western Theological Seminary and Hope College. Dennis is a Senior Research Fellow and the Director of the Van Raalte Institute for historical research. Dennis is a member of Third Reformed Church.

May 21, 2023

*18th Century Pietism Part II: Geesje VanderHaar*  
Nella Kennedy

Among Holland, Michigan's earliest immigrant pioneers was Geesje VanderHaar. Geesje faithfully kept a diary that highlighted her spiritual journey, insights, and her walk with the Lord.

Historian Nella Kennedy will present on her research on Geesje's life and reflections. Nella is a Senior Research Fellow and Official Translator at the Van Raalte Institute for historical research at Hope College. Nella is a member of Third Reformed Church.

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

*No study this week due to the Congregational Meeting.*

## Third Church Family News

### Congratulations/¡Felicidades!

- to Austin Geelhoed and Maria Trivino who will be married at Third this weekend.
- to new members who joined our church family on April 30th:

- Adela del Carmen Velasquez Rodriguez
- Beth Korte
- Hollman Ottoniel Velasquez Gonzalez
- Jacqueline Eveling Chavarria
- Janelle Sievert and children Owen, Harper, and Grayson
- Jose Miguel Cintron Velez
- Judy Schutter
- Kati Paola Montenegro
- Leigh and Nathan Klay
- Luis Fernando Artola Velasquez
- Reghan Harms
- Robin Klay

## Prayer Requests

Condolences:

- Doug and Patty Haan on the death of Doug's father.

Pray for the following:

- For those grieving the death of an unborn baby.
- Pastor Angel who will be traveling to Mexico next week.
- Reformed Church in America restructuring team and their work.
- Jane Johnson Keeter who is recuperating from shoulder replacement surgery.
- Phyllis Brown who has returned to The Inn from the hospital.
- Kathy Van Tubbergen who continues therapy for a pinched nerve in her neck.

Hospice:

- Margaret Doorenbos

**Remember in our prayers:** Ruby Steketee, Reno Lamania, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Larry Loss, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Borsen, Margaret Doorenbos, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Barb and Gordon Mummert, Tom Norman, Lucille Schroeder.

**Prayer Spotlight:** Maple Woods - Beth DuMez; The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village - Martha Beld, Phyllis Brown, Esther DePree, Mary Heideman, Jack Kuiper, A.E. Lacy, Elmer Parchert.

**Missionaries:** Linn G. (Asia), Cheryl Barnes (Malawi), Lubna Y. (Asia).