



Bentheim Reformed Church

Senior Pastor Search Profile

We exist to reach the lost, exalt Christ, serve the community,
and teach God's Word.

Seeking a Christ-centered shepherd to lead our congregation into its next
season of ministry.

~280 Communicant Members
~110 Baptized Members
~80 Non-Member Regular Attendees

270 Average Morning Attendance
50 Average Evening Attendance



Hamilton, Michigan • Alliance of Reformed Churches • Established 1872

Welcome to Bentheim Reformed Church

Thank you for your interest in Bentheim Reformed Church. We are a Christ-centered, Bible-believing congregation located in Hamilton, Michigan, and affiliated with the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC). Since our founding in 1872, God has faithfully guided our church through generations of ministry, enabling us to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and serve our community and world for His glory.

Today, Bentheim is a thriving multigenerational congregation with approximately 270 people gathering each Sunday morning for worship. Our church family includes seniors, empty nesters, young adults, young families, teenagers, and children who worship, serve, and grow together in faith. While many members have deep roots in our congregation and community, we are also blessed by those who have recently joined us and now call Bentheim home.

At Bentheim, we believe God's Word is our authority for faith and life. Our worship, teaching, discipleship, and ministry are grounded in Scripture and centered on the lordship of Jesus Christ. We are committed to helping people of all ages grow in their relationship with Christ while equipping them to serve Him in their homes, workplaces, community, and beyond.

God has blessed our congregation with thriving children's and youth ministries, dedicated volunteers, meaningful worship, and a heart for local and global outreach. We value authentic relationships, faithful biblical teaching, prayer, and a shared commitment to advancing God's Kingdom.

As we seek the pastor God is preparing for us, we are looking for a shepherd who loves Christ deeply, preaches God's Word faithfully, cares for people genuinely, and will partner with us as we pursue discipleship, outreach, and ministry in the years ahead.

We are excited to see how God will guide this process and look forward to welcoming the leader He has prepared for the next chapter of ministry at Bentheim Reformed Church.

West Michigan and Hamilton Community

Hamilton is a growing rural community in Allegan County, located between Holland and Grand Rapids in the heart of West Michigan. The area is known for strong family values, quality schools, agricultural roots, active church involvement, and a deep sense of community.

West Michigan combines a thriving economy with small-town character. Major industries include manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, education, and logistics, providing diverse employment opportunities and a strong economic foundation.

Faith remains an important part of community life. The region has a strong Reformed heritage and is home to many vibrant churches, faith-based schools, and ministry partnerships. Churches often serve as important gathering places and are supported by a culture of volunteerism and community engagement.

Residents enjoy a high quality of life with access to Lake Michigan beaches, parks, outdoor recreation, cultural attractions, and family-friendly communities. Hamilton Community Schools are highly regarded, and nearby institutions such as Hope College, Calvin University, and Grand Valley State University provide excellent educational opportunities.

At the same time, West Michigan is experiencing demographic and cultural change. While many residents maintain church connections, a growing number are unchurched or disconnected from regular congregational life. Many remain spiritually open, creating opportunities for relational evangelism, authentic community engagement, and gospel-centered ministry.

For ministry, Hamilton offers a strong environment for family discipleship, community outreach, and intergenerational relationships. As the region continues to grow and diversify, there remains significant opportunity for churches that faithfully proclaim the Gospel while building authentic relationships and serving their communities.

Our History

Bentheim Reformed Church traces its roots to the Dutch immigrants who came to West Michigan seeking the freedom to worship and serve God faithfully. Among these settlers were members of Overisel Reformed Church, our mother church, who established themselves in the area in 1848 under the leadership of Rev. Siene Bolks.

Originally known as the Reformed Church of East Overisel, our congregation was organized in 1872. Early worship services were held in a schoolhouse, a barn, and a family home before the congregation constructed its first church building on our current property. Beginning with just 27 members, the church steadily grew through a commitment to biblical teaching, worship, prayer, and discipleship.

Throughout the years, God continued to bless the ministry of Bentheim. The congregation transitioned to English-language worship services in the 1940s, and the church officially adopted the name Bentheim Reformed Church in 1943. Continued growth led to the construction of our current sanctuary, where the first worship service was held in 1971.

A significant milestone in our recent history occurred in 2022 when Bentheim Reformed Church withdrew from the Reformed Church in America and joined the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC), reaffirming our commitment to the authority of Scripture and historic Reformed theology. From humble beginnings in a schoolhouse and barn to a thriving multigenerational congregation today, Bentheim Reformed Church has remained committed to worship, discipleship, outreach, and biblical teaching. We are grateful for God's faithfulness throughout our history and look forward with anticipation to the future He has prepared for us.

Who We Are Today

Bentheim Reformed Church is a multigenerational congregation in Hamilton, Michigan, affiliated with the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC). We are committed to the authority of Scripture, the lordship of Jesus Christ, and making disciples who impact our community and the world for God's glory.

Our church family includes approximately 280 active communicant members, 110 active baptized members, and 80 non-member regular attendees. We are blessed by a healthy mix of seniors, empty nesters, young families, families with teenagers, singles, and multigenerational households. One of the qualities members most often mention is the genuine care people have for one another. We value authentic relationships, encourage spiritual growth, and seek to support one another through every season of life.

God has blessed Bentheim with a variety of ministries serving children, youth, adults, and families, including Kids Hope, Hand2Hand, Vacation Bible School, Release Time Bible Club, Church Made Simple, Bible studies, and partnerships with local and global ministries. Through these opportunities, we seek to strengthen families, equip believers, and share the love of Christ both locally and around the world.

As we look to the future, we desire to continue growing in faith, discipleship, and community impact while remaining firmly rooted in God's Word. We eagerly anticipate the pastor God is preparing to help lead Bentheim Reformed Church into its next chapter of ministry.

Why We Are Searching

Following the departure of our previous pastor to serve in an Executive Pastor role, we are prayerfully seeking the shepherd God is preparing to lead Bentheim Reformed Church into its next season of ministry. We are excited to see how God will guide this process and look forward to partnering with a pastor who will help us grow in faith, discipleship, and service for years to come.

The Pastor We Are Seeking

Desired Qualities

We are seeking a pastor who is deeply committed to Jesus Christ and called to faithfully shepherd God's people. The pastor we seek can be described in the following ways:

PREACHER AND TEACHER

- Committed to the authority and truth of Scripture
- Preaches Christ-centered, biblically faithful sermons
- Teaches sound doctrine with clarity and conviction
- Effectively communicates God's Word in ways that encourage spiritual growth and practical application

SHEPHERD

- Provides compassionate pastoral care
- Builds meaningful relationships across generations and life stages
- Demonstrates genuine love for people and a servant's heart
- Is approachable, relational, and engaged in the life of the congregation

LEADER

- Equips and encourages others for ministry
- Works collaboratively with elders, staff, and ministry leaders
- Leads with humility, integrity, authenticity, and biblical wisdom
- Models responsible stewardship and Christlike character
- Demonstrates biblical wisdom in decision-making
- Preferably possesses at least seven years of pastoral ministry experience

DISCIPLE-MAKER

- Maintains a vibrant prayer life and dependence on God
- Encourages spiritual growth and discipleship throughout the congregation
- Engages the surrounding community with the love and truth of Christ
- Has a passion for outreach, evangelism, and Kingdom ministry

What We Believe

THE GOSPEL: We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is of first importance. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus provides salvation to all who repent and believe. The Church exists to proclaim this good news and bring glory to God through faithful witness and discipleship.

THE SCRIPTURES: We believe the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is God's inspired, inerrant, infallible, and sufficient Word. Scripture is our final authority for faith, truth, and Christian living.

THE TRIUNE GOD: We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each fully and equally God.

GOD THE FATHER: We believe in God the Father, who is perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, justice, and love. He hears and answers prayer and, through faith in Jesus Christ, graciously saves sinners from sin and death.

GOD THE SON, JESUS CHRIST: We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life, died as the atoning sacrifice for sin, rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, intercedes for His people, and will personally return in glory.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: We believe the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, indwells every believer, convicts of sin, unites us to Christ, and guides us into truth. He is our Comforter and Helper, continually pointing us to Jesus Christ.

MANKIND: We believe all people are sinners by nature and choice and are in need of salvation. Salvation is by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone, based on His atoning death and resurrection, not on human works. Through the Holy Spirit, believers are regenerated and empowered to live a new life in Christ.

ETERNITY: We believe every person will spend eternity either separated from God in hell because of sin or in eternal fellowship with God through salvation in Jesus Christ.

THE CHURCH: We believe the Church is the body of Christ, made up of all believers and united by the Holy Spirit. We are called to love one another, pursue unity, and live in peace as followers of Christ. Local churches are autonomous congregations that faithfully worship God and observe Baptism and the Lord's Supper according to Christ's command.

SALVATION: We believe salvation is by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ, not by human effort or good works. Eternal life begins when a person repents and trusts in Christ, and believers are eternally secure through God's grace and sustaining power.

LAST DAYS: We believe Jesus Christ will return visibly and gloriously to judge the living and the dead. At His return, all people will be bodily resurrected—believers to eternal life and unbelievers to eternal judgment.

BAPTISM: We believe baptism is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ and a sign and seal of God's covenant grace, our union with Christ, forgiveness of sins, and commitment to new life in Him. Baptism welcomes believers into the visible church and is to be practiced until Christ returns. Because God's covenant promises extend to believers and their children, we baptize both professing believers and the children of believing parents.

COMMUNION: We believe Communion is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ as a remembrance of His death and a proclamation of His death, burial, and resurrection. Through Communion, believers affirm their faith in Christ and their unity as members of His body, the Church.

MARRIAGE: We believe God created humanity as male and female and established marriage as a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman. We seek to uphold God's design for marriage and sexuality while extending the grace and truth of Jesus Christ to all people.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Worship is central to the life of Bentheim Reformed Church. We gather each Sunday to glorify God through Scripture, prayer, music, fellowship, and the faithful preaching of His Word. The preaching of God's Word is central to both worship services and serves as the foundation of our spiritual life together.

Morning Worship

Our morning service at 9:30 a.m. features a blended worship style led by a praise band, incorporating both contemporary praise songs and traditional hymns. With an average attendance of approximately 270 people, this service reflects the warm, welcoming, and multigenerational character of our congregation.

Evening Worship

Our evening service at 5:00 p.m. offers a more traditional worship experience centered on congregational hymn singing. With an average attendance of approximately 50 people, it provides a smaller setting for worship, fellowship, and spiritual encouragement.

As a multigenerational congregation, we value both our heritage and thoughtful renewal. Our atmosphere is welcoming and relaxed as people of all ages gather to worship God and encourage one another in faith.

While the styles of our services differ, both are grounded in Scripture and centered on glorifying God. We desire worship that is reverent, authentic, Christ-centered, and accessible to all generations. Through worship, prayer, biblical teaching, and fellowship, we seek to help people grow in their relationship with Christ and live faithfully for Him in every area of life.

Leadership, Governance, and Ministry Culture

We believe pastors, elders, and ministry leaders are called together in equipping God's people for ministry. We are seeking a Senior Pastor who will serve as our primary preacher, teacher, shepherd, and spiritual leader while working collaboratively with elders, staff, ministry leaders, and volunteers. The Senior Pastor serves as one of the elders and works alongside fellow elders in providing spiritual leadership and shepherding

Our ministry is supported by a dedicated staff team that includes a Church Administrator, Missions Director, Directors of Student and Children's Ministries, three Ministry Assistants, two Custodians, two Co-Worship Directors, and a Liturgist. Together, they help lead the church's worship, discipleship, outreach, administration, and congregational care ministries.

We value a shared leadership model in which ministry is carried out through partnership, collaboration, and the active involvement of our congregation. Bentheim has a strong tradition of volunteer service, and we believe ministry is most effective when believers are equipped and encouraged to use their God-given gifts.

Church governance is entrusted to the Consistory, which consists of seven elders and seven deacons who each serve three-year terms. The elders share responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the congregation, providing shepherding, accountability, and biblical leadership. The deacons lead ministries of mercy by caring for the physical and practical needs of the congregation and surrounding community. Together, the Consistory meets monthly for prayer, discernment, governance, and oversight of the church. The Senior Pastor serves alongside these leaders as a fellow elder.

Various committees, including Education, Fellowship, Worship, Missions, and IT Steering, support the ministry of the church throughout the year.

We are seeking a pastor who values collaboration, communicates effectively, equips others for ministry, and leads with humility, integrity, biblical wisdom, and a servant's heart. Our desire is to cultivate a ministry culture marked by unity, accountability, prayer, mutual encouragement, and a shared commitment to advancing God's Kingdom.

Facilities, Resources, and Stewardship

Bentheim Reformed Church has been blessed with facilities and financial resources that support worship, discipleship, fellowship, outreach, and future ministry growth.

Our main church building includes a sanctuary seating more than 300 people with an additional 75-seat balcony, a large lobby and gathering area, youth ministry room, children's ministry wing, library, numerous classrooms, and a Family Life Center (gymnasium) used for ministry programs, fellowship events, recreation, and community outreach. In 2023, the congregation dedicated a Children's Ministry addition featuring five new classrooms and expanded ministry space, reflecting our commitment to investing in the next generation.

The church provides a well-maintained parsonage adjacent to the church building with four bedrooms, a full basement, and a two-car garage.

Across the street, the Cornerstone Building serves as an additional ministry resource for Church Made Simple, Bible studies, discipleship programs, small groups, and other ministry activities.

Bentheim operates with an annual operating budget of approximately \$560,000 and maintains a strong commitment to responsible stewardship. We are financially stable and currently carry no long-term debt. Recent capital improvements include the Children's Ministry addition (2023), elevator replacement (2025), and repaving of the main parking lot (2025).

Missions and outreach remain a significant priority. In addition to our operating budget, the church maintains a separate missions budget of approximately \$85,000, supporting 24 missionary partners, three Christian camps, and a variety of local and global outreach ministries.

We view our facilities and financial resources as tools for ministry and are grateful for God's provision. These resources position Bentheim Reformed Church to effectively serve our congregation, invest in future generations, expand outreach opportunities, and advance Christ's Kingdom for years to come.

Congregational Strengths and Opportunities

As we seek our next pastor, we want to provide an honest picture of our congregation. We are grateful for God's faithfulness throughout our history and for the many strengths He has cultivated within our church family.

Strengths

Bentheim Reformed Church is marked by a strong sense of community and meaningful relationships. We are united in our commitment to the authority of Scripture, the lordship of Jesus Christ, and the essential truths of the Christian faith. Our congregation is blessed with thriving children's and youth ministries, a healthy multigenerational presence, meaningful worship, and a culture of service supported by dedicated volunteers and ministry leaders. We also value our willingness to learn, adapt, and pursue greater effectiveness in ministry as God leads us.

Opportunities

We recognize opportunities for continued growth in several areas. We desire to become more intentional in welcoming and connecting newcomers, strengthen communication and unity when differences arise, broaden volunteer engagement, and encourage deeper discipleship through Bible studies, small groups, and other opportunities for spiritual formation. We also seek to help members develop a stronger personal ownership of their faith, ensuring that commitment to Christ remains the foundation of church involvement.

Ministry Priorities

As we look to the future, we believe God is calling us to focus on several key ministry priorities:

- Deepen discipleship through God's Word, prayer, and intentional faith development.
- Strengthen small groups and fellowship opportunities that foster meaningful relationships and accountability.
- Welcome and integrate new individuals and families into the life and ministry of the church.
- Continue investing in children, youth, and families while equipping parents to lead spiritually in their homes.
- Equip members to discover and use their God-given gifts through active service and ministry involvement.
- Expand outreach opportunities that demonstrate the love of Christ locally and globally.

We are seeking a pastor who will help us build on our strengths, address these opportunities with wisdom and grace, and lead us forward with biblical conviction and prayerful leadership. Together, we desire to be a church that faithfully proclaims Christ, makes disciples, and impacts our community and world for God's glory.

Looking Forward

As we seek God's direction in calling our next Senior Pastor, we do so with gratitude for His faithfulness throughout our history and anticipation for what He has planned for our future.

Bentheim Reformed Church has been blessed with a strong foundation of biblical teaching, committed volunteers, meaningful relationships, and a passion for reaching the next generation. We believe God has positioned us well for continued ministry and growth, both within our congregation and throughout our community.

At the same time, we recognize opportunities to deepen discipleship, strengthen connections with newcomers, expand small-group ministry, and encourage greater engagement in the life and mission of the church. We desire to be a congregation that not only gathers for worship but is actively growing in faith, serving others, and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ.

We are seeking a pastor who will faithfully preach and teach God's Word, shepherd our congregation with wisdom and compassion, and lead by example with humility, integrity, and a vibrant prayer life. We desire a leader who values relationships, works collaboratively with our Consistory, staff, and volunteers, and equips God's people for ministry.

Our prayer is that God will bring a pastor who embraces both our heritage and our future—a shepherd who will help us remain firmly grounded in Scripture while leading us forward in discipleship, outreach, and community engagement.

We trust that God is already preparing the man He will call to shepherd Bentheim Reformed Church, and we look forward with confidence and anticipation to the next chapter of ministry He has planned.