

First Netherlands Reformed Congregation



*“Do good in Thy good pleasure unto Zion:
build Thou the walls of Jerusalem.”
Psalm 51:18*

Pastor - Rev. H. Hofman

**Sunday Worship Services
9:15 AM 2:15 PM 6:00 PM**

Located at 1261 Beckwith N.E. Grand Rapids, MI

Bulletin for October 5, 2025

All the following information is “The Lord Willing.”

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Today, Rev. Hofman will preach at our morning and evening services. We will have a reading service this afternoon. There will be a sing-along after our evening service. All young people in ninth grade and above are invited to attend.
- Next Sunday, we will have three reading services. Rev. Hofman will be serving the Nobleford, AB congregation on Sunday and on Canada’s Thanksgiving Day, Monday.
- The consistory will meet this Tuesday at 7:00 PM. Visitors are welcome between 8:00 and 8:30 PM; please notify the clerk beforehand.
- The evening guild will meet this Tuesday at 7:30 PM.
- The Confession of Faith class will meet on Thursday at 7:00 PM.

PRAYERS OFFERED

- For Elder Greendyk, who is recovering at home from meningitis.
- For Mrs. Marge Bazen, who will celebrate her 85th birthday this Monday.
- For Mrs. Jenny TenElshof, who will commemorate her birthday this Thursday.
- For Rev. R. DeRuiter, who will celebrate his 76th birthday this Saturday.

ADVANCED

- The morning guild will meet on Wednesday, October 15, at 9:30 AM.
- The next Holy War book study at PCS will be on October 15 at 7:30 PM.
- The next Lord’s Supper is scheduled for November 16, with a weekday service relating to the Lord’s Supper on November 12.

NEW ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Van't Zelfde
1585 Marlin Ave. - Grand Rapids, MI 49534

APPRECIATION

The meals, cards, and gifts given for Marcus' birthday, as well as the ongoing prayers offered for special needs children and their caregivers, are greatly appreciated. *Jeff and Andrea Knibbe*

OFFERINGS

Today:	1 st School Capital Fund
	2 nd School Tuition
October 12:	1 st General
	2 nd School Tuition
October 19:	1 st ESSP
	2 nd School Tuition

PCS BUS DRIVER NEEDED

PCS is seeking a full-time bus driver to start immediately. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Bazen at 616-862-5988

VISITING NOTE

The family of Joanne Spaans kindly requests no visitors this week. We appreciate your understanding.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Infants AM

Mrs. Miranda DeMeester
Mrs. Correna Knibbe
Amanda Van't Zelfde
Ellen Bleeker

Infants PM

Mrs. Trina Van't Zelfde
Lynette Rogell
Annelise VanDyke
Bereket Engelsma

Toddlers AM

Mrs. Sarah Kamp
Kristen Engelsma
Sophia Kegel
Jarynne Knibbe

Toddlers PM

Mrs. Michelle Schipper
Jessica Van't Zelfde
Whitney Knibbe
Jennica Flokstra

FROM THE MINISTER

Dear congregation,

This time, I would like to ask attention to a matter which I have observed for as long as I have been a minister in your midst. It refers to the matter of requesting public prayer and/or if the matter is mentioned before or after the bulletin. On the one hand, I have noticed a hesitancy and reluctance to mention any medical concerns, the most unusual reason being that it is seen as a way to seek *attention*. On the other hand, I can see that for some, it may feel awkward to take the step and ask for prayer, when it may indeed *feel* that you are asking for attention for yourself. So, what is the proper approach to this? Recently, I came across an article in the Dutch denominational periodical “De Saambinder” by Rev. Labee of Veenendaal, who addressed this matter in a very pastoral and, more importantly, Biblical manner. I just would like to pass this on, in an abbreviated version, with the hope that it gives some direction in our thinking. And as always, your minister appreciates hearing about it firsthand, versus “through the grapevine,” or on Sunday morning, five minutes before the service in the consistory room ...

Prayer requested

“It is sometimes difficult when people are missing from the gatherings of the congregation, and it is unclear what is going on. Sometimes, in a large congregation, it is not noticed until several weeks or even months later that someone is absent. Upon inquiry, there may be all kinds of reasons, or there may be (smaller or larger) surgeries or treatments, but for various reasons, one did not want these mentioned in prayer.

The late Rev. L. Terlouw (1954–2017) wrote in his little book “Who Comes to Visit Today?” (Thoughts on Visiting the Sick) valuable things about this. He wrote that it is Biblically commanded to make sickness known in the congregation and consistory. The apostle James admonishes: “*Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him.*” (James 5:14a). James instructs the readers of his letter to call upon the elders of the congregation in times of sickness. A phone call to the minister or to one of the elders about a hospital admission, a treatment in the hospital, or an illness at home is therefore not optional, not for the congregation, and certainly not for the office-bearer who receives the notice. A member *must* inform the consistory. The congregation gives thereby also **obedience** to this apostolic admonition. Of course, the first step for a sick person is to enter into the inner chamber himself. However, after that, the Lord wants us to share the needs of the congregation via the consistory with the entire congregation. Not to hold a ‘faith-healing worship service,’ but to plead in the homes and from the pulpit for the Lord’s nearness and blessing. As office-bearers, we must always point to the apostolic instruction. A congregation does itself a disservice if—for whatever reason—sickness and treatments are endured anonymously and unmentioned. Reader, do you expect an answer, yes, miracles when we go the way of God’s Word? Many times, the Lord has shown that He is a Hearer of prayer.”

Congregation, I believe these are matters we should take to heart. The Lord is honored and glorified when we walk in His ways and ordinances. Let me make it clear that your minister is not asking that for every cold or flu, a notice must go in the bulletin. Obviously, there is a limit to what is common sense and reasonable. And with all due respect for those who are shy to have their name even mentioned from the pulpit, I can, to a certain extent, have respect and understanding. However, there is another side as well. And that was the purpose of this reminder, with love and concern, from your well-wishing minister,

Rev. H. Hofman

Church Directory

CATECHISM AND ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

Classes meet after the Sunday morning service.

COLLECTIONS

Offerings are used to fund church operations and to support various charitable causes, as published regularly in the bulletin. While it is intended to use collected amounts as announced, pursuant to IRS guidelines, discretion and control of these contributed funds remain with the Consistory.

CONSISTORY

The Consistory meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

LYDIA GUILD

The Lydia Guild meets on alternate weeks at 7:30 p.m.

LISTENING EAR SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Website ListeningEar.FirstNRC.org or email NRCListeningEar@gmail.com

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Nursery is provided for morning and evening services. Email nursery@firstnrc.org

RECORDINGS

MP3 CDs of the services are available, and an online sermon library can be found at recordings.firstnrc.org. Those who wish to request a sermon CD or online access may email recordings@firstnrc.org or contact Tom Engelsma at 616-292-8741.

PRINTED MATERIAL INFORMATION

The Banner of Truth	973-809-2112
Paul (mission periodical)	226-321-4260
Insight Into (young peoples' periodical)	604-794-5887
Treasured Meditations	616-822-6367
Learning and living	403-320-7992

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Plymouth Christian School 965 Plymouth Ave. NE 616-454-9481
www.plymouthchristianschools.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email announcements to Elder John Spaans/Tom Engelsma at bulletin@firstnrc.org or call Tom at 616-292-8741 **by 8:00 PM on Thursday.**

CHURCH DIRECTORY; MODERN MEDIA MATTERS, BULLETINS, PERIODICALS

Email your home address or phone number changes to directory@firstnrc.org. To minimize mailing costs, please provide us with your email address.

Modern Media information, NRC periodicals, and bulletins: www.firstnrc.org/

Church services are audio-streamed live at listen.firstnrc.org/

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 152163 Grand Rapids, MI 49515-2163

FNRC PARSONAGE

Phone 616-805-4904 Email hofman@premieronline.net

Address Rev. & Mrs. H. Hofman - 2339 Deer Trail Dr. N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49505