

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 November 23, 2025

All the following information is “The Lord Willing.”

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Today, we will have three reading services. Rev. Hofman is serving the Sioux Center congregation.
- Next Sunday, Rev. Hofman will preach at our morning and afternoon services and administer Baptism at our morning service. There will be no catechism or adult Bible classes. He will preach in the Covell congregation in the evening, and we will have a reading service.
- We will have two services on Thanksgiving Day, at 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM.
- This week’s puzzle can be found on the narthex table or via this [link](#).

PRAYERS OFFERED

- For Mrs. Joyce Parmeter, who will celebrate her birthday on Thursday.

ADVANCED

- Due to the upcoming holidays and scheduling conflicts, both the informational and male members’ meetings for the school and senior home projects have been postponed until after the New Year. This additional time will allow both consistories to meet jointly and develop proposals for presentation to the congregations. We appreciate your patience and understanding.
- The next Holy War book study (chapter 13) will be on December 3.

APRECIATION

Thank you for the birthday wishes, cards, and gifts given to Drew for his birthday. Your thoughtfulness in remembering his special day is much appreciated. *The Schipper Family*

COLLECTIONS

We acknowledge the Lord and the congregation for the generous gifts:

General Fund \$9,124	School Tuition \$26,533
Minister Fund \$7,044	Building Fund \$4,757
Benevolent Fund \$6,793	Emeritus Fund \$5,205
ESSP Fund \$11,523	Treasured Meditations \$2,328
School Capital Fund \$200,900	

OFFERINGS

Today:	1 st General
	2 nd School Tuition
Thanksgiving Day:	1st School Tuition
	2 nd General
November 30:	1 st General
	2 nd School Tuition

THANKFULNESS

“Forget not all his benefits” Psalm 103:2. If we do not give thanks for them, we do forget them; and that is unjust as well as unkind, since in all God’s favors there is so much that is memorable. Oh my soul, to thy shame be it spoken, thou hast forgotten many of His benefits; but surely, thou wilt not forget them all, for thou should not have forgotten any. *Matthew Henry*

NURSERY SCHEDULE

November 27, 2025 (Thanksgiving Day)

Infants AM

Mrs. Miranda DeMeester
Emily Bazen
Ashley Knibbe

Infants PM

Mrs. Michaela Kamp
Cora Knibbe
Taylor Kamp

Toddlers AM

Mrs. Sarah Kamp
Jessica Van'tZelfde
Kristen Engelsma

Toddlers PM

Mrs. Michelle Schipper
Sophia Kegel
Jarynne Knibbe

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Infants AM

Mrs. Trina Van'tZelfde
Lynette Rogell
Annelise VanDyke
Bereket Engelsma

Infants PM

Mrs. Aimee Boluyt
Mrs. Agnes DeBraber
Amanda Van'tZelfde
Kaelynn Fluit

Toddlers AM

Mrs. Stephanie Van'tZelfde
Mrs. Correna Knibbe
Whitney Knibbe
Jennica Flokstra

Toddlers PM

Mrs. Jenny VanLagen
Jodi Flokstra
Mya Schelling
Jillion Rozeboom

FROM THE MINISTER

Dear congregation,

If the Lord spares us, we hope to gather this week for our annual Thanksgiving services. May we all have an impression of what a true Thanksgiving frame is. We read of them in God's Word. David said in 2 Samuel 7:18: *"Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that Thou hast brought me hitherto?"* And the Psalmist of Psalm 116 did sing: *"What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the LORD."*

It is what an old friend said in a few words when he called me this morning: 'I am unworthy, but the LORD is worthy.' Sometimes a simple phrase gives food for thought and is enough to meditate upon for a while. I hope that this may be the case for each and every one of us, also if the season gone by was a season of trial, affliction, difficulty, or cross. Asaph's chastisement and rebuke were there every morning, but it all changed when he entered into the sanctuary of God. Then circumstances didn't change, except that now he was as a beast before God. A faithful God for an unfaithful beast became the scene. There you could see the Worthy One and the unworthy one. And it became the place for humble thanksgiving. That would be a blessed Thanksgiving if there were a church full of unworthy ones giving thanks to the Worthy One that sits upon the throne.

The season behind and before us is as it was already: *incessantly busy*. With the instruction of the students added, there is much time absorbed in preparation of the lessons, in addition to the cares of and for the congregation(s) which falls upon us daily. I write this not to complain, but rather to covet your prayers, not only for health and strength, but especially that the Lord may continue to supply a measure of spiritual nourishment as well, so that the well doesn't dry out. We can be given a word to speak wherever, but is the dew of the Spirit upon it? I hope you know what I mean. When our labors turn into a dry squeaking machine, which may even be working properly, it behooves us to acknowledge the Lord. But is the oil of the Holy Spirit in it? Is there a personal visit from the Lord in it? Ultimately, that visit provided Elijah with the strength to journey forty days and forty nights until he came to Horeb. (1 Kings 19) Then there is strength and nourishment from fresh manna and refreshment from flowing waters from the rock. And then it will undoubtedly be felt that the more hunger there is for the Word, the more the storehouse will be used, because that provision of the Greater Joseph is still abundant. Wishing you all, also the shut-ins and lonely ones in the congregation, a blessed Thanksgiving, also on behalf of my wife.

From the parsonage, with love and concern,

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 people's 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. In the interest of saving 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

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FNRC PARSONAGE

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