

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 December 7, 2025

All the following information is “The Lord Willing.”

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Today, Rev. Hofman will preach at our morning and evening services, and we will have a reading service this afternoon.
- Next Sunday, we will have three reading services. Rev. Hofman will be in the Netherlands serving the Middelharnis and Nieuwerkerk congregations.
- The evening guild will meet this Tuesday at 7:00 PM.
- The confession class will not be held this week.
- The PCS Christmas program will be this Friday at Kenowa Hills High School at 7:15 PM.
- This week’s puzzle can be found on the narthex table or via this [link](#).

PRAYERS OFFERED

- For Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Hendrickson, who were blessed with the birth of a baby boy, Koa Jase, last Tuesday. The baby was admitted to the NICU for observation.
- For Sylas Rose, who hopes to begin a pain therapy program at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation soon.
- For Mrs. Beth Engelsma, who will celebrate her 78th birthday this Wednesday, December 10.

ADVANCED

- The morning guild is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, December 17, at 9:30 AM.
- We will have one service on Christmas Day at 9:30 AM.
- Our New Year’s Eve service will be at 7:00 PM. We will have one service on New Year's Day at 9:30 AM.

OFFERINGS

Today:	1 st Scholarship/loan 2 nd School Tuition
December 14:	1 st General 2 nd School Tuition
December 21:	1 st Banner/Insight Into 2 nd School Tuition

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Infants AM

Mrs. Katelyn Hausmann
Cadence Boluyt
Hope Rosendall
Claire TenElshof

Infants PM

Mrs. Alice Schelling
Mrs. Mary Schipper
Courtney Knibbe
Lindsey Fluit

Toddlers AM

Mrs. Heather VanDenTop
Joscelyn Rozendaal
Leah Bleeker
Karlie Sporte

Toddlers PM

Mrs. Christina Engelsma
Ellie Van’t Zelfde
Madison Engelsma
Olivia Kamp

PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OPENINGS

- **Bus Drivers:** PCS is seeking full-time bus drivers to start immediately. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Bazen at 616-862-5988
- **High Needs Aide:** PCS is seeking a **part-time** and **full-time** aide for the High Needs ESSP Program beginning January 5, 2026, due to a change in staff schedules. If interested in helping with this urgent need, please contact Nate Bleeker at nbleeker@plymouthchristian.us.

APPRECIATION

I would like to thank the congregation for remembering my birthday with calls, gifts, and visits. It was very much appreciated.
Henry Keizer

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. Isaiah 9:6

For whom is this Child born? For whom is this Son given? He is born and given unto us, not unto the holy angels or the devils. Oh, wonder! Why does God save people and not devils? Didn't man also fall willingly from the high God? Yet He is given unto men, Gentiles as well as Jews. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

He has not been given unto all men, but only to the elect, unto those who were predestinated to salvation. He has been given unto those who were just as wicked as all the others, whom God passed by in His severe justice. He is given unto those who never would have asked after God, and of whom it is true: I am found of them that sought me not.

We must learn to seek for this born Child and given Son as a Surety for our souls, or we must go lost forever. Without this Child, which was born in Bethlehem centuries ago, there is no salvation. One day, this Child will return upon the clouds of heaven.
Wulfert Floor

FROM THE PARSONAGE

Dear congregation, as you can read in today's announcements, I hope to be in the Netherlands next Sunday and will be absent from the congregation from tomorrow till next Monday. The occasion is our mother's (in law) 96th birthday. Thankfully, she may be doing remarkably well for her age, but we know how soon this can change. I hope to travel back on Monday, in time for the mid-term exams in our Theological School, and my wife plans to return a few days later. Please remember our theological students in your prayers as they prepare for their exams. As a result of our travels, we regret that we will miss the PCS Christmas program this year. Thankfully, Student Rozeboom was willing to substitute for me. May the Lord help him.

A word of sincere appreciation, also on behalf of the consistory, is in place when we took notice of the collection totals in last Sunday's bulletin. If giving so liberally may be any indication at all, we truly wondered why the Lord inclined the hearts of so many to give so abundantly on Thanksgiving. I couldn't help but think if these totals might reflect what we sing in Psalter 225: "How dear to me, O Lord of Host, the place where Thou dost dwell; the tabernacles of Thy grace in pleasantness excel." The Lord knows the heart of each giver and may He reward according to the riches of His grace and mercy in Christ Jesus.

Finally, today I may commemorate another birthday. It is of the Lord's mercies that we may continue from day to day. What an unprofitable servant means and remains, I often seem to have to experience. I can only say with Samuel: "*hitherto hath the LORD helped us.*" (1 Sam. 7:12b) Because my birthday falls on the Lord's Day and because of our travels this week, we have decided to give the congregation an opportunity for an Open House the day after my wife's 60th birthday, so that would be January 24, the Lord willing.

Regrettably, I was forced to postpone the Holy War book study evening at the last minute last Wednesday. Poor planning on my part was the root cause of this, and I guess the lesson must be that combining such an evening with a consistory meeting, a chapel service, a confession of faith class, and teaching in the Theological School doesn't fit well into three days ... My apologies.

In closing, we wish you all a blessed Advent season. May the Lord watch over the flock entrusted to our care and mercifully fulfil what we sing in Psalter 347:2

‘No careless slumber shall His eyelids close Who keepeth thee;
Behold He sleepeth not, He slumb’reth ne’er,
Who keepeth Israel in His holy care.’

So be it.

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 is available 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. To save mailing costs, please provide 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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