

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 March 15, 2026

All the following information is “The Lord Willing.”

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Today, Rev. Hofman will administer the Lord’s Supper this morning and preach a reflection sermon this evening. We will have a reading service this afternoon. There will be no Bible or catechism classes today.
- Next Sunday, we will have three reading services. Rev. Hofman will be serving the Sioux Falls Congregation.
- The choir will meet on Monday at 7:15 PM.
- The confession class will meet on both **Monday and Thursday** this week at 7:00 PM.
- The evening guild will meet this Tuesday at 7:00 PM.
- The morning guild will meet this Wednesday at 9:30 AM.
- This week’s puzzle is available on the narthex table or via this [link](#).
- An informational letter is available in the narthex for those interested in joining the children's choir for the April 17 program.

PRAYERS OFFERED

- For Mr. Jay DeKorne, who remains in Corewell Health Hospital.
- For Mrs. Esther Dykstra, who recently fell and is hospitalized at Corewell Health Blodgett Hospital.
- For Mr. & Mrs. Matt Spaans, who were blessed with the birth of a baby girl, Kate Nicole, last Friday. The baby is in NICU for breathing difficulties and is improving, and the mother is doing well.
- For Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hofman, who were blessed with the birth of a baby boy, Walter Arthur, on March 7. Both mother and baby are doing well.
- For Mrs. Lois Blaak, who will celebrate her birthday this Friday.
- For Mr. Ed Rose, who will celebrate his 76th birthday this Friday.
- For Levi DeBruine, who remains in the NICU at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

ADVANCED

- The classis Midwest will be held in Sioux Falls, SD, on Wednesday, March 25. Rev. Witvoet will lead the prayer service on Tuesday, March 24. Rev. Hofman and Elder Boluyt are the Beckwith delegates.
- The annual combined guild meeting will be on April 1 at PCS starting at 6:00 PM. Please RSVP to Mary Bazen at 616-889-2542 by March 24.
- The next Baptism is scheduled for April 19, with baptism registration on Tuesday, April 14, at 7:00 PM.

COLLECTIONS

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

General \$29,474	School \$26,462	Banner/Insight \$4,290	NAGM \$5,000
Minister \$5,394	Catechism/ESSP \$698	School Capital \$2,000	

OFFERINGS

Today:	1 st School Capital Fund
	2 nd School Tuition
March 22:	1 st General
	2 nd School Tuition
March 29:	1 st Scholarship/loan
	2 nd School Tuition

HOUSING REQUEST

A couple from one of our Dutch churches intends to move to Grand Rapids with their two infant children this summer and is searching for a place to rent for several months while they relocate for work. Please contact Elder Greendyk if you know of a rental that would suit this family or would like more information.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Infants AM

Mrs. Rebecca Bleeker
*Mrs. Shalayna DeVisser
Annelise Fluit
Lilia Knibbe

Infants PM

*Mrs. Maryellen Fluit
Mrs. Maria Kamp
Melanie TenElshof
Lindsey Fluit

Toddlers AM

Mrs. Sarah Kamp
Anna Rozendaal
Tessa Stegenga
Lucy Kamp *if needed

Toddlers PM

Mrs. Carrie Knibbe
Jessica Van'tZelfde
Sienna Knibbe
Elaina Knibbe

THE CONDUCT TO BE OBSERVED ON COMMUNION

If it be asked, what ought to be the subject of his meditation when seated there? We answer, as has been before remarked, that because communicants are to be at the table but for a short time, let them not aim at doing too many things, but quietly wait upon the God of their salvation. Let them bring the empty vessel of their hearts to God's all-sufficiency to receive grace for grace. Who can tell but that He may speak peace to them, and embrace their souls in the arms of His love! But since there are no promises that God will, without means, meet with them, they must not be inactive. Nothing becomes them better than that they be deeply impressed with a sense of their unworthiness, emptiness, and condemnation before God, and ready to say, "We are worms of the earth, sinful dust and ashes. May we sit down at the table of the Lord? May we eat of His bread, and drink of His wine? May we enjoy the privilege of entering within the palace of the King? Are the riches of His house and the blessings of His kingdom distributed to us? Lord! We are unworthy of the least of all Thy mercies and of all Thy truth, conferred by Thee upon us. Wilt Thou deign to look on such creatures as we are? What shall we, Thy servants and handmaidens, say unto Thee? Lord, Lord, we are unworthy that Thou shouldst come under our roof."

Language cannot describe how sweet, how reviving to the soul, and how delightful in the eyes of God such frames are. He will manifest His grace to such persons. But this sight of their unworthiness should not so affect them as to make them lose their confidence, continue in unbelief, keep at a distance from God, and say, "We are too unworthy and too sinful; our poverty is so great that we dare not approach." No. Because you are so poor you have need of a fullness to supply your wants; because you are so unworthy you must give all the glory to Jesus for condescending to regard such creatures as you are; because you are so sinful you must flee to His shed blood to be washed; because you deserve the curse, you must seek a hiding place in His wounds, you cannot be too miserable to be healed, too poor to be enriched. Let all these considerations then excite you the more to apply to His fullness, from which all your wants can be supplied. But when communicants have thus contemplated their situation by nature before God, let them, on the other hand, look at the table as opening to their view an abyss of love and grace. God, in His everlasting compassion, the triune, blessed and all-sufficient God, who stood in no need of the sinner, out of pure, free, and unmerited mercy, condescending to look upon them.

Think, communicants, that you hear God saying, as with a voice from heaven, I have loved you with an everlasting love, and therefore with loving kindness have I drawn you, rather than that you, my children, should die, and sink into the bottomless pit of destruction. I have parted with my Son, the Son of my love, who was my delight from eternity; I have appointed Him to be a Surety, sent Him into the world in the form of a servant, and given Him up to die the shameful, painful, and accursed death of the cross to be the procuring cause of your eternal salvation. Here is a confirmation of my love towards you, that Christ died for you when you were yet sinners. I have so loved the world that I have given Mine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. I commend my grace to you; and, to remove your unbelief, behold the visible tokens by which it is confirmed. Take these signs; say Amen to My gracious invitations. In using them, embrace My Son, and then you will attain life eternal and derive satisfaction and comfort from Me. *Petrus Immens The Devout Communicant*

APRIL 2026 HOUSE VISITATION SCHEDULE

If a visit must be canceled, please contact an elder to reschedule.

April 7

Elders: S. Boluyt, J. VanZweden

7:00 PM Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Kamp

8:15 PM Mr. and Mrs. Dave VanDyke

Elder: B. Greendyk, Deacon: D. DeMeester

7:00 PM Mr. and Mrs. David Warner

8:15 PM Mr. and Mrs. Jacob VanDyke

April 14

Elders: S. Boluyt, R. VanDenTop

7:00 PM Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kegel

7:00 PM Miss Hannah Kegel

8:15 PM Mr. and Mrs. Eric Boluyt

8:15 PM Miss Cadence Boluyt

April 21

Elders: M. Blom, J. VanZweden

7:00 PM Mrs. Nancy VanderBoon

8:15 PM Mr. and Mrs. John Bazen

April 28

Elders: M. Blom, J. Spaans

7:00 PM Mr. and Mrs. Amos Kamp

8:15 PM Mr. & Mrs. Tim Westrate

8:15 PM Mr. Kyle Westrate

8:15 PM Miss Sara Westrate

Elders: R. VanDenTop, B. Greendyk

7:00 PM Mr. and Mrs. Tim TenElshof

8:15 PM Mr. and Mrs. Jason Engelsma

AFTERNOON VISIT

April 16

Rev. Hofman – Deacon: Herman Hofman

1:30 PM Mrs. Lydia Henke

2:45 PM Dr. and Mrs. Willard DeBraber

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

An online sermon library is available at recordings.firstnrc.org. To request access to the online system, please 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 send announcements to Elder John Spaans/Tom Engelsma by email 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 are accessible at firstnrc.org/. Church services are live-streamed at listen.firstnrc.org/

MAILING ADDRESS

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FNRC PARSONAGE

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