

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 8, 2026

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 preparatory sermon this morning and a reading service this afternoon. There will be a sing-along after our evening service. We invite all our young people in 9th grade and up to attend.
- Next Sunday, Rev. Hofman will administer the Lord’s Supper at our morning service and preach a reflection sermon at our evening service; we will have a reading service in the afternoon. Censura Morem was held. There will be no Bible or catechism classes next week.
- The choir will meet on Monday at 7:15 PM.
- Our annual Prayer Day services will be held this Wednesday, at 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM. The evening service will also be related to the Lord’s Supper.
- The confession class will meet on Thursday at 7:00 PM.
- Membership papers have been sent to Mrs. Lauren Hup (nee Sporte) for her transfer to the Corsica congregation. May the Lord remember this couple.
- The latest issue of the Learning and Living magazine is in the narthex racks.
- The 2026 NRC Church and School directories are available in the narthex.

PRAYERS OFFERED

- For Marcus Knibbe, who will have eye muscle surgery on Monday.
- For Mrs. Sharon Rozeboom, who was hospitalized for hypertension and was able to return home.
- For Andrew DeBruine, who will celebrate his 10th birthday this Friday.
- For Mrs. Joanne Spaans, who will celebrate her 97th birthday next Sunday.
- For Levi DeBruine, who underwent surgery on Monday to place a shunt in his brain for hydrocephalus. He remains in the NICU at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital for seizure monitoring.

ADVANCED

- The evening guild will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 PM.
- The morning guild will meet on Wednesday, March 18, at 9:30 AM.
- The annual combined guild meeting for all ladies in 9th grade and older will be on April 1 at PCS. The punch bowl will begin at 6:00 PM. Please RSVP to Mary Bazen at 616-889-2542 by March 24.
- A future Lord’s Supper has been scheduled for November 1. A preparatory sermon will be preached on October 25, followed by a combined midweek service with Reformation Day on October 28.

OFFERINGS

Today:	1 st General 2 nd School Tuition
March 11:	Bus Fund (Prayer Day)
March 15:	1 st School Capital Fund 2 nd School Tuition

Correction: For the Prayer Day services, there will be only one collection. It will be for the bus replacement fund.

The mission committee is grateful for donations of \$13,733 received at the mission dinner. May the Lord bless this for the spreading of the gospel in Bolivia and Peru.

APPRECIATION

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and well-wishes received during my recent hospitalization. It was very much appreciated. *Al DeBruine*

NURSERY SCHEDULE

March 11, 2026 (Prayer Day)

Infants AM

Mrs. Nicole Verhoef
Amanda Van't Zelfde
Cora Knibbe

Infants PM

Mrs. Lorraine Rosendall
Emily Bazen
Katelyn Rozeboom

Toddlers AM

Mrs. Karleen Klaasen
Joscelyn Rozendaal
Madison Engelsma

Toddlers PM

Mrs. Heather VanDenTop
Ellie Van't Zelfde
Olivia Kamp

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Infants AM

*Mrs. Cori VanDyke
Mrs. Jayne Bleeker
Ashley Knibbe
Taylor Kamp

Infants PM

*Mrs. Kathy DeMeester
Mrs. Paulina Rosendall
Kaelynn Fluit
Bereket Engelsma

Toddlers AM

Mrs. Jennifer Rogell
Emma Rozendaal
Abigail Sporte
Alivia Kleyn * if needed

Toddlers PM

Mrs. Karalyn Weeda
Audrey Kamp
Courtney Van'tZelfde
Karlie Sporte

A PORTION FOR ALL

This time I wish to write some things regarding the preparation for Holy Communion. Since ancient times, it has been the custom in the church to have an examination sermon or preparatory sermon preceding the celebration of the Supper. The ancients said, "Sacred things must be performed in a sacred manner." In the service of God in particular, it is fitting that we should be filled with holy awe, reverence, and prudence. The Lord requires of us in his Word, "Be ye holy for I am holy." When Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, thoughtlessly and rashly offered strange fire before the Lord (Lev. 10:2), there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. The Lord will be sanctified in all those who approach Him.

It was the same way in the Bible times when the Passover was celebrated under the ceremonial dispensation. And in the days of the New Testament, Paul writes to the church at Corinth: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup" (1 Cor. 11:28). Paul has references here to self-examination. As a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, he requires not only that we attentively examine and survey our state and conduct, but also, after this examination, that we put ourselves in a proper state of mind and approve ourselves with an eye to the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We ourselves, then, must enter into the crucible; our own heart and life must be put to the test. The Lord commands us in His Word to examine ourselves carefully, very carefully. Never, no never can the great import and significance of eternity weigh too heavily upon our hearts. If we had two souls, we could risk one, but such is not the case.

Each of us will have our hands full examining our own hearts; we need not go to others or listen to others. Of course, if we do so in the proper sense of the word, nothing can be said, but otherwise it is wicked. Our evil nature is so inclined to place ourselves above the other man and to judge and condemn. This is not the work of the Spirit; on the contrary, the Spirit causes us to look to ourselves. Truly, above all things, it is so necessary that we become consciously accountable and answerable to the most High God, and that we end up at the feet of God as one who knows nothing, David confessed: "I have sinned and done evil in thy sight."

Again and again, we must be taught by the Spirit of God to see the disease of our own hearts. The devil is lying in wait every moment to draw our hearts away from everything conducive to our everlasting peace. Oh, if he can draw even our thoughts away from God, he will not stop from doing so. Oh, that trifling away of our precious time! The psalmist Moses prayed, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90:12

Rev. Lamain 1949 Banner of Truth

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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