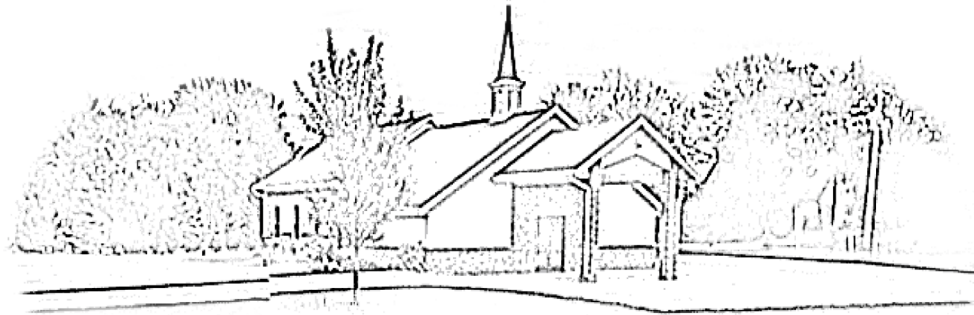


# *Netherlands Reformed Congregation*

Lord's Day, April 11, 2020



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*We have thought of thy loving kindness,  
O God, in the midst of thy temple.  
Psalm 48:9*

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W10890 Dead End Road  
Waupun, Wisconsin

Church Website:  
[www.nrcwaupun.org](http://www.nrcwaupun.org)

## **Service Times**

Sunday Morning – 9:30 am

Sunday Evening – 6:00 pm

Sunday Services Live streamed

## The Worst Pandemic and the Best Cure

As we currently face the Coronavirus outbreak, we should ask ourselves, “What is the worst pandemic in history?” And how did it spread? Was it stopped? What was, and is the treatment?”

Many doctors and scientists are currently laboring to try to figure out how to stop the spread of COVID-19 also known as the coronavirus. They rightly want to stop this pandemic in its tracks and save people’s lives. This is affecting all of our lives. I know someone whose father is presently on a ventilator and could die from this virus. Now, imagine the day that someone discovers an effective treatment for COVID-19. That day will no doubt be remembered in our history books. People will remember those who labored tirelessly to save people’s lives. People do not want to die. And most live with a constant fear of death and of how they might die.

What is a pandemic? It is a disease that is prevalent throughout an entire country, or continent, or the whole world. It is an epidemic over a large area. Now let me ask you this: What was the greatest pandemic in the history of humanity? How did it spread? How was it stopped? What was the treatment? Was there a treatment for it? What comes to your mind when I ask those questions? How deep do you think about those questions? Let me give you some hints before I give you some history on what I’m referring to.

**First hint:** One married couple’s actions brought this pandemic about. It could have been entirely avoided.

**Second hint:** Once it spread, there was no amount of quarantine that you could protect yourself from the disease.

**A third hint:** Many want to say that they’ve tested negative to having this virus, but this is because they’ve gone to clinics that use incorrect testing methods because they use the wrong manual. They have the wrong standard.

**Fourth hint:** The death rate of those who got this disease in the past and still presently get it – it’s 100%. And oh yes, 100% of humanity has had this disease. And still to this day on average 150,000 people die from it every single day.

What disease is this? It’s not a physical disease. But I’m talking about a spiritual one. Yes, I’m talking about sin. That is, you doing anything in thought, or of the motive of the heart, or an action that you do that misses the perfect mark of following God’s Son, Jesus Christ. Why am I likening sin to a disease? The Bible speaks of those who are living for sin and self as those who are sick and in need of a physician.

So, let me give you some history from around 5,000 years ago. In the Bible, Romans 5 describes the outbreak of this pandemic. It says sin came into the world through one man’s sin, and then death spread through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. Adam and Eve, they disobeyed God’s command to not eat of the tree in the Garden. Satan deceived them and they ate of the fruit. And that’s how all the misery started! One man’s actions brought this pandemic about – a spiritual virus that has spread to all men on the face of the entire earth.

Now think of the coronavirus. Some presently conclude that one man eating a bat that was sick and had contaminated meat has brought about this global pandemic. Now whether indeed that proves to be the case of what has

happened, we do have proof that sin has spread through the one man’s sin in Paradise. You see death? That is not natural. But man sinned and death entered the world and we still have this problem today. We get sick, our bodies struggle to keep going, and we die. And for most of us, we die in a day when we least expect it. Sin is destructive. As one pastor said, “Coronavirus can only cause the first death, which is a physical death. But sin produces the second death, which is the eternal death. Fear what is far greater.”

The media? They will rarely talk about this pandemic – this widespread sickness of sin, and the evil of a lost person’s heart, and the eternal death in hell that it leads to. Much less will they talk about the cure. Most deny that this is even a problem! They declare themselves to be good enough. Psalm 14:1 says, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”

### **What is the Cure?**

So, what about the cure for sin? Just as one man brought about this virus, this pandemic, so one Man came and was and became the cure. There is a Great Physician Who made a cure that always works. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did what Adam failed to do. He lived a perfectly righteous life and He never sinned. He never fell short in word, deed, or thought, and He perfectly loved humanity by His deeds. And then He did an act of love to which most of humanity is totally blind in seeing and comprehending. They view this act as utter foolishness. They mock what Christ did on the cross. On the cross, Christ took sins He didn’t do upon His own account. He was numbered among the transgressors. What happens to a person who has your crimes on their books? They must suffer the punishment that you deserve. That’s what Christ did. On the cross, the wrath of God that we sinners deserve in hell for all of an eternity, that wrath fell down upon Jesus Christ. And God the Father crushed His only Son in the place of sinners, like you and me. Each one for whom Jesus died was an enemy of Him. Can you see that no greater love has man known than this? Jesus became a curse to open the way that sinners who deserve to be cursed in hell for all eternity can be saved.

Some might say about this spiritual pandemic, “It’s not historically accurate. There’s no such spiritual virus in existence. This man doesn’t know what he’s talking about.” No, friend, please heed the warning. The Bible warns us that we men suppress the truth. We refuse to give thanks to God our Creator or even acknowledge His existence. We suppress the truth to comfort ourselves falsely.

When a treatment for the coronavirus is found, will it be 100% accessible to the whole world at one time? No, it’s not going to be. When treatment is discovered, will it 100% work on everyone? No, there’s not going to be a cure that’s will be a cure for all. Yet, in contrast, can anyone obtain this cure from sin? Yes. This cure in Christ Jesus is accessible to everyone at this very moment. No matter what strand of illness of sin you have, the cure in Him is sufficient and able to save you to the uttermost. Whether you’re outwardly a very wicked person (like a murderer, an adulterer) or whether you’re the opposite (a nice, even religious person trusting in yourself and your own works, or church going or whatever), doubt not that the only cure for you is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Turn from sin and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. Seek Him and trust Him alone to save you from your sin. Not only is there forgiveness with Him, there is also a new life with Him. The Lord calls this a ‘born again or born from above’ life.

He gives a new heart with new desires. When you are truly, it means you will actually want to live for Him. It's no longer a burden to live for God and His Christ. It's now your actual desire. You're a new creation.

Does He and His cure work 100% of the time? Yes, it does. There's never been a case of someone truly believing in Jesus Christ who has not been healed. Friend, the coronavirus is a pandemic that pales in comparison to this disease of sin. In our world, so often, sin isn't even called sin because the world hates God's standard of holiness. But Jesus calls sin still sin. He says that if you look at a woman with lustful intent in your heart, that's the equivalent of adultery in God's courtroom. So is coveting like stealing and harsh words or even harsh thoughts like murdering. To God sin is not like a physical illness. It is a spiritual condition that we live out in acts, thoughts, and words of disobedience. Even worse, we love this darkness of sin rather than His light of truth and grace.

So today, remember Jesus Christ Who came to die for His enemies and save them from the greatest virus that has ever been known to man – that of their sins. You need to be cured. The fear of death that you presently feel due to the coronavirus pandemic – that should only point you to Christ. Even when this pandemic calms down and things seem to be back to normal, the matter of your sins will not have died down. And that will still be an issue no matter how much you suppress it.

Many say, "I'm a good person." But friend, the Bible says none is good. No, not one. You want to take the correct test and go to God's Word and see what God says about you. And God says that you're dead in your trespasses and sins, and only Jesus Christ can make you alive. Don't ignore the warning signs of this virus. Your very conscience – it accuses you of guilt and of sin.

In John 19:30 we find Jesus 6<sup>th</sup> saying on the cross. "It is finished" He cried loudly. What a relief! He completed the cure! He's finished it on behalf of His people – He paid the required debt to God through sacrificing Himself in the place of sinners like you and me and rising from the dead with mighty power. He's now seated in Heaven on the right hand and He says all who come to Him – whosoever in whatsoever condition or need – He says He will receive you. He really will. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" Paul spoke to a distressed jailor. Peter preached in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Christ has and is the only cure. In 1 Timothy 1:15 it says, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief." And oh, that the world would have full acceptance of the truth that there is a more deadly virus than Covid-19! Our sin is real. But Christ is also real. He is the only Savior. Accept your reality of being infected with the sin of Adam. Bow the knee to Jesus Christ so you may find salvation from the greatest pandemic that the world has known. And it's still going on right now in 2020!

James Jennings (adapted)

*P.S. The above meditation is excellent to share with your neighbors, co-workers, family and friend. The author presents the truth of the real issue we face in sin and points to the only real cure for sin. Let's make use of the current needs by which God opens people's minds to listen. How sad if now we fail to speak! Where else shall the lost world hear the truth if God's people will be silent? - Pastor Vergunst*

## FROM YOUR CONSISTORY

### Dates

*For obvious reasons, the dates listed below are put on the agenda in pencil. It is all pending on the lifting of the government directives regarding the social distancing policy. Let's pray that this may take place soon.*

April 12	Easter Services
May 7	National Prayer Day
May 10	Baptism Service (AM)
May 17	Public Confession of Faith (AM) Preparatory for the Lord's Supper (PM)
May 21	Ascension Day Service
May 24	Lord's Supper & Reflection
June 7	Farewell (PM)

This Sunday our messages will again be online via *Mixlr* on our church website ([nrcwaupun.org](http://nrcwaupun.org)) and on Sermon Audio, both as an audio or video webcast.

For those who don't have good internet connections, you are also able to call in **directly to sermon audio**. Follow these three steps:

- (1) Call sermon audio at 1-712-432-3410
- (2) You will then be asked to make a choice. Choose option 2 by pressing 2.
- (3) You will then be asked to enter the Church ID Code. Our Waupun NRC Church ID Code is: 42269

Today marks the fourth Saturday of the original four we have set aside for a time of prayer between 11:00 and 12:00 AM. May the Lord bless us with a fervency of heart, but also a thankfulness of heart. The prognosis of numbers that has floated before us have gladly not materialized in this week. That doesn't mean that we need to minimize the amount of death this virus has caused already and will continue to cause. Unless adequate medicines are developed, this virus will continue to bring many, and especially elderly and other vulnerable people, to the grave. In other words, another very serious illness has been released into our world and woe to us if we don't heed this calling and continue to be unconcerned about the state of our soul.

We thank the congregation for abiding with the consistory's request to honor the government's guidelines in gathering.

Those in church on Sunday still meet at about 9:00 AM for a time of prayer as we have been doing before the service. Though you can't be present, we encourage others to join us in spirit also at that time to plead for the blessings of the Spirit upon us and the worship services planned for that day.

### ● HOLY WAR STUDY #11 (APRIL 22 OR 23)

In order to follow these studies, it remains a necessity to read ahead of time these assigned pages. The topics are live on our church website. May the Lord God add His blessing.

In the *unabridged book*, start at page 174 -199. In the *abridged book*, start at page 269 -304 .

- The offerings can be sent via a check to James Ruissen so that we can continue to meet the operating expenses of the congregation. James' address is W11301 Amity Rd, Brandon, WI 53919.

April 12: General and Building Funds

April 19: General and National, International Disaster Fund

April 26: General Fund

- The congregational annual men member's meeting has been postponed. The Spring Classis Meeting that was scheduled for next week has been postponed indefinitely.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS AND NOTICES ...**

- If you know anyone who is facing financial struggles, please share this so we can carry the burdens together. Let's make use of the phone-lines to make frequent phone calls to each other.

- Though we haven't heard of any within our denomination that passed away, there has been quite a number of them in the Netherlands denomination. Mrs. Nellie Hofman's father passed away this week and will be buried on Tuesday. His son-in-law, Rev. Hofman will lead the funeral digitally. This is one example of the many who cannot attend the funerals of their loved ones in these days. Please, let's remember all these in our continual prayers.

- Logan Ruissen is scheduled for labs this coming week. Remember him in prayer that there may be improvement in his numbers.

- We would like to thank everyone for all their prayers and meals during our family's illness and birth of our new baby. God has given us health and the birth of a healthy son. 1 Chronicles 16:34 "O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever." -The Laganowski family

**\*\*\* ALL THE LORD WILLING \*\*\***