

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Lord's Day, April 5, 2020



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

Psalm 48:9

W10890 Dead End Road
Waupun, Wisconsin

Church Website:
www.nrcwaupun.org

Service Times

Sunday Morning – 9:30 am

Sunday Evening – 6:00 pm

Sunday Services Live streamed

May the Lord bless us all with His nearness in grace.

The Mystery of the Mediator

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:6-7

Christ Jesus, the Son of God, is both God and Man. He is God existing before all worlds; He is Man existing in our world. He is God, because He is God's Word ("the Word was God," John 1:1); He is also man, because the Word, in the oneness of His person, was united with a human body and a human soul. Considering Him as God, He and the Father are one (John 14:28). When He was already God's unique Son, by nature not by grace, He became the Son of Man, so that He might be filled with God's grace in His humanity. He Himself brings both these natures together in His own single person, and both natures together make one Christ. Being in the form of God, He didn't think it robbery to be what He was by nature, equal with God. But He made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant, without giving up or diminishing the form of God (Phil. 2:6-7).

Therefore He was both made less than God, and yet stayed equal with God—both of these in a single person, as I've said. But He was one of these as the Word, and the other as Man. As the Word, He is equal with the Father; as Man, He is less than the Father. He is one Son of God, and at the same time He is Son of Man; He is one Son of Man and at the same time He is the Son of God. He isn't two Sons of God, a divine and human one, but one Son of God. He is God without any beginning in time, Man with a beginning in time—our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Augustine of Hippo
(354-430 AD)

From Your Consistory...

Dates: All weekly meetings at 7:00 PM, Lord willing and we live.

April 7 Consistory Meeting
April 8 Holy War Topic #10
April 10 Good Friday Service
April 12 Easter Services

This Sunday our messages will again be online via our website and 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. The phone number is 712-432-3410 and our church ID is 42269.

Tomorrow marks the third Saturday of the original four we have set aside for a time of prayer between 11:00 and 12:00 AM. It is good to know that many families have honored this request to 'unite' together at this time of prayer to humble ourselves before God and seek His blessing upon the nations of this world. Before we can expect a blessing to come through all this, there must be a returning to God and a confession of our sins. Let that be a lion share of our wrestles before God. God has been toppling over our idols and it would be tragic end if all we do is try to prop up these idols again so we can continue the life-style apart from God.

We see the Lord has a controversy with the nations and the disregard or flaunting of His laws, but we as 'Christians' need to first take a look in ourselves and at how we live for God's judgments which always begins with the house of God.

We thank the congregation for abiding with the consistory's request to honor the government's guidelines in gathering. Some of you are asking whether you are allowed to attend, but for us to say 'yes' to one and 'no' to another would only create bad feelings. So, for now we will continue to have some consistory members present along with Emily and Michelle as they handle the organ and computer.

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

(1) Use our own website at www.nrcwaupun.org or Mixlr app to listen as normal.

(2) Go to <http://tinysa.com/live/atvergunst> to watch or use the My-Church app which might be more reliable for IOS/Android phones. If there is an outline provided, you can find them on our website under the tab 'Listen Live' and also print them from there

Holy War Study #10 (April 8th)

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 147- 173. In the abridged book, start at page 229 – 268.

- 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 5: General Fund

April 12: General and Building Funds

April 19: General and National, International Disaster Fund

April 26: General Fund

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.

- Many have gathered in small funerals to bury the thousands that have died this past week. So far God has kept us all and what a mercy this is. There are now two corona-virus patients in our pastor's mother's nursing home so we request prayers that she and others in nursing homes may be spared, or may be given grace to surrender their life and death into God's Almighty and Sovereign hands.

- Henry Frens was diagnosed with a mild case of pneumonia and is stable at home, but needs to remain in strict quarantine.

- Juniper developed a strange rash on her body, but thankfully didn't have to go into Madison; so far it has calmed down again.

- Our pastor's niece has a concerning fever and cough due to the virus, though the baby was born well and they were all sent home. Much reason to give thanks though prayer is still needed.

- As the Covid-19 pandemic sweeps across the world, it is the poor, discriminated minorities in many countries that are doubly hit. Their lives were already hard, but now they are afflicted doubly as country upon country shuts down. Lockdown is bad enough in our Western yet our government is stepping in for those who cannot work. But none of that is happening in poorer countries, where many fellow Christians are already at the bottom with low wages and now no wages. They have nothing at all.

Gladly, many Christian organizations are seeking to help out in these needs so let's all reserve some of our extra's to help the poor within our own and as well as abroad. This is a time in which God also calls us to share and bear the burdens we all bear and so display the love of God.

- Since our bulletin is now digital, I added this beautiful meditation of Luther to your reading for this week instead of a pastoral letter. May God bless us with the anchor of faith, deeply embedded in the Rock of Jesus Christ.

I have said this to you!

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

"A Christian should emphasize and magnify these words, "I have said this to you" and "I have overcome the world." This is more than heaven and earth. It is as though Christ wanted to say, "My dear friend, write the word "I" with a very large capital letter, in order that you may see it well and take it into your heart. For the word 'you' (in the statements 'I have said this to you' and 'you will have tribulation') is a very small word. Indeed, it is as small as a single speck of dust in the sun. But it does not matter that you are small and weak. I am all the larger and stronger. I created the whole world out of a speck of dust, yes, out of something far smaller than a speck of dust. I created it out of nothing. Accordingly, even if you were still smaller, I can and will make you great enough. For I am the One who is saying this." He does not say, "The emperors and kings of the world are making these statements." This would sound great and glorious before the world. Nor does He say, "All the holy angels from heaven and all creation are making these statements." No, He says, "I, I am making these statements."

This should be and mean more than can be measured and grasped. "Therefore," says Christ, "think only of the statements I am making, and cling to them. Consider the Person saying this, not yourselves, who hear it. And do not consider what is outside Me, that which assails you, etc. For if you want to consider yourselves over against your great enemies — the world, yes, the devil and death — they will become too strong and great for you. Then you will have to despair."

"For almost 6,000 years," say death and the devil, "we have killed and devoured many thousands of them. Yes, we have often destroyed many thousands in a single day. What, then, do we care about one man?" The wolf said, "If I can eat a whole lamb at one time, should I not also be able to swallow a gnat?" The world and the devil regard us as such little gnats that they do not feel it in their jaws when they swallow us.

We, however, should consider neither ourselves as small nor them as great and cruel as it seems. In contrast with death and the devil's might we are small and slight; but if we cling to Him who says, "I, I have overcome the world," we shall see whether all the world, death, and the devil have jaws large enough to swallow us. If they try to swallow us, then a bone will get into their throats the wrong way, and they will choke on it. For just as they have not devoured and consumed Christ, so they will not consume us." -