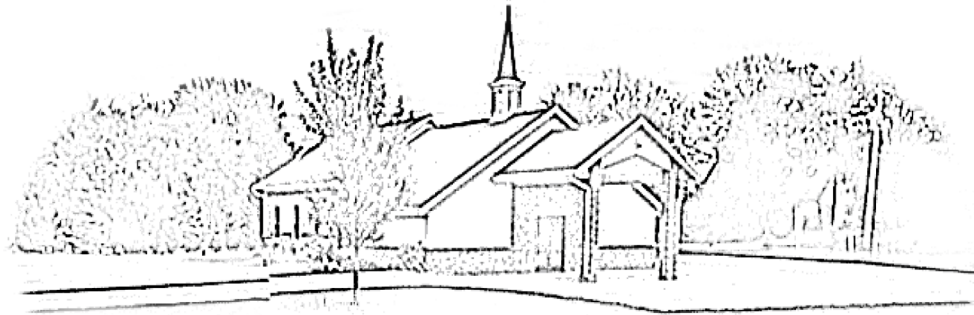


# *Netherlands Reformed Congregation*

Lord's Day, May 10, 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

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

### Faith and Joy

The Christian life is a life of constant, unhindered joy – or at least, so said the apostle Paul, “Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice.” (Phil. 4:4) According to Paul, joy is not to be the occasional feature in the believer’s life. It is to be a constant reality, a daily, moment by moment reality. Does this seem a somewhat unreal expectation? Is Paul expecting too much? Is he even living a real world, where disappointments, discouragements, and disasters can, and do, blast the believer’s life? Is it not the height of spiritual escapism to think that Christians should always be rejoicing?

We can hardly, however, accuse Paul of engaging in spiritual escapism, or of suggesting that believers live trouble-free lives. For one thing, his own life was a catalogue of disappointments, discouragements, and disasters if only you take the time to read through 2 Cor. 11:23-29. For another, he never tired of telling Christians that the life of faith was a life beset with trials, temptations, and persecutions (read Acts 14:21-22; 2 Tim. 3:10-12). Paul well knew, by bitter experience, the pains and sorrows of the believing life. And yet, he still wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord always” and incase we don’t quite take in the force of what he wrote, he repeated himself, “again I say, Rejoice!”

Paul is well aware of how seemingly impossible his command (for that is what it is) will appear to us. But in no sense is Paul suggesting that Christians will always have the sunshine of God’s love and goodness shining off their backs, making it easy for them to rejoice. What he is saying, however, is that in spite of all the troubles and discouragements and disasters that can, and do, overtake the child of God, he is still able to ‘rejoice’. How can that be?

Look carefully at what Paul wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord.” The Christian is to rejoice because his joy is pre-eminently located not in his circumstances, but in His Savior – in the unchanging and unchangeable Lord Jesus Christ! Paul is not saying for one moment that believers should be walking around with a permanent smile, saying ‘Praise the Lord!’ every second sentence. For one thing, such is not the picture the Scriptures gives us of the Lord Jesus Himself, the example of our faith. Our Savior knew the sore reality of disappointments, discouragements; He experienced the greatest weariness; He was despised and rejected by men. Christians are able to “rejoice always” because our joy is in Who our God and Savior is. Nothing can change His love for His own or change the constancy of His faithful character. This means that no matter what befalls a Christian, He is still a child of God, a forgiven sinner, a heaven-bound saint, the most blessed being in the cosmos! If the Christian loses everything, he still has everything because he cannot lose his Savior, Who is his salvation. (2 Cor. 6:10)

Martin Luther saw this and concluded his great Reformation hymn A Mighty Fortress is our God with these words,

*Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill, God truth abideth still;  
His Kingdom is forever.*

Paul is not saying that the Christian will always appear to be full of joy; but even through the bitterest of tears, the believing heart can rejoice in the Lord.

Even in times of deepest and darkest perplexity, the child of God can rejoice, not because he can full understand God’s ways with him, but because he has a Savior, who loved him and gave Himself for him, and who loves him now and for evermore.

Pastor Ian Hamilton

#### ● FROM YOUR CONSISTORY

##### Dates

May 13	Holy War Topic #12
May 17	Public Confession of Faith (AM)
May 21	Ascension Day Service
May 24	Holy Baptism (AM)
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

In case neither of the above two are adequate, contact our pastor during the week to be added to a ‘direct phone call’ from his phone on Sunday. He puts his phone directly on the pulpit and is able to make a conference call to several at the same time. This needs to be arranged **before** Sunday so please call him on time.

#### HOLY WAR STUDY #12 (MAY 13)

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 200-end. In the abridged book, start at page 305-end. The 12th session will be the concluding session on this study.

#### Public Confession Of Faith

During our last consistory meeting, Hadassah Vergunst was granted the permission to make public confession of her faith during the morning service on May 17. If there are any lawful objections against her making this public vow, you are kindly requested to speak to one of our elders before May 17.

#### Public Worship Time

As we are awaiting our WI court’s decision challenging our governor’s extension of the lock down, let’s pray together that God will move the authorities in our state as has happened in other states, where churches again may begin to gather, either in half capacity or in groups of 100 or 150. As consistory, we will review this matter again next week.

## Collections

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.

May 10: General Fund

May 17: General Fund and Mission Fund

May 24: General Fund

## Farewell Service

Though June 7 is still planned for our farewell service, it is not entirely sure whether that will indeed be the date that Michelle, David and I will be among you for the last Sunday as a family. It all depends on the situation within the country as well as in New Zealand. However, it would be good to keep June 6 (farewell get-together) and June 7 (PM farewell service) reserved for that purpose.

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS AND NOTICES ...

- Thanksgiving for Juniper Winkel as she had some tests done in April to see if the disease did any damage to her heart, but they all came back looking good. She is feeling much better and has most of her strength back.
- Remember in prayer, Logan Ruissen with his chronic kidney disease.

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

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