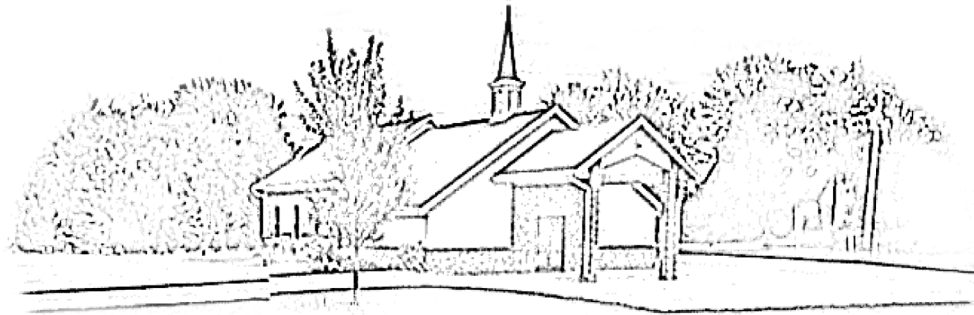


Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Lord's Day, May 3, 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 Wrong Sort of Knowledge

“Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.”

1 Corinthians 8:1b

It is better, and brings greater benefit, to be a simple, uneducated man or woman, and to become akin to God through love, than to be well-read and clever (in our own conceited opinion) and to blaspheme the God who made us, by making up some imaginary God and Father of our own. As Paul cries out, “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up”. Not that Paul wished to condemn the true knowledge of God, or he would have had to condemn himself. But he knew that some people fall away from God’s love by making conceited pretensions to knowledge, imagining themselves to have found some sort of perfection—and then proclaiming a Creator who is less than perfect! To strike down the self-importance in which these folk wallow through their so-called knowledge, Paul says, “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”

There can be no notion more self-conceited than this—to imagine that you are better, and more perfect than the God who created you, formed you, put the breath of life into you, and decreed that you should exist. What good will it do you to have knowledge even of a single reason why anything in creation was made, if you then become proudly puffed-up with this kind of knowledge, and you fall away from God’s love which is the very life of the human soul? Far better to believe in God and keep yourself in His love. We should seek no other knowledge but the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who for our sakes was crucified, rather than go downhill into ungodliness through super-smart inquiries and nit-picking explanations.

St. Irenaeus (around 175 A.D.)

● FROM YOUR CONSISTORY

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 3: General and Building Fund

May 10: General Fund

May 17: General Fund and Mission Fund

May 24: General Fund

Dates

May 7 National Prayer Day Service (audio only on Mixlr)

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) 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.

Holy Baptism

Hoping that the restrictions to gather as a congregation will be lifted, the consistory thought it prudent to delay the baptism service of the two infants in the congregation till the end of May.

Farewell Service

Though June 7 is still planned for our farewell service, it is not entirely sure whether that this 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 6th (farewell get-together) and June 7th (PM farewell service) reserved for that purpose.

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.
- Remember in prayer, Logan Ruissen with his chronic kidney disease.
- Urgent and immediate action is needed to prevent widespread famine as the coronavirus pandemic worsens the existing world food crises. At least 265 million people are being pushed to the brink of starvation by the Covid-19 crisis, double the number under threat before the pandemic. "We are not talking about people going to bed hungry. We are talking about extreme conditions, emergency status – people literally marching to the brink of starvation. If we don't get food to people, people will die," Beasley warned. In 2020, the world is already facing the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War due to a number of factors including the wars in Syria and Yemen, and extensive terror activity across the central Sahel countries, causing tens of thousands to flee their homes. In East Africa, the worst locust plague for decades has already put as many as 70 million people at risk acute food insecurity. The Covid-19 pandemic, which no one could have foreseen, has "taken us to uncharted territory", he added. "This is a perfect storm. We are looking at widespread famines of Biblical proportions. "This is truly more than just a pandemic – it is creating a hunger pandemic. This is a humanitarian and food catastrophe." He added, "In a worst-case scenario, we could be looking at famine in about three dozen countries and, in fact, in ten of these countries we already have more than one million people per country who are on the verge of starvation." Beasley urged world leaders to bring forward to consolidate their efforts with a stark warning. "If we can't reach these people with the life-saving assistance ... 300,000 people could starve to death every single day over a three-month period. This does not include the increase of starvation due to Covid-19."

Congregation, when I read such a report, then do you see how unacceptable it is for us to complain about the recent restrictions as well as inconveniences. Remain alert that we 'don't have it so bad as many others' do, and not only in Africa, but also in our own countries.

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

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