

May 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Ladies' Book Study 1 pm (Hill Home) WIC Prayer Time 7 pm (Madeja Home)	3 Readers Game Night 6:00 pm (Hill Home)	4
5 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	6 Youth Fellowship Senior Night 6 pm (Elliott Home) Women's Study 6:00 pm (Wetti Home) Men's Book Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	7 The Presbytery of the MS Valley Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Study 9:30 am	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	13 Women's Study 6:00 pm (Wetti Home)	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Book Study 9:30 am Session 6 pm	15	16 WIC Prayer Time 7 pm (Madeja Home)	17 Parent's Night Out 6:00 pm	18
19 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	20 Women's Study 6:00 pm (Wetti Home) Men's Book Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	21 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Study 9:30 am	22	23	24	25 Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast 8 am
26 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	27 Memorial Day	28 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Study 9:30 am	29	30	31	

NORTHPOINTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MAY 2024

From the Pastor

What the Lord's Supper Is and Does

WCF 29.1: Our Lord Jesus ... instituted the sacrament of His body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His Church, unto the end of the world, *for* the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death; the sealing all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto Him; and, to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other, as members of His mystical body.

We come now to the Westminster Confession of Faith's chapter on the Lord's Supper. We move from a sacrament (Baptism) that along with our doctrine of the church and polity form chief dividing lines within the broad Reformed tradition to a sacrament that has historically been a chief divider within the broader Church. This can be seen as one peruses the paragraphs of WCF 29. Few chapters in the WCF bear as many blood stains of the theological battles being waged in its time and place as WCF 29. We'll explore those battles later in subsequent paragraphs—battles which, if deprived some vigor, are not deprived continued relevance. This month, we come to the opening paragraph and its sweeping sketch of what the Lord's Supper is and does.

What the Lord's Supper Is

The Lord's Supper is instituted by Christ himself. He is the host of the Supper. In Luke's account, he includes Jesus beginning the Supper with these words: "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" (22:15). Why would Jesus say that? Because he knew what he was giving to his disciples. He literally

"desired with desire" to give them this sacrament because he knew how much they and all believers after them would need it in light of suffering to come. First, Christ's own suffering to which the bread and cup point—his body broken and blood shed for his people. Then, by union with him, what his people would suffer with him and for him "until [the Supper] is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (22:16; see also Phil 3:10, 1 Pet 4:13, 2 Cor 1:5). Christian, you are called to suffer with Christ and for him in all your life of faith. As you do, the Supper is given as a type pointing ahead to its antitype in the eternal feast with Christ in the new heavens and new earth. It is for this reason that the type of the Supper is to be an ongoing, perpetual meal now. Baptism is a one-time sacrament pointing to the beginning of new life in Christ. The Lord's Supper is to be a regular, repeated sacrament for all the days of life in Christ *until the end*.

What the Lord's Supper Does

Then WCF 29.1 makes a turn with the all-important word *for*. Now we come to what the Supper does. What it effects. The Lord's Supper works three effects for believers: it brings to remembrance, seals benefits, and bonds and pledges new communion. The Supper is a memorial meal. Jesus really meant it when he commanded his disciples, "Do this in remembrance of me." As we must see, the Supper is more than merely a memorial meal. But it is also not less. Each time the believer eats and drinks in faith, the one-time sacrifice of Christ is brought to the mind to be contemplated again, to be meditated upon again. In this way, the sacrament "is a visible sermon, wherein Christ crucified is set before us" again (Thomas Watson).

The Supper also effects sealing benefits, which WCF explains as *spiritual nourishment* in Christ and *further engagement in and to all duties owed* to him. As a seal, the Supper repeatedly takes what is signified to believers—his body and blood—and confirms to us and assures us by faith that his work really atones for our sin and restores us to fellowship with God in Christ. This is spiritual nourishment for true believers. Meeting your deepest needs with the depths of Christ. And, having been nourished, we are reinvigorated to do all duties owed. That is, to quote A.A. Hodge, the Supper is the seal of our "Christian profession—a mark of allegiance of a citizen of the kingdom of heaven."

Then, lastly, the Supper is a bond and pledge of communion with Christ and with his mystical body, the Church. We partake the Supper together, even passing the elements to one another, because this sacrament is the sacrament of our common communion as one people united together to one Lord. Because "you are all one in Christ Jesus" and "in him you are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit" (Gal 3:28, Eph 2:22). As both a bond and pledge, as Hodge writes, the Supper both "show[s] forth and effect[s] the mutual communion of believers with each other, as members of one body and of one blood." The meal has assumed the name *Communion* for a reason.

The Lord's Supper is a good meal given by a gracious Lord. Might it be true of us that we come to share in something of Christ's earnest desire to eat this meal together regularly until the end. Oh, that it might be so!

Pastor Kevin Vollema

Northpointe Presbyterian Church
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MISSIONS MINUTE

Update from Paul Sanduleac and Family, Republic of Moldova

Dear Friends and Family,

Family

Benjamin Alexander arrived in the early hours of the new year, on January 1st. He and Lizzie are doing very well. We're thankful for the excellent medical care we received in Chişinău.

We see Lord's blessing and provision in our lives as we adjust to life and ministry as a family of four. One way He has done that is through our family being available to help. Lizzie's mom was able to come over for about two weeks and Paul's family in Moldova are a great support for us at all times.

Church Life

Although our core group became smaller in December, we took a long-awaited step in February: eight adults joined Chişinău Reformed Church as members. In addition to a few regular visitors, this makes for a relatively stable attendance on Sundays. For the past three months we have been going verse by verse through Philippians, learning about the incarnation of Christ, Christian faithfulness in difficult places, and our glorious future with Christ.

WOMEN'S SUMMER BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

This summer, the Tuesday morning group will study two books together, each 8 weeks long. The first is *Impossible Christianity*, by Kevin DeYoung that began **April 30 and ends June 18**. The second book will be *Rejoice and Tremble*, by Michael Reeves, beginning **July 16 and ending on September 3**. Both are very readable for busy summer schedules. Please let Leah Kiple know if you would like a copy of one or both books. If you are interested in an evening gathering, please let her know as well!

At the end of February, we also had our church's first infant baptism. To our surprise, our meeting space was filled to capacity. Pastor Attila from Cluj (Romania) drove in to preach and delivered a clear gospel-filled sermon from the book of Genesis. Besides a large number of Christian friends, about 10 unbelievers attended and expressed an interest in coming again or in talking more about the Lord.

Pray for the unbelievers and struggling believers in our contact books. We want to do all we can to help them follow Christ faithfully, but only the Lord can bring lasting spiritual fruit.

Academic and Editorial Work

At the end of December, Paul submitted his last edits to an updated Romanian translation of the Westminster Confession. It is our hope that his work on this key historical and theological document will be a help for Romanian-speaking churches for many years to come.

Although he's not teaching at the university in the spring, he was assigned to prepare students for one of the monthly philosophy club meetings. His students did well and were praised by the other faculty. The conversations were mainly about

the influence of technological progress on society, but even there the topic of religion and faith came up.

Please pray for clarity as Paul considers whether to teach again at the university in the fall. It is a useful door, but one that can take up a lot of his time.

That's it for our first few months of 2024. The time has passed quickly.

Although our efforts are weak, we serve a great God who can bless these small beginnings and use them for his glory.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We also want to thank many of you who sent us Christmas cards, they meant a lot to us.

With much love,
Paul and Elizabeth



REMINDERS

- The *Readers Game Night* will be **May 3**, at 6 pm in the Hill home. [7989 Poplar Springs Dr].
- The *Presbytery of the MS Valley* will meet on **May 7, 2024**. Please pray for our ministers during this time.
- *Women's Prayer Time* dates this month, beginning at 7 pm, are **May 2 and 16**, in the home of Carmel Madeja. [420 Eastwood Street]
- *Men's Prayer Breakfast* dates for this month are: **May 7, 14, 21, and 28 @ 6:00 am**.
- *Men's Book Study* dates for this month are: **May 6 and 20** at 7 pm in the Madeja Home [420 Eastwood Street].
- *Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast* is **May 25** at 8 am.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will be observing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, **May 5**, during the morning worship service.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ~ SENIOR NIGHT

Northpointe Youth!! We will have senior night **May 6**. We are going to celebrate our seniors: Elli Ausbrooks, Caroline Hoskins, Tripp Morrow, and Elliot Tulip. Come ready to celebrate all they have accomplished! We will be interviewing a couple from the church and have trivia about our seniors. Looking forward to seeing you there.

YOUTHIVERSITY 2024

Families of youth, grades 7-12, please mark your calendars for **June 17-21** for Youthiversity 2024. This is our summer youth event where we meet each evening for dinner, games, and teaching. More details to follow.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ JULY 8-12

This year VBS will explore the biblical answers to big faith questions as our students set off on an epic adventure from Genesis to Revelation. Register your kids ages 4-12 now at northpointepca.org/vbs. We are also still looking for some volunteers, so contact Leah Kiple if you can help.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women, please mark your calendars for Saturday, **August 10**, 9:00am-5:00pm for our 2024 retreat! We will return to the beautiful Mason Boutique Hotel in Louisville, MS. Former Northpointe member and pastor's wife Elizabeth Steele will be our speaker. Scheduled events will begin Saturday morning, but if you are interested in spending the night Friday, rooms will be available first come, first served. Register now at northpointepca.org/retreat. Register by May 26 for \$25, after that the fee is \$40. Registration includes snacks, lunch, crafts, and a welcome bag. See the church website for more information.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

This fall, beginning **September 15**, Pastor Mason Kiple will be teaching an Inquirers Class during the Sunday School hour. This class will be held in the choir room for anyone who wants to know more about the church and who is considering becoming a member. More details to follow.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Ann Carol Purvis
4	Ben Thaggard
12	Dalton Mcllwain
14	Liv Joransen
18	Alec Thaggard
	Burke Thaggard
	Julia Thaggard
25	Christopher Stevens
27	Smokey Ethridge
	Crista Ericksen
28	Katie Morrow

happy birthday