



Introducing you to ...

the congregation of De Gereformeerde Kerk Mariënberg

The village

Mariënberg is a small village in the north-east of the Netherlands, in the province of Overijssel.

The origins of the village lie in the 14th century when monks from a nearby monastery built the "Hut Mariaborch". This hut formed the home-base for their work in the peat bogs.

The village has a population of 700 and has three churches. The churchgoers not only come from Mariënberg, but also from the neighbouring villages. There is a Reformed church (Protestant Church of the Netherlands), a Reformed Church (liberated) and since 10th June 2004 a Reformed Church (restored).

The congregation

In 2004 it became necessary to liberate from the Reformed Church (lib.) and to join with the RCNr. Through God's grace there was a possibility in which Christ wished to continue His church in Mariënberg. This situation arose because the Reformed Churches (lib.) strayed from God's Word and were unwilling to return. After numerous calls to reform, the decision was made to liberate from the unscriptural decisions. There was sadness because of the many that stayed behind, but thankfulness was predominant for the possibilities that the Lord had given.

The congregation began with just over 50 members and worship services were held in a hall that had

served as a canteen for a local business. This hall was no longer used for that purpose and in 2006 the congregation named it 'De Ark'. Worship services are still held here and the congregation has grown to 119 members. The consistory has 4 elders and 3 deacons. Young and old are well represented. There are 67 communicant members and 52 baptized members. Of all these 66 are male and 53 female. Most of the members live fairly close and come from Beerze, Beerzerveld, Mariënberg and Ommen. Every Sunday morning after the service there is opportunity to enjoy coffee together.

As congregation, we do not have a minister but we are thankful for availability of the many sermons that can be read. We are also thankful for the ministers in our federation who support us. In this way we have the administration of sacraments and the preaching of the Word within our congregation.

Local activities

The congregation has a church bulletin named 'Bouwen en Bewaren' (Build and Uphold), based on Psalm 124:8; Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

For the support and up-building of church life there are 5 catechism classes, one of which is a confession class.

There is also a men's society, a women's society, a youth club for the over-16's, which has been split into 2 groups, 2 youth clubs for the younger youth and for the primary school children we have a Bible school every 3 weeks.

This Bible school is held in combination with the congregations of Bergentheim/Bruchterveld and Emmen.

There is also an activities committee that organizes various activities such as a social afternoon for the congregation on the Monday after Pentecost (a public holiday in the Netherlands) and an annual evening for seniors. Also every winter an outing to the skating rink in Enschede for ice-skating together is organized .

This is all for the up-building of the mutual contacts within the congregation.

