April 2, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service

6:30 p.m. Passion Reading Service Classes after the morning service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Easter Reading Service

6:30 p.m. Easter Reading Service

No classes

Tuesday: Asaph Choir practice at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Afternoon Coffee Time for senior citizens will be hosted by the 9th grade class at 2:00pm in the mini-gym at school. We plan to sing Psalters and have a light lunch. All church and school community members 60 years old and older are welcome!

Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service with Rev. Slingerland

Advance Notices:

- -April 16, Rev. Adams hopes to be in our midst for both services.
- -There is a post high school and young married adult activity evening planned for Friday, **April 21** at 7:00 pm in the school gym, D.V. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Case Vogelaar (712-360-2725) or Beth Kelderman (605-987-7881) by Wednesday, April 19.
- -April 23, Student Kleijer hopes to be in our midst for both services.
- -April 30, Rev. Vogelaar hopes to be in our midst in the evening.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd School Fund 2nd Living Bread

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."

Psalm 24:7

In the Gospel history, we find that Christ had a threefold entertainment among men. Some received Him into house, not into heart, as Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:44), who gave him no kiss nor water to his feet; some into heart, but not into house, as the faithful centurion (Matt. 8:34); some both into house and heart, as Lazarus, Mary, Martha (John 3:15; Luke 10:38).

Because the door of men's hearts is locked and barred and bolted, and men are in a deep sleep and will not hear the knocking that is at the gate, though it be loud, though it be a king; therefore David knocks again, "Lift up, ye everlasting doors." "Why, what haste?" Why, here's the King at your gates; and that not an ordinary king either; He is a glorious King, that will honor you so far, if you open quickly, as to lodge within, to take up His abode in your house to dwell with you.

But the soul for all this doth not yet open but stands still questioning, as if it were an enemy rather than a friend that stood there, and asks, "Who is this King of glory?" Who? He answers again, It is the Lord of Hosts; He, that if you will not open quickly and thankfully, too, can easily pull your house down about your ears; He is the Lord of hosts, that King Who hath a mighty army always at His command, who stand ready for their commission, and then you should know who it is you might have had for your friend. "Lift up, therefore, your heads, O ye gates."

Open quickly, ye that had rather have God for your friend than, for your enemy. Oh, why should not the soul of every sinner cry out, Lord, the door is locked, and Thou hast the key; I have been trying what I can do, but the wards are so rusty, that I cannot possibly turn the key?"

But, Lord, throw the door off the hinges, anything in world, so Thou wilt but come in and dwell here. Come, O mighty God, break through doors of iron, and bars of brass, and make way for Thyself by Thy love and power. Come, Lord, and make Thyself welcome; all that I have is at thy service; oh, fit my soul to entertain Thee!

~ James Janeway

"And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people." Ruth 4:9a

Standing in the courtroom, Boaz reveals himself as an able and willing kinsman. He speaks to those who are waiting for him to speak. Why are they waiting? Because the near kinsman has taken off his shoe and given it into the hand of Boaz – a custom that shows inability and ability. The near kinsman is saying, "I cannot," and Boaz is saying, I am willing and able." Boaz says, "Ye are witnesses this day that I have brought all that was Elimelech's." Standing amongst his people, he points to the past; the past has to do with guilt. Elimelech had sold his God-given inheritance, and now Boaz accepts that guilt and will redeem that lost inheritance. He knows that now the price must be paid to make right and restore what has been lost.

Who, here, does not think of the Greater Boaz, the Lord Jesus Christ? We have willingly turned away from the Lord; therefore, we have lost everything, but from the stillness of eternity, the Lord has ordained a way by which the guilt can be removed and what is lost can be restored. However, the price must be paid. That is why the Greater Boaz stood in the presence of His holy Father, saying, "Send Me, and I will pay the price to redeem what is lost."

When faith may now look upon Him, then there is a people who long for the application of this wonder unto their heart. They long to hear that the price is paid and that He will now cast their sins into a sea of eternal forgetfulness. How precious and how suitable the Greater Boaz becomes, here, for His people. My young people, this is more to be desired than all the gold and silver of the world. I hope you may beg the Lord for this wonder to take place in your heart. ~Rev. J. den Hoed

Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. John 19:11

"Those whom God intends to succour and defend are not only safe against one kind of dangers, but are as it were surrounded by impregnable ramparts on all sides, so that, should a thousand deaths be presented to their view, they ought not to be afraid even at this formidable array." ~Calvin

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland
Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsfsd@gmail.com
Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

Psalm 115:1

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m. Website: nrcsf.com