

March 5, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service and 6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service. Classes after the morning service.

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service and 6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service. Classes after the morning service.

Monday: 10:00 a.m. Consistory Meeting.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Prayer Day service with Rev. Vergunst. It will be a shorter service with a time for questions afterwards.

Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Asaph Choir meets at the NRC School.

Advance Notices:

-The post high school and young married adult youth group has been rescheduled for Saturday, **March 18**, in Sioux Center at 7:00 p.m. at the All Seasons Center to go ice skating and have supper afterwards. For more information, please contact Case Vogelaar (712-360-2725) or Beth Kelderman (605-987-7881).

-The installation of Rev. H. de Leeuw as the minister of the Brant County Congregation is scheduled for **March 29**. It will be held at the NRC of Norwich with the installation at 2:00 p.m. by Rev. G.M. de Leeuw and the inaugural service at 7:00 p.m. (both services are Eastern Time). To listen: call 519-900-0098 (Pin #186390) or visit www.nrcnorwich.ca/live/.

House Visitations: (1st 6:30 p.m., 2nd 8:00 p.m.)

March 6 1st Mr. & Mrs. Tom Johnson, 2nd Mr. & Mrs. Vince Byers

March 13 1st Mr. & Mrs. Cole Thompson, 2nd Mrs. Rebecca Girton

Please contact Mr. Rozeboom as soon as possible if changes are needed.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Emeritus 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.

-Mrs. Zomer and further family of Mr. Clarence Zomer who passed away last Sunday, February 26, at the age of 82.

MEDITATIONS

"And he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed"

The man in our text cried, "Alas, Master!" The man was finished; he could not continue working. He stood aside and must leave the work to others. In addition, his axe head was borrowed. This tells us a great deal. If someone had not loaned the axe head to him, he would not have been able to work. His tools were borrowed. Congregation, our tools are also borrowed. Children at school, mothers at home, and fathers at work, each of us needs health, strength, wisdom, and opportunity in order to do our tasks. These are the tools we need. All these tools and gifts are borrowed from God. God has lent them to us. We are all working with borrowed axe heads. If we did not receive these gifts from God, we could not do our work. Through sin we have lost all gifts. Yet, in God's common grace, He gives them to us again. We need capabilities, and these must be given to us. Especially on a Prayer Day, we must be reminded to depend on God for all our needs and seek help from Him. We need wisdom, strength, patience and love, faithfulness and perseverance, and all of these are borrowed. Each day should be a day of prayer to seek God's help and strength. He alone is the fount of strength and wisdom and everything else we need.

Oh, how is it in our life, congregation? Oh, maybe when something or someone fails or falls short, we are ready to correct it, and we are always too eager to put ourselves in the foreground. Must you bow your knees before you start your day? Fathers, do you still have the time to call upon God before you go to work? Do you always have the tools you need for your work? Is there a living desire within you, to borrow your gifts from the Lord? Oh, congregation, does this message find you guilty? How readily we live without the Lord. Even God's children find this true. We read that David made a decision without inquiring of the Lord, and the result was death. It is necessary and profitable for us to humble ourselves before God and to confess our constant need of Him. This message of the borrowed axe head tells us that everything is possible with God. He will and can help us in our daily work. Fathers and mothers, boys and girls, there is help with God. Open thy mouth wide and He will fill it. Oh, the entire Bible tells us of God's might and willingness in Jesus Christ.....

Congregation, we wish all of you a prosperous season and the help of the Lord. We wish you the light of the Lord as father and mother, and as children, whatever our task may be. Oh, that our help may be in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. So often it happens in our life that the axe head is at the bottom of the river so that we cannot continue, but there is help. If our ways are cut off, if our possibilities are ended, the Lord says, "Come unto Me." The Lord says that He has everything we need to do our work. His hands are full, and His heart is full of love. He will give help to the helpless; and those who have no strength, He will strengthen, and He will help the poor and the needy for His great Name's sake.

~Rev Hofman, Sr.

FUNERAL SUMMARY OF THE LATE MR. CLARENCE ZOMER

Family and friends gathered in memory of the late Mr. Clarence Zomer, who passed away from this life and entered into eternity on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at the age of 82 years old.

Reverend J. Slingerland officiated the funeral service and opened with the singing of Psalm 49 (Psalter 136 stanzas 1,2, and 4) followed by reading of Psalm 51. Prayer was then offered, after which Reverend Slingerland addressed all that were present and especially Mrs. Zomer, who had lost her husband of 63 years, and encouraged her in that if God will give His nearness, then the empty place will still be felt but His peace passeth all understanding. Mr. Zomer's custodial services to the Sioux Falls NRC were acknowledged also.

He reminded us of the importance of seeking the Lord in His strength and that God is the preserver of the strangers, fatherless, and widows, but that also the empty place speaks of a necessity. Consider Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me". It speaks of an acknowledgement of sin, and the fact that sin creates a separation between us and God. But also as David did, so may we, plead with God to have mercy upon us. We all know what it is to seek comfort and happiness in this life, but there is only one place for it to be found. Are you missing it? There is no lasting happiness in the world and only restored communion with God will bring rest to our souls. It is Godly sorrow that worketh repentance not to be repented of.

In our thoughts we were carried to Genesis 1 where God created everything out of nothing. In Psalm 51, David also acknowledges that God is the only One Who can create in us a clean heart and remove the heart of stone. God is willing to have mercy on those who will confess their sins, repent and turn away from them, and flee to Christ and rest in His righteousness. Then and only then will we have peace for our souls. If we have Christ for our portion then the day of our death will be our best day, for the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin. We were called to examine ourselves and how it is between God and our souls. Prayer was offered and we sang from Psalm 121 (Psalter 345 both stanzas).

At the graveside, Reverend Slingerland read from Isaiah 40:6-10 where the prophet speaks that all flesh is as grass and it all soon withers away. It is a picture of our life and also Mr. Zomer who will be entrusted to the earth, will no longer be heard or seen anymore. The grave awaits all of us if the Lord does not return. While we are frail and only flesh, the hope that the text of Isaiah gives us is that the Word of the Lord stands forever. All must take heed to the calling witnessed here and flee to the Lord while He may be found, and He can still be found.

The funeral director was acknowledged for his labor and prayer was offered in closing.

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the
LORD with my whole heart, in the
assembly of the upright, and in the
congregation.*

Psalm 111:1

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