

July 14, 2019

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 and 2:30 p.m. services with Rev. Adams

Next Week: 9:30 and 6:30 p.m. reading services

Advance Notices: August 11 9:30 a.m. Rev. Vogelaar preparatory
(*Changed*) August 23 7:00 p.m. Rev. Vergunst preparatory
(*Changed*) August 25 9:30 a.m. Rev. Vergunst communion
6:30 p.m. reflection
September 1 2:30 p.m. Rev. Hofman
-All the Lord Willing-

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

We Remember in Prayer:

-Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, our widows and widowers, our elderly, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those who are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

Christ the Foundation of the Church

Behold the sure Foundation-Stone
Which God in Zion lays,
To build our heavenly hopes upon,
And His eternal praise.
Chosen of God, to sinners dear,
And saints adore the Name;
They trust their whole salvation here,
Nor shall they suffer shame.
The foolish builders, scribe and priest,
Reject it with disdain;
Yet on this Rock the Church shall rest,
And envy rage in vain.
What though the gates of hell withstood?
Yet must this building rise;
'Tis Thy own work, almighty God,
And wondrous in our eyes. ~I. Watts

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Holiness is not the way to Christ, but Christ is the way to holiness.

~ A. Toplady

## CONFESSION LEADS TO FORGIVENESS

### ***"When I kept silence..." Psalm 32:3***

Initially David kept silence before the Lord. He did not want to confess his sin and yet David was burdened by it. His bones, the pillars that bear the body, became old. His moisture was changed into the drought of summer (verse 4). His soul was so afflicted that his body consequently suffered.

When a man is silent before God it causes a distance between Him and His child. When, in silence, he does not confess his sin and guilt before God, the Lord also will keep silence. When guilt is kept silent, then grace also has to be silent. The Lord will never have dealings with the soul when sins are covered up. When we try to hide our sins then God has to hide His friendly countenance. When we keep silence before the Lord it alienates us from Him.

It is certain, however, that even when sins are kept silent the all-knowing God still knows about them. But the Lord wants to hear the confession of sins from the sinner's own lips. He has to acknowledge his sin to the Lord, as if the Lord did not know about it. He has to learn to accuse himself, as if God did not know he was so bad. Is there guilt in your life that keeps you silent? Do you go through life keeping silence before your Judge? Why do you not fall down before the Lord? Why do you not surrender before the all-knowing God? A person who keeps silence can never be happy. How long will you keep the Lord waiting? Will you let Him wait until confession is no longer possible?

The psalmist's words contain much instruction for you, child of God, for you also often continue on in life keeping silence. You cover up much before God. There are many evil matters that you neglect to confess. Is it any wonder that the Lord has to hide Himself from you? Herein you find a reason why there are days of darkness. The reason lies in your closed mouth and in your closed heart.

Think back to a time when you made everything known to the Lord. It was better for you then than now. That is why you always have to start again by recognizing your sinfulness before God. God's justice would allow His silence for He hates sin. God was silent towards the Surety who took the sins of His people on Himself. And that is why it may now be proclaimed to sinners, that they should pour out their whole heart to Him. The sins have been paid for; but only guilt that is confessed can be changed into guilt that is forgiven.

~Rev. F. Bakker

*Notes*

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and  
cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.  
Psalm 67:1*

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President      Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer

Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk

Contacts

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer [craigtimmer@ymail.com](mailto:craigtimmer@ymail.com) or (231) 942-1389

Sermon recordings : Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

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