

**Dec 18th, 2022**

## **Schedule of Events:**

**This Week:** 9:30 AM Advent Reading Service, Catechism Classes  
6:30 PM Catechism Reading Service

**Next Week:** 9:30 AM Reading Service, no classes  
2:30 PM Rev Witvoet

**Tuesday:** 7:00 PM church sing-a-long and topic.  
Shared lunch after.

-All the Lord willing-

## **Announcements:**

**Offerings: 1st offering:** General Fund

**2nd offering Today:** Disaster relief

**2nd offering next week:** Kingdom Boundary

**Membership Directory:** Please notify the consistory of any household changed for the directory. Address, phone numbers, etc.

**Nov. Collections:** General \$3,996, School \$828,  
Living Bread \$850, Emeritus \$457, Prison Diary \$535

**Thank you note:** Thank You to everyone who remembered us with expressions of sympathy after the passing of our dear husband, father and grandfather. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded of you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. Luke 17:10 - The Anden Van Beek Family

## **House Visitation:**

**1st = 6:30 PM, 2nd = 8:00 PM** If changes are needed please contact the consistory as soon as possible.

**Dec 19th:** Clarence Zomer (afternoon), 1st Gus deWit, 2nd Harlan Van Beek

**Jan 9th:** 1st Tyler Johnson, 2nd Jeannie Johnson

**Jan 16th:** 1st Tom Johnson, 2nd Brandon Van Beek

**Jan 23:** Derek Kattenberg 2nd Paul Johnson

## **Remember in Prayer:**

- The call that was sent out to Rev Baan. May the Lord give him clear direction whether he should stay or go (As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. Psalm 18:30)
- The Synod hopes to meet Jan 25th-26th. It has been several years since the Synod has met. Pray for wisdom, peace, traveling mercies, and God's blessing on the decisions made at the meeting.
- Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those undergoing treatments, and all those with hidden crosses. ("He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer." Psalm 102:17)

## **Meditation:**

### *The Necessity of Self-Examination*

Whoever you are, as you read or hear this read, I ask you—give your answer to an omniscient God—what do you say about yourself? Are you a true believer or not? Come, search yourself closely and examine yourself, for: First, you are at this present moment either a child of God or a child of Satan; you cannot be both at once nor can you be neutral, as there is no third option. Impress this upon your heart, regardless of how prominent or despised you are, or how blessed or wretched you are. Is it not worth the effort to examine yourself as to who you are? Should one be careless in such a weighty matter? For such is the practice of foolish virgins, upon whose end we should reflect.

Secondly, not those who are baptized, and not all who attend church and partake of the Lord's Supper are true believers. Yes, only a few, and by far the smallest number of them are true believers on the way to eternal felicity. Think of a multitude as you would find in the marketplace where people can be seen mingling together as ants—or as you would find gathered in a filled church.

While doing so consider the following: Simon the sorcerer was baptized; the guest without the wedding garment sat at the table; half of the virgins were foolish. Only few are chosen (Matt 20:16). Only few find the narrow way and enter through the narrow gate, while there are many who are on the broad way who, through the wide gate, run to their damnation (Matt 7:13-14). And thus our

focus is upon you—and should you not ask yourself what hope you are entertaining about yourself? “Lord, is it I” (Matt 26:22);  
“Master, is it I” (vs. 25).

Thirdly, it is most detrimental to neglect self-examination and the searching of one’s heart. Such neglect holds man captive in the sleep of carelessness. It causes him to waste time. It renders the means of grace useless and impotent. It hardens his heart against all the threatenings and judgments of God. It holds him captive to the world and to sin; yes, it is the key whereby he closes heaven and opens hell for himself.

Fourthly, self-examination is very beneficial. It causes one to become conscious of the evils which dwell in the heart. It causes one to become acquainted with the avenging justice of God. It causes one to become concerned, frightened, and perplexed. It causes one to flee to Jesus for justification and sanctification. It causes one to become serious in heart. And if one may perceive grace, light, life, and faith, it cannot be expressed what joy this generates in the heart and what a strengthening effect this has! It repeatedly provides a person with new courage; he receives more liberty in prayer and he becomes acquainted with the ways in which God deals with souls. It gladdens his heart and it has a sanctifying influence upon all his actions. “And every man that has this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure” (1 John 3:3).  
To be continued: *Taken from: the Christian’s Reasonable Service*

### **Notes:**

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*All who would like to stand for the 3<sup>rd</sup> song are welcome to.*

#### Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, President

Deacons: Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer, Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Clerk

#### Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Derek Kattenberg [nrcsfsd@gmail.com](mailto:nrcsfsd@gmail.com)

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Website: [nrcsf.com](http://nrcsf.com)

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

**Sioux Falls, SD**



*O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name:  
Make known his deeds among the people.*

*Psalm 105:1*

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

Fifthly, to neglect this self-examination due to laziness, discouragement, or despair, robs a person of all comfort and joy, obstructs his growth, and denies God His honor. Therefore, examine yourself frequently, and often give answer to the question, "Simon, lovest thou Me" (John 21:17). It is also God's express command; whoever neglects this, not surrendering to His will, is disobedient toward God. How can such a person prosper? "Let us search and try our ways" (Lam 3:40); "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired" (Zeph 2:1).<sup>25</sup> "Let a man examine himself" (1 Cor 11:28); "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates" (2 Cor 13:5). Submit to the counsel and command of God, and you will prosper.

Sixthly, it is possible for one to come to the knowledge of his spiritual state—whether one is in the covenant of grace with God, and whether or not one is a believer. To imagine that such is impossible causes a decline in serious concern about spiritual matters and therefore I wish to state that it is possible for one to know this. The bride knew that Jesus was hers: "My Beloved is mine, and I am His" (Song 2:16). "For I know that my Redeemer liveth" (Job 19:25); "... and thou shalt know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob" (Isa 60:16). "For I am persuaded," etc. (Rom 8:38). "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (1 Cor 2:12). "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live" (Gal 2:20).

Thus it should be noted that it is possible for a person to be assured. Therefore, strive to attain to such assurance. It is also possible, however, for a natural man to be convinced that he is still in an unregenerate state. Seventhly, even though it is possible to come to this realization by the grace of the Holy Spirit, not every one does. Many thousands will go to hell who imagine that they will enter heaven. There will also be many, however, who will enter heaven who feared that they would not arrive there. And even those who at times may stand strong, can readily become weak and come into darkness. "In my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. Lord, by Thy favor Thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: Thou didst hide Thy face, and I was troubled" (Ps 30:6-7). In some true partakers of the covenant of grace there is still much darkness, so that they do not have a clear perception of what constitutes sufficient light and life. Although they know this when considering it divorced from themselves, and would be capable of

stating this clearly to others, they nevertheless lack sufficient light to observe these graces in themselves. Moreover, so much of the old man yet remains in them—a fact upon which they focus to such an extent that they question whether this can coexist with grace—that they live between hope and fear. Hence they are poor, even though they possess much that is good. Others have good opinions of themselves, but they deceive themselves miserably. "There is a generation that is pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness" (Prov 30:12). Consider, therefore, how necessary it is that we scrutinize our hearts and examine ourselves as to who and how we are.