August 12, 2018

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: We hope to have a morning catechism service and an evening reading service.

Next Week: Candidate Witvoet hopes to serve us at 9:30 a.m. and we hope to have an evening catechism service.

-All the Lord Willing-

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

Collections Received:

	In June:	July:
General Fund	\$1722.00	\$2487.55
School Fund	\$560.00	\$431.35
Disaster Relief	\$219.00	\$348.00
Church Book		\$600.00
Living Bread T	otal for both months	\$824.00

Membership: Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Heidi Kock have transferred their membership to Standing Rock Church. May the Lord remember them and their children.

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, any others who are unable to gather with us today, are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

Dear Congregation,

"That thou mightest receive thy sight" (Acts 9:17c).

There stands Ananias, the servant of the most high God. He may know that the Lord has sent him. There is no greater privilege for a servant of the Lord than when he may know that it is His Master who has sent him. There is not a better moment than when he may come to a poor, needy, lost sinner, one who goes about blindly upon the way to eternity, and then he may bring God's Word unto such a mourning, begging person. "Brother, the Lord has sent me that thou mightiest receive thy sight."

Immediately, there fell from Saul's eyes as if it had been scales. Can we even imagine what that must have been? In a moment the darkness was gone. Before him stood the servant of the Lord. Saul now sees Ananias differently. Previously, he saw people like that as enemies. Now he sees them with a holy jealousy in his heart, thinking these people have something he misses. Has the Lord already opened your eyes for the great privilege of God's children? Are there times that there may be a holy jealousy in your heart, wondering whether the Lord would bless you in that same way? Yes, it is still possible; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind and enables them to see things they have never seen before.

May I ask you, was there ever a time in your life that the knowledge of sin made you stagger about in a darkness so great that you thought it can never be light for you? May I encourage you to continue as a beggar to plead as one unworthy. The God whom you cannot miss anymore is a great and merciful God. Only one word from Him and His light may stream in your darkened heart, and with that light you will say, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Upon that rock you may know that also for you He has obtained eternal life.

Your minister, Rev. J. den Hoed

Birds of a Feather

A farmer loaded up his shotgun and slipped out along the fence to make it warm for the crows that were pulling up his young corn. The farmer had a very sociable parrot who, discovering the crows pulling up the corn, flew over and joined them. The farmer saw the crows, but did not see the parrot. He fired among them, and then climbed over the fence to see the execution done. There lay three dead crows, and his pet parrot with ruffled feathers and a broken leg. When the bird was taken home, the children asked:

"What did it, Papa? Who hurt our pretty Polly?"

"Bad company!" answered the parrot, in solemn voice.

"Ay, that it was," said the father. "Polly was with those crows when I fired and received a shot intended for them. Remember the parrot's fate, children. Beware of bad company."

Many a boy or girl has got into trouble, not through any evil, which they did themselves, but because of the company in which they were found. People will judge us by the company we keep,

for in the long run the old proverb is true, that "Birds of a feather flock together."

It is never safe for us to do anything just because many are doing the same thing. God makes a clear statement on this point: "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil." (Exodus 23:2) We must be careful to know that the thing we want to do is right, and a good thing to do, rather than that there are many or few people doing it. Boys and girls of a sociable temperament often feel very hard toward their parents who are careful of the company they keep, and think the old people are too particular about it. The boy or girl who is always running with the crowd, and with no better reason than because the others do it, will be sure to come to grief. "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." (Proverbs 1:10)

Notes

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

Psalm 47:6

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