

## March 10, 2024

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD36)  
6:30 p.m. Passion Reading Service  
Classes after the morning service.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD37)  
Classes after the morning service.

**Wednesday:** 7:00 p.m. Denominational Prayer Day reading service

**Friday:** 7:00 p.m. Youth Activity for 10<sup>th</sup> grade and up at Air Madness. Please sign waivers online in advance.

**Advance Notices:** **March 24** services with Rev. Kleijer

**April 17** 7:00 p.m. midweek service with Ds. Evers

**April 21** 2:30 p.m. service with Ds. Evers (baptism)

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund    Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
  2<sup>nd</sup> Disaster Relief                                       2<sup>nd</sup> Alpha Center

**New Publication:** Banner

**We Remember in Prayer:**

-Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

## MEDITATIONS

*“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”* 1 Peter 5:7

Peter wrote a pastoral letter to the “strangers” in Asia Minor. These people were Jews who had become Christians and were spiritual strangers in this world. A wonder of grace had taken place in their lives. Peter explained how an offspring of Adam, who by nature feels at home in this world becomes a spiritual stranger: “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.” It is the new birth worked by a triune God in the hearts whereby they are regenerated to a “lively” hope and become citizens of another kingdom.

Reader, has this happened in your life? If so, it will be seen in the fruits. The apostle spoke to such pilgrims urging them to cast all their cares upon God. “Your care” indicates fearful concerns: a burden which bows you down, which confuses you and greatly troubles your heart. This word did not exist in Paradise; it started when sin came into the world.

“All your care”. Prayer Day needs in this temporal life can be due to illness, adversity, or grief personally, in family life or in business. Each house has its own cross to bear. There can be cares in spiritual life. Reader, do you have spiritual cares (concerns) besides all your other worries as is evident with David when he lamented: “For I will declare mine iniquities; I will be sorry for my sin”? Do you know something of a pressing care of the weight of your sin, your inherent corruption, your spiritual debt, and your need of a Surety and the application of His blood? How about cares regarding the future of the church and of our country and its citizens? Where does a pilgrim go with all these fearful cares? Peter shows us the perfect way by saying: “Casting all your care upon Him”.

Prayer Day advice. The apostle gave loving advice: “Casting... upon Him”, meaning to say “let it go” or “pass it on ...” to Him, the almighty One, the strong God with His everlasting arms. We read in Psalm 37 to: “Trust also in Him.” You might say: “If only I could do this.” You and I need grace in order to give everything over to the Lord, but first Peter tells us in verse 6: “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God.” Our trust in self and other creatures needs to be broken. You need to be brought in the dust at His feet as a beggar without rights where “the mighty hand of God” becomes the hand into which you lay all your cares. Reader, have you ever experienced that He has lifted your cares from you? You are blessed if you may say with the poet: “Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from Him cometh my salvation.”

Prayer Day comfort. “For He careth for you.” Literally it states: “For He takes you to heart.” Pilgrims: He cares for you; He does not leave you alone. He cares as the almighty Creator and Maintainer of all His creatures. He blesses man and beast. He cares in particular for His church and all evil He sends comes from His fatherly hand and will turn out to their advantage (LD 9) for Christ’s sake. All the cares of His children are for His account because He humbled Himself so deeply under His Father’s hand and He bowed willingly under God’s justice. See Him bow in Gethsemane and on Golgotha. There He bore the cause of all His children’s cares and He carried the curse of His pilgrims so that He can fill them with temporal and eternal blessings. Concerned pilgrim: He cares for your salvation; He is Jesus because He saves His people from their sin. His care is not to give all you want; He wisely withholds what is not good for you. Therefore, let Him care for you in this coming season. Give all into His hands even if you cannot comprehend what is happening, even if you do not want it, even if you cannot do it. Beg Him to undertake for you so that your cares will not overwhelm you. “Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.”

~Rev. M. Karens

*He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered. Proverbs 28:26*

Contrast the sound and fruitful confidence just mentioned with man's natural trust. Our confidence determines our state. (Matthew 7:24-27.) To trust an impostor, who has deceived us an hundred times, or a traitor, who has proved himself false to our most important interests, is surely to deserve the name of fool. This name therefore the Scriptures — "using great plainness of speech" — give to him that trusteth in his own heart. Well does Bishop Hall call it, 'The great Impostor.' For has it not been practicing a system of deceit upon us from the first moment of consciousness? The wise man awfully illustrates his own Proverb. It must have been some bitter root of self-confidence that prostrated his wondrous wisdom in the lowest degradation (1 Kings 11:1-8.) Peter also — how did he befool himself in his trust! Presuming upon "the willingness of the spirit," and forgetting his Lord's most needful caution against "the weakness of the flesh," though named a Rock, he fell as a reed before the first breath of temptation. Had not the everlasting arms been underneath, it would have been the fall of Judas into the depths of hell. An instructive lesson to show us, that all dependence upon feelings, impulse, native strength, sincere purpose or conviction — is vain confidence. Sad experience has convinced us of this. Yet in the blindness of our folly, we are ever ready to trust again, if the Lord prevent not, to our ruin. None of us can safely presume that his heart may not hurry him into abominations that he cannot now contemplate without horror. (2 Kings 8:13-15.) If Eve, in a state of innocence, could believe a serpent before her Maker; if "the saint of the Lord" could worship the golden calf; if "the man after God's own heart" could wallow in adultery, murder, and deceit; if the wisest of men, and the warm-hearted disciple just referred to, could sink so low — what may not we do? Surely "all men are liars." The best of men, when left to themselves, are mournful spectacles of weakness and instability. Blessed be our God! our standing is not on the uncertainty of man's best purpose; but upon the faithful promise, the unchangeable will, the free grace, and almighty power of God; not therefore on ourselves, but on the Rock, on which the Church is immovably built. We value then a deep knowledge of our indwelling weakness and corruption. Painful and humbling as it is, it is establishing to our faith; and grounds us in the gospel far better than walking over the mere surface. Indeed in a path, where every step is strewn with snares, and beset with enemies, great need have we of the caution — "Walk circumspectly" — "looking on all sides" — "not as fools, but as wise." A sound confidence is a proof of wisdom. Be willing that the Lord should disappoint us of the most plausible and inviting pleasure, into which we may have been drawn by the dictates of our own heart. We are too weak needlessly to expose ourselves to hazard. We cannot pray — "Lead us not into temptation" — when we are rushing headlong into it — or — "Deliver us from evil" — when we seem to invite its approach.

~Charles Bridges

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

**Sioux Falls, SD**



*O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy  
name in all the earth!*

*Psalms 8:9*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer

Deacons: Mr. Norm DeWit, Mr. Rick Rozeboom

Contacts

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