November 11, 2018

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Rev. Vergunst hopes to serve us for a 9:30 a.m. service, including confession of faith, and also a 2:30 p.m. service.

The following people hope to make public confession of faith this

morning: Elliot de Wit

Nathan de Wit Raina de Wit Brandon van Beek

Tomorrow, November 12, 7:00 p.m., Rev. Vergunst hopes to have a topic on Modern Media Addictions (Pornography), at the Corporate Centre in Sioux Center

-Next Week: We hope to have a morning reading service and an evening catechism reading service.

Young people, high school aged and up, are invited for a singa-long with Rev. Witvoet at the NRC school in Rock Valley after their evening service

Advance Notices:

November 21, 7:00 p.m. Rev. Adams - Thanksgiving Eve December 3, 7:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting December 23, 9:30 and 2:30 p.m. Rev. Witvoet December 24, 7:00 p.m. Rev. Adams - Christmas Eve. January 6, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Witvoet - Preparatory January 13, 9:30 a.m. Rev. Hofman - Communion

House Visitation:

November 13: 2:00 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Spaans, 3:00 Mr. & Mrs. Norm Jongeties

-All the Lord Willing-

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

We Remember in Prayer:

- -Mrs. Spaans in her continued treatments
- -Mr. Norm Jongetjes who commemorates his 72nd birthday on November 13
- -Mrs. Jennie Johnson who commemorates her 67^{th} birthday on November 14

-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.

MEDITATION

HUNGER AFTER GOD'S WORD

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is." (Hebrews 10:25)

Many people easily neglect going to church. They are not interested in attending. Adapting the worship services to the tastes of people or shortening them will not change this evil. For these people, the world will always be more attractive, and time will always fly quicker in the world than in church. We do not need an attractive worship service to accommodate the natural man. We need an honest ministry of the Word in which people are frankly told that by nature they are without God. By the Spirit's grace, this will stimulate the soul to hunger after God. Such an approach will be more beneficial in drawing people to church than trying to please them.

"Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together." Neglecting church services shows that you do not have hunger for the Word of God. You show that you despise the spiritual well-being of your soul and that the day of salvation is not important for you. The Lord has given us His day so that we may learn to see what is beneficial for our well-being. It is a slap in God's face to reject His offered redemption.

It will be terrible in a little while to hear from the heavenly Judge: "I have sent ministers of the gospel to preach redemption to you, but while they were preaching, you were out hiking or sleeping." You will then regret forever that you left your place unoccupied in the house of worship. Do not try to excuse yourself by saying that you have no desire and that you cannot just go to church out of custom. It is still a good custom. And besides that, the destiny of your immortal soul is at stake.

Will going to church earn salvation for us? Let such an idea be far from us. The true Christian can be fearful that he still will perish while he has been a regular church attendee. There is no merit in our church attendance. But what is found in church attendance is food and nourishment for an empty and guilty soul. Those who understand these things will also know the blessing that comes from serving the Lord in love in the house of the Lord. Going to church will result in a blessed Lord's Day when the Word of God

affects the heart of him who attends. Then they can say, "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house; and Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures." (Psalm 36:8) Then you say, "I cannot neglect the assemblies of the congregation. I cannot stay away because there I have a foretaste of the blessed life in heaven. I wish to be in God's house, even if I were only the doorkeeper." Then you come to the house of the Lord moved by your hunger, for your heart and flesh cry out to the living God!

~Rev. F. Bakker

Notes

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer
Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk
Contacts

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer <u>craigtimmer@ymail.com</u> or (231) 942-1389 Sermon recordings : Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13

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