

## August 20, 2023

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Baptism Service with Rev. Slingerland  
2:30 p.m. Rev. Slingerland  
Rev Slingerland serves Sioux Center this evening

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 14)

**Friday:** Youth event from 6:30-10:30 for 7th-12th grade to be held at the NRCS gym in Rock Valley.

**Advance Notice:** Sunday, **August 27**, there will be a sing along for the high school students after the evening service in the Rock Valley church.

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> Emeritus Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> NAGMission

### We Remember in Prayer:

- Mr. & Mrs. Rick Rozeboom and further family in the passing away of his brother, Mr. Anthony Rozeboom, of Doon, IA, last Sunday at the age of 67.
- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

## MEDITATIONS

Dear Congregation, our lives, your and mine, are but of a passing nature. Yes, life is all coming to an end, and soon it will be the next and next until it is my time. We have seen this also in our community in the past weeks where one has suddenly come to the end of his life here on earth. Are we prepared to meet the Lord? Will it be well for our souls when we arrive at that time? The Lord is admonishing today that we should not be too occupied with the things of this world. This world, with all that is therein, is going to slide away from us when we come to that time, the end of our lives. Then the world will not mean so much anymore, for it no longer will be able either to help or to sustain us. No more will the world give its joys in our hearts pertaining to those things when we have to leave them behind.

Do not be led astray, "and carried about with ever wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:14), but seek for your souls that eternal life which is explained and heard at the place where you may come and bow

your heads. In other words, is there prayer in your heart when we stand upon the threshold of the service here in this house of God? Is there prayer in your heart that God may be among us and that the Holy Spirit may tabernacle among us? Is there prayer in our congregation and in our hearts that the blessings of God may flow so abundantly among us and that with deep humility, there may be prayer to acknowledge with astonishment that the Lord still remembers and bears with us, over and against so much sin and so many shortcomings? Pray today for a discerning spirit to know not only what truth is but also to know what it is not. Beg the Lord today that it maybe He Himself in His beloved Son who may come and who may bless this Word unto our hearts.

Ask the Lord if you may lay this Word of God next to your heart and that it may explain your heart today. And if you have to say of this Word as you may lay it next to your heart, "I know nothing personally of these matters, I am simply a stranger thereof," then still today you may be in God's house. People of the Lord, today you may pray that this Word of God may explain in your heart how by the grace of God you may belong, and may it humble your heart! Then irrespective of all your fears, your struggles, and your doubts that you have lived with throughout these entire past days or weeks, the Lord is saying, "I understand, and I know all of them, and you may bring them to Me, for I deem them necessary in your life to strip away all that is of self and to strip away all the grounds upon which you so long to rest in your life." Then to be driven out unto that only Savior, unto Jesus Christ, who is that only hiding place, who is that only rock! His is that only blood, and His is that only righteousness who is THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer. 23:6), the precious Lord Jesus Christ. May there be souls in this house of God that are so tenderly fed and who may find these matters lying so tenderly in their hearts, so that thy have to say, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

~Rev. J. den Hoed

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### Free Grace

Free grace to ev'ry heav'n-born soul  
Will be their constant theme;  
Long as eternal ages roll,  
They'll still adore the Lamb.

Free grace alone can wipe the tears  
From our lamenting eyes;  
Can raise our souls from guilty fears  
To joy that never dies.

Free grace can death itself outbrave,  
And take its sting away;

Can souls unto the utmost save,  
And them to heav'n convey.

Our Saviour, by free grace alone,  
His building shall complete;  
With shouting bring forth the Head Stone,  
Crying, Grace, grace to it.

May I be found a living stone,  
In Salem's streets above;  
And help to sing before the throne,  
Free grace and dying love. ~J. Dracup

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Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation;  
on thee do I wait all the day. If God should do for us all else, and not  
teach us his will and his ways, he would not be the God of our salvation.  
We are blind and cannot see afar off. We know nothing as we ought to  
know it until we are taught from heaven. Blessed be the Lord, he is  
continually making good the promise: "I will bring the blind by a way  
that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known;  
I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.  
These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them," Isaiah 42:16.  
~ Plumer

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Who ought to receive, and Who ought to desire baptism? Those who  
are not yet disciples of Christ, not being of the number of those who are  
called, and not believing the doctrine of the gospel, nor obeying the  
ministry, are not to receive baptism. Nor ought those who feel that they  
are not the disciples of Christ to desire baptism. And the reason why  
they ought neither to receive, nor desire baptism, is, because Christ  
says, first, teach or make all nations my disciples, and then baptize  
them. Hence all, and only those are to be baptized according to the  
command of Christ, who are, and ought to be regarded as members of  
the church, whether they be adults professing repentance and faith, or  
infants born in the church; for all the children of those that believe are  
included in the covenant, and church of God, unless they exclude them-  
selves. They are, therefore, also disciples of Christ, because they are  
born in the church, or school of Christ; and hence the Holy Spirit  
teaches them in a manner adapted to their capacity and age. ~Ursinus

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Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer      Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit

Contacts

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Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

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Consistory meets the first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*The LORD is righteous in all his ways,  
and holy in all his works.  
Psalm 145:17*

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