

April 12, 2020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Services are "listen live" only through our website at nrcsf.com
or call Mr. Timmer at 231-942-1389.

9:30 a.m. Rev. Vergunst (Combined with Waupun)

6:00 p.m. Rev. Vergunst (Combined with Waupun)

2:00 Adult Class (see member's page on our website for assignments)

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Service*

6:00 p.m. Rev. Vergunst (Combined with Waupun)

**In the morning, we will be starting to have our own services again with either an audio or reading sermon. In the evenings we will continue to follow our moderator in his catechism sermons.*

-All the Lord willing-

Offerings: Please send offerings to Mr. Norm deWit. The April offerings would be for the General Fund, School Fund, Living Bread, and Church Book Supply.

New Monthly Periodicals are uploaded to the member's page on our website.

We Remember in Prayer:

-All those affected by the coronavirus: those who are ill, unemployed, suffering financial hardship, and suffering in various ways, the health care workers, our elderly and vulnerable.

-Our congregation in our continued separation physically, that we may be bound together in prayer.

-All those with hidden crosses

MEDITATIONS

"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on Him, saying, If thou be Christ, save Thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this Man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise." Luke 23:39-43

Behold, careful listeners, a wonderful difference between two thieves who are lying under the same judgement; the one goes lost in his impenitence and the other is saved in his penitence. **On the one hand we**

may be afraid of God's justice, but on the other hand we may be more amazed about His kindness!

Behold here a wonderful and almost incomprehensible mirror of Divine grace. At the same moment that Jesus is offended the most, He gives the greatest evidences of His infinite long-suffering and mercy. Here is evidence of His love to sinners which exceeds all other evidences. Here is a man who drank in iniquity as water his whole life, and who walked in the service of the devil as a wild, uncontrolled ass. A man who hitherto spent his whole life with robbing and killing and all imaginable wickedness, who now on the cross bears the wages of his villainy, to end his wicked life in a painful death as a terror for others. Behold, in one moment he is changed and converted by the powerful working of Jesus. The stony heart becomes flesh. He begins to live at the brink of death. He is saved at the brink of destruction. He is saved at the brink of condemnation, and from the entrance of hell, he steps into heaven. With his last breath, he not only changes from a servant of Satan into a devout servant of God, but also changes from a disciple of the abyss, into a great teacher of faith, of godliness, and penitence before the whole world. Here, the hellish murderer is ashamed in a murderer. Jesus takes, robs the strong man armed from one of his vessels, while He Himself seems to be robbed and conquered by the strong man armed. A spiritual dead one, who was already dying, and leaned toward eternal death, is, by temporal death, drawn out of spiritual and eternal death. A cruel and unmerciful murderer finds mercy and compassion. A very great sinner is brought back by the Lord's kindness while at the very end of his life.

This shows that the Lord calls someone in the eleventh hour. Yea, that those who worked in His vineyard for only one hour, are also crowned by Him with eternal bliss. Oh, amazing companion of the Lord Jesus, in his death, unto glory. He does not take along a righteous Simeon, but a murderer, and with him He enters Paradise. Be not amazed, oh heavenly host, seeing Jesus coming in with a murderer. He died for sinners and wicked ones. He does not profane your dwelling place, but it is an honour for the Paradise, to have such a Lord, Who can even make a murderer a worthy companion of that Paradise. Oh, sea of God's kindness! Here is the height, the width, the depth, the length of the love of God which goes above all understanding (Eph. 3:18). Here is an abyss of mercy. Our thoughts are consumed when we ponder about it. Paul may well cry out: ***'This is a faith-ful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Je-sus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief'*** (1 Tim. 1:15). ~Rev. Hellenbroek

Time is fluid; and runs away;
Eternity only cometh to stay.

Praying and sinning will never live together in the same heart. Prayer will consume sin, or sin will choke prayer. J.C. Ryle—"A Call to Prayer"

See the gloomy gath'ring cloud
Hanging o'er a sinful land!
Sure the Lord proclaims aloud
Times of trouble are at hand.

Happy they who love His name;
They shall always find Him near;
Though the earth were wrapt in flame,
They have no just cause for fear.

Hark, His voice in accents mild,
(O how comforting and sweet!)
Speaks to every humble child,
Pointing out a sure retreat!

"Come, and in My chambers hide,
To My saints of old well known;
There you safely may abide,
Till the storm be overblown.
You have only to repose

On My wisdom, love, and care;
When My wrath consumes My foes,
Mercy shall My children spare:
While they perish in the flood,

You that bear My holy mark,
Sprinkled with atoning blood,
Shall be safe within the Ark."
Sinners, see the Ark prepar'd!

Haste to enter while there's room;
Though the Lord His arm has bared
Mercy still retards your doom:

Seek Him while there yet is hope,
E're the day of grace be past,
Lest in wrath He give you up,
And this call should prove your last. ~John Newton

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer

Contacts

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

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Blessed be the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ, which
according to his abundant mercy
hath begotten us again unto a lively
hope by the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3*

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