

April 5, 2020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Services are “listen live” only through our website at nrscf.com. If you have trouble accessing this method, please 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

Wednesday evenings: For the coming weeks, each Wednesday evening, Rev. C. Vogelaar and Rev.H. DeLeeuw will alternate conducting prayer services from Franklin Lakes. These are not full church services, but prayer and a meditation. The services begin at 6:30 PM CST. The dial in number for the service is (201) 891-3284

-All the Lord willing-

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

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

Update from Bolivia:

Our administrator sent a brief update regarding the situation in Bolivia:

Dear friends

As we receive many inquiries about our mission team in Bolivia, here is a brief update.

- Bolivia is in the midst of a 14 day complete lockdown. A parent is only allowed to walk to local corner "store" for some essentials.
- No vehicles are allowed on the road. If you disobey - you will be arrested / fined and your vehicle will possibly be impounded.
- There are 32 cases of the coronavirus at present in Bolivia, mainly in LaPaz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.
- The lockdown means those who depend on their daily sales have no money for food or medication. Some do not have enough food for this week, so the team is try-ing to help where possible.
- As no Sunday services are allowed, Rev Maljaars and team members continue to send their messages / Bible studies etc. to their members using alternate means. Regular contact continues with those who attend their services.
- The team appreciates the concern shown and the prayers from the members in our congregations in North America

- May these trials and serious callings truly humble us. May the Lord in wrath remember mercy.

-We are also pleased to inform you that Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Van Beek were blessed with a son (Nicolas Ryan) on March 23.

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.
- All those with hidden crosses

MEDITATION

Serious times

Not one of us shall deny, we hope, that we are currently living in serious times. "Shall there be evil in the city, and the LORD hath not done it?" So asked Amos, when he spoke of God's judgments upon Israel and Judah on account of their manifold sins. Then we need not add much more, for it describes our time. "The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?"

However, has it now also been *experienced*? Has there come a bowing under the rod? Or are we smitten and we have felt no pain? Are we occupied with the consequences only? Or chiefly? It was the Lord, Who brought this little virus into the world, and see, in a few weeks time nearly the whole world is upside down. We read much of the economic consequences, which are staggering, indeed. We may not slight this. Still, the idol of prosperity, of earthly riches without God, has been broken, has it not? Much more serious is the sickness itself. Although for many, the symptoms are mild, still, for others it turns into a dangerous disease, for some it is fatal. That means eternity. And with all the gifts of modern medicine, suddenly there is fear that the hospitals shall be overwhelmed by so many serious cases at the same time. Is not the Lord speaking to us?

Where do we hear about the *cause* of all misery? The reason why God sends these judgments? True, it could be far worse. In the past there have been calamities, wars, and plagues, which have carried countless more people to the grave. Nevertheless, the Lord shows His sovereign power. He has been provoked by our many sins for so many years. How long can His patience continue? In the world we hear no acknowledging of sin. And in the church of God? Is there more than lip-service? Is there grief on account of our world-conformity? Our living so far from the Lord? God speaks with His judgments, but who has ears to hear? Do not the judgments begin at the house of God? Where is the owning of our guilt? A repenting of our transgressions that we have forsaken our Maker?

Nevertheless, although God's judgment has come, the Lord still has been pleased not to deal with us according to our transgressions. He could have swept us away with the besom of destruction. He even could have left us alone, letting us hurry onward to eternal destruction. But He

still dealt with us in a far softer measure than we deserve. And He still calls, He calls so loudly. "Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" "Seek ye Me, and ye shall live." Ah, there would be honey on the rod if saving mercy may be tasted.

Moreover, in spite of what we have deserved, the Word of God can still be preached and read from our pulpits, albeit with restrictions as to the number of people present and under unusual circumstances for many of the congregations listening to the services at home. The Scriptures are not closed, we are not persecuted, and the means are still given that God's Word may go forth and the ministry of prayer may continue. "For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst." Is that not an encouragement? Is that not a wonder? Has it become a wonder to us? The Lord still left this unto us, especially on His holy day. Meanwhile, the bars, the casinos, the movie theatres, the sports palaces, and many more places of vanity are closed, yes, closed even on the Lord's Day. The governments have ordered it, no, not, we fear, because of love to God's commandments, but still they had to do so at this time. What maketh us to differ that we may still gather, in a way, around God's Word and Testimony? And is not the Lord almighty? With Him nothing is impossible, so He is able to bless the Word when you may hear it in your home.

May we beg the Lord that He will grant upright prayer unto Him. "Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." Then it shall become a prayer day every sabbath. Then there shall be wrought, in these serious times, a desire to hear the Word also during the week.

The future lies hidden for us, but it is all in God's hands. Shall this be the beginning of woes? Have we not been ripening ourselves for the judgment? May the Lord be pleased that we and our loved ones may carry out our soul as a prey, even as Baruch in the midst of Jerusalem's judgments. God continues with His work, because the last ones are not yet saved. Who can tell that there will still be a fruit of true conversion.

We wish strength to the families, especially the mothers with the children. Do ask the Lord for His help. Read those Bible Histories by J. Vreugdenhil. Those are so true, so faithful, so simple and yet so serious. There are concerns about work and business. How must it go? What shall still happen? On our knees and begging the Lord as unworthy ones, that is the way. There are also fears and concerns about the sickness itself. It may not pass us by, even as in Holland the virus has struck in quite a few congregations. It warns us to make haste for our life's sake. Then there are the lonely, the sick. The teachers also need wisdom and grace, and so do the office-bearers in the unusual circumstances. Yes, may our governments come to true conversion and learn to pray to God. We wish to commend each and everyone to the Lord, with the words of the Psalmist: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." ~Rev. A.H. Verhoef

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. Isaiah 26:20

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

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

