November 18, 2018

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: We hope to have a morning reading service and an evening catechism reading service. Classes after the morning service.

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

Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 p.m. we hope to have a Thanksgiving Eve service with Rev. Adams

Thursday, Rock Valley has a 9:30 a.m. service with Rev. Witvoet and a 2:00 p.m. service with Student de Leeuw. Sioux Center has their service at 9:30 a.m. with Student de Leeuw.

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

Advance Notices:

November 29, December 6 Study Groups Meet December 3, 7:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting December 17, 7:00 p.m.Ezra for Israel music evening at Dordt 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 20: 4:00 Mr. G. Hoogendoorn, 6:00 Mr. & Mrs. Girton, 7:00 Mr. & Mrs. Roberts, 8:00 Mrs. Judy Thompson

-All the Lord Willing-

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

We Remember in Prayer:

-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

"And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering" (Genesis 4:4b).

The altar in the Old Dispensation was a means ordained by the Lord Himself to worship Him aright. The root word of the Hebrew for "sacrifice" or "offering" means: "approaching unto." Let us take note of two important matters here. First, the matter of approaching God is instituted by the Lord Himself. This is a wonder, for who can dwell with the Most High God who is a consuming fire on account of His holiness and justice? Note secondly that also what is laid upon the altar is ordained by the Lord Himself. None of these things were left to the imagination or decision of man. Abel, by the grace of faith, was aware of this important truth. The Lord Himself ordained the content of the sacrifices. See this displayed in the Mosaic ordinances. Thus, in the very altar God approaches unto man, and in what God ordains to be put on the altar, He alone is well pleased. Let us then proceed to give heed to what ultimately was laid upon the most sublime altar which ever stood upon earth. At Golgotha God erected the altar and laid His own Son thereupon. Thus a holy and righteous God approached unto man, and calls man to approach unto Him through the merits of His own dear Son. Such an altar thus excludes all merits of man. Such an altar excludes all activity of man, also in the way of true gratitude. It is only in and through the merits of God's dear Son that we can observe true Thanksgiving. May the suffering, the exalted, the praying, and the thanking High Priest be our portion during this season of giving thanks. Precious place on Thanksgiving Day, to be next to Abel in the dust before God, close to the altar and the sacrifice, hence to lose oneself and rely upon Him whom God made glorious for Himself. Precious place to become unworthy of the least token of His favor. Then it is even possible to give thanks when the way this past season was hedged about with thorns, the cross bore the shoulders down, and the thorn in the flesh was grievously painful. Then the Lord receives the glory for all He gave or withheld, deemed necessary or useful. Such a Thanksgiving is our heartfelt wish and prayer for all of you.

Notes

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



And I say unto you,
Ask, and it shall be given you;
seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it
shall be opened unto you. Luke 11:9

Consistory

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