

July 23, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 11)

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 12Q31)

Tuesday: Church Picnic 6:30 p.m at Tuthill Park. Please bring a dish and beverage to pass.

Advance Notices:

- August 13**, 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Adams
- Candidate Kleijer's ordination and inaugural service is scheduled for Wednesday, **August 16** in the Lethbridge Church.
- August 20**, 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. with Rev. Slingerland

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd NAGMission 2nd Alpha Center

Call: Ds. Zondag did not have the freedom to accept our call. His letter will be read this morning.

We Remember in Prayer:

- Our congregation, as we are once again left without a shepherd.
- The rain received in our area with thanksgiving.
- Mr. & Mrs. Norm and Darla de Wit, who hope to commemorate their 40th wedding anniversary next Sunday, July 30.
- Candidate Kleijer who was admitted to be ordained into the ministry after his examination and trial sermon in Classis Far West.
- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.”

Matthew 9:35–38

The first and most important work of sacred ministry is teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, not only in our own congregations, but any place where an opportunity is given to bring His precious message. Oh, may we have compassion for the physical needs of our fellow-travelers to eternity, but above all for their spiritual needs! Of those laborers who are in the harvest-fields today how many have this compassion? There are wolves who try to destroy God's flock on earth. There are many that say, “Lord, Lord, have we not... in Thy Name done many wonderful works?” The important question is: How does the Lord rate us? The glory and honor of men cannot help us; we need God's approval.

The present situation in the harvest-fields is alarming. May God move us to realize that it is our own guilt. When are we praying and begging at the throne of grace? In these times of much following after the world and her pleasures, are we begging on our knees for His wayward people? Go back to our text and observe the attitude of the Savior. There are two things we should learn of Him. The first is: “when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted”; there were no shepherds. When He saw the rebellious people, those godless unbelievers, those wise people in their own eyes, those self-satisfied Pharisees, He was not moved with anger. He did not call for fire from heaven. He was moved with compassion. He thinks of the erring soul as a straying sheep —footsore, famished, tattered, a sure prey of the ever-present wolf. He looks under the bosoms into the dark and hopeless hearts of these sons and daughters of the churches, yes, even of those who never have heard the message of free and sovereign grace.

Alas, we often behold the shortage of undershepherds without pity. We have no need to cry at the throne of grace, thinking that prayers do not help. We wait and see — that is the wrong attitude. King Jesus is different. See Him stoop down over the fallen woman who wept at his feet, over the prodigal sons and daughters, over the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son, Peter, the malefactor, and others. May the King of His dearly-bought Church fill our hearts with compassion for souls traveling to eternity.

There is one thing that the praying High Priest commands us. And what is that? In these difficult circumstances to pray and sigh that He send laborers into His harvest. May He bind it upon our hearts! May it truly become a necessity and a need for us to beg of the King that He will send more men to bring the gospel of free and sovereign grace to unworthy people. He is the Lord! He sends His laborers. He alone can take men and make them to be laborers. May He give the need and the desire to pray for it.

We have the examples of the Lord Jesus and the Bible saints. Jesus spent nights in prayer, and likewise Paul and others did so. If Jesus will bind it upon our hearts, He surely will be the hearer of prayer. May the Lord of the harvest cause us to be concerned about the sorrowful condition of the harvest-fields here and across the ocean. May God teach us to pray, not only for our personal welfare, confessing our

guilt and begging for mercy, but moreover to have compassion on our rising generation, our parents, and our older people, causing the Word of the living God to remain in our midst — a wonder from heaven.

May the Lord Himself bind it upon our hearts to beg as unworthy creatures for His forfeited blessing. May He teach us that the great Officebearer alone can send men who have a clear conversion and a need in their hearts to serve in the midst of the congregations. It would be an undeserved blessing and a miracle from heaven.

~Rev. A.W. Verhoef

Grace All-Sufficient

"My grace is sufficient for thee."
The promise I know and believe;
But I long from my fears to be free,
And life-giving grace to receive.

I am pained with the burden of sin;
My failings and faults I deplore;
I am troubled without and within,
And long for free grace to restore.

O why should I comfortless be,
And why for my want of grace grieve?
My ruin and poverty see,
And long for the Lord to relieve?

Can it be there is no grace for me –
No water in Bethlehem's well?
Yet I read, "Grace sufficient for THEE"-
And why not for me? - Who can tell?

I'll wait on the God of all grace,
Who can give me all grace, rich and free;
At his feet I will lay my sad case,
I shall find grace sufficient for ME.
~Herbert Dawson

Consistory

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

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsfsd@gmail.com

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom Website: nrcsf.com

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

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*I will sing a new song unto thee, O God:
upon a psaltery and an instrument of
ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.*

Psalm 144:9

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