

May 3, 2020

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Services continue to be “listen live” only through our website:

[nrclf.com](http://nrclf.com)

**Today:** 9:30 a.m. Service  
2:00 p.m. Adult class (Zoom)  
6:00 p.m. Rev. Vergunst (Combined with Waupun)

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Service\*  
6:30 p.m. Service\*

***\*If the new city ordinance passes this week, we hope to meet back in church in some capacity next Sunday. We will notify you by email or phone and will be sending out some specific guidelines for meeting.***

-All the Lord willing-

**Offerings:** Please send offerings to Mr. Norm deWit. The May offerings would be for the General Fund, School Fund, Living Bread, and Hudson Taylor. Pentecost collection will be for North American General Mission

### **We Remember in Prayer:**

- Mrs. Spaans who hopes to commemorate her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on May 9
- All those affected by the coronavirus, especially in our sister churches: those who are ill, unemployed, suffering financial hardship, and suffering in various ways, the health care workers, those who have lost loved ones, our elderly and vulnerable.
- Our widows and widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters.
- All those with hidden crosses

## MEDITATION

***“He shewed Himself alive... by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days” Acts 1:3***

Luke reminds us that there were forty days between Jesus' resurrection and His ascension. Why forty days? Why didn't Jesus ascend to heaven immediately after His resurrection? Didn't He cry out: "It is finished"?

The answer to the question is that Christ did not need the forty days, but His Church did! What would have happened to the women, to Peter, to the men going to Emmaus, to Thomas and all the others to whom He appeared in the forty days? Sure, they had the Scriptures (in this case the Old Testament) which clearly stated the necessity of

Christ's suffering and dying, as well as the certainty of His resurrection. The disciples and all the others certainly loved the Scriptures, but at the same time they were so blind for the truths in the Scriptures. We read that after the resurrection Christ repeatedly "opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures." This was one of the reasons that Jesus' ascension did not immediately follow His resurrection. Rev. Hellenbroek states so simply, "He still had to teach some things to His disciples." God's church continually needs instruction. It is a privilege that the living King still teaches His children divine lessons. Although Jesus in His human nature is no longer on earth, He continues to teach by Word and Spirit, seated in the place of honor at His Father's right hand. Jesus said in John 14:26: *"the Holy Ghost, Whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things... whatsoever I have said unto you."* How necessary it is that we also receive this instruction. Do you attend the school of free grace where sinners progress only by stepping down to the next lower class? Sinners have to continue to learn (against their own will) that they must become nothing so that God will become everything.

At that school, the Holy Spirit teaches everything, that by nature we don't want to learn: bowing before God, loathing ourselves, accepting God's judgment and longing for righteousness. God still teaches His children the way to salvation by the Holy Spirit.

He opens Scripture for their understanding and their understanding for Scripture. Forty days! What a time of blessed, Scriptural instruction for the disciples. The Lord makes His people 'Scripture-based' Christians.

The forty days were needed for something else yet. It was not only a time of instruction and a time of assuring His disciples of His resurrection, but also a time of preparation. The disciples' lives had to go in a different direction. Earlier, the disciples heard John the Baptist's fiery preaching of the Law. This was followed by a blessed, sweet, unforgettable time for the disciples as they walked with Jesus. Daily they enjoyed the company of the Savior, Whose prophetic instruction was richly blessed to them.

That time was past. The time had come that the disciples had to learn to live, not from what they felt or enjoyed, but from faith in Christ, Who had finished His work and would be seated at His Father's right hand. Preparing His disciples to live by faith is also what the King did in these forty days. Jesus told Mary Magdalene: "Touch Me not" and to Thomas He said: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Blessed people who are privileged to know and love Jesus, although they have never seen Him. The disciples and His followers saw Jesus many times in these forty days, after He revealed Himself to them. Reader: do you know such a time in your life, when Jesus was revealed to you?  
~Rev. A. Moerkerken

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*And thou shalt love the LORD thy  
God with all thine heart, and with all  
thy soul, and with all thy might.  
Deuteronomy 6:5*

#### Consistory

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

#### Contacts

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer [craigtimmer@ymail.com](mailto:craigtimmer@ymail.com) or (231) 942-1389

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

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