

August 13, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD13)
2:30 p.m. Rev. Adams
Rev. Adams serves Sioux Center this evening

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Baptism Service with Rev. Slingerland
2:30 p.m. Rev. Slingerland

Advance Notice: Picnic rescheduled for **Aug 29** at 6:00 p.m.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Hudson Taylor 2nd Emeritus Fund

Collections Received in June and July:

General Fund	\$4706.00
NAGMission	\$1226.00
Prison Diaries	\$204.00
Emeritus Fund	\$821.00
Alpha Center	\$806.00
Disaster Relief	\$416.00
Kingdom Boundaries	\$160.00
School Fund	\$66.00

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

The Work of God Must Be in the Foreground

In our day the cry is heard on all sides: Accept Christ! Believe in Him! However, the fact that a man can receive nothing except it be given him from above is never mentioned. Man's total depravity, the depth of his fall in Adam, and the integrity of divine justice are denied.

As a rule, all who speak in this manner are happy individuals who have never been unhappy in their lives. It is so necessary for us in this life to learn something of the separation that exists

between God and our souls. We must learn to know feelingly what it means to be estranged from God because of our deliberate and voluntary apostasy and disobedience. We can never again come to God by our own efforts and in our own strength. We can no more accept God in our own power and strength than we can pull the stars from the heavens with our hands.

Moreover, we have not the slightest need for the work of God. Is it not true that no one asks for or seeks after God? We may as well admit it honestly. In spite of the religion we still possess, in spite of the fact that outwardly our life is beyond reproach, by nature it is the last thing we think of: to be accepted or "taken up" by God. I do not wish to detract even a letter from man's responsibility or set this responsibility to one side, truly, no, but tell me now, would you feel a need for God if God Himself did not place that need within your heart?

Let us seriously consider that, by nature, we are in a state of death. This state is one of unbelief and enmity. A glorious work of God must take place in our hearts and lives if all is to be well for eternity. Not our own actions and omissions, but the work of God must be in the foreground. Surely, it is God Himself who begins the good work in us. It is He who carries it on and completes it.

~ Rev. W. C. Lamain

A New School Year

The time has again come that the schools of all different levels of instruction will be opened for a new school year. We hope and pray that the children and young people will receive an education that will be of benefit for a place in society as well as a blessing for their never dying soul. We as parents are duty bound, in the first place, to give instruction in the home and secondly to bring them faithfully to church for instruction and thirdly to provide them with an education that is according to the aforesaid doctrine.

But I cannot set before you a better example than that which we read in Prov. 4, where Solomon shows what instruction he had received from his father David. He says, "For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments and live. Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth." Behold here a great and glorious king, descending from his imperial throne, laying aside his golden crown and royal scepter, and sitting down on a lower seat with a child, a Solomon, at his knee; so that the king is now humbled into a tutor; and the prince into a pupil!

~Excerpt from A Specimen of Divine Truths

Oh, let us, therefore, that live under the knowledge of Christ in the gospel, bless our God as the God and Father of Jesus Christ, which is the highest note of celebrating his praise which our hearts can reach to! For it is the most elevated strain of the gospel language, and of the glory of God, which any man, or all men, can rise up unto. It is said of Christ in the Psalms, Ps. 72:17, 'All nations shall call him blessed.' In like manner it was spoken of and by herself, that was the mother of his human nature only, 'All generations shall call me blessed.' Oh, then, how should we all bless that God that is the Father of him, who in his person also is God blessed together with his Father for ever! Many good souls find this as an eternal evidence of their own future blessedness, that when wanting assurance of God's love to themselves, they can yet bless God for his being good to others in the same condition with themselves, out of their love to God and to the good of others' souls. If thou findest such elevations of spirit in thee, vent and spend them much more in blessing God, that he is the God and Father of Christ. This is high, and most divine

~Thomas Goodwin

Jesus Christ, therefore, is Lord to Christians in the same sense that Jehovah was Lord to the Hebrews. The usage referred to is altogether peculiar; no man—not Moses, nor Abraham, nor David, nor any of the prophets or Apostles, is ever thus prevailingly addressed or invoked as Lord. We have but one Lord; and Jesus Christ is Lord. This is an argument which addresses itself to the inward experience, rather than to the mere understanding. Every believer knows in what sense he calls Jesus Lord; and he knows that in thus recognizing Him as his owner, as his absolute sovereign, to whom the allegiance of his soul, and not merely of his outward life, is due; and as his protector and Saviour, he is in communion with the Apostles and martyrs. He knows that it is from the New Testament he has been taught to worship Christ in calling him Lord.

~Charles Hodge.

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



*All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD;
and thy saints shall bless thee.*

Psalms 145:10

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