

April 14, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD39)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service
Classes following the morning service. *These are the final classes of the season due to communion on April 28.*

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. preparatory service with Ds. Evers

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Preparatory Reading Service
2:30 p.m. Ds. Evers (baptism)

Advance Notices:

-There is a young adult evening planned for Friday, **April 26** in Sioux Falls from 8 pm-10 pm. RSVPs for the event need to be completed by this Friday, April 19. For more information, please contact Megan De Jager (712-578-1775) or Jonathan Post (712-470-4565).

-April 28 Rev. Slingerland Communion and Reflection services

-May 2 is the National Day of Prayer and **May 9** is Ascension Day. Please keep these days in mind as we hope to have services associated with them. We are waiting to hear back from our moderator before scheduling.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Disaster Relief 2nd Emeritus Fund

We Remember in Prayer:

- Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses
- The call which has gone out to Rev. Maljaars to be our shepherd

MEDITATIONS

From letter of John Newton to his adopted daughter:

I think my dear child has told me, that you are often terrified at the thoughts of death: now, if you seek the Lord, as Mrs.**** did, while you are young, then whenever you come to die, you will find that death has nothing terrible in it to them that love the Lord Jesus

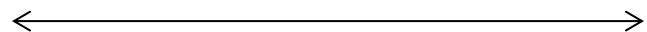
Christ. He has disarmed death, and taken away its sting; and He has promised to meet His people and receive them to Himself, when they are about to leave this world, and everything they loved in it, behind them... I hope you will do as she did; and the Lord who was gracious to her, will be gracious to you; for He has promised that none who seek Him shall seek Him in vain.

Your conscience tells you that you are a sinner, and that makes you afraid; but, when the Lord gives you faith, you will see and understand, that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin, then you will love Him; and, when you love Him, you will find it easy and pleasant to serve Him; and then you will long to see Him who died for you: and, as it is impossible to see Him in this world, you will be glad that you are not to stay here always; you will be willing to die, that you may be with Him where He is.

In the meantime, I hope you will pray to Him, and wait for His time to reveal Himself to you; endeavoring to avoid whatever you know to be wrong and displeasing to Him; and sometimes, I hope, you will feel your heart soft and tender, and serious thoughts and desires rising in your mind; when you do, then think, "Now is the Lord calling me!" And say as Samuel did, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth." He does not call with an audible voice, but He speaks to the heart in a way not to be described by words. When we are grieved and ashamed for our sins; when we are affected with what we read and hear of Him, of His love, His sufferings, and His death; when we see and feel that nothing but His favor can make us happy; then we may be sure the Lord is near.



As, looking into clear water, you see your own face; so, looking into your heart, you may see other men's there; and, looking into other men's, in them you may see our own. So that the most vile and profane wretches that are int the world, should serve you for a looking-glass, in which you ought to discern the corruption of your own nature: and if you were to do so, you would, with a heart truly touched, thank God, and not yourselves, indeed, that you are not as other men in your lives; seeing the corruption of nature is the same in you as in them. ~Thomas Boston



Wouldst thou thrive, O Israel, and bloom as the lily? Then let a sense of thy need keep thy heart ever open to Christ, with thy mind always humble, and prayerfully teachable to His Spirit. Thus shalt thou be as the summer lily – lovely, fresh, and fragrant: and in the midst of thy leaves – thy words and actions – thy prayers and praises – will the pure blessings of that eternal dew which has nourished thee be seen sparkling and glistening. ~F.W. Krummacher

Children, a cherished part of the covenant of grace, have been so since the beginning. This truth was further revealed through circumcision, marking them as members of the Church. As representatives of their children before God, parents play a crucial role in including them in covenants and obligations. Just as Adam's covenant included his descendants and Abraham's promise extended to his seed, so does the Mosaic covenant encompass all kinds of people, including children. Parents, you act on behalf of your children, securing both obligations and benefits. Just as joining the commonwealth of Israel brought benefits to one's children, so does embracing the covenant of grace, which promises blessings to children, provided they do not willingly renounce their baptismal engagements, turning to Christ themselves in His due time and calling.

Remember your baptism whenever you hear your name, speak it, or write it. Reflect on the significance of being dedicated to the Lord through your baptism, where the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was pronounced over you, marking your membership in the covenant. Appreciate and embrace this act of your parents wholeheartedly, rejoicing in it as a binding relationship between you and the Lord.

Reflecting on your baptism, if you've been baptized, is not just important; it's crucial. Living contrary to your baptismal commitment warrants serious consideration, as it signifies your incorporation into the covenant of grace through your parents' surrender to the Lord Jesus on your behalf. By living ungodly lives, you reject this covenant, becoming apostate and despising Christ. Such actions forfeit your part in Christ, and the covenant promises, it will lead to severe judgment. Your behavior not only brings disgrace upon yourself but also slanders the congregation of God and dishonors Christ. You are urged to live a godly life. Continuing in ungodliness will result in dire consequences, worse than if you had never been baptized.

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer
Deacons: Mr. Norm DeWit, Mr. Rick Rozeboom

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland, Clerk: nrcsfsd@gmail.com
Website: nrcsf.com

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*For the LORD is our defence; and the
Holy One of Israel is our king.
Psalm 89:18*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.