

# July 16, 2023

"For our lamps are gone out" Matt. 25: 8

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 10)

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

**Tuesday:** The Sioux Center Dorcas Society is hosting a topic evening at 7:00 p.m. for the ladies on "Biblical Femininity", presented by Mrs. Marlene Greendyk, at the Interstates East Building, 538 12th St., Sioux Center.

**Saturday:** 4:00-8:30 PM, Youth Afternoon at Sandy Hollow for all those entering 9th grade and older. No RSVP necessary.

## Advance Notices:

-Church picnic on **July 25** at 6:30 p.m.

**August 13**, 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Adams

-A Young Adult Weekend for post-high school young people is planned in place of the Mackinaw trip from Friday, **August 18** – Monday, August 21. It will be held in Grand Rapids with the oversight of the Grand Rapids-Beckwith consistory. For more information or to register for the trip, text 616-329-0705 or email [nrcmackinawtrip@gmail.com](mailto:nrcmackinawtrip@gmail.com).

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> School Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> NAGMission

## We Remember in Prayer:

- The call sent out to Ds. Zondag as we await his answer.
- Mr. & Mrs. Norm and Dorothy Jongetjes, who hope to commemorate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Thursday, July 20.
- Candidate Kleijer, who will be examined Wednesday by Classis West before admission into the ministry
- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

## MEDITATIONS

Mere outward reformation differs as much from regeneration as white-washing an old rotten house differs from pulling it down and building a new one in its place. ~Augustus M. Toplady

It is not without reason that God in His word urges upon us constant and searching self-examination. In Lamentations 3:40 the Lord, by the mouth of Jeremiah the Prophet, urges the people in captivity in Babylon to search, and examine themselves in order to know the reason for God's harsh dealings with them. The reason was to be found in their departure from their covenant God and the Prophet is here urging their return to the Lord. Blessed indeed are the people who, like David, have a great desire to pray: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23,24

Man, in his blindness and enmity, does not seek after God who gives songs in the night. The great majority of the children of men travel the way to eternity joyfully singing and rejoicing and peacefully sleeping. There are many conversions but there is only one true conversion. The words: "For our lamps are gone out" were spoken by the foolish virgins when the bridegroom came with his bride to enter the banquet hall where the wedding feast was to be enjoyed. So too, when Christ the Bridegroom of His church comes for His bride to take her into the banqueting house, there shall be those who had planned on entering with them but will awaken and exclaim, "Our lamps are gone out." They had never been enlightened by God the Holy Spirit. Saving grace had never been glorified in their hearts.

O, what is man! Strictly speaking, these foolish virgins had never been awake. They had always been asleep and had slept so soundly that calmly and peacefully they traveled to eternity with nothing more enduring than an outward profession. The true child of God, however, experiences something of eternity already in this life. Here they come face to face with the reality of what it will be to be forever separated from God. They learn to know what is necessary in order to live in comfort and die happily.

"Our lamps are gone out." A cry of despair; too late, too late, forever too late. O that the thought of it would penetrate the depths of our soul! An earnest warning; a call to honest, searching self-examination in these days of spiritual declension. The church of God today is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Truly we say with the Prophet Isaiah: "Except the lord of Host had left us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."

The wise virgins were blessed with Divine wisdom. They were given an understanding enlightened by divine light. The Lord himself had made preparations in their hearts and now they are privileged to enter the banquet hall with the bridegroom. The door is shut to the foolish virgins and it remains closed to them forever. The last words they hear are: "I never knew you." Christ did not know them in eternity, neither did He know them in time, nor does He know them now in the hour of their death.

The foolish virgins knew nothing of the pains of hell. They had not supported their lamps by having oil in their vessels, and in the crucial hour their cry was heard: "Our lamps are gone out." Blessed are they that have oil not only in their lamps but also in their vessels, for their lamps shall never go out. They shall walk in eternal light.

~Rev. W.C. Lamain

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Can they whom pride and passion sway,  
Who Mammon and the world obey,  
In envy or contention live  
Presume that they indeed believe?

True faith unites to CHRIST the root  
By him producing holy fruit;  
And they who no such fruit can show,  
Still on the stock of nature grow.

LORD, let thy word effectual prove,  
To work in us obedient love!  
And may each one who hears it dread  
A name to live; and yet be dead.  
~Olney Hymn

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If you wish to know God you must know His Word.~C. H. Spurgeon

To feel that we are ignorant is the first beginning of all saving knowledge.~J. C. Ryle

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Consistory  
Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer      Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit  
Contacts  
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Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer [nrcfsd@gmail.com](mailto:nrcfsd@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



*LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!*

*Psalm 144:3*

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