

**April 21, 2024**

## MEDITATIONS

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Preparatory Reading Service  
2:30 p.m. Ds. Evers Baptism Service

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Rev. Slingerland Communion service  
6:30 p.m. Rev. Slingerland Reflection service

**Friday:** Young adult evening in Sioux Falls from 8 pm-10 pm.  
RSVPs for the event were due this past Friday, April 19. For more information, please contact Megan De Jager (712-578-1775) or Jonathan Post (712-470-4565).

### Advance Notices:

**May 2** is the National Day of Prayer

**May 8** 7:00 p.m. Rev. Slingerland Ascension Day service

-All the Lord willing-

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

*\*The Emeritus Fund, which supports those ministers who have received emeritus status and the widows of deceased ministers, has several more ministers and spouses to support in the last two years with both Rev. van Ruitenburg and Rev. deLeeuw receiving emeritus status. We commend this collection to your generosity.*

### Collections Received in March:

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| General Fund    | \$1371.00 |
| Alpha Cener     | \$225.00  |
| NAGMission      | \$309.00  |
| Emeritus Fund   | \$285.00  |
| Disaster Relief | \$202.00  |
| Shepherd's Way  | \$95.00   |

### 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

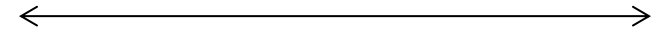
### BAPTISM

A rich comfort lies in the covenant signs of baptism. No matter how difficult circumstances may be for the church or how much chaos there is in the world, God will not forget his covenant. *Jehovah's truth will stand forever, His covenant bonds he will not sever (Psalter 425:5)*; baptism is a visible sign of this.

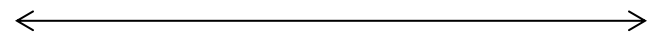
The water of baptism shows that salvation is possible for sinners. The water points to the blood of Christ. This blood is needed in order to wash your sins away and to make you clean. Baptism seals the reliability and the truth of this gospel.

In the past, an imprint was set in wax at the bottom of an important document. After the wax dried, the imprint showed the authenticity of the document. In baptism it is as if the Lord Himself sets the imprint upon the document. It is not because a person has made a promise, but it is because of the promise of God that there is grace available for sinners.

~Rev. W. Harinck



Promises, though they be for a time seemingly delayed, cannot be finally frustrated... The heart of God is not turned though His face be hid; and prayers are not flung back, though they be not instantly answered.



### JACOB'S HOPE

*"I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD"* Genesis 49:18

Jacob waits for God's salvation. He is waiting for death to come. He is willing to die. Jacob is also able to die because grace has entered his life. Jacob wants to die because he longs for God.

Whether you are sick or healthy, do you have an expectation beyond death? Where will you be in eternity? Do give an honest answer to this question. "Oh," says one, "I do not know." Another person answers, "I hope I will be all right." A third one says, "I have never thought about it."

But time is so short, and eternity is so long. Your fleeting life, compared to eternity, is no more than a drop in the sea. Therefore, what will you have left when in a little while, everything falls away? For Jacob, death was not a leap into the dark. What is it for you?

~Rev. Bakker

*Question 74: Are infants also to be baptized?*

*Answer: Yes, for since they, as well as the adult, are included in the covenant and church of God; ...*

The answer tells us that it is because children, just like adults, are included in the covenant and church of God. What does it mean to be included in the covenant and church of God?

God made a covenant with men. For example, we read of a covenant in the history of Abraham. The Lord said to him, "And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." In this covenant God promised to give blessings. Our answer tells us what these blessings are. It is redemption from sin by the blood of Christ, and also the Holy Ghost, who works faith in the heart. The Lord Jesus merited these great blessings, and He gives them to those whose names are written in the book of life. This is not because they merit these great blessings; no, it is only by grace that they receive them. It is for that reason that the covenant is called the covenant of grace.

The Lord promised these blessings to Abraham and his seed. His seed is his children and the great nation which would come forth from him. But the Lord also said to him, "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Thus the Lord will make His covenant known throughout the entire world. The Lord causes it also to be heard by us by means of His Word, and He permits it to be seen in baptism.

No, not only adults are to be saved, but also children. The Lord promises the congregations where children are baptized, "I will maintain My covenant. I will see to it that people, both adults and children, will be saved. I will continue doing so unto the end of the world. Baptism is the sign of the covenant, and this sign may also be received by the children. They belong to the congregation in which I will dwell and work, the places where I will convert people and also children."

The Lord Jesus Himself said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me." Thus the blessings of the covenant are also promised to children. God is pleased to give these blessings also to children, and He permits this to be seen in baptism. We always have two things to consider, namely, God's free gift of conversion and faith, and man's responsibility.

Think of Jacob and Esau. Both of them had received the sign of the covenant. But Esau wanted to serve the world and to continue loving sin. Then we can see that it was his own fault that he was lost. With Jacob it was different. He loved the Lord and believed in Him. He greatly desired to be washed of his sins. This love and faith were given in his heart by the Holy Ghost. Do we not see here God's free gift and man's responsibility?

Ask the Lord therefore that you might become like Jacob. By God's gift of grace you may say, "Lord, may I be as Jacob? That is possible, Lord, for I am baptized."

# 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.

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#### Consistory

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

#### Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland, Clerk: [nrcfsd@gmail.com](mailto:nrcfsd@gmail.com)  
Website: [nrcsf.com](http://nrcsf.com)