

June 4, 2017

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today:** We hope to have a morning catechism service and a **2:30 p.m.** service with Student Witvoet for Pentecost. Student Witvoet serves Sioux Center this evening.
- Next Week:** We hope to have a morning reading service and an evening catechism service.

Advance Notice: We hope to have our church picnic on June 30

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
 2nd Mission Fund ** 2nd Benevolent Fund

***As is the custom, our 2nd collection on Pentecost will be for the North American General Mission. May their work be blessed among many people for the coming of His Kingdom.*

-All the Lord willing-

We Remember in Prayer:

- With thankfulness, Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Johnson who were blessed with a healthy baby boy, Stryker Jay, born Friday, June 3. May we acknowledge the Lord for all things going well and may this little one be blessed under the truth to glorify Him forever.
- With thankfulness, the congregations in the Netherlands whose curatorium was able to accept four new students into their theological school: Mr. J Beens, Mr. M.L. Dekker, Mr. P.J. de Raaf, and Mr. L van der Kuijl.
- Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, thinking especially of Mr. Roberts. We acknowledge the Lord for those of our elderly who have regained strength to once again come up to God's house.
- Our widow and widower, our elderly, and the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, any others who are unable to gather with us today, are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

.MEDITATIONS

**"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."
(Acts 2:2)**

The word Pentecost means fifty because the Feast of Pentecost was celebrated the fiftieth day after the sixteenth of Nisan, which was the second day of the Feast of Passover. The Hebrews called it the Feast of Weeks in Exodus 34:22, because it was kept seven weeks after the

Passover. On this day Israel presented the firstfruits of their harvest before God.

The disciples had returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives after Christ ascended into heaven and remained in an upper room, Acts 1:13. We read in our text that **"suddenly there came a sound from heaven."** First of all, it is remarkable to read that this sound came from heaven, and quite suddenly. How **suddenly** the Lord pricked the hearts of three thousand souls on this day. How **suddenly** the Lord stopped Saul on the way to Damascus and there are many other examples that the Lord visits His people unexpectedly.

But, what came from heaven? Scripture says **"a rushing mighty wind"**. The first symbol given here on this Pentecost day was wind. The quickening operations of God's Spirit in regeneration are compared to wind. John speaks of this in chapter 3:8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." Wind is, of all material things, one of the most spiritual in its appearance. It is invisible, mysterious, comes from heaven and no one can stop it, and so it relates to the power of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a sinner. An ordinary wind would have been felt outside the house, it can destroy, but this heavenly wind filled the house inside and did not destroy. What an emblem of the Spirit working in the heart of a sinner. The question must come to each of us, have I ever felt the power of the Spirit in my heart? How all of us must examine our own hearts to see how the matter is between the Lord and my soul.

"And it filled all the house where they were sitting." It not only filled the house but it filled their hearts. They were filled with zeal for Christ Jesus, who was recently crucified, died, arose from the grave and ascended into heaven. Now the Spirit sealed home to their hearts the spiritual understanding of the mediatorial work of Christ and they were given power to proclaim this. By nature we are empty of spiritual matters with no desire after the Lord. Here it is so different! The disciples could not refrain from speaking well of their Master. In the crowd outside there were mockers and said these men are full of new wine. The apostles were drunk with the Spirit and power of God in their souls. They were filled with heavenly power and the things of time and sense meant nothing to them.

My friends, what is your heart filled with? With amusements, sports, pleasure and love for the world? May the blessed Holy Spirit fill each heart with heavenly treasures ~ Rev. P. L. Bazen

Flesh and Spirit. Rom. 7. 14-25; Gal. 5. 17-24

J. Hart

Though void of all that's good,
And very, very poor,
Through Christ I hope to be renewed,
And live for evermore.

I view my own bad heart,
And see such evils there,
The sight with horror makes me start,
And tempts me to despair.

Then with a single eye
I look to Christ alone;
And on his righteousness rely,
Though I myself have none.

By virtue of his blood,
The Lord declares me clean.
Now serves my mind the law of God,
My flesh the law of sin

Notes

Netherlands Reformed

Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*And it shall come to pass, that
whosoever shall call on the name
of the Lord shall be saved.*

Acts 2:21

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