

**July 28, 2024**

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Evers  
Singalong in the Sioux Center church after their evening service for all ages with a time for questions with Rev. Evers.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD48)  
6:30 p.m. Reading Service

**Advance Notices:**

**-August 11 and 18** 2:30 p.m. services with Rev. Sonneveld  
-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

**We Remember in Prayer:**

-Drake Kattenberg, who underwent successful surgery  
-Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

**MEDITATIONS**

**Are there few that shall be saved?**

Destruction's dang'rous road  
What multitudes pursue!  
While that which leads the soul to God,  
Is known or sought by few.

Believers enter in  
By Christ, the living gate;  
But they who will not leave their sin,  
Complain it is too strait.

If self must be deny'd,  
And sin forsaken quite;  
They rather choose the way that's wide,  
And strive to think it right.

Encompass'd by a throng,  
On numbers they depend;  
So many surely can't be wrong,  
And miss a happy end.

But numbers are no mark  
That men will right be found;  
A few were sav'd in Noah's ark,  
For many millions drown'd.

Obey the Gospel call,  
And enter while you may;  
The flock of Christ is always small,  
And none are safe but they.

Lord, open sinners' eyes,  
Their awful state to see;  
And make them, ere the storm arise,  
To Thee for safety flee. ~Rev. J. Newton

**I MUST DIE**

*"And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgement."* Hebrews 9:27

There is no way of escape - we must die! We do not want to think about it and we often push the thought away, but it is reality. Possibly we will die this year, maybe not, but then it will certainly be at another time. We are going to pass away from this life and will then have to let everything and everyone go. One cannot possibly hold on to this life, not even if one tries to the utmost. Operations, treatments, medication, and therapy are ultimately not going to help if we have a deadly disease. We will go to our "final" resting place and we will arrive at our eternal destination. That is not necessarily bad, but it could be terrible. If the Lord Jesus has not become our Mediator, we will be lost.

So what do we need? We need that fortress, that strong, high tower; we need to be under God's feathers and wings. We read in Psalm 91:4, "He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust." We need to be in the shadow of the Almighty, otherwise we are exposed to the arrows of the enemy. It would not be safe at all. What else would we pray for and wish for each other, but to dwell in the secret place of the Lord? Death often comes without warning.

I know many today do not fear death. They coolly state that if it is our time, it is our time. That is true, but do we know what death is about and what door is opened at death? Death has entered into this life for a reason. Death came as a consequence of sin. Let us not forget why death came! Yet, there is a hiding place in God. God dealt with death by permitting His own dear Son to die. If He is our Saviour, we will be safe. But if not we will ask the mountains to fall upon us at the coming of God (Luke 23:30). We would not be able to hide at all. Therefore, reader, prepare to meet God! Do not rest until you have found Christ!  
~Rev. P. Van Ruitenburg

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.  
(Proverbs 4:23)

These rules are invaluable as our safeguard. Assaulted as we are at every point, every inlet of sin must be strongly guarded—the heart, the mouth, the eye, and the feet.

First, the heart is the citadel of man, the seat of his dearest treasure. It is fearful to think of its many watchful and subtle assailants. Let it be closely garrisoned. Let the sentinel never sleep on his post. "Take heed to thy way, and keep thy soul diligently."

When we recognize the dangers within our own hearts, we must confront the question: Can we truly guard our hearts on our own? Certainly not. Although this task ultimately relies on God's work, it involves human effort. Our actions serve as His instruments. He provides the active principle and sustains it through ongoing effort. By conscious faith, we entrust the care of our hearts to our faithful Creator. Once this is done, we must diligently use all available means of preservation. Engage in vigilant prayer. Foster a humble and dependent spirit. Immerse yourself in the word of God. Resist the allure of a corrupt world, even in its most enticing forms. This is where the true battle lies. The hardest part of conversion is winning the heart for God, and maintaining it with Him after conversion. As Mede asks, "What is there that will not lure the fickle heart away from God?" Above all, as advised by the wise, keep your heart. If the heart is compromised, it will lead to the downfall of every aspect of a person—their affections, desires, motives, and pursuits. The heart is the body's vital core; a wound here means instant death. Spiritually as well as physically, the heart is the source of life. It is the essential spring of the soul, the root of actions, and the center of principles, whether of sin or holiness.

The natural heart is a source of poison (Matthew 15:19). However, the purified heart is "a well of living water." As the fountain is, so will be its streams. Therefore, guard the heart above all else. Protect it to prevent the waters from becoming poisoned. Many have faced distress due to neglecting this safeguard. All other efforts are futile if the heart is not protected.

Additionally, we must guard against the outlets of sin. The heart can produce a torrent of evil through a corrupt mouth. Thus, we should submit both our hearts and our speech to divine guidance. Let prayer and faith be the cornerstones of Christian vigilance. Not only should we avoid but also reject entirely any corrupting speech.  
--Adapted from Charles Bridges

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

**Sioux Falls, SD**



*O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in  
wisdom hast thou made them all: the  
earth is full of thy riches.  
Psalm 104:24*

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