

February 5, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service and 6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service. Classes after the morning service.

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Student Kleijer. 6:30 p.m. Student Kleijer. No classes.

Monday: Consistory Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Church visitation will be at 11:00 a.m. Anyone who would desire to be heard by the visiting classis representatives should have a prior appointment.

Wednesday: Afternoon Coffee Time for seniors at 2:00 p.m. will be hosted by the 10th grade class in the mini-gym at school. We plan to sing Psalters and have a light lunch. All church and school community members 60 years old and older are welcome.

Thursday: The Asaph Choir meets 7:30 p.m. at the NRC School.

House Visitations: (1st 6:30 p.m., 2nd 8:00 p.m.)

Feb 6 1st Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Johnson, 2nd Mrs. Jennie Johnson

Feb 13 2nd Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Van Beek

Feb 20 1st Mr. & Mrs. Jaycob Zdenek, 2nd Mr. & Mrs. Paul Johnson

Please contact Mr. Rozeboom as soon as possible if changes are needed.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
 2nd School Fund 2nd Living Bread

We Remember in Prayer:

- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those undergoing treatments, and all those with hidden crosses.

-Mr. Clarence Zomer, who commemorated his 82nd birthday this past Friday, February 2.

MEDITATIONS

"Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1

We read in this verse that Christ was praying in a certain place and when He had finished one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." What great awe and respect was shown to the

Lord as He prayed, and no one would dare to interrupt His prayer. Here we have a great example for each of us that prayer must be offered with great reverence to Him who knows our hearts and the secrets within.

It seems that with this request a new method of praying was to be given. Also, the Lord Jesus would give the disciples some special instructions and directions concerning prayer, much better than how the Jews prayed in their time.

“Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of His mercies” (Westminster Shorter Catechism). Prayer is the duty of dependent creatures who are so insufficient in themselves. The Lord is a prayer- giving and a prayer-answering God.

It must be done from the heart with sincerity and earnestness. Lip service and prayer without thinking are an abomination unto the Lord.

All prayer must only be directed to the Lord, not to any angel, saint or image. “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). The prophets of Baal prayed all day, cut themselves, cried loudly to him, but no answer was given. Elijah built his altar, laid upon it the sacrifice and cried to the

LORD and at once He answered with fire. So we see that the only object of prayer is He who created heaven and earth, and is infinite in knowledge, longsuffering and full of mercy.

The only name in which we must pray is the name of Christ, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you" (John 16:23b). We must ask all things in His name and expect all through His merits and righteousness. We read in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." Christ also said, "without Me ye can do nothing." May we be given to realize this by the power of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts.

How powerful were the shortest prayers in Scripture. The prayer of the publican in the temple, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Peter's prayer as he walked on the water, "Lord, save me." The thief on the cross, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." All short prayers that were given from above and returned to the Lord. What was the purpose of these prayers? There was a great need given in their hearts and they could only pour out their needs to the Lord. What a blessing to be able to come before the Lord in truth and in uprightness. "For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory forever (Romans 11:36).

~Rev. P.L. Bazen

"He forgetteth not the cry of the humble." Psalm 9:12

"Prayer is a haven to the shipwrecked man, an anchor to them that are sinking in the waves, a staff to the limbs that totter, a mine of jewels to the poor, a healer of diseases, and a guardian of health. Prayer at once secures the continuance of our blessings, and dissipates the clouds of our calamities. O blessed prayer! thou art the unwearied conqueror of human woes, the firm foundation of human happiness, the source of ever-enduring joy, the mother of philosophy. The man who can pray truly, though languishing in extremest indigence, is richer than all beside; whilst the wretch who never bowed the knee, though proudly sitting as monarch of all nations, is of all men most destitute." Never give up prayer.

~J. Chrysostom

*When the needy seek Him,
He will mercy show;
Yea, the weak and helpless
Shall His pity know.
He will surely save them
From oppression's might,
For their lives are precious
In His holy sight.
~Psalter 200:2*

(Note pages available separately on the table)

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer

Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsf@gmail.com

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Website: nrcsf.com

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Oh that men would praise the LORD for
his goodness, and for his wonderful works
to the children of men!
Psalm 107:8*

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