

December 20, 2020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service (Advent)
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service
Classes after the morning service.

Assignments are on the members page of the website.

This week Friday, Christmas Reading service at 9:30 a.m.

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Installation of Office Bearers with Rev. Vogelaar
6:30 p.m. Baptism with Rev. Vogelaar. No classes after the morning service.

Please note that the city ordinance is still in place. Please retain a six foot distance between families.

Advance Notices:

- New Year's Eve service at 7:00 p.m. with member's meeting afterwards, and New Year's Day service at 9:30 a.m.
- Bible Study Groups will continue to meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of each month.
- January singalong is pending for the 2nd Friday of the month.
- All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd School Fund 2nd Magazine Subscriptions

Thank you received: We would like to thank all those who expressed condolences with cards, thoughts, and prayers for the loss of our dear wife, mother, and grandmother.
~The family of Elizabeth Spaans

At the annual **congregational meeting,**

Mr. Norm de Wit received the vote for deacon;
Mr. Rick Rozeboom received the vote for elder.
Both have accepted their office.

Any objections must be submitted to the consistory in writing. This is the 2nd announcement.

Called for minister is Rev. van Ruitenburg of Chilliwack.
It was voted on whether to stand for the 3rd song. All who would like to stand for the 3rd song are welcome to.

We Remember in Prayer:

- Mr. Zomer who is still awaiting a plan of treatment
- Mr. & Mrs. Zomer who hope to commemorate their 61st anniversary on Tuesday, December 22

- The call sent out to Pastor van Ruitenburg to be our shepherd
- Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATION

"to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." **Luke 1:17b**

These are the Advents weeks. Advent: He comes, the promised Savior, the Redeemer of lost sinners. He comes, in the manger of Bethlehem, in deep humiliation. He comes again, at the last day, in majesty and glory. Are we ready to meet the King, Who then will be the Judge and will sit upon a great white throne and the dead shall stand before Him? We need to be prepared to meet Him in righteousness and peace. The people in Israel also needed to be prepared for the coming of this King, Who would not come in glory, but in poverty, in Bethlehem's manger.

Therefore, the child that would be given to Zacharias and Elisabeth, who would be known as John the Baptist, would go before Him, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. A solemn message would be proclaimed by him. Matt. 3:8, "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." The warning sound on the trumpet would be heard by many, as we read in vs. 10 "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." John the Baptist was the preacher of the holiness and justice of God and of the way of repentance. The Lord has used this preaching to prepare sinners for the coming of the Lord Jesus. Of Him has John the Baptist also spoken when he pointed to Him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world."

A true Advent people is a guilty, waiting people. Those who have learned that they have no penny to pay their debts. Those who have heard the gospel message, that a Redeemer shall come to Zion. They have, as the Advents church in Jerusalem, looked for redemption which only could come from Him. Do you also belong to those waiting, hungry people? These will be satisfied with the Bread of life that came down in the manger in Bethlehem, which means; House of bread.

Young and old, by nature we hunger for those things which will never satisfy us. Seek the Lord while may be found, and call upon while He is near. There is still place around the manger. Blessed are those who may be led to that place, in poverty and humiliation, and with poor and despised shepherds may worship Him.
~ Rev. C. Vogelaar

"It is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." (Romans 8:11)

Solemn consideration! What time is it with thee, my soul? Let me ask, with the prophet, "Watchman, what of the night? The morning cometh, and also the night." Perhaps there may be but a step between me and death. Am I really awakened from the sleep of carnal security? Am I alive from spiritual death? Am I dead to the world, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord? Oh Lord Jesus, impress these solemn enquiries upon my soul yet more and more, since everlasting happiness, or everlasting misery hangs upon the decision. My beating pulse is hastening to fulfil the appointed number. Even while I think of these things the account is increased. Every fleeting breath is one the less to take. Lord, make me wise to remember my latter end!

Robert Hawker (1753-1827)

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When the power of God first draws us out of our natural state to Christ, it finds us not only impotent, but obstinate; not only unable, but unwilling to come; and yet the power of God prevails against all opposition. Let this engage you to a constant attendance upon the ordinances of God, in which this drawing power of God is sometimes put forth upon the hearts of men. If that poor man who lay so long at the pool of Bethesda had felt it of no purpose to wait longer, he would have been absent when the angel came down. It is good therefore to be found in the way of the Spirit. How dost thou know but this very Sabbath may be the season and the instrument by which the Lord may do that for thy soul which was never done before.

John Flavel (1628-1691)

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer

Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Clerk

Contacts

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Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Website: nrscf.com

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Exalt the LORD our God, and
worship at his holy hill; for the
LORD our God is holy.
Psalm 99:9*

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