August 4, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD48)

6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service

2:30 p.m. Rev. Sonnevelt

Friday: Rev. Sonnevelt will present a topic on the Nigeria Mission

at 7:00 pm at the Corporate Center in Sioux Center.

Advance Notices:

-August 18 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Sonnevelt

-September 11, 6:30 p.m. Church Picnic -All the Lord willing-

Membership: The membership papers of Mr. Jordan deWit with one baptized child were sent to him at Zion Lutheran Church.

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund

2nd NAGMission 2nd

We Remember in Prayer:

- -Drake Kattenberg, who continues to recover in a rehab in Rapid City.
- -Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

The wicked world as well as the pious world is a servant of sin, a slave to sin, and presently, if God does not prevent it, will fall a victim to sin. Christ declared: "Ye must be born again." For each and every one of us a close, very close, self examination is necessary. We may possibly experience some flashes of joy after a period of unusual sorrow; we may think to have received some light, and to have seen and heard something. And now we consider this as having come from God, and so we rest upon it. O, let each of us deal honestly regarding the concerns of his immortal soul! Do not risk losing God. Do not deceive yourself. With great emphasis the Apostle Paul has declared: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Only those who hunger and thirst after the righteousness of Christ are declared blessed.

Even God's children must take careful heed and distinguish very closely between a fleeting impression and Divine illumination. The former passes away; it is soon forgotten; it vanishes completely.

Truths and promises received by the illumination of the Spirit, on the other hand, always remain. They gladden the heart and relieve the mind, but also create a full realization of being without that which is revealed and promised to them. Thus they begin to long and desire for their fulfillment, so they may erelong, in God's appointed time, embrace the God who fulfills what He promises. The immovable foundation of salvation is Christ alone. O, to have our souls rest upon that foundation alone! What a blessing to be founded more and more firmly, whatever conflicts and struggles we must undergo, upon that infallible foundation, which shall continue to stand firmly in the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, but also in the hour of death, and in the great day of judgment which we are approaching with rapid strides.

The Spirit implants faith in the heart, and by that faith we are united to Christ. In our day many practically deny the work of the Holy Spirit. But how will a believing acceptance and embracing of Christ ever be possible unless the effectual application of the Holy Spirit precedes? It is this precious Spirit who quickens a dead sinner and, as His work in the heart advances, makes room for Christ.

O my friends! there is no room in our hearts for the blessed Mediator's Person unless the Spirit of God cuts off all reliance upon self and deprives us of all hopes built upon foundations other than Christ. "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." God's people come to realize more and more how extremely impotent they are with regard to accepting or appropriating anything except it be given them from above. Without this application they remain standing before the door, as it were, and cannot enter into the sanctuary. Only by the application of the Spirit does their soul taste the blessedness of the truth brought home to them, and do they enjoy the certainty of their salvation.

As a result of this application God's people embrace Christ, so that they believe that He is given to them by God to be their Prince and Savior. In fact, they are assured thereby, and may testify, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate them from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus their Lord.

If you must conclude that you are a stranger to the life of grace, O, that your dangerous state would compel you to supplicate the throne of heaven. God still stands and waits to be gracious. Plead for the regenerating grace of the Holy Spirit. May it please God to lead you in and upon the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. People of the Lord, are you still living in uncertainty? Can you not lay claim to Christ as your Surety? O, may the day soon dawn for you and the shadows flee away. May you, like Paul, be apprehended by God and find rest in Him through Christ.

~Rev. Lamain

Q. 191. What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. In the second petition, (which is, Thy kingdom come,) acknowledging ourselves and all mankind to be by nature under the dominion of sin and Satan, we pray, that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed, the gospel propagated throughout the world the Jews called, the fulness of the Gentiles brought in; the church furnished with all gospel officers and ordinances, purged from corruption, countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrate: that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and the confirming, comforting, and building up of those that are already converted: that Christ would rule in our hearts here, and hasten the time of his second coming, and our reigning with him for ever: and that he would be pleased so to exercise the kingdom of his power in all the world, as may best conduce to these ends. Westminster Larger Catechism

The kingdom of God is that in which God alone rules and exercises dominion over all creatures, but especially does he govern and preserve the church. This kingdom is universal. The special kingdom of God—that which he exercises in his church consists in sending the Son from the Father, from the very beginning of the world, that he might institute and preserve the ministry of the church, and accomplish his purposes by it—that he might gather a church from the whole human race by his word and Spirit—rule, preserve and defend it against all enemies—raise it from death, and at length, having cast all enemies into everlasting condemnation, adorn it with heavenly glory, that God may be all in all, and be praised eternally by the church.

We desire and pray that God will by his Son, our mediator, whom he sent into the world from the very beginning, 1. Preserve the ministry which he has instituted. 2. That he would collect his church by the ministry of his word, and the influence of the Holy Spirit. 3. That he would rule and govern the church thus gathered, and us his members, by his Holy Spirit, who may subdue our hearts, control and change our wills, and conform us wholly to himself. 4. That he would defend us and the whole church against all enemies and tyrants. 5. That he would cast all his and our enemies into everlasting punishment. 6. That he would at length deliver his church and us from all evils, and glorify us in eternal life.

Zacharias Ursinus

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.