# **September 15, 2024**

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD52)

6:30 p.m. Reading Service

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

2:30 p.m. Rev. Baan

Tuesday: Prayer Service for the synod meeting held in the Covell,

Grand Rapids church, led by Rev. Verhoef.

Wednesday and Thursday: The synod of our denomination meets

in Grand Rapids.

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Alpha Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Disaster Relief

#### Advance notices:

**-Post High School Youth** Outdoor activity on **September 28** for all post high school adults. For more details, contact Case at 712-360-2725 or Megan at 712-578-1775.

-First meeting of catechism classes will be on September 29.

#### Thank You Received:

Dear Congregation of Sioux Falls, We wish to express our sincere and hearty thanks for the gifts and donations provided for the relief of the flood victims of our congregation. Your generosity has been heart-warming and encouraging in a time of much distress. May we especially be brought to feel the goodness and mercy of the Lord Who has provided the means and inclined so many hearts to help us in our time of great need. May He bless you and your gifts. Sincerely, The Consistory and Congregation of Rock Valley, IA

## We Remember in Prayer:

- -All those traveling to the synod this coming week and for wisdom and guidance in the decisions that must be made.
- -Our widows and lonely ones, our families, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

## **MEDITATIONS**

Who can read the parable of the ten virgins without a measure of real concern? The foolish ones, apparently never doubted their own good standing with the Heavenly Bridegroom for Whom, in their own way, the looked and for Whom they waited. They never doubted that they would receive a kindly welcome at His door. They never

envisaged the dread crisis of the midnight hour, or the death of their hope in the corridor of death. The thought never crossed their mind that He would fail to recognize their voice when they would stand at His door. The parable is solemn in that it teaches that many of those who make a profession of God within the visible Church are strangers to God. The wholesome spiritual concern of the true Christian is, therefore, not the be despised. It is, indeed, a good anchor to preserve us from the treacherous rocks of presumption and spiritual pride.

—Murdoch Campbell

#### "Rachel said to Jacob, Give me children, or else I die."

Oh give me children, or I die,
Was Rachel's fond and peevish cry,
To Jacob vented forth;
Her wish was granted to her cost,
The children came, and Rachel lost
Her life, to give them birth.

Poor Rachel tells us with a tear,
How vain all earthly wishes are,
How fatal oft they grow!
Though harmless things are only sought,
Yet if pursued with eager thought,
Death may attend them too.

How things may prove, or good or ill,
No man with all his wit can tell,
And wishes must be vain;
What seems desirable at first,
Of all bad things may prove the worst,
And slay the heart with pain.

This wishing trade I fain would leave,
And learn with sweet content to live
On what the Lord shall send;
Whate'er He sends, He sends in love,
And good or bad things blessings prove,
If blessed by this Friend.

Then let no care perplex me now;
My only wish and care be Thou,
Be Thou my whole delight;
Bid every sigh of rising thought,
And every pant of breath go out
For Jesus day and night.
~J. Berridge

#### Q. 195. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. In the sixth petition, (which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,) acknowledging, that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for divers holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, foiled, and for a time led captive by temptations; that Satan, the world, and the flesh, are ready powerfully to draw us aside, and insnare us; and that we, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption, weakness, and want of watchfulness, are not only subject to be tempted, and forward to expose ourselves unto temptations, but also of ourselves unable and unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, and to improve them; and worthy to be left under the power of them: we pray, that God would so over-rule the world and all in it, subdue the flesh, and restrain Satan, order all things, bestow and bless all means of grace, and guicken us to watchfulness in the use of them, that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin; or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation; or, when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it, and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof; that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected, Satan trodden under our feet, and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, forever.

#### Q. 196. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer, (which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen,) teacheth us to enforce our petitions with arguments, which are to be taken, not from any worthiness in ourselves, or in any other creature, but from God; and with our prayers to join praises, ascribing to God alone eternal sovereignty, omnipotency, and glorious excellency; in regard whereof, as he is able and willing to help us, so we by faith are imboldened to plead with him that he would, and quietly to rely upon him, that he will fulfil our requests. And, to testify this our desire and assurance, we say, Amen.

-Westminster Larger Catechism

# Question 129: What doth the word Amen signify?

Answer: Amen signifies, it shall truly and certainly be; for my prayer is more assuredly heard of God than I feel in my heart that I desire these things of Him.

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Psalm 29:2