June 9, 2024

- This Week:9:30 a.m. Reading Service6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD43)
- Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD44) 6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Advance Notices:

-June 18 Rock Valley NRC school picnic at the Rock Valley park.

- -Classis East and Midwest Youth Conference in Grand Rapids, MI on **August 15-18**. All young people entering tenth grade or 16 and older are encouraged to attend. To register or make arrangements for accommodations, text 616-329-0705 or email gryouthday2024@gmail.com.
- -Grand Rapids Young Adults (Post-High School) Trip **August 15-18** in Grand Rapids, MI. For more information and to register for the trip, text 616-329-0705 or email nrcmackinawtrip@gmail.com.

All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund
2nd NAGMissionNext week: 1st General Fund
2nd Israel Mission

Curatorium: This past week, the curatorium accepted Mr. Gaylon Rozeboom from Rock Valley, IA to become a student in the theological school. Rev. Hakvoort and Rev. Hofman were chosen to fill the empty teaching positions and will instruct the new student along with Rev. Verhoef.

We Remember in Prayer:

- -With thanksgiving, the theological school being reopened with the acceptance of a new student and that the Lord continues His work also in our denomination.
- -The new student and his family in all the changes they will face in the coming months and also the instructors as they prepare to teach him.
- -The curatorium in the Netherlands as they were also able to accept two new students.
- -Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

"...which furnish them with constant matter... for mortifying the flesh more and more by the Spirit of prayer, and by holy exercises of piety; and for pressing forward to the goal of perfection..." Canons of Dort Head 5.2

Daily sins give God's children reasons to flee for refuge to Christ. The Mediator is made unto them wisdom and righteousness, but also sanctification and a complete redemption. In this way He becomes more and more precious, precisely as the crucified Christ. A humbled Christ is suitable only for a humbled sinner, is He not? Those two will make a perfect match! The experiencing of their own weakness also gives true believers reasons for mortifying the flesh more and more. It drives them out to Christ with a desire to receive the Spirit of prayer from Him and, consequently, to fight against sin. When they are weak, they are strong. This is experienced on one's knees and practiced on the battlefield. We also read of holy exercises of piety. In natural life, we learn by the ups and downs which we go through. We attain wisdom by bitter experience. Having inflicted damage upon ourselves, we often stand ashamed. It is likewise in spiritual life. That life must be learned and experienced. The daily struggle with their own unfaithfulness and deficiencies also gives the saints reasons for pressing forward to the goal of perfection. The apostle says, "Not as though I had already attained... but I follow after, if that I may apprehend ... " The imperfection of his life does not make a child of God lukewarm, or Antinomian, or indifferent, but it is precisely this that causes him to yearn for the end of the race.

Though straying, I'd rather Draw close to my Father. And stronger I pant For my heavenly dwelling; For the crown that is telling, All strife has come to an end! ~Rev. C. Sonnevelt

In every regenerate individual, we find the Christian and nonChristian together in one person. A regenerate man is the most mysterious phenomenon under heaven. He has every hour to do with another, who is at the same time himself, and yet not himself. He attacks him, and is able to rejoice in the wounds he gives, although the man himself feels them. He nails him to the cross, and is himself convulsed upon the cross, yet at the same moment stands again at the foot of it, and triumphs over a crucified adversary. \sim F. W. Krummacher

After reading the Law and Scriptures (and singing a Psalm), the minister, who is to preach, is to strive to stir up both his own heart and the hearts of his listeners to a true sense of their sins. They should all mourn before the Lord, and earnestly desire the grace of God in Jesus Christ. This is done by making a more thorough confession of sin, with a sense of shame and holy humility, and by calling upon the Lord for this purpose:

We acknowledge our great sinfulness. Firstly, because of original sin, which, apart from the guilt that condemns us to everlasting damnation, is the root of all other sins. It has corrupted and poisoned all the faculties and powers of our soul and body, defiling even our best actions. If not restrained or renewed by grace, it would lead to countless transgressions and the greatest rebellions against the Lord ever committed by the vilest of 7men. Secondly, because of our actual sins-our own sins, the sins of rulers, ministers, and the whole nation, in which we are in many ways complicit. Our sins are further aggravated by the fact that we have violated all the commandments of God's holy, just, and good law. We have done what is forbidden and neglected what is commanded, not only out of ignorance and weakness but also knowingly, against the light of our understanding, the warnings of our consciences, and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We have no excuse for our sins. Moreover, we have not only disregarded God's kindness, patience, and tolerance, but have also resisted many invitations and offers of grace in the gospel. We have failed to seek Christ in faith as we should, or to live lives worthy of him.

And because we have been unprofitable hearers in times past, and now cannot of ourselves receive, as we should, the deep things of God, the mysteries of Jesus Christ, which require a spiritual discerning; to pray, that the Lord, who teacheth to profit, would graciously please to pour out the Spirit of grace, together with the outward means thereof, causing us to attain such a measure of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, and, in him, of the things which belong to our peace, that we may account all things but as dross in comparison of him; and that we, tasting the first-fruits of the glory that is to be revealed, may long for a more full and perfect communion with him, that where he is, we may be also, and enjoy the fulness of those joys and pleasures which are at his right hand for evermore

Excerpt from the Westminster Directory for Public Worship

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Psalm 150:2

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