# June 24, 2018

# **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today: Rev. Vogelaar hopes to preach for us at 9:30 and 6:30

**Next Week:** We hope to have a morning catechism service and an evening reading service.

#### **Advance Notices:**

-July 15, Rev. Adams hopes to preach a preparatory service at 2:30 -July 22, Rev. Hofman hopes to be in our midst for a 9:30 a.m. service and the Holy Supper and 2:30 p.m. reflection service.

-All the Lord Willing-

Offerings Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> Disaster Relief 2<sup>nd</sup> School Fund

### We Remember in Prayer:

- -Candidate Witvoet and his family, as he accepted the call to Rock Valley this past week. May the Lord go with them in this path.
- -Our widows and widowers, our elderly, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, any others who are unable to gather with us today, are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses

## **MEDITATIONS**

The reason why there is not so much persecution now as there was in the primitive times, is not because the world is better now than it was then, but because we professors are worse. Let us but once get a primitive spirit, and we shall meet with primitive usage, and apostolic treatment. ~ A. Toplady

Holiness is not the way to Christ, but Christ is the way to holiness. ~A. Toplady

Do you mortify; do you make it your daily work; be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work; be killing sin or it will be killing you. ~J. Owen

"the "axe is to be laid to the root of the tree," — the deeds of the flesh are to be mortified in their causes, from whence they spring. ~J. Owen

#### **BLESSINGS FOR THE UNWORTHY**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" - who will bless us on the ground of our obedience and good doings? That will not do: we cannot come before the Lord and plead any worth, worthiness or goodness as a meritorious procuring cause of the enjoyment of these blessings. O no! There are some sayings in the Word of God that fit into the very hearts and consciences of God's people a thousand times better than coming before the Lord for the blessing on the ground of our own obedience. Tell us, say you, if they are so good, what these sayings are. I will give you two or three that entered into my heart and soul more than forty years back. The first is where poor Jacob came before the Lord and said, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which Thou hast shewed unto Thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands." Does that confession fit you? If it does, you are a worm Jacob. Again, the psalmist David, coming before the Lord, said, "If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared." He said again, "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." Good old Jeremiah, too, has a mode of expression entering deeply into the feelings of the child of God. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness." Now, the people who feel these things in their very hearts and souls, do they come before God with a price in their hands, as something to recommend them? No, no, my dear friends. My soul blesses my Lord and Master because He wants no price. No; He says, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Come just as you are, with all your misery, weakness, wretchedness and helplessness. Let the cry of the publican be the cry of your soul: "God be merciful to me a sinner." Now what does the Lord say in return? I will tell you what He says. It has done my soul good many times. It has reached my case when I have been very low and very miserable; it has reached my case when I have been crying and sighing to God for mercy as a poor, filthy, vile wretch. The word has dropped into my soul and under the bedewing influence of the Holy Spirit has most blessedly fitted: "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Here, you see, there is no condition, nothing to be performed by us as a ground upon which we are to have the blessing. It does not say, "I will bless sinners on the ground of worth or worthiness." If so, it would cut off all the living family as having no share in the blessings, and put the self-righteous Pharisee and hypocrite in. Bless the Lord, it is the poor and needy, the undone, the helpless, the miserable, the lost to whom salvation is secured.

~ from The Gospel Standard

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Psalm 37:3

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