January 22, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Preparatory Service with Student Kleijer. No classes.

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Communion and 6:30 p.m. Reflection Services with Rev. Slingerland. No classes.

Young Adult Evening: There is a young adult game night planned for Friday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym, D.V. Any post high school and young married adults are welcome to attend. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For more information and to RSVP by February 15, please contact Case Vogelaar (712-360-2725) or Beth Kelderman (605-987-7881).

The Asaph Choir (for high schoolers and adults) meets Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at the NRC School.

House Visitations: (1st 6:30 p.m., 2nd 8:00 p.m.)

January 23, 1st Mr. & Mrs. Derek Kattenberg, 2nd Nicolas de Wit

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd School Fund 2nd Prison Diary Ministry

December Collections Received:

NAGM	\$690
School Fund	\$173
Kingdom Boundaries	\$210
Disaster Relief	\$306
Living Bread	\$704
General Fund	\$1921

We Remember in Prayer:

- -Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those undergoing treatments, and all those with hidden crosses.
- -The synod, which hopes to meet this week on January 25 and 26 in Grand Rapids.

MEDITATIONS

Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? (Ruth 2:10b).

The Moabitish woman has received a wonderful, encouraging message from Boaz. She cannot comprehend this. She is one of the poor in spirit and shows her humble gratitude to her benefactor. We read that she fell on her face and bowed herself to the ground. This is an expression of deep humility since she is overwhelmed by the goodness of Boaz. Undeserving as she is, for she is a stranger, does not belong to the people of Israel, and comes from Moab, a heathen country, she desires to take the lowest place. At that place we are like the Canaanitish woman, a little dog, who desire the crumbs from the Master's table. Or like the centurion who said, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof. Jacob said, I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which Thou hast shewed unto Thy servant. David also knew this place and said. Who am I, O LORD God? and what is my house that Thou hast brought me hitherto? Mephibosheth said: What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am? Ruth has found grace in the eyes of Boaz and is so undeserving. She did not say, "I came to the field, I have been so diligent and faithful," but she acknowledges: "this is grace alone." It is a wonder to her, that Boaz knows and accepts her in the presence of all his servants.

The greater Boaz, Jesus Christ, knows His sheep from all eternity and also knows their needs, longings, desires, fears, strife, their foolishness, but also what He Himself has laid in their heart and their condition in a week of preparation for the Lord's Supper. They all learn how undeserving they are that He would look upon them in love and mercy. There are those who are but outsiders, strangers, and do not dare to consider themselves as belonging to that blessed people of God. However, their hearts are humbled and filled with adoration when the greater Boaz speaks to them, that He knows them and desires to grant them undeserved tokens of His love and goodness. Boaz answered her, The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel. She has come under His wings to trust. Blessed place, to come as one without any rights, deserving to be sent away, and yet to come, poor and needy, under His wings to trust. That refuge taking faith is His own work. It humbles man deeply, but those true strangers will not be put to shame. Mary, the mother of the Lord Jesus, will sing of it: He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty away.

The apostle warned; Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith. May the Lord send His light and truth to lead and bring His

own poor, missing people to the table where He will feed them. There they will humbly honor Him for all His mercies and praise Him. ~Rev. C. Vogelaar

- Q. 171. How are they that receive the sacrament of the Lord's supper to prepare themselves before they come unto it?
- A. They that receive the sacrament of the Lord's supper are, before they come, to prepare themselves thereunto, by examining themselves of their being in Christ, of their sins and wants; of the truth and measure of their knowledge, faith, repentance; love to God and the brethren, charity to all men, forgiving those that have done them wrong; of their desires after Christ, and of their new obedience; and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation, and fervent prayer.
- Q. 172. May one who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation, come to the Lord's supper?
- A. One who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, may have true interest in Christ, though he be not yet assured thereof; and in God's account hath it, if he be duly affected with the apprehension of the want of it, and unfeignedly desires to be found in Christ, and to depart from iniquity: in which case (because promises are made, and this sacrament is appointed, for the relief even of weak and doubting Christians) he is to bewail his unbelief, and labor to have his doubts resolved; and, so doing, he may and ought to come to the Lord's supper, that he may be further strengthened.

~From the Westminster Larger Catechism

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsf@gmail.com
Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom
Website: nrcsf.com

Netherlands Reformed

Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD Psalm 106:48

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