November 19, 2017

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **-Today:** We hope to have a morning catechism service and a 2:30 p.m. service with Student de Leeuw. He serves Sioux Center tonight.
- **-Next Week:** Student de Leeuw is in our midst 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- **-This week Wednesday**, November 22, Rev Adams will be in our midst for a Thanksgiving Day service at 7:00 p.m.

-Advance Notices:

November 22, Rev. Adams 7:00 p.m Thanksgiving Day

November 26, Student de Leeuw 9:30 a.m and 2:30 p.m.

November 27, 7:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting

November 30, 7:00 p.m. A Parenting session on abuse by Rev.

Vergunst in Sioux Center at the Terrace View Event Center

December 24, Student de Leeuw 2:30 p.m. Christmas Eve -All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund
2nd School Fund

Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd Banner of Truth

Mrs. Hermina Hoogendoorn passed away yesterday at the age of 88. Funeral arrangements will be announced. May the Lord comfort her husband, son, and further family.

Congregational Meeting:

Mr. Dan Breuer could not give himself for another term at this time so the vote for deacon will take place between

Mr. David Hoogendoorn and

Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

A vote on a duo for minister between

Rev. Hakvoort of Norwich, Ontario and

Rev. Zippro of Groningen, the Netherlands.

We Remember in Prayer:

- -The mourning family of Mrs. Hermina Hoogendoorn.
- -Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, thinking of Mr. & Mrs. Roberts, and Mr. Hoogendoorn.
- -Our widow 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

It is fitting and proper for the creature to give thanks to God in everything, at all times, and without ceasing. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." The Lord God is and remains the sovereign, the independent, the most glorious One. Who is worthy of all gratitude. Shame should cover our faces because we are so filled with self-love. In whatever ways God leads us, even in the darkest ways of trial, there are still reasons to be thankful. Nobody who knows himself will say that God has dealt with him according to his sins. And do we not have special reasons to give him thanks for general blessings, when we consider what great things God has done for our nation, by raising us up as a mighty people and freeing us from our enemies so that they do not rule over us? Darkness has covered the nation, but the Lord has given us the light of His pure Word, so that there is a possibility of being saved. Is it not the hand of God that has preserved us, not withstanding our God-provoking sins? Thus we must learn to give thanks rightly and to exalt and praise Him. Friends. it is your responsibility. ~ Rev. Justus Vermeer

"And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering" (Genesis 4:4b)

The altar in the Old Dispensation was a means ordained by the Lord Himself to worship Him aright. The root word of the Hebrew for "sacrifice" or "offering" means: "approaching unto." Let us take note of two important matters here. First, the matter of approaching God is instituted by the Lord Himself. This is a wonder, for who can dwell with the Most High God who is a consuming fire on account of His holiness and justice? Note secondly that also what is laid upon the altar is ordained by the Lord Himself. None of these things were left to the imagination or decision of man. Abel, by the grace of faith, was aware of this important truth. The Lord Himself ordained the content of the sacrifices. See this displayed in the Mosaic ordinances. Thus, in the very altar God approaches unto man, and in what God ordains to be put on the altar, He alone is well pleased. Let us then proceed to give heed to what ultimately was laid upon the most sublime altar which ever stood upon earth. At Golgotha God erected the altar and laid His own Son thereupon. Thus a holy and righteous God approached unto man, and calls man to approach unto Him through the merits of His own dear Son. Such an altar thus excludes all merits of man. Such an altar excludes all activity of man, also in the way of true gratitude. It is only in and through the merits of God's dear Son that we can observe true Thanksgiving. May the suffering, the exalted, the praying, and the thanking High Priest be our portion during this season of giving thanks. Precious place on Thanksgiving Day, to be next to Abel in the dust before God, close to the altar and the sacrifice, hence to lose oneself and rely upon Him whom God made glorious for Himself. Precious place to become unworthy of the least token of His favor. Then it is even possible to give thanks when the way this past season was hedged about with thorns, the cross bore the shoulders down, and the thorn in the flesh was grievously painful. Then the Lord receives the glory for all He gave or withheld, deemed necessary or useful. Such a Thanksgiving is our heartfelt wish and prayer for all of you.

Rev. H. Hofman

Notes

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

Psalm 103:22

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