

July 15, 2018

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: We hope to have a morning catechism service and a 2:30 p.m. Preparatory service with Rev. Adams.

This Week Wednesday, July 18, Sending-out service for Mr. & Mrs. van Beek in Sioux Center

Next Week: Rev. Hofman hopes to be in our midst for a 9:30 a.m. service with the Holy Supper and a 2:30 p.m. reflection service.

Advance Notices:

- July 26, the classis will meet to examine Candidate Witvoet. That evening, Rev. Hofman hopes to preach in Sioux Center and Rev. Vogelaar in Rock Valley
- August 5, Student de Leeuw hopes to be in our midst 9:30 and 2:30
- August 19, Candidate Witvoet hopes to serve us at 9:30 a.m.
- August 23, Ordination and Inaugural Services for Candidate Witvoet in Rock Valley at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.
- August 26, Rev. Vogelaar at 9:30 a.m. for baptism

Young Adult / Post High School Youth Camp – Northern Michigan – August 2-4. A three day, two night trip, to northern Michigan is being planned by the Kalamazoo Young Adult Committee under the oversight of the Kalamazoo NRC consistory. We are planning to stay in a beautiful lodge located in Boyne Falls, MI. On Friday, we plan to drive to Mackinaw City and take a ferry across to the scenic Mackinac Island. We hope to provide meaningful topics and discussions led by our theological student, Mr. Huibert deLeeuw and elder, Mr. Bill Greendyk. The deadline to register is July 23. You can find further information and sign up for this Camp at www.KalamazooRetreats.org The password to enter the site is: conference
-All the Lord Willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
 2nd School Fund 2nd Church Book Supply

We Remember in Prayer:

- Mr. & Mrs. Jongetjes, who hope to commemorate their 45th wedding anniversary on July 20.
- Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, 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.

MEDITATION

AN ETERNAL DISAPPOINTMENT

"Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not." Matthew 25:11-12

There are indeed souls for whom it shall forever exceed expectations. Oh, what a privilege if we may be one of that number. To such it shall be, "Through Thee, through Thee alone, because of Thine eternal good pleasure."

But the Truth tells us also that many will seek to enter in but must remain without forever. It is according to God's own Word that the number of such shall not be small. Many belong to those that are at ease in Zion and trust in the mountain of Samaria. It is very true, the number is great of those that do not hope upon a heaven and who do not believe in a hell, who make themselves believe that no God exists and no eternity follows upon this life. They are those who, in the hardening of their hearts, go onward and indulge in "Let us eat and drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Oh, what an awakening it shall be for all those infidels, but also for all those Gallios who, during their life, cared for none of those things except for the things of this temporal life. When death comes, then it shall be reality. We read in God's Word about Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, that when he saw that writing upon the wall, his countenance was changed, his knees smote one against another, and the joints of his loins were loosed. He had to meet God.

No one, whosoever he may be, shall be able to escape God's judgment, but we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. God shall prove that He is God and shall eternally vindicate His justice. And if Christ, as the Surety of the covenant has never satisfied God's justice for us and we have remained strangers of the application of that righteousness for our own heart, then it shall be terrible to fall into the hands of the living God. Paul wrote in Hebrews 12, "For our God is a consuming fire."

From the parable of the five wise and the five foolish virgins, it appears to us very clearly that there shall be people in the visible church for whom it shall be disappointing, eternally disappointing. They have firmly counted upon heaven, but they land in utter misery.

Let us consider well that it concerns an all-decisive eternity. Reject a ministry which builds you up outside of Christ, but seek an uncovering and stripping ministration which constantly draws you away from your false grounds and which directs to Christ as the only immovable foundation of salvation. May we, by the operation of God's Spirit, learn to consider the things which belong to our eternal peace. May God cause us to awaken out of the sleep of death. May His

justice be glorified; to perish and to be cut off with all that is our own,
to find our preservation in Christ and our salvation in God.

-Rev. W. C. Lamain

Notes

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Be still, and know that I am God: I
will be exalted among the heathen, I
will be exalted in the earth.*

Psalms 46:10

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