November 4, 2018

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: We hope to have a morning catechism service and a 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Witvoet. No classes after the morning service.

This week **Thursday**, Study groups hope to meet at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Rev. Vergunst speaks at the Terrace View Event Center in Sioux Center at 3:00 p.m. on The Gift

of Marriage: A Stronger Marriage

Next Week: Rev. Vergunst hopes to serve us for a 9:30 a.m. service, including confession of faith, and also a 2:30 p.m. service.

The following people hope to make public confession of faith next

week Sunday morning: Elliot de Wit

Nathan de Wit Raina de Wit Brandon van Beek

If anyone has any legal objections please notify the consistory.

Advance Notices:

November 12, 7:00 p.m., Rev. Vergunst has a topic on Modern Media Addictions (Pornography) in Sioux Center November 21, 7:00 p.m. Rev. Adams - Thanksgiving Eve

December 23, 9:30 and 2:30 p.m. Rev. Witvoet

December 24, 7:00 p.m. Rev. Adams - Christmas Eve.

December 8. There will be a Psalter sing-along, with Rev. Witvoet opening, at the school at 7:00 p.m. as a fundraiser for the Bolivia **Mission Trip.**

Ezra for Israel will have a sing-a-long and organ concert at the B. J. Haan Auditorium, Dordt College on **December 17** at 7:00 p.m. with Pieter Heykoop, an organist from Holland. Rev. Witvoet will be opening the evening with a short meditation. An offering will be taken by Ezra for Israel for their mission work in Israel.

House Visitation:

November 6: 6:00 Mr. Tom Blom, 7:00 Mr. & Mrs. Harlan van Beek

-All the Lord Willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd, School Fund 2nd Living Bread

We Remember in Prayer:

- -Mr. Clarence Zomer, who hopes to have further testing and receive radiation in the near future for his lung cancer. May the Lord bless the means and give the doctors wisdom.
- -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

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, and we do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away." Isaiah: 64: 6

After leaves have fallen from the trees, the wind blows them away. We have all seen this many times. Especially when it is stormy weather, many leaves move from one place to another. From the street, into your yard, and from your yard into your neighbor's yard, until the leaves find their final resting place and begin to decay. Suppose you are such a leaf. You are a helpless object before the wind.

That is how the people of Israel felt. Not all of them, but all those who began to realize what they had done to God, and how they had rebelled against Him. God could, because of their iniquities, take them up as a leaf, and like the wind, blow them away. That message spoke to them and that evoked strong emotions within. In the verse that I am referring to, the Israelites mention also that their righteousnesses are as filthy rags. In other words, they had no righteousness at all. They feel that they have nothing to plead upon in themselves. Their best works are worthy to be viewed as blooddrenched, unclean clothes. What a confession!

The true Israelites were convinced that they, as a nation, had sinned against God, and they were eager to receive forgiveness. They were hungering for a restored relationship with their "Father" (verse 8), realizing that they had walked away from home. Now they were in trouble and felt remorse.

Dear reader, many Israelites were too proud to admit their sins and did not come to the Lord for forgiveness. Many played down their sins and defended themselves fiercely. I advise you never to do so, however that is in our blood. Daniel said, "For we do not present our supplications before Thee for our righteousness, but for Thy great mercies." (Daniel 8:18) We must learn to become honest and realize

that whatever we bring to God is worth nothing. Even our righteousness is unworthy! It does not say unrighteousness, for even our best works are as filth. What a relief that we may so come to the Lord, emptied from our so-called "good works," and desirous of God's mercy.

Do you know who only dares to wholeheartedly confess their sins before God? Those who are convinced that He is merciful! Only those who have good thoughts of God dare to come with all their sins. Coming as a heavy laden one to God is a token of true faith. Contrarily, covering up sins reveals that you are not a Christian at all, but counterfeit. Feel free to come with all your iniquities. You would not become disappointed. May the Lord make room in our hearts for grace in Christ. Only His works were holy and immaculate. He even needed to rebuke His own mother! He did not see anything good in any of the apostles! But He came to substitute for His Church. Now sinners can be saved by grace. Dear reader, do you know anything of these matters? Do you know them with your heart? Even if you do not know this yet, the savior is stretching out His arms yet to rebellious people.

Notes

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer
Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer craigtimmer@ymail.com or (231) 942-1389

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

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