July 22, 2018

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 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.

This Week Thursday, July 26, the classis will meet to examine Candidate Witvoet. That evening, Rev. Hofman hopes to preach in Sioux Center at 7:30 and Rev. Vogelaar in Rock Valley at 7:00

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

Advance Notices:

- -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

-All the Lord Willing-

Due to an oversight, **Censura Morum** was not held last Sunday afternoon after the service. Instead, it was held prior to the service this morning.

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

We Remember in Prayer:

-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

"I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." John 10:11

We know Who the good Shepherd is: the Lord Jesus, Who gave Himself already in the Counsel of Peace. He was promised

in Paradise, the patriarchs have longed for Him, and in the fulness of time He came as the servant of the Father. He came to seek and to save that which is lost. "I am the good Shepherd." The Lord describes what He is for His sheep.

The Good Shepherd has a flock. Do we belong to this flock? This question is of the greatest importance for today, but also for our last day. In our days many people think they are the sheep of the Lord. But is this true? When we never have become unconverted, when the sorrow after God is not found in our life, and we do not have sorrow about our sins, then it is not well in our life. Then the world is still of the greatest importance for us.

A mark of God's work is symbolized in the life of a sheep: they cannot take care for themselves. This is also the situation in the life of poor sinners. Other marks of sheep are that they wander away so easily and they have no power to defend themselves. The good Shepherd has to take care for them. He feeds His sheep by Word and Spirit, but also by the sacraments. Both point to Christ, Who promised: "My flesh is meat indeed and My blood is drink indeed." Is there a longing for the communion with Him?

We know, that especially at the time when the death of the Lord may be commemorated, there can be much strife in the heart of God's children. It can be so bad, that it seems that they are surrounded by cruel beasts of prey. Continually Satan tries to undermine God's work of grace, but the Lord has defeated the enemies. He bruised the head of Satan. Isaiah says, "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm and carry them in His bosom."

It is possible there are such lambs in our midst, little in faith. They are born in Zion, but they do not dare to believe they belong to the flock. The Lord is not hard for them, but promises, "I will turn My hand upon the little ones." He heals the broken-hearted ones and He promises, "He shall gently lead those that are with young"; or, give suck, as it is also translated. So Christ shows His great love for His children, for whom He shed His blood. He died, but He is risen the third day to their justification. Now He can lead His sheep to the wash-place, that they can be cleansed from all their sins and be reconciled with God.

May the Lord give, that we may receive something of these blessings, which Christ has merited for His people, in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

~Rev. A.M. den Boer

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.

Psalm 46:10

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