

## **Daily Devotional**

### **Scripture Reading: [Psalm 73](#)**

*As for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.*

*Psalm 73:2*

Doubt is guaranteed. We will doubt.

Psalm 73 begins by affirming a core teaching: "Surely God is good to Israel." Then doubt comes. The psalmist is slipping. He's trying to keep faith, but he's tottering on a precipice. He has a bad case of vertigo, that dizziness some people feel when they look down from a high place.

The psalmist thought God was good to Israel, but something he saw made his head start spinning. We've seen things like that too. The baseball team with the most respectable players doesn't necessarily win the World Series. The quarterback with the best moral character doesn't always start on the college team. Oddly, it seems that arrogant, ungodly people often prosper and have no troubles or suffering. But then people who love God and try to serve him seem to get nowhere and face all kinds of trouble and suffering. The writer of this psalm saw this. So do we.

But the psalmist came to see that his perspective didn't look far enough into the future. The end of the wick-ed is ruin, and while God doesn't promise to make his people wealthier or healthier, he does promise peace for the heart and restoration for the soul.

In God's presence and care, we have everything we truly need.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, we believe. Help us in our unbelief. Please also help our friends who struggle to believe. Lord, be the strength of all our hearts forever. Through Jesus, Amen

Dr. Kevin Adams

## **Pastor's Report**

### Pastor's Report 2009

My report on the state of the church is somewhat limited since I have only been here for half a year. And that reminds me of a good place to start: by thanking you all. My family and I have felt right at home from the very first Sunday. Thank you for that.

As for the work of the church, the pulpit is filled, the sacraments have been administered on a regular basis, and discipline is practiced when necessary. The marks of a true church are evident here at Saint John's. The Sunday School program is going well; the increasing number of children in the younger classes shows that we are going to have a crowded Sunday School program for some time to come. Catechism has four students in it with one scheduled to undergo confirmation exams this year. Kids' Quest is full; a third teacher has been added to help with the large number of children. Our children's ministries are surely blessed. During our Sunday night Bible study, we are studying the Fruit of the Spirit. Women's Fellowship has recently started taking on more mercy ministries in addition to their regular meetings and responsibilities. And efforts are under way to start building a Youth Group for our youth and college-age students. No one can accuse Saint John's of being an inactive church. One area in which I hope to improve in 2010 is in the area of visitation, both formal and informal. Lord willing, in 2010 every family will get a home visitation.

The church also should be commended for how it has not missed a beat in its work this year. Often pulpit vacancies can cause a church to stumble, stop the work of the ministry, or go into a pessimistic shell. Yet this church has not slowed, and one could hardly tell that the pulpit was vacant and filled by someone new during this past calendar year. That is a testament to the leadership of the elders and deacons and to the faithfulness of the congregation as a whole.

While the health of Saint John's is well, we should not be content. Our work for the Kingdom is not done. I would like to use this report to encourage the church in two specific areas. One, during this upcoming year, we ought to plan for the future. It is always easier to move forward when you have spent time thinking about how and where you are going. The Consistory has started talking about a 5-Year Plan, and we would like to hear the thoughts of the congregation as a whole. Please share your hopes, dreams, and goals for the church with the Consistory. We need to have a vision for our church. Two, we ought to be looking for opportunities to share the gospel of Christ in our community, both individually and as a church. The "fields are white unto harvest", and we must take advantage. Never before in my lifetime have I seen a world more unsure of truth, more willing to grab hold of anything for hope, and so full of extremes. We need to see this current climate as Jesus taught his disciples to see the Samaritans. We must look out and see that people are ready to receive the gospel, and then we must give it to them. As the culture around us gets more and more uncertain, anxious, and fearful, we must try harder and harder to give them the only hope in life and in death: Jesus Christ. This means not only inviting those whom we personally know who are outside of Christ to church, but it means looking for ways the church can step up and meet the need for Christ in the world. If you see a way the church can do these things, communicate it to the Consistory.

It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to bless us in 2010 as He has in 2009. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

## **Congregational Meeting Minutes (January 2010)**

At 11:39 a.m. the meeting was opened with scripture reading from John 4:27-40, and prayer.

ThridWorld Oforah and Philip Huber were appointed as tellers.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was had with 23 of the 43 voting members present.

The bar of the house was defined as the first 6 pews on either side of the worship area.

The Pastor's report was presented to the congregation by Rev. Lee Johnson on the state of the church. A motion was made by Daniel Hans to adopt the Pastor's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented to the congregation by Benjamin Torell regarding the finances of the church. A motion was made by Rev. Warren Embree to adopt the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Having been appointed as auditor of the financial books along with David Brauning, Robert Huber reported to the congregation that books appeared to be in good order. A motion was made by Bryan Phillips to adopt the Auditor's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Deacon's report was presented to the congregation by Benjamin Torell regarding diaconal activity for 2009. A motion was made by Richard Novak to adopt the Deacon's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Clerk's report was presented to the congregation by Daniel Hans regarding the activities of the Consistory. A motion was made by ThridWorld Oforah to adopt the Clerk's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Education Assistance report was presented to the congregation by Mike DeWitt regarding the Education Assistance Fund. A motion was made by Rev. Warren Embree to adopt the Education Assistance report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Preparations were made for election to the office of Elder. Qualifications for the office of Elder were read by Rev. Johnson from Titus 1:5-8. Current candidate for the office of Elder is Melvin J. Burbach. No additional nominations were made from the floor. With 23 of 43 voting members present, a vote by ballot ensued. With 21 votes for, 0 against, and 2 abstaining, candidate Melvin J. Burbach was re-elected to the office of Elder for another term.

Preparations were made for election to the office of Deacon. Qualifications for the office of Deacon were read by Rev. Johnson from I Tim. 3:8. Current candidate for the office of Deacon is Mike DeWitt. No additional nominations were made from the floor. With 23 of 43 voting members present, a vote by ballot ensued. With 22 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstaining, candidate Mike DeWitt was re-elected to the office of Deacon for another term.

The minutes from the meeting were read back to the congregation for approval. A correction was noted in that the Building Committee report should be mentioned in the minutes even though no report was presented. The minutes were declared approved as corrected by common consent.

At 12:29 p.m. a motion was made by Bryan Phillips to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## **Consistory Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Rev. Lee Johnson, Rev. Warren Embree; Elders Steve Heinbigner, Mike Burbach, Melvin Burbach, and Bob Davis; Deacon Dan Hans

Absent: Deacons Mike DeWitt, Rich Novak, and Ben Torell

At 7:16 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

The meeting was opened with devotions from Col 3: 12-17 and prayer.

The minutes from the prior monthly meeting were read. A correction was noted. The minutes were adopted as corrected by common consent.

Discussion was held regarding a need for clarification of how money is coming into the Education Assistance Fund. The consistory agreed by common consent that a written report should be provided in future Congregational meetings with this information provided, and also to put future fund raising events in the bulletin.

Regarding the purchase of additional chairs for worship services, the Consistory agreed by common consent that the need has diminished in recent weeks and that the purchase should be postponed.

Rev. Johnson reported on the results of advertising on Facebook. The St. John's advertisement was displayed 30,000 times during a 2-day period with a total of 8 visits to the St. John's website. The total cost was \$3.85. The decision to continue advertising was deferred to the next meeting.

No treasurer's report was available for review.

The Consistory agreed by common consent to hold the installation for Consistory officers on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding the organization of the Consistory, a motion was made by Elder Heinbigner to keep the current organization, with Dan Hans as Clerk of the Consistory, Ben Torell as Treasurer, and Bob Davis as Vice-President. The motion was seconded and carried.

The following calendar events were discussed by the Consistory and approved by common consent.

- January 31 - Special offering for the Building Fund
- February 23 - Rev. Johnson traveling to Mid-America Reformed Seminary

There were no concerns regarding parsonage needs.

Discussion was held regarding the need for updated brochures in the church entryway, with samples provided by Rev. Johnson. Rev. Johnson will bring additional information and costs to the next meeting.

Rev. Johnson asked the Consistory to provide feedback regarding his work at St. John's.

A request was received on behalf of the Heidelberg Theological Seminary asking St. John's to consider monthly support for the seminary. The Consistory agreed to postpone any decisions regarding this until the next meeting.

A request to use the church video projector equipment was received and presented to the Consistory. The equipment will be used by the Education Assistance committee for a movie night fund raiser. By common consent the Consistory agreed to allow the use of the video Equipment.

The Constitutional questions will be deferred to the next meeting of the Consistory.

Discussion was held regarding the janitorial position at St. John's as there are two parties interested in the position. The Consistory suggested creating a rotation schedule as an option. Rev. Johnson will present this to the interested parties and report back in the next meeting.

A motion was made to pay Hannah Davis for January janitorial duties. The motion was seconded and carried.

The following items were discussed regarding the 5-year plan.

- Handing out pamphlets at events, by going door-to-door in the church neighborhood, and posting on bulletin boards.
- A motion was made to contact the Heidelberg Theological Seminary to schedule a date for a "coming home" conference. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Place articles/events in the neighborhood newsletter.
- Using postings/banners for upcoming events.
- An idea stemming from the Congregational meeting – use the church building to provide day-care/pre-school.
- Hold more church dinners/luncheons.
- Discussion was held regarding possible change of Bible Study date/time and frequency to be more accommodating. No decision was made.
- Taking a survey from the congregation for various items and ideas.

Discussion was held regarding Reformed Herald subscriptions. Rev. Johnson will discuss with Rev. Koerner.

Discussion was held regarding handicap access at the church.

The Consistory agreed to place an announcement in the bulletin to identify any interest in forming a St. John's team for a sports league.

A motion was made to provide \$500 from the Diaconal Fund to assist with needs surrounding the recent earthquake in Haiti with the money to be routed through either the Canadian Reformed or the OPC charitable organizations. The motion was seconded and carried.

At 9:18 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## **Calendar**

- 01/20:
  - [KIDS' QUEST Special Nights \(6:30 pm\)](#)
  - [Catechism and KIDS' QUEST \(6:30 pm\)](#)
- 01/22:
  - [Family Movie Night \(7:05 pm\)](#)
- 01/24:
  - [Sunday School \(9:30 am\)](#)
  - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
  - [Installation of Consistory Officers \(10:30 am\)](#)
  - [Bible Study \(6:30 pm\)](#)
- 01/27:
  - [Catechism and KIDS' QUEST \(6:30 pm\)](#)
- 01/31:
  - [Sunday School \(9:30 am\)](#)
  - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 02/3:
  - [Catechism and KIDS' QUEST \(6:30 pm\)](#)
- 02/4:
  - [Consistory Meeting \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 02/7:
  - [Sunday School \(9:30 am\)](#)
  - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
  - [Youth Discipleship Group \(6:00 pm\)](#)
- 02/10:
  - [Catechism and KIDS' QUEST \(6:30 pm\)](#)
- 02/14:
  - [Sunday School \(9:30 am\)](#)
  - [The Lord's Supper \(10:30 am\)](#)
  - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
  - [Bible Study \(6:30 pm\)](#)

## **Nursery Schedule 2010**

Jan	3	Hannah D. Sarah D.	April	4	Jenny Jo J. John B.
	10	Sheryl B. Grant B.		11	Deb L. Sarah D.
	17	Marilyn J. Nellie B.		18	Arlene H. Kirin D.
	24	Heidi B. Martha B.		25	Katelyn B. Nellie B.
	31	Vicki D. Joseph D.			
Feb.	7	Jodi D. Kirin D.	May	2	Hannah D. Joseph D.
	14	Jamie B. Cole V.		9	Jodi D. Martha B.
	21	Jenny Jo J. John B.		16	Sheryl B. Grant B.
	28	Kathy H. Connor V.		23	Jamie B. Sarah D.
				30	Shirley A. John B.
March	7	Cathy D. Kaylee S.	June	6	Vicki D. Joseph D.
	14	Natalie T. Kirin D.		13	Jennifer O. Connor V.
	21	Christie V. Connor V.		20	Heidi B. Oliver B.
	28	Amy N. Cole V.		27	Katelyn B. Cole V.

If the date you are assigned does not work for you, please find your substitute or call Jodi DeWitt at 488-1810 to make other arrangements. Thank you for your help!

## **Announcements**

MEALS ON WHEELS – St. John’s Reformed Church is sponsoring a once a month Saturday morning route. We are scheduled for the 3rd Saturday of each month beginning December 19th. Time required is about 60-90 minutes beginning at 10:30. There is a sign-up sheet provided in the entry way. This is a great project for families as shut-ins enjoy seeing children.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT - A movie night hosted by the Christian Education committee will be Friday the 22nd at Lincoln Christian School. A free-will offering will be taken up.