



Devotional

POTLUCK

Scripture Reading: [1 Peter 4:1-11](#)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace ...

1 Peter 4:10

I remember when I was invited to my first potluck dinner at a church in Michigan. At first I didn't understand what it was all about. I learned that every family had to bring a dish to share with the rest of the guests. It could be any kind of food— from the main course to salads and desserts. Joined together, our dishes made for a delicious dinner—not to mention a wonderful fellowship time. I was very impressed.

When dinner was over, I approached the pastor to compliment him on developing this unique communal experience. He looked surprised. After a pause, he explained to me that such dinners are common in North American communities.

In today's verses Peter calls us to serve others with whatever gifts we have. In some sense our service is like our contributions to a potluck dinner. Is your specialty a favorite casserole? Or perhaps your signature dish is that special fruit salad! At a potluck, everyone is encouraged to bring their best. Similarly, when it comes to the ministry of the church, everyone has a special talent. Some are called to preach the Word; others are called to teach or to lead social ministries—or to use their gifts in other ways. By doing all these things, we are extending God's grace "in its various forms." We are also praising our heavenly Father.

What are your gifts? Are you using them for God's glory?

Prayer:

Lord, help us to praise you in unity. Give us wisdom to use our gifts to serve others as we work in ministry. Amen!

Sergei Sosedkin



Pastor's Report

The Belgic Confession Articles 12 and 13

Articles 12 and 13 of the Belgic speak of Creation and Providence respectively. Article 12 clearly asserts that God created all things. Both what we can see in this world and what we cannot see. Thus, we confess God created the world, the animals, and us. But God also created the angels AND demons including Satan. These evil spirits are the enemies of God, and every good thing, hating the church. Thus, they are our enemies. But they are still created by God for the damnation that they deserve. This goes against the idea that seems to never end in our culture and in some churches that God and Satan are two opposites in a war, as if God and Satan are equal in some way. Satan is decidedly not eternal, not everywhere present and not all powerful. He is a creature, created for destruction. This is the error of the Manichees expressly rejected: that the evil spirit are not creations of God. The Sadducees are also rejected since in the Bible they did not believe in anything that was unseen.

Article 13 speaks of how God continues to govern the world which He created. Nothing happens without the express will of God. Yet, the Belgic spends most of the article explaining that this means God cannot be held accountable for the sinful evil deeds done by men. Yes, all actions are under God's control and happen because He wills it, but this does not mean that He is responsible. Our wills are not circumvented in this controlling process. In other words you do not do things that you do not wish to do. God does not force people to sin. They sin because they want to do it. Yes, God ordained that sin, but He is not responsible for it. Acts 2:23 is the perfect verse to explain this. Jesus Christ was killed by crucifixion through the counsel and foreknowledge of God, but also by the "wicked hands" of men. God ordained it, but the wickedness of man did it, and did it willingly.

The rest of Article 13 is spent pointing out how we can take great comfort that God has providential control over all things. Even the evil deeds of men is under His control. Nothing happens by chance. If chance exists in the universe then you can have no comfort. With the all powerful ever loving Lord in control then you can rest easy and have great solace and comfort no matter what happens in this life.

Rev. Lee Johnson



Consistory Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 9th, 2011

Attendance: Rev. Lee Johnson; Elders Melvin Burbach, Mike Burbach, and Bob Davis;
Deacons Dan Hans, Mike DeWitt, and Ben Torell

Absent: Deacon Rich Novak

At 7:32 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

The meeting was opened with devotions from John 8:12-20 and prayer.

The minutes from the April monthly meeting were read and adopted as such by common consent.

As an old business item, information was provided by Pastor Johnson concerning bulletins on legal-sized paper. Pre-printed bulletins on legal-size paper would cost 5 cents per sheet. Discussion ensued with necessity, pros and cons, and other alternatives discussed. A motion was made to have 500 bulletins pre-printed on legal-size paper to use as a trial and then make a final decision after the trial period. The motion was seconded and carried.

The April month-end Treasurer's report was reviewed by the Consistory.

- Checking account balance – \$40,067.33
- Certificate Of Deposit balance – \$6,017.71
- Deacon's Fund balance – \$3,247.93 (\$2,161.68 is owed to the general fund)
- Building Fund balance – \$807.62
- Education Assistance Fund balance – \$520.48
- Proceeds from the garage sale and movie night are not yet reflected in the Education Assistance Fund balance.
- Sunday School Fund balance – \$1,644.86
- Total inflows for the month – \$7,043.84
- Total outflows for the month – \$5,344.37
- The 1st Quarter Synod and Classis guidelines have not yet been paid as we are waiting for the new figures from Synod.
- A correction was noted in that the study bibles were to be funded from the Sunday School Fund rather than the General Fund.
- A motion was made to adopt the April Treasurer's report as corrected. The motion was seconded and carried.

The following up-coming events were reviewed.

- May 16-21 – Synod meeting in Mitchell, SD
- May 30 – start of summer schedule
- July 25-29 – Youth Camp
- Aug. 8-12 – Vacation Bible School
- Oct. 2 – Rev. Johnson at Emmanuel Church in Sutton for Missionfest

Rev. Johnson stated that he is trying to contact the roofing company regarding the repair work and had left voice mail with the company.

The request was approved by common consent.

An update was provided to the Consistory on revision of the Church Usage rules.

Rev. Johnson provided an update on the conference that is being planned.

- There are individuals willing to volunteer to help with the conference
- Regarding the suggested speakers:
 - Del Tackett – Checking for October availability. No fee but they do ask that we donate to the Coral Ridge Ministries. Would also need to pay for travel expenses.
 - Daniel Hyde – Is seeking permission from his Consistory
 - Joseph Beaky – Not available until 2013
 - Michael Horton – Requests a \$2000 donation to the White Horse Inn organization plus a 1-year sponsorship of his radio program.
- Rev. Johnson will report back to Consistory members when he hears back from either Del Tackett or Daniel Hyde.

At 8:35 Elder Davis assumed the chair as Vice-President of the Consistory.

The Pastor's salary was discussed amongst the Consistory. A motion was made to table any decisions regarding salary until the next meeting of the Consistory. The motion was seconded and carried.

At 8:49 Rev. Johnson resumed the chair as President of the Consistory.

The following items were brought forth and discussed.

- A suggestion was made to put a patio outside the entrance to the church kitchen.
- A suggestion was made to have a yard fence installed at the parsonage.
- A suggestion was made to have a “notes” page and an outline placed in the bulletins.
- A suggestion was made to have standard greeters (i.e. deacons) each week.
- A suggestion was made to revamp the foyer area.
- A suggestion was made to have pencil holder installed in the church pews.

At 9:06 p.m. a motion was made by Deacon DeWitt to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Calendar

Normal Sunday Schedule (through May 29th):

- Sunday School (9:30 a.m.)
- Worship (10:30 a.m.)
- Youth Discipleship Group (5:00 p.m.)
- Bible Study (7:00 p.m.)

Upcoming Events:

- 05/28:
 - [Men's Fellowship Breakfast \(8:00 am\)](#)
- 05/29:
 - [Building Fund Offering \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 06/5:
 - [Summer Worship Schedule Begins \(9:30 am\)](#)
- 06/12:
 - [Deacon's Fund Offering \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 06/13:
 - [Consistory Meeting \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 06/20:
 - [Women's Fellowship \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 06/25:
 - [Men's Fellowship Breakfast \(8:00 am\)](#)
- 07/11:
 - [Consistory Meeting \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 07/17:
 - [Christian Senior Navigators \(12:00 pm\)](#)
- 07/18:
 - [Women's Fellowship \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 07/25:
 - [Heidelberg Youth Camp \(6:00 am\)](#)
- 07/30:
 - [Men's Fellowship Breakfast \(8:00 am\)](#)
- 07/31:
 - [Building Fund Offering \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 08/8:
 - [Vacation Bible School \(6:00 pm\)](#)
 - [Consistory Meeting \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 08/14:
 - [Deacon's Fund Offering \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Vacation Bible School Program \(4:00 pm\)](#)



Nursery Schedule 2011

Jan	2	Hannah D. Joseph D.	April	3	Jennifer O. Sarah D.
	9	Deb L. Sarah D.		10	Hannah D. Hailey D.
	16	Arlene H. Kirin D.		17	Arlene H. Kirin D.
	23	Jenny Jo Nellie B.		24	Katelyn B. Nellie B.
	30	Christie V. John B.			
Feb	6	Marilyn J. Grant B.	May	1	Vicki D. Joseph D.
	13	Jamie B. Hailey D.		8	Jodi D Martha B.
	20	Sheryl B. Espen A.		15	Sheryl B. Grant B.
	27	Natalie T. Connor V.		22	Natalie T. Espen A.
				29	Jamie B. Oliver B.
March	6	Jodi D, Kirin D.	June	5	Deb B. Connor V.
	13	Amy N. Phillip B.		12	Cathy Hailey D.
	20	Shirley A. John B.		19	Amy N. Kirin D.
	27	Heidi B. Oliver B.		26	Katelyn B. Philip B.

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY – There is an old copy of the church directory on the table in the church foyer. Please verify/update your name, address, and phone number. If you are not in the directory please add your name, address, and phone number in the front cover.

FIREWORKS – The Christian Education Assistance group will again be selling fireworks to help support our children's Christian education. If you are interested in helping out please contact Dan Hans, Arlene Hans, or Mike Dewitt.

The fireworks stand will again be located on West 'A' street just east of Folsom street and as last year we will be selling [Poppers Fireworks](#).

If you plan to purchase fireworks this year or know someone who will be, the Christian Education Assistance group would truly appreciate your patronage.

2011 POGO CARDS – The Christian Education Assistance group is again selling POGO cards as a fund raiser. Contact either Dan Hans or Mike DeWitt if you would like to purchase a card. Pictures and additional information regarding the cards can be found on the web at www.pogocard.com.

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.



Prayer Requests

Expecting Mothers:

Amy Novak

Our Shut-Ins:

Esther Elfring, Julia Chomos, Eleanor Heinbigner

Those with Health Concerns:

Braeden Ems, Chloe McClure, Rawly Wrobliski (blood clot in leg)

Outreach:

Christian Education, Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Africa missions

Our Mission Churches:

Chico, CA; La Habra, CA; Vermillion, SD; Bentonville, AR; Sherman, TX; new work in Minneapolis, MN; the Bible Study Group in Omaha, NE