



Daily Devotional

Scripture Reading: [Luke 6:1-11](#)

Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Luke 6:5

The Jewish Talmud (a rabbinic commentary on the Law of Moses) listed 39 kinds of work that were not permitted on the Sabbath. Of those 39, the third one barred reaping and the fifth one outlawed threshing grain on the Sabbath. So in the eyes of the Pharisees, Jesus' disciples committed two sins. They picked heads of grain (reaping), and then they separated the grain from the heads (threshing, by rubbing them in their hands) in order to eat the grain.

Jesus also healed many sick people on the Sabbath. The Pharisees thought that was a terrible violation too.

Jesus moved his followers to think in new ways about the Sabbath, not to dishonor it but to understand its real purpose. For he said, "The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

The Sabbath points to full life in God's presence forever, in which we rest from toil and struggle but also live fully, as God intended (see Genesis 2; Hebrews 4; Revelation 21-22). This means we not only work hard all week but also take a break to thank and worship God, and to pray together, and to give to people in need, and to do good. Each day we are also to rest from our sinful ways and seek to live God's way, as his Spirit guides us. (See Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 103.) Keeping Sabbath is not obeying man-made rules. It's a new Spirit-led, transformed life!

Prayer:

Father, we know that true observation of the Sabbath comes not from the world but from you. Help us to find true rest in you and to become more Christlike each day. In Jesus, Amen.

Jang Ho Park



Pastor's Report

The Belgic Confession

The Belgic Confession is one of our Three Forms of Unity, and thus, a standard of our church. We confess this standard to be an apt summary of God's Word. The Belgic Confession was written in 1561 by Guido de Bres. Thus, 2011 is the 450th Anniversary of the writing of the Belgic. I thought it might be nice for us to spend 2011 looking over the Belgic Confession in these little notes from the pastor, but in order to look at all of the Belgic, I have to start now even though it is not yet 2011. And there is no better place to start than with a brief history of Guido and his confession.

In 1561 there was no country of Belgium. Both modern day Belgium and the Netherlands were part of Spain oddly enough. Spain was fiercely Roman Catholic and one of the first countries to institute the bloody Inquisition to suppress the Reformation. This led both the Netherlands and Belgium to often rise in rebellion in an attempt to earn their freedom. Charles the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain had killed 50,000 in an attempt to quell these religious rebellions, but so far had not. Now his son Philip was King of Spain and desired to kill even more than his father. It is into these circumstances that Guido de Bres in 1522.

Guido grew up poor, the son of cloth dyer, and the 5th child at that. Guido broke with the church at Rome and followed the Reformation desiring for the Bible alone to be his guide and rule. He traveled to England for more training and to avoid persecution in 1548, but could not stay away for long. He returned to be a preacher in 1552. De Bres had to flee from the armies of Spain and the Inquisition in 1556, and he studied under Theodore Beza and John Calvin. He married in 1559 and then went back to be the minister of the Reformed Church at Doornik. It was in this city he wrote the Belgic Confession. The Spanish took possession of this city, and de Bres threw a copy of his confession over the wall for the Spanish officials to find. This made him public enemy #1. De Bres fled to France when things got to hot, but he continued to return despite the great risk to his life. Finally, he was captured in 1566, and then was executed in 1567 for his Reformed faith.

It is in this context that our beautiful expression of Biblical truth is written. Over the next several months, I hope we will grow in our knowledge of the Lord, our own Standards, and appreciation for the Belgic Confession.

Rev. Lee Johnson



Consistory Meeting Minutes

July 8th, 2010

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

Absent: Deacon Rich Novak

At 7:18 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

The meeting was opened with devotions from Micah 4:1-5 and prayer.

The minutes from the prior monthly meeting were read. A correction was noted in that Rev. Embree filled the St. John's pulpit on Sunday, June 27th rather than Elder Davis. The minutes were adopted as corrected by common consent.

A motion was made to purchase 2 new kid's tables to replace the ones in the large classroom. The motion was seconded and carried.

Regarding the garage door at the parsonage, Rev. Johnson reported that he was able to correct the problem and that the door is now working.

The May and June month-end Treasurer's reports were presented by the treasurer and reviewed by the Consistory.

- Checking account balance as of June 30 - \$26,869.47
- Certificate Of Deposit balance as of June 30 - \$5,989.18
- Deacon's Fund balance as of June 30 - \$3,231.00
- Building Fund balance as of June 30 - (\$3,605.59)
- The 1st quarter Synod and Classis guidelines have not yet been paid.
- A motion was made to pay the 2nd quarter Synod and Classis guidelines. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to adopt the May and June Treasurer's reports. The motion was seconded and carried.

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

- July 10 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- July 11 - Pastor Johnson to fill the pulpit at Hope church in Sutton
- July 24 - Church picnic (pot-luck) and Frisbee Golf - Roper Park Shelter #2
- July 26-30 - Heidelberg Youth Camp
- August 2-6 - Vacation Bible School
- August 27-28 - Heidelberg Conference
- September 3-4 - Kyle Lindgren wedding
- October - Missionfest with Rev. Joe Vusich (from Emanuel Church, Sutton NE)

By common consent the Consistory agreed to move the next meeting of the Consistory to August 12th due to scheduling conflicts with VBS.

Rev. Johnson reported that the insurance company has been contacted to have an adjuster inspect the roof for hail damage.

A request was received to have a new screen door put on the main entry door of the parsonage. The existing door will first be checked to see if it can be screened.

The schedule for the Heidelberg Conference is: Friday, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. followed by refreshments; Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. followed by a meal.

Rev. Johnson agreed to contact the Daily Nebraskan, the Near South Neighborhood Asscn., and other media to advertise the Heidelberg conference.

Rev. Johnson stated that he had recently reorganized the library and will provide additional book suggestions to the Consistory for possible purchase. There is currently \$178 in the Library Fund.

Regarding advertising in the Omaha area, the Consistory agreed to drop the item from the agenda since there is no longer a contact person in the area.

Additional discussion was held regarding the 5-year plan.

Elder Melvin Burbach agreed to update the Church Building Use policy and provide a draft to the Consistory.

By common consent the Consistory agreed to drop the price of Pogo cards to \$5/card and to place a notice in the bulletin.

At 9:28 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

Upcoming Events:

- 07/11:
 - [Sunday School & Fellowship \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 07/18:
 - [Sunday School & Fellowship \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [55 and Over Potluck Dinner \(12:00 pm\)](#)
- 07/19:
 - [Women's Fellowship \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 07/24:
 - [Church Picnic & Frisbee Golf \(12:00 pm\)](#)
- 07/25:
 - [Sunday School & Fellowship \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 07/26:
 - [Heidelberg Youth Camp \(6:00 am\)](#)
- 08/1:
 - [Sunday School & Fellowship \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Synod & Classis Offering \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 08/2:
 - [Vacation Bible School \(6:00 pm\)](#)
- 08/8:
 - [Sunday School & Fellowship \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [The Lord's Supper \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Deacon's Fund Offering \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Vacation Bible School Program \(4:00 pm\)](#)
- 08/12:
 - [Consistory Meeting \(7:00 pm\)](#)



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.



Prayer Requests

Our Shut-Ins:

Esther Elfring, Julia Chomos, Eleanor Heinbigner

Those with Health Concerns:

Braeden Ems, Chloe McClure, TJ (nephew of Mike DeWitt), Jamie Burbach's father

Those in the Armed Forces:

Paul Embree – Kuwait

Michael Philips – Marine Reserves, Omaha

David Burbach – Full-time Marine, Pendleton, CA

Ashley Bergantzel – Army National Guard, Lincoln

Jacob Bergantzel – Army National Guard

Dr. Michael Burbach – National Guard

Expecting Mothers:

Jenny Jo Johnson

Outreach:

Africa missions, Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Christian Education

Our Mission Churches:

Chico, CA; La Habra, CA; Greeley, CO; Vermillion, SD; Bentonville, AR; the bible study groups in Texas and Pennsylvania