



Daily Devotional

Scripture Reading: [Hebrews 1:1-4](#)

In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son ...

Hebrews 1:2

When we are away from family and friends, it's good to keep in touch with them. Today we can do that by phone, text message, e-mail, Facebook—and even by the old method of sending postcards or letters.

God's message comes to us in his Word, the Bible. And the Word of God has become flesh in the person of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-5, 9-14). As believers today, we can now hear and receive and live by the Word of God, and we experience something of the life God intended for us when he created the universe.

In the Old Testament God spoke through the prophets, but that communication was often limited to the situations of the people in those days. Prophets were spokespeople for God; Jesus is the Son of God. Prophets grasped part of the mind of God; Jesus is the mind of God. What more can be said than what God has spoken to us through his Son?

There are many ways in which God continues to communicate to us through Jesus, by the power of his Spirit. Today God's Word is proclaimed all over the world. May people receive it for what it really is: good news that opens us to new life with God. Daily we read Scripture not simply for information but to hear how God is directing and sustaining us through his Son. As we follow Jesus, we also learn to pray and work, spreading the good news of salvation to build up the kingdom of God.

Prayer:

"Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone." Bring your Word to reach into all our hearts, that we may live by the truth. Amen.

Gerrit J. Bomhof



Pastor's Report

The Belgic Confession

Last month we began our series on The Belgic Confession by looking at its history. Now we can start examining its teachings. And the Belgic Confession begins with God. It begins with the incontrovertible fact that God exists and that fact changes all things. Many other confessions like the Westminster Confession of Faith for example begin with Scripture as the place where we derive our knowledge about God before speaking of God himself. But the Belgic begins with the existence of God, which Romans 1:19-20 tells us that even the unbelievers know. His nature and existence can be "clearly perceived" by everyone. Then Article 2 begins to tell us how it is we know God. Article 2 gives us two ways creation and Scripture, the latter is stated to be where God is made "more clearly and full known to us". The former is in line with what the Bible teaches in Psalm 19 that the heavens declare the glory of God. The Belgic will talk of Scripture, but it is not the starting point. The starting point is God.

This is important to us for a couple of reasons. One, we need to remember that the Belgic is not just some document. It is our confession of faith. That is why Article 1 begins, "We all believe with the heart and confess with the mouth". This is our confession. Our faith. And our faith is founded on God, thus, our confession begins there. That leads us to the second point. Two, God's existence changes everything. God's existence puts all of mankind in the same position. It teaches us that we ourselves are not God, and thus, we are to be in some sort of relationship with this God. God the creator makes all men dependent on Him. We owe our existence to God. Thus, we ought to live as He would have us live. This fact should begin the confession because it is what all men already know, but suppress in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:21-23), and it is what demands from us that we listen. It demands from all mankind a decision. This is why unbelievers work so hard to avoid the concept of God, to deny that He is the creator. If God is the creator and exists, then they must obey Him or be His enemy. Evolution is such a fiercely guarded concept for unbelievers because without it they are left with the fact: God exists, and He created us all. This ruins their worldview, their ability to try and live a life of sin without guilt. This is why it is a wonderful truth to start our confession of faith.

Rev. Lee Johnson



Consistory Meeting Minutes

August 12th, 2010

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

Absent: Deacons Rich Novak and Ben Torell; Elder Melvin Burbach

At 7:09 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

The meeting was opened with devotions from Psalm 119:97-104 and prayer.

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

Regarding the request for a new screen door at the parsonage, Rev. Johnson stated that he had found the screen panel and that a new door will not be needed.

Regarding replacement of the kid's tables in the large classroom, Deacon Hans reported that he could not find new tables to meet our needs but that he will continue researching.

No Treasurer's report was available for review.

A check was received from State Farm Insurance for hail damage to the parsonage and the church building. By common consent the consistory chose not to deposit the check until further information can be obtained.

The insurance company will need to be contacted to make sure they are aware that the roof on the west side of the church building was replaced in the fall of 2006. This may result in a lesser depreciation amount.

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

- August 27, 28 - Heidelberg Conference
- September 3, 4 - Kyle Lindgren wedding
- September 12 - Church picnic at the Hans residence
- September 12 - Return to regular schedule
- October 17 - Missionfest with Rev. Joe Vusich (from Emanuel Church, Sutton NE)

The schedule for the Heidelberg Conference is: Friday, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The two Reformed churches in Sutton have been notified as well as a number of Lincoln churches including Faith OPC, Zion PCA, and Hope RCA. Advertising will be done through the KGBI radio broadcast station, the Daily Nebraskan, and possibly the Omaha World Herald.

The following schedule was discussed and approved by common consent.

- Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
- Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
- Sunday, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. - Youth Discipleship
- Sunday, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. - Bible Study
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. - Catechism
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. - Kid's Quest

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting of the Consistory will be moved to Saturday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m.

The consistory was reminded that a Building Fund collection is scheduled for August 29th.

At 8:27 p.m. a motion was made by Elder Heinbigner to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Calendar

Upcoming Events:

- 08/27:
 - [Heidelberg Conference – The Alpha and The Omega \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 08/28:
 - [Heidelberg Conference – The Alpha and The Omega \(10:00 am\)](#)
- 08/29:
 - [Sunday School & Fellowship \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [Building Fund Offering \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 09/5:
 - [Sunday School & Fellowship \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [Synod & Classis Offering \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
- 09/11:
 - [New Members Class \(4:30 pm\)](#)
 - [Consistory Meeting \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 09/12:
 - [Sunday School \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Church Picnic \(12:00 pm\)](#)
- 09/15:
 - [Catechism and KIDS' QUEST \(6:30 pm\)](#)
- 09/19:
 - [Sunday School \(9:30 am\)](#)
 - [Worship Service \(10:30 am\)](#)
 - [Christian Senior Navigators \(12:00 pm\)](#)
 - [Youth Discipleship Group \(4:00 pm\)](#)
 - [Bible Study \(7:00 pm\)](#)
- 09/20:
 - [Women's Fellowship \(7:00 pm\)](#)



Nursery Schedule 2010

July	4	Hannah D. Joseph D.	Oct.	3	Jennifer O. Sarah D.
	11	Deb L. Sarah D.		10	Hannah D. Hailey D.
	18	Arlene H. Kirin D.		17	Arlene H. Kirin D.
	25	Jenny Jo Nellie B.		24	Katelyn B. Nellie B.
				31	Jamie B. John B.
Aug	1	Marilyn J. John B.	Nov.	7	Vicki D. Joseph D.
	8	Jamie B. Hailey D.		14	Jodi D Martha B.
	15	Sheryl B. Grant B.		21	Sheryl B. Grant B.
	22	Natalie T. Connor V.		28	Natalie T. Espen
	29	Christie V. Martha B.			
Sept.	5	Jodi D. Kaylee S.	Dec.	5	Deb B. Sarah D.
	12	Amy N. Phillip B.		12	Cathy Hailey D.
	19	Shirley A. John B.		19	Amy N. Kirin D.
	26	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

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 – Iraq

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