

PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH

September 8, 2024; All this the Lord willing

Sept 11: Providence/RCA meeting 7 PM

Sept 14: Pig Roast at Meeuwse Farm 12 Noon

Sept 17: Consistory Meeting

Sept 18: Titus 2

Sept 25: Prayer Meeting – Jim Bazen

Collection Schedule

Today: General CEF

Sept 15: General Building

Nursery Schedule

Today: AM Heidi Schipper, Kristen Bazen, Trevor Schipper

PM Faith VanderBoon, Morgan Kwekel, Kate Boerkoel

Sept 15: AM Paula Rozeboom, Charity VanderBoon, David Barnard

PM Allison Kelderman, Gloria VanderBoon, Liam Schipper

Sept 22: AM Maria Verbeek, Mairi Heikoop, Mya Schipper

PM Kim Boerkoel, Trudy Rozeboom, Joel VanderBoon

Family Visitation

Sept 10: Bob Boerkoel family, Silvia Boerkoel, Phillip Boerkoel 7PM;

Pastor Pronk family, Matthias Pronk 8:15PM

Sept 19: Brian Dykema family 7PM; Mark Hoffmann family 8:15PM

Sept 24: Faith VanderBoon family 7PM; Don VanderBoon family, Gloria

VanderBoon, Charity VanderBoon, Donny VanderBoon 8:15PM

Youth Group

Tonight: Singalong at R. Hoogmoed's house

Sept 22: Singalong at J. Schipper's house

Announcements

- Catechism classes begin today. We will meet for the opening of catechism classes in the main auditorium at 11AM.
- Confession of Faith classes will start soon. Please contact Pastor Pronk if you are interested in attending.
- There will be a Pig Roast at the Meeuwse Farm on Saturday Sept 14 beginning at 12 Noon for the benefit of Timotheos. Please make checks payable to Timotheos USA.
- All women and girls are invited to a birthday luncheon for Anna Pronk on Saturday Sept 28 at 11AM. Details to follow. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Metty Boerkoel 616-724-0821 or Ruth Hoogmoed 616-295-6222 by Monday Sept 16.
- Heritage Voices Choir invites those with a gift for singing to join them. Choir practice starts on Monday, Sept 9, at 7:30PM.

Meditation

The Seven Letters.

With Revelation 4, we are granted a glimpse into the heavenly throne room, a sight that is too wonderful to describe, too great to comprehend, yet so necessary to ponder and hold onto in our daily church life, in the life of the church in the end times, the time between ascension and return. We have just pondered the seven epistles dictated and written by Christ to the church of all times and places. These letters reveal that Christ knows the church in all its facets. The prevailing image is one of tension, turmoil, struggle, suffering, temptation, and lack. In Ephesus, the first love was forsaken, and the church was called to repentance. It is a church where there is devotion and works, but love is lacking. But what are we without love? In Smyrna, there was tribulation and persecution from without. There was bitter suffering emanating from the devil, yes, from Satan's synagogue. In Pergamos, some had fallen to the temptations around them and compromised with the world. In Thyatira, there was tolerance for those who lived utterly worldly lives. The church did not practice discipline and was not pure and clean. In Sardis there was deficiency before the LORD, weighed, and found wanting. The church there is dying. The word has sounded and is heard, but it is not kept. The church there wears stained garments. At Philadelphia, they did not keep what God had given in their little strength. At Laodicea, there is a very complacent and disgustingly mediocre congregation. She thinks she has everything, but she has nothing. That is the picture of the church in the end times—a picture of tension, turmoil, struggle, suffering, temptation, and lack. It would make you despondent. Oh yes, the Lord also praises the good in the churches and gives counsel, but in the meantime, the picture of the church also shows so much tension, turmoil, struggle, suffering, temptation, and lack. How does the church endure in everyday life? We can become despondent with struggle and temptation. But isn't this recognizable in the church's life today and in our personal lives? There is, thank God, still much good in the church, but there is also so much struggle, lack, and failure. What worldliness, a lack of purity and discipline, a lack of love and devotion, what sins, and there is complacency. But if we stay closer to ourselves, isn't this image also recognizable? Faith is not always in the bag! There is the battle with sin, and certainly not always victories are won there. There is suffering with sickness, grief, and mourning. How are we holding up? Are we headed in the right direction? However, the epistles also teach us that God is faithful and reigns! The church is His work. And despite all the shortcomings and weaknesses, He is faithful to His church and to all those local congregations. God has a plan with this world, with His church, and with His people.

Rev. J.Th. Pronk