

Harvest Community this week

This Lord's Day, July 19

9a – 'War of Words' Bible Class for all ages

10a – Worship. Heb 5:9-14; Mark 3:7-35; Gen 24:29-58

6p – Worship. Ps 138:4-6; Jer 12; Rom 9:14-18. Craig De Haan leading.

Afterparty the Hakims'

Wednesday, July 22

7p – Prayer Meeting, Psalm 40:6-10

Next Lord's Day, July 26

9a – 'War of Words' Bible Class for all ages

10a – Worship. Heb 6:1-8; Mark 4:1-20; Gen 24:59-67

6p – Worship. Ps 145:1-4; Jer 13; Rom 9:19-23. Gary Vander Plaats leading.

Afterparty at ??? [contact James to get your name put here!]

July Servants' Rotation: Greeting—Coopers; Coffee—Marlo Fedders family; Nursery—Bob; Cleaning—Van Essendelft family

You may contact Harvest by phone (712-395-0983), email (church@harvestoc.net), or post (209 1st St. NE, OC, Iowa, 51041). **If you would like information, prayer, counsel, or some other assistance please contact one of our elders:**

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The Lord's Day, July 19, 2009

"Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son."

Genesis 24:48

"So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy."

Romans 9:16

Welcome, Announcements, and Preparation

Call to Worship – Hebrews 5:9-14 (Pew Bible, p1003)

Here is the milk, the basic principles of our faith, described one way: Jesus was made our perfect Priest—meaning He completed every last particle of what was necessary for the salvation of sinners. So everyone who believes in Jesus receives from Him and through Him salvation eternal, salvation perfect, salvation forever!

Here also is the promise that this eternal salvation includes growth in richer and meatier understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done as our priest. There is nothing beyond Jesus, but we begin now and look forward to an eternity of knowing Him more and more solidly forever!

And through what does this ever deeper, richer, more solid knowledge of Jesus come? Hearing the oracles of God, skill in the Word of righteousness, training our ability to discern good from evil by constant practice. Remembering, then the admonitions of chapters 3 and 4, we find that in the glorious worship of God through Jesus, Jesus our Prophet is giving us the very thing by which we get to know Him better as Priest: the hearing of His own voice. Praise be to Jesus!

^{STANDING} Song – #66, *God Is Known Among His People*

Let us then sing God's praise, whose mighty and saving arm have won our salvation, whose mighty and sanctifying voice declares Himself to us in worship—God is known among His people; O people of God, let's worship Him!

^{STANDING} Prayer for Help

Let us pray for the help of the Spirit of God, who alone gives true knowledge of Him!

^{UNISON} Serial Reading – Mark 3:7-35 (Pew Bible, p838)

Mark continues confronting us with Jesus' authority and identity: authority over disease and demons, because He is the Son of God. We even see the astonishing claim that Jesus has bound Satan and is now plundering Satan's kingdom.

How does He choose to exercise this authority and power? By choosing and sending preachers to start a church, the new Spiritual family of Jesus. Such family

members "do God's will" by listening to Jesus, confessing Him as God, and coming to Him for their healing. There is no sin that can damn such a person. And there is no righteousness that can save anyone else!

^{STANDING} Song – #154, *Thou Art the Way*

^{STANDING} Song – #156, *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

Let us therefore sing of Jesus, our only Savior, a Savior so great that no sin or power is beyond His authority or ability to bind and destroy in redeeming us!

Congregational Prayer

We know our complete dependence upon God's mercy and help, and we therefore have many praises and requests to make before Him. Since we are invited to make them known to Him, let us all give heart, mind, and will as we are led in prayer.

^{STANDING} Morning Sermon Text – Genesis 24:29-58 (Pew Bible, p18)

Morning Sermon – A Match Made in Heaven

The theme of the servant's message, the Nahorites' response, indeed the Holy Spirit's narration is that this is a match made in heaven. So, this morning we will be thinking about what it looks like on earth when marriages are made in heaven. What we find is leadership in the woman's family that involves Communication, Consideration, and Consecration.

^{STANDING} Song – #717, *Blest the Man That Feels Jehovah*

Let us respond, using Psalm 128 to sing our joyful confidence that when a home is led by a God-fearing man, such man will enjoy godly wife, children, and even church forever.

^{STANDING} Benediction

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} Parting Song – #717, vv4-5, "Lo, on him that fears Jehovah..."

PLEASE STAY FOR THE FELLOWSHIP MEAL AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE—LET US GREET AND WELCOME ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST!

Evening Worship Assembly, 6p.m.

Welcome, Announcements, and Preparation

Call to Worship – Psalm 138:4-6 (Pew Bible, p521)

What is that greatness and glory of God to which every knee will bow and of which every tongue will confess? That God Most High rightly puts off the haughty and graciously regards the lowly who make no pretense to having claim upon Him. Dear lowly people who know your sin and just desserts, let us give voice now to the great praise with which the kings of the earth shall give thanks—let us praise our God who has regarded our lowly estate!

^{STANDING} Song – #254, *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*

^{STANDING} Song – #660, *O God beyond All Praising*

Indeed, our Savior devoted His sacred head for such worms as we are. Is He not marvelous?! Is His work not mind-boggling?! Oh let us praise the God whose grace for the lowly is truly beyond all praising!

^{STANDING} Prayer for Help

Let us then pray for our great God's gracious aid to praise His greatness and grace!

^{UNISON} Serial Reading – Jeremiah 12 (Pew Bible, p640)

vv5-6 remind us that though we may (and must) be indignant with the wicked, we are never in a position to question the justice of God. Though all others doubt and oppose God, yet He alone is perfectly faithful and reliable; take sides with Him!

Note the tender images for Judah that we find in v7's judgments. They are still God's possession, treasure, and delight. And yet God is judging them. They lift up their voices (v2), but because their hearts prefer other things all it sounds like in God's ears is angry lion-roaring (v8). God rests the blame for this upon the Shepherds (v10) who have been preaching a false peace (cf. 2:8, 6:14, 6:17, 7:4-10, 8:8-11, 10:21)

Finally, note the astonishing grace of God. He begins to speak about plucking up evil neighbors in v14, and we expect a great judgment. What we find instead is inexplicable grace to this mixture of evil Gentiles and stubborn Jews in vv15-16. Yet, the 'plucking' of those who do not heed the word of Yahweh is for destruction.

^{STANDING} Song – #487, *In Thy Wrath and Hot Displeasure*

^{STANDING} Song – #460, *Amazing Grace*

So, let us sing God's justice in punishing sin, and God's amazing grace that teaches our hearts faith and repentance that we don't even deserve to have.

The Evening Prayer

Oh the rich blood of Christ that gains our direct access to the throne of grace! Let us with confidence draw near to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

^{STANDING} Evening Sermon Text – Romans 9:14-18 (Pew Bible, p945)

Evening Sermon – *The God Who Has Mercy*

Leave it to us humans to turn the wonderful truths of God on their head. We hear about election, and where we should be exclaiming, "Now THAT's MERCY!," we are instead complaining, "but that's unjust!"

This passage actually has comfort specifically for those who continue to struggle with this attitude, and encouragement for them to continue struggling in dependence upon God that they might believe its teaching, get past the sin barrier, and break through to see that the mercy of God is greater than they had previously imagined.

^{STANDING} Song – #463, *A Debtor to Mercy Alone*

^{STANDING} Song – #469, *How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place*

So let us sing of God's great mercy and our longing that He would fill His church with redeemed sinners to sing of this mercy and grace!

^{STANDING} Benediction

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} Parting Song – #469, vv5-6, *"Pity the nations, O our God..."*

*Immediately following worship, all are invited to a Lord's Day after-party at **the Hakims'** (217 3rd St NW). If you would like to host an after-party some week, let James know to put it in the worship booklet; thanks!*

Congregational Announcements

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP JO ELLEN KAUK'S FAMILY, please see Tami Kobza, who is coordinating it.

'WAR OF WORDS' IS THE INTERGENERATIONAL (i.e. for ALL ages) BIBLE CLASS THIS SUMMER. The psychologists are always talking about communication; but, this summer, we'll ask and answer: **what does GOD have to say about it?** This course of 12 half-hour lessons on DVD, with accompanying discussion, is a thorough study of Scripture on how we use our mouths. Not only is this a huge practical matter in areas like our children's discipleship, our love and faithfulness in marriage, the strength of our witness to the grace of Christ; but, **the Bible also tells us that our speech is a great battleground and proving ground for the issues of our heart**. We have a license to print as many of the discussion guides as we need. If you need **LARGE PRINT**, we can do that too. Also, if you wish to **purchase the book that teaches the same material more in depth, you can do so for \$10**—just ask Pastor James.

FRIDAY, JULY 31—OFFICER ELECTION AND CELEBRATION. When the congregation votes, we are not choosing the men we want but recognizing, *according to the Bible*, the men God has given us. Appropriately then, we will have some kind of celebration (cookout? bonfire? details to come) immediately following.

LARGE PRINT PEW BIBLES are now available. Please pick them up from the bookshelf nearest the door, and return them there after worship, so that they are readily available for the next people who need them.

THERE IS AN OFFERING BOX ON THE RESOURCE TABLE by which you may bring the tithes and offerings that we offer as we come to worship God through Jesus, our great High Priest (Heb 7).

DON'T FORGET MATT AND MAGGIE'S CAMP that is donating tableware and china for our use. If you would like to participate in a financial gift to the camp, please put a separate contribution in the offering box and designate it accordingly.

Prayer Requests

- Harvest's worship, evangelism, discipleship, elders, teachers, parents; officer training and election
- Our Presbytery, the PCA, the church around the world, particularly mission works and the persecuted church
- Our country, particularly those in high position
- Celestin—family, ministry to Muslims, efforts to help Congolese Presbyterians with farming
- MTW, SAT-7, MERF, ITEM, Gideons, Gospel for Asia, and other world mission works
- Robin – God's grace, mercy, and peace for everyone involved
- Heather Hakim – Jonathan Isaac and Beatrice Christi due end of November
- Phyllis Vanden Brink – getting medical care at Happy Siesta in Remsen
- Brother in law of JoAnn Vander Plaats and Darlene Fedders—waiting for results from bladder cancer chemo, newly discovered lung cancer
- Marlo and Darlene's friend with bone cancer
- The Rowenhorst Family—Randy's headaches; falls increasing, subsequent injuries
- Jo Ellen Kauk—brain aneurism, still hanging on; husband Mark and four boys
- Carla Van Essendelft's pregnancy, due October
- Jacob De Groot – air national guard school in Pensacola
- Jonathan Vander Plaats – refreshment and safe travel during time off
- Ron De Groot – looking for work; physical and spiritual progress, Christian friends