

Harvest Community this week

This Lord's Day, June 21

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

10a – Worship. Heb 4:3-9; Rev 22; Luk 16:19-31. Craig De Haan leading, Matt Van Essendelft preaching.

6p – Worship. Ps 136:1; Jer 8:4-9:9; Rom 8:38-39. Mark Fedders leading, Russ Herman preaching.

Afterparty at Gary and Jean Vander Plaats'

Wednesday, June 24

7p – Prayer Meeting, Psalm 37:32-40; elders' meeting immediately following

Saturday, June 27

Officer Examinations · Annual Congregational Meeting

Next Lord's Day, June 28

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

10a – Worship. Heb 4:10-13; Mark 1; Gen 24:10-28.

6p – Worship. Ps 136:2-4; Jer 9:10-26; Rom 9:1-5. Bob Hilbelink leading.

Afterparty at James and Heather Hakim's

June Servants' Rotation: Greeting—Gretchen; Coffee—Marlo Fedders family; Nursery—Bob; Cleaning—Tiedeman 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, June 21, 2009

"He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Luke 16:31

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Call to Worship – Hebrews 4:3-9 (Pew Bible, p1002)

We're not finally resting yet. That's one of the things that we learn from the continuation of a weekly Sabbath. Psalm 95, which Hebrews quotes here, was a psalm for assembled, congregational worship; it keeps saying "US" and "WE" to show that. And it makes a point by saying, "TODAY, when you hear His voice." Hebrews, as we have noted several times, is a recorded sermon from congregational worship; and, it uses the same "TODAY" as in Psalm 95. These verses specifically urge that we do not put our confidence in the fact that we are hearing the good news week to week (v6). As we do worship on these Sabbaths, let us "who have believed" rather have our confidence in Christ alone (v3)... a true faith, which produces the obedience mentioned at the end of v5. In worship, we rest in Christ!

^{STANDING} **Song – #392, O Day of Rest and Gladness**

^{STANDING} **Song – #518, Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground**

What a gift this day is, when God gathers us to Himself as a congregation, fixing our eyes on our final rest through His Word in worship! And the faith with which we worship is not our initial bit of effort that gets the ball rolling. It is the gift of God in Christ, and its obedience comes by the resurrection power of Christ! Let us sing these things together.

^{STANDING} **Prayer for Help**

Let us therefore thank God for giving us Christ, and ask that our worship would be accepted through Him and powered by Him through the work of His Spirit.

^{UNISON} **Serial Reading – Revelation 22** (Pew Bible, p1041)

Reading this chapter, the believer comes away impressed with how very important are "the words of this book." Indeed, by God's Word He created everything, by His Word He upholds all things at all times, by His Word He gives faith and justifies, by His Word He sanctifies, and by His Word He will re-create the world for His people, the new creatures!

What a glorious gift it is that He has given us His Words not just passed on by mouth, not in a subjective, unverifiable, mystical way, but written down in a book! As Peter rejoices, in 2Pet 1:18-20, God's words in the Scriptures are more sure than they are spoken from Heaven on the mountain!

And what, specifically, has been so sure in this chapter (and in the book of Revelation as a whole)? That glory is so amazingly good that it puts Eden to shame (vv1-5), that Jesus is coming soon to finalize it (vv12-13), and that He offers it freely to anyone who will receive this Word (v17)—a Word through which He they will also be made clean and ready for when Jesus comes (vv14-15, cf. Isa 61:10, Zech 3:1-4, Matt 22:10-12, Rev 21:1-11).

^{STANDING} **Song – #316, The Mighty God, the Lord**

Using the words of Psalm 50, this song tells the story of all of human history in three verses that summarize Revelation 22: God has spoken in His Word, calling people to His own glory; and, He is coming as the great Judge who will at last be exalted in the congregation of all those whom He has redeemed and sanctified. As we sing this Psalm together, let our hearts cry be: "Come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

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 to doing just that as we are led in prayer.

^{STANDING} **Morning Sermon Text – Luke 16:19-31** (Pew Bible, p876)

Morning Sermon – The Sufficiency of Scripture

Nothing can convince the sinner to trust in Jesus and be saved. Nothing can convince him to hate his sin and love eternal pleasures, namely the pleasures of God Himself and being pleasing to God. Not even the Bible.

That's the alarming truth of this passage. But this alarming truth has a correspondingly amazing truth: God does by His own power—out of pure, free grace—what nothing, not even the Bible can do. And since He testifies, all over the Bible, that it IS His Word that He uses to do this saving, Jesus uses it as a litmus test: "If the Bible doesn't have a saving effect on them, nothing will."

That's what it comes down to: if we really think we are saved ONLY by God's power; then that trust will be demonstrated by our using ONLY God's method. So, it is marvelous, wonderful, beautiful news that God Himself tells us that His Word is sufficient!

^{STANDING} **Song – #303, Blessed Jesus, at Your Word**

Let us therefore sing our dependence upon God, even as we attend to His method for saving and sanctifying us: His Word!

^{STANDING} **Closing Prayer**

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} **Announcements, Parting Song – #731, Doxology**

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

Evening Worship Assembly, 6p.m.

Call to Worship – Psalm 136:1 (Pew Bible, p520)

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in: His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. And in His Word, though He highlights these all, He gives a place of special honor to His goodness. And so we are called tonight to worship with this command: “Give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good!” What is the greatest evidence of this goodness? His intentional, free, unearned, committed, unstoppable, self-sacrificial, persevering, unthwartable love endures forever!! What glorious incentive to worship!

^{STANDING} **Song – #76, Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven**

This paraphrase from Psalm 103 does exactly what our call to worship has commanded us: praise the King of Heaven with special emphasis upon His love and grace!

^{STANDING} **Prayer for Help**

Let us then praise God together for calling us to worship, and pray His grace to aid us in it!

^{UNISON} **Serial Reading – Jeremiah 8:4-9:9** (Pew Bible, p636)

In this section, God is making a case for the necessity of and the severity of the judgment (8:10a, 14-17; 9:7-9) that He is about to bring upon Judah, the remnant of His visible church. The case amounts to this: the only thing that they are consistent at is their sin (8:4-5), and they never even pause out of remorse (8:6, 12).

How did God’s people arrive at such a terrible state? They don’t know God’s law (8:7), their teachers make His law a lie (8:8, i.e. that they are not actually obligated to it), their “wise men” have rejected Yahweh’s Word (8:9), and if anyone does come under conviction, their prophets and priest are quick to tell them that they’re really ok (8:10-11).

THIS attitude toward God’s law has brought about THIS absence of repentance, and so an absence of fruitfulness (v13). And this brings cleansing (9:7) by fierce discipline (8:14-17).

For Jeremiah, this is cause for great grief (8:18, 20-21), but even his calls to turn to Yahweh are met with even more idolatry (8:19)! The question in 8:22 is ironic, because his own, rejected ministry is the one for which he cries out. The twin terrors of the coming judgment (9:1) and continued godlessness (9:2-6) bury the poor prophet’s head in grief.

^{STANDING} **Song – #496, Kind and Merciful God, We Have Sinned**

^{STANDING} **Song – #461, Not What My Hands Have Done**

Let us then sing our sorrowing confession of sin and joyful confidence in forgiveness through Christ and Christ alone!

The Evening Prayer

As we have heard of the greatness of God’s majesty and mercy, His wrath and His grace, His holiness and power to make us holy... as we have come face to face with our complete dependence upon Him in the Lord Jesus Christ, so let us now express that dependence together as we are led in the evening prayer.

^{STANDING} **Evening Sermon Text – Romans 8:38-39** (Pew Bible, p945)

Evening Sermon – Love that Cannot Be Broken

Being more than a conqueror is glorious, but it’s not the height of the glory in this wonderful chapter. Although God’s love wins for us many blessings—indeed, every blessing—we find in the end that the greatest of these blessings is God Himself. And so it is the love of God that is the great jewel at the height of this summit; we reach the top, and we find that God gives us Himself, His love, in Christ, and nothing can take it away, make it wane, or interrupt it. Death and resurrection are great cataclysms, but they make no blip in God’s love for us. Angels have great power; rulers have great authority; but, neither can so much as move us a millimeter’s space from the center of God’s love in Christ. And that’s just the first few words of the text. What wondrous love is this!

^{STANDING} **Song – #261, What Wondrous Love Is This**

^{STANDING} **Song – #478, I Love to Tell the Story**

Let us then respond with these two songs, from opposite ends of the musical spectrum: one contemplating what God’s love cost Him, and the other rejoicing to announce it to the world—and both insisting that we shall continue singing of this FOREVER!

^{STANDING} **Closing Prayer**

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} **Parting Song – #478, v4 only, “I love to tell the story, for those who...”**

*Immediately following worship, all are invited to a Lord’s Day after-party at **the Vander Plaats’ (2520 460th St., East of Ireton)**. If you would like to host an after-party some week, let James know to put it in the worship booklet; thanks!*

Congregational Announcements

‘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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27—OFFICER EXAMS AND ANNUAL MEETING. Please mark your calendars for that day. Officer exams will be first, so that the elders can announce the approved candidates as part of the business of the meeting.

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.

FREE ONLINE ESV STUDY BIBLE ACCESS. Pastor James has an extra account code for the ESVSB online. This gives you access anywhere in the world to the entire content of the Study Bible, online audio ESV, and your own notes that you add. This code came with purchase of his most recent Bible, but he already has an account from his old one. If you would like it, please let him know.

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).

Prayer Requests

- Harvest’s worship, evangelism, discipleship, elders, teachers, parents; officer training and election
- General Assembly (pastors Bob and James will be gone there June 15-22)
- The church around the world—especially the persecuted church, the PCA, our Presbytery, our children
- Our visitors, our community, our country, the world; particularly the poor.
- Celestin—family, ministry to Muslims, efforts to help Congolese Presbyterians with farming
- MTW, SAT-7, MERF, ITEM, Gideons, Gospel for Asia, other world mission works
- Ron and JoAnn Vander Plaats—lingering illnesses
- Adam and Kim Doughan – expecting any day now
- Robin – God’s grace, mercy, and peace for everyone involved
- Heather Hakim – twins due end of November
- Maggie Laverman’s grandmother – praise for improved health and situation
- Brother in law of JoAnn Vander Plaats and Darlene Fedders—waiting for results from bladder cancer chemo, newly discovered lung cancer
- Joel De Groot – continued recovery after successful cancer removal surgery
- Marlo and Darlene’s friend with bone cancer
- The Rowenhorst Family—Randy’s falls increasing, subsequent injuries
- Carla Van Essendelft’s pregnancy, due October
- Jacob De Groot – air national guard school in Pensacola
- Jonathan Vander Plaats – completed Africa mercy mission, safe travel home
- Ron De Groot – looking for work, physical and spiritual progress, Christian friends

Community Announcements

Host Family Needed for Tanzanian exchange student. After she applied and was accepted and placed at MOC-FV, her previous host family notified IRIS that they could no longer host her. See the notice on the building bulletin board for more information.

OCCS Report Cards can be picked up at the OCCS office. The office is open every morning from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.