

Harvest Community this week

This Lord's Day, August 30

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

10a – **Worship.** Heb 7:4-5; Mark 7:1-23; Gen 25:27-34

6p – **Worship.** Ps 146:1-2; Jer 17:12-18; Rom 9:30-10:4. Mark Fedders leading.
Afterparty at the Vander Plaats'

Wednesday, September 2

7p – **Prayer Meeting,** Psalm 42:6b-11

8p – **Elders' Stated Meeting** for September

Next Lord's Day, September 6

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

10a – **Worship.** Heb 7:6-8; Mark 7:24-8:10; Gen 25:27-34; The Lord's Supper

11:30a – **Monthly Fellowship Meal**

6p – **Worship.** Ps 146:4-7a; Jer 17:19-27; Rom 10:5-9. Craig De Haan leading.
Afterparty at [your name here; have it at your house!]

September Servants' Rotation: Greeting—De Haans; Coffee—Hibmas; Cry Room—Postema; Cleaning—Vander Plaats

You may contact Harvest by phone (712-395-0983), post (209 1st St. NE, OC, Iowa, 51041), or email (church@harvestoc.net). **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, August 30, 2009

If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.

Genesis 4:7

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Romans 10:4

Welcome, Announcements, and Preparation

Call to Worship – Hebrews 7:4-5 (Pew Bible, p1004)

See how great this man was! As you came to worship today, you didn't come empty-handed. You put money into that box in the back. Why? Israelites brought their money to set before the Levitical priests, who went between them and God. Abraham set his tithes before Melchizedek, who was so great that he went between God and Abraham. And yet Melchizedek's staggering greatness, that he would intercede for Abraham, only anticipated the greatness of Jesus' Priesthood. When we bring tithes in Christian worship, we set the money before Jesus Himself. If Hebrews 7:4 could say, "see how great this man was" about Melchizedek, how much more should we say it about Jesus! As you come and put your money in, week by week, rejoice in your hearts that in the worship that is about to take place, Jesus Himself is the Priest!!

^{STANDING} Song – #265, Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

The resurrection is the foundation of the message of the book of Hebrews: that on the Lord's Day, Jesus stands amidst His own, bestowing peace that passes understanding!

^{STANDING} Prayer for Help

Let us pray that Jesus would indeed mediate the service in glory that our worship would be accepted there and send His Spirit upon us on earth that what we do here might be pleasing to Him.

Serial Reading – Mark 7:1-23 (Pew Bible, p842)

Jesus here exposes traditions as places where we are in danger of what last week's sermon called "the Satanic shortcut." Dedicating money to God looks quite noble, but it is wicked to do so at the cost of not honoring your father and mother. After all, God doesn't need our help to build His kingdom; we should look first to obey Him! Likewise, eating with washed hands off of washed plates sounds like a good idea; but, if we put our confidence there, we are doomed, for our true defilement comes out of our hearts, not into our stomachs. This presents a problem: if the filthiness is not "out there" but in our hearts, which are unknowable and incurable (Jer 17:9), how can we ever be clean? The solution? Jesus' own blood on the cross, and His resurrection power in our lives!

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

How are sick-hearted people, such as we all are, to follow good traditions with a good heart that desires traditions for their help in obeying God? The Lord Jesus Christ is the ground of all such hope. Let us sing His praise, rejoicing in His blood and resurrection!

Congregational Prayer

So then let us ask Him to do what pleases 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. We've been plodding through our prayer list slowly in order to give more attention to particular requests, coming this week to the circumstances of those who worship with us and their loved ones.

^{STANDING} Morning Sermon Text – Genesis 25:27-34 (Pew Bible, p20)

Morning Sermon – Sin: Hunter of Gamers and Hunters

So far, we have opened up this text to find the tragedy of worldliness in Esau and of slow-boiling jealousy in Jacob. This morning, we pause to take a closer look at how sin hunts and traps us, and what are some of the Biblical solutions to it, including the ultimate Biblical solution—the blood and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

^{STANDING} Song – In Christ Alone

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song!
This Cornerstone, this Solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone!—Who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the world He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death—This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

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^{STANDING} Benediction

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} Parting Song – In Christ Alone v4, "No guilt in life, no fear in death..."

Please stay for fellowship after the worship service, enjoying cake provided by Gary and Joan Vander Hart, together with other refreshments in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Evening Worship Assembly, 6p.m.

Welcome, Announcements, and Preparation

Call to Worship – Psalm 146:1-2 (Pew Bible, p525)

The first “praise Yahweh” is plural—this is a corporate command. The rest of these verses, however, are singular—showing how each individual is to function within this one action of the whole. This is the purpose of our life: the praise of Yahweh. This is the purpose of our existence: the praise of Yahweh. So, let each of us give our soul such commands, and let each of us resolve indeed to fulfill the purpose of our life and existence. And if this is each individual’s purpose, how much more is it the purpose of the entire community of redeemed worshippers as a whole! Harvest Community Church, praise Yahweh!!

^{STANDING} **Song – #57, Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul**

As we hear the calls to worship through Psalm 146, let us take up this God-given song to sound out our joyful praise to the God that made us, saved us, heals us, and glorifies us!

^{STANDING} **Prayer for Help**

And let us pray for our great God’s gracious aid to praise His greatness and grace!

Serial Reading – Jeremiah 17:12-18 (Pew Bible, p645)

While Jeremiah has condemned Judah’s view of the temple as a lucky charm (7:4), he does love it. Why? Because in the temple is the presence of the hope of Israel, Yahweh Himself. And the passage before us has Jeremiah turning to Yahweh as his only personal hope. If there is to be any healing and salvation, it must come from Yahweh; and, if Yahweh heals and saves you, then you will be healed indeed and saved indeed!

This passage is even more exciting to us, because Jesus Himself is all of these things that only Yahweh can be in Jer 17. Jesus is the new temple, the safe sanctuary for God’s people (v12, cf. Jn 2:14-22). Paul puts these two in parallel: “God, our Savior, and Jesus Christ, our Hope” (v13a, cf. 1Tim1:1). John identifies Jesus as the fountain of living water, who even turns Christians’ hearts into such fountains (v13b, cf. Jn 4:10, 7:37-38). Matthew especially connects Jesus’ healing with the coming of the Kingdom (v14a, cf. Mat 4:23, 9:35). Jesus’ own name means “Yahweh saves” (v14b, cf. Mat 1:21).

Yet, people respond the same way to Jesus (v15, cf. 2Pet 3:3-4), as they did to Jeremiah’s preaching. For Jeremiah’s part, although he longed for God’s Word to be vindicated (vv17-18 out for specific things that God has said will happen, cf. 1:16-17), he personally desired the patience of God (v16, cf. 2Pet 3:7-10), as opposed to the brash “let it come” of his hearers. So let us desire God’s patience, as we preach Jesus to a perishing world!

^{STANDING} **Song – #304, I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

Jesus is our safety, hope, life, healing and salvation. Let us sing our joy at finding all of these in Him!

The Evening Prayer

As we have been hearing of clinging to God and submitting to Him, let us do that now in prayer—making our requests, especially that we might obey His commands.

^{STANDING} **Evening Sermon Text – Romans 9:30-10:4** (Pew Bible, p946)

Evening Sermon – Christ, for Righteousness!

So far, Paul’s answer to the question of why Israel by and large has not been saved has been to refer to God’s sovereignty. The next part of his answer is to refer to man’s responsibility: faith. Without righteousness, there is no salvation; and, without faith in Christ, there is no righteousness. Israel missed the point of the law: Christ for righteousness! They tried to use the righteous law itself to pursue righteousness, but have stumbled over the very One to whom the law was meant to send us flying.

^{STANDING} **Song – #500, Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

Jesus is the Rock of ages, in whom alone there is righteousness and safety for all who believe!

^{STANDING} **Benediction**

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} **Parting Song – #500 v2, “Not the labors of my hands can fulfill...”**

*Immediately following worship, all are invited to a Lord’s Day after-party at **the Vander Plaats’ (2520 460th St. in 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

VANDER HARTS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS. Gary and Joan have provided cake for the morning fellowship time, in celebration of 50 years of God's richly blessing their marriage. As a congregation who has heard so much from Scripture about God's design and purpose for marriage, let us recognize the Vander Harts for the marvelous gift that they are to us, and express to them not only our affection for them and joy with them, but our gratitude that we are blessed to know them. Also, for those who missed it, the De Groots were celebrating 56 last week, not quite the rounded milestone, but here's a second chance to express affection and gratitude for them.

'WAR OF WORDS' IS THE INTERGENERATIONAL (i.e. for ALL ages) BIBLE CLASS HAS JUST ONE MORE WEEK LEFT (SEP 6) . If you have missed this very helpful, Scriptural course on communication, you may still borrow the DVDs from the church library. Also, you may purchase for \$7 from the back shelf, a copy of the book upon which the course was based.

LARGE PRINT PEW BIBLES are on 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).

Service Opportunities

CATALOG THE LIBRARY. This is an important service to Pastor James and the congregation at large. It will include looking up the Library of Congress Catalog Numbers for unmarked books, labeling them, arranging them properly on the shelves, and making a computer database from which sign-out sheets may be printed. No experience necessary. We will train you and provide whatever is needed.

CHURCH HISTORIAN. Initially, this will involve interviewing members who have been here the longest about the beginnings of our congregation and God's work here up until this point. The historian would keep track of things like session meeting summaries, congregational meetings, sermon & reading series, and individuals' testimonies to God's faithfulness here at Harvest. Eventually, the historian would maintain an historical section at the church website and update annually the annals of our congregation to the PCA Historical center.

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
- PRAISE for healthy delivery and quick recovery for Kristen Dorr and baby Tyler Robert; pray for complete recovery, healthy development, and family adjustment
- Heather Hakim – Jonathan Isaac and Beatrice Christi due end of November
- Phyllis Vanden Brink – getting medical care at Happy Siesta in Remsen
- Maggie's sister Melanie – frequent migraines
- Heather's mother Martha – in hospital with blood clot on brain
- The Rowenhorst Family—Randy's headaches; falls increasing, subsequent injuries
- Carla Van Essendelft's pregnancy, due November
- Jacob De Groot – air national guard school in Pensacola
- Jonathan Vander Plaats – stationed in Norfolk
- Lisa Vander Plaats – semester in Nicaragua
- Ron De Groot – looking for work, physical and spiritual progress, Christian friends

Community Announcements

Auditions for membership in the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra will be held on Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12. Anyone wishing to play in the orchestra for the first time must audition, and all student members need to re-audition each year. For more information or to schedule an audition, contact Missy at 712-722-6230 or niso@dordt.edu.

Open Hands performing at Christ Chapel, Northwestern College, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Listen to these world-renowned instrumentalists and read their bios at www.openhandsmusic.net/. Tickets are \$8 (\$6 for students K-college) in advance; \$10 and \$8 at the door. Available at OC banks, city hall, Dove Christian Bookstore, Don's Food Center, NWC music department; True Vine Christian Books in Sioux Center; and Ray's Mid-Bell Music in Sioux City. Or phone or e-mail for tickets/ group rates: 712.707.4885/ocarts@orangecityiowa.com Sponsored by Orange City Arts Council & Northwestern College.