

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26
Wisdom in Our Work



Main Point: Although our work is difficult in a fallen world, we can find joy when we labor in God's wisdom.

I. See the Vanity of Work in a Fallen World (2:18-23)

September 3, 2023

Prelude
Congregational Sharing
*Greeting One Another

Renee Rauwerdink

APPROACH TO GOD

*Call to Worship
*Song of Praise
Sound of Adoration
*Prayer of Praise
*Song of Praise
All Things New

From Psalm 111

RENEWAL IN CHRIST

Confession of Sin
Assurance of Forgiveness
*Song of Assurance
Jerusalem

2 Cor. 5:17, 21

II. Enjoy the Gift of Work in God's World (2:24-26)

THE WORD OF GOD

Children's Message
(Children's Church)
Scripture Reading
Sermon

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26
"Wisdom in Our Work"

Page 657

RESPONSE TO GOD

Offertory Prayer
Song of Response
*Affirmation of Faith
Congregational Prayer
*Benediction
*Doxology
*Postlude

Be Thou My Vision
WSC #45, 47

Hymn #378

Mary Holle

*Congregation standing if able

FAITH REFORMED

CHURCH

Rev. Zach Tarter, Pastor Jon Damkot, Youth Director
243 S 4th St, Cedar Grove, WI 53013 920.668.6725
www.faithreformedchurch.org

Our Worship

As we gather to worship this morning through faith in Christ, we are entering into conversation with God as He speaks in His Word and is with us by the Spirit. Our worship service has an intentional movement that focuses on the Gospel:

- We begin with our **APPROACH TO GOD**, hearing a call to worship from His word and then responding to Him with songs and prayers of praise.
- We then have a time of **RENEWAL IN CHRIST** in which we confess our sins and hear His promise of forgiveness in His word and through song.
- Assured of His grace, we then listen to **THE WORD OF GOD** as it is preached from our passage for that day, and we all receive the sacrament of communion monthly as a “visible word” from God.
- After hearing the Word preached, we end our service with our **RESPONSE TO GOD**. We give offerings, affirm our faith, pray for needs in the congregation and world, and hear a blessing from God before singing a final praise to Him.

Through it all, God intends to bless us and change us by His grace so that we would go into the world to live for His glory. So let us come in humble faith, ready to hear and respond to our God and Savior.

Reflections

[I]n themselves, and rightly used, the basic things of life are sweet and good. Food, drink and work are samples of them...What spoils them is our hunger to get out of them more than they can give (Derek Kidner, *The Message of Ecclesiastes*).

“This is the main message of Ecclesiastes in a nutshell: life in God’s world is gift, not gain” (David Gibson, *Living Life Backwards*, 37).

If you wish to reach Pastor Zach, you may dial the church office or reach him by cell phone at 920-212-5489. His office hours are Tuesday-Friday 9:30-5:30. If you are unable to reach Pastor Zach you may contact the Elder on call. Elder on call for September is Jeff Risseeuw (920-980-6252)

Prayer Guide

Praises and Thanksgivings

Jesus Resurrection
Our living hope in Jesus

Petitions

That our state and nation would value life and protect life in the womb
For people to hear the gospel hope
A heart of submission to Christ
Spiritual wisdom and discernment
Commitment to be reading Scripture
Discipline and courage to obey
To be guided by Scripture, not culture
Boldness and grace toward falsehood
Courage to stand firm for the gospel
Our ministry in the PCA
Pastor Zach Tarter
Jon Damkot – Youth Director
BJ Hilbelink – Pastoral Assistant
Disciple making at Faith Reformed
Spiritual revival
Our government leaders
Our youth to grow in Christ
Those serving in the military
The unity of Cedar Grove churches
Those with addictions/in jail or prison
Our persecuted brothers & sisters

Health

Sam Rauwerdink – pray for wisdom as they make plans for future procedures
Gail Meerdink – all spots in remission except one. She will have maintenance done on that one every 3 weeks for 3 months
Wayne Navis - is home and continues to get therapy
Ruth Ann Wieberdink – still having back pain but doing a little better.
Donna Caljouw –continuing with treatments every 3 weeks along with oral medication for her kidney cancer.
Don Schreurs – had a scan and was told the cancer tumor is shrinking, continue to pray for healing, peace, and comfort

Shut-ins

Neil Bruggink
Delores Droppers
Herb Dirkse – Cedar Grove Gardens, Building 2 – room 10

Mission & Outreach

Love, Inc.
For our unchurched neighbors

Schedule

TODAY

Worship Service – 9:00am

Tuesday – 1:30pm Ladies of Faith
- 6:30 Fellowship Meeting

Wednesday – 6:00pm Connect
- 6:30pm Quest
- 6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday – 6-7:00am Men’s Bible Study
12:45-2:45pm Women’s Bible Study

Friday – 5th Quarter

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FAITH:

September 10th – Promotion Sunday

September 14TH – Food Pantry

October 21st – Fall Fest

Ushers for September: Craig Droppers, Wayne Bloemers, Bruce Lukens

Nursery for September 3: Mary Broetzmann & Rebecca Tarter

Nursery for September 10: Kelly Dirkse & Braelyn Meinen

Refreshments for September: Care Group #1 (Carol & Barb)

Greeters September 3 - **Narthex:** David Veldboom
- **Great Room:** Nate & Kayla Wieberdink Family

Greeters September 10 – **Narthex:** Carl & Nicole Velzke Family
- **Great Room:** Brett & Eliana Voskuil Family

Serving in the Military:

Jackson DeRuyter
721 New Mexico Ave.
PO Box 1338
Holloman AFB, NM 88330

Family Life at Faith

The Cedar Grove Area Food Pantry served 53 families at the August Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, September 14th. **Right now, we are still low on CEREAL, PASTA, and PASTA SAUCE.** Please check the expiration dates on your donations! If you could help us serve one month – please contact Faith Reformed Church (920-668-6725). Thank you for your generosity!

Faith Reformed Church will be supplying a meal once a month for the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter. We are responsible for the last Wednesday of each month. We need to provide enough food for 35 people. The meal will include Tater-tot Casserole, applesauce, dinner rolls and cookies. There is a sign-up sheet in the information center. **For September we are still in need of 3 more casseroles.** Please prayerfully think about how you can help out with this mission. If you have any questions you can talk to Wendy Wonsler.

In September we are collecting Bedding & Linens: blankets, bedding for all bed sizes, pillowcases (gently used items are accepted). For questions on your donations, please contact your Love, Inc Representative, Jodi Danforth (920-254-1385). Thank you.

Small Groups this Fall: The purpose of our small groups is to grow together in Christ through the Bible, prayer, and relationships. While there are many ways this can happen, small groups help to foster our spiritual growth not only as individuals but together. If you are not in a small group, we encourage you to prayerfully consider joining one this fall. As many groups are just starting up, this is a great time to get started. So, grab a small group booklet, pray, and then jump in!

The fall **40 Days for Life** campaign starts Wednesday, **September 27**. Forty days of praying and fasting to end abortion. The **Kick-Off Rally** will be Sunday, **September 24**, at the Lutheran High School Performing Arts Center at 2 p.m. More details in next week's bulletin. Contact Germaine at 920-918-2310 or Michele at 872-233-9305 if you have questions.

The Ladies of Faith will meet Tuesday, September 5th at 1:30pm. We will do Bible study #7 and it will be led Muriel Meinen. Hostesses are Muriel Meinen and Shirley Wieberdink. You can pick up a copy of the secretary and treasurer reports in the information center.

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Pine Haven Annual Meeting of the Corporation on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Our meeting will be held in the Community Center at Pine Haven Christian Home, 220 Haven Drive, Sheboygan Falls. We look forward to seeing you on September 18th.

Family Life at Faith

QUEST: Starting September 6, all K5-5th grade students are warmly welcome to participate in our Wednesday night ministry that bears the new name “Quest”!

- **Why:** Our aim at Quest is for children to discover the foundational truths of the Bible in a grace-filled community so that they will become passionate followers of Jesus Christ
- **Who:** All students entering 5K – 5th grade
- **What:** Although the format of Quest will be very similar to that of Adventure Island, the content will change over to the First Catechism, which summarizes the core truths of Scripture in kid-friendly language. Children will learn these truths through large-group Bible lessons, songs, and small-group activities
- **When:** Wednesday evenings from September 6, 2023 – April 24, 2024. Large group lasts from 6:30-7:00, while small groups run from 7:00-7:30. Students can arrive as early as 6:10 for check-in and play time in the Great Room/basement (or south lawn when the weather is nice)
- **Where:** Large/small groups will be held in the Faith Reformed Church basement

***Informational Parents’ Meeting:** Parents are encouraged to attend an informational meeting to learn more about the new curriculum, receive resources for continuing the learning experience at home, and ask any questions they might have. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6:30 pm** in the Great Room while students are having their first Quest lesson.

Save the date – Fall Fest will be Saturday, October 21st. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

For male professing members age 21 and over, this is the time to consider whether you are willing to serve as an elder or deacon if nominated. **If you desire to remove your name from the nomination list, please communicate so in writing to pastor Zach or an elder by September 10th.**

The September Newsletter was sent out this week. If you prefer a paper copy, you can pick one up in the information center. The Deadline for the October newsletter is September 24.

Youth News

CONNECT *Opening Night!* (Grades 6-12) - **Wednesday, September 6th** students are invited to **Faith Reformed** to Connect with each other and God from **6:00-7:30PM!** We'll serve pizza at 6:20 so come hungry! (Be sure to enter the **east** doors by the sanctuary.)

QUEST *Opening Night!* (Grades 5K-5) - **Wednesday, September 6th** Quest will start the year at Faith Reformed from **6:30-7:30PM!** Registration and games begin at 6:10; be sure to enter the **west** doors by the Great Room. Parents are invited to gather in the Great Room at 6:30 to learn more about the ministry as it launches.

Promotion Sunday - Sunday School for all ages begins next **Sunday, September 10th**. For the first week, parents of kids ages 3 through 8th grade are invited to escort their children to their rooms and meet with the class for the first 5-10 minutes to learn what's in store for the year.

CORE (Grades 6-12) - Core Small Group Bible studies begin **Sunday, September 10th**.

5th Quarter - This **Friday, September 8th**, students grades 9-12 are invited to **Faith Reformed Church** after the game until 11:30 for pizza, games, movies and more! If you'd like to sign up to help in the kitchen or to donate a pan of bars, you can find a link to a sign-up genius here: <https://www.faithreformedchurch.org/events/youth/>.

Care Connection will meet next on Tuesday, September 12th at 1:00pm.

Thanks for the birthday cards and wishes for my birthday! They were greatly appreciated.
Wayne Bloemers

Anchor of Hope is seeking volunteers: Boutique Helpers (Indirect Client Contact), Client Advocates (Parenting Mentor), and Patient Advocates (Pregnancy Appointment Guide). Interested candidate must demonstrate an active faith in Jesus Christ, be committed to supporting life, and have a heart to mentor others with truth and love. If you feel God leading you to be involved in our ministry, please reach out to our Client Services Manager at 920-452-4673 or email hope@anchorofhopewi.org.