

day 14

Saturday, February 1 | 2025

Classis Zeeland

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 Peter 5:2-4

Yesterday we prayed for the CRC as a whole. Today we pray for our corner of the CRC in Classis Zeeland. We too have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We have been called to share the good news. Pray that we as a Classis would be able to live into this ministry well. Pray that we might be faithful shepherds to our flocks. Pray that we would be able to encourage one another and spur one another on in the faith. We are blessed to have a Classis with churches that are in close proximity to one another. May we learn to work together in our ministry and not against each other. We all have the same goal to share the love of God that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With that we also pray specifically for First CRC as they continue to seek God's discernment on what is next for them. Ask God to guide them in their discernment and strengthen them in this process that requires so much energy.

Journal Notes:



Bethel



day 8

Sunday, January 26, | 2025

Personal Spiritual Growth

Bible Reading: Isaiah 45:22-25; Romans 10:9

We have now been in prayer for a whole week straight. Reflecting back on this past week, how has it gone? Has it been a challenge to commit to spending time in prayer every day? Has it come easily? Pray that God would help you to grow spiritually. Pray that this exercise of 40 days of prayer would be a catalyst for your own faith.

It is in God alone that we receive salvation! And we want every knee to bow before him and every tongue to proclaim that he is Lord and Savior. Pray this week that God would inject life, energy, and excitement into your spiritual life. God desires a relationship with you. So if you pray for a better relationship with God; you can expect that it will happen.

Challenge: Continue to think about journaling what God is putting on your heart as you go through these 40 days of prayer.

Journal Notes:

day 13

Friday, January 31 | 2025

Christian Reformed Church

Bible Reading: Colossians 1:15-23; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Praise God for the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). The CRC has been around since 1857 and in that time God has used this denomination to do a lot to advance the kingdom of God. The CRC has always stood on the belief that Christ is the head of the church, and today we pray that this is a truth we will continue to hold on to. It is only in Christ that all things hold together. The moment we drift Christ out of the center is the moment we are destined for destruction. So, may we always hold Christ at the center. May we depend on him for all that we do. May we trust in him not only for our salvation, but to guide us and lead us as a denomination.

Jesus had the ministry of reconciliation, and he has reconciled us to himself through the cross. This is a ministry that Jesus shares with us. Each time we share the love of Christ, each time we share the good news, we are participating in the ministry of reconciliation. Today, pray that we as a denomination will live into this to the best of our ability.

Song: *“Lord I Need Thee Every Hour”*

Journal Notes:

day 12

Thursday, January 30 | 2025

Opportunity for Service

Bible Reading: Matthew 22:36-40; Matthew 25:35-40

How we respond to the salvation we have received through Christ matters. God has modeled incredible generosity with his love. He gave his one and only son so that we might have life in him. As that love flows over us, it changes who we are. We cannot be the same after receiving the love of Christ.

God tells us that the way to respond to this love is to love him back and to love our neighbors. First we need to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. In other words we need to love God with all of who we are. We shouldn't hold anything back. And we need to love our neighbors as ourselves. In fact, in Matthew 25 Jesus says that loving our neighbors is one of the ways that we love the Lord as well.

Today ask God how you can love him by loving others. Is there a neighbor that you have been meaning to invite over for a meal? Is there a distant relative you have been meaning to reach out to, but you have just put it off? Is there a coworker or a classmate that God has placed on your heart? Is there a population that you can share the love of Christ with? It might be the homeless, the hungry, or those in prison. How can you share the love of Christ today, this week, and constantly moving forward? Invite God into that discernment, and trust what it is that he lays on your heart.

Challenge: Take the next step to love someone today (i.e. make the phone call, send the email, fill in the application).

day 9

Monday, January 27 | 2025

Discernment

Bible Reading: Psalm 25:1-11

[Video: Pastor Jon Bosma]

The news of Mead Johnson/Reckitt wanting to purchase our property is shocking news. And as you hear this news it likely stirs up a whole lot of emotion. Whatever emotion it brings up for you, it is fair. It could be anger, fear, sadness, relief, excitement, or very likely a mix of more than one of these feelings. There are good reasons to feel all of these emotions.

Today, invite God into your heart and into your emotion. Tell God how this news makes you feel. Share with him why you think it stirs up those emotions. Lay out your initial reaction. And then I encourage you to symbolically, take your hands, cup them, and move them from your chest extending them away from you. Say, God I want to put this in your hands. I trust in you, Lord my God. You have not let me be put to shame and I continue to put my hope in you. Ask God then to show you his ways. Ask him for guidance and direction. Ask for peace and understanding. Ask God to one way or another do more in this for the kingdom of God than we ever thought possible.

Journal Notes:

day 10

Tuesday, January 28 | 2025

Confession

Bible Reading: 1 John 1:5-10; James 5:16

Confession can be challenging, because it first requires us to know that we have sinned. As you think about confessing your sins before God today I encourage you to be as specific as possible. Praying in general, "God forgive me for I have sinned," is a good and powerful prayer. But praying with specifics gives us clarity of the struggle with sins that we really have. It gives us a deeper awareness, and it actually helps us to avoid the same sins again. The ultimate goal of confession isn't just to admit that we are sinners. But it is to admit that we need a savior, and then it is to be reminded of the life that we have in Christ. Confession isn't easy, but through confession we receive healing from Christ. We receive the goodness of his grace, and we are purified into something new.

Journal Notes:

day 11

Wednesday, January 29 | 2025

Thanks for Salvation

Bible Reading: Psalm 95:1-2, Philippians 2:5-11

One of the things that separates Christianity from any other religion is the fact that we don't have to DO anything. Instead it has already been DONE for us. We have been saved by a savior that was willing to endure the cross. A savior that loves YOU. I have heard it said before that if God had to endure the cross to save just you from your sins he would. His love is that deep. It reaches further than we could have ever imagined. Today, thank God for your salvation. Thank the Father for giving his son. Thank Jesus for being willing to endure the cross. Thank God that you have the gift of life, and he was willing to offer it because of his grace and mercy.

Song: "Thank You Jesus for the Blood" by Charity Gayle

Journal Notes:

week 2

40 days of Prayer