



**Platte  
Christian Reformed Church**  
*February 2018*

**“Singing Psalms? I Don’t Even Really Like the Psalms!”**

I’ve come to find that people hold wide-ranging opinions about the book of Psalms. When I visit some and ask about a favorite passage they’d like me to read, they say, ‘just pick one out of the Psalms.’ One of the most beloved passages for funerals is a psalm (23). At the same time, there are others of you who, I think, quietly have a very different opinion. You know it isn’t really “Christian” to say you don’t like a book of the Bible, and so you’re pretty quiet about it, but deep down, you don’t really like the Psalms. It all seems so far away...so distant. They’re weird and you don’t really get them.

So when I tell you that, as a pastor, one of my goals is more singing of the psalms in worship, those of you in that second camp maybe get a look on your face like you just smelled a rotten egg. Maybe you think that’s backwards: our worship needs to look ahead, not back. We’re already stuck in the past! There’s too much good music from today to bother with that old stuff.

Therefore, please hear me out when I say we (the American church) desperately need the Psalms. These are God’s gift to teach us how to worship him, how to sing to Him, how to talk with Him. They may be odd. They may feel like they’re from a different world. But that’s kind of the point. Instead of walking away, we ought to try to better understand them. If there’s a problem, it isn’t with the Psalms.

Not only do we tend to read this passion-filled poetry in a monotone voice, but we don’t actually sing them anymore. The Psalter is God’s songbook for His people (and when you realize that they all point to Jesus, they aren’t just for the Israelites either). They are, first and foremost, meant to be sung! However, I believe that an obsession with ‘newness,’ and that ‘I don’t really like the psalms’ mindset have led the church to throw away the Psalter. Can that really

be good? God has given us a songbook and we say, ‘no thanks, we’ve got our own words, and they’re better.’ We’re teaching ourselves how to worship, when really, worship is about God.

So for 2018, I hope we can ‘learn,’ or ‘re-learn,’ one psalm together each month. Nobody likes songs with which they are not familiar, and so it requires some repetition. This past month, we’ve been repeatedly singing Psalm 46 from the blue hymnal; however, my intent is not just to go back in time to ‘old songs from the blue.’ What is exciting is the growing interest (especially among younger people) in composing new tunes for the psalms. Since I totally sympathize with many who find some of the blue psalter tunes to be...how shall we say it...tough?...this is a gift from which I hope we can benefit.

If you struggle with the psalms, I’d love to talk with you (and not just to tell you that you aren’t a Christian...unless you aren’t, I guess). The Psalms can be difficult, but we need them. Thankfully I can tell you from experience that as you spend more time in their strange land, the closer you may find yourself growing to God as He teaches you to sing to Him and talk with Him.

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Drew*



## FAMILY PRAYER NOTES – FEBRUARY 2018

### GENERAL PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ⇒ For the youth of our church, especially for seniors in high school deciding where to go to college, pray for wisdom to know Christ more fully and be confident in His guidance.
- ⇒ Pray that our children would resist the many temptations and be molded to walk like Jesus in their words and actions.
- ⇒ For adult members in our church, pray for a desire to continue to find different ways to know Jesus better.
- ⇒ Pray that we would have the courage to walk like Jesus in a culture that increasingly despises Him.
- ⇒ Pray for relationships with people who don't know Christ so that we might be able to share His gospel.
- ⇒ For those outside the church in our community, pray for God to bring them to Christ and see Him as Lord and Savior.
- ⇒ Pray that unbelievers around us would see our Christian walk and be drawn to know Jesus as well.

### Nursing Home Residents, Shut-ins and their Caretakers:

- Tony & Rozella Baan Hofman, Kevin Burma, Gertie DeJong, Clair & Pearl Dyk, Marie Kok, Esther Hoekman, Clarence Hunsucker, JoAnn Kuipers, Juna Meyerink, Helen Pheifer, Ruth Pranger, Cheryl Reed, Don & Evelyn Severson, Harriet Sprik, Leona Van Dusseldorp, Muriel Van Vuren, Betty Van Zee

### Those Mourning the Loss of:

- Cornie & Eleanor Lieuwen, Jennie Bultsma, Darrell Kuipers, Janet DeJong, Ann Vander Pol, Viola Vander Tuin, and Harriett Meyerink.

### Missionaries:

- Ben & Amy Meyer (CRWM– Mexico)
- Victor & Lori Selemani (YWAM– Africa)
- LaVeryl & Max Voss (Wycliffe– Papua New Guinea)
- Calvin & Jessica Wunderink (TeachBeyond-Czech Republic )

### Monthly Birthdays and Anniversaries

*(to see church activities, please refer to our weekly bulletin, or to the online calendar at [plattecrc.org](http://plattecrc.org) for the most up-to-date information)*

#### February Birthdays:

- 2: Harriet Sprik
- 5: Ken Kredit
- 8: Carol Kaemingk
- 9: Pearl Dyk
- 9: Randy Pheifer
- 15: Marion Kuipers
- 17: Jean Sybesma
- 18: Jessica Wunderink (Missionary)
- 21: Alice Van Zee
- 21: Ruth (M) Vanden Bos
- 22: Curtis Sybesma
- 22: Lois Van Dusseldorp
- 23: Larry Hansum
- 23: Wilmer Niewenhuis
- 28: Kaylenn Kok
- 28: Tony Baan Hofman
- 28: Trevor Overweg

#### February Anniversaries:

- 14: Don & Evelyn Severson
- 16: Albert & Delores Kuipers

*Please let the church office know if there are any birthdays or anniversaries that we've missed! Call 337-3572, or email: [plattecrc@gmail.com](mailto:plattecrc@gmail.com)*