

October 22, 2023



The ARC Ministry Staff

Lead Pastor – Kevin Van Wyk

Equipping Youth Director – Jessa Wedel

Equipping Children & Families Director – Lynnae Loomans

Office Administrator – Megan Vande Zande

Worship & Youth Intern – Ashlan Bruins

N3697 County Road EE

Waupun, WI 53963

920.346.5505

office@altoreformedchurch.org

www.altoreformedchurch.org

We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Sonshine Singers – “Big God”

Praise Singing

“King of Kings”

“God of Angel Armies”

“Do It Again”

Congregational Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Children’s Message – Jackie Tenpas

Message – Whose Side Are You On? The Lord’s

Scripture – Joshua 5:13

We Respond to God

Prayer

“Crowns”

Blessing

Following Jesus in a Land of Conflict: An Arab and Jewish Conversation

Join us for this video series in the sanctuary during Sunday School. In this 4-part Day of Discovery program, you'll take a journey to the land of the Bible, modern Israel, with host Mart DeHaan for conversations with guests Nizar Touma and Avner Boskey. Join them as they discuss the impact this dispute has on their Arab and Jewish communities and as they address tough questions that arise about the role of followers of Christ in this controversy.

If you are newer to Alto Reformed Church, we invite you to fill out a Connection Card, located at the entrance to the sanctuary, and turn it in at the Fellowship Kitchen for a small gift.

Whose Side Are You On?

Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Whose Side Are You On? Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

We'll be looking for answers to tough questions like: Should Christians support Israel or Palestine? Why is this war different from the Ukraine war? Does the Quran promote violence? Should Christians fight? Should we pray for Hamas to be destroyed? What should we say to the leaders? Who will inherit the land?

Joshua 5:13 (NET2) "Are you on our side or allied with our enemies?"

GETTING ON THE SAME PAGE...

1. Understanding the Current Conflict: Definitions

What is... (FYI- I am oversimplifying and encourage you to read more from the sources cited.)

_____ - (Hebrew or Israelite) One with a Jewish bloodline or one who has converted to the Jewish religion.

_____ - One who lives in Israel.

_____ - One who lives in Palestine, the name given by the Romans to the Holy Land or Judea which means "the land of the Philistines."

_____ - Palestine Liberation Organization oversees Palestinian foreign relations.

_____ - Palestinian Authority oversee some areas of Israel, particularly the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, but are under the Israeli government.

_____ - One whose native language is Arabic.

_____ - One who follows the religion of Islam, believing the Quran and teachings of Muhammad.

_____ - A Sunni Islamic movement in Palestine, particularly the Gaza Strip, which started in 1987 with the intent to rule Israel.

_____ - A Palestinian political and military organization in the West Bank, which was started in 1958 to establish a Palestinian State, but has been tolerant of Israeli oversight.

_____ - An extremist Shiite Muslim group primarily in Lebanon and founded in 1979.

Oslo Accords - a set of agreements started in 1993 between Israel and the PLO that created a two-state solution to the conflict.

Abraham Accords - a series of agreements in 2020 intended to normalize relations between Israel and several Arab states.

See www.britannica.com, www.gotquestions.com and Apple's Dictionary

2. Understanding the Past Conflict:

Gen. 3 Adam blamed Eve

Gen. 4 _____ killed _____

Gen. 10 _____, _____ and others

Gen. 16-18 _____ and Isaac

Gen. 19 _____ and Ammonites

Origin of Islam (630AD) - <https://www.studentsofhistory.com/the-origins-of-islam>

James 4:2 (NIV) You _____ but do not have, so you _____....

3. Understanding the Real Conflict: Who is _____?

Joshua 5:13–6:5 _____ bowed before his King.

Acts 4:18–31 _____ acknowledged God as the Sovereign Lord over kings and nations who plot against him.

John 18:33–19:3 _____ proclaimed the Jesus to be king of the Jews.

APPLICATION: _____ to _____.

This Week's Events

- Oct 22** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Sunshine Singers
 10:45am – Sunday School
 12:30pm – Young Adult Group
 1:00pm – Pumpkin Palooza
 5:30pm – Middle School Praise Team
 6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group
- Oct 24** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – Women's Bible Study – Esther
- Oct 25** 9:30am – Golden Lifers
 5:50pm – Elementary Praise Band
 6:20pm – Sunshine Singers, Jr Choir
 6:30pm – Mixed Choir
 6:45pm – Bible Class
 7:30pm – High School Youth Group, Men's Chorus
- Oct 29** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – Pastor Kevin
 10:45am – Sunday School
 5:30pm – Middle School Praise Band
 6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group

To view the church calendar, go to www.altoreformedchurch.org

Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12th immediately following the service. All Covenant Partners are asked to attend the meeting. Activities will be available for children in the basement and any non-Covenant Partners (adults/teens) are asked to help with the younger children.

The following people will be on the ballot for Elder and Deacon:

Elder: Bruce Buwalda, Jim Ford, Al Kamphuis, Randy McDaniel, Larry Mulder, Joel Ruis, and Mark Vossekuil

Deacon: Dan Bresser, Jason De Jager, Chris Jahn, Jason Mulder, Klint Vande Zande, and Marcus Vossekuil

Covenant Partners are asked to vote for 3 in each category. Please prayerfully consider who you will vote for.

Absentee ballots are available at the Information Center and may be placed in the absentee ballot box, signed and in an envelope prior to the meeting. Absentee ballots are not to be used simply as a matter of convenience.

We thank all those who submitted nominees and those nominees that have prayerfully considered and engaged in our process. We ask that all Covenant Partners prayerfully consider who God desires to serve on the Consistory.

Youth News

Middle School – Tonight we're talking about all the blessings God promises us in His word. There are so many! See you at 6:30!

High School – Jesus is the biggest and best promise that God fulfilled for us. Find out Wednesday how Jesus was the promise of God from the very beginning! See you at 7:30!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Young Adults – Join us at the Waupun High School tennis courts on Sunday, October 22nd at 12:30pm for the ARC tennis open. Bring your tennis racket if you have one.

Women's Ministry Ideas – On November 2nd we will be meeting at 7pm in the prayer room. It is open to anyone who would like to share their ideas of things they would like to do as a group of women. We are still looking for a couple of ladies to join our board.

Bulletin Board News

Offering may be placed in one of the three white offering boxes located in the lobby, may be given online, or through autopay. For more info or to set up autopay, please contact Megan. Upcoming benevolent schedule: 10/22 Christian Home Chaplain, 10/29 Words of Hope, 11/5 St. Jude, 11/12 Mighty Oaks. If you feel led to give specifically towards the ceiling project, please put your check in a separate marked envelope in one of the offering boxes. The deacons are keeping track separately of what has been contributed towards the project, which will be shown on the monthly financial reports. Thank you.

Congrats to Jim & Karen Stelsel as they celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Oct 23rd.

AMEN articles are due next Sunday, October 29th.

Snow Plowing Bids – We are accepting bids for snow plowing for the parking lot (excluding sidewalks). Bids can be turned in to the church office in a sealed envelope. Bids are due by October 26th.

Lunch at The Community Table – Our church is serving at the Community Table on November 3rd. Please sign-up at the Information Center if you would be willing to donate. Please bring items to The Community Table (next to the food pantry on Mill St) by 10:30am on Friday, November 3rd. Contact Peg Bresser at 382-9648 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Food Pantry Collection – During the month of October, Women's Ministry is collecting donations for the Waupun and Brandon Food Pantries. Items needed include: mac & cheese, soup, fruit, jelly, oatmeal, peas, carrots, apple sauce, and hand lotion. Donations may be placed in the tote under the mailboxes.

Mission Backpack – Now through Oct 29th we are collecting non-perishable individually packaged items. We will use these items to pack the Ziploc bags that will be placed in students backpacks throughout the school year for Mission Backpack. You can help pack these bags at our Mission Backpack Family Night on Wed, Nov 8th 5:30-7:30pm. We will start the night out with pizza and then will move into packing bags. Our goal is to pack 400 bags. Donation needs are posted on the Children & Families bulletin board. Feel free to reach out to Lynnae with any questions. All donations can be dropped off in the totes located by the Children & Families bulletin board. Information about Mission Backpack can be found in your church mailbox or at the Children & Families Resource Center.

P - praise R - repent A - ask Y – yield

Prayer Points for the Holy Land for Your Churches

By Esther Kline

1. **Ask the God of all comfort to comfort those who grieve on both sides.** Israelis have suffered a terrorist attack unlike any in the history of their state. Palestinian civilians in Gaza are enduring another traumatic war. Hundreds have died, thousands have been injured. We do not condone or rejoice in the destruction of life, no matter the person.
2. **Pray for the growth and thriving of the messianic church in the Land.** In 1948, when the State of Israel was established, believers in Yeshua numbered only 23. Now there are about 30,000 believers in congregations around the country. Pray that Jewish-background believers will remain steadfast in their commitment to Christ in times of hardship. Ask that they will be salt and light in their communities.
3. **Lift up the 300,000 IDF reservists who have been called up.** There are many believers among them. Ask that the good news of peace might go forth with them, that their attitudes toward their enemy might reflect our Savior and provoke conversations with fellow soldiers who have not experienced reconciliation with their Creator.
4. **Intercede for 150 hostages taken by Hamas militants.** As far as we know, they are now hidden in the Gaza Strip. Hamas has threatened to kill them if Israel bombs civilian targets. Please pray for encounters with Jesus for these hostages, that he will protect and deliver them. Ask for Saul-like encounters for Hamas leaders, that they will be transformed by encounters with the risen Christ.
5. **Pray for our Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ.** There are three churches in Gaza with about 2,000 Christians. There are about 162,000 Christians in Israel and the West Bank. These continually live as a doubly marginalized community—a minority between Muslim and Jewish contingents. While rejecting violent resistance, they long for justice for their people. Pray for their steadfastness and faithfulness to the gospel of peace.
6. **Pray for the 2 million people in Gaza, who are undergoing a complete siege.** There is no electricity (even generators have run out of fuel), no incoming supplies of food and water. Many, many innocent men, women, and children are suffering. The humanitarian situation is unthinkable. Ask for their quick deliverance!
7. **Lift up Palestinians in the West Bank, which has been sealed off from the rest of the land.** Many there work in Israel proper or in other parts of the West Bank and are now unable to get to their jobs. This will provoke hopelessness and perpetuate anger and bitterness. Ask that they will find hope and refuge in the Lord.
8. **Please ask that the conflict will not spread regionally, especially to Lebanon, where Hezbollah is based.** Lebanon, as well as Jordan, have very large Palestinian populations, so emotions are high in those countries.
9. **Intercede for a just peace in the Holy Land, one that will allow all peoples, regardless of their religion or ethnicity, to live in equality and freedom, without fear or discrimination.** This may not be possible before Christ's return, so please ask for that too. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! And until then, help us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, as you commanded.

<https://church.focusonthefamily.com/s/content?title=prayer-points-for-the-holy-land-for-your-churches>

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Betty Daane, Elaine Daane, Sharon DeMotts, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Faye Janey, Melene Kraemer, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Jean Stelsel, Jim Stelsel, Jodi Vande Berg, Ron Vande Zande, Harold VanRuiswyk, and Mark Zeatlow.

Military Personnel: Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in Las Vegas; Sebastian Hoenisch, stationed in San Diego, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder; Matt Saunders, stationed in east Africa, nephew to David Grulich & Rosemary Tschinkel

Shut-ins: Members in assisted living, nursing homes or those confined to their home: **Barrett House:** Lowell Glewen **Charleston House:** Brian Hemp **Beaver Dam Memory Care:** Cora Hemp **Christian Home:** Elaine Daane, Sharon Harmsen, Dayton TerBeest, Kay Vande Zande, Marilyn Westerveld **Home:** Margaret Hoekstra, Julie Medema, Marion Tolsma, **Christian Homestead:** Betty Bruins **Harbor Haven:** Don Vande Zande **Marvin's Manor:** Eleanor Loomans **Prairie Ridge:** Annice Hopp

Missionaries: Bob Abel – Remember Nhu, Steve & Amanda Bialy – Converge, Chris Briggs – CCCD, Andy Lickel – InterVarsity, Jersey & Preston Sheldon – Overland Missions, Randy & Wanda Potratz – SIM, Scott Ritzema – Youth for Christ