

# ALT



## REFORMED CHURCH

### ARTICLES

#### What to Expect?

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

If you are hoping I would be making some bold prophecy about our future or your future in particular, I'm sorry to disappoint, but this will simply look at our move to the basement.

You should have received information on the many details like what entrances and exits to use, what classroom your kids will be in, and where each music group will rehearse. Let me share a bit more from behind the scenes.



**First, remember to make a joyful noise.** Psalm 66:1, 95:1-2, 98:4-6, and 100:1, call us to make joyful sounds to God. It is not for us, but for God.

Meeting in the basement will test you. We are challenged to choose joy over grief, frustration, and anger; to focus on the grace and love of God in such a way that we can't help but sing praise with all our heart. I have regularly called the Worship Committee to reflect on preventing distractions. We certainly try, but ultimately you make a choice to rejoice or to linger in annoyance. Come, rejoice in the Lord, again I say, rejoice! (Phil. 4:4)



**With that said, let me help you celebrate by understanding some of the challenges we face and then how you can help us make it great.** (It's not very theological from here on, but hopefully it's helpful.)

**So, here are some challenges...**

1. A large crowd absorbs sound. Each person is a sponge and we have no idea how much that will impact the sound until you are all in the room.
2. A low ceiling means you cannot project sound down at every row of people evenly.
3. A carpeted room and a tiled room respond very differently to sound. The tiled room will probably be more clear, but louder.
4. A new mixer with a hefty learning curve takes time to learn.

**Here are some ways you can make this great!**

Please celebrate what you hear based on content and effort of audio techs more than on volume. Our techs are learning a completely new system which they can control from a tablet or phone. More than one tech can be doing this at a time, and can move around the room while making improvements. This is amazing tech and the audio techs have good intentions, so celebrate what works.

Please rejoice in differing ears. I have been fascinated with and grieved over the struggles Pastor Ted has faced in no longer hearing pitches correctly. Some notes just don't sound like they should and clash with others. Our ears are all different. Some of you will love the full bass sound of this system and others won't. You may want more piano or more alto or less electric guitar, but please realize the sound tech is seeking to blend in a way that sounds as great as your car radio and that is impossible in a live setting.

Please sit further from the speakers if you don't like music loud. While we have some amazing new speakers that are designed to fill the room without blasting the people in the front, it will be louder closer to the speakers. Hearing Doug and I preach should be pretty good for all, but music will have a greater variation of volume. Choose your chair carefully.

Please put phones in airplane mode. We are using a WIFI network to control

the audio mix and volume in each space. Apparently, too many phones can cause interference and prevent audio techs from being able to make changes. The advantage is that we don't have a large table in the middle of the room with cables across the floor.

Finally, do show up early or bring a cushion. The padded seats are in the front and should fill up. The youth room has couches that are comfy but we are not sure how the live stream will work in there. Regardless, there is always value in fellowshiping with other believers and gathering for worship, even if the seats and sound aren't great.

I look forward to seeing you.

## New Year's Resolution: Share the Gospel

By Doug Shotsky

### Verses from Proverbs 10

**8** The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

**10** Whoever winks the eye causes trouble, and a babbling fool will come to ruin.

**13** On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense.

**14** The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

**19** When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

**20** The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

**21** The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.

It's no secret that I talk a lot, and it certainly isn't lost on me that I have room to grow when it comes to being wise with my words. I do like to have fun, and I hope that will never change, but the older I get I also recognize how impactful our words are. Sometimes I'm really surprised that something I said in a sermon was really meaningful or impactful to someone, and other times I'm equally as surprised at how offensive something I said was to someone; that's certainly not my intent.

With all that being said, we all have to realize that it's not about us; our lives are

meant to be lived for the glory of God, so as much as I wanna push back at times, what's usually helpful is to take a good look at myself, consider the validity of what others have to say, and see if there is an opportunity for growth.

As I read through Proverbs chapter 10 (and many others) I recognized just how much the bible has to say about the impact of our mouths. What we say really matters. What we don't say really matters. We can be hurtful, or helpful. We can be encouraging, or discouraging. We can speak life, or we can speak death.

So if you're considering a new year's resolution, I would encourage you to consider making it your goal to speak with wisdom. I don't know that this is a measurable goal, and yes I want you to keep having fun, but join me in continuing to look for ways to glorify God, which in this case is with our words!

And if you do want a measurable goal for the upcoming year, make it your ambition to share the Gospel with as many people as possible, using your words.

Romans 10:14 - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?[\[c\]](#) And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

## Youth Ministry Prayer Requests for 2023

By Jessa TerBeest

- College Mission Trip to West Virginia January 7-14, Marlaina Shotsky, Jessa TerBeest, Libbi Campbell, Ruby Guell, Wyatt Guell, Logan Flier
- Laconia and Waupun Bible Clubs. That more kids would come, that our Alto kids would use it as outreach in their schools
- Continued growth in our youth groups
- That we would learn to THRIVE as Christians (our focus for the spring semester)
- That we would read our Bibles more and learn more of God's truth
- That we would continue to be inspired to memorize scripture
- That we would keep seeing God at work around us

- For spiritual protection for our students and leaders

## Library Update

By Pauline Peters

Can you believe it, we're in a New Year again. Now that we're having church in the basement, everyone will have extra opportunities to check out the library as they walk by.

As other AMEN articles have stated, there has been some rearranging done so our youth have their own section so it is much easier to find books relevant to them. We also have a clearer section aimed at Bible study/devotions. As always there's also the children's area, DVD's, nonfiction & of course the majority is the fiction area, which personally is where I go. It is such a good way to combine your imagination with also feeding your soul.

Feel free to ask the library attendant for suggestions, because we all have some favorite authors. Hopefully we'll see you there.

## MESSAGES

I would like to thank our church for the box of candy and Barb Pluim for delivering it.

-Marilyn Kamphuis

Thank you for the special remembrance of candy at Christmas and for shepherd, Keith for his visit.

-Vern & Roxy Schouten

Special thanks to Stan and Linda Mittelstaedt for their time and talents of building and painting the white lanterns that adorn our sanctuary this Christmas. Thanks also to Larry Kok for helping get the lights and globes assembled.

-Donna Kok

Thank you so much for all of the encouragement and prayers that you all said on my behalf when I had my blood clots in September. The doctor has cleared me for full activity and I am so thankful to our wonderful God who is the Great Physician.

It is so great to belong to a praying church!!!  
Thank you Alto...I appreciate you so much!  
-Larry Mulder

We appreciate being remembered at Christmas with the gift of candy from our church family. Thanks Keith for the delivery and visit.  
-Dave & Donna Henker

Thanks for the chocolates and remembering me with Christmas cards. Happy new year to all.  
-Junice Vande Zande

## EVENTS

**Mark your calendar...**

**Alto Reformed Church**  
*January 2023*

— **Services begin in the Basement**  
**January 01** Join us for worship in the basement on Sundays at 9:30am while the sanctuary ceiling is repaired.

— **College Mission Trip**  
**January 07** Pray for the group that leaves for the mission trip to West Virginia. They will return on January 14th.

— **Elder & Deacon Installation**  
**January 08** Join us for worship and the installation of new Elders and Deacons at 9:30am.

For detailed information:  
Call 920.346.5505 or email [office@altoreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@altoreformedchurch.org)

## NEWS

### Birth

12/15/22 - Bentley Michael, son of Aaron & Brianna Legate

### Covenant Partner

12/4/22 - Drew Hopp

### Baptisms

12/4/22 - Weston Drew, son of Drew & Jennifer Hopp

12/11/22 - Evelyn Grace, daughter of Luke & Sarah Bruins

12/11/22 - Ellie Audrey, daughter of Kyle & Jessica Ter Beest

12/11/22 - Anakin Abraham, son of Colton & Courtney Loomans

12/11/22 - Bodhi Murray, son of Tom & Lindsey Bruins