



ARTICLES

What is God Saying to You?

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

We recently started an experiment in our small group.

It came from my own frustration with finding materials that would connect with everyone. Some in our group are older (but you are not old), some are younger, some are well along in their faith journey and others are just a ways in. Some are grandparents, some are parents... I could go on and on about the differences in our group.

The point is they all have different needs and need to learn about different things... how to not exasperate your kids, how to survive work stress, how to make a difference in the world now and so on.

So, I decided to go back to what the Equipping Adults Team introduced several years ago. We called it Journey to 4:12, based on Ephesians 4:12.

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11–13 (NIV))

The call to equip can take many shapes and forms: Sunday sermons, Sunday School, small groups, lectures, devotionals, podcasts, books, videos. We have more opportunities for spiritual growth than ever. We also have more opportunities for entertainment than ever, and thus to easily ignore our personal responsibility for growth and set a low bar for spiritual growth. **However, we are called to “leave elementary teachings about Christ and to go on to maturity.” (Hebrews 6:1)**

So, here’s what we are doing. I am simply asking the group to share what God is saying to them. What have you been reading in the Bible, hearing on podcasts, or watching on video? Is God encouraging you in some specific way? Is He challenging you to do something different?

Everybody shares and it’s ok if you had a rough month and didn’t hear much or listen much. We will nudge you along and pray for God to work in wonderful ways.

If I, or someone off the street, asked you “how is God working in your life?” you should have an answer ready because you have spent time in God’s Word prayerfully listening for God’s direction. Your mini-testimony may be your greatest witness ever.

PRAYER: Lord, help us devote our lives fully to you. Helps us carve out time to learn and listen to You. Encourage, strengthen, and challenge us to grow in faith, knowledge and holiness. Be glorified in us! Amen.

Equipping Youth Update

By Randy McDaniel

This school year’s youth group is off to a great start! We are studying through the Parables of Jesus and so far have looked at the parable of the sower and the parable of the weeds (wheat and tares). The teens saw how there are only four types of hearts that the word of God falls on, and that the true Christian is one that produces a bountiful crop of obedience, good works, and righteous living from the seed of the word. They also learned how God allows His good crop, the Church, to grow amongst the poisonous crop sown by Satan, the world, until the end of this age in which Jesus will return, send out His angels to

gather both crops, and separate them. The good wheat will be brought into Jesus' "barn" where they will shine in the kingdom of heaven and the darnell, the poisonous crops, will be gathered and burned.

These are amazing truths for all of us. To take the word of God seriously. To examine ourselves and see what soil we are. Does the devil snatch away God's word before it does any saving work? Do we receive it with joy until bad times or persecution comes, and then wither and die? Do we allow the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word out? Or are we good soil producing crops a hundred-fold, sixty fold, or thirty? Are we the good crop sown by the Son of Man and will be gathered at the time of harvest into His barn, His eternal kingdom? Or are we still the crop sown by the devil and will be gathered and burned? These questions are important to the new believer and the old. The Christian and the none. We must always examine ourselves and make sure we are in the faith. Test ourselves and see if Christ is in us unless we fail (2 Corinthians 13:5).

We are fast approaching the Silver Birch Middle School retreat October 11-13. Praise God we have a large group, about 35 middle schoolers, coming! Some go to our youth group and some are friends. This retreats speaker will be teaching on 1 Timothy 4:12 "12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." Pray that God will bring many to saving faith and strengthen the faith of those that do guiding them and leading them in His ways according to His will for His good pleasure.

October 16th will be the Alto Chase (Persecution Night). Pray for a large turnout and that the true meaning of the night will be understood and felt.

Thank you to all for the continued prayers and support of the youth ministry. The youth is truly arrows in our quiver.

Equipping Children & Families Update

By Lynnae Loomans

Our Sunday morning and Wednesday night activities have started and what an awesome time it is seeing all of these children every week excited to come and

learn more about Jesus. I am blessed to have another great group of volunteers to make it happen.

For offering this semester, we are supporting Mission Backpack. This organization helps children in the Waupun Area School District that are in need. Students receive a ziploc bag on Friday (or the last school day of the week) supplied with nonperishable foods. This process is repeated throughout the school year. Please consider helping with this cause and giving money to your children each week for Sunday School and Bible Class. We are also looking for donations for our Mission Backpack Family Night November 6th. Please see the Children and Families board across from the elevator.

MESSAGES

Thank you for your generous donation. Your contribution was used towards playground equipment which now is bringing joy to our students.

-Rock River Intermediate School

We would like to thank everyone that offered up prayers on our behalf. We both felt not only your support but God's loving arms surrounding us. Keith came home recently after his quadruple bypass. We are very blessed to be a part of God's family. Thank you again.

-Keith & Susan Buwalda

Thank you to Cody Mueller for setting up tables for the funerals in our church.

-The Funeral Committees

Thank you all for the birthday cards.

-Geraldine Loomans

Thank you for your prayers, thoughts, and concerns and also for the cards and food during Lynette's surgery and hospital stay. We are so thankful for our church family.

-Lynette & Phil Loomans

Thank you to everyone who sent a card on my birthday. They were all very special.

-Marilyn Westerveld

I want to thank everyone for their prayers when I was in Madison and Beaver Dam recovering from my surgery. I also want to thank everyone for the food you brought me after I was home. I also want to thank Duane & Colleen Bille for all their visits and bringing me a prayer shawl which I use all the time. One nurse asked me why I always wanted it over my blankets at night and I told her it was a prayer shawl and I knew people were praying for me. She said what a great idea, so keep up the good work.

-Marilyn Kamphuis

EVENTS

October Events

October
5

Saturday, 5:30pm

Harvest Festival

See you at the Alto Community Center. We'll have food, silent and live auctions, a Cornhole tournament, and fun! This fundraiser will support the mission trip to the Jamaica Deaf Village with Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in January 2025.

October
11

Friday-Sunday

Middle School Silver Birch Retreat

6th-8th graders head to Silver Birch Ranch for a weekend of fun and building their relationship with Jesus. Talk to Randy to get registration details.

October
16

Wednesday, 7:30pm

Alto Chase

All high school students and adults are welcome to join us for a huge game of Romans and Christians around Alto! Adults we NEED you! Whether you're in or out of shape, you can help! Show up and support our teens while getting some exercise and having fun!

October
20

Sunday, 3:30pm

Pumpkin Palooza

Bring your friends and family to the church hill for a free, fun afternoon of bounce house, candy, crafts, face painting, games, prizes and more!

October
25

Friday, 6:30pm

Halloween Heist

Young Adults, for those who are fans of Brooklyn 99, you will recognize this game! Teams of two come dressed in your Halloween costumes and get ready for some food, a raffle, and a modified version of King of the Hill game.



NEWS

Consistory Notes:

- Baptism was approved for Ellis Montsma, daughter of Shawn & Morgan Montsma

- A motion was made and supported to drop the Potratz family from our supported missionaries as they have changed careers and are no longer with SIM.
- The Deacons discussed the parking lot project reporting they had two bids submitted. A motion was made and supported to ask the congregation to approve Kartechner Brothers' bids of \$161,733.00 for grinding, repaving, and striping the parking lot. The congregation approved this proposal by a 93% approval.
- Consistory discussed the Elder seat that was occupied by Randy McDaniel before he was hired as a staff member, Berwyn VanBuren is finishing this year but we need to elect someone to finish the final two years. It was decided we will elect four Elders at the congregational meeting in November, we will then put those four names in a hat and whoever gets drawn will finish the two year term with the other three names serving the regular three year term.

Address Update:

Robert & Beverly Kastein
Christian Living Center
452 Fox Lake Rd, Apt 103
Waupun WI 53963
Ph: 920-324-7703

Alvin & Doris Harmsen
808 Pattee Dr
Waupun WI 53963
Ph: 920-345-1136

Randy & Holly McDaniel
N3259 Hwy 49
Waupun WI 53963