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ARTICLES

Got Any Tough Decisions?

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

At hole 6 of the men's ministry golf outing, the men had to decide which club they would use for the entire hole. Some wrestled and debated for quite awhile before coming to a decision. While they fretted over that, I gave them a little Bible challenge before moving on.

One team, unknowingly, picked the two hardest questions first and missed them both, so I suggested a mandatory 2-hour Bible study after dinner if they missed the third question. Unfortunately, ;-) they got it right and made do with Doug's devotional after dinner, which was some great stuff.

The Good News is that I did not have to remove any elders from the consistory due to a lack of Bible knowledge during the Bible Trivia portion of the men's golf outing! The elders, actually, did very well and helped several teams easily pass the challenge by answering two of the three questions correctly to earn a 1 stroke advantage.

What does this have to do with tough decisions? It's the why question... **Why throw Bible trivia into a golf outing?** It's not to make them feel dumb or inadequate. It's not to give them a break under a cool oak tree. No, we simply want you to know that the Bible matters. It matters far more than how well you hit a golf ball (which is a relief for many of us). It matters far more than how much you know about your profession. And it matters far more than how much you have in the bank.

Knowing and understanding the Bible is the foundation of faith, and it's the foundation from which you can make good, godly decisions.

In Deuteronomy 1:13, Moses instructs the people to "Choose some wise, understanding, and respected men" to help lead. Take a look at these three key words...

"Wise" means that one is able to take knowledge and then make good ethical or godly decisions.

"Understanding" has a similar meaning with an emphasis on having knowledge and intelligence, but it, too, includes the idea of being discerning.

"Respected" may be translated as "known men" or "knowledgeable men." The NASB has "informed" while most others go more towards "known" or "respected."

My point, and Moses's point I believe, is that knowledge matters for decision-makers in the church. The knowledge Moses is concerned with is certainly the contents of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. While they did not all have copies to carry around, they did memorize the stories and the laws. "Wise, understanding, and respected leaders" knew these stories inside and out. They could tell these stories for hours and then explain the significance. That's the kind of leaders Moses was looking for.

Let me give you some practical application:

1. As we prepare to nominate new elders and deacons, do consider Bible knowledge and wisdom. Who among you is wise, understanding, and knowledgeable? These are the ones you want guiding the church and, ultimately, teaching, advising, and challenging you personally. **Nominate the wise when the time comes!**
2. Don't settle for "I'm not smart" or "I'm not a reader." I'm not either

one, but I sure want to know Jesus and make Him known. And so, I watch videos on RightNow Media, I listen to Christian audiobooks on Hoopla, and I read my Bible like a man looking for spiritual gold. Dig in and **learn God's Word!**

3. Some of you are not concerned about leadership in the church, you just need direction with a specific decision before you. Maybe it's about taking a different job, taking in foster kids, getting marital help, or changing schools. I don't know your question, but I know God speaks and directs. If you read the rest of Deuteronomy 1, you'll see Israel fail to trust (1:32) and obey (1:43). Yet, in chapter 2 God is again giving them direction. God placed his Spirit in you to guide you (Ephesians 1:13,17). So, **read the Bible, listen, journal, and then consult a wise elder.** God will guide you!

May the Lord guide you and lead you to do what is good and right. May His hand nudge you and hold you tight. May He soften your heart to hear His voice and obey His call. Amen

Library Update

By Deb Navis

For those of you that have not been down to our library recently, we want you to know that the new books for 2021 are starting to arrive on the shelves. Ready to be read and enjoyed by all. The 2021 books are on the shelves right next to the library desk - making it easy to checkout.

The new books include books of mystery and suspense from authors Erin Bartels, Terri Blackstock, and Susan May Warren. Authors Amy Lynn Green and Sarah Sundin write new novels with World War 2 history weaved within their stories. And of course, there is a favorite author Irene Hannon with a new series called "Hope Harbor". Another favorite author, Tracie Peterson, also has a new series out called "Ladies of the Lake". And the list could go on and on.

Please take time to come see and enjoy a new read. You may find a new author you will enjoy or new novels written by a favorite author you already like.

MESSAGES

Thank you to the foster care team of our church for all of the support and prayers through our journey so far. Also, thank you to the countless others of our congregation who have helped in any

way. Going forward, please pray for the boys' birth family and that we honor God in all we do through this.

Sincerely,

Chad, Lynnae, Merlayna, Stella, and Zeke Loomans

Thank you for all the prayers, said on my behalf with my eye surgery. Also for the visits, cards, food, gifts, and help I received. I'm so blessed to come from a caring church family.

God bless!

Sue Bos

On behalf of Faith Reformed Church in Wisconsin Rapids, we want to let you know what a terrific job Jessa Ter Beest and her team did for us last week during their visit. Not only did they run our Vacation Bible School for us, they also helped with our O.A.S.I.S. mid-week park program, did several community service projects, cleaned and weeded at the church, and helped out in other ways as well. The kids were well behaved, and the adults were friendly and fun to talk with. Jessa definitely had control of the entire group; everyone listened and you could tell she had their respect. She was very easy to work with, and her team was willing to do whatever we asked of them and more.

We have also had a lot of positive feedback from the community service work they did, and everyone is so grateful for their help.

What a blessing they all were to our church! As you know, we lost our beloved Pastor Vance Elzinga in January after he was diagnosed with a brain tumor in April of 2020, and feel we have been a little discouraged and floundering a bit dealing with the grief and the uncertainty of searching for a new shepherd to lead our congregation. Our faith in humanity and our ties with you, a sister church, has done much for renewing our spirits and restoring our incentive to carry on and see what our great God has in store for us next!

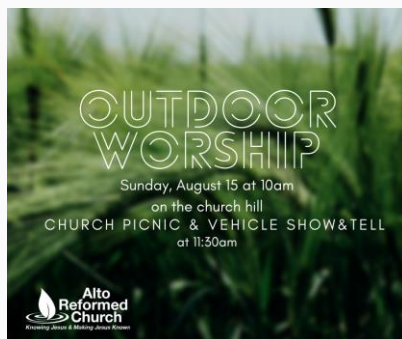
Thank you again, and may God richly bless you and your congregation as you continue to do His work to further His kingdom! If there is any way we can ever repay your kindness, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bruner

Consistory Representative - Spiritual Growth Committee

EVENTS



NEWS

Baptism:

7/25/21 - Harlee Kay, daughter of Micah & Laura Douma

New Member:

Jackie Clark

Updated Contact Info:

Willy & Carol Jansma - Phone 346-2179
Larry Daane 319-0759 and Betty Daane 319-9469

Lowell Prill

5535 Prairie Place Drive
McFarland WI 53558

Consistory Updates:

1. The consistory approved the creation of an internship program for high school seniors showing interest and potential for ministry leadership. One thing that is very clear coming from the RCA and ARC is that churches need to develop leaders for the future. It cannot be left up to the denomination to provide quality church staff candidates. We have seen some great students graduate who have sensed a call to ministry. Jessa has invested in these students, but she would like to see us do more. She presented to the consistory a proposal designed to equip and empower a high school senior in various ministry areas. The internship would require 30 hours per month of leadership and development and pay \$300 per month. The intern would not be

paid for general participation in church. At the same time, it is important to remember that the intent is to develop and encourage students, not to “hire” more staff. She further recommended Zack Van Wyk to serve in youth and worship ministries for this coming year. The consistory approved the recommendations. (I, Kevin, did excuse myself from the discussion and returned to help articulate the motions and answer some questions). Randy Bresser, Jessa, and Kevin have articulated some more guidelines and are working to implement this in September. If you have questions please contact one of the three just mentioned.

2. The consistory also empowered the staff to work with a graphic designer to create a new church logo to recommend to the consistory for approval. This is necessary because we are using a leaf design from the RCA’s Transformed and Transforming focus.
3. The Executive Team approved changing sometimes for Wednesday night programming. This was to accommodate a desire to keep as many groups as possible on Wednesday nights and

a sense that 1 hour for Bible Class was not necessary and 45 minutes would be more effective. So, The new Intermediate Praise Band (3rd-5th graders) will meet at 6pm, the Sunshine Singers will meet at 6:20pm, and Bible Class will start at 6:45pm.