



# A.M.E.N.

November 2020

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## ARTICLES

### Reasons I Love Alto...Doers

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22 ESV)

It's November, a time to be grateful. This month, in particular, I've been thankful for all the doers at Alto. You "don't just listen and do nothing" (James 1:22 ERV) at Alto. You are proving "yourselves doers of the word [actively and continually obeying God's precepts], and not merely listeners [who hear the word but fail to internalize its meaning], deluding yourselves." (James 1:22 AMP)

I hesitate to list people here, for fear I will miss someone, but I hope you can rejoice over these gifts of time and talent being offered.

- Ardyce spent time organizing the material for quilts.
- Blayne stepped away from hunting to be trained and then run sound Sunday morning.

- Benita spent a day (including an amish bakery) with a young lady in foster care as part of our Welcomed (Foster Care Family Support) ministry. Others brought meals and spent time blessing these families!
- Christian volunteered on the spur of the moment to help with video ministry when his Sunday school class was at camp.
- Steve spent time troubleshooting and programming our sound system.
- Brian and others came early to provide valet parking.
- Lynnae washed nursery toys and other loving souls have been in the nursery caring for our children. I'm sorry I've not been in there lately to list names. (Steph, maybe we need another ;-).
- Libbi & Zack helped chaperone middle schoolers (& Doug) at camp.
- Praise Team members prepared music, practiced, and lead us in worship.
- Elders and shepherds made calls and visits to our members.
- Nearly 20 teachers prepared lessons and taught Sunday school, Bible class, and small groups.

I'm sure I missed some of you serving in the church and serving beyond our walls. THANK YOU to all of you for being the

church.

THANK YOU for not just listening to a sermon each week, but for doing the ministry.

THANK YOU for loving your neighbor and being a light in the world.

THANK YOU!

If you're wanting to be a doer, you can find [a list of opportunities and discover your strengths on our website.](#)

## On the Mountain

By Pastor Doug Shotsky

**Matthew 17:1-9** - *After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.*

**4** *Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."*

**5** *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*

**6** *When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up,"*

*he said. "Don't be afraid." 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

This past weekend I had the pleasure of serving as a chaperone at Silverbirch Camp for the middle school boys from Alto. It was an experience where I felt like I was on the mountaintop. The worship music was moving, the message from the speaker was enriching and convicting, the fellowship was sweet, the surroundings were beautiful, and it was an overall fantastic weekend with the Lord. Seeing young people making a choice to follow Jesus, some for the first time, was like the ultimate Christian experience.

I took all of this in and was so pumped up that I wanted to come home and share about this amazing experience with others. As I shared about the time, I was quickly reminded that I was no longer on the mountaintop, but see a few lessons to be learned from my time there:

1. We can use our time of being "filled up" to pour out into the lives of others. Scripture talks about spurring one another on towards good deeds (Heb. 10:24) and

although God totally wants us to feel loved and blessed by our time with Him, He wants us to come back to shine our light into the lives of others.

2. Not everyone is going to understand the excitement you just experienced. I'm old enough to know by now that this is often the case with any experience we have, so just know that even though others may not share your joy to the depth you experienced, be grateful that God loved you enough to bless you.
3. We can help one another overcome fear. The zipline at the camp is really high, and if you're afraid of heights (like me), then there's a point where you drop off the ledge before the line catches you, and you realize that if it doesn't, you'll possibly die. Several of the kids were willing to do it together and cheer one another on so that some who wouldn't have otherwise gone ziplining, decided to give it a try!
4. So many are missing out on an opportunity to serve the Lord by going to camp. I honestly thought I was doing Jessa a favor by going to help chaperone (and I was looking forward to spending time with my son), but was I wrong. I was the one who was more blessed than

anything to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of all of those who were there.

So here's a shameless plug to end my Amen: If you're able to volunteer in the future, do yourself a favor and go.

## God is on the Move

By Jessa Ter Beest

Wow! What an incredible start to our ministry year so far! Participation is up, kids are bringing friends, and I've already seen so much growth in just 8 weeks of being back together!

This past week we were blessed to host the Alto Chase which I found out from Joyce VanBuren has been happening for over 50 years when she and Elton started it. What an incredible legacy this church



has! To see parents and even grandparents coming out to participate with their kids, students inviting so many friends, and just the message of trusting Jesus through persecution and trials started the week of ministry off right.

Then on Wednesday, Marlaina Shotsky and I did Question and Answer night with the high school youth group and I was blown away again by the questions these kids ask! They truly want to know more about Christ and be able to have answers to give when they are asked questions by their peers. Here were the questions we answered:

- Did creation really happen in 6 days?
- Why does it seem like everything fun is a sin?
- Why does God let bad things happen?
- Why did the Israelites get special attention/favor from God and not anyone else?
- What came first, the chicken or the egg? (Creation/Evolution views)
- What is the point of us being here if God is the one in control anyway?
- What does God think of abortion?

The cherry on top of this Jesus-filled week was the weekend spent at Silver Birch Retreat with 17 of our middle schoolers, Pastor Doug, Zack VanWyk, and Libbi Campbell. The theme of the weekend was Psalm 23, understanding why we need a shepherd. On Saturday night the kids were asked if they wanted to be a part of Jesus' flock. Tears started streaming down my face when 3 of our boys sitting in

front of me immediately turned around and told me that they were “in the flock”. When we met together after the session, 12 of our 17 students accepted



Christ for the first time or made the decision to recommit their lives to following Jesus. Wow!

God is on the move! He is doing great things in and through this church and these kids! Please continue to pray for our students and if you haven't yet, please sign up on the information desk to be a prayer partner. We have many students without partners yet and we'd love for each family to be prayed for daily by someone in the church. Thank you for your continued support!

## Women's Ministry Update

By Brittany Page

The Women's Ministry team is back working on some projects for the fall of 2020. We have sent out a challenge to the Bible School classes to participate in our Winter Clothing Drive for our local schools. For the weeks of November 11 & 18 and December 2 & 9, students are invited to bring certain type of winter clothing to

bible class and each student will receive points. The class with the most points will win a pizza party in January! We encourage the entire congregation to participate by giving those particular items to a child you know in bible class or we will have another location at church to donate. Items needed include: winter gloves, boots, snowpants, jackets and hats. Good luck to all the bible classes!

As we look forward to 2021, we are looking to improve what Women's Ministries means and looks like to the women of our church. If you would love to be a part of this group, I encourage you to reach out to myself or Tiffany Arndt.

## Golden Lifers Update

By Roxy Schouten

Most likely you share with me a deep agony of the soul about what is happening in our world. As more and more evil is being revealed we can no longer pretend that there is a safe haven in this world from it all.

In this distress I often turn to Psalm 73 and perhaps you do too when evil seemingly overtakes and there does not appear to be any justice. Before our eyes we see Isaiah 5:20 in TECHNICAL!

Psalm 77 also holds much comfort and

depth. I have it labeled in my Bible "Before You Pray" as a reminder. Verses 1-9 are the angst of crying out to God. Although some versions no longer have the word "Selah" which means to "pause and think" it is noted after verses 3, 9, and 15. Contemplative/Centering Prayer (sometimes called the "Silence" or "Quiet") falsely teaches that one must empty the mind before one can truly pray. NO! God's blueprint is to Selah (pause and think).

Verse 10-14 mirror what King David did when confronted with being pursued by his enemies, dissatisfaction from his followers and grave danger to his family (1 Samuel 30). He **remembered**! He remembered all the goodness of God to his ancestors and continued on to his present time. Selah!

But there is more in Verses 16-20. These words address the fears we have. Those fears loom awfully large to us. The Psalmist uses an example of "waters". To the long ago people big bodies of water were a huge obstacle and dangerous. (Rev 21:1 is a comfort because the new heaven and earth will no longer have a "sea" or those things that cause us to fear.) The "waters" may not be the obstacle that presented to that age but we just substitute our fears that loom large. Each generation has their "waters".

What the Psalmist is conveying is that the **things** that we fear are the **things** that fear God. They cannot survive or stand under His wrath and care for us. We need to remember that in the storm of God against the things that we fear is sometimes hidden as voiced in Verse 19 that "Your foot prints were not seen". Praise God!!!

We pray- Father, we pray that You will do as promised in Psalm 119:18 to "open my eyes that I may see wondrous things out of Thy law". Remind us that You are more powerful than the scariest formidable "Waters" and they cower in fear at Your power and majesty. Your "footprints" are not always recognizable but we trust that they are always there and leading Your flock as in Verse 20. Jesus we thank You that You made this all possible and we ask in Your precious and powerful Name. Amen

## MESSAGES

Thank you to everyone for your love and support through your kind words, cards, and calls. Special thanks to Roxy and the Women's Ministry for the prayer quilt. We know we are covered by your prayers.  
-Paul & Audrey Elenius

Dear ARC Family-

We would like to thank you for all of the thoughts, prayers and cards during the passing of Jeremy's mom. We are very grateful for the amazing church family that we have.

Love,

Jeremy, Maggie and River Block

Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you for remembering us. Both of your families blessed us as we go through this treatment phase. Thank you for your generosity to us.

-Harlan & Judy Bossenbroek

Thank you for your prayers and cards,

Randy Bruins for the apple pie, and Carol Jansma for the prayer shawl. Please keep Harvey in your prayers. He's doing better.

-Harvey & Elaine Daane

Dear Mrs. Hopp & ARC Women's Ministry-

Thank you so much for the sweet home visit and generous gifts honoring sweet Ezekiel's arrival. We are so grateful to have a church that celebrates new life and supports us in our journey as a growing family. Hoping to see you in person at church soon!

Love-

Eric & Beth Redeker

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$778.80. Your efforts on our

behalf truly benefit those in our community who are struggling. We appreciate you!!

-Waupun Area Food Pantry

Thank you so much for your continued support. We truly appreciate it!

With gratitude,

REACH Waupun

## EVENTS



Sunday,  
November  
8 at 2pm



Wednesday,  
November 25  
at 7pm

Speakers: Heidi Schindel & Marla De Jager

## NEWS

### **Congregational Meeting:**

**When:** Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the sanctuary

**How do I attend?** You may attend either in person or on Zoom.

**What is the Zoom info?**

Click this link on your device:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87186285841?pwd=WEFHcXlORk8rV3U4QXBjTzloV0ZlZUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 8628 5841

Passcode: 264579

Or call on your phone: 1 312 626 6799

**What will be covered during this meeting?** The main topics will be voting for elders & deacons, staff reports, consistory reports, and an update from the Task Force.

**Who will be on the ballot for Elder & Deacon?**

Elder: Norris Damsteegt, Marty Huizenga, Larry Kok, Darryl Navis, Miley Ter Beest, and Berwyn Van Buren

Deacon: Nick Arndt, Larry Brewer, Clay Daane, Corey Flier, Brant McDowell, and Nate Rens

You are asked to vote for 3 in each category.

**How do I vote?** If you attend the meeting in person, you will vote during the meeting. Otherwise, you will vote via paper absentee ballot or email absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available at the Information Center and may be placed in the box on the ledge of Megan's office window up until the time the meeting starts (please put your ballot in a signed envelope first). To vote via email, please email your vote to Megan at [office@altoreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@altoreformedchurch.org) by noon on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> (be sure to include your full name). Voting for elder

and deacon will NOT be accepted on Zoom.

**Can I ask questions/comment during the meeting if I attend via Zoom?** Yes, you may do so using the chat feature and a staff member will then ask your question for you. We do ask that everyone keep their microphones muted to prevent any feedback/distractions.