

April 30, 2023



The ARC Ministry Staff

Lead Pastor – Kevin Van Wyk

Equipping Adults Pastor – Doug Shotsky

Equipping Youth Director – Jessa Ter Beest

Equipping Children & Families Director – Lynnae Loomans

Office Administrator – Megan Vande Zande

Youth & Worship Intern – Wyatt Guell

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We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Praise Singing

“Here I Am to Worship”

“Death Was Arrested”

“In Christ Alone”

Congregational Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Message – Listen Carefully. Live Wisely.

Scripture – Luke 8:1-18

We Respond to God

Prayer

“No Longer Slaves”

Benediction

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.



Sermon Notes: Listen Carefully. Live Wisely.

Key Scriptures: Luke 8:4-18

Luke 8:8b-17 - When he said this, he called out, **“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”**

9 His disciples asked him what this parable meant. **10** He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, “though seeing, they may not see;

though hearing, they may not understand.’

11 “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. **12** Those along the path are the ones who **hear**, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. **13** Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they **hear** it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. **14** The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who **hear**, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. **15** But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who **hear** the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

A Lamp on a Stand

16 “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. **17** For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. **18**

Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”

How easily we may deceive ourselves into thinking we are good hearers of the Word just because we may regularly attend church on Sunday morning or listen to good preaching on the radio or watch good preaching on TV – what little of it there is! How easily we can forget that the true test of whether or not we have been good hearers of the Word is found in the difference that

it makes in our lives. It is seen in a love for the Word that leads to a desire to live it out and to share it with others.

- Keith Throop

Application

1. Ask yourself, and if possible discuss with others, these questions:
 - A. Are you reading your bible?
 - B. What are you reading?
 - C. What difference is it making in your life?
 - D. Have you had opportunity to share it with others?
2. Read Luke 8:1-18
3. Read this article from Keith Throop on these verses:
<https://reformedbaptistblog.com/2014/04/25/parable-of-the-lamp-luke-816-18-teaching-outline/>

Upcoming Events

- Apr 30** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – Pastor Kevin
 10:45am – Sunday School, Covenant Partnership Class
 5:30pm – Jr High Praise Band
 6:00pm – Post-High Bags Tournament at The Rock
 6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group
- May 1** 7:00pm – Deacon Meeting
 8:00pm – High School Band
- May 2** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
 1:30pm – Women’s Mission Circle – *Bible Study #8*
 7:00pm – Elder Meeting – *If you are interested in baptism or partnership, please contact Pastor Kevin.*
- May 3** 6:00pm – Intermediate Praise Team
 7:30pm – High School Youth Group
- May 7** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – Pastor Kevin, PreK-5th Graders Lead the Service
 10:45am – Last Day of Sunday School, Foster Care Awareness Event
 11:30am – Newcomer’s Lunch
 5:30pm – Jr High Praise Band
 6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group

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

Youth News

Middle School – Tonight Libbi is going to share with us about the importance of worshipping God, how praise and worship are different, and what worship looks like in our lives. See you at 6:30!

High School – Wednesday is A-teams! Check with your small group leader about where you'll be meeting!

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: 4/30 Regular Benevolence, 5/7 Missionary Salary, 5/14 Regular Benevolence, 5/21 Waupun & Brandon Food Pantry. 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 Bob Kastein as he observes his 90th birthday on May 5th.

New Directory – Covenant Partners, if you ordered a new directory, you may pick it up from the coat racks in the west hallway (by the elevator). Please only take the directory with YOUR name on it. If you did not order a directory, but would like one, let Megan know and you'll be added to the list for January updates. Thanks!

Lunch at The Community Table – Our church is serving at the Community Table on May 5th. 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, May 5th. Contact Peg Bresser at 382-9648 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Donations Needed for VBS – Over the next few months we will be collecting large cardboard to use for VBS decorations. We are also looking for water bottle caps, yellow, orange or red tissue paper, and new colored plastic tablecloths. Donations may be placed in the tote by the Children & Families Resource Center.

Ukraine Donations – Pella Lutheran Church will again do a special packing for Ukraine on May 6th from 9am-3pm. Because the need is still so great we are hoping to pack 80,000 oatmeal meals, and 20,000 rice meals. Because of the increased shipping costs and great need all participants are asked to bring monetary and/or listed donations. Needed items: Costco (Kirkland) or Huggies diapers, all feminine hygiene products, toothpaste and toothbrushes, bar soap, sturdy combs, nail clippers, towels, wash cloths, band-aids, plastic soap dishes, small tissue packs. Winter/summer children's, infants/toddlers and men's clothing, winter coats, boots, tennis shoes, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves for all. New socks and underwear. Quilts, blankets, and bedding. New pillows. No ladies clothing needed. All clothing in new or like-new condition. Expiration date one year out. Donation items are asked to be dropped off at Pella Monday - Thursday (May 1-4) from 9am-3pm. Please sign up through Pella's Church office. Any questions contact Susan Buwalda 920-324-3929.

National Day of Prayer – You're invited to join other Christians in the area to pray for our nation on May 4th at 6pm at the Waupun City Hall. This is a crucial time in our country which requires Christ's Body to join together to "...humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways..." Various Christian members of the community will lead in sections of prayer for spheres of life.

Hymn Sing – Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 7th at 6pm for a Prayer and Praise Service at First Christian Reformed Church in Waupun. We plan to have a hymn sing and also a time of prayer together, in light of the National Day of Prayer a few days before on May 4. Different church members will lead us in prayer for our Churches, our Community, our Nation, and our World.

Opportunities to Get Involved

Partnership Class – Ready to up your commitment to Christ and His church? Church membership, or as we call it covenant partnership, is a commitment every believer should take as it provides support for you and opens doors for you to grow and serve. Join Pastor Kevin to learn more on April 30th at 10:45am at his house. Lunch is provided. Family is welcome to come. Contact him with questions and to let him know you are coming.

Post-High Bags Tournament – Young Adults join us for a free bags tournament at The Rock Golf Club on Sunday, April 30th at 6pm. Signup at the Information Center or by contacting Andy Glewen (920-375-0213) or Caleb Glewen (920-904-0484).

Foster Care Awareness Event – Don't miss our upcoming Foster Care Awareness event on May 7th during the Sunday School hour! You'll hear personal experiences from some of our own foster families, as well as from individuals who are involved in our church's foster care ministry. So grab your coffee and join us in the sanctuary on May 7th at 10:45am. Everyone is welcome!

Newcomer's Lunch – We welcome all new families/individuals to join us May 7th at 11:30am after Sunday School for lunch in the basement. The main dish, tableware, and drinks will be provided by the ARC, all who attend may bring a dish to pass. There will be a sign up sheet located on the information desk. RSVPs will be needed by April 30th. Not a "new" member but still want to attend? Feel free to help sign up and join us in welcoming our newest faces.

VBS Volunteers Needed – We are looking for volunteers (incoming 6th grade-adults) to help with VBS June 19-23 at 9-11:30am. Please sign up at the Children & Families Resource Center. VBS registration will open for 3 year olds – incoming 5th graders in May.

VBS Registration – VBS registration begins tomorrow! Watch your email and Facebook for full details!

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

Praise: Jesus, you are the light of the world. We rejoice that you have shed light on us and have revealed the truth.

Repent: Forgive us for speaking and doing evil in the dark. Remind us again and again that you will bring all these things into the light. Forgive us and change us.

Ask: Help us walk in the light. Encourage and strengthen us as we seek to live out your kingdom now on earth. Revive our faith, inspiring us to study your Word and to pray without ceasing. Renew our passion for your mission and help us reach the lost. We ask for faith, healing, strength and peace for those listed below as they face challenges each day. Guide and lead our national and world leaders to bring justice and peace to all.

Yield: I will walk in the light. I will maintain a life of prayer, study your Word, participate in the Lord's supper, gather with believers regularly, use my spiritual gifts and financial resources to further the mission of Jesus through the local church, live a life pleasing to you and accept the spiritual guidance of the church leadership.

THIS WEEK... Pray for the family of Rich Kamphuis as he passed away on Monday. Pray for Betty Daane as she recovers from shoulder surgery.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Betty Daane, Cal Flegner, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Kevin Harmsen, Sharon Harmsen, John Hoekstra, Faye Janey, Isabel Kastein, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Jean Stelsel, Jodi Vande Berg, Carl VanderKooi, Jake Vande Zande, Ron Vande Zande, Connie Wiersema, and Silas Willey.

Military Personnel:

Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in Las Vegas;
Sebastian Hoenisch, deployed on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder;
Mitch Miller, US

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: Sharon Harmsen, Dayton TerBeest, Junice Vande Zande, Kay Vande Zande
Home: Margaret Hoekstra, Julie Medema, Marion Tolsma, Marilyn Westerveld
Christian Homestead: Betty Bruins
Harbor Haven: Don Vande Zande
Maple Meadows: Arlene Henning
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

