

December 1, 2024



The ARC Ministry Staff

Lead Pastor – Kevin Van Wyk

Equipping Young Adults & Families Director – Tim Fennell

Equipping Youth Director – Randy McDaniel

Equipping Children & Families Director – Lynnae Loomans

Office Administrator – Megan Vande Zande

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We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Advent – Joy

Men's Chorus – "O Holy Night"

Praise Singing

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” Hymn #155 vs 1-3

“Here I am to Worship with O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Hymn #133

Congregational Prayer

Doxology

We Hear God's Word

Children's Message – Linda Mulder

Message – The Joys of Christmas Traditions

Scripture – Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Leviticus 19:18

We Respond to God

Prayer

“How Great Our Joy!” Hymn #157

Blessing

Family Memory Verse – Be still, and know that I am God... - Psalm 46:10

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.

This Week's Events

- Dec 1** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – 1st Sunday of Advent, Tim Fennell, Men's Chorus
10:45am – Sunday School
- Dec 2** 7:00pm – Women's Worship Night
- Dec 3** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
12:30pm – Women's Mission Circle
7:00pm – Elder Meeting – *If you are interested in baptism or partnership, please contact Pastor Kevin.*
- Dec 4** 5:15pm – 5th Grade Christmas Program Practice
6:20pm – Sonshine Singers, Jr Choir
6:30pm – Mixed Choir
6:45pm – Bible Class
7:30pm – High School Youth Group, Men's Chorus
- Dec 8** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Tim Fennell, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Baptism – Beau Hopp, Jr Choir
10:45am – Sunday School
6:00pm – Caroling in Alto

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

Opportunities to Get Involved

Women's Worship Night – Please join us on Monday, December 2nd at 7pm for a night of worship and prayer as we “make room” for the savior of the world.

Caroling – The Middle School Youth Group will be hosting caroling around Alto on December 8th from 6-7pm. All are welcome! We will carol and give treats to our neighbors to spread the love and joy that is in Christ alone. Hot chocolate, coffee, and fellowship back at church afterward. If anyone would like to donate cookies for this that would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up at the Information Center and leave cookies in the Youth Room prior to that evening. If caroling isn't your thing, you are still welcome to come and fellowship with us. Parents, this event will be Middle School Youth Group for the night.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing – We are looking for bell ringers for Fri, Dec 13th and Sat, Dec 14th at Piggly Wiggly. Please sign-up at the Information Center or contact Darryl Navis for more details. Seating is available.

YA Ugly Christmas Sweater Party – Young adults, come join us in your best ugly Christmas sweater or onesie for food raffle, games, and a Yankee Swap gift exchange Friday, December 20th at 6:30pm.

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: 12/1 Missionary Salary, 12/8 Awaken Kids, 12/15 Missionary Salary, 12/22 Waupun Food Pantry. If you feel led to give specifically towards the parking lot 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 toward the project, which will be shown in the monthly financial reports. Thank you.

Congrats to Jim Stelsel as he celebrates his 86th birthday today.

Congrats to Alvin Harmsen as he celebrates his 87th birthday on December 2nd.

Congrats to Faye Janey as she celebrates her 81st birthday on December 4th.

Women's Mission Circle – Women's Mission Circle will have their final gathering on December 3rd at 12:30pm. If you have any Mission Circle memorabilia from the past, please feel free to bring it along to share with others.

Christmas Card Distribution will run Dec 1st-22nd. As a fundraiser, the youth group students will pass your Christmas cards out to the church mailboxes so you don't have to! This fundraiser will help raise proceeds for spring and summer events. There will be a table in the Lobby with a box to put the cards in, and a donation box which we minimally ask for what would have been spent on stamps. Any further donations are gratefully appreciated.

Directory Updates – If your address or other contact/directory information changed in 2024, please contact Megan to ensure your directory listing gets updated. Thanks!

Love Offering – We will be giving a love offering to multiple anonymous recipients. A second offering will be collected each week in Sunday School class (parents, please explain to your children that one offering goes in the regular offering and the other should be given to a Sunday school teacher). You may also donate by placing your offering in a labeled envelope in one of the white offering boxes through Dec 24th. You can find more info in your church mailbox.

K-5th Grade Christmas Program Practice – As a reminder, all Kindergarten through 5th graders have Christmas program practice Wednesday, December 11th at 6-7:30pm. We will do a full run-through of the program.

Sunday School Christmas Program – Join us on Sunday, December 15th at 6:30pm as the PreK-5th graders present the Christmas program "Chosen Too: Jesus Chose You". If you would be willing to bake treats for fellowship after the program, please signup at the Information Center.

Mixed Choir Cantata – December 15th at 9:30am the Mixed Choir will present the cantata: "The First Noel: Celebrating the Birthday of a King".

Christmas Eve Service – Join us at 4pm on Tuesday, December 24th for the Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Carol Sing Invitation – First Reformed Church (422 W. Franklin Street, Waupun) will be hosting their annual Christmas Carol Sing on Sunday, December 8th at 6pm. Join in an evening of singing Christmas carols and enjoying performances by a variety of soloists, choirs and ensembles from the Waupun area. A free will donation will be received to support the Waupun Holiday Help program.

Funeral services for Bernard Bille will be held on Monday, December 2, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at First Reformed Church in Waupun with Pastor Barry Lang officiating. Burial will follow at Alto Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Sunday at Werner-Harmsen Funeral Home in Waupun from 2-4 p.m. and on Monday at the church from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service.

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

Praise: Lord Jesus, we praise you for giving your life for our sin. We thank you for taking the punishment we deserve to reconcile us to God. We exalt you above all else & praise your name.

Repent: Father, forgive us for rebelling against your Word and pursuing evil. Forgive me for dabbling in the sin of _____...

Ask: Holy Spirit, lead us and guide us into your mission. Give us a clear vision of what you desire for our church and for me, personally. Direct me in prioritizing what matters most. Help me accomplish your vision without losing track of the greater mission.

- Guide our consistory in every decision, so that your mission will be pursued and lives transformed by your grace and truth.
- Stir up a conviction in our political leaders to support life, liberty, and justice. Uncover evil and deception in our leaders that they may lead us toward truth.
- Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the oppressed, encourage the weak, and bring peace to embattled nations.
- Bring healing, strength and peace to those listed below as they face challenges each day. Renew their hearts, minds, and bodies to continue to live faithfully in this world.

Yield: 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 Bernie Bille as he passed on Monday morning. Pray for Matt Schultz as he recovers from surgery.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Jade Bresser, Bruce Buwalda, Barbara Gordon, Bennett Hull, Desarae Hull, Faye Janey, Stephanie Levey, Lynette Loomans, Phil Loomans, Tim Loomans, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Dale Schultz, Jean Stelsel, Jim Stelsel, Brian Tenpas, Jodi Vande Berg, Scott Van De List, Jean Vande Zande, Ron Vande Zande, Harold VanRuiswyk, Shirley Westra, and Tom Winscher.

Military Personnel:

Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in Las Vegas;
Sebastian Hoenisch, stationed in North Carolina, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder;
Matt Saunders, nephew to David Grulich & Rosemary Tschinkel
Griffin Boldt, Texas, nephew to Joel & Pamela Ruis

Shut-ins: Members in assisted living, nursing homes or those confined to their home: **Barrett House:** Lowell Glewen **Beaver Dam Rehab:** Faye Janey **Charleston House:** Brian Hemp **Christian Home:** Sharon Harmsen, Bob & Bev Kastein, Barrie & Ardyce Tenpas, Dayton TerBeest, Kay Vande Zande, Marilyn Westerveld **Home:** Julie Medema, Marion Tolsma **Christian Homestead:** Betty Bruins **Markesan Resident Home:** Margaret Hoekstra **Prairie Ridge:** Annice Hopp, Eleanor Loomans

Missionaries: Bob & Amy Abel – Remember Nhu, Steve & Amanda Bialy – Converge, Chris Briggs – CCCD, Andy Lickel – InterVarsity, Jersey & Preston Sheldon – Overland Missions, Scott Ritzema – Youth for Christ