



*Joy*

December 11, 2022

## **We Approach God**

Welcome & Announcements

Baptisms – Evelyn Grace, daughter of Luke & Sarah Bruins  
Bodhi Murray, son of Tom & Lindsey Bruins  
Anakin Abraham, son of Colton & Courtney Loomans  
Ellie Audrey, daughter of Kyle & Jessica Ter Beest

Advent Reading – Joy

Praise Singing

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

“O Come Let Us Adore/Here I Am to Worship”

Congregational Prayer

## **We Hear God's Word**

Children's Message – Jackie Tenpas

Message – What Are We Waiting For?

Scripture – Isaiah 40:3-5, Malachi 3:1 & 4:5-6

## **We Respond to God**

Prayer

Jr Choir – “Joy Unto the World”

Benediction

## **Sermon Notes: What Are We Waiting For?**

**Key Scriptures: Isaiah 40:3-5, Malachi 3:1 & 4:5-6**

**Proverbs 13:19a** - A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul,

### **What Are We Waiting For?**

**A voice crying in the wilderness, "prepare the way of the Lord".**

Prophesied: Isaiah 40:3-5

Fulfilled: Matthew 3:1-3, John 1:19 & 23, Luke 1:67 & 76-77

**A messenger from the Lord.**

Prophesied: Malachi 3:1

Fulfilled: Matthew 11:7-10

**One coming in the spirit and power of Elijah.**

Prophesied: Malachi 4:5-6

Fulfilled: Luke 1:16-17, Matthew 11:11-15

### ***Application***

- 1.** If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, do it TODAY! It's what you've been waiting for!
- 2.** Re-read through these scriptures this week. Meditate on them. If possible, talk about them with your friends or family.
- 3.** Watch this lesson to gain more insight from another teacher about the fulfillment of these prophecies; it will grow your faith to see that John was the one that was predicted to come!

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGZy6dAy5eo>**

## *Upcoming Events*

- Dec 11**      8:30am – Prayer Meeting  
                 9:30am – Pastor Doug, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Jr Choir  
                 10:45am – Sunday School  
                 5:00pm – Caroling around Alto  
                 6:00pm – Christmas in Alto
- Dec 13**      8:00am – Prayer Meeting  
                 7:00pm – Consistory Meeting
- Dec 14**      6:00pm – K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program Practice  
                 7:30pm – Mixed Choir, High School Youth Group
- Dec 15**      6:00pm – 4K Christmas Program
- Dec 18**      8:30am – Prayer Meeting  
                 9:30am – Mixed Choir Cantata, 3 Minutes for Missions – Preston & Jersey  
                 Sheldon  
                 10:45am – Sunday School  
                 6:30pm – Sunday School Christmas Program

To view the church calendar, go to [www.altoreformedchurch.org](http://www.altoreformedchurch.org)

## *Youth News*

**Middle School** – Today’s activities: 4pm cookie decorating, 5pm caroling around Alto, 6pm Christmas in Alto Open House.

**High School** – Libbi will be teaching the lesson Wednesday on the life of Jesus and the example He set for us while He lived on Earth. See you at 7:30!

## *Opportunities to Get Involved*

**Sunday School** – Sunday school is available for everyone 3 years old – adult. Preschoolers should meet in the Sunbeamers room. K-5<sup>th</sup> grade should go to the basement for their snack (do not take a snack from upstairs) and singing and then break off into their classrooms. 6<sup>th</sup>-High School should meet in their classrooms.

**Women’s Worship Night** – Please join us on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for a night of worship and prayer as we “make room” for the savior of the world. Not just for celebrating Christmas, but making room in our lives for his presence, salvation, redemption, and peace. We can’t wait to worship with you!

**Sanctuary Prep** – On Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am-12pm we will be clearing out any moveable items from the sanctuary to prepare for the ceiling renovation project which will begin the following day. If you are able to help, please be here at 10am.

**Women’s Bible Study** – Join us for a bible study on 1 & 2 Peter held on Tuesdays at 9:30am for 11 weeks beginning January 17<sup>th</sup>. Come when you’re available. Signup for the book (cost \$10) at the Information Center by January 8<sup>th</sup>.

## *Bulletin Board News*

**Offering** may be placed in one of the three white offering boxes located in the lobby. Upcoming benevolent schedule: 12/11 Christian Home Chaplain, 12/18 WNWC/KLUV Christian Radio, 12/25 Food Pantries. If you feel led to give specifically towards the upcoming ceiling project, please put your check in a separate marked envelope in one of the offering boxes. The deacons are beginning to keep track separately of what has been contributed towards the project, which will be shown on the monthly financial reports. Thank you.

**Congrats** to Margaret Hoekstra as she celebrates her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program Practice** – As a reminder, all Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders have Christmas program practice this Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We will do a full run-through of the program.

- 5<sup>th</sup> graders need to meet in the fellowship area of the basement by 5:45pm.
- Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> graders need to meet in the fellowship area of the basement by 5:55pm. Practice will start at 6pm and go til 7:30pm.

**Sunday School Christmas Program** – Join us on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm as the PreK-5<sup>th</sup> graders present the Christmas program “The Real Story: A Christmas Comedy”.

**Christmas Card Distribution** goes through Christmas morning. The youth group students will pass your Christmas cards out to the church mailboxes so you don't have to! Just leave them in the white box on the table in the fellowship hall. All we ask is that you'd make a donation to the youth group in the amount you would have spent on stamps. Thanks!

**Cookie/Bar Donations** – We are asking for donations of cookies and bars for the Sunday School Christmas Program. Please check the Information Center for the signup form and more details.

**Love Offering** – This year we will be giving 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 December 24<sup>th</sup>. You can find more info in your church mailbox.

**The Community Table** is in urgent need of church groups, clubs, small groups, or even families to provide a meal on Fridays between 11am – 1pm. Presently, no one is signed up for any Fridays in 2023. Please help us provide this service to our community members. To sign up call Terri Respalje at 324-4000 between 9am – 3pm, Monday - Thursday. For information about numbers to prepare for or any other questions, call Ron Schaalma at 948-8069.

**Christmas Dinner** – You are invited for a free, home-cooked meal at the Wesley Center in Waupun on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. A meal will be served at 11:30am and 12:45pm. Please call 928-3310 for reservations and state which time slot you wish to attend.

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

**Praise:** Father in Heaven, we rejoice in the sending of your son, Jesus, to reveal your grace and truth through his life, death and resurrection. We praise you for the joy you brought to the world through Jesus.

**Repent:** Forgive us for looking to circumstances, experiences, and possessions to bring us pleasure in place of the joy you promised in Jesus Christ. Help us not to seek the sources of temporary bliss, but true joy in you.

**Ask:** Yet, we pray that you would intervene in our circumstances that we might rejoice in your work...

- Revive our faith by inspiring us to study your Word and to pray without ceasing.
- Renew our passion for your mission and draw people to believe.
- Heal and strengthen those listed below as they face challenges each day.

**Yield:** Today, we devote ourselves to the true joy-giver and pledge to abide in Christ.

**THIS WEEK...** Pray for Carl VanderKooi as he has more testing this week.

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

### **Military Personnel:**

Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in New Mexico; Sebastian Hoenisch, deployed on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder; Mitch Miller, stationed in the South China Sea

**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, Marion Tolsma, Marilyn Westerveld,  
**Christian Homestead:** Betty Bruins  
**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