



JOY

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December 24, 2023

We Approach God

Advent Reading – Joy

Special Music – Addalyn McDaniel
“Behold”

Welcome & Announcements

Praise Singing
“Joy to the World/Unspeakable Joy”
“Go, Tell It on the Mountains” Hymn #139
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Congregational Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Children’s Message – Adrea Daane

Message – Religious Fruitcakes: A Joy Bias
Scripture – Luke 2:1-20

We Respond to God

Prayer

Sonshine Singers – “What Will You Do?”

Blessing

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.

Religious Fruitcakes:

A People of Thanks, Dedication, Hope, Peace, Love, & Joy

Religious Fruitcakes: A Joy Bias

Luke 2:10-12

Do you struggle with a negativity bias?

FUNDAMENTALS OF NURTURING A JOY BIAS

The _____ of Joy

= χαρά (*chara*) _____, state of rejoicing, great _____ (Luke 2:10, Matthew 2:10)

The _____ of Joy

= The Good News of a _____, _____, _____. (Luke 2:10-12)

Incarnation (Luke 2:10)

Crucifixion (Luke 1:46-47, Isa. 61:10)

_____ (Mat. 28:8, 5:12)

Indwelling _____ (Gal. 5:22; 1 Thes. 1:6)

The _____ of Joy

= _____ (Proverbs 29:6; Rom. 4:7-8; Psalm 32)

APPLICATION:

So, how do you move from a negativity bias to a _____ bias?

1. _____ (1 Peter 1:8, Matt. 13:44)

2. _____ (Luke 2:20, Ps. 32:11, Phil. 4:4, Hab. 3:1, 17-18, Psalm 5:11, 95:1)

PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS:

- Tell someone about your decision to truly believe in Jesus. Not sure who to tell? Send me a text :-) 319-464-4673.
- Read the Bible passages mentioned above and prayerfully rejoice in God's grace and love.
- Make a list of your sins and then destroy the list remembering that God removes your sin. (Psalm 103:12)
- Sing and dance. Turn on Christian radio or whatever app you have to play music and worship. Tip: It helps if you have a small child to get rid of your inhibitions.

This Week's Events

- Dec 24** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – 4th Sunday of Advent, Pastor Kevin, Sonshine Singers
10:45am – No Sunday School
4:00pm – Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25** Office Closed
Pastor Kevin on vacation through 1/1/24
- Dec 26** Office Closed
8:00am – Prayer Meeting
7:00pm – Deacon Meeting
- Dec 29** Office Closed
- Dec 31** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Pulpit Supply – Randy McDaniel
10:45am – No Sunday School

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

Youth News

No youth group today or Wednesday! Have a Merry Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Christmas Eve Service – Join us at 4pm today for the Christmas Eve service. We will also be having our usual Sunday morning worship service at 9:30am that day.

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: 12/24 Brandon Food Pantry, 12/31 Waupun Food Pantry, 1/7 Regular Benevolence, 1/14 Missionary Salary. 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.

AMEN articles are due next Sunday, December 31st.

Congrats to Willy Jansma as he celebrates his 80th birthday on December 27th.

2024 Offering Envelopes – Covenant Partners, please take your offering envelopes from the table in the lobby.

Love Offering – This year 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.



Hosted by Alto Reformed Church
(N3697 County Road EE, Waupun, WI 53963)
Sunday, January 14 at 2-5pm

Go and Tell is an easy and practical way to equip you to become a fisher of men (Matthew 4:19). This three-hour interactive seminar will provide you with the tools to *“be active in sharing your faith so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”* (Philemon 6)

Go & Tell Evangelism Workshop Promo Video: <https://youtu.be/9hlpe56T1Jw>

Introduction: Go

The Lord has commanded us to go (Matthew 28:18-20) and make disciples. Learn how to initiate gospel conversations (Acts 11:14).

Session 1: Tell

Learn how to use the Word of God as a mirror to help others see their need for a Savior (Romans 3:19-23).

Session 2: Tell

Learn how to present the gospel with others (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Session 3: Tell

Learn what it means to follow Jesus and how to encourage others to walk with Him (Matthew 4:19, 7:21-23).

jim@goandtellministries.org

www.goandtellministries.org

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 seek the sources of temporary bliss, but true joy in you.

Ask: Yet, we pray that you would intervene in our circumstances so 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. 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 Sadie Schultz and Elaine Daane as they recover from surgery.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Paul Bruins, Betty Daane, Elaine Daane, Sharon DeMotts, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Faye Janey, Melene Kraemer, Gary Navis, Steve Navis, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Don Schultz, Sadie Schultz, Jean Stelsel, Jim Stelsel, Barry Ter Beest, Jodi Vande Berg, Ron Vande Zande, and Harold VanRuiswyk.

Military Personnel:
Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in Las Vegas;
Sebastian Hoenisch, stationed in San Diego, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder;
Matt Saunders, stationed in east Africa, nephew to David Grulich & Rosemary Tschinkel
Cyler Ruis, stationed in California, nephew to Joel & Pamela Ruis

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: Elaine Daane, Sharon Harmsen, Dayton TerBeest, Kay Vande Zande, Marilyn Westerveld
Home: Margaret Hoekstra, Julie Medema, Marion Tolsma,
Christian Homestead: Betty Bruins
Harbor Haven: Don Vande Zande
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