

**May 7, 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**

Special Music – Sunbeamers

“It Is Good”

“Praise the Lord Everyday”

Welcome & Announcements

Praise Singing

“Glorious Day”

“Glory to God”

Congregational Prayer

Special Music – K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

“For the Good”

## **We Hear God’s Word**

Children’s Message – Lynnae Loomans

Message – How to Survive This Pain-Filled World

Scripture – Luke 18:15-17

## **We Respond to God**

Prayer

Special Music – Intermediate Praise Band

“My Jesus”

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.*

## HOW TO SURVIVE THIS PAIN-FILLED WORLD Luke 18:15–17

### THREE WORLD SHAKING TRUTHS FOR SURVIVING & THRIVING YOUR CHILDHOOD:

#### 1. Children are \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ

Luke 18:15, 16 NIV

<sup>15</sup> People were also bringing **babies** to Jesus for him to \_\_\_\_\_ on them... <sup>16</sup> But Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the **children** to him...

Mark 10:13–16 NET

<sup>13</sup> Now people were bringing **little children** to him for him to \_\_\_\_\_, ... <sup>16</sup> After he took the children in his arms, he placed his hands on them and \_\_\_\_\_ them.

Mat. 19:13 NET ...for him to lay his hands on them and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. Children are \_\_\_\_\_ by Others

Luke 18:15 *When the disciples saw this, they \_\_\_\_\_ them.*

**16 ...do not hinder them...**

Mark 10:13-14 NET ...the disciples \_\_\_\_\_ those who brought them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "**Let the little children come to me and do not try to \_\_\_\_\_ them...**

Luke 17:1–2 NET

Jesus said to his disciples, "Stumbling \_\_\_\_\_ (skandalon) are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! <sup>2</sup> It would be better for him to have a millstone tied around his neck and be thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these **little ones** to \_\_\_\_\_ (skandalizomai).

### TRUTHS FOR VICTIMS:

- God heals wounds (Psalm 34:18, 147:3, Isa. 61:1).
- Eternal suffering awaits those who do not repent (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 12:19; Luke 17:2).
- You must forgive your offender (Mat. 18:15-22; Rom. 12:17-21).

Matthew 18:7 & 10 NET <sup>7</sup> *Woe to the world because of \_\_\_\_\_ blocks! It is necessary that stumbling blocks come, but woe to the person through whom they come...*

<sup>10</sup> *"See that you do not \_\_\_\_\_ one of these **little ones**. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."*

#### 3. Children are Examples of \_\_\_\_\_ (from oblivious to willful)

Luke 18:16-17 *Jesus called the **children** to him and said, "Let the **little children** \_\_\_\_\_ to me..., for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God like a **little child**" will never enter it."*

Matthew 18:1–22 NET *At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup> He called a **child**, had him stand among them, <sup>3</sup> and said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn around and \_\_\_\_\_ **little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven! <sup>4</sup> Whoever then humbles himself like this **little child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And whoever \_\_\_\_\_ a **child** like this in my name welcomes me.*

## **APPLICATION: How can you help kids survive & thrive?**

**Consider your \_\_\_\_\_:** If you are broke, you won't thrive.

If you have not realized your need for God, you will only hinder kids. You will stumble and they will follow. You must let Christ transform your heart and life.

**PRAY:** Lord, I have been deeply hurt by... (name person & event). I need you to heal my heart. Come in and rule in me. Change my heart from bitterness to compassion. I choose today to forgive those who hurt me. Strengthen me to love others and not hinder them from trusting you. Amen.

**Consider your \_\_\_\_\_:**

- Are you speaking with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness...?
- Are you encouraging and supportive?
- Are you teaching truth?

**Consider your \_\_\_\_\_:**

- What sin do your children see in you? (Anger, rage, apathy, workaholism, conforming to the world & peers, drunkenness, promiscuity, porn, vulgar language, crude music or obscene videos?)
- What priorities do your actions reveal in your life?
- What holy habits do children see in you? (Attending church, small group, Sunday school; reading the Bible; praying...)

**PRAY:** Lord, forgive me for my hurtful words and actions. Stir me to change my ways, to apologize, and to seek forgiveness. Bring forth the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness... that I may speak words of hope, peace, and encouragement. Drive sin from my life and make me an example of love and faithfulness. Amen.

## *Upcoming Events*

- May 7**            8:30am – Prayer Meeting  
                      9:30am – Pastor Kevin, PreK-5<sup>th</sup> 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
- May 9**            8:00am – Prayer Meeting  
                      7:00pm – Consistory Meeting
- May 10**          7:30pm – High School Youth Group
- May 14**          8:30am – Prayer Meeting  
                      9:30am – Youth Service  
                      11:00am – Hibicki Baptisms at Tenpas Pond  
                      5:30pm – Jr High Praise Band  
                      6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group

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

## *Youth News*

**Middle School** – Tonight we'll be preparing for the youth service. Come with ideas on how you'd like to be involved! See you at 6:30.

**High School** – Wednesday night we'll be getting ready for the youth service and have time for games after. See you at 7:30!

## *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: 5/7 Missionary Salary, 5/14 Regular Benevolence, 5/21 Waupun & Brandon Food Pantry, 5/28 Mighty Oaks Foundation. 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 Ron Vande Zande as he celebrates his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Congrats** to Rollie Schroeder as he celebrates his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Farewell to the Shotsky's** – Join us following the service on May 28<sup>th</sup> for refreshments in the Fellowship Area of the basement to wish the Shotsky's well in this next season of life.

**Hymn Sing** – Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Foster Care Awareness Event** – Don't miss our Foster Care Awareness event today 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. Everyone is welcome!

**Golden Lifers & Mission Circle Outing** – On Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> the Golden Lifers and Mission Circle are invited to the Jon & Joel Bruins farm for a tour of their farming operation. Please arrive at the farm at 2:30pm.

**VBS Registration** – VBS registration is open! Put on the full armor of God and learn how to be a part of God's kingdom. Sign your child up to join us for Keepers of the Kingdom VBS June 19-23 at 9-11:30am. Register your 3 year olds - 5th graders by May 23<sup>rd</sup> at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctqK\\_AFvQyfk3x2IZZBzn7P64RAzFmBstNj0tqM7PIbK4rwg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctqK_AFvQyfk3x2IZZBzn7P64RAzFmBstNj0tqM7PIbK4rwg/viewform)

Volunteer (incoming 6<sup>th</sup> – adult) and snack donation signups are available at the Children & Families Resource Center.

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

**Praise:** Loving Father, we rejoice in the promise that you will work all things out for the good of those who love you and are called according to your purpose. (Rom 8:28) We praise you for the hope we have that even our most painful experiences will bear good fruit.

**Repent:** Forgive us for dwelling on the pain and ignoring your love, grace and mercy. Forgive us for disregarding others and causing them pain and setting up stumbling blocks which have hindered them from knowing your peace and joy.

**Ask:** Help us walk in peace with our past and bless children with faith, hope, and love. Encourage and strengthen us each day and in ever challenge. 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 your promises and bless children. 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 students and teachers as they wrap up the final weeks of school.

**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