

October 29, 2023



The ARC Ministry Staff

Lead Pastor – Kevin Van Wyk

Equipping Youth Director – Jessa Wedel

Equipping Children & Families Director – Lynnae Loomans

Office Administrator – Megan Vande Zande

Worship & Youth Intern – Ashlan Bruins

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We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Praise Singing

“Great Things”

“My Jesus”

“Jesus Messiah”

Congregational Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Children’s Message – Linda Mulder

Message – Whose Side Are You On? Israel, but who is that?

Scripture – Genesis 12:1-9

We Respond to God

Prayer

“Living Hope”

Blessing

Following Jesus in a Land of Conflict: An Arab and Jewish Conversation

Join us for this video series in the sanctuary during Sunday School. In this 4-part Day of Discovery program, you'll take a journey to the land of the Bible, modern Israel, with host Mart DeHaan for conversations with guests Nizar Touma and Avner Boskey. Join them as they discuss the impact this dispute has on their Arab and Jewish communities and as they address tough questions that arise about the role of followers of Christ in this controversy.

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.

Whose Side Are You On?

Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

KEY QUESTIONS:

Who should get the land? Who has a divine right to it?
Who are Abraham's children? Who is "Israel?"

KEY ANSWERS:

Three Views on Israel:

1. _____ **Israel** - Those with a Jewish blood line. <https://jweekly.com/2019/11/29/who-is-a-jew-dna-home-testing-trend-adds-new-wrinkle-to-age-old-debate/>
2. _____ **Israel** - Those living under the rule of Israel. (_____ Theology)
3. _____ **Israel** - Those who walk by faith in the living God. (_____ Theology)

Three Voices For True Israel

1. _____ on Israel (Genesis)

Moses wrote of...

- _____ walked faithfully with God. (Gen. 5:22,24)
- _____ walked faithfully with God. (Gen. 6:9)
- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/ _____ walked faithfully. (Gen 12; 17:1; 24:40; 48:15)
- See Hebrews 11 for a longer list of faithful believers in the OT.

2. _____ on Israel (John 8:31-59)

Descendants of Abraham can reject God's _____ and be children of the _____, while true Children of God/Abraham _____ God.

3. _____ on Israel (Romans 9:8; 10:9-13; 8:14;8-10)

Descendants of Abraham are not _____ children, but the true children of God/Abraham are those who trust in _____.

KEY POINT:

Jesus is our _____! (For _____ now and forever) (Jer. 17:13; John 4:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-7)

KEY APPLICATION:

Hope in Jesus and _____ for believers to be _____, sanctified, and _____ so that the world may believe. (John 17: 11,15,17,21)

This Week's Events

- Oct 29** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Pastor Kevin
10:45am – Sunday School
5:30pm – Middle School Praise Band
6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group
- Oct 30** 7:00pm – Deacon Meeting
- Oct 31** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
7:30pm – Executive Team Meeting
- Nov 1** 9:30am – Golden Lifers
5:50pm – Elementary Praise Band
6:20pm – Sonshine Singers, Jr Choir
6:30pm – Mixed Choir
6:45pm – Bible Class
7:30pm – High School Youth Group, Men's Chorus
- Nov 2** 7:00pm – Women's Ministry Idea Meeting
- Nov 4** 8:00am – All-Church Cleaning – Funeral Group #3
- Nov 5** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Men's Chorus, Baptism – Sadie Hibicki
10:45am – Sunday School
5:30pm – Middle School Praise Band
6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group

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

Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12th immediately following the service. All Covenant Partners are asked to attend the meeting. Activities will be available for children in the basement and any non-Covenant Partners (adults/teens) are asked to help with the younger children.

The following people will be on the ballot for Elder and Deacon:

Elder: Bruce Buwalda, Jim Ford, Al Kamphuis, Randy McDaniel, Larry Mulder, Joel Ruis, and Mark Vossekuil

Deacon: Dan Bresser, Jason De Jager, Chris Jahn, Jason Mulder, Klint Vande Zande, and Marcus Vossekuil

Covenant Partners are asked to vote for 3 in each category. Please prayerfully consider who you will vote for.

Absentee ballots are available at the Information Center and may be placed in the absentee ballot box, signed and in an envelope prior to the meeting. Absentee ballots are not to be used simply as a matter of convenience.

We thank all those who submitted nominees and those nominees that have prayerfully considered and engaged in our process. We ask that all Covenant Partners prayerfully consider who God desires to serve on the Consistory.

Youth News

Middle School – Tonight is game night! See you at 6:30!

High School – Wednesday night we're talking about God's promise of blessings. But what does it mean if your life doesn't feel #blessed? See you at 7:30 Wednesday to talk about it!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Women's Ministry Ideas – On November 2nd we will be meeting at 7pm in the prayer room. It is open to anyone who would like to share their ideas of things they would like to do as a group of women. We are still looking for a couple of ladies to join our board.

Volunteer Opportunities – If you would like to be added to or removed from any of the following volunteer positions, please sign your name on the form at the Information Center or email Megan at office@altoreformedchurch.org. Greeter, Media Delivery, Nursery, Parking Assistance, Sound Tech, Video Tech.

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: 10/29 Words of Hope, 11/5 St. Jude, 11/12 Mighty Oaks, 11/19 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.

Congrats to Ardyce Tenpas as she celebrates her 86th birthday on November 1st.

Congrats to Cora Hemp as she celebrates her 91st birthday on November 3rd.

Congrats to Larry & Betty Daane as they celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on Nov 2nd.

AMEN articles are due today.

Lunch at The Community Table – Our church is serving at the Community Table on November 3rd. 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, November 3rd. Contact Peg Bresser at 382-9648 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Mission Backpack – Join us for our Mission Backpack Family Night on Wed, Nov 8th 5:30-7:30pm. We will start the night out with pizza and then will move into packing bags for Mission Backpack. Our goal is to pack 400 bags. Information about Mission Backpack can be found at the Children & Families Resource Center.

Directory Updates – If your address, phone # or email have changed in 2023 and you haven't already let Megan know, please contact her to update your information.

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

Prayer Points for the Holy Land for Your Churches

By Esther Kline

1. **Ask the God of all comfort to comfort those who grieve on both sides.** Israelis have suffered a terrorist attack unlike any in the history of their state. Palestinian civilians in Gaza are enduring another traumatic war. Hundreds have died, thousands have been injured. We do not condone or rejoice in the destruction of life, no matter the person.
2. **Pray for the growth and thriving of the messianic church in the Land.** In 1948, when the State of Israel was established, believers in Yeshua numbered only 23. Now there are about 30,000 believers in congregations around the country. Pray that Jewish-background believers will remain steadfast in their commitment to Christ in times of hardship. Ask that they will be salt and light in their communities.
3. **Lift up the 300,000 IDF reservists who have been called up.** There are many believers among them. Ask that the good news of peace might go forth with them, that their attitudes toward their enemy might reflect our Savior and provoke conversations with fellow soldiers who have not experienced reconciliation with their Creator.
4. **Intercede for 150 hostages taken by Hamas militants.** As far as we know, they are now hidden in the Gaza Strip. Hamas has threatened to kill them if Israel bombs civilian targets. Please pray for encounters with Jesus for these hostages, that he will protect and deliver them. Ask for Saul-like encounters for Hamas leaders, that they will be transformed by encounters with the risen Christ.
5. **Pray for our Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ.** There are three churches in Gaza with about 2,000 Christians. There are about 162,000 Christians in Israel and the West Bank. These continually live as a doubly marginalized community—a minority between Muslim and Jewish contingents. While rejecting violent resistance, they long for justice for their people. Pray for their steadfastness and faithfulness to the gospel of peace.
6. **Pray for the 2 million people in Gaza, who are undergoing a complete siege.** There is no electricity (even generators have run out of fuel), no incoming supplies of food and water. Many, many innocent men, women, and children are suffering. The humanitarian situation is unthinkable. Ask for their quick deliverance!
7. **Lift up Palestinians in the West Bank, which has been sealed off from the rest of the land.** Many there work in Israel proper or in other parts of the West Bank and are now unable to get to their jobs. This will provoke hopelessness and perpetuate anger and bitterness. Ask that they will find hope and refuge in the Lord.
8. **Please ask that the conflict will not spread regionally, especially to Lebanon, where Hezbollah is based.** Lebanon, as well as Jordan, have very large Palestinian populations, so emotions are high in those countries.
9. **Intercede for a just peace in the Holy Land, one that will allow all peoples, regardless of their religion or ethnicity, to live in equality and freedom, without fear or discrimination.** This may not be possible before Christ's return, so please ask for that too. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! And until then, help us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, as you commanded.

<https://church.focusonthefamily.com/s/content?title=prayer-points-for-the-holy-land-for-your-churches>

THIS WEEK... Pray for healing for Paul Bruins. Pray for John & Faye Janey's son, Brian, that the doctors would figure out where the blockage is to his heart. Pray for healing for Jim Nummerdor.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Betty Daane, Elaine Daane, Sharon DeMotts, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Faye Janey, Melene Kraemer, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Jean Stelsel, Jim Stelsel, Jodi Vande Berg, Ron Vande Zande, Harold VanRuiswyk, and Mark Zeatlow.

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

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

