

September 19, 2021



The ARC Ministry Staff

Lead Pastor – Kevin Van Wyk

Equipping Adults Pastor – Doug Shotsky

Equipping Youth Director – Jessa Ter Beest

Equipping Children & Families Director – Adrea Daane

Office Administrator – Megan Vande Zande

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We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Mixed Choir – “Jesus Messiah Medley”

Praise Singing

“Lord, Reign in Me”

“How Great is Our God”

Congregational Prayer

“Give Me Jesus”

We Hear God’s Word

Children’s Message – Beth Redeker

Message – Tough Questions: Covid, Politics, & Church

Scripture – 1 Peter 3:15-16; Rom. 13:1-6, Mat. 10:16-28

We Respond to God

Prayer

“Seek Ye First” Hymn #544

Blessing

Memory Verse for Sept 22nd

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5

Tough Questions:

Dog Gone, That's a Tough One



REVIEW:

1.1 What must I do to be saved? Can I be sure I am saved?

COVID, POLITICS & CHURCH:

2.1 Why is the church not urging masks and vaccinations?

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience,... (1 Peter 3:15-16)

2.2 How should we apply Romans 13 today? When should we submit to authority (government-police) When should Christians disobey the government? Specifically, Should we obey the mandate to get the vaccine and require employees to be vaccinated?

2.3 Why did the church fail so miserably to stand against Hitler?

2.4 How can we be prepared for the persecution that will be/maybe coming in the near future? What are the steps we need to prepare?

Practical Next Steps:

1. Read your Bible every day. To prepare for next Sunday and set your heart on heaven instead of our culture of fear read Mat. 6:19-21; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thes. 4:13-5:11; 1 Cor. 15, 2 Cor. 4:16-5:10; & Rev. 21.
2. Read "Do We Really Have God Given Rights?," By Dr. Daniel Passini|August 21st, 2017, <https://danielpassini.org/lets-look-at-our-god-given-rights/>
3. Read chap. 21 of R.C. Sproul's book, *Now, that's a good question!*.
4. Read "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy" by Eric Metaxas

Upcoming Events

- Sept 19** 9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Mixed Choir
10:45am – Sunday School, Discovering Membership Class
6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group
- Sept 20** 6:30pm – Women’s Ministry Team Meeting
7:00pm – High School Bible Study
- Sept 21** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
- Sept 22** See You at the Pole
6:00pm – Intermediate Praise Team
6:20pm – Sonshine Singers, Jr Choir
6:30pm – Mixed Choir
6:45pm – Bible Class
7:00pm – High School Praise Team
7:30pm – Men’s Chorus, High School Youth Group
- Sept 24** 6:00pm – Women’s Bunco Night
- Sept 26** 9:30am – Pastor Doug, Sonshine Singers
10:45am – Sunday School, Discovering Membership Class
5:30pm – MS/HS Praise Team Practice
6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group

Youth News

Middle School – Redemption - what does it mean? Let’s talk about it tonight, 6:30-8pm in the youth room. Full size candy bars for Bible or devotional reading tonight! See you there!

High School + 8th Grade Bible Study – Starts tomorrow night! We'll watch Season 2 Episode 2 of The Chosen from 7-8pm with snacks. Hope to see you there!

High School – Ephesians 1:7 "He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins." What does this verse mean for our relationship with Jesus? Let’s talk about it Wednesday night, 7:30-9pm. Bring friends!

Mark your calendar: Alto Chase, Monday October 11, 7:30-9pm

Harvest Festival is back this year and will take place October 9th from 5:30-7:30pm at the Alto Community Center. We'll have food, silent and live auctions, hay rides and fun! This fundraiser will support the high school mission trip to Jamaica in June 2022. If you have something to donate for the auction, please drop it off in the church office any time.

Bulletin Board News

Offering may be placed in one of the three white offering boxes located in the lobby. Upcoming benevolent schedule: 9/19 Missionary Salary, 9/26 Missionary Salary, 10/3 Regular Benevolence, 10/10 Waupun Food Pantry.

CCCD Van Fund – We are collecting donations for a new van for the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf. The goal is to collect a total of \$20,000. Donations should be labeled CCCD van fund (on the envelope or check memo) and may be placed in the offering boxes in the lobby.

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting that will take place on Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m to meet with representatives from the RCA. The meeting is scheduled to last no more than two hours, but may be completed earlier. After hearing a brief summary of both sides of the issue and a time to ask questions, all of the confessing members of Alto Reformed Church will vote on the petition to withdraw from the RCA by secret ballot. Absentee ballots are available at the Information Center. Please read the instructions on the ballot carefully and place your ballot in the sealed envelope in the box marked 'Absentee Ballots' prior to the congregational meeting.

Congrats to Marilyn Westerveld as she observes her 89th birthday on September 20th.

Congrats to Paul Elenius as he celebrates his 89th birthday on September 24th.

Congrats to Keith & Donna Bruins as they celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary on Sept 23rd.

AMEN articles are due next Sunday, September 26th.

College Addresses – Parents of college students, please give Megan your child's college address, so we can send them care packages this year.

Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser – The mission team going to CCCD in Jamaica will be hosting a pork chop dinner at the Alto Community Center on Saturday, October 16th at 4:30-6:30pm. The meal is carry-out only and includes a pork chop, baked potato, corn, applesauce, roll, and beverage. Ticket cost is \$10 and can be purchased from Marty Huizenga, Jim Nummerdor, Alto Reformed Church office, or any person going on the mission trip. There are a limited # of tickets available so get yours early!

Opportunities to Get Involved

See You at the Pole – This year's See You at the Pole event will be student led on Wednesday, September 22nd. High School students will be leading in small groups at WAJSH (7:30am North & East Entrances) and Laconia (7:30am Flag Pole). The 5th & 6th grade bible classes will be leading at RRIS (7:45am Ropes Course). Please encourage your students to join in. Parents and community members wanting to participate can meet at the flagpole at any location and pray in their own group.

CCCD Mission Trip – If you are interested in going on the mission trip to the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Jamaica on January 12-19, 2022, please sign-up at the Information Center by September 30th. Contact Marty Huizenga with any questions.

Ladies' Bunco Night hosted by Women's Ministry – Join us on Friday, Sept 24th for our Ladies' Bunco Night. Registration will start at 6pm and we will begin playing at 6:30pm. Bring a friend and join us for our game night as well as time for snacks, a devotional time, fun and fellowship!! Sign up is on the info desk. Hope to see you there!!

Grief Support – A grief support group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:30pm at Edgewood Community Church in Waupun. For more info, contact Pastor Mike Giebink at 324-5007. The fall 2021 Grief Share will run Sept 14th – Dec 14th. Join anytime!

Fill up your gas tanks and dust off your flashlights - the annual Road Rally is back! Join us Saturday, October 2nd at 7:00pm, beginning at church. Come and be a part of this fun and exciting time of fellowship! Find a team of 4 and sign up on the information desk or contact Jenna Bille or Katie Mueller. Need help finding a team? Let us know! Cost is \$5 per person.

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

Praise: Lord, we are overwhelmed with conflicting COVID information and contentious politics. We are weary of the debates and dissension. And so now we choose to give thanks for Your grace shown to us on the cross. We praise You as the ruler and King of our lives and world. We rejoice that we are in your hands and that we can trust you to provide, protect, heal, strength, guide and ultimately bring us to live with you in peace.

Repent: Forgive us for instigating and escalating divisions which carry little eternal significance. Forgive us for being set in our ways and being unwilling to hear, reflect and consider those with differing views.

THIS WEEK... Pray for the family of Jon & Michelle Bruins as Michelle's dad, Michael Johnson, passed away this past week.

Ask: We beg you to reveal truth and lies. Give us great discernment as we consider COVID, masks, vaccines, and politics. Help us be slow to speak, gentle in spirit, and yet bold in proclaiming the truth. •We ask for healing, strength and peace for those listed below as they face challenges each day. Renew their hearts, minds, and bodies to continue to live faithfully in this world. •Guide us through the process of transferring from the RCA to ARC. •Guide the RCA representatives as they prepare for the General Synod in October and the Classis representatives as they meet in November. •Help us remain faithful to You.

Yield: Today, we commit ourselves fully and completely to You as our Lord and Master. We will not let this divisive world deter us from trusting and serving You.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery or illness: Betty Benson, Ashley Bruins, Josie Buitter, Dusty Deming, Paul Elenius, Alvin Harmsen, Sharon Harmsen, Annice Hopp, Dave Rumley, Tim Tenpas, Azyrah Ter Beest, Carl VanderKooi, Jake Vande Zande, Ron Vande Zande, and Silas Willey.

Military Personnel:
Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in New Mexico;
Sebastian Hoenisch, stationed in the San Diego, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder;
Mitch Miller, (former youth group student) Marine deployed to the Middle East

Shut-ins: Members in assisted living, nursing homes or those confined to their home: **Anchor Communities (Brandon):** Dale Kastein **Barrett House:** Lowell Glewen **Beaver Dam Memory Care:** Cora Hemp **Christian Home:** Sharon Harmsen, Gladys Kastein, Helen Straks, Junice Vande Zande, Kay Vande Zande **Christian Homestead:** Warren Vande Zande **Evergreen:** Glen Loomans **Hillside Manor:** Harvey Daane **Home:** Margaret Hoekstra, Dayton Ter Beest **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, Mandy Kimes – His House Christian Fellowship, Andy Lickel – InterVarsity, Jersey & Preston Sheldon – Overland Missions, Randy & Wanda Potratz – SIM, Scott Ritzema – Youth for Christ