

# ALT

## REFORMED CHURCH

### ARTICLES

#### Where to Find Joy

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

We are a month into the new year and I am sure you have had high hopes of more joy and more peace for this year just as I did.

But, the world has not made it easy. As a nation, we stand on the brink of war in Ukraine, Taiwan, North Korea, and the ever unstable Middle East. We stand on the brink of economic catastrophe and complete moral failure. We have deep political divisions over “following the science” and living with Covid. We can see the struggles with the lack of employees and emptying shelves. So...

How is your life going?

How is your heart?

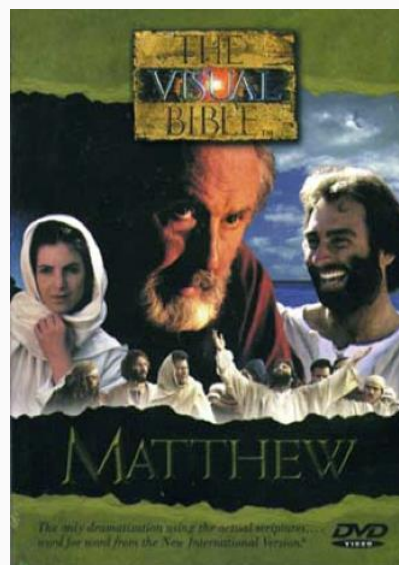
Stressed? Weary? Frazzled? Frustrated?

Maybe you can say, “stable” or even “good.”

**As Christians, the “abundant life” (John 10:10) that Jesus promised seems to be a very distant fantasy.** But hear what Jesus had to say...

*“These things [abide in me, my Word, & my love] I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:11 ESV)*

Read it again! The joy of God is to be in us! I can't help but picture the very cheesy smile of Jesus in the movie "[The Gospel According by Matthew.](#)" The movie does a fabulous job (for 1993) of dramatizing the gospel word for word from the NIV. If you're hooked on "The Chosen," consider this movie or the follow-ups based on Luke, John, and Acts. Jesus, as I recall, appeared excessively joyful in the Matthew movie, so much so that it really made me uncomfortable. Was He really that happy? I think we too often put a somber, serious face on Jesus rather than a giant grin.



**In any case, in John 15, Jesus tells us that he spoke and gave us his Word, so that His joy might be in us!!!** Our primary source of joy must be God's Word!

That's why, back in December, I wrote about [the best study Bibles on the market](#). I urge you to get one, especially if you struggle to make sense of the plain text.

The reality is, I and many of you are also utilizing the digital resources available today. The internet has given us a plethora of incredible resources to help us learn about the Bible. Here are my top recommendations.

#### **Great Bible Apps:**

[YouVersion Bible App](#): This is an amazing free app with all the major translations and tons of devotionals. This is the hallmark of Bible apps for anyone looking for devotionals and reading plans to give some intentional structure to their Bible reading. It lets you add notes, highlight passages, and share what you're reading with others. It will even read the Bible to you. Every phone should have this app! Parents (and grandparents): You should also download the "[Bible App for Kids](#)." This is an incredible free app that interactively tells the stories of the Bible. Your kids will love it and you'll love that it's quality screen time!

[Blue Letter Bible App](#): This is a great free option for deeper Bible study as you have access to commentaries and original language word definitions. It is

accessible, versatile and potentially more technical/academic. For a more user friendly step into original languages, I'd suggest the [NET Bible app](#) which I mentioned back in December. Others have recommended Olive Tree and Accordance, but they charge you for Bible translations and other resources. If Blue Letter Bible doesn't meet your needs, I'd recommend Logos.

[Logos](#): This is my new favorite app. It has everything a pastor could ever want for biblical research. I've moved to this for purchasing all my religious books as it links with Faith Life Ebooks. I've loved being able to highlight, add notes, search all my books, and have the book read to me. I only wish all my print books were now on this app. You do pay for each resource (though they are often cheaper than print versions). It's a must for pastors and serious Bible teachers.

There is so much more available, but these three (+ the kids app) are the best options on my phone, iPad, and computer. Let me know if you have a great recommendation.

**Remember, it's the Word that gives joy not the app or the printed book.** It's the Word of God infiltrating your heart and mind that transforms our sinful nature into a Christ-like disciple who's filled with joy.

Start studying!

## PJ's and Popcorn



By Adrea Daane

It was a great night of Bible Class this week seeing the kids all in their pajamas. The night was a messy one for Mele with all the extra vacuuming (Sorry Mel!!) but was a great opportunity for the classes to have a little fun together. It was fun to see all the kids who participated and the friends and visitors who have become fixtures in so many of our classes.

In March, we are looking forward to the 9th and 16th when we



are having Minute to Win It nights for our 1st-4th graders (March 9th) and 5th-8th graders (March 16th). We will then end our semester together April 6th with our annual Ice Cream Sundae party. If any of our 1st through 8th graders haven't been attending, we'd love to see you! And as always, friends are always welcome to join in our classes!

## MESSAGES

Thank you to all who brought over food, sent cards, to our shepherd Renee who brought a quilt and a plant and for prayers after my stroke. It was much appreciated.

-Bev Kastein

Thanks for the many cards, phone calls, treats, and prayers we have gotten. Not only at Christmas but throughout the past year and a half. It was so very much appreciated. It's been a long hard year for us with having to move Bud, covid, and all the quarantines, but we're doing ok. Thanks to Jerry for bringing the box of candy and the nice visit. I took the candy down to Bud. He enjoyed every bite.

Thanks again. God bless-  
Bud & Kay Vande Zande

Thank you for the candy at Christmas. Thanks to those who do media delivery. Thank you to everyone who sent cards.

-Marion Tolsma

Thank you for remembering us at Christmas time. We think of our church often.

-Jerry & Dorothy Mills

In looking through an AMEN from 2020, I found an article from Pastor Kevin that called our church family "Doers" and an article from Pastor Doug that said we should use our time of being "filled up" to pour out into lives of others. My church family is absolutely the best! In the last 2 months, I have had so many prayers, thoughts, cards, and food gifts. Our God has those big arms wrapped around! He has been keeping me in a positive situation and thinking positive. Thank you, thank you for all the "Doers" and "Prayers"!!

-Betty Daane

Thanks to the church for the box of candy and the ornament at Christmas time. Thank you for the cards, food, and visits I received but especially your prayers. Thank you for the people that bring the CD's each week. That is also appreciated.

God bless you all-

Marilyn Westerveld

Thanks to all for the prayers, cards and food brought in during our recent surgeries. Praising the Lord for good recoveries.

-Ron and Jean Vande Zande

Thank You for the candy, ornament and visit from Keith L. as a remembrance at Christmas time. It takes time, finances and love to carry out this ministry that does not go unnoticed nor unappreciated.

-Vern Schouten

Thank you Ties to Home for remembering us during the Christmas season. We really appreciate it!

-Dan and Claire Smedema

I would like to Thank everyone for the Christmas cards the candy the sympathy cards and prayers in the loss of my brother Dave.

-Dayton Ter Beest

# EVENTS

**Mark your calendar...**

**Alto Reformed Church**  
**February 2022**

— **Middle School**  
**February 11** **Overnighter**  
Middle Schoolers join us for an overnighter at church. Get your registration form in ASAP.

— **Chili Supper &**  
**February 18** **Bible Trivia**  
Join us from 5-8pm for a chili supper and bible trivia fundraiser benefitting the middle and high school youth groups.

— **High Schoolers to**  
**February 25** **Silver Birch**  
The high schoolers head to Silver Birch for the weekend. Pray for a great weekend of connecting with God.

— **Women's Bible Studies**  
**February 28**  
The Women's Ministry Team will be hosting 3 different bible studies beginning the week of February 28th through the week of April 11th. "Elijah" Mondays at 6:30pm, "In His Image" Tuesdays at 9:30am, and "Resisting the Rush" Sundays at 10:45am. More details in your church mailbox. Signup at the Information Center by February 20th.

For detailed information:  
Call 920.346.5505 or email [office@altoreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@altoreformedchurch.org)

# NEWS

## Births

1/10/22 - Axel Wade, son of Marlie & Brittany Page

1/12/22 - Jace Timothy, son of Shawn & Morgan Montsma