



ARTICLES

What Must a True Believer Do? (Our Covenant Partner Vows Part 2)

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

The past couple months were packed with some great moments. We had 12 youth become Covenant Partners and two of these individuals were baptized as believers. It was a joy to see these youth profess Christ as their Lord and Savior and then commit to following him. The baptisms were unforgettable. Let me tell you, there is no reason I would ever go into a frozen lake, except for a moment like this. It made for a truly memorable profession of faith and I am grateful to have participated.

Our Covenant Partner Vows include confessions (core beliefs we affirm) and commitments (things we promise to do). Specifically, they are...

Confession:

I believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; confess Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord; and accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the supreme authority for faith and life. I accept the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith.

Commitments:

I will trust Jesus as the only Savior and Lord, connect deeply with Jesus' followers, grow to be like Jesus, serve sacrificially as Jesus did, reach out to the world with the love and truth of Jesus, and worship Jesus as the ruler of all.

I will maintain a life of prayer, study God's 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 God and accept the spiritual guidance of the church leadership.

I will walk in a spirit of Christian love seeking unity, purity and peace within this congregation.

Last month, I shared a bit about what true believers should believe. In that post, I largely focused on what our Covenant Partners/member should believe, noting that understanding all the doctrines in the creeds aren't necessarily essential to be saved.

The Bible uses the Greek word *pisteuo* and we translate that into English as believe, have faith, or trust. So, this is why we have included in the first commitment of our Covenant Partner Vows a promise to "trust Jesus as the only Savior and Lord..." We wanted to emphasize that Christianity is not just giving mental assent to the love and power of God, but that it is an ongoing reliance on Jesus who gave his life for us on the cross and now sits with the Father as our Lord. He pleaded with the disciple "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me." (John 14:1 NLT)

This trust is lived out primarily in praying. Our vows go on to say "I will maintain a life of prayer..." This is a profound vow that should be taken as a privilege and blessing, not a burden. If we truly trust Jesus, we will go to him with every need and praise him for every blessing.

So, if you say you believe in Jesus, does your prayer life reflect that trust?

My guess is that nearly everyone reading this feels rather inadequate in this area. So, let me offer some very practical ways you solidify your trust in God through prayer...

1. Strategic Stickies: I love Post-it notes and Staples Stickies. I always have them on my desk. Try posting a couple in strategic places like the
 1. Bathroom mirror (Lord, help me see who you made me to be.)
 2. Water faucet (Holy Spirit, guide me today.)
 3. Car dashboard (Lord, help me turn from evil.)
2. Pray with others: One of the best ways to learn to pray is to hang with those who do. I am so refreshed and encouraged by hearing others pray. There's no pressure, just a chance to sit with God. Join us Sundays at 8:30am in the Green Room or Tuesdays at 8am in the Prayer Room.
3. Pray with your family: If you are not in the habit, start today! Before the kids leave, put your hand on their shoulder and ask God to bless them. It can be that short, but it will matter. Before they go to bed, ask them about their fears and concerns and then have them pray. Meals are another great time to pray.
4. Set a Reminder: Tell Siri to remind you every day at 1:19pm to pray Psalm 119:25 "Revive me by your word."
5. Prayer Chair: Apparently during our mission trip to Jamaica we will take turns sitting in the prayer chair for an hour. Try it. Bring your Bible and a journal.

Does cooking dinner matter more than prayer? Does showering? Pulling weeds? Mowing the lawn? Brushing your teeth? The good news is you can pray as you do them. But the habit above will help truly maintain a life of prayer.

Lord, help us be a people of true faith, who trust you at every turn. Inspire us to pray. Nudge us by your spirit to make time to humbly come before your throne of grace. Amen.

You Get the Glory

By Pastor Doug Shotsky

Job 2:10b - Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?"

I can't explain the deep sense of God's goodness and presence of His Holy

Spirit over this past week since the death of one of my best friends. But, that's why I know that I know that I know that God is God, God is good, and no one could ever convince me otherwise.

As I got the chance to spend some time with my friend's 32 year-old widow last Thursday, she wanted to share this scripture from Job that her husband has had on the refrigerator. When we think of the most difficult trials we could go through, or circumstances that there's no way we could prepare ourselves for, could we, as Job did, respond like this to those who would encourage us to question God's goodness?

Not that I didn't believe that we could, but after this past week, watching my friend's wife challenge everyone else's faith by her complete trust in God's goodness in the midst of her husband's untimely and tragic death, I can more confidently say, "Yes, we can." Through the power of the Holy Spirit that lives in us, and the strength that is provided through the prayers of the saints that uplifts us, I have seen it with my own eyes. I have felt it in my bones. I have been empowered and encouraged in my spirit.

I am thankful for the good things that we receive from the hand of the Lord; for most of us they are many. But, whatever it takes and whatever God's plan may be, my prayer for all of us is that no matter what we have to go through in this life, good or bad, may it be so as long as He gets the glory.

Youth Ministry Summer 2022 Schedule

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER 2022

When	What	Time	Who	Where	Med Form	Cost
June 5	Bonfire	6:30-8pm	Middle School	Church Hill	No	--
June 11-18	Jamaica Mission Trip		High School	CCCC Knockpatrick, Jamaica	Yes	
June 20-24	Vacation Bible School	Every AM	Everyone	Church	Yes	--
June 20	Bible Study	6-7pm	Middle School	Youth Room	No	--
June 20	Bible Study	7-8pm	High School/Young Adult	Youth Room	No	--
June 20	Alto Fair Band Practice	8-9pm	Youth Praise Band	Sanctuary		
June 22	VBS Family Night	5-7pm	Everyone	Church Hill	No	--
June 27	Bible Study	6-7pm	Middle School	Youth Room	No	--
June 27	Bible Study	7-8pm	High School/Young Adult	Youth Room	No	--
June 27	Alto Fair Band Practice	8-9pm	Youth Praise Band	Sanctuary		
June 29	Color Wars	7:30-9pm	High School	Church Hill	No	\$5
July 1	Class of 2026 Canoe Trip	8am-2pm	Class of 2026	Canoeing down the Wisconsin River	Yes	\$5
July 6-9	Lifest		Middle & High School	Sunnyview Expo Center, Oshkosh	Yes	TBD
July 15	Waterpark	TBD	Middle & High School	Wisconsin Dells	Yes	TBD
July 17	Summer Celebration	5-7pm	Everyone	McCune Park	No	--
July 18	Bible Study	6-7pm	Middle School	Youth Room	No	--
July 18	Bible Study	7-8pm	High School/Young Adult	Youth Room	No	--
July 18	Alto Fair Band Practice	8-9pm	Youth Praise Band	Sanctuary		
July 20	Bonfire	7:30-9pm	High School	Church Hill	No	--
July 22	Waterpark Rain Date	TBD	Middle & High School	Wisconsin Dells	Yes	TBD
July 24	Bonfire	6:30-8pm	Middle School	Church Hill	No	--
July 25	Bible Study	6-7pm	Middle School	Youth Room	No	--
July 25	Bible Study	7-8pm	High School/Young Adult	Youth Room	No	--
July 25	Alto Fair Band Practice	8-9pm	Youth Praise Band	Sanctuary		
August 6	Young Adult Canoe Trip	TBD	Young Adults (18-25)	Wisconsin River	No	--
August 7	Alto Fair Band Practice	6-8pm	Youth Praise Band	Sanctuary		
August 9	Feeding Carnival Workers	4:30-6:30pm	Middle School	Fairgrounds	No	--
August 10-11	Alto Fair Fundraisers	Sign ups	Middle & High School	Fairgrounds	No	--
August 10-11	Outdoor Worship/Picnic	10am-1pm	Everyone	Church Hill	No	--
August 15	Bible Study	6-7pm	Middle School	Youth Room	No	--
August 15	Bible Study	7-8pm	High School/Young Adult	Youth Room	No	--
August 15-18	Bag Lunch Giveaway	10am-1pm	Everyone/Volunteers	Community Table, Waupun	No	--
August 17	Pool Party	TBD	High School	TBD	No	--
August 21	Pool Party	TBD	Middle School	TBD	No	--
August 22	Bible Study	6-7pm	Middle School	Youth Room	No	--
August 22	Bible Study	7-8pm	High School/Young Adult	Youth Room	No	--

All dates/events are subject to change. If your email/phone number is not updated in the church database, please contact Megan @ office@altoreformedchurch.org to do so. All email and text updates come through the database.

Class of 2026 is invited to ALL middle and high school events during the summer.

Class of 2022 is invited to ALL high school and young adult events during the summer.

In the event of a tornado watch or warning for Fond du Lac County, all church activities are automatically canceled

Call or Text Jessa with any questions @ 920-979-1853

High School Kickoff will be September 7th

Middle School Color Wars Kickoff will be September 11th

Summer JAM Schedule

All 3 year olds through incoming 5th graders...

Join us for

SUMMER JAM

(Jesus & me)

When?: During the service June 12th & 26th, July 17th, and August 28th

What?: Games, activities or crafts focused around a Bible lesson just for kids!
(split into PreK and Elementary groups)

MESSAGES

Thank you to everyone who prayed for Harvey during his stay at Hillside Manor and after his passing. Thank you to Pastor Kevin for doing the funeral service.

-Elaine Daane

Dear Ties to Home,

Thanks for remembering Dan and I at Easter 😊 It was very thoughtful of you.

-Claire and Dan Smedema

Dear Ties To Home,

Thank you so much for the gift card! I really appreciate it!

-Meghan Flier

EVENTS



Alto Reformed Church
June 2022

Mark your calendar...

- June 05** **Middle School Bonfire**
Incoming 6th graders through outgoing 8th graders are invited to a bonfire on the church hill at 6:30-8pm.
- June 11-18** **CCCD Mission Trip**
Pray for the group that is headed to the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Jamaica.
- June 12 & 26** **Summer JAM**
All 3 year olds - incoming 5th graders are invited to join us for Summer JAM (Jesus and Me) during the service. Kids will be invited to the basement before the sermon starts for games, activities or crafts focused around a Bible lesson just for kids (split into PreK & elementary groups).
- June 20-24** **Vacation Bible School**
All 3 year olds - incoming 5th graders are invited to join us for a Journey through Genesis June 20-24 at 9-11:30am.
- June 22** **Family Night**
Join us at 5:30-7:30pm on the church hill (weather permitting) for food, games, and fellowship.
- June 27** **Camp Manitoqua**
Pray for the kids that are headed to Camp Manitoqua for the week.
- June 29** **High School Color Wars**
The incoming freshmen through outgoing seniors are invited to Color Wars on the church hill.

For detailed information:
Call 920.346.5505 or email office@altoreformedchurch.org

NEWS

Births

5/30/22 - Evelyn Grace, daughter of Luke & Sarah Bruins

Covenant Partnership

5/15/22 - Isabella Benson, Ashlan Bruins, Rylan Bruins, Leah Buwalda, Hannah Derksen, Garret Glewen, Winton Glewen, Wyatt Guell, Nolan Lenz, Ryan Lenz, Elsie Levey, and Elyssa Van Wyk

Updates:

ARC: Several things are developing in our new denomination...

1. The ordination path is open for pastors.
2. There are five Networks in development and the Dakotas Network is already established. Check out the options... <https://arc21.org/networks>. The Rural Church Network is a strong possibility for us.
3. The Kingdom Network (what was the New Thing Classis/Faith Church in Dyer, IN, the initiators of the Gospel Alliance) is apparently partnering with the Alliance.
4. ARC is no longer using ARC, but has moved to The Alliance over trademark laws.
5. Pastor Kevin met with other Alliance church leaders in Wisconsin to discuss network affiliation and plans. Pray for wisdom!

Bylaws: The elders have changed the wording regarding the creeds in the Covenant Partner vows to align with our denomination. Instead of calling them essential truths they are referred to as “ecumenical expressions” of the Christian faith.

The elders have also been discussing the desire to celebrate professions of faith even if the individual is not ready to be a Covenant Partner. Thus, we are working to articulate vows for believer baptism, which could be done separate from becoming a Covenant Partner. Pray for the elders as we seek to articulate vows and bylaws for the church which reflect fully the teachings of the Bible.