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ARTICLES

Transitions

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

Transitions are everywhere...

The consistory voted this month to send our formal request to transfer from the RCA to ARC (www.arc21.org). The Classis Servant Team (Executive Committee) has received it and is in the process of creating a team to make a recommendation to the classis, which will likely vote on it on Nov. 2, 2021. This team will first meet with the consistory and then the congregation.



Annice moved to Prairie Ridge.

Sharon moved to the Christian Home.

Jerry and Dorothy moved to Wisconsin Rapids.

Al has transitioned to a large cast on his ankle.

Jason transitioned to a new job.

Others have finished school and are

starting full-time work.

Others are adjusting to a baby in the house.

Others are adjusting to chemo or physical therapy.

We're all transitioning to a post-mask world.

Some of these transitions are exciting and positive. We welcome the change.

However, some of these transitions are hard and frustrating. It's these transitions, I want to speak to.

As Jesus prepared the disciples for life without his physical presence, he specifically called Peter to "feed my sheep" and even as he navigates a life where "when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go" (John 21:18 ESV), he is simply instructed to "follow me." (John 21:19) While this passage speaks to Peter's future death on the cross, the certain implication of "stretching out one's hands", there is a message for all of us.

As we navigate difficult transitions, Jesus calls us to follow him. In practical terms that means two things to me, if I can steal from the infamous hymn... trust and obey.

Following Jesus starts with the foundation of trusting him regardless of the situation. With our denominational change, I have several questions about how they will handle retirement, health insurance, and church-pastor conflicts. I, along with others, am asking the questions and giving some input, but ultimately we trust that God will take care of the details and lead us forward.

Following Jesus also means obeying his commands; to do what he would do and ultimately be like him. Doug and I will be hitting some of those key commands in the coming weeks. Consider two now...

1. Humility: These days we have the Proud Boys, Pride month, and a host of messages about being proud of who you are. Jesus calls us to have a completely different attitude. How is yours?
2. Love: This is our great challenge, to love others, to be kind when we are tired and frustrated, to go beyond the first mile, to sacrificially give of our time and resources to help others. Will you serve or complain about others not serving you?

So, I urge you in the midst of difficult transitions to trust and obey. He will carry you through.

Lord, Help us trust you when we are uncertain about the future. When fears and worries creep into our lives, speak peace and hope into our hearts that we might lean on you and know your love. Help us then to walk in humility and love, so that others may see the power of your love in us. Amen.

Hope and Holiness

By Pastor Doug Shotsky

1 Peter 1:3-4 & 14-17 - *3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear...*

One of the lessons that God has been teaching me more and more lately is that I should make sure that I'm putting into practice what I already know to do. Although, I also believe it's important that we continue learning new things and

growing in our faith, there is so much value in making sure we don't drift away from the basics.

I've been preaching through the book of 1 Peter, and it doesn't get much more basic in our Christian faith than the fact that we have an eternal hope to look forward to, and because we have this hope our lives should be different (Holy).

I don't want to get too complicated in my message here. We have an eternal hope that is beyond this life. I challenged our congregation that I'm not certain that I see a lot of Christians who seem to really be looking forward to eternal life. I stand by this assessment. My goal isn't to offend people, my goal is to challenge you to take this before the Lord and ask Him to fill your heart with joy when you consider what's beyond here.

Only when we have a deep conviction that what's next is better than here, can we live out the latter part of living holy lives; lives that are pleasing to the Lord and different from the world. Sure, the Lord has given so many of us plenty of good gifts here in this world, but my heart is to stir your spirit in such a way that you will all the more be looking forward to what Jesus has gone to prepare for you next.

Youth Ministry July Prayer Requests

By Jessa Ter Beest

- Lifest Music Festival, July 8-10: For encounters with God through music and speakers, good weather, patience with each other, and safety
- Wisconsin Rapids Mission Trip, July 12-16: For us to be a blessing to the community and Faith Reformed Church, for children and families to be reached with the message of Jesus during our Backyard Bible VBS, for patience and grace with each other, for flexibility and safety during work projects and VBS, for all of us to grow deeper in our relationships with Jesus through service and studying His word.
- For God to keep working in the hearts of next school year's volunteers - that more potential coaches will come forward because God is calling them to do so and they are responding to His calling.

Blast to the Past VBS

By Adrea Daane

What an amazing week we had at our Blast to the Past VBS event June 21-25!! We averaged about 115 kids per day during the week and had close to an additional



50 volunteers who stepped up in different areas of service. A big thank you to all who helped out, we had an extraordinary group of volunteers this year. Their passions for Jesus and the kids who attended were so evident and I couldn't be happier to have had them involved!



Throughout the week we dove into the passage from 1 John 4:16 "We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is Love." During the Bible story station, we looked into the different stories of Moses, Rahab, David, Mary, and Peter. The kids also kept busy with fun and interactive snacks, made several different crafts throughout the week, and burned off some energy playing games outside.

The kids came together and raised over \$1000 for our offering. The money raised will help buy the supplies needed for the bagged lunch program at the Community Table. We are scheduled for a week in the month of August.



Vacation
Bible
School is
by far my

most favorite part of my position here at the ARC. I love how the kids' energy seeps into everything they do. You can see God working in each of their hearts every day and it is such a blessing to be a part of it! Thank you to all who volunteered, let us borrow props, and for the parents

who brought their kids! Can't wait til next year!!!



Library Update

There are new books on the 2021 shelf that I am sure everyone will enjoy. We try to include a variety of mystery, Amish, contemporary, historical fiction, and sometimes biographical. I chose to write

about historical fiction because our country seems to be on the down swing in history. To me history depicts how God works in people's lives to change things for everyone no matter their race, color, or ethnic group. Sometimes these changes are difficult, but in the end we learn from them and God's purpose is revealed.

I would also like to ask that if anyone has a more recent electric typewriter that they no longer use, and that they would be willing to donate to the library to please let the library committee know.

MESSAGES

During my 2 week hospitalization there were so many lift-threatening experiences but each time God brought me back from the brink. It was no coincidence that you were praying. I have also been overwhelmed by your kindnesses in so many ways. The tie that binds us is our faith in Jesus Christ and the support of fellow believers in the body of Christ. So whether you are called to be an ear, eye, toe, or an unseen enzyme may God richly bless you for fulfilling what you are called to do in the body of Christ.

-Roxy Schouten

I wanted to express my sincere thank you

and gratitude to everyone that has, and continues, to pray for me, my health and my peace of mind. As the calendar turns on another glorious year of my birthday, I appreciate all the well wishes, prayers and cards of blessings. My new address is Prairie Ridge Assisted Living located at 819 Wilcox Street #13, Waupun, WI 53963.

Sincerely,
Annice Hopp

Thanks for all the cards and prayers.
Thanks to Women's Ministries for the quilt and to Carol Jansma for the treats.
-Tim Tenpas

EVENTS



All 3 year olds through incoming 5th graders...
Join us for
SUMMER JAM
(Jesus & Me)

When? During the service every 2nd Sunday in June, July, and August
What? Games, activities or crafts focused around a Bible lesson just for kids!
(split into PreK and Elementary groups)



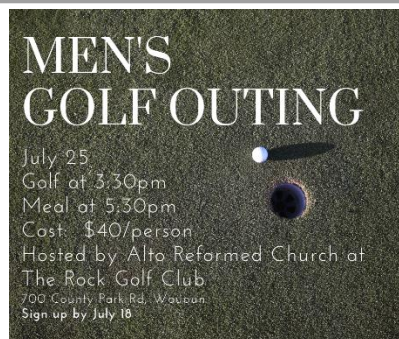
COMMUNITY
SUMMER
CELEBRATION

July 18
5-7PM

McCune Park
391 N Grove St, Waupun

Free Food & Fun For All
Bounce Houses, Games
& Homerun Derby

Hosted by:
Alto Reformed Church
Reaching people & bringing people home



MEN'S
GOLF OUTING

July 25
Golf at 3:30pm
Meal at 5:30pm
Cost: \$40/person
Hosted by Alto Reformed Church at
The Rock Golf Club
700 County Park Rd, Waupun
Sign up by July 18

NEWS

Baptisms

6/27/21 - Landon EJ, son of Jared & Ashley Stelsel