



A.M.E.N.

June 2020

In this Issue:

Articles

- The Scattered Church: Regathering?
- Romans 3
- Equipping Children & Families Update
- Youth Ministry Update
- Golden Lifers Update

Messages

Events

News

- Updates

ARTICLES

The Scattered Church: Regathering? By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

In April, I wrote of the good that could and should come from the church being scattered. I explained how the early Church responded to being scattered by sharing their faith with the world. (Act 8:4, 11:21) This was a transforming moment in church history. The focus was taken off comfort and security. The church or churches were forced to step beyond their walls and circle of friends to share their faith in new places with new people and in new ways.

It's happened again!

And now the church is being invited back to Jerusalem. The doors are open to return. **But before you run back to "normal," consider the blessing and opportunities before us.**

We stand as a people of hope in a culture of fear.

We stand as a people of love in a culture of hate.

We stand as a people of truth in a culture of deception.

Let's be honest, we are easily sucked into the fear, hate, and deception. We are deceived by media. We share the link, only to find the information was half-true. We are confronted with angry posts using deception to bash our ideology, and our hate for the other side boils over. We see the suffering of the innocent and fear we, too, may suffer. We see the abuse of power and fear the loss of control and freedom.

But, we are people of hope, love, and truth!

As you return to the building or stay home to worship, go into the (social media) world, shining some light on the fear, hate, and deception. Bring the hope, love, and truth of Jesus into the lives of everyone you meet, always watching that you avoid fear, hate, and deception.

Specifically, I encourage you to pray our core values (summarized in three words). Grace. Truth. Mission.

Grace. Lord, soften my heart. Break my prideful heart and fill it with grace, love,

mercy, and thankfulness.

Truth. Lord, open my eyes. Help me see truth in your Word and your world; understanding both the Bible and the reality of others.

Mission. Lord, move my feet. Give me courage to act when I have the opportunity to bless others.

Romans 3

By Pastor Doug Shotsky

Romans 3:23 - ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These are two bible verses that I remember memorizing as a part of third grade Sunday school class. I came across them again today and am reminded that in the midst of everyone telling everyone else what to do and how to believe, that we first and foremost need to be reminded that we are each sinners.

I can look at you and see much of your sin, but at the same time when I take time to reflect on my thoughts now, and my life's past I want to shout from the rooftops that I am a scumbag. It's a miracle that I am alive let alone a pastor! Only God

could take a wretch like me and use me for any type of His purposes.

If there's anything good in any of us, it's all from Him and for Him. If you see anything unrighteous in any of us, I'm sure that's us. Try not to take too much time to dwell on the past, but make sure you take enough notice of God's grace for you, so that you can extend that to others. We deserve the wages of sin, but we reap the gift of God.

Equipping Children & Families Update

By Adrea Daane

How can we encourage the kids and youth of the church to get more out of the weekly messages? As a staff we have been discussing this for the past couple of months. Throughout our time apart we challenged the kids (and adults) with different drawing activities. These drawings were aimed at keeping the kids focused and giving them an active role as the message progressed. It was so fun seeing the different smiling faces with their pictures! I loved the encouraging words some of you left for the kids. The encouragement and feedback I'm sure was appreciated and shared with them. What a great way to build them up even when we're not together!

As we move into this new stage and slowly start coming back together in worship, different drawing challenges will continue some of the weeks. Along with that are some other new opportunities. We are now offering two different kids' activities at our services as well. There will still be the coloring/activity sheet option but we are now adding in a "sermon notes" option as well. This option is an easy way to keep the kids focused and help them take an active role in the messages. There are different boxes where they can write in the scripture, their favorite worship song from the service, who is giving the message, and some details on who the scripture passage is about. It then goes further to encourage the kids to write what they learned/what happened, any words or parts of the message they may not understand or have questions about, and also gives them a place to draw a picture (more room for pictures on the back if there are challenges given by the pastors that week).

It is my hope that those who feel these sermon notes pages may be beneficial will take them. It's a great way to have conversations with your kids afterwards! These sermon note pages can also be for ANYONE! If you find them helpful, feel free to grab one. I know from personal experiences in different Bible

readings, devotionals, etc if I can write as I'm reading/listening, I get so much more out of it. This is by no means the final answer on how to get kids the most out of the messages...but it's something we are excited to try and I look forward to hearing how they're working and seeing some of the final products!!

Youth Ministry Update

By Jessa TerBeest

We are so excited to be meeting back together in June! Below is our summer calendar. Feel free to share it with other middle school or high school students or young adults looking for a group to join! Please pray for each of these events, that they would be filled with joy and a desire

to grow closer to Jesus!

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER 2020

| When | What | Time | Who | Where |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| June 8 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | Church Hill (Youth Room if it's raining) |
| June 8 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | Church Hill (Youth Room if it's raining) |
| June 14 | Bonfire | 6:30-8pm | Middle School | Church Hill |
| June 15 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | Church Hill (Youth Room if it's raining) |
| June 15 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | Church Hill (Youth Room if it's raining) |
| June 17 | Bonfire | 7:30-9pm | High School | Church Hill |
| June 18 | 8th grade Canoe Trip | TBD | Class of 2024 | Wisconsin River |
| June 19 | Canoe Trip rain date | | | |
| June 22 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | Church Hill (Youth Room if it's raining) |
| June 22 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | Church Hill (Youth Room if it's raining) |
| June 27 | Young Adult Canoe Trip | TBD | Young Adults | Wisconsin River |
| June 28 | Bonfire | 6:30-8pm | Middle School | Church Hill |
| June 29 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | Church Hill (Youth Room if it's raining) |
| June 29 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | Church Hill (Youth Room if it's raining) |
| July 1 | Bonfire | 7:30-9pm | High School | Church Hill |
| July 8 | Color Wars | 7:30-9pm | High School | Church Hill |
| July 11 | YA Canoe Trip rain date | TBD | | |
| July 12 | Bonfire | 6:30-8pm | Middle School | Church Hill |
| July 13 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | TBD (hopefully Pizza Ranch) |
| July 13 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | TBD (hopefully Pizza Ranch) |
| July 15 | Bonfire | 7:30-9pm | High School | Church Hill |
| July 20 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | TBD (hopefully Pizza Ranch) |
| July 20 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | TBD (hopefully Pizza Ranch) |
| July 26 | Bonfire | 6:30-8pm | Middle School | Church Hill |
| July 27 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | TBD (hopefully Pizza Ranch) |
| July 27 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | TBD (hopefully Pizza Ranch) |
| July 29 | Bonfire | 7:30-9pm | High School | Church Hill |
| August 3 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | Pizza Ranch back room |
| August 3 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | Pizza Ranch back room |
| August 10 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | Pizza Ranch back room |
| August 10 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School | Pizza Ranch back room |
| August 11 | Carnival Worker Meal | 4:30-6:30pm | Middle School | West End of Booth Tent |
| August 15 | Lifest Music Festival | TBD | Middle School/High School | Sunnyview Expo Center |
| August 17 | Bible Study | 6-7pm | Middle School | Pizza Ranch back room |
| August 17 | Bible Study | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | Pizza Ranch back room |
| August 19 | Pool Party | 7:30-9pm | High School | TBD |
| August 23 | Pool Party | 6:30-8pm | Middle School | TBD |
| August 24 | Bible Study Party | 6-7pm | Middle School | Pizza Ranch back room |
| August 24 | Bible Study Party | 7-8pm | High School/Young Adult | Pizza Ranch back room |

Golden Lifers Update

By Roxy Schouten

It was special to see the posts of Graduate Seniors sharing their future plans and a favorite Bible verse. We pray those verses may stay with them and be a source of strength and encouragement in the days ahead. Also, we pray that into the future they will discover and claim many more verses that become a treasure to them.

Others have shared that Psalm 103 is one of those treasures to them and also as it is to me. The first 6 verses is a list of

astounding promises to His children and I marvel and claim those often. However, verse 7 always seemed like a “pause” in the promises to kind of catch ones breathe for the remaining verses and those astounding promises that follow. Not so as I discovered when I pondered the significance of “**DEEDS**” and “**WAYS**”.

“**DEEDS**” are the things we observe. In order to catch our attention they often must be the “WOW” factor. Today we might call them the “signs and wonders” that we seek and sometimes experience. They are the shining baubles of “experiences” and “feelings”. The problem is that we can become like an addict and any addiction demands more spectacular things to experience. We want “bigger goose bumps”. When that does not occur we grow weary of the whole process.

“**WAYS**” are different. Sometimes we can observe them but most often they are only discovered when we seek to really get to know what makes people tick. We see the deeds but why does a person act or react a certain way. This is also true of our relationship with God. In doing so we find that God’s ways are so much beyond the mighty works He performs. At the end of the quest we find that His ways are a continually revealing of who He is. Day by day and year by year we find that all His

deeds teach us, as much as humans can comprehend, that His deeds show us His ways of Truth, Righteousness, Holiness, Love, Wisdom, Faithfulness and more.

When we have as a quest to discover God’s Ways this is where a relationship starts and develops. The Deeds become secondary because we discover that His Ways are the most important for us to discover and experience even if it brings us into some hard and difficult places.

Recently in the news it is reported that another Christian music artist has denounced Christianity. In the not so distant past a Green Bay Packer star also made such an announcement. We may add to that list others who are in the spotlight with similar announcements including church leaders. We may ask why and come up with all sorts of reasons. But I ask – have they been on a path that they followed willingly or been taught wrongly where **DEEDS** are the goal? That path seems very well populated in recent times. The path less traveled is **WAYS**. This path at first sight is not as showy or scenic and often less traveled. Which path will lead to a fuller and richer life in Christ Jesus? All who proclaim to be Christians must answer that.

Heavenly Father – We admit it. We want

and are sometimes addicted to the DEEDS path that You so lovingly give us the opportunity to experience. Forgive us for making that our primary goal and thing sought after. For all the souls that have forgotten the path of WAYS please urge them back to where they started and to choose the path of WAYS. Remind us and teach us to be that influence that they may see what those souls are missing. In this Jesus will be glorified. In Jesus Name and for His sake, AMEN

MESSAGES

Thank you for the cards, phone calls, and visits on my birthday! It was very much appreciated! Also, thank you for the cards and phone calls during the pandemic.

- Marion Tolsma

Many thanks for your recent donation of 300 pounds of food. We deeply appreciate your generosity during this time of uncertainty due to the health and unemployment issues that our area is experiencing. Thank you for sharing what you have with those who are in need.

- Waupun Area Food Pantry

Thank you to all who remembered me following my surgery with prayers, calls, cards, visits, and food. All was much appreciated. Also, thanks to Women's

Ministry for the Prayer Shawl and to Kathy Flier for bringing it.

- Ann Boerson

The consistory would like to thank Jessa for all the work she did for the youth service. The editing and putting it all together certainly was a challenge. The responses of all the youth who took part in the youth service touched many of us who viewed it online. Thank you, Jessa, and thank you, youth.

- The Consistory

As our children grew up, Myrten and I became more active in this church. I really loved to teach Sunday School, Bible Class, and once I had a Sunday School for Senior High School. We were learning about Abraham and Isaac and God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, and then I asked Glen Loomans, "What do you think if that was your father? What would he do?" and slowly Glen said, "Well, my old man might go through with that". We laughed so hard. In the summer Bible class, I and Mr. John Lammers had the older children and taught at the Christian Reformed Church and they had air conditioning, so that was nice. Mr. Lammers was in charge of activities and the children really liked him. I am so blessed and thankful that we have a prayer chain. Your prayers for us were answered by God. Your love, hugs, and

cards make me so happy. You uplifted me when Myrten was sick many times. Your visits were so wonderful for Myrten, but when he broke his hip I could not take care of him, so he was at the Christian Home. That was so difficult because he could not accept that I could not take care of him and when he had dementia that was hard. Your prayers, visits, love and cards really helped. Your prayers really helped me. When I had a difficult day, God would put a hymn in my mind that pertained to that day.

This April I had to have my fourth pacemaker because the one I had was running very low of power. I was overwhelmed with love and prayers. My birthday also was in April and I was flooded with cards and Facebook happy birthdays. Thank you so very much. I also would like to thank the Men's Chorus for coming here and singing many nice songs. Your hugs, smiles, handshakes and seeing all of you brought tears to my eyes. You men sing so beautiful together.

God is the love of my life. I truly miss all of you when I used to go to church. Keep your faith strong, let your Bible teach you and guide you. I would like to share a Psalm from when I attended the Golden Lifers. We were studying the Psalms and were asked to write a Psalm during the week. I copied nothing, the words came so quick and I was astonished when I read

it.

"Oh God, You are the great I am, You are God Almighty. You are the holy, You are the only true God of my life. Thank You for giving me life at birth and for life eternal, to be with You always. I thank You for Your wonderful Son, Jesus, who became man, who was obedient to You and gave His life on the cross that we might have life and have it abundantly. You give light to my soul by Your word, which gives me hope. Oh God with You I am nothing! Life would be darkness without You. You are the light of my life. You are the healer of my body, the protection of my soul, Your Holy Spirit dwells within me. There are not enough words to thank You, but from my heart I can say I love You oh Lord, the joy of my life. Amen"

Keep your faith strong and let your love show for one another. We are so blessed with out wonderful children, grandchildren, and great, great grandchildren.

Humbly - Helen Straks

EVENTS

June 21 at 10:45am - Congregational Meeting

NEWS

ALTO UPDATES (6/1/20)

By Kevin Van Wyk

Staff is working to shift our focus back to in-person gatherings while maintaining an effective online presence. VBS, youth gatherings, adult discipleship, outreach, worship, and care ministries are all in uncertain new territory. Please be patient as we seek to develop and deploy Christ-like leaders. Pray for continued direction and peace as we navigate doing ministry in new ways.

Consistory is planning to meet on June 9 to discuss our current practices and plan for the coming weeks. Please pray for discernment. The deacons have installed a new stovetop and dishwasher at the parsonage and will be re-landscaping around the house. Elders are evaluating a sex offender policy which Adrea and Megan drafted.

RCA has decided to cancel General Synod for 2020. They are planning a special session in October to address the Vision 2020 recommendations, which should come out in June. I, Kevin, met with about 70 Denver Collaborative folks via a Zoom call on May 21. This was primarily an opportunity for the lead team to hear what the group sees as essential

for unifying the conservative churches in the RCA. Pray for all involved to discern what God's will is regarding the RCA.

Address:

Kevin Tenpas
233 Quinn Creek Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715