



A.M.E.N.

October 2020

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ARTICLES

Cutting or Kind?

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

Paul was blunt with his instruction, "***Be kind and compassionate to one another...***" (Eph. 4:32)

Last month I wrote regarding the divisions in America... "To a degree, I've been writing in the sand, hoping the conflict simply goes away. It's not going away, but I have no desire to feed these fires. I'm going to write in the sand a bit longer, resist throwing thought bombs, reflect on my heart, and listen for God to speak truth."

Honestly, I'm still writing in the sand, but I do want to share what I hear God saying to us. It's not complicated. It's not a theological debate or a controversial concept. It's as simple as they come... be kind.

Such a simple idea... be kind. You taught it to your kids from day one. No biting, no spitting, no hitting... Yet this simple command seems to be lost in a flood of retaliation.

I watched two things tonight. The second was the Presidential Debate. It felt more like a boxing match or a food fight than debate. Both candidates had their punches...

“You are the worst president we’ve ever had.”

“You graduated last in your class.”

“Just shut up already.”

“China ate your lunch.”

“It’s hard to get anything in with this clown.”

“[You’re hosting smaller campaign events because] nobody would show up.”

The cutting attacks made the debate colorful, but distracted from the actual issues. It was far from kind. It was vicious and, sadly, both candidates claim to be Christian. As millions of Americans watched, they certainly saw the total depravity of man over the life-changing power of Jesus.

Let’s consider the other show I watched: an episode of “Little Men.” In it the kids living in the orphanage are challenged to learn about philanthropy by doing something kind, and afterwards, are instructed to write a paper about it. They proceed to serve others in all kinds of

ways. One made breakfast for everyone, another helped an elderly lady with her groceries, another helped care for the horses, and another used her allowance to buy a gift. It was a great example of being kind.

Here’s the key: we can to a degree pull ourselves up by the boot straps and be kind, but when tension is high, our true colors come through. **We are all a work in progress, and it is God who changes our character if we let him.**

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” (2 Peter 1:3 NIV)

As we face a society of tremendous contention, will the Church shine in the darkness by being kind or will we let the darkness hide the light? Let’s work extra hard this season to show kindness to one another. Whether Trump or Biden get the office, Jesus is the King! We cannot control politicians, but we can let God control us. So...

- Let’s pray for God to stir in the presidential candidates to mold their character into kind, humble, wise leaders.

• Let's pray for God to do the same in us that we might be changed and show the love and power of God to the world.

Help me Lord, to be a disciple, denying myself; quietly meeting with you; studying your word; praying always; worshipping you with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength; and in so doing, letting You transform my heart and life so that I truly am like Christ. Amen.

Operation Christmas Child Opportunities

By Adrea Daane

As we move forward into fall we are given the chance to serve God's kingdom through packing boxes for OCC. This has been a fun tradition the past few years and we are excited to bring some joy to others during this exceptionally hard year. Look for more details about packing the boxes as we move forward with planning these next couple of weeks.



In the meantime, donations are being taken for the materials needed for the boxes themselves. Donation opportunities will be posted on the Children & Families Resource Center bulletin board by October 11th. Items will include school

supplies, hygiene items, filler toys, and WOW items for girls and boys ranging from 2-14 years old. We will again have slips you can tear off to make planning easier and give you a reminder of what you've committed to donate. Can't stop by and grab slips of items you want to donate? Feel free to contact Adrea Daane and we will make it happen!

All donated items can be brought into church and dropped off in the tote by the Children & Families bulletin board area across from the elevator. Thanks on advance for your generosity and support of such a fun mission project!!

Support Your Youth & Eat Delicious Pizza!

By Jessa Ter Beest

This month the middle and high school youth groups will be selling Eaton's pizza coupons to raise money for their Fall and Winter Silver Birch Retreats. We've decided to forgo in-person fundraisers for the rest of 2020, so we hope that you'll be willing to still support and connect with our youth by buying these great pizzas from them. Each coupon gets you one Medium one topping pizza (or you just pay a little extra for extra toppings) and a coupon for \$1 off a large. Coupons are \$8 each, and the youth group will receive \$3 per pizza sold.

If you don't get to Fond du Lac often but are interested in buying pizzas, Jessa is willing to pick them up for you to put in your freezer. Please contact any of our youth to buy the coupons, and call or text Jessa @ 920-979-1853 if you'd like the pizzas delivered to you.

Thank you so much for always supporting our youth! We are so blessed to be a part of our church that cares so much for the next generation. Your gifts help us continue to disciple them through many different avenues.

Women's Ministry Update

By Amber Vande Berg

The Woman's Ministry team was finally able to meet again this last month. I think everyone can agree that this year has been anything but normal and with that comes changes. The Woman's Ministry team is currently evaluating what's working and what might need a little adjusting. We offer a lot for the women at our church from Bible studies to Spring Flings and other fun events like Bunco and pallet painting but we want to continue to make sure we are offering options for everyone! If you would be interested in providing input or joining our team please reach out to Tiffany Arndt. We want to do our best to minister and support all of the

amazing ladies at our church!

Golden Lifers Update

By Roxy Schouten

It would be hard to imagine that anyone in our world with a desire to know what is going on and with eyes wide open cannot see that a battle is raging of Good versus Evil. Nothing new there but with recent developments it is hard not to see it unfold in graphic detail. Golden Lifers see and feel it as well as all other age groups.

In recent times I have tried to review the many Scripture verses that I have come to love and memorize over the years. I use the alphabet method where I connect the letters to a verse that starts with that letter. For example for "A" I often use the verse "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. Now when it comes to "X" that is stretching the selections admittedly!

One of the verses I am always tempted to use for the letter "R" is James 4:7. But I must stop myself because I would be deleting or forgetting the "S" word that comes before the word "resist" I want to use. The verse says "SUBMIT yourselves, then, to God. RESIST the devil, and he will flee from you." I want to claim the promise associated with RESISTING forgetting that something

comes before that clenches the promise. The promise follows the submission on our part to God. It is not the intent of this article to elaborate on what submission to God entails but the point is that we can do no battle with Evil until we are submitted to God.

The Pure Word translation of James 4:7 – “You must have made yourselves Subject therefore to God. You must by your choice Stand against the devil, and he will flee from you.” (Kind of messes with my alphabet thing but if “Submission” has difficult connotations associated with it “Subject” may be more meaningful to you.)

This is a wonderful promise and full of power. But there is work to be done before we can claim it. We cannot do this on our own. Only with submission or being subject to our Lord, our Father can we act on and claim this promise. Context is everything in claiming Scripture promises;

Father – our Abba – We admit that we sometimes blame the promise unfulfilled because we do not do the work or instructions that precede it. Remind us Lord that only in submission to You will all Your riches become available to us. Then we can raise up our praise and give You

the deserved Glory that belongs only to You. In Jesus precious Name, Amen

Library Update

By Deb Navis

We, the ARC library committee, want to let you know "The ARC library is OPEN!". So, come on in and check out a book or books for your reading pleasure.

For myself, I have been reading more during this time of COVID, so I am thankful the ARC library is available. In fact, many new books have been added to the 2020 new book shelf which is located next to the desk in the library. And soon we will be looking into selecting new books for 2021.

If a librarian is not present when you are in the library, please feel free to contact any librarian with your questions. We are always pleased to assist you.

MESSAGES

We would like to thank everyone who remembered Dan this past year with prayers and by text, email, and packages. He appreciated very much each one of them. It's a blessing that his entire unit could return home safe and sound. It's been great to know of all the support he has had from the Alto

Reformed Church. Thanks again for everything you've done.

-Paul and Debbie Bruins

We would like to thank the people of the ARC for the prayers, cards of encouragement, and the food that was brought to us during our hospitalizations and recoveries this summer. We are so very thankful for the family of God.

-Larry and Gloria Mulder

Thank you for the warm welcome. We enjoyed our first visit with you.

-Randy & Wanda Potratz

EVENTS

Alto Chase

Monday, October 12 at 7:30pm

This is a huge game of Romans and Christians all around Alto and we need YOU, the adults, to come act as the Romans and try to catch the Christians (8th grade through Seniors) before they can make it to the "Safe Place"! This is a great way to interact with our teens in a fun but meaningful way! We need your help to make this happen!

NEWS

Baptisms

9/13/20 - Knox Bennett, son of Brant &

Taylor McDowell

Address Updates for College Students & Military Personnel

Drew Behling
1405 8th St NW
Minot ND 58703

Halle Bradley
510 Marion Rd Apt T105
Oshkosh WI 54901

Molly Bresser
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Waupun WI 53963

Keegan Bruins
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Platteville WI 53818

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Platteville WI 53818

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Oshkosh WI 54901

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Oshkosh WI 54901

Sydney Flier
462 Main St
Winona MN 55987

Caleb Glewen
158 N Prince St
Whitewater WI 53190

Chloe Harmsen
1320 Vine St Apt 3
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