

# ALT



## REFORMED CHURCH

### ARTICLES

#### Pathways to Maturity - Bible Trivia

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

How would you feel if the family pulled out the “Bible Trivia” game and said “let’s play?” Some of you would be thrilled to test your Biblical prowess. Some of the Golden Lifers who generally won the Bible Trivia/chili supper night the youth hosted not long ago, would really enjoy this game. But, most of you I bet would be a bit more hesitant like me or simply walk away.

Years ago, I had to pass a Bible content exam in order to graduate seminary and be ordained. I was terrified walking into that room. I had flashbacks to “Iowa Basic Skills” tests and the ACTs. The pressure of a timed test and the insecurity with my own knowledge completely stressed me out. Even now, my blood pressure rises at the idea of Bible Trivia. So, you are not alone.



**Maybe the reason we squirm so much is that we realize the Bible is not trivia. My dictionary says trivia is defined as “pieces of information of little importance or value.” The Bible is not trivia!**

The Bible is the bread of Life (John 1:14, 6:33ff), the word of truth (1 Tim. 2:15, James 1:18) the Word of life (Phil. 2:16, 1 John 1:1), the words of eternal life (John 6:68), and the word of God (Heb. 13:7). It is a sword (Eph. 6:17, Heb.

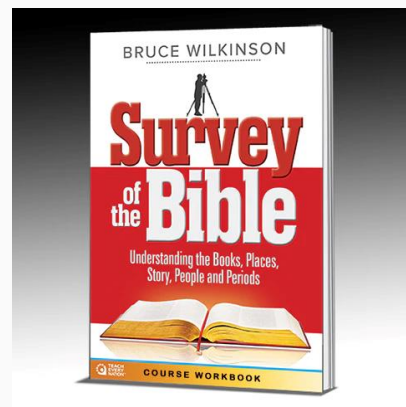
4:12) and it comes with authority and power. That's a far cry from trivia.

*They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. - Luke 4:32 (NIV)*

**Series Explanation:** In July's newsletter I explained that I am thrilled to see the [Alliance organize pathways](#) toward ordination. I get that most of you have no desire to be ordained, but you should have a desire to be mature, and the pathways to pastoral ordination lays out the [foundational competencies](#) for ministry leadership really well. This month, I will walk through two of the major areas of spiritual maturity outlined by the Alliance, so that you can take steps to progress toward maturity and become more like Christ.

We've covered Spiritual Formation (disciplines that form a Christ-like heart) and Leadership (the essential attitudes and practices for Christ-list influence). I'll address the next two together; the Old Testament and New Testament.

It's no wonder the Old Testament and New Testament are the next two competencies in the Pathway to pastoral ordination in the Alliance. To be ordained you must know the basic persons, places and things of the Old and New Testaments; be able to navigate the books of the Bible, knowing the various types of books; be able to explain the different covenants and why they matter; and understand key biblical concepts about discipleship.



**But, basic Bible knowledge is not just for pastors. It's life giving food for every believer.**

**If you've felt lost in all those pages, confused by bazaar stories, or bored by lengthy genealogies; I want to nudge you toward one great resource.**

We've recommended this many times, and honestly, it really is a great place to go for building a foundation to read the Bible. Bruce Wilkinson, in "**Survey of the Bible**", **strives to make the Bible clear, simple and memorable.** The [video series is free to you on RightNow Media](#). The

workbook is optional.

**Parental Tip:** If you have kids, this is great for them. Our family watched 10-15 minutes after dinner and discussed it. There are clear breaks throughout each session that make it easy to do in smaller chunks.

Watch the series here <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/336805>.

**PRAYER:** Lord, help us to understand the Bible. Give a zeal and passion to hear your Word that we are enthralled with it and can't put it down. Transform us by your Word. Amen.

## Praises and Prayer Requests from Youth Ministry

By Jessa Ter Beest

- We've had 50+ students attending our youth groups over the last couple weeks! Pray that God continues to grow that number and grow our students closer to Him
- A text from one of our students: "My mom and I just had a great discussion based around the Bible and Christianity. It felt really good, and I'm hoping that sometime soon she'll want to go to church with me!"
- We are now in 3 public schools (Waupun, Laconia, and Randolph) for before school Bible Clubs with 40+ kids attending between the three.
- All of our middle school leaders are young adults under the age of 25 - wow! God is doing awesome things there with discipleship!
- All of our amazing coaches and helpers - Chris and Steph Enders, Joslyn Ware, Randy McDaniel, Ian VanWyk, Joel and Pamela Ruis, Brant and Taylor McDowell, Libbi Campbell, Elyssa VanWyk, Annalyse Huizenga, Ryan Lenz, Chas Glewen, Tehya VanLoo, Jensen Jahn, Wyatt Guell, Caleb Glewen, Ashlan Bruins
- Our new worship and youth intern - Ashlan Bruins. Pray for her as she helps with middle school youth group and band, helping lead Sunday school singing for K-5th grade, playing piano for Jr Choir, and leading the high school worship band, along with all the other things she participates in as a Senior in high school.
- Please pray for the family of the freshman from Waupun that committed suicide, and pray for the students as they cope with questions and

uncertainty following this tragedy. Pray also for the mental health and safety of all students and for each one to come to Jesus.

- Pray for our Waupun youth groups as we come together to host a bonfire for all high schoolers at Edgewood during Homecoming week.
- Pray for Middle School Silver Birch coming up October 13-15.

## Equipping Children & Families Update

By Lynnae Loomans

Our Sunday morning and Wednesday night activities have started and what an awesome time it is seeing all of these children every week excited to come and learn more about Jesus. I am blessed to have another great group of volunteers to make it happen. For offering this semester, we are supporting Mission Backpack. This organization helps children in the Waupun Area School District that are in need. Students receive a ziploc bag on Friday (or the last school day of the week) supplied with nonperishable foods. This process is repeated throughout the school year. Please consider helping with this cause and giving money to your children each week for Sunday School and Bible Class.

## MESSAGES

We want to thank everyone for their birthday greetings, whether in person, cards, calls or gifts. Each one was greatly appreciated.

-Paul & Audrey Elenius

Thank you for the cards I received for my birthday. They were all very special to me. God bless you all.

-Marilyn Westerveld

Thank you for the wonderful birthday cards.

-Geraldine Loomans

Funeral Committee-

Thank you for arranging the food for mom's funeral. It was delicious.

-Junice VandeZande Family

# EVENTS

**Mark your calendar...**

**Alto Reformed Church**  
*October 2023*

**October 11** ***Alto Chase***  
Wednesday October 11, 7:30-9pm! All 8th grade, high school students and adults are welcome to join us for a huge game of Romans and Christians around Alto! Adults we NEED you! Whether you're in or out of shape, you can help! Show up and support our teens while getting some exercise and having fun!

**October 22** ***Pumpkin Palooza***  
Join us on Sunday, October 22 at 1-3pm on the church hill for free, fun afternoon of a bounce house, candy, crafts, face painting, games, prizes and more!

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

# NEWS

## UPDATES:

### Alto's Search Update:

The consistory nominated, vetted, and selected six others to join the Executive Team in our search for an Associate Pastor (focusing on Young Adults & Families, Equipping Adults, and Outreach). The new members are Jenna Bille, Carrie Bruins, Stephanie Buwalda, Katie Derksen, Stephanie Lenz, and Linda

Mulder. Please pray for this team as they begin looking at candidates in the next couple weeks.

You can see the profile here <https://slingshotgroup.qwilr.com/Profile-Alto-Reformed-Church-Associate-Pastor-Waupun-WI-Twigg-hcpEvXELT9qb>.

### **Notes from the Alliance Governing Board Meeting, Sept. 18, 2023:**

Tim Vink reported that he has been contacting the churches that had not begun giving their 1% financial support. This has resulted in meeting the Alliance Board goal of 90% of the eligible congregations participating with their 1% giving by end of September. Now 125 congregations are actively giving to the Alliance.

Each October the Alliance board has the task of setting the percent of financial support to the Alliance for the next year. This will be acted upon in our upcoming meetings. It is anticipated that it will remain 1% for 2024. Financial health of the Alliance has been increasing and has become more stable with the additional congregations participating in the giving.

The Alliance approved joining the Evangelical Chaplains Commission. This is an endorsing agency to provide a means for chaplaincy in the military and in other settings of our Alliance pastors. This has an annual fee of \$1,500. Dennis Olsen, president of the MidWest Network, and Tim Vink have been and continue to work on this for the Alliance.

Dennis Olsen will be contacting congressional leaders of South Dakota in regard to legislation that could require the RCA Board of Benefits to change their position and allow Alliance pastors to transfer their RCA 403(b)9 retirement funds to the Alliance 403(b)9 retirement program.

Three congregations' application to the Alliance were approved:

- First Ref. Church of Baldwin, WI
- Chinese Community Church of Sacramento, CA
- Grace Gospel Church, San Mateo, CA
- Dune Reformed Church, ?

Three Alliance board members joined five Kingdom Network members in a zoom meeting on Aug. 29. Conversation was very encouraging to discover what areas of ministry the Alliance and Kingdom ministries might do together. A proposal of a memorandum of understanding will be developed to be reviewed by the two ministries at an upcoming meeting later this fall. Also, the concept of holding conferences and training together will be considered with a report to be given at the next meeting.

A charter of responsibilities and expectations for the Alliance Ordination and Oversight Team will be developed to give greater clarity to the team of their responsibilities.

Further work was discussed in regard to the job description of the CEO position that the Alliance will soon advertise.