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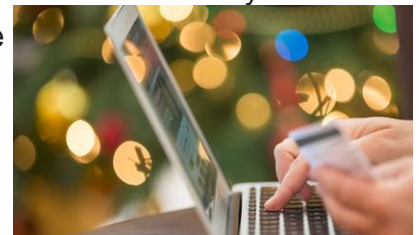
News

ARTICLES

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday...

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

This is the week when every business seeks to get some of your money. What once was one day of crazy sales has blossomed into a full month of “Black Friday” deals. Cyber Monday started in 2005 and Small Business Saturday started in 2010. No doubt most of us will be convinced this is the time to buy something we don’t really need.



Even non-profit organizations have tapped into this, effectively utilizing buyers remorse with “Giving Tuesday” which started in 2012. If you splurge over the weekend, you can ease your guilt by giving to a worthy cause on Tuesday.

As a pastor, it’s hard to watch. I wonder - How much expendable income is out there? How much will be spent on

unnecessary purchases? How much will be given out of guilt?

And most troubling, how should the Church respond to this trend? Shall we start promoting Sacrificial Sunday? People who have not given all year can ease their guilt with a generous gift. Those that faithfully tithe would be challenged to do more.

However, I see some problems with this approach. First and foremost is the motivation for giving. Appeasing guilt is not what should motivate believers to be generous, but a thankful heart does lead to generosity. Consider Paul's words to the Corinthians.

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written:

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;

their righteousness endures forever."[\[a\]](#)

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9)

I hope you did not skip over that passage. It is full of wisdom for us. Your giving to the church matters and the attitude in which you give matters, too. Know that our deacons work hard to steward our resources well that **we do all we can to make disciples, providing teaching in many different ways, assisting those in need, and supporting missionaries around the world.**

While I am not calling for a Sacrificial Sunday, **I do want to urge you to consider what it might look like for you to give from a cheerful heart.**

MESSAGES

Thanks for all of your birthday greetings. Thanks for all the cards. Thanks for all of you who came to the open house and for all the gifts. It was a very special day.

Thanks-
Betty Bruins

Thank you! Women's Ministries would like to thank the congregation for your generosity toward the special offering. Because of you, we will be adopting a family for Christmas and supporting other groups and causes throughout the year.
-Women's Ministry

While we mourn Mom's passing, we do "not grieve as those who have no hope." Our family takes great comfort in knowing Mom is experiencing the joy of Heaven in the presence of our Lord and Savior! Over the past years, she truly appreciated the visits from those who deliver media and bulletins. We thank pastors Ted, Doug, and Kevin for their visits and prayers. We are grateful to

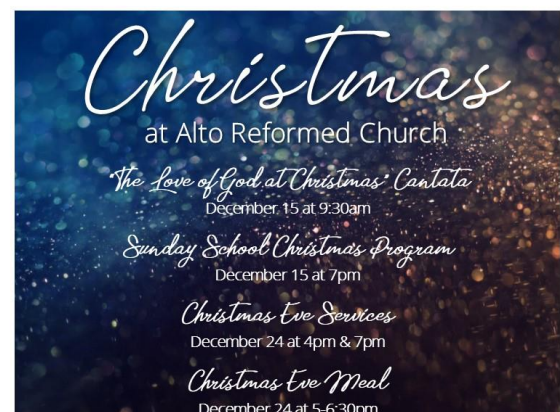
everyone who has expressed sympathy and caring through prayers, words of comfort, cards, and notes. We also wish to express your sincerest appreciation to Mom's shepherd, Gloria Mulder, for her visits and words of comfort as well as to Jerry Medema for conducting Mom's committal service.

-The Family of Sylvia Schouten

It's a glorious day today! Not because the sun is shining, not because our harvest is finished, but because God has blessed me with another day of life! It's a glorious day today because God has blessed me with a loving wife, children, grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter! It's a glorious day today because I have been blessed with a wonderful, caring church family. Thanks to everyone for your prayers for recovery.

-Bill Bruins

EVENTS





Alto

Christmas Caroling! - December 22nd at 6:30pm

Everyone is invited! Meet in the youth room.

If you're willing to bring treats to make gift plates for our neighbors, please come at 6pm to put them together. Let's spread some Joy! Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

NEWS

Baptisms

11/3/19 - Aleena Rose, daughter of Scott & Melanie Bruins.

11/24/19 - Randy McDaniel

11/24/19 - Addalyn, Lillian, & Hudson McDaniel, children of Randy & Holly McDaniel

New Members

Randy & Holly McDaniel