



A.M.E.N.

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ARTICLES

The \$25 Million Question

By Kevin Van Wyk

I don't know about you, but I am very weary of questions about Covid and the election. Was there fraud? Will the vaccine work? Should I get the vaccine? Will Biden make us all wear masks? Ugh. I'm sick of all of it.

During my professional development week, back in November, I spent some time reading a number of different books. One of them asked a really good question that helped take me out of the Covid and the election debate pit. I used this question with the staff a couple weeks ago and then asked the consistory the same question at our December meeting.

So what is the question worth \$25 million? Well, it's simple "What do you believe God would want us to do with \$25 million?"

No, we don't have \$25 million, but it's a great question to consider. Too often I

believe when we think about the future, we fret over the amount of money we might need and don't have. This stunts our ability to dream, to consider what God wants to do with and through us. One deacon figured it would be pretty easy for us to spend \$1 million just on our building.

So, we worry about not having enough to pay for what must be done, when we should be trusting God to do far more.

- We can't imagine funding a new orphanage in Kenya, when we can't fix the ceiling.
- We can't imagine planting a church in Fairwater when we can't fix the parking lot.

Fortunately, Alto has a “can-do” mentality. We will get these essential projects paid for just as we paid to replace the boiler, add on the nursery, and a host of other building projects.

However, as with everyone, it's hard to imagine doing more.

Here's the truth: God has \$25 million. God has much more than \$25 million.

After seeing God provide abundantly through His people for the building of the temple, David prayed, celebrating that “Everything comes from you...” (1 Chron.

29:14) He owns it all and can do as he chooses with it.

Everything is God's. He supplies our needs and enables us to give to His work. **So, would you join me in praying...**

1. Lord, guide our leaders to discern how to best make disciples. Make it clear what projects and ministries (here and around the world) we should invest in.

2. Lord, prepare my heart to be a giver. I too easily worry about having enough for tomorrow and withhold giving today. Help me be generous.

What project, ministry, or mission do you believe God wants us to

do? Nothing is too big or too crazy. (Seriously, it's been suggested we buy a farm to train farmers and give profits to missions. Now that's thinking outside the box!) **Email me**

at kevin@altoreformedchurch.org your thoughts so the consistory can chart a path forward.

Equipping Youth Update

By Jessa Ter Beest

The kids in this church are getting into their Bibles and reading God's word! We have kids age 4th grade on up reading through the entire Bible! Doesn't that just

make your heart jump for joy!?! Our youth group kids are coming every single week and sharing about the Bible passage or devotional they've been reading. What started out as (most likely) excitement to get the candy that goes with it has turned into sharing that takes more time each week with their excitement to tell details and more kids sharing each week! We're getting closer and closer to the day it takes the whole hour of teaching time with them sharing that we can't even get to the lesson I prepare. What could be better than them teaching and inspiring each other!?

So this leads me to encourage you again as parents, grandparents, and church family members - the people who, at baptism vow to teach and train these kids up in God's word: If you aren't currently in the Word because you've been busy or maybe because you've been avoiding it or it feels like a chore - please please please, take a lesson from these incredible kids. Be inspired by their passion and get back into God's word and watch it transform your life. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for the push from them to keep reading and enjoying and loving my relationship with God. These kids aren't just the future of our church - they are the Here and Now and are rooted in God's word. Let's follow

suit, church!

Equipping Children & Families Update

By Adrea Daane

Winter Clothing Drive:

Thank you, thank you, thank you!! We closed out our winter clothing drive earlier in December and what a collection we received! The Bible Class kids took to our challenge, along with the congregation, and together we collected a great number of hats, gloves, coats, snow pants, and boots. These items were brought to Rock River Intermediate, Meadowview Primary, and the Food Pantry to help those who may be in need of items this winter season. I had the privilege of bringing the bags of items to the different schools and their gratitude and excitement to have the items was evident.



Thanks again to all who contributed!!!

Sunday School Christmas Program:

Our annual program was held on Sunday, December 20th. Although things looked different, it was still a blessing to see the kids share their love of Christmas with each of us. A big thank you to all who

helped make the program a success. Thank you to the 5th grade parents for putting together the main skit, for Steve who helped with tech the night of the premiere at church, to Jessa for helping edit the sound, the teachers for practicing with the kids, and all of the parents who sent videos in so we could include as many kiddos as possible. Although it stretched my skills it was so much fun to put together. I'm so thankful for the kids of our church!!

Golden Lifers Update

By Roxy Schouten

DISCERNMENT! We know we need “it” but what is “it” and how do we get “it”? In present days that becomes vitally important as sources for our news and those we trust are proving not to be too trustworthy.

Charles Spurgeon once said “Discernment is not a matter of knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and **almost** right.” That little bit of “difference” can sometimes mean a matter of life or death such as a little bit of poison in a batch of honey.

In the winter addition of Prayer Point published by Samaritan Purse there is a focus on writers of the past whose

message still rings true and inspirational. The topic in this publication is on Discernment with a message on defining or identifying aspects of Discernment. In summary of those points:

- If you are a Born Again Christian you have the Holy Spirit abiding in you and sealing you. Therefore, we have the greatest Discerner in the Universe and we can steadily grow by following His directive. Nature teaches us that this is a growing process just as infants do not overnight know how to survive and thrive.
- The growing up process in Christ involves getting rid of personal goals and objectives and that includes high-sounding religious goals and longings that elevate self.
- “Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” Prov 16:3. After we do the first part of this verse on a continual basis we can trust that He will guide.
- If there is uneasiness about the move or direction wait. There is a time when we must move instantly when danger is imminent and He warns us but we need to remember God’s patience with Gideon.
- The Holy Spirit is consistent and persistent. God is immutable. He

does not change. There will be peace in the action and not pressure and torment.

- God will confirm or He will stop you. Doors open or are shut.

Father – You have promised in Your Word that we are to trust and obey and that when we ask for a good gift You will not give us a “stone or a scorpion”. So, we ask for a good gift that only can come from You – the gift of Discernment. We ask that You will lead us into paths that will open our hearts to Your Wisdom, Grace and Mercy. Then give us the courage to obey and trust in You for the outcome. We ask in the Name of Jesus will all honor and glory going to You the Giver. Amen

MESSAGES

We would like to thank everyone for the cards and family pictures sent to us this Christmas season. God bless each of you richly in this New Year.

Our Love - Pastor Ted, Julie & Sue
Medema

A big thank you to friends and family at Alto Reformed Church for your cards, calls, gifts and prayers that helped make this Christmas season a happier time. I was not able to send you cards myself this year--just too big a task without my

helpers. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year!
- Gladys Kastein

Thank you ARC Friends and Family for the generous gift card to Kwik Trip for Christmas, it is greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas to all!

- Jalen Peters

Friends like you are a treasure. Thank you for all you have done because I was unable to attend services. You kept me up to date. May you be blessed for the kindness you have shown me. Knowing you are there to make life so much more easy for me. Thank you so very much for all you have done.

- Arlene Henning

I would like to thank the church for the box of candy. When I take a piece I think of the love our church has for us. I also want to thank Larry & Betty for delivering it and our visit together.

- Marilyn Kamphuis

Thank you for the box of candy and to Larry & Betty Daane for delivering it.

- Geraldine Loomans

Thank you for your donation this Giving Tuesday. With your support we were able to reach our goal!

In gratitude, REACH Waupun

EVENTS

1/3/21 - Elder & Deacon Installation
Service

1/6/21 - Bible Class starts back up

1/10/21 - Sunday School starts back up

NEWS

Birth

12/22/20 - Coby James, son of Marcus &
Kelli Vossekuil