



HOPE



December 10, 2023

We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading – Hope

Praise Singing

“The First Noel” Hymn #131 vs 1, 2, & 6

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Hymn #137

“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

3 Minutes for Missions – Awaken Kids

Congregational Prayer

Jr Choir – “Noel”

We Hear God’s Word

Children’s Message – Jackie Tenpas

Message – Religious Fruitcakes: Hope

Scripture – Luke 1

We Respond to God

Prayer

Special Music – Rylan, Ashlan, and Sawyer Bruins

“Mary Did You Know?”

Blessing

If you are newer to Alto Reformed Church, we invite you to fill out a Connection Card, located at the entrance to the sanctuary, and turn it in at the Fellowship Kitchen for a small gift.

Religious Fruitcakes:

A People of Thanks, Dedication, Hope, Peace, Love, & Joy

Religious Fruitcakes: #4 Hope

Luke wrote to give _____.
Luke 1:1-4

THREE FUNDAMENTALS OF HOPE

1. Hope Starts with a _____: (Luke 1:13-17)
2. Hope Struggles through _____: (Luke 1:18-23)
3. Hope Solidifies in _____: (Luke 1:24-25; 57-66, 67-79)

APPLICATION: THREE QUESTIONS TO NURTURE HOPE

1. What should I accept?

_____. (John 16:33)

2. What should I hope for?

a. _____ Later (Romans 8:18-30)

b. _____ Sooner (Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 1:6, John 15:1-5)

c. _____ else now (Psalm 20:7, 33:17ff; Isa. 31:1)

3. What should I do in the waiting?

Focus on _____ you hope in over

_____ you hope for. (Luke 1:68; Romans 15:13)

PRACTICAL NEXT STEP:

Read an infancy prophecy and its fulfillment each day this week. Then prayerfully ask yourself if you will trust the Bible and the God who gave it to us.

1. A Descendant of Abraham (Genesis 22:18) Prophesied: Around 1500-1300 BC
Fulfilled: Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38

2. A Descendant of Jacob (Numbers: 24:17) Prophesied: Between 1446-1260 BC
Fulfilled: Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38

3. A Virgin Birth, named Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14) Prophesied: 740 BC
Fulfilled: Matthew 1:20-25, Luke 1:26-35

4. A Child Will Be Born (Isaiah 9:6-7) Prophesied: 740 BC
Fulfilled: Luke 1:32-33; 3:23-38, Matthew 1:1, 6-7

5. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) Prophesied: 742 BC
Fulfilled: Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:1-6, John 7:42

6. The Murder of the Children (Jeremiah 31:15) Prophesied: 597 BC
Fulfilled: Matthew 2:16-18

7. The Return from Egypt (Hosea 11:1) Prophesied: 755 BC
Fulfilled: Matthew 2:13-15

This Week's Events

- Dec 10** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – 2nd Sunday of Advent, Pastor Kevin, Jr Choir
 10:45am – Sunday School
 5:00pm – Caroling
 6:00pm – Christmas in Alto
- Dec 12** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
 7:00pm – Consistory Meeting
- Dec 13** 5:15pm – 5th Grade Christmas Program Practice
 6:00pm – K-5th Grade Christmas Program Practice
 7:30pm – High School Youth Group, Mixed Choir
- Dec 17** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
 9:30am – 3rd Sunday of Advent, Mixed Choir Cantata
 10:45am – Sunday School
 6:30pm – Sunday School Christmas Program

To view the church calendar, go to www.altoreformedchurch.org

Youth News

Middle School – Tonight is Christmas caroling from 5-6 and Christmas in Alto from 6-8! Join us!

High School – Wednesday is A-teams! Check with your small group leader to see where you're meeting.

A Bridge Christmas Party – All middle and high school students along with elders, small group leaders, and people 60+ are invited to celebrate Jesus' birthday together with snacks, games, and singing on December 20 from 7-8pm.

Christmas Card Distribution goes through Christmas Eve morning. The youth group students will pass your Christmas cards out to the church mailboxes so you don't have to! Just leave them in the white box on the table in the fellowship hall. All we ask is that you'd make a donation to the youth group in the amount you would have spent on stamps. This year we're asking that all teacher gifts be brought directly to your child's classroom. Thanks!

Soda and Water Donations – The youth groups are looking for soda and water bottle donations for second semester! If you're willing to donate, drop it off in the youth room any time. Thank you in advance!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Sunday School – Sunday school is available for everyone 3 years old – adult. Preschoolers should meet in the Sunbeamers room. K-5th grade should go to the basement for their snack (do not take a snack from upstairs) and singing and then break off into their classrooms. 6th-High School should meet in their classrooms. Adults can meet in the Consistory Room for Sunday School Guide.

Christmas in Alto – The best way to spread Christmas cheer is sharing the gospel for all to hear! Come join us at The Old Mill for a Christmas Open House this evening, 6-8pm. We'll have an outdoor bonfire, indoor Christmas story reading and music, crafts, snacks and more! Feel free to join us for Christmas Caroling around Alto to spread the joy of our Savior from 5-6pm before we head to the Mill! If you are willing to bring treats to be distributed during caroling, please sign-up at the Information Center.

Sunday School Christmas Program – Join us on Sunday, December 17th at 6:30pm as the PreK-5th graders present the Christmas program "A Super Christmas".

Women's Worship Night – Please join us on Monday, December 18th at 7pm for a night of worship and prayer as we "make room" for the savior of the world. We can't wait to worship with you!

Christmas Eve Service – Join us at 4pm on Sunday, December 24th for the Christmas Eve service. We will also be having our usual Sunday morning worship service at 9:30am that day.

Bulletin Board News

Offering may be placed in one of the three white offering boxes located in the lobby, may be given online, or through autopay. For more info or to set up autopay, please contact Megan. Upcoming benevolent schedule: 12/10 Awaken Kids, 12/17 Remember the Children, 12/24 Brandon Food Pantry, 12/31 Waupun Food Pantry. If you feel led to give specifically towards the ceiling project, please put your check in a separate marked envelope in one of the offering boxes. The deacons are keeping track separately of what has been contributed towards the project, which will be shown on the monthly financial reports. Thank you.

Congrats to Margaret Hoekstra as she celebrates her 90th birthday on December 16th.

Love Offering – This year we will be giving a love offering to multiple anonymous recipients. A second offering will be collected each week in Sunday School class (parents, please explain to your children that one offering goes in the regular offering and the other should be given to a Sunday school teacher). You may also donate by placing your offering in a labeled envelope in one of the white offering boxes through Dec 24th. You can find more info in your church mailbox.

K-5th Grade Christmas Program Practice – As a reminder, all Kindergarten through 5th graders have Christmas program practice Wednesday, December 13th at 6pm. We will do a full run-through of the program.

Advent Resources – There are Advent activity bags available at the Children & Families Resource Center to use during the Advent season. The bags contain a calendar of simple activities to do through Christmas as well as some of the materials needed. These bags are perfect for families with kids elementary age or younger. Please take one bag per family.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing – We are looking for bell ringers for Fri, Dec 15th and Sat, Dec 16th at Piggly Wiggly. Please sign-up at the Information Center or contact Darryl Navis for more details. Seating is available.

Christmas Dinner – We invite anyone who has no plans for Christmas to join us for a free homecooked meal at the Wesley Center (114 Forest Ave, Waupun) on Monday, December 25th. We will serve buffet style at 11:30am and 12:45pm. Please call 920-928-3310 for reservations and state which time slot you would like to attend.

P - praise R - repent A - ask Y – yield

Praise: We rejoice as your covenant children, redeemed by your mercy and made righteous by the blood of your Son. Thank you for sending John to prepare the way and Jesus to fulfill your promises.

Repent: Forgive us for rebelling against your Word and doubting your faithfulness and love.

Ask: I pray that you would intervene in our world and bring hope... Revive our faith by inspiring us to study your Word and to pray without ceasing. Renew our passion for your mission and help us reach the lost. Heal and strengthen those listed below as they face challenges each day. Guide and lead our national and world leaders to bring justice and peace to all.

Yield: I will hope in You alone! I will maintain a life of prayer, study your Word, participate in the Lord's supper, gather with believers regularly, use my spiritual gifts and financial resources to further the mission of Jesus through the local church, live a life pleasing to you and accept the spiritual guidance of the church leadership.

THIS WEEK... Pray for continued healing for Barry Ter Beest, Bryon Janey, Paul Bruins, Dale Schultz, and Gary Navis.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Paul Bruins, Betty Daane, Elaine Daane, Sharon DeMotts, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Faye Janey, Melene Kraemer, Gary Navis, Steve Navis, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Don Schultz, Jean Stelsel, Jim Stelsel, Barry Ter Beest, Jodi Vande Berg, Ron Vande Zande, and Harold VanRuiswyk.

Military Personnel:

Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in Las Vegas;
Sebastian Hoenisch, stationed in San Diego, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder;
Matt Saunders, stationed in east Africa, nephew to David Grulich & Rosemary Tschinkel
Cyler Ruis, stationed in California, nephew to Joel & Pamela Ruis

Shut-ins: Members in assisted living, nursing homes or those confined to their home: **Barrett House:** Lowell Glewen
Charleston House: Brian Hemp
Beaver Dam Memory Care: Cora Hemp
Christian Home: Elaine Daane, Sharon Harmsen, Dayton TerBeest, Kay Vande Zande, Marilyn Westerveld
Home: Margaret Hoekstra, Julie Medema, Marion Tolsma,
Christian Homestead: Betty Bruins
Harbor Haven: Don Vande Zande
Marvin's Manor: Eleanor Loomans
Prairie Ridge: Annice Hopp

Missionaries: Bob Abel – Remember Nhu, Steve & Amanda Bialy – Converge, Chris Briggs – CCCD, Andy Lickel – InterVarsity, Jersey & Preston Sheldon – Overland Missions, Randy & Wanda Potratz – SIM, Scott Ritzema – Youth for Christ

