



PEACE

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December 3, 2023

We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading – Peace

Men’s Chorus – “Come Make a Place in Me”

Praise Singing

“Joy to the World!” Hymn #135

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn #132

Congregational Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Children’s Message – Amber Gordon

Message – Ian Van Wyk

Religious Fruitcakes: Peace

Scripture – Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 2:14

We Respond to God

Prayer

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Hymn #120 vs 1 & 4

Blessing

“Away in a Manger” Hymn #128 vs 3

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.

This Week's Events

- Dec 3** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – 1st Sunday of Advent, Pulpit Supply – Ian Van Wyk, Men's Chorus
10:45am – Sunday School
6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group
- Dec 5** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
12:30pm – Women's Mission Circle
7:00pm – Elder Meeting – *If you are interested in baptism or membership, please contact Pastor Kevin.*
- Dec 6** 12:00pm – Golden Lifers Potluck (*please bring a dish to pass*)
5:15pm – 5th Grade Christmas Program Practice
6:20pm – Sonshine Singers, Jr Choir
6:30pm – Mixed Choir
6:45pm – Bible Class
7:30pm – High School Youth Group, Men's Chorus
- Dec 8** 6:30pm – Steps to Freedom in Christ Workshop
- 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

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

Youth News

Christmas Card Distribution starts today and 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!

Middle School – Tonight is testimony night, so we're going to be listening to a few different videos from the perspective of people present at Jesus' birth. See you at 6:30! No Middle School praise band practice for the month of December.

High School – Our testimonies tonight will be Christmas themed, to focus our attention on the reason for the season. See you on Wednesday at 7:30!

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.

“The Steps to Freedom in Christ” will give you practical tools and biblical principles for you and your children to overcome negative thoughts, irrational feelings, habitual sins, and spiritual struggles. Friday, Dec 8th at 6:30-9:30pm in the Youth Room. Kevin and Steph Van Wyk will share their experience with the materials; we’ll watch short video segments for each of the seven steps; and we’ll spend time in personal reflection and prayer on each step. It will be a safe place for you to face your chains and break them. The workbook (which you will certainly want) is \$6 and you can help the church cover this expense by placing a donation in the white offering boxes. Signup today at the Information Center or by emailing Kevin at kevin@altoreformedchurch.org to make sure you get a workbook.

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 on Sunday, December 10, 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.

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!

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: 12/3 Missionary Salary, 12/10 Awaken Kids, 12/17 Remember the Children, 12/24 Brandon 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 Faye Janey as she celebrates her 80th birthday on December 4th.

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.

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”.

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.

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 Carol Sing – First Reformed Church (422 W. Franklin Street, Waupun) will be hosting their annual Christmas Carol Sing on Sunday, Dec 3rd at 6pm. Join in an evening of singing Christmas Carols and also enjoying musical performances by a variety of soloists along with The New Generation Singers and The United Men of Praise. A freewill offering will be shared equally with Awaken Kids and REACH, both Waupun organizations that support the youth of our communities.

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: Prince of Peace, we rejoice in your coming to reveal the Father's grace and truth through your life, death and resurrection. We praise you for bringing peace to our hearts.

Repent: Forgive us for looking to others to be our source of peace and fulfillment. Use our discontentment, fear, and worry to bring repentance and peace.

Ask: We pray that you would intervene in our world and bring your peace... 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: Today, in seeking your peace, 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 healing for Steve Navis and Don Schultz. Praise that Paul Bruins was able to come home and pray for continued healing. Pray for Gary Navis as he recovers from prostate cancer surgery.

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, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Jean Stelsel, Jim Stelsel, 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