

**May 19, 2024**



**The ARC Ministry Staff**

Lead Pastor – Kevin Van Wyk

Equipping Youth Director – Jessa Wedel

Equipping Children & Families Director – Lynnae Loomans

Office Administrator – Megan Vande Zande

Worship & Youth Intern – Ashlan Bruins

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## **We Approach God**

Welcome & Announcements

Mixed Choir – “It’s About the Cross”

Praise Singing

“How Great Thou Art” Hymn #111

“Cornerstone”

“Knowing You”

Foster Care Awareness Video

Congregational Prayer

## **We Hear God’s Word**

Children’s Message – Joel Ruis

Message – Cow Tipping

Scripture – Philippians 3:7-14, 17-4:1

## **We Respond to God**

Prayer

“Be Thou My Vision” Hymn #395

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.*

# EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW



## Cow Tipping? (Example #6 Paul)

Philippians 3:7-14, 17-4:1

The Essence of Following Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ (3:17) is to \_\_\_\_\_ Firm (4:1) in...

### THREE ESSENTIAL \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (3:10-11,14, 20-21) or Destruction (3:18-19)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (3:7-11, Matt. 16:25-26)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (3:12-14)

### APPLICATION:

\_\_\_\_\_ firm in Christ by \_\_\_\_\_ examples who are...

- Looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_,
- Trusting \_\_\_\_\_ to save, and
- Pressing on toward \_\_\_\_\_ maturity.

### PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS:

1. Ponder your destination. What do you believe will happen when you die? Many simply don't care and so they live for immediate pleasure (Isa. 22:13, 1 Cor, 15:32). But, if Paul is correct and our god is our stomach (Phil. 3:19), then destruction is our destiny. If your stomach/desires determine most of your actions then you should be concerned. I urge you to find answers to your doubts, pray for God to give you understanding, and ultimately to repent of your being an enemy of the cross.
2. Prioritize knowing Jesus. Many of you have believed and confessed Jesus as your Lord and Savior at some point in life. This passage points us beyond a simple decision for salvation to a life-long pursuit of knowing Jesus. Would you say you have a healthy relationship with Jesus or a distant relationship? Will you prioritize this relationship and commit to reading the Bible and prayer daily?
3. Press on toward maturity. When Paul wrote these words, he had been following Jesus for many years, yet he had not arrived. You are not done. You are not as mature as you think you are. You are not as wise as you perceive. You are not as holy as you should be. So, stretch yourself: join a small group, ask trusted believers about your blind spots, spend 3 hours on a prayer retreat, read a Pauline letter each day this week, or study a challenging book like *Kill the Spider*, *Discipleship Essential*, *Knowing Scripture*, or *Everyone's a Theologian*. Press on toward maturity!

## *This Week's Events*

**May 19** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting  
9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Mixed Choir  
6:00pm – Hymn Sing  
**May 21** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting  
**May 26** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting  
9:30am – Pastor Kevin

To view the church calendar, go to [www.altoreformedchurch.org](http://www.altoreformedchurch.org)

### *Search Team Update & Congregational Vote Announcement*

This past weekend Tim Fennell (Candidate #2) was flown in from New York to meet with the Search Team in person. The review process set out by Slingshot was to start with the Search Team, then the Consistory, then the Staff, and once an agreed-upon recommendation was made, the Congregation. This was the first step in the process. (If he lived closer, the Search Team would have drove to meet him halfway. Due to scheduling conflicts on our side, the only available weekend was last weekend.) Tim had an opportunity to meet the Search Team over a meal on Saturday night, and then came to Sunday service. Since this fell on Jessa's going away service, we didn't want to take away from that special day for her, by announcing Tim's attendance. It also allowed Tim to experience a Sunday service without the distractions that would come if the focus were on him.

On Monday night, the Search Team met to discuss their conversations with Tim, and after discussion, were excited to make a recommendation to the Consistory.

On Tuesday night, the Consistory was presented the recommendation to hire Tim Fennell as the Equipping Young Adults and Families Director from the Search Team. (This position will start as a "Director" position while Tim continues his course work that is required to be ordained. Once ordained, his title will change to Equipping Young Adults and Families Pastor or something similar. It is anticipated that the remaining requirements will take another year to complete.) The Search Team presented this recommendation in person, including the non-Consistory members, to provide their reasons/support for the recommendation.

After discussion, a motion was passed by the Consistory to recommend to the Congregation to hire Tim Fennell as the Equipping Young Adults and Families Director. On Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, a short video will be played during service to introduce Tim to the Congregation. The Search Team will be up front after service to answer any questions that the congregation might have about Tim and their time that they spent with him. The following week, Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a Congregational vote. Results will then be provided to the Consistory for the final vote.

We pray for continued wisdom on this decision.

Thanks,  
Consistory

## *Opportunities to Get Involved*

**Summer JAM** – All 3 year olds - incoming 1st graders are invited to join us for Summer JAM (Jesus and Me) during the service on June 2 & 16, July 7 & 21, and August 4. They'll be invited to the basement before the sermon for games, activities, and/or crafts focused on a Bible lesson just for kids.

## *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: 5/19 Missionary Salary, 5/26 Mighty Oaks Foundation, 6/2 Missionary Salary, 6/9 Regular Benevolence. 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 Marion Tolsma as she celebrates her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Congrats** to Ron & Jean Vande Zande as they celebrate their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**AMEN** articles are due next Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Donations for VBS** – We are in need of puzzle pieces, tissue paper (any color) and empty 8oz water bottles or small Gatorade bottles. Donations may be placed in the tote at the Equipping Children & Families Resource Center. We no longer need cool whip containers. Thank you!

**VBS Snack Donations** – We are looking for donations for snack items for VBS week. Please sign-up at the Equipping Children & Families Resource Center if you are willing to donate.

**Hymn Sing** – Join us this evening at 6pm for a hymn sing. Bring your requests and join us as we worship in song.

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

**Praise:** You, oh God, have graciously made away for us to live eternally in your holy presence by sending your son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross, taking our punishment and giving us new life. We rejoice that you have revealed your love and kindness in this way!

**Repent:** Forgive us for living as enemies of the cross at times, for letting our stomach and desire for pleasure now consume our hearts and minds. Forgive us for setting our minds on earthly things instead of heaven and the cross.

**Ask:** Heavenly Father, change our hearts and minds so that we would follow godly examples in the Bible and in our church. Help us stand firm in Christ; looking forward to his return, trusting in him for salvation, and pressing on toward Christ-like maturity.

- Bless the children in foster care, the families who care for them, the volunteers that help, and the social workers and judges who make major decisions.
- Guide our consistory and search team in every decision so that your mission will be pursued and lives transformed by your grace and truth.
- Stir up a conviction in our political leaders to support life, liberty, and justice. Uncover evil and deception in our leaders that they may lead us toward truth.
- Bring healing, strength and peace to those listed below as they face challenges each day. Renew their hearts, minds, and bodies to continue to live faithfully in this world.

**Yield:** I will stand firm in Christ. 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 Donna Bruins.

**Healing:** Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Donna Bruins, Sharon DeMotts, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Dale Schultz, 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 North Carolina, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder; Matt Saunders, 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:** Sharon Harmsen, Barrie & Ardyce Tenpas, Dayton TerBeest, Kay Vande Zande, Marilyn Westerveld  
**Home:** Margaret Hoekstra, Julie Medema, Marion Tolsma  
**Christian Homestead:** Betty Bruins, 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