

November 5, 2023



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

Men's Chorus – "A Medley of Hymns"

Baptism – Sadie Hibicki

Praise Singing

"Evidence"

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" Hymn #519

"Battle Belongs"

Congregational Prayer

We Hear God's Word

Children's Message – Joel Ruis

Message – Whose Side Are You On? The Oppressed...

Scripture – Matthew 5:38-48

We Respond to God

Prayer

Blessing

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" Hymn #491 vs 1 & 3

Following Jesus in a Land of Conflict: An Arab and Jewish Conversation

Join us for this video series in the sanctuary during Sunday School. In this 4-part Day of Discovery program, you'll take a journey to the land of the Bible, modern Israel, with host Mart DeHaan for conversations with guests Nizar Touma and Avner Boskey. Join them as they discuss the impact this dispute has on their Arab and Jewish communities and as they address tough questions that arise about the role of followers of Christ in this controversy.

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.

Whose Side Are You On?

Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Whose Side Are You On? The Oppressed...

Matthew 5:38-48

DEFINITIONS:

_____ - This view argues that a war is morally right (or "just") when it meets certain criteria. It also argues that there are certain moral restrictions on the way that a war can be conducted.

_____ - This view holds that it is always wrong for Christians to use military force against others, and thus it is wrong for Christians to participate in military combat, even to defend their own nation.

_____ - One who is hostile to or prejudiced against Jewish people

_____ - dislike of or prejudice against Islam or Muslims, especially as a political force

_____ - a person who believes that a country should maintain a strong military capability.

_____ - a person who strongly identifies with their own nation and vigorously supports its interests, especially to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations

_____ - a person who encourages or advocates aggression towards other countries or groups.

_____ - a struggle or fight against the enemies of Islam

DEBATE:

_____ vs. _____

The Bible prohibits _____ vengeance and _____ (Matt. 5:38-39; Rom. 12:19; Exod. 20:13) while commanding _____ to carry out justice and _____ (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14; Gen. 9:5-6) and permitting _____ to defend _____, their _____, and _____ (Exod. 22:2-3; Neh. 4:17-18; Esther 8:10-11; Prov. 25:26; Deut. 22:25-27; Ps. 82:3-4; Luke 22:36-38).

RESPONSE:

_____ for all
...for _____ (Ps. 122:6; Jer. 29:7),

...for _____ (Matt. 5:44),
...for _____ (Neh. 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 16:22; Mat. 23)

_____ **the oppressed**
Ex. 22:21-24; Deut. 10:18; 14:29; 24:19–21; 26:12–13; 27:19; Isa. 1:17; Jer. 7:6; 22:3; Ezek. 16:49; Zech. 7:10

_____ **the oppressor**
Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14; 2 Samuel 18; Matt. 26:52

_____ **in God not** _____
Isaiah 31:1; Ps. 33:16-17

Psalm 20:7 (NIV)
*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

RESOURCES

Wayne Grudem, [Christian Ethics: An Introduction to Biblical Moral Reasoning](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018), 534. [This massive book has several chapters on these issues. Some definitions are from here.]

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/should-we-curse-enemies/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/israel-hamas-moral-clarity/>

This Week's Events

- Nov 5** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Men's Chorus, Baptism – Sadie Hibicki
10:45am – Sunday School
5:30pm – Middle School Praise Band
6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group
- Nov 7** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
7:00pm – Elder Meeting – *If you are interested in baptism or membership,
please contact Pastor Kevin.*
- Nov 8** 9:30am – Golden Lifers
5:30pm – Mission Backpack Family Night
6:30pm – Mixed Choir
7:30pm – High School Youth Group, Men's Chorus
- Nov 10** Pastor Kevin at Midwest Network Gathering in Worthington, MN
- Nov 11** Pastor Kevin at Midwest Network Gathering in Worthington, MN
- Nov 12** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Pulpit Supply – Randy McDaniel, Jr Choir
10:45am – No Sunday School, Congregational Meeting
5:30pm – Middle School Praise Band
6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group

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

Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12th immediately following the service. All Covenant Partners are asked to attend the meeting. Activities will be available for children in the basement and any non-Covenant Partners (adults/teens) are asked to help with the younger children.

The following people will be on the ballot for Elder and Deacon:

Elder: Bruce Buwalda, Jim Ford, Al Kamphuis, Randy McDaniel, Larry Mulder, Joel Ruis, and Mark Vossekuij

Deacon: Dan Bresser, Jason De Jager, Chris Jahn, Jason Mulder, Klint Vande Zande, and Marcus Vossekuij

Covenant Partners are asked to vote for 3 in each category. Please prayerfully consider who you will vote for.

Absentee ballots are available at the Information Center and may be placed in the absentee ballot box, signed and in an envelope prior to the meeting. Absentee ballots are not to be used simply as a matter of convenience.

We thank all those who submitted nominees and those nominees that have prayerfully considered and engaged in our process. We ask that all Covenant Partners prayerfully consider who God desires to serve on the Consistory.

Youth News

Middle School – Tonight Sam Luck is coming in to share her testimony with us! She's got such an awesome story of God bringing her out of darkness and into a life with Him. We hope you'll be there and invite friends! See you at 6:30.

High School – Wednesday is question and answer night! You've asked some great questions on things like the war in Israel, end times, the death penalty, Christian living, the apostle's creed, and dating. We can't wait to answer them with you! See you Wednesday at 7:30!

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 sanctuary for “Following Jesus in a Land of Conflict” or in the Consistory Room for Sunday School Guide.

Funeral Serving Help Needed – We are looking for a couple new co-chairs for one of our Funeral Serving Committees. This position entails helping with ordering food, asking people to make/serve food, and helping on the day of the funeral. We are also looking for people who would be willing to be called upon to make extra food when needed for a funeral. If either of these things interest you, please sign up at the Information Center. Any questions, please contact Sue Bos at 296-1314.

Volunteer Opportunities – If you would like to be added to or removed from any of the following volunteer positions, please sign your name on the form at the Information Center or email Megan at office@altoreformedchurch.org. Greeter, Media Delivery, Nursery, Parking Assistance, Sound Tech, Video Tech.

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: 11/5 St. Jude, 11/12 Mighty Oaks, 11/19 Missionary Salary, 11/23 Bread for the World, 11/26 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 Betty Bruins as she celebrates her 94th birthday on November 11th.

Mission Backpack – Join us for our Mission Backpack Family Night on Wed, Nov 8th 5:30-7:30pm. We will start the night out with pizza and then will move into packing bags for Mission Backpack. Our goal is to pack 400 bags. Information about Mission Backpack can be found at the Children & Families Resource Center.

Directory Updates – If your address, phone # or email have changed in 2023 and you haven't already let Megan know, please contact her to update your information.

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.

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

Prayer Points for the Holy Land for Your Churches

By Esther Kline

1. **Ask the God of all comfort to comfort those who grieve on both sides.** Israelis have suffered a terrorist attack unlike any in the history of their state. Palestinian civilians in Gaza are enduring another traumatic war. Hundreds have died, thousands have been injured. We do not condone or rejoice in the destruction of life, no matter the person.
2. **Pray for the growth and thriving of the messianic church in the Land.** In 1948, when the State of Israel was established, believers in Yeshua numbered only 23. Now there are about 30,000 believers in congregations around the country. Pray that Jewish-background believers will remain steadfast in their commitment to Christ in times of hardship. Ask that they will be salt and light in their communities.
3. **Lift up the 300,000 IDF reservists who have been called up.** There are many believers among them. Ask that the good news of peace might go forth with them, that their attitudes toward their enemy might reflect our Savior and provoke conversations with fellow soldiers who have not experienced reconciliation with their Creator.
4. **Intercede for 150 hostages taken by Hamas militants.** As far as we know, they are now hidden in the Gaza Strip. Hamas has threatened to kill them if Israel bombs civilian targets. Please pray for encounters with Jesus for these hostages, that he will protect and deliver them. Ask for Saul-like encounters for Hamas leaders, that they will be transformed by encounters with the risen Christ.
5. **Pray for our Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ.** There are three churches in Gaza with about 2,000 Christians. There are about 162,000 Christians in Israel and the West Bank. These continually live as a doubly marginalized community—a minority between Muslim and Jewish contingents. While rejecting violent resistance, they long for justice for their people. Pray for their steadfastness and faithfulness to the gospel of peace.
6. **Pray for the 2 million people in Gaza, who are undergoing a complete siege.** There is no electricity (even generators have run out of fuel), no incoming supplies of food and water. Many, many innocent men, women, and children are suffering. The humanitarian situation is unthinkable. Ask for their quick deliverance!
7. **Lift up Palestinians in the West Bank, which has been sealed off from the rest of the land.** Many there work in Israel proper or in other parts of the West Bank and are now unable to get to their jobs. This will provoke hopelessness and perpetuate anger and bitterness. Ask that they will find hope and refuge in the Lord.
8. **Please ask that the conflict will not spread regionally, especially to Lebanon, where Hezbollah is based.** Lebanon, as well as Jordan, have very large Palestinian populations, so emotions are high in those countries.
9. **Intercede for a just peace in the Holy Land, one that will allow all peoples, regardless of their religion or ethnicity, to live in equality and freedom, without fear or discrimination.** This may not be possible before Christ's return, so please ask for that too. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! And until then, help us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, as you commanded.

<https://church.focusonthefamily.com/s/content?title=prayer-points-for-the-holy-land-for-your-churches>

THIS WEEK... Praise! Joe & Joslyn Ware had a baby girl, Jubilee Ellen, last Sunday.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: 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, Harold VanRuiswyk, and Mark Zeatlow.

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

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