

ALTO



REFORMED CHURCH

ARTICLES

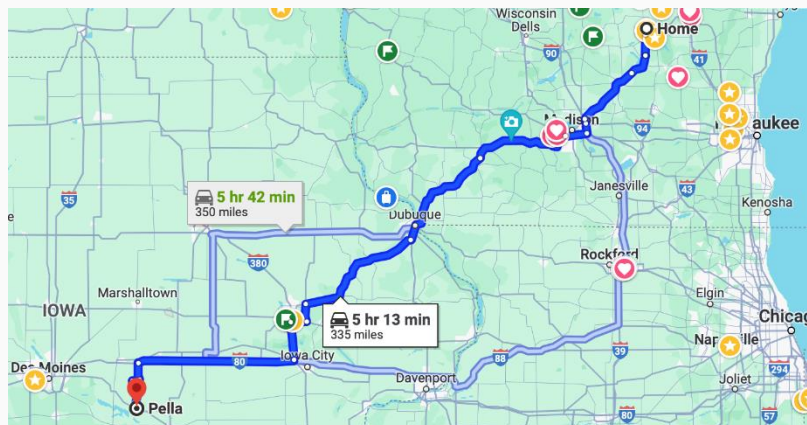
Where Are You Headed? Will You Reach the Destination? (Part 13 of Pathways to Maturity)

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

We recently drove to Pella, Iowa for our niece's wedding. It's a drive we've made MANY times. Twenty-five years ago we started making that journey as I took my first call to First Reformed Church in Sheboygan Falls, WI. My parents live 45 minutes from Pella, so we made that trip several times back then. While Covid put a big pause on our trips to Iowa, we've made it many times over the past eight years.

On this last trip, I did not have GPS going and was listening to a book as everyone else was mostly sleeping. About 30 minutes past Dubuque, I thought "this does not look familiar... I don't remember exiting off 61 to stay on 151... ugh!"

I asked Steph to figure out where I was, so she started giving directions. I was impatient and started my GPS in my ear pod. Then Steph got GPS going from



her phone through the car speakers. Then grandma, in the front seat, started GPS from her phone with different instructions.

Very graciously (from my perspective), I asked them to shut everything off and let me figure out how to get to Pella.

From a spiritual standpoint, it seems many people see confessing Jesus as their Lord and Savior as the destiny. It certainly is a major landmark to hit and often a major turning point. On the one hand your destination certainly is heaven, but while you are on earth your goal could be described as maturity, godliness, Christ-likeness, or holiness.

*Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to **maturity**... (Heb. 6:1)*

The Alliance is updating a “pathway” for ordination. Our Equipping Adults Team developed the “Journey to 412” back in 2018. Both are efforts to help believers reach their destination.

Maturity is the destination!

The challenge is defining what maturity looks like. The Alliance has 12 “competencies” which I have addressed over the past year. Alto’s path has just 4 broad areas; Biblical Content, Godly Character, Healthy Connections, and Purposeful Calling. There are many ways we might try to summarize Christ-likeness and each one has much to offer. What really matters is whether you are evaluating your life and doctrine for gaps and diligently striving to fill those gaps.

God wants us to pursue maturity with diligence and intentionality.

*For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe... **Be diligent** in these matters; **give yourself wholly** to them, so that everyone may see your **progress**. **Watch your life and doctrine closely**. Persevere in them,*

because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,15-16)

This means, we need a plan, a path on which we can progress.

Several Altonians have talked with me about their individual pursuit of maturity, what they are reading or listening too. It's a joy to hear their excitement about how they are growing! This is what keeps a church healthy and strong.

I am thrilled to be urging on some young men striving toward maturity. Randy, Tim, Ian, Wyatt, and Kanon all want to serve God well in ministry. They are not in it for a job. They want to follow Jesus, be like Jesus, and do his work. They are intentionally progressing toward maturity!

What about you?

You don't have to be a pastor or an elder, but you do need to grow up in Christ.

Nurses need to be more like Jesus.

Mechanics need to be more like Jesus.

School teachers need to be more like Jesus.

Politicians need to be more like Jesus.

Will you be intentional and diligent in this pursuit?

Contact me if you want to go beyond being a Sunday Christian and need a next step. For now, let me suggest a couple options.

- Join the "Sunday School Guide" class.
- Go through the "Discipleship Essentials" or "Experiencing God" workbook.
- Sign in to RightNow Media, search the issue most on your mind, and watch. See www.altoreformedchurch.org/resources.html
- Check out the free courses on www.biblicaltraining.org and www.christianleadersinstitute.org.
- (Got a resource you really like? Send me your recommendation for best

discipleship book, podcast, or video, so I can share it with others.)

PRAY: Lord, help me pursue maturity. Do not let me be content with simply being saved and do not let me be distracted and busy with lesser priorities. Revive me by your Word (Psalm 119:25) and inspire me to study, obey, and teach your Word (Ezra 7:10.) Amen.

Equipping Youth Update

By Randy McDaniel

Well, it's the end of my 1st month and what can I say? God is good. He has blessed me with such an amazing opportunity to serve Him by growing with and serving the youths of our congregation and their families. He has blessed me with an awesome staff of co-workers who have been more than helpful and welcoming. He has blessed me with an extremely supportive church family whom I have come to love dearly and will continue too evermore.

As part of my on-boarding assignments, I had to write a short biography for our church website. For those of you who may not know me, or want some questions briefly answered, I thought adding my bio here would be good:

My name is Randy McDaniel. My story is simple: Christ alone. I am originally from Indiana but have been living in the Waupun area since 2017. I grew up in a small, rural area, attended church regularly, helped with youth ministry, and served in other areas. But I lacked the most important thing of all, true saving faith. I never really believed in Jesus, and although it was evident throughout my school years, it was plain as day after I graduated. I fell completely away, but God didn't leave me alone.

In 2013, I married my beautiful wife who is the love of my life. Her love for Christ was something that always poked at me not allowing me to forget God altogether. We have three children who have been an unspeakable joy, and God's awesomeness became unmistakable. It wasn't until 2019 God spoke so clearly to me convicting me of my desperate need for Him. I started listening to sermons and praying God reveal Himself to me. After two months of "counting the costs" I gave my life to Jesus in true faith.

Since then, nothing has been the same. My family and I started attending Alto Reformed Church, I was baptized, and every day I become more and more what Jesus wants me to be and less and less like my old self. For several years I served as a middle school Sunday School teacher, and a coach for High School Youth Group, and in 2022 I began down the path of full-time ministry. Our lead pastor began mentoring me, I began taking on-line ministry classes through Christian Leaders Institute and began occasionally preaching at churches in need of pulpit supply. In 2024, I was approved for and accepted into the ordination process through the Alliance of the Reformed Churches. Shortly after that, I accepted the open position of Youth Director here at Alto Reformed Church.

God's working in my life has equipped me and giving me such a love for His people, and such a heart for the youth. I have a strong passion to know them, reach them, teach them, and point them to Christ because that time in my life was when I struggled, missed what faith really was, and fell away. I am excited to serve you and your families as we grow together in the likeness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am honored and privileged to be here and look forward to what God has in store as he conforms us to the image of His precious Son Jesus the Christ. Please pray that the youths will come to know Christ, that their faith will increase, and that they will be equipped to serve Him as salt and light in this world.

Equipping Children & Families Update

By Lynnae Loomans

Twist and Turns

What a great week we had at Vacation Bible School learning that Jesus guides us through all the twists and turns in our lives and they found out that even when they mess up it's never "game over." We averaged 122 kids per day and were able to raise a total of \$2,085.26. That money will go to the local schools for new recess equipment. Thank you everyone who helped make VBS possible.

Run 4 the Fair

Alto Fair is coming up and nothing better than starting out the fair with a 4 mile run/walk/bike.

Get sign up here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Waupun/Run4theFair>

MESSAGES

EVENTS

July Events

Thursday-Sunday
Lifest
Lifest, A Party With a Purpose, one of the largest Christian music festivals in the nation, is a place where you can celebrate the love of God and connect with the family of faith.

Friday, 6pm
Parents Night Out Fundraiser
Our Youth Group will be hosting a Parents Night Out Fundraiser. Watch for more details.

Sunday, 11am
Young Adult Canoe Trip
Young Adults! Join us on Sunday, July 28th for canoeing on the Wisconsin River. We will leave from church at 11am. Your lunch will be on you at the Portage Dairy Queen, with canoeing afterwards. We will try to be back by 4pm. Bring a life jacket if you have one. Please let Miley know if you plan to attend. 920-346-5964.

Sunday, 5pm
Summer Celebration
Join us at 5-7pm at McCune Park. Invite your friends and join us for food, fellowship, bounce houses, kickball, and a homerun derby! If you would be willing to bring a pan of bars, please sign-up at the Information Center.



NEWS

Births

6/3/24 - Ellis Everly, daughter of Shawn & Morgan Montsma

Baptisms

6/23/24 - James Kodiak, son of Jason & Kassandra De Jager

Change of Address

Dave & Donna Henker
719 Wilcox St.
Waupun
Ph: 920-345-1210

Eleanor Loomans
Prairie Ridge Assisted Living
819 Wilcox St., Apt 25
Waupun, WI 53963

Hiring of Equipping Young Adults and Families Director: Tim Fennell plans to begin August 1 and is excited to join us. He has purchased a home in Waupun. Pray for his move as he hopes to arrive around July 23.

Alliance Transition: “Rev. Tim Vink has agreed with the Alliance board that, by summer's end, he will be moving on from his role as Director of Spiritual Leadership and Outreach with the Alliance... In light of this transition to our Alliance staffing, the Alliance Board will continue to evaluate the Global Alliance's long-term staffing needs. We are already developing a plan to cover the short-term functions of the Global Alliance. We covet your prayers and we will keep communicating with you as we move forward.” <https://mailchi.mp/allianceofreformedchurches/alliance-update-name-of-campaign-16511676?e=1adb09d309>

CRC Synod Makes Big Moves: 1. They are evaluating their relationship with the RCA and moving slowly with connecting with the Alliance of Reformed Churches. 2. They are also doing a “limited suspension” of church leaders if their churches have publicly supported the LGBTQ+ movement, calling these leaders to repent or disaffiliate. (See “Abide Project” on YouTube for more details)