

TODAY, December 16

No Children & Worship or Sunday School*
 *on break until 2019.

4:40-5:45PM Leaps of Faith Practice (6th-12th)

Wednesday, December 19—No Activities

Sunday, December 23

4:40-5:45PM Leaps of Faith (6th-12th)

Where does my kid go?

- ⇒ Children & Worship is in the midst of a seasonal break. Children 3YO & above remain in worship. Worship bags and coloring pages are available on the table by the elevator.
- ⇒ The nursery remains open for children 3YO & under.
- ⇒ Sunday School is in the midst of a renovation hiatus.

At ARC children are invited to fully participate in worship, and all ages and stages are welcome in the service.

These ministries are also available to families during worship:

Worship Bags **Year Round**
 All Children pick up & drop off by elevator

Nursery **Year Round**
 Birth—3YO 9:15—11:30 AM
 Upper Level: #203

Children & Worship **Sept. 9 – May 5**
 3YO—1st Grade after children's message*
 Upper Level: #201 (Green) #204 (Purple)

*These 2 groups join together in room 204 for feast and music time for the last half of C & W. All children may be picked up @ 10:45AM from room 204 (behind Rosalyn DeKoster's office).

Participating in Worship

The Congregation	Serving the Lord in Worship
Pastor Elizabeth & Pastor Mike	Worship Leaders
Kim Van Es	Children's Message
Pam Anderson, Jacob Gabel, John Hubers,	Praise Team
Angela Kroeze Visser, Jenn Lambert, Pete VanKley	
Sanctuary Choir	Ministry of Music
Philip De Koster, director	
Sharon Bartlett, pianist	
Sharon Bartlett	Organist



Third Sunday of Advent
 December 16, 2018

Who belongs at American Reformed Church?

Everyone is welcome here. Everyone belongs. Whether you walked in the doors for the first time or the 321st time this morning . . . you belong. There are no special requirements to be a part of church.

Our denominational tradition does invite people to become members of a local church like American. But this isn't a club; it's a community. Becoming a member is simply a sign of mutual commitment between a person and the entire ARC community. If you are interested in learning more about what it means to become a member, please contact the pastors (elizabetharcoc@gmail.com and mikearcoc@gmail.com).

But remember...you belong beyond membership.



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TRANSFORMED BY JESUS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

ACCEPTANCE + GRACE + WISDOM + LOVE



THE APPROACH TO GOD

*The congregation is invited to read the bold font.
Indicates the congregation may stand.

PRELUDE “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” arr. Patten/Davenport

CALL TO WORSHIP “I Cannot Tell”
Praise Team Only

*SONG OF WORSHIP “I Cannot Tell”
Please join the praise team when invited to do so.

*GOD WITH US
We light a candle in hope—
the hope of our coming savior, Jesus.

We light a candle in peace—
the peace that Jesus, our Savior, gives to the world.

We light a candle in joy—
rejoicing that Jesus came and will come again.

Friends, the hope and peace and joy of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God of all hope, peace, and joy—
**We confess that we use these words in ways
that trivialize their impact and manage their meaning.
We have lowered our expectations.
We place our hope in the visible and quantifiable—
spouses & friends, investments & possessions, politicians & laws.
We limit peace to temporary cease fires
and moments of quiet amidst busy schedules.
We confuse joy with the ebb and flow of happiness.**

Please use the silence for reflection and personal confession.

God who entered the world in flesh and bone—
**Forgive us for expecting so little from your arrival in the world.
Forgive us for minimizing, trivializing, and managing
our expectations of your presence among us.
Forgive us for the ways our low expectations
diminish and defuse your love.
During this waiting-season of Advent, remind us again
of the depth, power, and impact of three simple words:
Hope. Peace. Joy.
In Jesus’ name, we pray . . . amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS “I Cannot Tell” - vs. 1 & 2

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
*Children will remain with their families in worship.
Worship bags and coloring pages are by the elevator.*

*SONG OF PREPARATION “Every Promise”

SCRIPTURE Luke 3:15-17

SERMON “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus?”

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today
our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from
evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now
and forever. Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Please pass the fellowship pad found at the end of the pew.

OFFERTORY “How Shall We Know Him?”
Sanctuary Choir

*DOXOLOGY p. 809
Congregation, please stand when organ begins playing.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #135 “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG “I Cannot Tell” - v. 4

*POSTLUDE “Savior of the Nations, Come” Enchiridion
All music & lyrics used by permission - CCLI #374890

*Following worship, everyone is invited to stay for refreshments
That will be served in the fellowship area behind the sanctuary.*

PRAYING FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

Continued prayers for:
***Betty & Fulton Breen and Michael & Elizabeth Kensak and their families.** Last week, Fulton moved from the Happy Siesta Care Center in Remsen to his home with Betty in Orange City. They are awaiting an opening at the Prairie Ridge Care Center in Orange City. Pray that an opening becomes available soon, and pray for strength and endurance for Betty, Michael, and Elizabeth as they care for Fulton throughout.

***Ron Kolenbrander,** whose transfer to the Hillcrest Care Center in Hawarden was postponed. At the time of the bulletin’s printing, Ron remained a patient in hospice care at the Orange City Area Health System Hospital.

***Ben Patzlaff** (ARC’s Director of Mid-Grade Ministry and Community Connections) in the death of his grandmother, **Elsie (Klinger) Patzlaff,** on Saturday, December 8 at the Firesteel Health Care Center in Mitchell, South Dakota. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 12, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Spencer, South Dakota. Please pray for Ben and his entire family as they grieve their loss. Pray that the peace of Christ and the hope of the resurrection will surround them and sustain them throughout.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

•**Monday, December 17**
10:00-11:00 AM Women’s Prayer at Prairie Ridge Care Center (Grandview Cottage Dining Room) Questions? Contact Arlene Punt (707-4600).

Those of us who participate in the Monday morning prayer group would like to invite you to join us. These Monday morning prayer times have become a very sweet time of fellowship with our Lord and with each other.

5:30 PM Esther Circle Supper at Nederlanders in Orange City

•**Wednesday, December 19**
11:30 AM The Senior Group will be meeting at the Pizza Ranch for lunch. Questions? Contact Marilyn Jiskoot.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

•**Sunday, December 23**
9:30 AM Worship (Sanctuary)

•**Monday, December 24**
5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship & Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
A service of lessons and carols.

•**Tuesday, December 25**
MERRY CHRISTMAS! Building and Church Office Closed.

•**Sunday, December 30**
9:30 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. John Hubers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

•POINSETTIAS FOR SALE



TODAY is the last day to purchase a Christmas poinsettia from the ARC Mid-Grade Youth Group (grades 5-8), to be used for Christmas worship services. Plants can be placed in honor or memory of loved ones. The cost per poinsettia is \$30. Color choices include red and white poinsettias. Forms are available at the Welcome Center. Stop by the Welcome Center after church to place your order! A portion of the sales will help fund the MGYG Power Connection trip. (Please make check payable to ARC MGYG; Memo Line: Poinsettia). THANK YOU, in advance, for your support of ARC's youth!!!

•SIGN-UP TO PROVIDE COOKIES/BARS



Four weekly volunteers are needed to each provide 4 dozen cookies/bars for coffee fellowship time on a designated Sunday, beginning January 6, 2019. Please stop by the Welcome Center to sign-up TODAY!

•HOSTS NEEDED FOR JANUARY 13 2ND SUNDAY GATHERINGS



We have had great feedback on our 2nd Sunday Gatherings. Please consider hosting a group for our JANUARY 13 - 2nd Sunday gatherings. These meals are intended to be simple, with a focus on fellowship. Groups have ranged in size from 8 to 14. All you need to do is provide your home, a table and a portion of a Potluck meal of your choice. Paper plates are fine... you can even ask one of the guests to bring them. Menu and details are up to the host. Share your home and get to know your ARC family. WE WILL NOT INVITE GUESTS TO SIGN UP UNTIL WE KNOW HOW MANY HOSTS WE HAVE. Host are provided with a guest list and asked to contact each guest with details. Please reply to MARGARET FERNOW by the end of this week (Saturday, December 22) and include the number of guests you are able to accommodate.

•CONSISTORY NOMINATING COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS



Nominations for persons to serve as at-large members on the 2019 ARC Consistory Nominating Committee must be received in the church office before noon on Friday, December 21.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

"A big THANK YOU to the ARC Congregation for the great collection of shoes for Soles for Souls! The response was HUGE!!! We will take up another collection of shoes in the spring 2019. Thanks again!"

...Keith Hoskins

"Once again, it was through your kindness and loving hearts that gave so generously to the Mid-Sioux Angel Tree Project so that those less fortunate can have a Merry Christmas! THANK YOU!"

...Amber Altena and Lesley Tjaden, ARC Project Co-chairs

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