

Announcements

•Poinsettias for Sale

TODAY is the last day to purchase a poinsettia from The Middle School Youth Group. The cost per poinsettia is \$25. Color choices include red and white poinsettias. Forms are available online and at the Welcome Center. Stop by after church to place your order!

•Consistory Nominating Committee Suggestions

Nominations for persons to serve as at-large members on the 2018 ARC Consistory Nominating Committee **must be received in the church office before noon on Friday, December 22.**

•Year-End Giving

The last offering for the 2017 calendar year will be received at the morning worship service on Sunday, December 31. However, if you will not be able to attend worship that morning, your year-end offerings must be received in the church office **before noon on Friday, December 29.** Thank you for your generosity, and thank you for ensuring your gifts are received on time to be included on your 2017 contributions statement.

•Help Needed in Children & Worship

Children & Worship is a worship program designed for 3 year olds - 1st graders to experience God at an age-appropriate level. 20 children regularly hear and respond to God's story through Children & Worship during the 9:30 AM worship service at ARC. Will you join the team of volunteers who guide children through the lessons? We need at least 2 more helper/greeters in the Green & Growing Room for January 2018. Please contact Laura Jonker, arckidsmin@gmail.com for more details.

•Collecting Cancelled Stamps

Don't forget to save your cancelled stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translators. The collection box is located by the church mailboxes.

•Building and Office Hours for December 24, 2017-January 1, 2018

Date	Building Hours	Office Hours
Sun., Dec. 24	7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Closed
Mon., Dec. 25	Closed	Closed
Tue., Dec. 26	Closed	Closed
Wed., Dec. 27	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Thur., Dec. 28	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Fri., Dec. 29	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Sat., Dec. 30	Closed	Closed
Sun., Dec. 31	7:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Closed
Mon., Jan. 1	Closed	Closed

*Normal building and office hours resume Tuesday, January 2.

Participating in Worship

The Congregation	Serving the Lord in Worship
Maggie Kensak	Prelude
Sanctuary Choir	Call to Worship
Philip De Koster, Director	
Pam Anderson, Accompanist	
Jamie Ramsey	Lighting the Advent Candles
Sharon Bartlett, Doug De Zeeuw, Marlene De Zeeuw,	Praise Team
John Hubers, and Angela Kroeze Visser	
Pastors Mike & Elizabeth Hardeman	Leading in Worship
Julia Huisman	Organist
Bethany Dykstra	Children's Message
Mari Langton & Cam Riibe	Offertory



Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD
IS UPON ME, BECAUSE
THE LORD HAS SENT ME
TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO
THE OPPRESSED, TO BIND
UP THE BROKENHEARTED,
TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY
TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RE-
COMMISSION
LEASE TO THE PRISONERS.



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THE APPROACH TO GOD

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

PRELUDE "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

CALL TO WORSHIP "A Canticle for Advent"
*Congregation please join with "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
(#133—v. 4) when invited to do so.*

*SONG OF WORSHIP "Hear the Call of the Kingdom"

*GOD'S GREETING

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Adapted from re-Worship.blogspot.com
Holy God:
open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit
upon us, within us, among us.
For our apathy in the presence of oppression,
forgive us.
For the brokenness we have caused in others,
forgive us.
For our participation in systems that enslave,
forgive us.

(Please use this time of silence for personal confession.)

Merciful God:
when we are deaf to your good news,
have mercy upon us and open our ears.
When our mouths remain too tightly closed,
loosen our lips to glorify you by speaking up.
Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive our sin.
Hold us in your mercy, now and forever. Amen.

*SONG OF ASSURANCE Insert "God With Us"
The congregation may stand and sing when invited to do so.

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*All children will remain with us in worship today. Children's
worship bags may be picked up near the elevator on the upper
level.*

*SONG OF PREPARATION #126 "O Come, Let Us Adore Him"
v. 1 sung twice, second time a cappella

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

SERMON "As we wait...commission"

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

NICARAGUA TEAM & ABEBJA BOBB-KELLY COMMISSIONING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 "A Cradle in Bethlehem"

*DOXOLOGY #809

*SONG OF RESPONSE #133 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
vv. 1, 2, 3

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG #133 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
v. 5

*POSTLUDE

Praying for God's People

***Pray for Arlyne Ten Clay** who is now a resident at Prairie Ridge Care Center, Grandview Cottage #12.

***Pray, too, for Lucille Wierda** who is now residing at Prairie Ridge Care Center, Countryside Cottage #16.

***Pray for the ARC Nicaragua Team** - Doug & Marlene De Zeeuw; Kathy, Heather, and Jacob Gabel; Jenn and Edan Lambert; Brent and Noelle Sampson, and Jo Van Es will be traveling to Bluefields, Nicaragua from December 26 through January 3 to minister alongside Dr. Bernardeth and Pastor Adrian Bobb-Kelly, RCA Missionaries ARC supports through our prayers and general fund budget.

***Pray for Abebja Bobb-Kelly, daughter of RCA Missionaries Dr. Bernardeth and Pastor Adrian Bobb-Kelly**, who completed her BA degree in psychology at NWC this month. She is returning to Nicaragua, and will begin medical studies at the University of Managua in January (a six-year program). Pray for strength and perseverance for Abebja as she begins her medical training in hopes of fulfilling her dream to become a physician in Bluefields.

Expresses Thanks

"A sincere thank you to the ARC congregation for the cards, food, visits and prayers following my shoulder surgery. I ask for your continued prayers for healing and that physical therapy will help with a successful outcome!"
...Sandy Nibbelink

Events for the Week

Monday, December 18

5:30 PM Esther Circle will meet at Nederlanders.

Sunday, December 24

9:30 AM Service of Stories & Songs (Sanctuary)

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship & Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)