

•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.

•Nehemiah Bible Study for Women starts in January

Nehemiah had to have a heart that could break so he could restore a wall that was broken. In this Kelly Minter Bible study for women, Nehemiah's heart for the oppressed, suffering and poor is a beacon whose light shines on the current call of the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus. This study also addresses teamwork, integrity, generosity, truth in culture, God's compassion, and much more.

Join us for 7 weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 PM (Room 202), January 17 to February 28. Sign up at the Welcome Center by January 8. (Books are \$12.99 each--checks/cash payable to ARC. Please put your payment in Jill's church mailbox.) You will receive your book the first night of the Bible study. Contact Jill Haarsma (jillhaarsma@gmail.com) with any questions.

•Hurricane Relief Trip

American Reformed Church is excited to prepare to send a team to a hurricane-affected area in either April or September of 2018! We are working with World Renew, which partners with RCA members, and is exceptional at organizing service trips.

If you are interested in joining us - there are no skills required - just a heart to serve, and hands and body willing and able to dig in whatever the task!

Please contact Victoria Karssen (victoria.karssen@gmail.com, or 712.541.7943) so she can know which dates would work best for the team. World Renew is anxious to get ARC on the schedule, so that we might have our first choice of dates.

•Building and Office Hours for December 25, 2017-January 1, 2018

Date	Building Hours	Office Hours
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

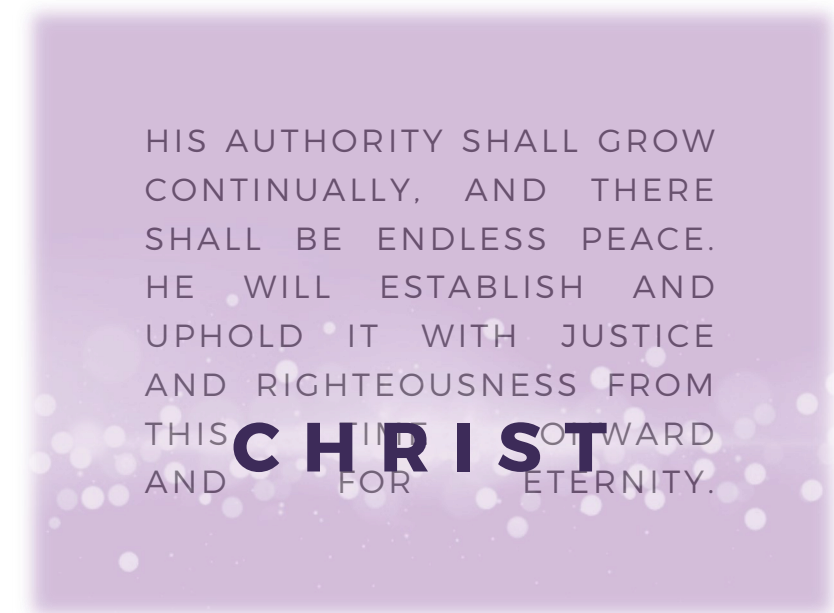
The Congregation	Serving the Lord in Worship
Glenda De Koster	Organist & Accompanist
Rosalyn De Koster, Jacob Gabel,	Praise Team
Wanda Korhals, Teresa Sampson,	
Daniel Tolsma, Tom Truesdell	
Pastors Mike & Elizabeth Hardeman	Leading in Worship
Benjamin Langton	Children's Message
Sanctuary Choir	Assurance of Forgiveness
Philip De Koster, Director	
Glenda De Koster, Accompanist	
Maggie Kensak, Katelyn Reuvers,	Leaps of Faith
Natalie Sampson, Natasha Sampson, Leaders	
Autumn Anderson, Neriah Hardeman,	
Rinnah Hardeman, Katie Kensak, Mari Langton,	
Nevaeh Sampson, Elena Vazquez	
Rosalyn De Koster, Staff Coordinator	



407 Albany Avenue SE
Orange City, IA 51041
712.737.4430
americanchurchoc@gmail.com
americanchurchoc.com

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 you may stand if you wish.

PRELUDE "Wake, Awake for Night is Flying"
J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP "A Canticle for Advent"
*Congregation please join with "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
(#133—v. 5 when invited to do so.)*

GOD'S GREETING
This is the season of Advent.
A season of symbols and songs that remind us of
**God's covenant to be with us,
God's comfort that strengthens us,
and God's commission that calls us
to join in God's kingdom of justice and peace.**

*Community Health Partners has recommended a brief hiatus
from shaking hands during the cold and flu season.*

*SONG OF WORSHIP #135 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God who is with us—
**This season we have walked an ancient path—
a path that reminds us of your covenant presence with us,
your steadfast comfort that strengthens us,
and your commission that send us.
We confess, that like our ancestors
who walked this path so long ago,
we are often blind to your presence,
forgetful of your strength,
and deaf to your call.**

Please use this moment of silence for personal prayer & reflection.

Yet, you came to us in Jesus,
**the Anointed One who lights this ancient path—
restoring sight, renewing strength, and reawakening call.
In this same story that we have heard over and over again,
may we become present to the new thing
you might have in store for us as your people.**
In the name of Emmanuel, God with us, we pray . . . **amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS "Can This Be the Child?"

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

GOD'S WORD The Advent Path in Story and Song
Covenant Isaiah 64:1-9; Galatians 3:23-29
**Every Promise"

Comfort Isaiah 40:1-11; John 10:11-18
Insert "Good Shepherd of My Soul"
Join when invited by the praise team.

Commission Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 4:16-21
**By Faith"

Christ Isaiah 9:2-7
"Light of the World"
Leaps of Faith

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

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

OFFERTORY "Of the Fathers Love Begotten"
W. Held

*DOXOLOGY #809

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**

*SONG OF RESPONSE "The Savior of the World..."

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG "The Savior of the World..."

*POSTLUDE "Be Glad, Oh My Soul"
J. G. Walther

All music & lyrics used by permission - CCLI #374890

Praying for God's People

*Please pray for **Arlyne Ten Clay** as she continues to recover from her broken ribs at the Orange City Area Health System Hospital. Pray for healing, comfort, and peace.

*Please pray for **Vernie Van Engelenhoven** who fell down a flight of stairs on Tuesday, December 19, and was admitted to the Orange City Area Health System Hospital. While we praise God for no significant injuries, we pray for Vernie's healing and strength. Pray, too, for Paul as he supports her throughout her recovery.

*We praise God that **Don Guthmiller** was dismissed from the Orange City Area Health System on Tuesday, December 19 and returned to his home at the Landsmeer Ridge Retirement Community. Please pray for his continuing health and strength.

***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.

Announcements

Pastors' Vacation

Mike and Elizabeth will be on vacation beginning on Monday, December 25, 2017 through Monday, January 1, 2018. If you have a pastoral need during this time, please contact the elder on call:

Mon., Dec. 25 through Sat., Dec. 30: Wanda Korthals
712-756-4306

Sun., Dec. 31 through Mon., Jan. 1: Lynne Hubers
712-395-7301

Guest Preacher

On Sunday, December 31, we will welcome Daniel Den Boer from Northwestern College as our guest preacher. Daniel is a Lecturer in Religion and serves as Director of Living Your Faith, a summer institute for high school students funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation. Daniel is a graduate of Dordt College and received his Master of Theological Studies degree from Duke Divinity School.

