

Announcements

◆Christmas Teardown!

Christmas will soon be over. Help us take down the Christmas decorations on Epiphany Sunday, January 7, during the Sunday School hour (10:45-11:30 AM). Your help will make it happen faster! Questions? Contact Rosalyn De Koster.

◆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.

◆Expresses Thanks

"Thank you to the ARC congregation for the many kind thoughts and prayers while Emily was hospitalized in November. We received positive news at her follow-up appointment in Sioux Falls that everything looks great. Thank you for praying for her and our entire family. Much appreciated!"

...Stauffer Family

◆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.

Participating in Worship

The Congregation
Thomas Van Soelen
Rosalyn De Koster, Bethany Dykstra,
John Hubers, Teresa Sampson,
Mary Schram, Daniel Tolsma, and Jeff Tolsma
Sara Tolsma
Daniel Den Boer

Serving the Lord in Worship
Organist
Praise Team

Leading in Worship
Guest Preacher



First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2017



He, Qi. Adoration of the Magi, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=46114> [retrieved December 20, 2017]. Original source: heqigallery.com.



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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 you may stand if you wish.

PRELUDE "Lo, How a Rose" Ferguson
"Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella" Uehlein
"The Shepherds" Kosche

CALL TO WORSHIP

*SONG OF WORSHIP "Come to Us"

*GOD'S GREETING

Community Health Partners has asked that all churches in the area curtail hand-shaking due to recent cases of influenza and out of concern for those who may be vulnerable to the complications from a cold or the flu.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Adapted from *Call to Worship*, Vol. 45.1
Emmanuel, God with us,
**in the frenzy of the holidays we rush about blindly,
forgetting that in Christ we have seen our salvation,
which you give freely to all.
Have mercy upon us, Lord,
and forgive us for so quickly losing sight.**

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

Emmanuel, God with us,
**restore our vision,
that we may truly see the gift of salvation born among us,
and tell the world of your good news. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS "To Every Generation"

THE WORD OF GOD

Today is an "everyone worships" Sunday at ARC, meaning that our children remain with us in worship. There are children's worship bags near the elevator just outside the sanctuary.

*SONG OF PREPARATION "Spirit of the Living God"

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-18

SERMON "The Collision of Kingdoms"

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

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

OFFERTORY "We Three Kings" Peterson

*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 #185 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"
vv. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG #151 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
vv. 1, 2, & 3

*POSTLUDE "Go Tell It" Hayes

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Welcoming Our Guest Preacher

Today we 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.

Praying for God's People

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 are in Bluefields, Nicaragua, and return home on January 3. They are ministering alongside Dr. Bernardeth and Pastor Adrian Bobb-Kelly, RCA Missionaries ARC supports through our prayers and general fund budget.

*We continue to pray for continued healing for **Arlene Ten Clay** who has returned to Prairie Ridge Care Center after being hospitalized at the Orange City Health system with broken ribs sustained in a fall.

*We extend prayers of sympathy and support for **John & Noreen Vande Weerd** in the death of John's sister, **Carol Doherty**. Carol passed away, on Monday, December 25. The funeral will be 10:30 AM, Friday, December 29th at The Church of St. Mary in Larchwood, IA. Burial to follow at the Larchwood Cemetery (www.jurrensfuneralhome.com/Obituaries). Please pray for the Vande Weerd families—that God's comfort and peace will surround them as they grieve.

Pastors' Vacation

Mike and Elizabeth are on vacation through Monday, January 1, 2018. If you have a pastoral need today or tomorrow, please contact the elder on call: Lynne Hubers (712-395-7301).

Pastors' 2018 Worship Planning Week

This week (January 2-7), Elizabeth and Mike are available for pastoral emergencies only due to their need to devote the majority of their time to planning the 2018 worship master calendar. If you need to meet with the pastors, please schedule an appointment ahead of time by calling the office (712.737.9050) or emailing them directly (elizabetharcoc@gmail.com and mikearcoc@gmail.com).

Events for the Week

Monday, January 1, 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The church building and office are closed.

10:00 AM Women's Prayer Group at Prairie Ridge Care Center, Grandview Cottage Dining Room, located in the southwest part of the building.) Questions? Contact Arlene Punt at 707-4600.

Wednesday, January 3

6:00-7:00 PM Community Family Game Night at OC First Reformed Church (enter by Kids Connection door). Families (with kids aged 0-5th grade) from Trinity, American, and First Reformed Churches are invited to come for a fun night of board games, active challenges and crafts. We will kick off the new year with this fun evening focused on being "Better Together" as God's people. Hope you can come!
Note: Children must be accompanied by an adult to attend!

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Winter Term

(January 14 – March 4, 2018)

♦“That’s Just Your *Interpretation!*” – Becoming Better Readers of the Bible

Facilitator: Jim Mead, Northwestern College

Location: Fireside Room (202)

This course introduces a variety of perspectives and methods for interpreting the Bible, including historical, literary, theological, spiritual, socio-economic, and missional approaches. As we discuss these approaches and apply them to specific biblical passages, participants will:

- appreciate the diversity of approaches and types of biblical literature;
- recognize the role our own presuppositions play in biblical interpretation;

[connect biblical interpretation to God’s creative and redemptive work](#) in Jesus Christ

♦Christian Perspectives on News Headlines

Facilitator: Steve Mahr

Location: Genesis Room (205)

This class will discuss a “hot-button” news issue for each past week, focusing on how Christians should respond to the issue based on biblical teachings. Our hope is to engage each headline by laying down our personally held political lenses and rather discuss our reflections through a biblical perspective as followers of Christ. In preparation for each session, attendees will be sent background materials relevant to the chosen issue.

All person interested in attending the “Christian Perspectives on News Headlines” Adult Discipleship class that starts on January 14 should sign up at the Welcome Center by January 7, with an indication of your email address, so you can receive electronic background material that should be read before each session.

Spring Term

(March 11 – 25, April 8 – 29, 2018)

♦Text to Turf: Bringing Today’s Sermon into my Week

Facilitator (s): To Be Chosen

Location: Fireside Room (202)

A discussion of the Sunday morning sermon, giving special attention to the implications of the message for how we should live our lives as agents for God’s redemptive purposes. Attendees will have the opportunity to say what “jumped out at them” from the sermon.



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