

Events for Today

10:30-10:45 AM

Fellowship Time (Fellowship Area)

Hands of Praise (Grade 2-5) in the fellowship hall.

Children & Worship Music Time (ages 3-1st grade) in Room 111

10:45 to 11:25 AM Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

We will hear a ministry update and vote on the consistory proposed 2018 ARC General Fund Budget

10:45-11:30 AM Discipleship Classes for Ages 3-12th Grades

(Lower Level)

3:00 PM The ARC Senior Group will be attending the Vesper Concert at

NWC Christ Chapel. Following the concert, we will meet for a time of fellowship at the home of Marilyn Jiskoot (301 Frankfort Ave NE #104). Please bring a snack to share with the group.

4:40 PM Leaps of Faith Practice (Grades 4-12) in the sanctuary

6:30-8:30 PM High School Youth Group at the Lamberts.

Events for this Week

Monday, December 4

9:30-10:30 AM Young Family Nursery Play Dates

Come to the ARC Nursery on Monday mornings for an informal play-time and fellowship with parents and young children. Questions? Please contact Laura Genade, Coordinator (lgenade@gmail.com).

10:00-11:00 AM Women's Prayer Group

(Prairie Ridge Care Center, Grandview Cottage Dining Room, located in the southwest part of the building.) Questions? Contact Arlene Punt at 707-4600.

1:30PM Weekly Faith Sharing Group (Room 201)

Contact: Lynne Grossmann (737-4202)

Wednesday, December 6

6:15-7:30 PM (1st -5th grade) Gather in the F3 room before our full rehearsal in the sanctuary (no costumes).

6:15-7:30 PM Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6-8)

Location: Middle School Youth Room - Rm 110 (lower level)

Saturday, Dec 9th

9:00-9:20 AM (3 years - 1st grade) Gather in sanctuary for singing rehearsal.

9:00-10:30 AM (1st-5th grade) Gather in Fireside Room (Room 202) for a full dress rehearsal. 1st graders can join the older students after their music rehearsal in the sanctuary.

Announcements

•Help with Angel Tree Project

The Angel Tree Project is starting up again, and we need your help. There are many families and individuals in the area who are unable to provide happy holidays. What you can do is take one or multiple ornaments from the tree by the mailboxes, and purchase the gifts that are on them. Please return them to the tree by Sunday, December 10, with the ornament and receipt attached. If you would like the shopping done for you, contact Amber Altena at 712-360-0134 or Lesley Tjaden at 712-360-2874 and they would be happy to do your shopping for you! Thanks for making the holidays a little brighter for others!

•Sign Up at the Welcome Center 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 7, 2018.

•Expressions of Thanks

Thank you to all who helped with the Advent adornment on Sunday, November 26! Because of your diligent work, our sanctuary looks beautiful. The decorations help remind us of the Advent season, and the One whose arrival we await. A special "thank you" to Rosalyn De Koster for her leadership in coordinating this year's decorating.

The 8th Annual Thanksgiving Day CommUNITY Meal at Living Water was again an amazing outpouring of unifying support from this community! Thank you, THANK YOU, to the many servant-hearted volunteers who served, who provided, who prayed for this event - for God's presence to be wrapped around it, and those who received a meal. We are humbled and blest to hear many personal stories that day, and we KNOW He showed up. We are grateful for your donations of time, food, and money. We stand amazed. We could not have done this without you! The meal was provided in part from donations from the following local businesses: Don's Food Center, Fareway, Food Pantry, Hatchery, HyVee (LeMars), Perspective Insurance, Pizza Ranch, Pluims Publishing and WalMart.

...Ronda Noteboom and Sandie Van't Hof, organizers



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



First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

O THAT YOU WOULD TEAR
OPEN THE HEAVENS AND
COME DOWN. WHEN YOU
DID AWESOME DEEDS
THAT WE DID NOT EXPECT,
YOU CAME DOWN,
AND THE MOUNTAINS
QUAKED AT YOUR PRESENCE.
NOW CONSIDER,
WE ARE YOUR PEOPLE.



THE APPROACH TO GOD

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

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Shackley/Powell

CALL TO WORSHIP "A Canticle for Advent"
*Congregation please join with "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
(#133–v. 1) when invited to do so.*

*SONG OF WORSHIP "Let Us Adore"

*GOD'S GREETING

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION "Come to Us"

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS based on Psalm 147
This is God's covenant revealed among us:
the Lord builds up the ruined,
gathers the scattered ones,
comforts the brokenhearted,
heals the wounded,
and relieves the burdened.
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases and never ends.

THE WORD OF GOD

Children ages 3–1st grade may exit out the sanctuary doors to meet Children & Worship (C & W) leaders. Leaders will take the children directly to their Sunday school classrooms following the service. Children who do not attend C & W are welcome to use the worship bags by the elevator during the service.

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

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9

SERMON "As we wait...covenant"

MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

God of all that is seen and unseen,
you spoke the world into being and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away from you, you remained faithful delivering us from captivity and making covenant to be with us. You gave us witnesses throughout all of history to remind us of this faithfulness. Therefore, we praise you joining our voices with choirs of angels, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung a cappella:

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**

Out of your great love for the world you made, you sent Jesus Christ as a sign of your grace so that the world you spoke into being may be reconciled to you. Remembering this great sacrifice, we offer ourselves as partners in your redemptive work proclaiming together:

**Christ has died!
Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!**

In the breaking of bread and the sharing of this cup, renew in us the gift of faith by the power of your Spirit. Bind us to one another and to Christ as we join your reconciling work in the world. Yet, we wait expectantly for the day of ultimate reconciliation when all wrongs are made right and the is world renewed in the fullness of time.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

And all God's people said . . . **amen.**

COMMUNION

Please exit to your left out of the pew, come forward to the serving station. Those in need of anointing of oil and prayer for healing are welcome to come forward to the center station. Children are invited to participate in communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. Children who do not participate in communion may come forward with arms crossed in front of their chests for a blessing. All communion elements are gluten free.

The congregation is invited to sing with the praise team.

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

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 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"
Bock

*DOXOLOGY #809

*SONG OF RESPONSE #135 "Come, Thou Long-Expected..."

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG #135 "Come, Thou Long-Expected..."
v. 1

*POSTLUDE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"
Held

All music & lyrics used by permission - CCLI #374890

TODAY: ARC Congregational Meeting

All ARC confessing members are invited to attend the congregational meeting today from **10:45 to 11:25 AM** in the sanctuary.

Participating in Worship

The Congregation Serving the Lord in Worship
Julia Huisman Organist
Pam Anderson, Bethany Dykstra, Laura Jonker, Praise Team

Jenn Lambert, Mary Schram, Jeff Tolsma,
Tom Truesdell
Sanctuary Choir Call to Worship

Philip De Koster, Director
Alyssa Daun, Accompanist

Pastors Mike & Elizabeth Hardeman Leading in Worship
Jill Haarsma Lighting the Advent Candle
Greg Elliott, Neria Hardeman Scripture Readers
Gail Marincovich, Kevin McMahan

Announcements

•Poinsettias for Sale

The Middle School Youth Group is selling Christmas Poinsettias through December 10. 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!

•'tis the Season for Christmas Brunch

Celebrate the Advent season in the warm company of your church family and friends at the High School Youth Group's annual Christmas Brunch, after worship on Sunday, December 10. Come to our festive Fellowship Hall where the menu includes savory egg bake and home-made breakfast baked goods. Your freewill offering supports our high school youth as they participate in mission trips and attend youth conferences like Rocky Mountain High.

•Children's Advent Program Needs

Are you an international traveler? Do you have family from another culture? Or do you just like to collect international items? The children of ARC would appreciate your generous help! We are celebrating how people around the world prepare for Christmas this year for our Advent Program. If you have any of the following items in your homes and would be willing to lend them to us through December 10? Please contact Laura Jonker, arckidsmin@gmail.com. Thank you!

China:

Chinese Flag	Paper Lanterns or flowers
Colorful paintings or fabrics	Chinese tea set
1 small Chinese child's traditional costume	

Nicaragua:

Nicaraguan Flag	Woven basket (ie: for fruit)
Colorful scarves or paintings	Nicaraguan musical instruments
2 small Nicaraguan children's costumes	

Ethiopia:

Ethiopian Flag	Paintings or ebony artifacts
Ethiopian drums or other musical instruments	
2 small Nicaraguan children's costumes	

•Advent Program Rehearsals

The Advent Program is next week! Please continue to review your child's parts at home and mark your calendars for rehearsal this week.

- **Wednesday, Dec 6th** (1st -5th grade) @ 6:15-7:30 PM -- Gather in the F3 room before our full rehearsal in the sanctuary (no costumes)
- **Saturday, Dec 9th** (3 years - 1st grade) @ 9-9:20 AM -- Gather in sanctuary for singing rehearsal. (1st-5th grade) @ 9-10:30 AM -- Gather in Fireside Room (Room 202) for a full dress rehearsal. 1st graders can join the older students after their music rehearsal in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, Dec 10th** (3 years - 1st grade) @ 9 AM Gather in F3 Room (#111). (1st-5th grade) @ 9 AM -- Gather in Fireside Room (#202). Advent program will begin @ 9:30 AM!

Questions? Laura Jonker, arckidsmin@gmail.com

Announcements

•Poinsettias for Sale

The Middle School Youth Group is selling Christmas Poinsettias through December 10. 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!

•'tis the Season for Christmas Brunch

Celebrate the Advent season in the warm company of your church family and friends at the High School Youth Group's annual Christmas Brunch, after worship on Sunday, December 10. Come to our festive Fellowship Hall where the menu includes savory egg bake and home-made breakfast baked goods. Your freewill offering supports our high school youth as they participate in mission trips and attend youth conferences like Rocky Mountain High.

•Children's Advent Program Needs

Are you an international traveler? Do you have family from another culture? Or do you just like to collect international items? The children of ARC would appreciate your generous help! We are celebrating how people around the world prepare for Christmas this year for our Advent Program. If you have any of the following items in your homes and would be willing to lend them to us through December 10? Please contact Laura Jonker, arckidsmin@gmail.com. Thank you!

China:

Chinese Flag	Paper Lanterns or flowers
Colorful paintings or fabrics	Chinese tea set
1 small Chinese child's traditional costume	

Nicaragua:

Nicaraguan Flag	Woven basket (ie: for fruit)
Colorful scarves or paintings	Nicaraguan musical instruments
2 small Nicaraguan children's costumes	

Ethiopia:

Ethiopian Flag	Paintings or ebony artifacts
Ethiopian drums or other musical instruments	
2 small Nicaraguan children's costumes	

•Advent Program Rehearsals

The Advent Program is next week! Please continue to review your child's parts at home and mark your calendars for rehearsal this week.

- **Wednesday, Dec 6th** (1st -5th grade) @ 6:15-7:30 PM -- Gather in the F3 room before our full rehearsal in the sanctuary (no costumes)
- **Saturday, Dec 9th** (3 years - 1st grade) @ 9-9:20 AM -- Gather in sanctuary for singing rehearsal. (1st-5th grade) @ 9-10:30 AM -- Gather in Fireside Room (Room 202) for a full dress rehearsal. 1st graders can join the older students after their music rehearsal in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, Dec 10th** (3 years - 1st grade) @ 9 AM Gather in F3 Room (#111). (1st-5th grade) @ 9 AM -- Gather in Fireside Room (#202). Advent program will begin @ 9:30 AM!

Questions? Laura Jonker, arckidsmin@gmail.com

Announcements

•Poinsettias for Sale

The Middle School Youth Group is selling Christmas Poinsettias through December 10. 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!

•'tis the Season for Christmas Brunch

Celebrate the Advent season in the warm company of your church family and friends at the High School Youth Group's annual Christmas Brunch, after worship on Sunday, December 10. Come to our festive Fellowship Hall where the menu includes savory egg bake and home-made breakfast baked goods. Your freewill offering supports our high school youth as they participate in mission trips and attend youth conferences like Rocky Mountain High.

•Children's Advent Program Needs

Are you an international traveler? Do you have family from another culture? Or do you just like to collect international items? The children of ARC would appreciate your generous help! We are celebrating how people around the world prepare for Christmas this year for our Advent Program. If you have any of the following items in your homes and would be willing to lend them to us through December 10? Please contact Laura Jonker, arckidsmin@gmail.com. Thank you!

China:

Chinese Flag	Paper Lanterns or flowers
Colorful paintings or fabrics	Chinese tea set
1 small Chinese child's traditional costume	

Nicaragua:

Nicaraguan Flag	Woven basket (ie: for fruit)
Colorful scarves or paintings	Nicaraguan musical instruments
2 small Nicaraguan children's costumes	

Ethiopia:

Ethiopian Flag	Paintings or ebony artifacts
Ethiopian drums or other musical instruments	
2 small Nicaraguan children's costumes	

•Advent Program Rehearsals

The Advent Program is next week! Please continue to review your child's parts at home and mark your calendars for rehearsal this week.

- **Wednesday, Dec 6th** (1st -5th grade) @ 6:15-7:30 PM -- Gather in the F3 room before our full rehearsal in the sanctuary (no costumes)
- **Saturday, Dec 9th** (3 years - 1st grade) @ 9-9:20 AM -- Gather in sanctuary for singing rehearsal. (1st-5th grade) @ 9-10:30 AM -- Gather in Fireside Room (Room 202) for a full dress rehearsal. 1st graders can join the older students after their music rehearsal in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, Dec 10th** (3 years - 1st grade) @ 9 AM Gather in F3 Room (#111). (1st-5th grade) @ 9 AM -- Gather in Fireside Room (#202). Advent program will begin @ 9:30 AM!

Questions? Laura Jonker, arckidsmin@gmail.com