

**TODAY, January 6**

During Worship NO Children & Worship  
 10:45–11:30AM NO Sunday School  
 6:30–8:30PM High School Youth Group RESUMES

**Wednesday, January 9**

6:15–7:30PM MGYG (5th to 8th Grade) Holiday Party\*  
 \*Stay tuned for more details!

**Sunday, January 13**

During Worship Children & Worship RESUMES  
 10:45–11:30AM NO Sunday School  
 6:30–8:30PM High School Youth Group

**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. C & W will resume NEXT SUNDAY.
- ⇒ The nursery remains open for children 3YO & under.
- ⇒ Sunday School will continue to be on hiatus during the beginning of January with a tentative start date with a TENTATIVE start date of January 20 or 27.

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: #204 (Green & Purple)

\*These 2 groups will be joined together in room 204. 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
Rosalyn DeKoster	Preaching
Pastor Elizabeth & Pastor Mike	Worship Leaders
Beau Koerselmann	Children's Message
Sharon Bartlett, Marlene DeZeeuw, Jacob Gabel,	Praise Team
Jenn Lambert, Kevin McMahn, Tom Truesdell	
Ben Jacobsma	Organist



**Epiphany Sunday**  
 January 6, 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 321<sup>st</sup> 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

\*SONG OF WORSHIP "Come to Us"

\*GOD IS WITH US & GREETUS US  
We light a candle in hope—  
**remembering that our hope is in Jesus.**

We light a candle in peace—  
**remembering that our peace if found in Jesus.**

We light a candle in joy—  
**remembering that Jesus is our source of joy.**

We light a candle in love—  
**remembering that God's great love came to us in Jesus.**

This hope, peace, joy, and love is with you in the presence of Christ.  
**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who once used a star to bring people before Jesus—  
**we confess our poor sense of direction  
when it comes to following you.  
We are easily confused, distracted, deceived.  
We have lost our way more than once,  
and we are slow to acknowledge the ways  
you direct us back to your path.**

*Please use the silence for reflection and personal confession.*

God who bears our sins away—  
**Bring clarity to our confusion. Bring direction to our distraction.  
Bring discernment to our deception.  
Empower us by your Spirit to remember and respond to  
the call to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.  
In Jesus' name, we pray . . . amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS "Behold the Lamb"

# THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children will remain with their families in worship. Children & Worship resumes next Sunday, January 13. Worship bags and coloring pages are by the elevator.*

\*SONG OF PREPARATION #126 "O Come, Let Us Adore..."

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-38

SERMON "Opposing Signs: What We Want and What We Need"

MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT & INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

God with us, by your power you created all that is. You even created a covenant with us, calling to be your light among the nations. When we failed you, you did not fail us but called us back time and time again. We praise you that when the time was right, you revealed yourself to us in Jesus, the light of the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all creation to proclaim your glory.

*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.**

Born to dwell among us and full of grace and truth, we see your glory revealed in the witness of Jesus. Baptized by John in the Jordan, he lived for you, spoke your truth, showed your love, and gave himself for others. As an extension of your covenant, Jesus offers grace to all. Remembering this grace, we take from your creation this bread and this cup as signs and symbols of your redemptive work in the world. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you. Great is the mystery of the faith:

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

By your Spirit make us one so that we may be light in darkness, united by your love in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. As this cup pours out the lifeblood of Christ, may we pour our lives into a world in need.

**Teach us to befriend the lost, to serve the poor,  
to reconcile our enemies, and to love our neighbors.**

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, we give you glory, almighty God, now and forever. All God's people said... **amen.**

COMMUNION

*This morning we will remain seated for communion. Those who desire anointing of oil and prayer for healing are welcome to come forward while the bread is being served. Children are invited participate in communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. All communion elements are gluten free.*

# 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

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

\*SONG OF RESPONSE Insert "What Star is This?" vs. 1-3

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING SONG Insert "What Star is This?" v. 4

\*POSTLUDE

*All music & lyrics used by permission - CCLI #374890*

## PRAYING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

\*As a church family we rejoice with **Marie Bouma** in the birth of a healthy granddaughter, Stella Jayne, on December 28. Proud parents are Missy & Joe Bailey.

**Fulton Breen** as he awaits for 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 as she cares for Fulton throughout.

\***Ron Kolenbrander**, who was transferred to Hillcrest Health Care Services in Hawarden on December 14 and is under hospice care.

## TODAY

◆ **FELLOWSHIP TIME—10:30 AM**


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

◆ **CHRISTMAS TEARDOWN TODAY—10:50 AM**

Many hands make light work. We need your help taking down our Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 6, following worship. Take a few minutes to grab some coffee and have community time and then come to the sanctuary at 10:50 AM for instructions before we start taking decorations down. We hope to see you there!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ◆2ND SUNDAY GATHERINGS - January 13

 **Fellowship** ARC members will be hosting 2nd Sunday groups in their homes January 13. THERE WILL ONLY BE NOON GATHERINGS THIS MONTH. Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Counter in the coffee area (near the church office) or you may email or call Margaret Fernow, (737-3309 or [almar@orangecitycomm.net](mailto:almar@orangecitycomm.net)) no later than TODAY, Sunday, January 6! All ages including college students are welcome. You will be asked to bring something for a Potluck meal if you can (it may be paper plates or a bag of chips).

### ◆ADULT DISCIPLESHIP WINTER 2019 OFFERINGS

*January 13 - March 3 - 10:45 - 11:30 Sundays*

#### •BIBLE STUDY: JOSHUA

*Facilitators:* Sara and Kevin Huyser

*Location:* 301 (Choir Room Upstairs)

The book of Joshua is a study in second chances...failing to enter the Promised Land when God first provided the opportunity, the Israelites are now given another chance by God to enter Canaan. In this study we will explore the major events, themes, and lessons in Israel's preparation for, entry into, and settling of the Promised Land and seek to relate them to our own daily lives.

#### •STRONG AND WEEK: EMBRACING A LIFE OF LOVE, RISK AND TRUE FLOURISHING by Any Crouch (Book Study)

Facilitator: Kevin McMahan

Location: Room #204 (Genesis Room)

Please sign up for this class at the Welcome Center, where you can also order a copy of the book.

◆ *PLEASE NOTE: Due to The renovation project and room availability, the video series class "Understanding Trauma: The Healing Work of a Community," originally scheduled for the Winter of 2019, has been re-scheduled for the Fall of 2019.*

### ◆SHARE YOUR DUTCH-ERWARE


This year, we're unable to hold the High School Youth Group's Soup-er Bowl fundraiser at church. Instead, the high schoolers are selling soup you can take home and enjoy while you watch the big game Feb. 3. To help us prepare, please save these plastic containers and bring them to church for use by the high schoolers.

- 1-gallon ice cream pails
- 48-oz. plastic ice cream tubs
- 32-oz. (1 quart) plastic yogurt containers

You can leave your plastic containers in the box behind the Welcome Center. Thanks! (An opportunity to order chili, cheesy potato soup or creamy chicken noodle soup will be coming.)

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