

## Announcements

### ◆ May 7, 2017 Congregational Meeting Results

At the congregational meeting held on Sunday, May 7, Les Cleveringa, Marlene De Zeeuw, and Bill Kepp were elected to the office of elder. Deb Anderson and Brent Sampson were elected to the office of deacon. Les Cleveringa and Marlene De Zeeuw drew three-year terms; Bill Kepp drew a one-year term. New consistory members begin their terms of service on July 1. They will be ordained and/or installed on Sunday, July 9. Please pray for the 2017-2018 ARC Consistory—that they will lead ARC well in engaging our mission as a community that gathers together to be transformed by Jesus to transform the world through acceptance, grace, wisdom, and love. Thank you for your participation in the consistory nominations and elections process.

### ◆ Pastors Vacation and On-Call Elder

Pastors Elizabeth and Mike will be on vacation through Monday, May 29. If you have a pastoral emergency during the pastors' vacation, please contact the church office or the on call elder, Kathy Gabel (Sun. and Mon., May 28-29): 712-707-9170.

### ◆ Monday, May 29

Building and Office closed for Memorial Day Holiday.

### ◆ Learning to Ask...

The rich ruler asked Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

The Bible is full of people asking questions. From beginning to end, God's people ask questions, think deeply about faith, and wrestle with the mystery of God. On June 4 we will be starting a new series called, "Learning to Ask..." We want to invite you to participate by submitting questions about the Bible, faith, Christianity, religion, Reformed theology and more. While we won't have time to address all the questions in six weeks, we will compile these questions into common themes as the basis for the series.

Please place your questions in the box by the Welcome Center or submit them via email ([elizabetharcoc@gmail.com](mailto:elizabetharcoc@gmail.com) and [mikearcoc@gmail.com](mailto:mikearcoc@gmail.com)) on or before June 4.

### ◆ Expresses Thanks

"Dear church family, we express our thanks to everyone for their prayers, kind words, phone calls and food brought to the house. We are very blessed to have such a caring church family. We appreciate everything so much! Thank you again and may God bless all of you."

...Cheryl & Brent Bouma

"Thank you, American Church, for your generous donations of shoes to Souls4Soles."

...Keith Hoskins

*(Announcements continued.)*

### ◆ Sign up! ARC Creative Arts Camp



This summer, we'll explore new ways to explore our God-given creativity. Students entering 1st-6th grades are welcome to come to ARC to learn how sewing a school bag, learning a new dance, designing a lego kit or even baking pretzels can be an act of worship! Sign up for one, two or all three of the workshops as your schedule allows.

June 12th @ 6-7 PM -- Sewing with Cindy Cleveringa

July 10th @ 6-7 PM -- Legos with Kit and Gideon Fynaardt or Dance with Noelle & Natalie Sampson and Maggie Kensak

August 14th @ 6- 7 PM -- Bread-making with Brad Gabel

RSVP to Laura Jonker ([arckidsmin@gmail.com](mailto:arckidsmin@gmail.com)) by June 1st to reserve your spot!

### Participating in Worship

The Congregation  
Julia Huisman  
Victoria Karssen  
Rev. Shirley Folkerts  
Kim Van Es

Serving the Lord in Worship  
Organist  
Liturgist  
Preaching  
Children's Message



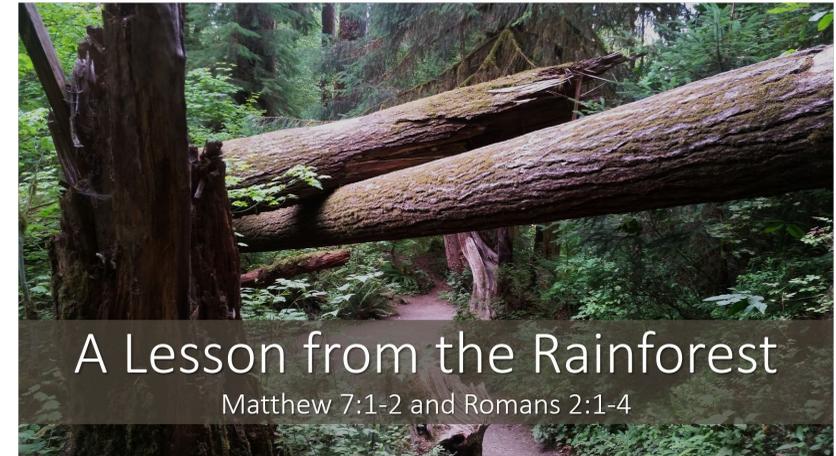
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[americanchurchoc.com](http://americanchurchoc.com)

TRANSFORMED BY JESUS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

ACCEPTANCE + GRACE + WISDOM + LOVE



Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 28, 2017



## A Lesson from the Rainforest

Matthew 7:1-2 and Romans 2:1-4



# THE APPROACH TO GOD

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

PRELUDE "Two Variations on Dix" (For the Beauty of the Earth)  
Jordan/Wold

CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 104  
Our God, clothed with honor and majesty, calls us.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

Our God, who stretched out the heavens like a canopy,  
calls us.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

Our God, who set the foundations of the earth under us,  
calls us.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

With all our breath,

we are called to praise in the presence of God.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

\*SONG OF WORSHIP #29 "O Worship the King"

\*GOD'S GREETING

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God with us, who sat at the table with outcasts and sinners,

**we confess that we seek your grace for ourselves;**

**we ask for your mercy to make right our wrongs;**

**we expect your forgiveness in the face of our sin,**

**yet, we hold back our grace for others;**

**we restrict our mercy from those who wrong us;**

**we replace forgiveness with judgment.**

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

Forgive us, we pray.

**Set us free from the burden of judgment**

**knowing that you do not expect us**

**to be the judges of our neighbors—near and far.**

**Rather, you call us to love our neighbors.**

**Open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds**

**that we may be agents of grace, mercy,**

**and forgiveness in the world,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

# THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children remain with us in worship today.*

*Worship bags are available by the elevator.*

\*SONG OF PREPARATION #557 "Open My Eyes . . ."

SCRIPTURE Matthew 7:1-2; Romans 2:1-4

SERMON *A Lesson from the Rainforest*

# THE RESPONSE TO GOD

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*(Please pass the fellowship pad found at the end of the pew.)*

OFFERTORY "Psalm 133 Behold, the Goodness of the Lord"  
Kosche

\*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 #507 "I Then Shall Live"  
v. 1 & 2

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING SONG #507 "I Then Shall Live"  
v. 3

\*POSTLUDE

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

## Praying for God's People

**Those who are grieving:**

**\*Wanda Zeutenhorst** in the death of her brother-in-law, Darwin Zeutenhorst, on Friday, May 12. Pray for Christ's comfort and peace as she grieves his death.

**\*Meagan, Mike, Abby, Allison and Anna Wallinga** in the death of Meagan's dad, Walt Wells, on Friday, May 18. Please pray for the Wallinga family as they grieve the death of a beloved dad and papa.

**ARC's May mission focus:**

This month we are praying for and learning about the Swart family in Tanzania. We skyped with them on May 7. They had never had a church ask to skype them! They really loved this face to face time with ARC. We can pray for them as they learn to speak Swahili and train multinational teams to move into unchurched areas.

**ARC extends its congratulations to:**

**\*Florence Kalsbeek** on her 99th birthday, on Friday, June 8. Cards can be sent to her at Prairie Ridge Care Center, 1005 7th St., NE, CV #11, Orange City, IA 51041.

*The bouquet of red poppies on the narthex area today has been provided by the American Legion Auxiliary to honor the memory of all service men and women of all wars who gave their lives for our country. The poppies were made by hospitalized veterans who receive personal spending money for making them.*

Note: Memorial Day Services will be held Monday, May 29 at Westlawn Cemetery at 9:30 AM with speaker Robert Hoogeveen. In case of inclement weather, it will be held at First Reformed Church in Orange City.