

Glad Tidings



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SEPTEMBER 2016: Vol 358

Arusha
Community
Church

Unity in Diversity: Speaking the Truth in Love

It is this time of year that ACC becomes busier again, with members returning from their leave, and new activities getting started. Several of us have been travelling, visiting family, friends and churches in our “home” countries. From the different denominations where we grew up or have our friends and families, we come back again to Arusha, back to our family of Christian fellowship, our community church. I feel blessed to be part of this colourful church, with so many different backgrounds, traditions, ideas and ways of thinking, but united in One Spirit.

As Paul says in Ephesians 4, *“Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. [...] Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*

When I see ACC’s committees at work, the wonders of the Sunday services—every week again with a different group of volunteers—and all that is going on in and around our community, I am amazed indeed how God uses us in so many different ways, with different gifts and talents to glorify his name. How imperfect we are as human beings, and how imperfect as a church, God has chosen us to further build his kingdom. At the same time, being a lay-led, interdenominational church with members, leaders and preachers expressing themselves in a way in which we might not always recognize ourselves, might make us doubt. Are we living in One Spirit indeed? Are we actually becoming more Christ-like? To keep harmony and peace, it might lead us to avoid difficult discussions or dealing with controversial subjects. Paul however teaches us to speak the truth in love, to deal with difficult matters to further grow in Christ. Christ himself showed us not to avoid difficult situations – he engaged with anybody, from fishermen and church leaders of his time to prostitutes and corrupt tax collectors, even the devil in person, always telling the truth, always with love. In the end giving himself on the cross, for the world to experience his unending love.

As long as we follow the head, Christ himself, we will be able to become a mature body. As any child or adult we might fall once in a while and hurt ourselves, but with God’s help we will get better and grow further. For anyone to grow and become mature will need to be

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challenged once in a while; it actually might make us stronger – as a church it might bring us closer to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. So let us indeed speak the truth, in love for each other, as it will help us to grow as a church and as Christians. Even if we don't always agree on the words spoken, it can actually inspire our thinking, stimulate discussion between us as church members, and deepen our understanding of the Bible - indeed as a Body of Christ with all our limitations.

To close with Paul from Ephesians 4 again: *“I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*

Martijn Veen, ACC Council Secretary

Sunday School News

Sunday school begins on 4 September!

Sunday school registration begins Sunday, 28 August and will continue every Sunday in September prior to worship service—Sunday school teachers will be in the courtyard with registration forms.



Sunday school is available for children ages 3 through 11. Children begin the worship service with their families and are then dismissed to the large classroom for a group opening session before proceeding to their classrooms. Sunday school class concludes prior to the worship service ending so children will return to parents in the sanctuary.

Are you interested in serving as a Sunday school teacher? There will be an organizing meeting for Sunday school teachers and those who would like to learn more about the volunteering opportunity on **Sunday, 28 August after worship**. A light lunch will be served during the meeting.



Harvest Festival

Sunday, 25 September

Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate the harvest! Harvest Festival is one of Arusha Community Church's oldest traditions, celebrating God's bounty in our lives by bringing the fruits of our labor to the altar. Members are invited to bring items large and small to be sold by auction or at side tables following the service.

What can you bring?

- Baked goods and other homemade treats
- Fruits and vegetables from your garden
- Handcrafts and sewn items
- Your skills and talents—any service that someone would be interested in buying such as a home cooked authentic meal from your home country or a family photo session or a guided bird watching expedition
- Use your creativity!

An Evening of Harvest Music

Friday, 23 September at 6:30 pm

*a concert of sacred music
in the harvest theme*

Refreshments will be served. Come and be blessed by the music and fellowship!

We would especially like to get smaller, lower-priced items that can be sold at the side tables to give more people a chance to make a purchase. Baked goods and other homemade treats are especially popular—cookies or cupcakes that can be sold individually or by the dozen or half-dozen, cakes, pies, homemade breads, etc. Pull out a favorite family recipe and share with your ACC church family!

This Year's Harvest Festival Beneficiaries:



The **Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre's Newborn Intensive Care Unit** is the only NICU serving Arusha and surrounding areas. All babies in need of the NICU are served regardless of their families' ability to pay.

youthcompass

YouthCompass addresses the unique needs of teens navigating a global life through regular events, service projects and open dialog on faith and belief. YouthCompass is preparing to begin a program in Arusha.

Worship Workshop

Saturday, 17 September

*for everyone currently involved in worship
and those who would like to be involved as*

Worship Leaders

Preachers

Music Leaders & Musicians

Sound System & Projection Team

Prayer Ministers

Ushers

More details coming soon!



If you have a prayer request and would like our members to support you in prayer, contact the four key people—if possible by SMS—and they will inform the others in the prayer chain.

Erwin Kinsey: 0754 480 184

Margaret Kenyi: 0754 090 078

Susan Simonson: 0754 266 559

Stella Karamuna: 0754 281 337



AA and NA Meetings at ACC

Alcoholics Anonymous

Monday 1 pm – 2 pm

Tuesday 1 pm – 2 pm

Thursday 1 pm – 2 pm

Friday 5 pm – 6 pm

Saturday 10 am – 11 am

Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday 5 pm – 6 pm

Thursday 5 pm – 6 pm

youthcompass

YouthCompass seeks to address the unique needs of mobile teens by providing caring adult role models who assist them in navigating life. Through regular events, service projects and open dialog on faith and belief, YouthCompass gives students the opportunity to belong and to grow: a fun community to be who they are and the chance to determine who they want to be.

YouthCompass is looking for opportunities to start working in Arusha. Thomas Speckhardt, YouthCompass director, will be in Arusha 9-16 September. During his visit to Arusha, Thomas will give seminars for parents, teachers and students at the international schools and meeting with members of the international churches.

On **Sunday 11 September**, there will be an opportunity to meet with Thomas during a lunch after the church service (location to be determined). Anyone interested in Youth work for teenagers in or outside the church is welcome to join and learn more about YouthCompass' vision and mission. For more information visit www.youthcompass.org.

SEPTEMBER 2016 Sunday Service Schedule

	4 September	11 September	18 September	25 September
Church Calendar	16th Sunday after Pentecost	17th Sunday after Pentecost	18th Sunday after Pentecost	19th Sunday after Pentecost
Service Type	Communion Service	Morning Worship	Communion Service	Family Service
Leaders	Michael Pallanore	Anna Hussein	Joe Troester	John Kraft
Preachers	Angela Schramm	Rev. Justo Pallangyo	Rev. Deborah Troester	Christine Derungs
Musicians	Alexis Kwamy	Erwin Kinsey	Daniel Kalule	Linda Jacobson
Flowers	Yoka Bruinsma/ Willingness	Irene Mchomvu	Helena Koster	Yoka Bruinsma/ Willingness
Ushers	Henrique Christopher Jackson Solomon	Martin Mathew Irene Kiria	Obeid Nickodemasy Rogers Eliau	Peter Feer Saninas Mollel
Duty Elder	Erwin Kinsey	Martijn Veen	Linda Jacobson	Elizabeth Hudgin
Sound	Edmund Ntwale	Edmund Kisombe	Eunpa Cho	Daniel Charles
Library	Narola Mollel	Fitsmit Dejene	Raymond Lema	Eliel Gideon
DVDs	Yuki Omori	Leon Veen	Nancy Kimaro	Olivier Muhoza
Books	Manase Swai	Parul Bhatti	Peter Feer	Dominic M Sebastian
Scripture Readings	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1:1-1:21 Luke 14:25-33	Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31



Mission Statement: Arusha Community Church seeks to bring Christian praise and witness to God through worship, service and study. The congregation provides opportunity for Christian fellowship, service and witness, community outreach, personal growth and family growth. Recognizing the close link between worship and culture, Arusha Community Church has an inter-denominational ministry to the international community in Arusha.

Arusha Community Church (ACC) is an international, interdenominational, lay-led congregation. We are united in faith in Christ and worship in the English language.

Services are at 10:30 am every Sunday morning, as well as on other special days of the Church Year. **Sunday school** for children is during church through the school year. **Adult Education** is usually held before the service at 9:15 am. For more information, please visit our **website** at www.acc.habari.co.tz.

*Glad Tidings submissions are due 15 September 2016 to
acc.facilitator@gmail.com*