

Glad Tidings



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Arusha
Community
Church

In this Advent season, inviting 'the other' is inviting Christ

In his book **Reaching Out** Henri Nouwen describes one aspect of the spiritual person as one who seeks to convert *hostility* to *hospitality*. "It belongs to the core of Christian spirituality to reach out to strangers and invite them into our lives," he writes. He cites examples from the Bible where Abraham (Gen.18:1-15), Elijah (1Kings17:9-24) and the disciples in Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) were blessed by God Himself by their hospitality.

Hebrews 13:1-2 entreats us to open our house to strangers and thereby "to host angels unaware." Jesus states in Matthew 25:40 that those who welcome strangers "even to one of the least of these, did it to me."

Angela Merkel, German chancellor, has become my hero in the past two years through her act of opening her country's doors to over one million refugees. She has done this in the face of opposition and knowledge of the multiple difficulties it would represent to the communities which have mobilized to receive them. Daughter of a Lutheran pastor, she took this decision knowing it would not be easy at all for Germany, but that it was the right thing to do in the face of the crisis which affected these masses as a result of continuing wars. An article in the October 2016 *National Geographic* magazine describes the challenges faced both by residents and Germany's new refugees. "What has been most surprising is how many Germans have chosen to invest personally in helping the refugees," the article states. One resident is quoted saying, "It's an exciting time in Germany...It is the first time in my life that I can say I'm proud of Germany." Imagine if other countries would open their doors, how different this world might be.

David Miliband, CEO and President of the International Rescue Committee recently shared important facts about the current plight of refugees:

- In 2015 there were 65 million people uprooted by conflict and persecution, of whom 85% live in low-to-middle income countries on the boundaries of warring countries with few resources to support them.
- Over 20 million of these are refugees, the rest internally displaced persons.

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- Today's conflicts burn on for an average of 37 years. Refugees are displaced an average of 17 years, and internally displaced an average of 23 years.
- Most displaced persons want to go home, but less than 1% of the world's displaced persons were able to return to their countries of origin last year.
- Some countries like Uganda are trying novel ways to enable refugees to adjust. With the eighth highest number of refugees in the world, Uganda allows refugees to have a plot of land, to stand on their own feet, allowing them to work, and to choose where to live. Refugees send their children to public schools and contribute to the Ugandan economy. In Kampala, 78% of the refugees need no aid, and nationwide only 1% are completely dependent upon aid.
- What refugees commonly need is cash, not tents or food, so that their scarce resources can go further. This way child labor goes down, school attendance goes up, and \$1 given generates \$2.13 in GDP in the local economy.

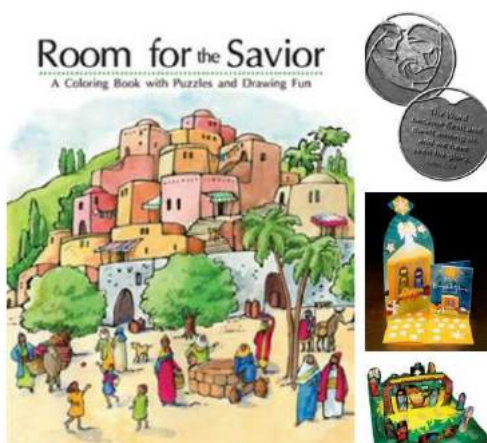
In the face of such statistics, we can become overwhelmed with the unmet needs of those near and far who suffer. This sense of being overwhelmed was evident in the recent US election of Donald Trump as president. Statistics show a deep racial divide and xenophobia in America prevalent among a majority of white voters of all economic levels, genders, and even religions. This further shows the continuing racial bias and lack of concern for non-white communities who continue to be outcasts in their own land, forgotten and left behind. Will America once again value its diversity? Perhaps its young people will?

Closer to home, here in Arusha we are aware of Muslim converts who have had to flee their homes because of persecution, death threats, and violence against them because of their new-found faith. Is there any urgency to address these typical injustices?

God calls us to welcome the homeless and not to grow tired of doing good (Galatians 6:6-10). Dare we remain inactive in the face of these injustices because it is normal not to get involved, to care?

In this Advent season, let us consider the parable of in Matthew 25. Whom of the "least importance" have we invited lately? In so doing, we invite Christ.

—Erwin Kinsey
ACC Church Council Chair



Advent Devotional Materials for Sale

A nice selection of **advent calendars and other devotional materials** for children, adults and families are for sale following Sunday services throughout Advent. Stop by the table to choose resources that will help you and your family welcome the Newborn King.

Upcoming Events at ACC



Sunday, 27 November
After Service
Cultural Festival



Saturday, 3 December
10 am
New Member Class



Friday, 23 December
6:30 pm
Carols by Candlelight



Give the gift that gives twice with Advent Giving!

Honor friends and loved ones with a donation on their behalf to a variety of worthy service and ministry organizations. This is a great way to finish your Christmas shopping in an easy and meaningful way. Stop by the Advent Giving table after service any Sunday during Advent to choose gifts that support Albino Peacemakers, Faraja Palotti, Plaster House and ALMC's Newborn Intensive Care Unit.

Confirmation Class starts in January 2017



Confirmation class will be starting up again for church youth age 12 and older in mid-January. Pastor Deborah Troester and Jana Kinsey will teach the class.

Please stop in the church office to register your child for the class, or register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/oQiDmkigWAbpH1xD3>

Exact start date and meeting times are yet to be determined.

Youth and/or their parents do not need to be members of ACC to join the class. All are welcome!

Note of Thanks

Dear Friends at ACC,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We at ALMC are just incredibly grateful for your continued support of this hospital throughout the years and especially for your gifts from Harvest Festival toward the care of babies in our Newborn Intensive Care Unit.



Some of your members will be aware that the NICU is one of the most expensive units to run in the hospital and it is the main place where we as a hospital commit to providing care to babies from ALMC, Selian, Nkoaranga, and St. Elizabeth's hospitals regardless of ability to pay. We can only meet these high costs of care through the generous and loving support of folks like you at ACC.

You, dear brothers and sisters at ACC, are literally saving the lives of our premature and underweight babies needing the high tech care of the NICU. Thank you again and thank you for the continued cooperation we share in serving those in need in this community.

Thank you and God Bless,

Dr. Mark Jacobson
Executive Director

Crèche Kids Need Your Help!



Please consider spending one Sunday every 6-8 weeks volunteering in the Crèche. Every week we offer a safe place for little ones (newborn up to age 3) to play so their parents can enjoy a restorative time in church.

If you are a parent who is often in the crèche anyway, or just someone who likes kids, regardless of your gender, age or stage in life, PLEASE consider helping out.

Contact: Lindsay Hoover
Text or WhatsApp: 0765454608
Email: LindsayJoyH@gmail.com

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
Saturday 5 pm – 6 pm



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

DECEMBER 2016 Sunday Service Schedule

	4 December	11 December	18 December	23 December	25 December
<i>Church Calendar</i>	Second Sunday of Advent	Third Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Carols by Candlelight	Christmas
Service Type	Communion Service	Morning Worship	Communion Service		Family Service
Leaders	Christy Rowe Miller	Moira Brehony	Erwin Kinsey	John Kraft	Mark Jacobson
Preachers	Clare Edwards	Rev. Kimirei	Rev. Herbert Mkemwa	Rev. Randolph Tebbs	Christine Derungs
Musicians	Alexis Kwamy	Alexis Kwamy	Neil Miller	Angela Schramm & Choir	Linda Jacobson
Flowers	Helena Koster	Christy Rowe Miller	Irene Joel	Yoka Bruinsma	Yoka Bruinsma
Ushers	Martin Matthew Rogers Eliahu	Irene Kiria Peter Feer	Obed Nickodemasy Jackson Solomon	Rogers Eliahu Peter Feer	Martin Matthew Rogers Eliahu
Duty Elder	Linda Jacobson	Erwin Kinsey		Elizabeth Hudgin	Moira Brehony
Sound	Daniel Charles	Travis Silveus	Gabriel Francis	Edmund Ntwale	Edmund Kisombe
Library	Sion Miraa	Library Closed	END OF YEAR LIBRARY BOOK RETURN! <i>Please check your home for unreturned library books and bring them in today! No fines issued for overdue books!</i>	Library Closed	Library Closed
Books	Leon Veen				
DVDs	Freddy Richard				
Scripture Readings	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14



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 December 2016 to acc.facilitator@gmail.com