

Glad Tidings



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APRIL 2017: Vol 362

Arusha
Community
Church

Why are you here?

In this excerpt from Pastor Tim Sonneberg's sermon shared at ACC in January, we ask ourselves what our personal motivation is for coming to church.

John's Disciples Follow Jesus: John 1:35-39

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

When Jesus turned and confronted the two disciples as they began following him in our text reading this morning, they were startled by his question and its tone. "What are you looking for?" It was almost as if Jesus was saying, "Why are you bothering me?" No polite greeting. No gentle teaching. More of an interrogation than anything else. You see, during the course of Jesus' ministry, it became obvious to him just what some of his so-call "followers" were really looking for.

As his reputation spread, there were those who crowded around him with various diseases and ailments. They were looking for healing.

As his popularity spread, there were the religious authorities who began to question his theology. They were looking for a fight.

As his miracles increased, there were the crowds there to watch the show. They were looking for entertainment.

As his wisdom spread, there were seekers like the rich young ruler who tried to second guess his teachings. They were looking for an easy way to heaven.

As his fame circulated and the feeding of the 5,000 became the talk of the town, there were lots of people with needs and wants who followed his journeys. They were looking for free handouts and an easy life.

When Jesus went off by himself to the mountains to be in prayer, his own disciples came and interrupted him saying, "Everyone is looking or you!"

Continued>

The disciples were right. Everyone is looking for Jesus. Everyone is searching for the living spirit of God in their lives...even if they don't realize it. The answer to Jesus' soul-searching question, "What are you looking for?" can't be brought home from a store or purchased online. Each one of us has a void in our heart that only Christ can fill.

Why are most of you here today? I don't think it's for entertainment. And surely there are faster ways to get food than to wait for a miracle—especially if that miracle has to come from me! Most of us, I believe, come to church to find meaning, to find purpose, to find a direction to our life. We're trying to figure out what our place is in this grand scheme of things. How do I fit into life?

Jesus knew there were a lot of wrong ways to go about searching for meaning. Our world offers dozens of counterfeit gods. When Jesus confronted these two would-be disciples with his piercing question, "What are you looking for?" the answer he received may sound strange to us, but it was actually a pretty good response.

"Rabbi," they replied, "Where are you staying? Let us join with you and be your students." They weren't looking for miracles, food, or entertainment. They wanted to learn. And Jesus responds to this request with a genuine invitation... "Come and see."

Discovering the presence of Christ in your life is rarely experienced as a blinding light or a booming voice from heaven. Filling your spirit with God, connecting to Jesus, is a lifelong process.

Sometimes it takes long years of sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to his teachings, before we can truly understand our place on this earth.

The peace for our restlessness comes in understanding that we are already loved by God almighty. Our Christian journey then is one of growing in that acceptance. To try to establish meaning and purpose in life through good deeds or higher thinking is only short-lived.

We were created intentionally by God. We were created to live in a loving relationship with God. And when we turned our backs on that special relationship, God sent His son to cancel our stubbornness, or self-centeredness. Thru the cross, the death of Jesus Christ, God forgave all—and brought us back into the family of God.

We gain true meaning and purpose in our life...not in what we do, but rather in accepting what has already been done for us.

Is that perhaps the reason you came to church today? To continue your spiritual search? To search for a meaning, a place in life? When Jesus calls you by name and asks you, "*What are you looking for?*" you can only respond, "*Lord, to whom else shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*"

To know the Lord and his forgiveness and acceptance is to begin to find meaning and our place in life.

May your search for purpose and meaning begin with building your relationship with Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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

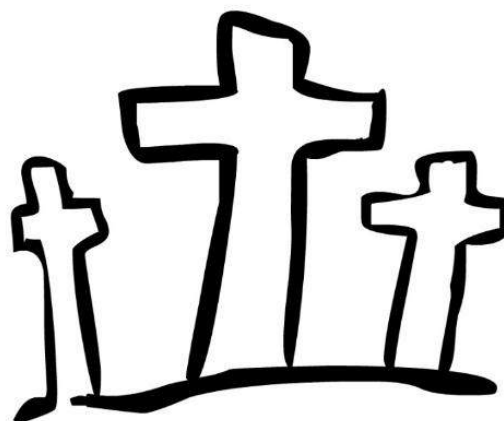
Saturday 10 am – 11 am

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

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday: Sunday, 9 April at 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday: Thursday, 13 April at 6:30 pm
Good Friday: Friday, 14 April at 10:30 am
Easter Sunday: Sunday, 16 April at 10:30 am

Easter Sunrise Service

Details of the Easter Sunrise Service will be announced at the previous Holy Week services.



On 19 March about 45 of the Sunday school students, along with teachers and some of their parents, visited Genesis Orphanage. The children from the orphanage and the Sunday school children participated together in singing and in listening to a Bible story. Drinks and cookies were shared among all children. The Sunday school students used their Sunday offerings to purchase about 700,000/= to buy food for the orphanage, and another 250,000/= was donated in cash. The children also collected clothing and toys to share with the children at Genesis.

Neema Swai, ACC's Church Administrator, is the founder and director of Genesis Orphanage. She shared these words of thanks with the Sunday school children and all members of ACC for your generosity:



Dear ACC members,

Greetings and love from Genesis Orphanage Arusha.

The management and all the children of Genesis Orphanage would like to express our deep gratitude for the basic requirement you provided to us by the Sunday school children and their teachers.

Appreciation is also expressed for the genuine love and concern from all the parents and guardians who have helped and allowed their children to visit and share the love of Christ with us.

Thank you very much once again and God bless you all,

In Christ,

*Neema Swai
Founder and Director*

Your Giving Matters:

THANK YOU FROM FARAJA PALLOTTI

In November 2011 the Disability Services at Pallotti moved from a classroom in the Training Centre to a new spacious Therapy Clinic in the Faraja Building at the Pallotti Complex, situated in the Esso region of Arusha. The centre provides much needed services to the children and adults living with a disability in the community. To date, 245 children and 92 adults have registered with the Centre. On average 30-40 attend every week. One of the most important parts of the service is the support the Mamas receive from each other and also the social aspect of the adults coming together one day per week.

The very generous support of ACC to Faraja has helped the services grow and we currently employ two trained staff and two trainees. A home therapy programme is taught to the mamas to meet their individual child's needs and also to the adults and their carers.

Through your generosity we have been able to provide transport to hospital appointments, and aids such as walkers, crutches and specialised wheelchairs to help prevent deformities in the children with severe Cerebral Palsy.

Many of the Mamas carry their child on their backs over rough ground for some distances and we have been able to provide them with tea and food at the end of the therapy session. This gives them a wonderful opportunity to share their stories and to get to know each other. It also helps them feel less isolated as they give support to each other. The adults attending every Wednesday for therapy also enjoy this time for socializing with each other.

This is just a "word bite" of what we do at Faraja Pallotti and on behalf of the mamas, watoto and the adults, we say a VERY BIG "ASANTENI SANA" to all the members of ACC who through your offerings and Advent Giving have helped us deliver this much needed service at Faraja Pallotti.

Lent is a time for Reflection on our Journey and taking "time out" to renew and deepen our relationship with the Risen Christ. As Christians we are Easter People, Sons and Daughters of the Living God and The Kingdom reigns within our hearts.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a very fruitful and blessed Lent. May you all experience and share in the joy of Mary Magdalena as she met the Risen Lord on that First Easter Morning.

From The Team at Faraja Pallotti,

Clare, Salome, Grace, and Prisila



APRIL 2017 Service Schedule

	2 April	9 April	13 April	14 April	16 April	23 April	30 April
Church Calendar	5 th Sunday in Lent	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Easter</i>	2 nd Sunday of Easter	3 rd Sunday of Easter
Service Type	Communion Service	Morning Worship	6:30 pm Service	10:30 am Service	Communion Service	Morning Worship	Family Service
Leader	Penina Kariuki	Joe Troester	Wendy Willmore	Erwin Kinsey	John Kraft	Michael Pallanore	Marilyn Simonson
Preacher	Stephan Schramm	Dr. Derrick Matthews	Fr. Oliver O'Brien	Rev. Mike Taylor	Rev. Deborah Troester	Rev. Dan Kiula	Lindsay Hoover
Musician(s)	Christine Ebong & Hendrick Christopher	Linda Jacobson	Wendy Willmore	Neil Miller	Linda Jacobson	Daniel Kalule	Erwin Kinsey
Duty Elder	Linda Jacobson	Deborah Troester	Deborah Troester	Linda Jacobson	Jimmy Ebong	Johan Sundqvist	Jimmy Ebong
Prayer Team	Moira Brehony	Travis Silveus			Sharon Mkisi	Sharon Mkisi	Moira Brehony
Sound	Brenda Kimaro	Edmund Kisombe	Brenda Kimaro	Brenda Kimaro	Travis Silveus	Goodluck Kaaya	Eunpa Cho
Ushers	Jackson Solomon Oliver Muhoza	Martin Matthews Peter Feer			Obed Nickodemasy Rogers Eliau	Peter Feer Irene Kiria	Godlishu Solomon Martin Matthews
Flowers	Yoka Bruinsma	Helena Koster			Irene Mchomvu/ Helena Koster	Christy Miller	Erwin Kinsey
Library	Narola Mollel	Fitsimt Dejene			Eliel Gideon	Sion Miraa	Eliel Gideon
Books	Peter Feer	Eleau Roger			Nancy Kimaro	Betty Magaya	Parul Bahatti
DVDs	Leon Veen	Yuki Omori			Nancy Kimaro	Leon Veen	Yuki Omori
Scripture Readings	Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11:1-45	Matthew 21: 1-11 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 27:11-54 [or 26:14—27:66]	Jeremiah 31: 1-6 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3: 1-4 Matthew 28: 1-10	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Deut. 32:9-14 Phil. 3:4b-14 Acts 2:14a, 36-41



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.