

WORSHIP SERVICE

January 26, 2025

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship Psalm 149:1-4

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

* Opening Song: "Praise To The Lord The Almighty"

Lift Up Your Hearts #575

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters draw near, join me in glad adoration! Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning, sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining. Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining? Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do as with his love he befriends you. Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me adore him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

Opening Prayer

Song: "Salvation Belongs To Our God" Lift Up Your Hearts #608

Salvation belongs to our God Who sits upon the throne,
and unto the Lamb Praise and Glory,

Wisdom and thanks, Honor and power and strength.

Be to our God forever and ever, Be to our God forever and ever,

Be to our God forever and ever, amen.

And we, the redeemed shall be strong In purpose and unity

Declaring aloud Praise and Glory,

Wisdom and thanks, Honor and power and strength.

Be to our God forever and ever, Be to our God forever and ever,

Be to our God forever and ever, amen.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Our Father, we have just sung of your greatness and power. And yet, too often we do not trust you enough to take the steps of faith you set before us.

Our conviction may be weak, and courage our may be lacking, so we shrink away from acting for the cause of your kingdom.

We fear the judgement of our peers or isolation from their rejection, so we don't speak up for your truth.

Strengthen us, Lord, by your Spirit. Give us grace to speak your words with gentleness and respect, that we may live up to our calling as your children, Amen.

Words of Assurance 2 Timothy 1:5-7

I am reminded of your sincere faith... For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Song of Entrusting: "You Are My Hiding Place"

Lift Up Your Hearts #412

You are my hiding place. You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you. I will trust in you. Let the weak say, "I am strong in the strength of the Lord." You are my hiding place. You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you. I will trust in you. Let the weak say, "I am strong in the strength of the Lord, I will trust in you."

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Esther 4

Message: What's Your Story, Esther? - For Such a Time as This

4 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. **2** But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. **3** In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes. **4** When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. **5** Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. **6** So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city

in front of the king's gate. ⁷ Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. ⁹ Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king." ¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" ¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." ¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "Here I Am Lord" Lift Up Your Hearts #869

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? whom shall I send?

REFRAIN: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

(REFRAIN)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

(REFRAIN)

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"

Lift Up Your Hearts #590 vs 1-3, 8

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever given

By saits below and saints above, The church in earth and heaven

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Rex DeBruin, Elijah Goosen, Holly Raak, Maggie VanDyk

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Communion: Next week we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is the family table at which we eat together and are nourished with Christ's sacrifice for us. Here (as in Baptism) we celebrate who we are - children of God – and are reminded of God's promises to be our God, to care for us, love us, and be faithful to us. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord's Table.

The special offering next week will be for World Renew, which helps alleviate long-term poverty through integrated programs in health, agriculture, income-earning, literacy, and leadership development. Your prayers, involvement, and contributions make this work possible!

Adult Sunday School (Room 7): Melody Franje and Rex De Bruin will continue to lead a discussion on different faith practices and how to incorporate these spiritual disciplines into our personal and communal lives. Last fall we discussed disciplines such as the sabbath, hospitality, gratitude, and generosity. We'd love to have you join us this spring!

Reminder, Pub Theology for January will be this Sunday at 7 pm at the Mucky Duck, hope to see you all there. Please post questions, discussion topics, etc on the facebook page or email them to Randy or myself.

Committee Chairs – endowment request forms have been sent out, please have them completed by the end of the January 31st.

The Family 2 Family sale will happen again this spring, More details to come

The pictures that were removed from the bulletin board are on the table outside the office, please take yours if you would like to have it. I will remove them after the end of the month.

Reminder the winter season is here, please be sure to wipe your shoes before you come into the church to help with keeping our church home clean.

Randy will be gone from January 29th - 31st and February 3rd - 10th

Pam Whitney will be gone from February 8th - 15th.

There is printout of Birthdays, Greeters, Congregational Prayer, Nursery, and Children's message on the table outside the office. This has been updated into early 2025. The directory with the newest updates. is on the table outside the office. Please review your changes if you made any. If you have changes or need to add info, please do it on this sheet.

Children and Worship - During our morning worship service, immediately following the children's message, ages three through third grade are invited to attend, meeting in room 3, located to the south of the sanctuary. Children experience worship in the same order as in the sanctuary: we approach God in reverence, hear His Word proclaimed, respond in praise, and go forth in peace and love to serve in God's name. Visitors are welcome to attend. Please pick up your child(ren) at the end of the service



Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes Happening at 10.50, after fellowship

Children and Worship – Happening after the children's message

Breakfast Club meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center Hy-Vee at 8:30 AM.

UFO meets the 3rd Monday of the month

Women's Bible Study Will meet the first Monday of the month

Pub Theology meets the last Sunday of the month, Jan 26th 7 pm Mucky Duck.

Hymn Sing will be held the first Sunday of the Month at 5 pm at the Church.
February 3rd

Next Council meeting is February 12th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Faith and Action - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. In James 2:14-16, God tells us that if we truly have faith, we can't help but also do good things! How can you show your faith every day this week? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Valentine Cards.

Groundwork: Jesus Prays for His Disciples - As Jesus prays his high priestly prayer, he intercedes on behalf of his disciples. Join Groundwork as we study John 17:6-19 to learn what Jesus desires for them and how his prayer for protection, unity, joy, and sanctification helps us live as sanctified people in a world that isn't always welcoming to our faith. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CRC Heritage Fund

CRCNA Heritage Circle Invitation - If you have named the CRCNA, or one of their four agencies (Resonate, Thrive, World Renew or ReFrame), in your will or estate plan you're invited to join the Heritage Circle - a group of people who have named the CRCNA in future plans. As a member, you will receive a welcome package and be invited to special events throughout the year. Learn more about the Heritage Circle and planned giving at crcna.org/heritagefund

CRC Communications

Notice of Address Change - The CRC denominational offices in the US have moved. Here is their new address if you would ever like to send correspondence or a financial gift to Thrive, ReFrame, Resonate, or The Banner: 300 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1208 for all mail. More information can be found at: crcna.org/contact

Resonate Global Mission

Technology Support Volunteer Opportunity in Nicaragua - Do you have IT skills and a heart for service? Tesoros de Dios, a ministry in Nicaragua serving children and youth with disabilities, is seeking a volunteer to help improve their technological systems. Tasks include updating databases, cleaning and securing computers, improving networks, and training staff in technology. This flexible opportunity ranges from 1 week to 3 months. Basic Spanish is preferred. Visit resonateglobalmission.org/technology to learn more and apply!

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Lora Copley
Sound: Brian Sterenberg
Nursery: Mary K and Kathlyn
Children's message: Randy Raak
Greeters: Kuyper

Greeters

Jan 26	Kuyper	April 20	VanDyk
Feb 2	Niehof	April 27	Verkade
Feb 9	Niemeyer	May 4	Kopaska
Feb 16	Nikkel	May 11	Bakker
Feb 23	Oftedal	May 18	Bergman
March 2	Oltman	May 25	De Bruin
March 9	Raak	June 1	Franje
March 16	Saldana	June 8	Copley
March 23	Sanders/Bassham	June 15	Hobson
March 30	Schweingruber/Berns	June 22	Voss
April 6	Sterenberg	June 29	Hubert
April 13	t' Hoen		

Nursery

Jan 26	Mary K and Kathlyn	April 20	Rachel and Sue F
Feb 2	Sue F and Brianna	April 27	Melody and Kristy
Feb 9	Rachel and Kristy	May 4	Jessica and Cassie
Feb 16	Melody and Cassie	May 11	Donna and Pam
Feb 23	Jessica and Pam	May 18	Elaine and Kenzie
March 2	Donna and Kenzie	May 25	Mindy and Sue F
March 9	Elaine and Sue F	June 1	Megan and Elizabeth
March 16	Mindy and Elizabeth	June 8	Judy and
March 23	Megan and Caraline/Stacy	Caraline/Stacy	
March 30	Judy and Brianna	June 15	Mary and Brianna
April 6	Mary and Alisabeth	June 22	Lyndee and Alisabeth
April 13	Lyndee and Kathlyn	June 29	Rachel and Kathlyn

Children's Message

Jan 26	Randy Raak	April 20	Randy Raak
Feb 2	Laura Hufford	April 27	Laura Hufford
Feb 9	Lora Copley	May 4	Lora Copley
Feb 16	Jeff Kopaska	May 11	Jeff Kopaska
Feb 23	Stacy Hertz	May 18	Stacy Hertz
March 2	Rex De Bruin	May 25	Rex De Bruin
March 9	Randy Raak	June 1	Randy Raak
March 16	Laura Hufford	June 8	Laura Hufford
March 23	Lora Copley	June 15	Lora Copley
March 30	Jeff Kopaska	June 22	Jeff Kopaska
April 6	Stacy Hertz	June 29	Stacy Hertz
April 13	Rex De Bruin		

Congregational Prayer

Jan 26	Lora Copley	April 6	Rex De Bruin
Jan 5	Randy Raak	April 13	Randy Raak
Jan 12	Jeff Kopaska	April 20	Tom Niehof
Jan 19	Tom Kuyper	April 27	Randy Raak
Jan 26	Lora Copley	May 4	Mark Voss
Feb 2	Paul Kleinwolterink	May 11	Paul Kleinwolterink
Feb 9	Randy Raak	May 18	Randy Raak
Feb 16	Jeff Kopaska	May 25	Jeff Kopaska
Feb 23	Tom Niehof	June 1	Tom Niehof
March 2	Randy Raak	June 8	Randy Raak
March 9	Lora Copley	June 15	Lora Copley
March 16	Tom Kuyper	June 22	Tom Kuyper
March 23	Randy Raak	June 29	Randy Raak
March 30	Tom Niehof		

Pastor Randy Raak: pastor@amestrinity.org or 928-699-9329

Lora Copley: director@isu-areopagus.org or 505-387-6861 (Areopagus Campus Ministry)

Laura Hufford Worship Coordinator: worship@amestrinity.org

Pam Whitney Office Administrator: office@amestrinity.org

Elders: A-G = Tom Kuyper; H-K = Rex De Bruin; L-S = Joel Copley; T-Z = Naomi Friend

Deacons: A-G = Joseph Yoder; H-K = Christopher 't Hoen; L-S = Tom Whitney; T-Z = Donna Bergman