

WORSHIP SERVICE

February 16, 2025

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship - from Ephesians 1

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ

In him we were also chosen... in order that we might be for the praise of his glory.

* Opening Song: "Praise The Lord! Sing Hallelujah!"

Lift Up Your Hearts #518

Praise the Lord! Sing hallelujah! Come, our great Redeemer praise
I will sing The glorious praises Of my God through all my days
Put no confidence in princes Nor on human help depend
They shall die To dust returning All their thoughts and plan shall end
Happy are The ones professing Jacob's God to be their aid
They are blest Whose hope of blessing On the Lord their God is stayed
Heaven and earth The Lord created Seas and all that they contain
He delivers from oppression Righteousness he will maintain
Food he daily give the hungry Sets the mourning prisoner free
Raises those Bowed down with anguish Makes the sightless eyes to see
God our Savior love the righteous And the stranger he befriends
Helps the orphan and the widow Judgment on the wicked sends
Praise the Lord! Sing hallelujah!

Come, our great Redeemer praise I will sing The glorious praises
Of my God through all my days Over all God reigns forever

Through all ages he is King Unto him Your God, O Zion Joyful
hallelujahs sing

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "Come Let Us Worship And Bow Down"

Lift Up Your Hearts #510

Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.

Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
And the sheep of his hand, just the sheep of his hand

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Our Father, we can be so adept at inserting our self-interests into our walk with you.

We may serve you, but in ways that highlight our talents for others to admire and compliment; more interested that they honor us than that they honor you.

We may serve others, but in ways that are convenient for us and do not require sacrifice.

We learn your ways, but more because we recognize that they ultimately benefit us, rather than to honor you.

Forgive us, Lord, by the grace of Jesus alone. Amen.

Words of Assurance Ephesians 5:1-2,8

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.... For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live, then, as children of light.

Song of Entrusting: "In Christ Alone"

Lift Up Your Hearts #770

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My comforter my all in all— Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe!

This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save.

Till on the cross as Jesus died. The wrath of God was satisfied;

For ev'ry sin on Him was laid— Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;

Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave. He rose again!

And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;

For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death— This is the pow'r of Christ in me;

From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow'r of hell, no human plan, Can ever pluck me from His hand;

Till He returns or calls me home— Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Judges 16:1-22

¹⁶ One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. ² The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, "At dawn we'll kill him." ³ But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. ⁴ Sometime later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver." ⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued." ⁷ Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man." ⁸ Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. ⁹ With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered. ¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied." ¹¹ He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man." ¹² So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads. ¹³ Delilah then said to Samson, "All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied." He replied, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become as weak as any other man." So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric ¹⁴ and tightened it with the pin. Again she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric. ¹⁵ Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the

secret of your great strength.” ¹⁶ With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

¹⁷ So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.” ¹⁸ When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. ¹⁹ After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. ²⁰ Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him. ²¹ Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. ²² But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Message: What’s Your Story, Samson?

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

- * Song of Response: “Seek Ye First” Lift Up Your Hearts #899
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.
Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.
We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

- * Blessing
- * Closing Song: “In Thee Is Gladness” Lift Up Your Hearts #344
In Thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, day-star of my heart!
By Thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true Redeemer art!
Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest.
Who trusts Thee surely has built securely and stands forever: Allelujah!
Our hearts are longing to see thy dawning. Living or dying, in thee abiding,
naught can us sever: Allelujah!
Jesus is ours! We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses; he can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story - tell of His glory with hearts and voices;
all heaven rejoices in him forever: Allelujah! We shout for gladness,

triumph o'er sadness, love him and praise him,
and still shall raise him glad hymns forever: Allelujah!

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Jeff Kopaska

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Elijah Hufford, Laura Hufford, Andrew Friend, Pam Voss

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This week's special offering will be for the **Christian Education Tuition Assistance Fund**. Please consider giving to this fund as one of the ways in which we can support families and children of Trinity and as an action following from the promises we make at baptism to nurture the faith of the children of our congregation.

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!

Young Adult Ministry first meeting will be lunch will be on February 23rd!.

Council is requesting your prayerful consideration and nomination of TCRC members to serve in the offices of elder and deacon. The form, including instructions, for nominations is on the table in the entryway. Please put your completed forms in the box there labeled **"ELDER & DEACON NOMINATIONS"** by **March 9th**

Is there a positive vision for faith and technology? How does our work contribute to larger story? Dr Ethan Brue of Dordt University addresses these crucial matters in next Monday's ISU special lecture: *Technology As Storytelling : How Science and Faith Play*, Tomorrow, Monday, February 17, 6pm @ the Memorial Union, Room 2630. This event sponsored by Areopagus Campus Ministry.



Important conversation on a larger vision for mental health, with Dr Warren Kinghorn of Duke University, and ISU's own Dr Marty Martinez and Dr Eric Weber. *Is There more to Mental Health?: A Discussion on Flourishing, Suffering and Spirituality*. Tuesday, February 25, 7:30pm @ Memorial Union, South Ballroom. Questions? Please talk to Lora Copley,



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

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.

If you group or committee has an announcement, please be sure to get me an update by 10:30 am on Thursday so I have time to get it in them into the announcements for the week.

Pam Whitney will be gone from March 2nd through the 10th

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, Feb 23rd 7 pm Mucky Duck.

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

Next Council meeting is March 12th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: God's Call for Justice - Check out this week's kids' devotion "God's Call for Justice" at www.kidscorner.net. God saw injustice in Israel.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God spoke out against their wrong. He protested to help the Israelites make a change! Will you join God in his call for justice? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Church in Action Comic Book.

Kids in Action Video - Kids in Action host Maya meets Hudson and Cole performing incredible stunts, balancing acts, and juggling...lots of juggling. Check out more YouTube Kids in Action videos at kidscorner.net/kids-in-action. Kids in Action, a web series by Kids Corner, tells stories of amazing kids who are doing God's work right now.

Groundwork: God's Design for Sex and Relationships - Song of Songs offers us a vision of relationships that is in stark contrast to the self-serving models we see around us in culture. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Song of Songs 3-8 to learn about God's design for sex and love, which is filled with self-sacrifice, mutuality, commitment, delight, love, and respect and is deeply rooted in his own character. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

World Renew

World Renew DRS Sunday is Next Week - The damage from a tornado, flood, wildfire, or hurricane is overwhelming for people who have lost their belongings — but you can help. Join us next week for World Renew DRS Sunday. Your prayers and financial support provide vital services for those in need. Visit worldrenew.net/drs, call 1-800-552-7972, or email drs@worldrenew.net to give or to learn more.

Other

Annual Inter-Classis Safe Church Conference - The 2025 annual inter-classis safe church conference is scheduled for March 1, 2025, from 9:00 am-3:30 pm at the Waterloo (Ontario) CRC. Sheila Wray Gregoire will be the plenary speaker. Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen and Julia Rathbun, both Safe Church Consultants with the CRCNA, will be leading workshops. The conference is hosted by the Classis Huron Safe Church Team. To register please go to crcna.regfox.com/safe-church-conference-2025. Please register by February 27. Questions can be directed to Carel Geleynse, Classis Huron Safe Church Coordinator, at carelgeleynse20@gmail.com

Faith Alive Temporary Shutdown - IMPORTANT NOTICE: From February 17 to February 26, the Faith Alive call center and website will not be accepting orders. On February 27 their new online store will launch and be ready to serve church resource needs once again!

Calvin University

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece - October 13-24, 2025: Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (4 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of

biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:6, NIV). All through the Bible, seeking justice and flourishing for all people in the face of injustice is an integral part of following the Lord. This week, as we observe the World Day of Social Justice, write down five reasons why you believe pursuing justice is an act of faithful discipleship and faith formation. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Jeff Kopaska

Sound: Tom Whitney

Nursery Melody and Cassie

Children's message: Jeff Kopaska

Greeters: Nikkel

Greeters

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

Nursery

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

June 8	Judy and Caraline/Stacy	June 22	Lyndee and Alisabeth
June 15	Mary and Brianna	June 29	Rachel and Kathlyn
Children's Message		April 27	Laura Hufford
Feb 16	Jeff Kopaska	May 4	Lora Copley
Feb 23	Stacy Hertz	May 11	Jeff Kopaska
March 2	Rex De Bruin	May 18	Stacy Hertz
March 9	Randy Raak	May 25	Rex De Bruin
March 16	Laura Hufford	June 1	Randy Raak
March 23	Lora Copley	June 8	Laura Hufford
March 30	Jeff Kopaska	June 15	Lora Copley
April 6	Stacy Hertz	June 22	Jeff Kopaska
April 13	Rex De Bruin	June 29	Stacy Hertz
April 20	Randy Raak		

Congregational Prayer

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

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