

WORSHIP SERVICE
May 11, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (Psalm 31:1-3)

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Love the Lord, all his faithful people! The Lord preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full.

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

* Opening Song: "Beautiful One"

Lift Up Your Hearts #607

Wonderful so wonderful is Your unfailing love. Your cross has spoken mercy over me. No eye has seen no ear has heard no heart could fully know. How glorious how beautiful You are! Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing.

Powerful so powerful Your glory fills the skies, Your mighty works displayed for all to see. The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing. How marvelous how wonderful You are. Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing.

You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew. You captured my heart with this love. 'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You. You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew. You captured my heart with this love. 'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You.

Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing.

Beautiful One I love; Beautiful One I adore. Beautiful One my soul must sing.

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "Mighty To Save"

Lift Up Your Hearts #611

Everyone needs compassion, A love that's never failing; Let mercy fall on me.

Everyone needs forgiveness, The kindness of a Savior, The hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains; My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save.

Forever Author of salvation, He rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, All my fears and failures; Fill my life again.

I give my life to follow Everything I believe in. Now I surrender.

Savior, He can move the mountains; My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save.
Forever Author of salvation, He rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave.

Shine your light and let the whole world see We're singing For the glory of the risen King. Jesus!

Shine your light and let the whole world see We're singing For the glory of the risen King.

Savior, He can move the mountains; My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save.
Forever Author of salvation, He rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord, give us the eyes of faith to trust in you, even in our difficulties.

It is so easy to put our trust in human wisdom and the ways of our culture, even when it contradicts your ways.

Help us to recognize the failures of life apart from you; and the end result of disregarding you.

For you alone have the words of truth, you are our foundation and our refuge.

Amen.

Words of Assurance (*John 8:31-36*)

To those who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.... Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Song of Entrusting: "And Can It Be"

Lift Up Your Hearts #695

And can it be that I should gain An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who caused his bitter death?
Amazing love! How can it be That you, my Lord, should die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be That you, my Lord, should die for me?
He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race;
What mercy this, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.
Amazing love! How can it be That you, my Lord, should die for me?
Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Your sunrise turned that night to day; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, your voice I knew; I rose, went out and followed you.
Amazing love! How can it be That you, my Lord, should die for me?
No condemnation now I dread; for Christ, and all in him, is mine!

Professions of Faith:

Kathlyn Copley, Jackson Hufford, Cassie Kopaska, Brianna Kopaska, and Amelia 't Hoen

Children's Message
Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Joshua 5:13-15, Matthew 18:10, 1 John 5:14

Joshua 5:13-15

¹³ Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

¹⁴ "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord^[a] have for his servant?"

¹⁵ The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Matthew 18:10

¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Hebrews 1:14

¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Message: Experiencing Mystery - God's Unusual Responses

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "Be Thou My Vision"

Lift Up Your Hearts #859

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me,
Lord.

Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.
Riches I heed not nor vain, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:

thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Lift Up Your Hearts #946

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing; you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free
Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Jeff Kopaska

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We want to thank our outgoing council members for their service and welcome the new. Thank you, Tom Kuyper, Rex De Bruin, Tom Whitney, and Joseph Yoder. Welcome to Melody Franje, Paul Kleinwolterink, Mark Voss and Derek Ten Pas.

This weeks special offering is for Tyler and Christina Helfers (Stellenbosch International Fellowship-SIF) where Tyler serves as the pastor to an international church (SIF). The church exists to be a "global family in Christ", serving students, migrant workers, and refugees from around the world. Please consider a gift towards Tyler and Christina's work to reach out to non-Christians with the Gospel, and to disciple Christians to be witnesses to Christ and the Kingdom in all areas of life

Ames Christian School will hold their spring music concert here on May 8th. Please be respectful if you come to the church at this time. The last day of school will be May 22nd, with an early out. The church will have its weekly cleaning that night, and wedding that weekend.

On May 11th Kathlyn Copley, Amelia t'Hoen, Jackson Hufford, Brianna Kopaska, and Cassie Kopaska will publicly do their Profession of Faith during the morning service. Please join us in the fellowship hall for cake and punch provided by the fellowship committee.

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.

Everyone is welcome to join the Hertz family as they celebrate Caraline's graduation from High School, Saturday, May 24th from 10.30 to 1 @1041 X Ave Boone Iowa 50036.

Everyone is welcome to join Niemeyer family as they celebrate Jadyn and Colton's graduation from High School on Saturday May 17th from 11 to 2 at the Dakins community Center in Zearing Iowa.

On Sunday, June 1st, we will celebrate the recent graduates and the conclusion of our church education year with a potluck lunch after the worship service. Caraline Hertz, Colton Niemeyer, Jadyn Niemeyer, Jackson Hufford, Alexa Kopaska, Elijah Goossen, Johnathan Copley, Joel Copley, Nima Sina, and McKenzie Niemeyer.

Reminder there will be 2 weddings at this church in May. May 23rd and 24th and May 29th and 30th. Please keep this in mind if you plan to come to the church on these days. They will be using the whole church for their events.

This summer's BBQ (Grill, Thrill, and Chill) will be held Friday June 13th. Get it on your calendar and save the date.

Summer Softball is about to begin. Please contact Derek Ten Pas if you are interested or have questions. (game dates times and field) 5/13 8:10 and 9:10 Field 6 | 5/20 7:10 Field 6 | 5/27 6:10 Field 5 | 6/3 8:10 Field 6 | 6/10 7:10 Field 6 | 6/17 6:10 Field 6 | 6/24 8:10 and 9:10 Field 6 | 7/1 6:10 and 7:10 Field 5 | 7/8 Rain Makeup Date | 7/15 Tournament Begins

If your 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 into the announcements for the week. Thanks Pam

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 3 through 3rd 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 Will resume in the fall.

Children and Worship – Happening after the children’s message

Young Adult Ministry – Meets Sunday after service @11:30

Breakfast Club meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 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 **June 1st** 7 pm Mucky Duck.

Hymn Sing will be the first Sunday of the Month at 5 pm at the Church. June 1st is the next one.

Next Council meeting is May 14th

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRC Communications

40 Days of Prayer for Synod 2025 - It's not too late! Pray-ers from around the denomination and the world began praying for Synod 2025 on May 4, but new pray-ers are always welcome. With prayers contributed by a wide variety of CRC writers, join us as we seek God's guidance and presence for this year's synod. Learn more and sign up for either daily Scripture and prayers OR a week’s worth of Scripture and prayers that will be emailed to you. crcna.org/synod/prayer

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Rest and Recharge - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion, “Rest and Recharge: Following Jesus’ Example in a Digital World” at www.kidscorner.net. Jesus took time to rest, pray, and spend time with his friends, and we should too! Taking breaks from technology helps us feel refreshed, connect with God, and enjoy time with the people we love. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC’s Coloring Packet Collection.

Groundwork: Adopt the Mindset of Christ - As Christians, many of us long to make the world a better place. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 22:15-45, 1 Peter 2:21-23, and Matthew 20:24-28 to study the servant mindset Jesus modeled. Together we’ll glean biblical wisdom for discerning the relationship between faith and power and we’ll discuss the importance of developing Christlikeness. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CRC Heritage Fund

Doing More for Ministry (2) - “I wish I could do more!” That’s a common sentiment we hear from supporters of CRC Ministries who are passionate about the work of ministries like Thrive, Reframe, and Resonate. One way you can do more for ministry is naming CRCNA as a charitable beneficiary of your retirement assets or life insurance policy. Learn more at crcna.org/heritagefund or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor, at 616-223-5885.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Mother's Day - While Mother's Day is not part of the church calendar, it provides a great opportunity to give thanks to God for the people in our lives—whether they be mothers, siblings, aunts, grandmothers, or friends—who nurture, support, love, and encourage us to be all that God created us to be. Consider who has functioned in this way in your life, and take time this week to thank them.

Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

CRC Leadership Training - Thriving Essentials is a valuable training course for elders, deacons, church staff, and any volunteer ministry leader. Right now, the CRCNA is offering this training for entire church leadership teams. We're gauging interest from different regions to determine where we can set up events and send facilitators in the coming months and years. Learn more and register your church now at crcna.org/Essentials

World Renew

World Renew Nicaragua Young Adults Trip - Young adults (18–30), join us in Nicaragua this August 9–17, 2025! Experience God in another culture while developing a perspective on poverty, missions and community development. Scholarship available via application! Contact Andrew Rienstra at arienstra@worldrenew.net or visit <https://bit.ly/nicaragua2025info> to learn more and register.

Happy Mother's Day! Help Support Babies and Moms - Today we celebrate the love and devotion of mothers around the world. Your gifts to World Renew today will help equip moms to give their babies the best possible start in the first 1,000 days of life and help ensure healthy futures. Please give generously today—with your support, we can share God's love and change countless lives for generations. To learn more or give online, visit worldrenew.net/first1000days.

Other

Register for a High School Experience of a Lifetime! - Tri-State Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is accepting applications for the upcoming weekend at the Faith Church in Rock Valley, Iowa. TEC is an interdenominational three-day Christian retreat designed to help high schoolers learn more about their faith and their community. The next TEC is June 13-15, 2025. If you would like to learn more about TEC or register, please visit www.TriStateTEC.org or email TriStateTEC@gmail.com. The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt & other special gifts. Scholarships are available upon request.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Lora Copley

Sound: Tom Whitney

Nursery: Donna and Pam

Children's message: Jeff Kopaska

Greeters: Verkade

Greeters

May 11 Verkade

May 18 Nikkel

May 25

June 1

De Bruin

Franje

June 8 Copley
 June 15 Hobson
 June 22 Voss
 June 29 Hubert
 July 6 Hufford
 July 13 Friend
 July 20 Hallihan
 July 27 Hertz

Nursery

May 11 Donna and Pam
 May 18 Rachel and Kenzie
 May 25 Mindy and Melody
 June 1 Megan and Elizabeth
 June 8 Stacy and Caraline
 June 15 Mary and Brianna
 June 22 Lyndee and Alisabeth
 June 29 Rachel and Kathlyn
 July 6 Melody and Lyndee
 July 13 Jessica and Kristy
 July 20 Donna and Cassie

Children's Message

May 11 Jeff Kopaska
 May 18 Rex De Briun
 May 25 Randy Raak
 June 1 Stacy Hertz
 June 8 Laura Hufford
 June 15 Lora Copley
 June 22 Jeff Kopaska
 June 29 Stacy Hertz
 July 6 Rex De Bruin
 July 13 Randy Raak
 July 20 Laura Hufford

Congregational Prayer

May 11 Lora Copley
 May 18 Randy Raak
 May 25 Jeff Kopaska
 June 1 Tom Niehof
 June 8 Randy Raak
 June 15 Lora Copley
 June 22 Tom Kuyper

August 3 Irvin
 August 10 Nancy Klemme
 August 17 Kleinwolterink
 August 24 Kopaska
 August 31 Kuyper
 September 7 Niehof
 September 14 Niemeyer
 September 21 Nikkel

July 27 Elaine and Pam
 August 3 Mindy and Kenzie
 August 10 Megan and Sue F
 August 17 Kopaska and Elizabeth H
 August 24 Mary and Caraline
 August 31 Sue F and Brianna
 September 7 Sue F and Alisabeth
 September 14 Sue F and Kathlyn
 September 21 Jessica and Sue F
 September 28 Donna and Kristy

July 27 Lora Copley
 August 3 Jeff Kopaska
 August 10 Stacy Hertz
 August 17 Rex De Bruin
 August 24 Randy Raak
 August 31 Laura Hufford
 September 7 Lora Copley
 September 14 Jeff Kopaska
 September 21 Stacy Hertz
 September 28 Rex De Bruin

June 29 Randy Raak
 July 6 Rex De Bruin
 July 13 Randy Raak
 July 20 Laura Hufford
 July 27 Lora Copley
 August 3 Jeff Kopaska
 August 10 Stacy Hertz

August 17 Rex De Bruin
August 24 Randy Raak
August 31 Laura Hufford
September 7 Lora Copley

September 14 Jeff Kopaska
September 21 Stacy Hertz
September 28 Rex De Bruin

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

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

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

Committee Chairs: Building & Grounds – Jim Bergman; Education – Andrew Friend; Endowment – Paul Kleinwolterink; Fellowship – Sue Fee; Technology – Tom Kuyper; Outreach and Enfolding – Mark Voss; Worship – Randy Raak