

WORSHIP SERVICE

July 20, 2025

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship (from Psalm)

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, [Jesus] answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." (Luke 17:20-21)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

So seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

* Opening Songs: "Hear the Call of the Kingdom"

Hear the call of the kingdom Lift your eyes to the King

Let His song rise within you As a fragrant offering

Of how God, rich in mercy Came in Christ to redeem

All who trust in His unfailing grace Hear the call of the Kingdom

To be children of light With the mercy of heaven

The humility of Christ Walking justly before Him

Loving all that is right That the life of Christ

May shine through Him King of Heaven

We will answer the call We will follow

Bringing hope to the world Filled with passion

Filled with power to proclaim Salvation in Jesus' name

Hear the call of the Kingdom To reach out to the lost

With the Father's compassion In the wonder of the cross

Bringing peace and forgiveness And a hope yet to come

Let the nations put their trust in Him. King of Heaven

We will answer the call We will follow

Bringing hope to the world Filled with passion

Filled with power to proclaim Salvation in Jesus' name

King of Heaven We will answer the call

We will follow Bringing hope to the world
Filled with passion Filled with power to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "Fill Thou My Life , O Lord, My God" *Lift Up Your Hearts #356*

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God, In every part with praise,
That my whole being may proclaim Thy being and thy ways
Not for the lip of praise alone, Nor e'en the praising heart I ask,
but for a life made up of praise in every part.
Praise in the common words I speak, life's common looks and tones,
in fellowship enjoyed at home with my beloved ones,
enduring wrong, reproach or loss with sweet and steadfast will,
forgiving freely those who hate, returning good for ill.
So shall each fear, each fret, each care
Be turned into a song, And every winding of the way
The echo shall prolong. So shall no part of day or night
From sacredness be free, But all my life, in every step,
Be fellowship with Thee.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

The Marks of the True Church - from the Belgic Confession, article 29

The true church can be recognized by the following: the pure preaching of the gospel; the pure administration of the sacraments as Christ instituted them; and it practices church discipline for correcting faults.

In short, it governs itself according to the pure Word of God, rejecting all things contrary to it and holding Jesus Christ as the only Head.

As for the false church, it assigns more authority to itself and its ordinances than to the Word of God; it does not want to subject itself to the yoke of Christ; it does not administer the sacraments as Christ commanded in his Word;

It rather adds to them or subtracts from them as it pleases; it bases itself on humans more than Christ; it persecutes those who live holy lives according to the Word of God and who rebuke it for its faults, greed, and idolatry.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, in our pride and self-absorption we are tempted to remake You into our image, and to remake your Church into something that serves our interests more than serving you.

We want the Church to tell us what we want to hear, rather than your truth.

We use it to bring honor to ourselves, rather than to honor only you.

Draw our hearts to you, Lord, teach us your ways, and lead us in grace and truth, amen.

Words of Assurance: John 10:14-16,27-28 (Jesus, the Good Shepherd of his church)

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me... I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

Song of Entrusting: “Before the Throne of God Above” *Lift Up Your Hearts* #682

Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea;
a great High Priest, whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM," the King of glory and of grace!

One with himself, I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Acts 15:1-21

¹ Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. ³ The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

⁵ Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question. ⁷ After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by

giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. ⁹ He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.” ¹² The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. ¹³ When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon^[a] has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. ¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

¹⁶ ““After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’ ¹⁸ things known from long ago.

¹⁹ “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰ Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. ²¹ For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Message: Acts: The Church on Fire - A Changing Church

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: “Amazing Grace” (vs 1,2,4,5) *Lift Up Your Hearts #691*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;

he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come:

'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: “Freely, Freely”

God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name, I’ve been born again in Jesus name;

And in Jesus’ name I come to you To share His love as he told me to:

He said, “Freely, freely you have received. Freely, freely give;

Go in my name and, because you believe, Others will know that I live

All pow’r is giv’n in Jesus’ name, In earth and heav’n in Jesus name;

And in Jesus' name I come to you To share his pow'r as He told me to:
He said, "Freely, freely you have received. Freely, freely give;
Go in my name and, because you believe, Others will know that I live

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Children's Message: Laura Hufford

Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Char Verkade, Rex DeBruin, Alisabeth Copley, Derek Ten Pas

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The special offering this week is for **Wings of Refuge**, which is a Christ-centered organization serving survivors of sex trafficking by providing a safe home and aftercare where women can have the opportunity to heal and find new life. They have a safe home located in Ames. For more info: www.wingsofrefuge.net.

REMINDER: if you or your group use a classroom or the Library during these summer months, please do not leave any food (beverage or solid) in the room, including the trash cans. We are having issues with ants and other critters and this is the major draw for them to come into the church.

Back To School – hard to believe, but is coming, our celebration will be August 24th. More details to come.

Next Sunday, July 27, Rev. Tom Niehof will lead us in a study of I Samuel 17, the story of David and Goliath. May God bless the preaching of His Word.

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (April 3 - 13. 2026): Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (3 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](tel:616-328-3110) or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

The UFO Group is sponsoring the making of fleece blankets for hospitalized kids-(not babies) at Mary Greeley. They are asking for volunteers of all ages to help on a Sunday, August 3rd during fellowship. Asking for donations to help purchase fleece or for donations of fleece (1.5yds X 60 inches (need two pieces per blanket). big enough for a single bed. Since these will be for all kids, please, try to stay away from pink or blue colored fleece, that way anyone can receive the blanket. The estimated cost will be about \$20 per blanket. There is a signup by the office or contact Sue Fee about donations or questions.

Summer is here, and that means camping. **Midwest Basic Bible Camp** is in the works. August 3 – 7 at Pine Lake in Eldora. Camp is for those students that have completed 6th

through the 12th grade. Fliers on the table by office. Please contact Rob or Pam with any questions. Registration on line at [Camp Registration](#) Registration date is by July 21st

Pam Whitney has submitted her resignation to council. More information to come for those who may have interest in this position.

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 for June. 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.

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes Will resume in the fall.

Children and Worship – Will resume in the fall

Young Adult Ministry – Will host Summer events on Fridays and Saturdays, Text Derek

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

UFO Will meet Monday **July 21st at Deb's house. at 6:30 pm.**

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

Pub Theology meets the last Sunday of the month, **August 31st at 7 pm** Mucky Duck.

Hymn Sing first Sunday of the Month at 5 pm, next one September 7th

Next Council meeting is August 13th @ 6:30pm

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: God's Grand Story: Miriam Matters - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "God's Grand Story: Miriam Matters" at www.kidscorner.net. Discover how brave, quick-thinking Miriam played a big part in God's plan to save her baby brother, Moses! This encouraging story shows that even when we feel small or unseen, God sees us and has something special for each of us to do. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Kids Corner Ebook Collection: Faith Practices.

Groundwork: Jesus' Parables, Discipleship, and the Cost of Following Jesus - Jesus taught his followers about God's heart and values through parables, sermons, and conversation. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Luke 10:25-37; Luke 18:9-14; Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; Luke 9:57-62; and Luke 14:25-33 to discover what Jesus teaches about the attitudes and hearts of his followers and discuss honestly what it costs to

prioritize Jesus in our lives. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Eugene Peterson paraphrased part of 1 Corinthians 12 in The Message by saying, "Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful. . . ." Think of a family member or friend. Have a discussion, write a note, or draw a picture for them about how you have seen God work through them. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive
CRC Heritage Fund

Savvy Ways to Give - Generous Christians like you are giving to CRC ministries in savvy ways that have tremendous impact AND reduce their taxes! If you own stock, real estate, or other non-cash assets, you, too, can get in on the tax-saving action! When you give non-cash assets to the CRCNA, you will receive a fair market value deduction at the time of your gift. You'll also avoid capital gains on the sale of appreciated assets. Learn more at crcna.org/heritagefund or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor at 616-223-5885.

Other

Position Opening: Director of Partnership Administration - Grand Rapids, MI or Burlington ON. - Are you a servant leader with a proven track record of excellence in administration and organizational management? Do you love the church and want to use your passion for good governance, organizational strategies, and balanced budgets to further God's kingdom? Then please consider applying for the CRCNA's director of partnership administration position. As a member of the Office of General Secretary, the Director of Partnership Administration works collaboratively to guide and orient the ministries of the CRCNA according to the direction provided by the CRCNA ecclesiastical assemblies, especially synod and the Council of Delegates. Partnering with the executive leaders of the Canadian and U.S. ministry boards as well as leaders of the educational institutions and World Renew, the Director of Partnership Administration will advance the work of the CRCNA in areas such as governance and compliance, joint ministry plans, finance, and budgets to create a well-functioning organization that operates on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border. Apply at crcna.pinpointhq.com

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Randy Raak

Sound: Tom Whitney

Nursery: Donna and Cassie

Children's message: Laura Hufford

Greeters: Whitney

Greeters

July 20 Whitney

July 27 Hertz

August 3 Irvin

August 10 Nancy Klemme

August 17 Kleinwolterink
 August 24 Kopaska
 August 31 Kuyper
 Sept 7 Niehof
 Sept 14 Niemeyer
 Sept 21 Nikkel
 Sept 28 Oltman
 Oct 5 Raak
 Oct 12 Saldana
 Oct 19 Sanders/Bassham
 Oct 26 Sterneberg

Nov 2 t' Hoen
 Nov 9 VanDyk
 Nov 16 Verkade
 Nov 23 Whitney
 Nov 30 Voss
 Dec 7 Yoder
 Dec 14 Bakker
 Dec 21 Bergman
 Dec 28 De Bruin
 Jan 4 Franje
 Jan 11 Copley

Nursery

July 20 Donna and Cassie
 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
 Sept 7 Sue F and Alisabeth
 Sept 14 Sue F and Kathlyn
 Sept 21 Jessica and Sue F
 Sept 28 Donna and Kristy
 Oct 5 Sue and Cassie
 Oct 12 Mindy and Pam

Oct 19 Megan and Kenzie
 Oct 26 Judy and Sue
 Nov 2 Mary and Elizabeth
 Nov 9 Lyndee and Clayton
 Nov 16 Rachel and Brianna
 Nov 23 Melody and Alisabeth
 Nov 30 Jessica and Kathlyn
 Dec 7 Donna and Sue
 Dec 14 Sue and Kristy
 Dec 21 Mindy and Cassie
 Dec 28 Megan and Pam
 Jan 4 Judy and Kenzie
 Jan 11 Mary and Sue

Children's Message

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
 Sept 7 Lora Copley
 Sept 14 Jeff Kopaska
 Sept 21 Stacy Hertz
 Sept 28 Rex De Bruin
 Oct 5 Randy Raak
 Oct 12 Laura Hufford

Oct 19 Lora Copley
 Oct 26 Jeff Kopaska
 Nov 2 Stacy Hertz
 Nov 9 Rex De Bruin
 Nov 16 Randy Raak
 Nov 23 Laura Hufford
 Nov 30 Lora Copley
 Dec 7 Jeff Kopaska
 Dec 14 Stacy Hertz
 Dec 21 Rex De Bruin
 Dec 28 Randy Raak
 Jan 4 Laura Hufford
 Jan 11 Lora Copley

Congregational Prayer

July 20	Randy Raak	Oct 19	Tom Niehof
July 27	Tom Niehof	Oct 26	Rex De Bruin
August 3	Lora Copley	Nov 2	Randy Raak
August 10	Randy Raak	Nov 9	Rex De Bruin
August 17	Mark Voss	Nov 16	Tom Niehof
August 24	Paul Kleinwolterink	Nov 23	Randy Raak
August 31	Randy Raak	Nov 30	Mark Voss
Sept 7	Jeff Kopaska	Dec 7	Paul Kleinwolterink
Sept 14	Tom Niehof	Dec 14	Randy Raak
Sept 21	Randy Raak	Dec 21	Jeff Kopaska
Sept 28	Rex De Bruin	Dec 28	Tom Niehof
Oct 5	Melody Franje	Jan 4	Randy Raak
Oct 12	Randy Raak	Jan 11	Lora Copley

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 = Paul Kleinwolterink; H-K = Melody Franje; L-S = Joel Copley; T-Z = Naomi Friend:

Deacons: A-G = Derek Ten Pas;; H-K = Christopher 't Hoen;; L-S = Mark Voss;; 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