WORSHIP SERVICE September 7, 2025

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

- * God's Greeting
- * We Greet One Another
- * Call to Worship (from 1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our fathers, from everlasting to everlasting.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

* Opening Songs: "God of Wonders"

Lift Up Your Hearts #4

Lord of all creation Of the water, earth and sky

The Heavens are Your Tabernacle Glory to the Lord on high

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy

The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy

Lord of Heaven and Earth Lord of Heaven and Earth

Early in the morning I will celebrate the light

And when I stumble into darkness I will call Your name by night

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy

The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy

Lord of Heaven and Earth Lord of Heaven and Earth

Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth

Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth

Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy

Precious Lord, reveal your heart to me, Father holy, holy;

The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy, holy, holy

Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth

- * Opening Prayer:
- * Song: "By Faith"

By Faith we see the hand of God In the light of creation's grand design In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness Who walk by faith and not by sight By Faith our father roamed the earth with the pow'r of His promise in their hearts of a holy city built by God's own hand a place where peace and justice reign We will stand as the children of the promise We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward

till the race is finished and the work is done, We'll walk by faith and not by sight By Faith the prophets saw a day When the longed for Messiah would appear With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death And rise triumphant from the grave

By Faith the church was called to go In the power of the Spirit to the lost To deliver captives and to preach good news In ev'ry corner of the earth

We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward till the race is finished and the work is done,

We'll walk by faith and not by sight

By Faith this mountain shall be moved And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail For we know in Christ all things are possible For all who call up on his name.

We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward till the race is finished and the work is done,

We'll walk by faith and not by sight

Church Education Commissioning Litany & Prayer

Blessing to Students

Leader: Students, may God surround you with blessings and protection as you carry your backpacks into a new year. As you carry notes, books, and assignments, know that you also carry the love of Christ that enables you to see everyone around you as someone loved by God.

People: May you be filled with God's grace.

Leader: As you grow in wisdom and knowledge

People: May you grow in compassion.

ALL Students: We will.

Charge to the Parents

Leader: Parents, may the Holy Spirit remind you that as covenant partners, our faith community is here for you and your children. As you send them to be molded and shaped in knowledge,

People: May you remember they are gifts from God.

Leader: As you challenge and encourage them to grow.

People: May you have perseverance and marvel at God's new work in the world.

Commissioning of Teachers

Leader: Teachers, may God's blessing, protection, and Spirit be upon you as you guide, lead, serve, and even comfort students. You have been called by God to be ambassadors for Christ, living out God's love in your daily work. As you educate God's children of all ages

People: May you be filled with mercy and wisdom.

Leader: As you encounter challenging situations and challenging students,

People: May you love and serve as Christ, in the strength of the Spirit.

Prayer for the church school year

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Holy Father, sometimes we question your methods, and even your motives.

We may think of hardships as unfair treatment, when you intend for us to persevere and grow through them, or even to overcome them for the benefit of ourselves and others.

We may think of trials as arbitrary punishments, and that we have done nothing to deserve them, when we are only experiencing the general consequences of sin in this world.

We may face spiritual opposition, and think that you have abandoned us; when it is the opposition from the Devil that you warned us about.

Lord, give us wisdom, strength of character, grace, and perseverance, so that we may honor you, even in the trials of our lives. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." – James 1:2-4

Song of Entrusting: "My Jesus, I Love Thee" *Lift Up Your Hearts* #366 My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine; for thee all the follies of sin I resign; my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death, and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath, and say when the deathdew lies cold on my brow: If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright; I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow: If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Children's Message Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Genesis 40

¹ When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, ² when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. ³ After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. ⁴ And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. ⁵ He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. ⁶ After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—thin and scorched by the east wind. ⁷ The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream. ⁸ In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

⁹Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. ¹⁰Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. ¹¹Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. ¹²Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his

dream. ¹³ And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was impaled." ¹⁴ So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

¹⁵ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." ¹⁶ "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." ¹⁷ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile, ¹⁸ when out of the river there came up seven cows, fat and sleek, and they grazed among the reeds. ¹⁹ After them, seven other cows came up—scrawny and very ugly and lean. I had never seen such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt. ²⁰ The lean, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first. ²¹ But even after they ate them, no one could tell that they had done so; they looked just as ugly as before. Then I woke up. ²² "In my dream I saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk. ²³ After them, seven other heads sprouted—withered and thin and scorched by the east wind. ²⁴ The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me." ²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. ²⁷ The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. ²⁸ "It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹ Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, ³⁰ but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. ³¹ The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. ³² The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon. 33 "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. ³⁵ They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. ³⁶ This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine." ³⁷ The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. ³⁸ So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." 41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." ⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a

command, [b] and people shouted before him, "Make way [c]!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. 44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." ⁴⁵ Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, [d] to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt. ⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. ⁴⁷ During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. ⁴⁸ Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. ⁴⁹ Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure. ⁵⁰ Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. 51 Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh [2] and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." 52 The second son he named Ephraim^[f] and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." ⁵³ The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, ⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. 55 When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." ⁵⁶ When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. ⁵⁷ And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-

Message: Road Closed: Detour Ahead - From Pit to Pinnacle

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;

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response: "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, whoever 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;

my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God, with Christ my Savior and my God.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Communion Song: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Lift Up Your Hearts #521

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount – I'm fixed upon it mount of God's unchanging love

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;

prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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: Rob Barnes Message: Pastor Randy Raak

Musicians: Elijah Goossen, Eli Hufford, Matt Haken

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Communion: Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for believers. If you are sorry for your sins and follow Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are invited to come to his table. Through this celebration, we remember that:

a. The Lord's Supper is a thanksgiving to God.

- b. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ.
- c. The Lord's Supper is a participation in the body and the blood of Christ.
- d. The Lord's Supper signifies the work of the Spirit.

The Lord's Supper seals the present and coming kingdom of God.

The special offering next Sunday is for Resonate Global Missions, Benjamin Groenewold and Trica VanDyk (John VanDyk's sister). They are missionaries to Lithuania. They both teach at LCC International University in Klaipeda Lithuania. LCC is a Christian liberal arts university that is uniquely placed to develop future leaders in a region of the world deeply damaged by Soviet rule. They have a few flyers on the table outside the sanctuary.

Hymn Sing: Reminder, this Sunday hymn sing will return at 5 pm. Hope to see you there.

As we look forward to the time of prayer, listening, and discussion during the Sunday School time after the September 14 service, the council asks that you be in prayer about some specific things. What has changed about TCRC since we engaged in this process 4 years ago? Where do you see our biggest challenges today, both within the church and from the outside? How has TCRC been equipped by God to best serve and reach the community within and around us? We currently pour our efforts and resources into (in declining order) worship, education, administration & fellowship (roughly equal), property maintenance & outreach (roughly equal). Is our current mixture appropriate? Are there other ways to support the Areopagus Campus Ministry? The high school and junior high classes are welcome to join in the discussion. The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a lunch after the discussion time. A pasta bar, with gluten free options, will be provided. A signup sheet to bring a dessert is on the table by the office.

Ames Christian School – ACS is back at Trinity this fall for the 2025-2026 school year. It is at this time as well that we remind everyone who uses the church to be mindful of any mess you create. The school is here every day, and should not have to clean up after our events. They use the fellowship hall, kitchen, and class rooms. Please be mindful of any messes made by your group or yourself while using the church, including dishes.

Sunday school and Children in Worship: Will start this Sunday, September 7th **Roots (Youth Group)** is starting on September 10 @ 7:00 pm at the church, hope to see you all there for the start of the new year.

Adult Sunday School will meet in Room 7 at 10:50 a.m. Rev. Tom Niehof will lead us in a study of the Gospel of Mark. Feel free to bring your Bible, so you can make notes in the margins. All are welcome for this new study.

Amelia goes to Spain! You're invited to Amelia's farewell party. Amelia departs for Spain on September 11th to study abroad for a full academic year. The party will be held on Saturday August 30, between 1pm – 3pm (ROOTS-people, you're invited from 5pm – 9pm). Feel free to stop by to just say hi or stay a while. We will provide drinks and food.

Trunk or Treat is happening again this year, with Halloween on a Friday, the date has been moved to the Friday before, Oct 24th.. A sign-up sheet to volunteer and more information for this great event is coming soon.

The church will be host to 2 more weddings this year. Niemeyer on Oct. 18th and De Penning wedding on Oct 25th

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 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

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.

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 September 7th.

Children and Worship – Will resume September 7th.

Young Adult Ministry – Will host summer events on Fridays and Saturdays, Text Derek, Will start again on Sept 28th, contact Derek before then for updates.

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

UFO Meets the 3^{rd} Monday of the Month. will meet on Monday, September 15^{th} @ 6:30pm at Kelly's home

Women's Bible Study Meets the first Monday of the month

Pub Theology meets the last Sunday of the month, **September 28**th at 7 pm Mucky Duck.

Hymn Sing first Sunday of the Month at 5 pm, next one September 7th Next Council meeting is September 10th @ 6:30pm

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Praying for Our Enemies - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Praying for Our Enemies" at www.kidscorner.net. In Matthew 5, Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Mount. He wanted people to know how to treat one another and show love the way he loves. He even wants us to show love and kindness to those we think of as our enemies because God cares about and provides for everyone. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the classic "Liz and Friends" podcast!

Groundwork: Living as Citizens of God's Kingdom Now - We've learned that Jesus brought God's kingdom near -- so near, in fact, it's within us. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 6:9-13, Romans 14:17, Micah 4:1-5, Matthew 25:35-40, Philippians 2:5-8, Acts 2:42-47, Revelation 11:15, and 1 Corinthians 15:58 to learn what it means and looks like for us to live in God's kingdom here and now, even when we can't fully see it. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Calvin University

Hymn Text Contest - Calvin University will host an Anniversary Worship Celebration in honor of its 150th year on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at the Calvin University Covenant Fine Arts Center for community worship. You can help us celebrate by participating in our 150th Anniversary Hymn Text Contest! The planning committee invites hymnwriters to submit a hymn text to be sung at the worship service; submissions must be sent via email by November 1, 2025. The winner of this contest will receive a \$1,500 award. Find details at calvin.edu/150/hymn-contest CRC Heritage Fund

Happy Grandparents Day! - Today we celebrate grandparents! On this special day, consider how you might extend your legacy—whether by setting up a trust or including a charitable gift in your will. If you haven't taken that step yet, the CRC offers resources to guide you. Learn more about planned giving at crcna.org/foundation. Thrive

Help Families Affected by the Afghanistan Earthquake - On August 31, a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck Afghanistan, killing more than 1,400 people and injuring more than 3,000 people. World Renew is planning a response to bring emergency assistance to vulnerable families affected by this disaster. Please join us in prayer for Afghanistan and give generously to help earthquake survivors at worldrenew.net/afghanistan-earthquake, by calling 1-800-552-7972, or by mailing a check made out to World Renew, with "Afghanistan Earthquake 2025" in the memo line, to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.

VOLUNTEERS

Congregational Prayer: Jeff Kopaska Sound: Byran Van Belle Nursery Sue F and Alisabeth

Children's message: Rob Barnes

Greeters: Niehof

Greeters

Sept 7	Niehof	Oct 26	Sterneberg
Sept 14	Niemeyer	Nov 2	t' Hoen
Sept 21	Nikkel	Nov 9	VanDyk
Sept 28	Oltman	Nov 16	Verkade
Oct 5	Raak	Nov 23	Whitney
Oct 12	Saldana	Nov 30	Voss
Oct 19	Sanders/Bassham	Dec 7	Yoder

Dec 14 Dec 21 Dec 28	Bakker Bergman De Bruin	Jan 4 Jan 11	Franje Copley		
Nursery Sept 7 Sept 14 Sept 21 Sept 28 Oct 5 Oct 12 Oct 19 Oct 26 Nov 2 Nov 9	Sue F and Alisabeth Mindy and Kathlyn Jessica and Donna Sue and Kristy Sue and Cassie Sue and Pam Megan and Kenzie Judy and Sue Mary and Elizabeth Lyndee and Clayton	Nov 16 Nov 23 Nov 30 Dec 7 Dec 14 Dec 21 Dec 28 Jan 4 Jan 11	Rachel and Brianna Melody and Alisabeth Jessica and Kathlyn Donna and Sue Sue and Kristy Mindy and Cassie Megan and Pam Judy and Kenzie Mary and Sue		
Children's Message					
Sept 7 Sept 14 Sept 21 Sept 28 Oct 5 Oct 12 Oct 19 Oct 26 Nov 2 Nov 9	Rob Barnes Jeff Kopaska Stacy Hertz Rex De Bruin Randy Raak Laura Hufford Lora Copley Jeff Kopaska Stacy Hertz Rex De Bruin	Nov 16 Nov 23 Nov 30 Dec 7 Dec 14 Dec 21 Dec 28 Jan 4 Jan 11	Randy Raak Laura Hufford Lora Copley Jeff Kopaska Stacy Hertz Rex De Bruin Randy Raak Laura Hufford Lora Copley		
Congregational Prayer					
Sept 7 Sept 14 Sept 21 Sept 28 Oct 5 Oct 12 Oct 19 Oct 26 Nov 2 Nov 9	Jeff Kopaska Randy Raak Randy Raak Rex De Bruin Melody Franje Randy Raak Tom Niehof Rex De Bruin Randy Raak Rex De Bruin	Nov 16 Nov 23 Nov 30 Dec 7 Dec 14 Dec 21 Dec 28 Jan 4 Jan 11	Tom Niehof Randy Raak Mark Voss Paul Kleinwolterink Randy Raak Jeff Kopaska Tom Niehof Randy Raak 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