

WORSHIP SERVICE
September 6, 2026

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him
and praise his name.*

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues
through all generations.**

* Opening Song: "Amid the Thronging Worshipers" *Lift Up Your Hearts #511*

Amid the thronging worshipers the Lord, our God, I bless;

Before his people gathered here his name will I confess.

Come, praise him, all who fear the Lord, the children of his grace;

With reverence sound his glories forth and bow before his face.

The burden of the sorrowful the Lord will not despise;

He has not turned from those who mourn, he listens to their cries.

His goodness makes me join the throng where saints his praise proclaim,

And there will I fulfill my vows with those who fear his name.

He feeds with good the humble soul and satisfies the meek,

And they shall live and praise the Lord who for his mercy seek.

The ends of all the earth will hear, the nations seek the Lord;

They worship him, the King of kings, in earth and heaven adored.

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "Lord Most High"

Lift Up Your Hearts #593

From the ends of the earth, *From the ends of the earth,*
From the depths of the sea, *From the depths of the sea,*
From the heights of the heavens, *From the heights of the heavens,*
Your name be praised.

From the hearts of the weak, *From the hearts of the weak,*
From the shouts of the strong, *From the shouts of the strong,*
From the lips of all people, *From the lips of all people,*
This song we raise Lord

Throughout the endless ages you will be crowned with praises,
Lord Most High. Exalted in every nation, sovereign of all creation
Lord Most High, be magnified be magnified.

From the ends of the earth, *From the ends of the earth,*
From the depths of the sea, *From the depths of the sea,*
From the heights of the heavens, *From the heights of the heavens,*
Your name be praised.

From the hearts of the weak, *From the hearts of the weak,*
From the shouts of the strong, *From the shouts of the strong,*
From the lips of all people, *From the lips of all people,*
This song we raise Lord

Throughout the endless ages you will be crowned with praises,
Lord Most High. Exalted in every nation, sovereign of all creation
Lord Most High, be magnified be magnified.

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with an unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, we admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Romans 8:15-17)

You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

Song of Response: “I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous Grace” LUYH #690

I know not why God’s wondrous grace to me he has made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own.
But I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able
To keep that which I’ve committed unto him against that day.

I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart
Nor how believing in his Word wrought peace within my heart.
But I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able
To keep that which I’ve committed unto him against that day.

I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing us of sin
Revealing Jesus through the Word, creating faith in him.
But I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able
To keep that which I’ve committed unto him against that day.

I know not what of good or ill may be reserved for me
Of weary ways or golden days, before his face I see.
But I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able
To keep that which I’ve committed unto him against that day.

Children’s Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

The Setting: Slides of Ephesus in Paul's Day

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:
² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ 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. ⁴ For he chose us in

him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Message: "The Earnest of Our Inheritance"

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, 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 be fall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S COVENANT WITH US

The Scriptural Teaching Regarding the Lord's Supper
Celebration of Holy Communion

As the bread is passed: "Table of Plenty"

Lift Up Your Hearts #808

Refrain:

Come to the feast of heaven and earth! Come to the table of plenty! God will
provide for all that we need, here at the table of plenty.

O come and sit at my table where saints and sinners are friends.
I wait to welcome the lost and lonely to share the cup of my love.

[Refrain]

O come and eat without money; come to drink without price.
my feast of gladness will feed your spirit with faith and fullness of life.

[Refrain]

My bread will ever sustain you through days of sorrow and woe.
My wine will flow like a sea of gladness to flood the depths of your soul.

[Refrain]

Your fields will flower in fullness; your homes will flourish in peace.
For I, the giver of home and harvest, will send my rain on the soil.

[Refrain]

(As the cup is passed, the piano plays)

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Our God Will Go Before Us" (vv. 1, 4)

Our God will go before us, And guide us by His presence
What confidence this promise is We will never walk alone

Our God will go before us; The Lord of hosts is with us
Praise the One who leads us on For His grace will bring us home
Now send us with your presence And lead us on to heaven
Where songs of sorrow strain no more And our every breath is praise
Oh let our every breath be praise!

Our God will go before us; The Lord of hosts is with us
Praise the One who leads us on For His grace will bring us home

Our God will go before us; The Lord of hosts is with us
Praise the One who leads us on For His grace will bring us home
For His grace will bring us home

Postlude

*Please stand

Children's Message: Rex De Bruin

Message: Rev. Tom Niehof

Musicians: Char Verkade, Natalie De Bruin, Rex De Bruin, Marlies 't Hoen

Small Groups, Committees, & Sunday School Updates

Sunday School Classes for all ages meet weekly at 10:50 am, beginning Sep 13.

Children and Worship (age 3–2nd grade) meets during the service, after the children's message, beginning Sep 13.

By the Fire, In the Word meets on Sundays at 8:15 am in the fellowship hall for scripture reading and discussion. All are welcome! Contact Joel Copley for details.

Roots Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets weekly on Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm.

They will kick off the new year with a bonfire gathering on September 16 at 7:00 pm.

Young Adult Ministry meets on Fridays and Sundays throughout the year.

Contact Derek Ten Pas to get connected.

Breakfast Club meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center Hy-Vee at 8:30 am. Contact Mary Kuyper for details.

UFO meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Contact Kelly Hobson for details.

Women's Bible Study meets monthly on Monday mornings, beginning Sep 14. See Pam Voss for details.

Pub Theology meets the last Sunday of the month at The Mucky Duck; next meeting is August 30 at 7:00 pm.

Areopagus meets on Sundays at 6:00 pm for scripture reading and a meal in the Fellowship Hall; next meeting is September 13.

Regular Council Meeting: September 9 at 6:30 pm.

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week Rev. Tom Niehof will explore Ephesians 1:1–14 in a message titled “The Earnest of Our Inheritance.” In this passage, Paul reminds us of the many blessings we have received in Christ and points us toward the good things God has promised us.

The special offering on Sep 13 is for Benjamin and Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk with Resonate Global Missions-. They serve as missionaries to Lithuania where they are professors 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. Find more details in the materials on the table outside the sanctuary or at www.resonateglobalmission.org/missionaries/benjamin-and-tricia-groenewold-van-dyk

Communion: This week 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.
- e. The Lord’s Supper seals the present and coming kingdom of God.

Name Tags: As we begin a new school year, we are encouraging TCRC attendees to stop and fill out a name tag prior to grabbing a seat in the sanctuary. This time of year is filled with new faces, and this is a way we can help welcome new visitors to church! Please see Derek Ten Pas with any questions or concerns.

By the Fire, In the Word - Sundays at 8:15 am: Join us in the fellowship hall for scripture reading and discussion. All are welcome!

Adult Sunday School will meet in Room 8/9 beginning at 10:50 a.m. We will begin on September 13 with a quick overview of Mark 1-8 and then continue through Mark over the next several weeks. This class will be led by Rev. Tom Niehof. College students and other adults are invited. New members are welcome.

Women’s Bible Study will conduct their first meeting of this year on September 14 at 9:00 am at the Ames Sixty Forward Center. The plan is to meet, pray, and discuss study topics. Questions? Talk to Pam Voss.

Another year of Roots is right around the corner! If you have a child in 6th-12th grade, they’re welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at church throughout the school year. On Wednesday, **September 16**, we will kick off the year with a bonfire and snacks! We hope you can join us!

Save the Date for Trinity's Fall Festival on Friday, October 23, 3:30-6:30 pm. We are trading in the trunks for a new experience with games booths and prizes. We will be looking for creative game ideas and plenty of volunteers to help us welcome the community to this free family event. Mark it on your calendar and get those creative ideas flowing. The volunteer signup sheet is now on the front table. Questions? Talk to Mindy Nikkel.

We'd love to see our church family shining out in the community! The Outreach Committee is putting together an order for free church t-shirts, and we hope you'll wear yours whenever you're volunteering, serving, or hanging out at church events.

Want one? Just head over to the front table and put a tally mark next to your preferred size(s) on the sign-up sheet by **Sunday, September 20th**. Don't worry if you miss the deadline—we'll be sure to order extra in the most popular sizes so no one misses out!

If you or your family have a situation that requires prayer and/or pastoral care, please contact one of the elders. The elders will help in directing you to the appropriate care needed.

The Annual Fall Retreat for the Bible League in Central Iowa will be held on Thursday, September 17, 9:30am-2:00pm at Calvary Church in Pella, IA. This year's theme is *Hope and Forgiveness in the Midst of Evil*, with featured speaker Gayle Haas, who brings to life the testimony of Corrie ten Boom. Deadline for registration is September 10. Find more details at <https://www.bibleleague.org/events/> or see the flyers on the table outside the sanctuary. Questions? Talk to Melody Franje.

The Ames Christian School is back in the building. The middle school staff and students occupy the church building 8 am-4 pm on school days. They have rearranged some of their classroom spaces to accommodate increased student numbers. As we work out the best system for sharing space, there may be a few logistics to sort out. Please let Tina (office@amestrinity.org) know if you have questions or concerns.

There is a printout of Birthdays, Greeters, Congregational Prayer, Nursery, and Children's message on the table outside the office. The latest church directory is on the table as well. If you have changes or need to add info, please make notes on this sheet or send an email to office@amestrinity.org.

Please submit announcements to the church office (office@amestrinity.org) by 10:30 am on Thursdays to be included in the announcements for the week. If you leave a written message in the office, please include your name in case a follow-up is necessary. Thank you!

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: A Safe Place - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "A Safe Place" at www.kidscorner.net. In Matthew 25:31-40, Jesus taught us that part of following him is helping others feel safe and comforted. Small acts of kindness may seem ordinary, but they

can show God's extraordinary love. Check out the new Kids Corner Devotions app at <https://kidscorner.net/app>

Groundwork: Faith that Endures - We've heard the call in Hebrews to stay close to Jesus. How do we cultivate a lasting faith? Join Groundwork as we study Hebrews 10:19-12:3 to learn why community and the testimony of fellow believers are essential to remaining faithful and cultivating a faith that endures through the difficult seasons in life. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Fall can be an overwhelming and anxious time for students of all ages. How might you encourage the students in your family or your church this week? You might bake cookies, share a favorite book, or send a card. Pray for them as they discover the gifts God has given them and explore how God might be calling them to use those gifts. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

VOLUNTEERS

Sound: Tom Whitney
Greeter: Hufford
Nursery: Jessica and Brianna
Children's Message: Rex De Bruin
Congregational Prayer: Rex De Bruin

Sound Tech

Sep 6	Tom Whitney	Oct 4	Tom Whitney
Sep 13	Bryan Van Belle	Oct 11	Brian Sterenberg
Sep 20	Rex De Bruin	Oct 18	Bryan Van Belle
Sep 27	Rob Barnes	Oct 25	Rex De Bruin

Greeters

Sep 6	Hufford	Oct 4	Kleinwolterink
Sep 13	Friend	Oct 11	Kopaska
Sep 20	Irvin	Oct 18	Kuyper
Sep 27	Nancy Klemme	Oct 25	Niehof

Nursery

Sep 6	Jessica and Brianna	Oct 4	Megan and Kristy
Sep 13	Donna and Natalie	Oct 11	Judy and Cassie
Sep 20	Sue and Kathlyn	Oct 18	Mary and Rachel
Sep 27	Mindy and Alisabeth	Oct 25	Lyndee and Kenzie

Children's Message

Sep 6	Rex De Bruin	Sep 13	Rev. Neal Ooms
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Sep 20 Rob Barnes
Sep 27 Laura Hufford
Oct 4 Lora Copley

Oct 11 Christopher 't Hoen
Oct 18 Rex De Bruin
Oct 25 Derek Ten Pas

Congregational Prayer

Sep 6 Rex De Bruin
Sep 13 Joel Copley
Sep 20 Melody Franje
Sep 27 Lora Copley

Oct 4 Paul Kleinwolterink
Oct 11 Tom Niehof
Oct 18 Mark Voss
Oct 25 Rex De Bruin

Contact Information

Areopagus Campus Ministry Director: director@isu-areopagus.org
Tina VanDyk, Office Administrator: office@amestrinity.org; 515-292-4676
Office Hours: Tue & Thu, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Elders: A-G = Paul Kleinwolterink; H-K = Melody Franje;
L-S = Mark Irvin; T-Z = Brian Sterenberg

Deacons: A-G = Derek Ten Pas; H-K = Mindy Nikkel;
L-S = Mark Voss; T-Z = Laura Hufford

Committee Chairs: Building & Grounds – Jim Bergman; Education – Christopher 't Hoen;
Endowment – Paul Kleinwolterink; Fellowship – Sue Fee; Outreach and Enfoldng – Mindy
Nikkel; Search – Jeff Kopaska; Technology – Rex De Bruin; Worship – Laura Hufford