

WORSHIP SERVICE
September 27, 2026

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

* Call to Worship

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your throne for all generations.'"

Praise the Lord!

* Opening Song: "Be Still, for the Presence" *Lift Up Your Hearts #532*

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found; we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

He burns with holy fire; with splendor he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.

No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

* Opening Prayer

* Song: "How Firm a Foundation" *Lift Up Your Hearts #427*

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!

What more can He say than to you He has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid.
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you in trouble to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.
When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.
The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgement**

Set us free from a past we cannot change;

**Open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow
more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of
the world. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon (Romans 8:13-17)

*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 joint heirs with Christ.

Song of Entrusting: "He Knows My Name"

Lift Up Your Hearts #339

I have a Maker, He formed my heart
Before even time began, My life was in His hand
He knows my name, He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls, And hears me when I call
I have a Father, He calls me His own
He'll never leave me, No matter where I go
He knows my name, He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls, And hears me when I call

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-31

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

Message: “The Waiting Father”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: “How Great Is the Love of the Father” *Lift Up Your Hearts* #683

How great is the love of the Father,

The love he has shown to us

So great that he calls us his children

And children of God we are And children of God we are!

The world without God does not know us

Because it did not know Christ

Lord, help us to be pure and spotless
For children of God we are, For children of God we are.
What we are to be in the future
As yet has not been made known
But when Christ returns we shall see him
And then we shall be like him And then we shall be like him.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" *Lift Up Your Hearts #897*

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer
Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer
Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Postlude

* Please stand

Children's Message: Laura Hufford

Message: Rev. Sheldon Starkenburg

Musicians: Char Verkade, Natalie De Bruin, Marlies 't Hoen, Derek Ten Pas

SUNDAY SCHOOL, SMALL GROUP, AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **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.
- **Children and Worship** (age 3–2nd grade) meets during the service, after the children's message.
- **Sunday School Classes** for all ages meet weekly at 10:50 am.

- **Areopagus** meets on Sundays at 6:00 pm for scripture reading and a meal in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Roots Youth Group** (grades 6-12) meets weekly on Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm.
- **Pub Theology** meets the last Sunday of the month at The Mucky Duck; next meeting is Sep 27 at 7:00 pm.
- **Women's Bible Study** meets monthly on Monday mornings at the Ames Sixty Forward Center; next meeting is Oct 5 at 9:00 am. See Pam Voss for details.
- **UFO** meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Contact Kelly Hobson for details.
- **Breakfast Club** meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at the Lincoln Center Hy-Vee at 8:30 am.
Contact Mary Kuyper for details.
- **Young Adult Ministry** meets on Fridays and Sundays throughout the year.
Contact Derek Ten Pas to get connected.
- **Regular Council Meeting:** October 14 at 6:30 pm.
- **Worship Committee Meeting:** October 26 at 6:30 pm.

TCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Sunday morning, Pastor Sheldon Starkenburg will explore Luke 15:11–31, the familiar story of the prodigal son, in a message titled “The Waiting Father.” We’ll reflect on the father who patiently waits, welcomes, and celebrates when his lost son returns home.

The special offering this week is for Areopagus, a Christian campus ministry at Iowa State University that helps students grow in their relationship with Christ, build meaningful community, and live out their faith in the university setting. As a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, Areopagus brings a distinctly Reformed perspective while seeking to serve and bless the ISU and Ames communities. For more information, visit: isu-areopagus.org/

Communion: Next week we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is the family table at which we eat together and are nourished with Christ's sacrifice for us. Here (as in Baptism) we celebrate who we are - children of God – and are reminded of God's promises to be our God, to care for us, love us, and be faithful to us. All who are baptized into Christ and have made a public stand for him are welcome to the Lord’s Table.

Adult Sunday School will not meet this week (Sep 27) due to Intergenerational Sunday School. We plan to meet on October 4 to discuss Mark chapter 9. This class is led by Rev. Tom Niehof. New members are welcome.

The First Intergenerational Sunday School–This Sunday (27th): Sunday School for all ages will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our first intergenerational session. Together, we’ll explore Luke 15: 11-31 and reflect on the message from the worship service. Instead of regular

Sunday school classes, everyone is invited to join this engaging, table-style discussion in the fellowship area. The Education Committee is excited and thankful that our youth will be leading us in this session. With several helpful hands-on activities designed to encourage connection and participation, there will be something for all ages to enjoy. We look forward to sharing another meaningful time as we continue reflecting on God's Word together! Stay for lunch afterward.

Potluck Lunch this Sunday (27th): Join us for a potluck lunch, immediately following Sunday School time. Those with last names starting with A-I, please bring sides and salads; J-P bring desserts; and Q-Z bring along a main dish to share.

Women's Bible Study will meet next on Monday, October 5 at 9:00 am at the Ames Sixty Forward Center. The group will be discussing the spiritual discipline of Celebration. Study guide materials are on the table outside the church office. New group members welcome! Questions? Talk to Pam Voss.

Areopagus Welcomes New Director: We're excited to announce that Daniel (Dan) Gregory has accepted the position of Director of Areopagus Campus Ministry! Dan will begin full-time on September 29. As he transitions from Iowa City, he plans to stay in Ames 2-4 nights each week and attend Trinity on Sundays. His wife and two kids hope to move to Ames later this year.

Housing needed: Dan is looking for a room, apartment, or other place to stay in Ames beginning September 29 (2-4 nights / week). If you have a possible housing option or know of one, please contact Andrew Friend. Please keep Dan, his family, and Areopagus in your prayers during this transition.

Worship Volunteers Needed! If are willing to play an instrument, lead singing, run the sound system, and/or give a children's message during worship service please see Laura Hufford. We need more volunteers.

Meals from the Heartland Annual Event: The outreach committee has signed up to participate in the 19th annual food packaging event on October 10, 2026 at 9:45 am-11:45 am. The event takes place at the packaging center in West Des Moines. Anyone aged 8 years old and up is encouraged to participate. If you wish to carpool, we will leave Trinity at 8:45 am. If you are interested, grab your spot on the sign-up sheet found on the table outside the office. Questions? Contact Mark Voss.

Learn more about Meals from the Heartland at: mealsfromtheheartland.org/

Sawyer Cold Weather Clothing Drive: Please support our neighborhood youth by donating **NEW** winter coats, snow pants, and snow/waterproof gloves for the students at Sawyer Elementary School. (This year they will not need boots or hats.) We will collect clothing through October 11th. Please leave donations in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall.

Trinity's Fall Festival - 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 on the front table. Questions? Talk to Mindy Nikkel.

News from the 't Hoen Family: We would like to share some news with our Trinity family and friends. As we have been looking for some new opportunities as a family, we can share with you that we will be moving to Las Vegas, NV in June 2027. Meredith has accepted a position at a private veterinary clinic. This move will offer a host of new opportunities for all of us, and we are looking forward to this next adventure. Before Amelia heads off to college somewhere abroad, possibly in The Netherlands, she will join in the move. Even though the move is far off, we know already that we will miss all of you.

Bethesda Food Pantry Concert Fundraiser: Bethesda Lutheran Church will host the Lake Wobegon Brass Band in a FREE concert at 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 11, 2026. This concert will serve as a fundraiser for the Bethesda Food Pantry and feature an Americana-based theme to continue the celebration of America's 250th! A free will donation will be collected.

Let's stay connected! Would you like to be included in our (printed) church directory or receive church emails? We'd love to help you stay connected with what's happening at Trinity and make it easier for others to connect with you, too. Sharing your contact information is optional, but being included in the directory and email list is a great way to stay informed about church news, events, and the occasional reminder. If you'd like to be added—or need to update your information—please contact the church office (office@amestrinity.org).

Please keep food and drinks contained to the fellowship hall. This helps to keep our space neat and free of unwanted pests. Thank you!

Tina will be out of town October 7-13. There will not be office hours on the 8th or 13th. Any announcements for Sun, Oct. 11 are due by Mon, Oct. 5 at 10:00 am. Thank you.

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReFrame Ministries

Groundwork: A Wise Perspective on Work - Much of our adult life revolves around work: work for our jobs, work on our houses and for our families, and work for the Lord. Join Groundwork as we study Ecclesiastes 4:4-8, 5:10-15, 9:7-10 to listen to the Teacher's wisdom on what makes our work meaningful. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip -What faith practices shape your life and the lives of the people who share your home? "It's easy for us to think that we create our habits, but our habits also create us. The faith-forming things that we do together deeply affect the way we think and act. Because of this, consistently committing to your faith practices as a family has a significant impact." —from Dear Parent: A Guide for Family Faith Formation, by Laura Keeley and Robert

J. Keeley, available at FaithAliveResources.org. This week ask your family or friends what faith practices have the most impact on their lives and engage in one of the practices shared.

Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Lifelong Discipleship: A Conversation with Author Cameron Shaffer - Join Thrive faith formation consultant Rick Zomer for a webinar featuring Cameron Shaffer, author of *Keeping Kids Christian*. As a parent and pastor, Shaffer focuses on intergenerational, lifelong discipleship strategies that foster deep connections to the local church, helping young people stay involved well beyond their youth group years. The webinar will take place on Tuesday, October 13, at 4:00 PM EDT. Register by October 9 at tinyurl.com/ye2ju9xy or email thrive@crcna.org for more information.

Resonate Global Mission

We're Hiring! Senior Manager of Advancement - The Senior Manager of Advancement leads Resonate Global Mission's donor relations team and initiatives and serves as a binational major donor representative. This position will ensure the donor relations team members are effectively connecting with Resonate constituents and staff to effectively generate revenue and support Resonate's mission. This is a full-time, hybrid position based in Burlington, Ont., or Grand Rapids, Mich. Learn more and apply by September 27 at <https://crcna.pinpointhq.com/>

VOLUNTEERS

Sound: Rob Barnes
Greeter: Nancy Klemme
Nursery: Mindy and Alisabeth
Children's Message: Laura Hufford
Congregational Prayer: Lora Copley

Sound Tech

Sep 27	Rob Barnes	Nov 1	Tom Whitney
Oct 4	Tom Whitney	Nov 8	Brian Sterenberg
Oct 11	Brian Sterenberg	Nov 15	Bryan Van Belle
Oct 18	Bryan Van Belle	Nov 22	Tom Whitney
Oct 25	Rex De Bruin	Nov 29	Rex De Bruin

Greeters

Sep 27	Nancy Klemme	Nov 1	Niemeyer
Oct 4	Kleinwolverink	Nov 8	Nikkel
Oct 11	Kopaska	Nov 15	Oltman
Oct 18	Kuyper	Nov 22	Saldaña
Oct 25	Niehof	Nov 29	Sanders/Bassham

Nursery

Sep 27 Mindy and Alisabeth
Oct 4 Megan and Kristy
Oct 11 Judy and Cassie
Oct 18 Mary and Rachel
Oct 25 Lyndee and Kenzie

Nov 1 Rachel and Sue
Nov 8 Melody and Elizabeth
Nov 15 Jessica and Brianna
Nov 22 Donna and Natalie
Nov 29 Sue and Kathlyn

Children's Message

Sep 27 Laura Hufford
Oct 4 Lora Copley
Oct 11 Christopher 't Hoen
Oct 18 Rex De Bruin
Oct 25 Derek Ten Pas

Nov 1 Lora Copley
Nov 8 Laura Hufford
Nov 15 Jeff Kopaska
Nov 22 Christopher 't Hoen
Nov 29 Rex De Bruin

Congregational Prayer

Sep 27 Lora Copley
Oct 4 Tom Niehof
Oct 11 Paul Kleinwolterink
Oct 18 Mark Voss
Oct 25 Rex De Bruin

Nov 1 Tom Niehof
Nov 8 Joel Copley
Nov 15 Jeff Kopaska
Nov 22 Lora Copley
Nov 29 Paul Kleinwolterink

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