

## Visitors

Visitors, thank you for joining us for worship! Please use the card in the pew rack to help us get to know you better. These cards can also be used for Prayer Requests, requests for visits, updating contact information, etc. Completed cards can be handed to the Pastor or dropped in an offering plate.

## Contact Us

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## Pastor Russ

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# Algona First United Methodist Church



## Welcome Serve Love

## This Week's Schedule

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| <b>October 26</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5pm Worship</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LH N 9-11:30am</li><li>• EXOP Chapel 12:30pm</li></ul>  |
| <b>October 27</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9am Worship</li><li>• Adult bible Study &amp; High School Sunday School 10:15am</li><li>• Church Chicks 5:30pm</li></ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mat Weaving 3:30-5:30pm</li><li>• Vine Meal/ Worship 5:30pm</li><li>• Kids Club, Middle School Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, Bells 6:15pm</li></ul> |
| <b>October 28</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELO 9-2pm</li><li>• LHN 9-11:20am</li><li>• Ad Board 6:30pm</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High School Youth Group &amp; Choir 7pm</li></ul>   |
| <b>October 29</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homestead Chapel 9am</li><li>• Van Buren Bible Study 10am</li><li>• Mat Weaving 9-11:30am</li><li>• Prayer Devotions @ noon</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LHN 9-11:30am</li><li>• Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm</li></ul>   |
| <b>October 30</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELO 9-2pm</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Men's Breakfast 8am</li><li>• 5pm Worship</li></ul>   |
|                   |   | <b>October 31</b>   |
|                   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LHN 9-11:30am</li><li>• Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm</li></ul>   |
|                   |   | <b>November 1</b>   |
|                   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELO 9-10am</li><li>• Office closes @ noon</li></ul>   |
|                   |   | <b>November 2</b>   |
|                   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Men's Breakfast 8am</li><li>• 5pm Worship</li></ul>   |

## Announcements/ Upcoming Events

### Trunk or Treat

**October 31**

5:30-7pm

### Food Packaging Event

**November 10**

1-4pm

### UWF Chicken & Biscuit Luncheon

**November 14**

11-1pm

Tickets \$11

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

Please come join us on Wednesday nights starting after The Vine (around 6:15pm) for our newest bible study called "Love Does". This study is written by the bestselling author Bob Goff. This is a video series that will be lead by Sandy Ley. There is a book that accompanies if you want to read it, but is not required for the study. The group will be doing this study for 5 weeks and then will finish out the fall season doing a 4-week advent study called, "The Christmas Letters". This is a study written by Magrey deVega. This study "invites you to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. They point us to the origins of what we believe about Jesus, fully human and fully divine. By spending time with these holy, ancient words this Advent, you'll come to know the meaning of Christ's coming like never before." A book does accompany this study and we'll be discussing pre-ordering that during our time. Please come join us, all are welcome.



# Order of Worship

## Welcome & Announcements

**Responsive Call to Worship** *Based on Psalm 103:1-5*

Leader: Come!

**People: Come praise the eternal God! Let all that is within us—body, emotions, mind, and will—praise God’s holy name! Despite our failures, He forgives and releases us. More than any doctor, He heals our diseases. When we are famished and weak, He fills us with good and beautiful things, satisfying our needs, and restoring our strength.**

Leader: So come! Come, praise the eternal God! Sing songs from a grateful heart, and remember all that He has done for us.

## Unison Opening Prayer

**Gracious God, thank You for loving us. We pray that Your purpose may prevail as we prepare for this time of worship. Forgive us our sins and cleanse our hearts and minds. We pray for unity, love, and dedication to permeate this congregation. Be glorified, precious Lord. Amen.**

**\*Song #57** “*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*” *Verses 1-4*

**Upper Room Bell Ringers** “*Let There Be Peace on Earth*”

**Old Testament Reading** *Psalm 40:1-5*

## Breakthrough Prayer for Our Congregation

**Gracious, loving God, our hearts long for a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit and a powerful move of Your hand in our congregation and community.**

Loving Father, help us to know at the core of our being that we are your beloved children. Jesus, help us to be increasingly amazed by your grace. Holy Spirit, fill us with divine love so that our congregation shines brightly for You.

**Our gracious Lord Jesus, breathe new life into our congregation. Kindle within us a burning desire to seek Your face, to worship You with all our hearts, and to live in obedience to Your will. Fill us anew with the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we may be bold witnesses of Your redeeming love. May we see many lives changed by Your touch. May we see Your Kingdom advanced in our community.**

**For Your glory and in Your name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Song #139** “*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*”

## Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

## Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

## Stewardship Celebration

## Offering & \*Doxology

**\*Song** “*10,000 Reasons*”

## Children’s Message

**New Testament Reading** *Acts 22:1-16*

**Message** “*Know Your Story & Tell It Often*”

**\*Response #572** “*Pass It On*” *Verses 1 & 3*

**\*Benediction** *II Corinthians 13:14*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

# Sermon Notes

**You Have a Story Someone Needs to Hear!**

**Teaching from Acts:** Paul had a life transforming encounter with Jesus – Acts 9:1-22. Paul often shared his story as a witness to others – Acts 22:1-21; 26:1-23; I Corinthians 15:8; Galatians 1:11-24; Philippians 3:4-10.

## Ways we DON’T need to be like

**Paul:** Our conversion does NOT need to be “dramatic”. And / or “instantaneous”.

## What we DO learn from Paul’s faith story:

- **BE OPEN ABOUT YOUR NEED:** Generally speaking, there was (is) something that is not working in our lives: A loss, a problem we can’t conquer on our own, some way we need to be “knocked off our high horse”. Be honest about your struggles. People relate to authenticity.
- **HUMBLY POINT TO THE GRACE OF JESUS & THE ASSURANCE OF BELONGING TO GOD’S FAMILY:** *Ephesians 2: 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. Since salvation is a gift received by faith, we can have deep assurance of our status as God’s beloved children. Are you clear on this? Immerse yourself in the clear teaching of the New Testament until you are.*

## • WITH GRATITUDE, SHARE HOW JESUS MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR

**LIFE:** Can you identify with any of these spiritual transformations: Sadness > Joy . . . Guilt > Grace . . . Feeling overwhelmed > Peace . . . Anger > Acceptance . . . Fear > Confidence . . . Isolation > Community . . . Aimlessness > Purpose . . . Bondage > Freedom . . . Finding peace and joy in the midst of suffering . . . Finding assurance of eternal life in the face of death. Think PROGRESS not “perfection”. As you ponder how Christ has changed your life, do other things come to mind? The transformations mentioned above are tremendous gifts! Someone needs to hear your story.

**Some practical thoughts:** Develop your “elevator speech” that you can share in less than a minute . . . If it helps, write it out and share it with a Christian friend . . . Be open to opportunities to share your story. It can be adapted! . . . Challenge: Do you do a Christmas card or newsletter? Why not share your story in that format? (“As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, I want to pause and share in a very personal way the difference He is making in my life . . .”)