

What do these statements teach us Jesus and living as His people?

- “I AM” - Jesus is boldly claiming deity in these statements. The background is the crucial Old Testament text *Exodus 3: 13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” . . . 14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*
- **Theological Significance of “I AM”** - What Does 'I Am Who I Am' Mean in the Bible? When God said, “I AM WHO I AM,” repeating “I AM” twice, He is stating His name, (LORD) Yahweh—His name forever. God was in effect, saying, He is. Period. He is stating He is the Eternal One who has no beginning or end. He is the really real, the ultimate reality—all reality is according to His will. Because He is Truth, His truth is absolute. I AM speaks to His omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience in and for all time. God is constant, and is in the past, the present, and the future. This baffles us because we live in a timeline of life, but God transcends all earthly patterns. Because He is God, there are many things about Him that will never be understandable, even when we reach glory. And that’s okay because He is God! www.crosswalk.com
- **“THE”** – Unique. No thing and no one can fulfill the promises Jesus offers in these statements. Jesus is unique. Other people and things might promise to meet our deepest needs, but only Jesus can truly meet those needs. We will not find true satisfaction in anything or anyone besides Jesus.
- **Truth leads to an invitation to actually experience newness of life in Jesus** –Just as our human relationships blend objective truth and subjective experience, so our relationship with God is both objective and subjective. *John 4: 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”* We are invited to a new mode of existence where we are drawing life from Jesus.

Make this personal:
What are you searching for?
How does Jesus speak to your situation?
What response is Jesus calling for so that you may more fully experience life in Him?



Algona First United
Methodist Church

Welcome Serve Love

This Week’s Schedule

- February 22**
- Worship 5pm
- February 23**
- Worship 9am
 - Adult & High School Bible Study 10:15am
- February 24**
- ELO 9-2pm
 - LHN 9-11:30am
 - Ad Board Meeting 6:30pm
- February 25**
- Homestead 9am
 - Mat Weaving 9-11:30am
 - Van Buren 10am
 - Prayer Devotions 12 noon
 - ESL Training/Meal 5:30pm
- February 26**
- ELO 9-2pm
 - LHN 9-11:30am
 - Mat Weaving 3:30-5:30pm
 - Vine Meal/Worship 5:30pm
 - Bells, Kids Club, Middle School Youth Group, Adult Bible Study 6:15pm
 - High School Youth Group & Choir 7pm
- February 27**
- LHN 9-11:30am
- February 28**
- ELO 9-10am
 - Office closes @ 12 noon.
- March 1**
- Worship 5pm

Prayer Requests

The Manske Family , Cindy Massey, Tom Larson, Bruce Thomas, Larry Johnson, Bob & Nita Boleneus , Julie Hayes(knee surgery) Steve and Rose King, Dennis Leigh, Jean Menning’s sister, Jan. Liz LeBlanc, as she recovers from surgery in Iowa City. Please pray for Jan Lindhorst and family, Jan is currently @ Good Sam.

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship *Matthew 11:28-30*
Message
Hear the invitation of Jesus: “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Opening Prayer
Lord, You are the Bread of Life, which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

You are the Good Shepherd, who lays down His own life for the sheep in His care.

You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the path by which we come to know God the Father.

You are the Light of the World, illuminating the way for all who walk in darkness.

You are the Resurrection and the Life, the source of eternal life for all who believe.

You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and our Redeemer and Lord.

***Song** #140 “*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*”

Old Testament Reading *Psalms 34:4-10*

Unison Prayer of Confession
Leader: Jesus said, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”
People: But we often try to satisfy our thirst elsewhere.
L: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never go thirsty.

P: But we often make excuses not to attend your banquet.

L: Jesus said, “I am the true vine. Remain in me, as I also remain in you.”

P: But we often try to graft ourselves onto another plant.

L: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

P: But we often would rather stumble around in the dark. Forgive us, Lord, for turning away from the gifts you freely give us.

L: Hear the words of Assurance of Pardon: Jesus said, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

P: Thanks be to God!

***Song** #529 “*How Firm a Foundation*”

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

***Offertory Prayer**
Jesus as we give these gifts for your ministries we are reminded of your first followers who gave everything to your ministry. Use these gifts to grow your kingdom and strengthen all of your people. In is with and through you that we can make a difference. Amen.

***Song** #189 “*Fairest Lord Jesus*”

Children’s Message

New Testament Reading “*I Am Statements of John’s Gospel*” *See sermon notes*

Message “*I Am Statements: Finding Our Strength in Jesus*”

***Response** *The Faith We Sing* #2158 “*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*”

***Benediction** *Numbers 6:24-26*
The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Sermon Notes

The “I Am” Statements of John’s Gospel

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE John 6: ³⁵Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty . . . ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD John 8: ¹²When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” . . . John 9: ⁵ ”While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

I AM THE DOOR John 10: ⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD John 10: ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE John 11: ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE John 14: ⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

I AM THE VINE John 15: ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.