

“Condemn no man for not thinking as you think. Let every one enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself. Let every man use his own judgment, since every man must give an account of himself to God . . . Give me your hand. I do not mean, ‘Be of my opinion.’ You need not: I do not expect it or desire it. Neither do I mean I will be of your opinion. I cannot. Keep your opinion; I mine; and that as steadily as ever. You need not endeavor to come over to me or bring me to you. Only give me your hand. We must act as each is fully persuaded in their own mind. Hold fast that which you believe is most acceptable to God, and I will do the same. Let all these smaller points stand aside. If your heart is as my heart, if you love God and all humankind, I ask no more. Simply, give me your hand.” *John Wesley*

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, not with standing these smaller differences.” *John Wesley*

“E PLURIBUS UNUM” – Unity in the midst of diversity is central to our historic national motto. The church needs to lead the way in showing what unity in the midst of diversity can look like.

Algona First United Methodist Church



Welcome Serve Love

This Week’s Schedule

April 5

- Mean’s Breakfast @ the Louscher Farmhouse 8am
- Worship 5pm

April 6

- Worship 9am
- Adult and High School Bible Study @ 10:15am
- Church Chicks 5:30pm

April 7

- LHN 9-11:30am
- Blood Drive 12:30-5:30pm
- Hospitality 4:30pm

April 8

- ELO 9-2pm
- Mat Weaving 9-11:30am
- Homestead 9am
- Van Buren 10am
- Prayer Devotions 12 noon
- Missions meeting @5:30pm
- Prayer Partners @ 5:30pm

April 9

- ELO 9-2pm
- LHN 9-11:30am
- Mat Weaving 3:30-5:30pm
- Vine Meal & Worship 5:30pm
- Bells, Kids Club, Confirmation, Adult Bible Study 6:15pm
- Choir & High School Youth Group 7pm

April 10

- LHN 9-11:30am
- Paper Magnolia’s 1-3pm
- SPRC 5:30pm in Board Room

April 10

- ELO 9-10am
- Office closes @ 12 noon

Announcements

Misson of the Month PDK Kits for MMDC

Towel and Washcloth

Scholarship Applications are due June 1!

Please fill out a Membership Form for each member of your family. Thank You!

Block Party

May 21

5-7pm

Volunteers needed! Have a lookout for sign up sheets.

Prayer Requests

Jean Sabus, Cindy Massey, Tom Larson, Bruce Thomas, Larry Johnson, Steve and Rose King, Ed Matthews (Kris Petersen’s brother, who lives in New York) Rosemary Dunn in the passing of her sister, Barbara Jergens ,The Bob Diekmann Family & The Bob Boleneus Family.

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship *Psalm 133*

Leader: How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!

All: It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe.

Leader: It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

All: For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Unity Opening Prayer

Holy Trinity, Community of Love, Draw your children together: Across human boundaries< Across denominations. Draw us together in your creative light. Awaken us to collaboration and mutual callings, Quick to honor, encourage and serve one another. Amen.

***Song #89 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (Saturday) “The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours) Sunday**

New Testament Reading *Ephesians 4:1-6*

The Apostles’ Creed *Hymnal #882*

Unison Congregational Prayer
Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the diverse and vibrant body of believers that make up our church. We recognize that unity does not mean uniformity, but rather, it is a beautiful tapestry woven from our unique gifts, backgrounds, and experiences. We ask that You help us to embrace our diversity as a strength and to celebrate the richness it brings to our community.

Lord, we pray that You would knit our hearts together with Your love, transcending any differences that might divide us. Help us to see one another through Your eyes, with compassion and understanding. Teach us to listen to each other’s perspectives and to work together in harmony, despite our differences. May our love for one another be a powerful testimony to Your grace and a witness to the world of the transformative power of Your love. Amen.

***Song #545 “The Church’s One Foundation” (Saturday) “Jesus Messiah” (Sunday)**

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

Lord, we pray for unity in generosity within our church. May we share our blessings freely, supporting one another and advancing Your kingdom. Lord Jesus, we ask for unity in our church’s mission. Help us all to understand and embrace our role in advancing Your kingdom. Unite us in our purpose, guiding us with clarity and direction as we spread Your love and truth. Amen.

***Song *The Faith We Sing* #2223 “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” (Saturday) “Come to The Table” (Sunday)**

Children’s Message

Gospel Testament Reading

John 17:1-5, 20-26

Message “Jesus Prays for Us to Live in Unity”

Communion

Communion Songs #298 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #310 “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

*Benediction

Go now to follow the way of Jesus: see others as he did; dare to give freely as he did; and to love unconditionally as he did. Go, embraced by the Source of life, love and hope; in the company of the Word of life; encouraged by the Breath of life. Amen.

Sermon Notes

Answering Jesus’ Prayer John 17:20-26

²⁰“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

What God’s Word indicates we WON’T have in common as

Christians: Personalities, Strengths and talents, Socio-economic status, Gender, Culture, Political stances, Nationality and language, Preferences in worship styles, Moral interpretations.

What Scripture says we DO have in common as Christians:

One Creator, One Savior, One Spirit, Our fallenness and need for grace, One call to love, A common Commission to make disciples, One spiritual family, One eternal home, Accountability to the same God.

"In essentials, unity; in doubtful matters, liberty; in all things, charity." *Attributed to St. Augustine.*

