

CHARACTER IS DEMONSTRATED IN ACTION, NOT WORDS: 1: 14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. 15 “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” 16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you.

CHARACTER KEEPS PROMISES, EVEN WHEN IT IS COSTLY: (Psalm 15:4 – “Who keeps an oath even when it hurts”). 1: 16 Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

CHARACTER TAKES RESPONSIBILITY: 1: 22 So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning . . . 2: 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.”

CHARACTER IS NOTICED BY OTHER PEOPLE OF CHARACTER: 2: 11 Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. 12 May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

- “I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- “It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness”.
- “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

This Week’s Schedule

May 3

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

May 4

- Worship 9am
- Adult & High School Bible Study 10:15am

May 5

- LHN 9-11:30am
- ELO 9-12noon
- Blood Drive 12:30-5:30pm
- Worship 5:30pm

May 6

- Homestead 9am
- Mat Weaving 9-11:30am
- Van Buren 10am
- Prayer Devotions @ 12 noon
- UWF Executive mtg. 11:15am
- General mtg. @ 12 noon
- AKTION Club 5pm

May 7

- LHN 9-11:30am 11:30
- Memorial Luncheon for Charles Dearchs @ 12 noon
- Mat Weaving 3:30-5:30pm
- Vine Meal/Worship 5:30pm
- Making Mother’s Day Cards 6:15-7pm
- Baccalaureate 7pm @ Grace Church

May 8

- LHN 9-11:30am
- Paper Magnolia’s 1-3pm
- SPRC mtg. 5:30pm

May 9

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

Algona First United Methodist Church



Welcome Serve Love

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Here we are, the young and old,

People: The believing and doubting, The weak and strong.

Leader: God is here, almighty and merciful,

People: Gracious and just, Trustworthy and true.

Leader: We are here. God is here, let us worship God.

Responsive Opening Prayer *Based on Psalm 99*

Leader: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord our God and King! Glorious and powerful is the God of all creation!

People: In reverent awe, we gather to worship our God.

Leader: The Lord our God is King and the Just Judge of all things for all eternity, all people and all places.

People: In reverent awe, we gather to praise our God.

Leader: The Lord our God is King and the Forgiving God! 'Fairness' and 'Justice' are the names of our God.

People: In reverent awe, we gather to worship God, within the light of God's holiness, justice, mercy and love. Amen.

***Song #64** *"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"* (Saturday) *All the People Said Amen* (Sunday)

Old Testament Reading *Psalm 15*

Congregational Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

A time of silence is observed.

All: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

***Song #400** *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* (Saturday) *"Grace Wins"* (Sunday)

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

Lord, we dedicate these offerings to you. Use them according to your will, and help us to give with pure hearts, knowing that everything we have is a gift from you. Amen.

***Song #420** *"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"* (Saturday) *"Come As You Are"* (Sunday)

Children's Message

New Testament Reading *I Timothy 3:1-13*

Message *"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."* Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Communion

Communion Songs #361 *"Rock of Ages"* & **#365** *"Grace Greater than Our Sin"*

*Benediction *I Thessalonians 5:23-24*

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

"Character Matters to God"

REMEMBER THE CONTEXT: God's people were living in darkness. Powerful military deliverers come and go. The loose coalition of tribes falls into every increasing moral chaos. Where does God find a person of character to accomplish His plan? An impoverished foreign widow. We look at externals. God looks for character.

CHARACTER IS REVEALED IN DARK

TIMES: 1: 1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. 2 The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. 3 Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.