

3) **Covenant faithfulness:** *From the beginning to the end of the Bible, God is seen making and keeping promises. God is absolutely faithful. God’s followers are eternally beloved. We will never be abandoned by God.*

Isaiah 54: ¹⁰ Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you. Lamentations 3: ²² Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Let’s open our heart afresh to God’s hesed’ love and pass it on to our neighbors in need.

Algona First United Methodist Church



Welcome Serve Love

This Week’s Schedule

May 10

- Worship 5pm

May 11

- Worship 9am
- Adult bible Study 10:15am

May 12

- LHN 9-11:30am
- ELO 9-2pm

May 13

- Homestead 9am
- Mat Weaving 9-11:30am
- Van Buren 10am
- Prayer Devotions @ 12 noon

May 14

- LHN 9-11:30am
- ELO 9-2pm
- Vine Meal/Worship 5:30pm

May 15

- LHN 9-11:30am
- Charity Circle 9am
- Friendship Circle 1:30pm

May 16

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

Finance meeting is May 19 @ 5:30pm

Sewing Day is May 22 from 9-3pm

Announcements

Block Party

May 21 from 5-7pm



Mission of the Month is Our Church Foundation

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Unison Call to Worship
We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need. Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

Responsive Opening Prayer
Leader: In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name. Illumine our homes with the light of your love.
People: We thank you for gifts of love we have received. From our mothers and those who have served as mothers in many ways, nourishing us and guiding us as we grow to be who we are.
Leader: As we have been loved by them, so we are loved by you, O God.
People: Join with us in this day of celebration as we rejoice in being loved. As you grant us peace in Christ Jesus our Lord, so we come to worship in His holy name.

*Song #92 “For the Beauty of the Earth” Verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 6
New Testament Reading I Thessalonians 2:7-12

Unison Congregational Prayer
Loving God, we know your love because we have mothers. We thank you for the mothers who carried us in their wombs, nourishing, protecting, and bringing us into the world. We thank you for the mothers who did not give birth to us, yet loved us just the same.

With gratitude we remember their words of encouragement when we have felt unsure or afraid; we thank you for their kindness when the world has treated us unkindly; we thank you for their soft, comforting arms and the gentle way they kissed away our tears; we thank you that they protected us with the fierceness of a lioness protecting her cubs; we thank you for the times when they corrected us rather than letting us continue down wrong paths. Help us to live so that their investment in us might not be in vain. We honor our mothers with lives of service to you in the name of the Risen Christ, for it is in his Name we pray. Amen.

*Song #189 “Fairest Lord Jesus”
Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests
Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer
Offering & *Doxology

*Offertory Prayer
Dear Lord, out of your great love for us you have provided for our needs. There is food for our tables, clothes to cover us, a roof over our heads and someone to love us. For these gifts we are grateful. Bless now, our tithes and offerings, we ask, so that they may be used to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Amen.
*Song #384 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Children’s Message
Old Testament Reading Ruth 1:8-18
*Song #2222 “The Servant Song” Verses 1-5

Message “An Example of God’s Faithful Love”
Response #481 “The Prayer of Saint Francis”
*Response The Faith We Sing #2222 “The Servant Song” Verses 1-5
*Responsive Benediction
People: May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother’s care, send us out to live and work for others.
Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Sermon Notes

Hesed: God’s incredible love!
“Hesed” is a Hebrew (Old Testament) word that describes an essential aspect of God’s character. No English word can fully capture its meaning. Hesed includes: Loving kindness, steadfast love, mercy, grace, covenant faithfulness, trustworthiness. This is God’s attitude towards us!

Ruth exemplified God’s hesed in her treatment of her mother-in-law Naomi. Ruth 1: “But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” 1. . .

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.
Three major aspects of ‘hesed’:
1) Steadfast love: Hesed expresses deep affection and compassion. Hesed is never merely an abstract concept or feeling. Love is always expressed in action. It is a love that goes “above and beyond”. Exodus 34: “Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. “And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, Abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.
2) Mercy: Hesed is based on God’s kind heart, not our moral perfection. God’s hesed love is given fully knowing our tendency toward self-centeredness and moral failures. Psalm 103: “Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— “who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, “who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion. Jonah 4: I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.