

Flame Newsletter

August 2025

BACK TO SCHOOL

A Message from Pastor Russ

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." - Matthew 11:28-30

I am composing this on July 15th, the "half way" point of summer . . . I enjoy the slower pace of summer. That said, fall plans are underway: The Vine, Confirmation, Senior High Ministry, Adult Sunday School class will all soon be upon us. I'm looking forward to those ministries, but I do hope to carry a bit of "summer pacing" into the school year.

Many people today are overly tired, frazzled and running ragged. That's not part of Jesus' design for our lives. If you are finding yourself feeling overwhelmed, perhaps it's time to prayerfully consider your life through the lens of Matthew 11:28-30.

- Are you prioritizing "doing" or just "being"? Maybe it's time to slow down and just "be" in the refreshing presence of Jesus. Are you prioritizing rest? Are you enjoying God's gift of Sabbath? Do you honor your need for sleep?
- Are you listening to Jesus' quiet voice to discern the tasks He is calling you to? Or have you overfilled your schedule with projects that "seemed like a good idea at the time", but truly weren't your calling? Are there some responsibilities that you graciously need to step away from? Do you know how to say, "No"?
- When you do discern God's assignments, are you learning to keep step with Jesus as you are "yoked together"? Or are you trying to get Jesus to do things your way according to your timetable?

May you find rich renewal in the grace and presence of our loving God.

Enjoy August!

Pastor Russ

Save these dates for great events coming up in September!

Sunday, September 7 – Outdoor Service & Potluck.

Wednesday, September 10 – 5 -6:30 pm – Community Block Party.

Free Picnic Supper, Horse Rides (weather permitting) and Kid's Activities. This event is open to all! We'll be registering folks for our Vine Ministry.

Wednesday, September 17 – Kick-off for the Vine, Confirmation & Senior High Ministry.

Confirmation is for students in Grades 7 & 8.

Saturday & Sunday, September 26 & 27 – All Church Homecoming Celebration.

Saturday – 5 pm. Worship Service featuring organ music.

Saturday – 6:15 pm – Dessert Social & Sharing of Memories

Sunday – 9 am – Worship with a special guest speaker, Rev. Katie Dawson, Assistant to the Bishop. Recognition of 50 Year Members.

Sunday – 10 am – Egg Bake Brunch (look for a sign up sheet) Freewill offering goes to SERVE Shelf.

Upper Room Devotions

Upper Room has increased their prices. So we are asking you to donate \$2.00 for a regular size devotion. \$2.25 for a large print devotion. Effective immediately!

Get your Pork & Sweetcorn Tickets!

Advanced \$12

Day of \$15



UW in Faith

Fellowship Coffee August 7 @ 9:30am

Provided by by UW in Faith Officers.

Bible Verse: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

August Birthday's: Sue Hobson(3) Sandy Ley (23)

September Meeting is on the 4th!



United
Women
in Faith

Hospitality News

SERVE Shelves Demand Continues

Janie Montang, Hospitality Committee Chair



This congregation's continued generosity is amazing. It is difficult to perceive, but the SERVE program has been in operation for four years this month. Since then food and cash donations have flowed in on a weekly, if not daily, basis. With the receipt of grants from several organizations and the incredible help of our Missions Committee we have been able to keep the shelves loaded with options for those in Kossuth County experiencing food insecurities. Even with the increased options around Algona, the demand remains unbelievably high for our project.

Sadly, our funds are running low. We have applications on file for more grants, but as yet have no pending arrivals. The shelves are still filled many times each week, often multiple times on the same day. This is possible due to help from Exceptional Opportunities, the church youth, Kim in the office, the Hospitality Committee, and others.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued "giving". Cash donations help pay for the orders from our local grocers. Our orders generally range from \$600 to \$1,000 at a time. Please watch the local stores for specials on items we stock. These include: cereal, pancake mix and syrup, soups, individual boxes of raisins, crackers (especially those in sleeves or small packages), cocoa packets, micro-wave popcorn, canned fruits and vegetables. The demand is ALWAYS high for canned chicken, tuna and Vienna Sausage. Soup and fruit have also been flying off the shelves this season. The soups we try to stock include tomato, chicken noodle, cream of chicken and cream mushroom. Of course, others are popular, too.

We are asking for you NOT to bring macaroni and cheese, as we are using the mac and cheese packages filled through Missions at our annual packaging event. Also, large packages of uncooked rice, beans, split peas, etc. are not popular items.

If you have questions or wish to help, please contact one of the members of the Hospitality Committee: Janie Montang, Darlene Goodrich, Marlene Davis, Rose King, Brenda Davis, Kris Peterson, Mary Clark; or Administrative Assistant, Kim Oldenkamp in the office.



Missions

Thank You for your support of Missions through the **Butter Braid Fundraiser!**



Pack the Trailer Event was held July 14-18!

THANKS to everyone who dropped off donated items for the "Pack the Trailer" event held during the week of VBS. These items have been delivered to Jefferson. The Samp's trailer was full along with the truck. If you ever come across any medical supplies, tools, bikes, or sewing machines, please let us know & we can let you know when we make the next trip. These are the items that were delivered:

14 – Bicycles, 8 – walkers, 5 – Shower chairs, 4 – medical boots,
1 – cane, 5 – rakes, 6 – shovels, 2 – pitch forks, 2 – potato forks, 5 – spades, 1 – auger, 1 – pic ax, another ax, 1 – sledge hammer, Bike tires and parts,
1 – sewing machine, 2 – bed packs, 73 – night pads
and 49 – day pads, 30 Cover with Love Quilts.

Pork & Sweet Corn Supper is August 5!

This is another way to support Missions.

All the proceeds will go to the Food Pack Event in November. You have 4 days to get your tickets in advanced. Tuesday, the 5th they will be \$15!

Student Kits

After taking a tally of the supplies we have received, we have:

Notebook-129	Erasers-126
Rulers-55	Colored Pencils-38
Pencil(6)-210	Crayons-71
Pencil Sharpener- 42	Scissors- 38



Bring donated supplies to the church or give monetary donation for the mission committee to do your shopping. Thank you, Robert Kent.



Christian Ed

Vacation Bible School 2025 Camp Firelight!

Bible Verse: Psalm 56:3 Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you.

Firelight Focus was to: Trust God to go with us, Trust God to share wisdom and Trust God to give us peace.

Thank You to all the volunteers! We could not provide VBS to our children without you!



Training Day for all our Youth Leaders, Helpers and Volunteers is on Sunday, September 7 @ 6pm
We will go over the Handbook, Complete the Child Safety Training and get your background checks! The training needs to be finished before September 14!



Looking for someone or a group, who enjoy cooking. Would you like to cook a meal once a month for the Vine? The group is about 75 people. Church will pay for the groceries. Let Kim know in the office.

Confirmation Parent Meeting (7th & 8th Grade Parents)
August 17 @ 6pm



Homecoming Weekend September 27 & 28, 2025

Saturday – 5 pm. Worship Service featuring organ music.

Saturday – 6:15 pm – Dessert Social & Sharing of Memories

Sunday – 9 am – Worship with a special guest speaker, Rev. Katie Dawson, Assistant to the Bishop. Recognition of 50 Year Members.

Sunday – 10 am – Egg Bake Brunch.

50+ Year Members

ARE YOU A

50
YEAR

MEMBER OF THE
METHODIST
CHURCH?

We will be celebrating our new & past 50+ Members on Homecoming Weekend! Please contact the office if you are a 50+ Year Member. I don't want to leave anyone out. Thank you!

THE OFFICE WILL BE

CLOSED

August 7 & 8



Free Picnic Supper!
FREE HORSE RIDES!!!!
Register for Kids Club!
Fun Night for ALL!



201 EAST NEBRASKA STREET, ALGONA IOWA



Happy Birthday

Cathy Gatton (2)
Kathy Shipler (2)
Bob Kent (3)
Sue Hobson (3)
Blake Walker (3)
Sam Wartick (3)
Doug Nelson (4)
Chris Davis (7)
Rick Klein (7)
Jason Wartick (8)
Beth Anderson (16)
Lauren Anderson (16)
Nita Boleneus (18)
Nicki Roof (20)
Steve Young (21)
Ian Fehr (22)
Nate Kitzinger (23)
Sandy Ley (23)
Autumn Zwiefel (23)
Ben Gatton (24)
Dan Oldenkamp (25)
Sharon Smith (25)
Charlie Robinson (29)



Send your well wishes to Dane!!

This is one way we can support &
thank him for his service!

Kitzinger, Dane
9TH ESB ESC HESP
UPR 38430
FPO AP 96384

Happy 50th Anniversary to Bruce
& Sue Thomas on August 2nd!

Happy Anniversary

Steve & Rose King (3)
Matt & Dini Anderson (6)
Ryan & Erin Schmidt (7)
Joe Bormann & Val Weis (11)
Brian & Katelyn Hamilton (13)
Jerry & Becky Helmers (20)
Aaron & Rebecca Lewis (21)
Rod & Janie Montang (25)
John & April Leigh (30)
Jordan & Megan Jahnke (31)

May this very special love
always be yours to share,
and may God continue
to bless your lives
with love and happiness.

