

John Wesley’s description of justification:
The plain scriptural concept of justification is the forgiveness of sins . . . made by the blood of His Son . . . To him that is justified or forgiven, God ‘will not impute sin’ to his condemnation. All his past sins, in thought, word, and deed, are covered, are blotted out, and will no longer be remembered against him. God will not inflict on that sinner what he deserved to suffer, because the Son has suffered for him. From the time we are ‘reconciled to God, He loves, blesses, and watches over us, even as if we had never sinned.

Experiencing Justifying Grace:
Sin separates us from God. Isaiah 59: ²It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. Ephesians 2: ¹ Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.

Salvation is a sheer gift and so can only be received by faith. Ephesians 2: ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. See also Romans 3:21-31 and Galatians 2:16.

Since Justification is received by God’s gracious gift, we can have assurance of salvation and eternal life. Titus 3: ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Justification is entering into new life in Christ and is the beginning of the lifelong process of sanctification as we grown in God’s love. II Peter 3: ¹⁸ Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Algona First United
Methodist Church

Experience God’s Grace

Prevenient: Drawn to the
Father’s loving embrace.

Justifying: Jesus dying in my place

Sanctifying: The Spirit’s strength to run the
race.

Glorification: God’s love shines
forever upon my face.



Welcome Serve Love

This Week’s Schedule

July 26

- Worship 5pm

July 27

- Worship 9am

July 28

- ELO 9-2pm
- Eastland Bible Study 1:30pm
- Ad Board 6:30pm

July 29

- Homestead 9am
- Van Buren 10am
- Pick up Butter Braids 3:30-5:30pm

July 30

- ELO 9-2pm

August 1

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

Announcements

Pork And Sweetcorn Supper
August 5
4:30-6:30pm
Advanced Tickets \$12 Available in the church office. Day of \$15.All proceeds go to our Food Pack November 9.

If you have turned a 50 Year Member of the UMC since May 2024, please let Kim know in the office!

Mission of the Month is Student Kits
3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8"x10 1/2"
1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
6 Pencils - unsharpened
1 Pencil sharpener
1 Pencil eraser - 2" or larger
1 Box 12 colored pencils
1 Box 24 crayons
1 Pair student scissors
1 One-handed cloth bag
The Student Kit has been requested by our partner Food For The Poor to be used for disaster relief. Food For The Poor makes giant disaster relief kits for entire communities that commonly experience disasters. We provide Student Kits so children are occupied in the aftermath of a disaster, and so that they have a few basic school items for when they can return to school.

Our Mission
Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

What We Do:
We send tangible resources to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment. In times of crisis internationally and in the United States, Disaster Relief, Health, Education, and Micro Business supplies are given freely through trusted partner nonprofits.

Lay Leadership Meeting August 3 @ 6pm

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome! Welcome with the baggage we carry, the joys we share, the griefs we bear, and the worries we hold.

People: Come! Let us worship!

Leader: The voice of God is calling us to come with all that we are and all that we carry to worship.

People: Come! Let us worship!

Leader: God calls us to gather, to receive grace in our gathering, and to reorient us again to the ways of God.

People: Come! Let us worship!

Leader: So, come, members of the family of God! Bring all that you are to be molded by grace, refocused toward Love, and woven together as community in Christ.

People: Come! Let us worship! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Opening Prayer Hymnal #335 “An Invitation to the Holy Spirit”

*Song #715 “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

Congregational Prayer Celebrating the Gift of Salvation

Leader: Gracious and loving God, we praise You for the multifaceted gift of salvation.

People: Help us to better understand our identity as your children who have been abundantly blessed in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 1:3

Leader: Jesus, we thank You for the gift of forgiveness.

People: Thank You that we can live free of guilt, shame and condemnation.

Romans 8:1-2

Leader: Jesus, we thank You for the gift redemption.

People: Thank You that we have been set free. Galatians 5:13 & 5:1

Leader: Thank You for the gift of reconciliation.

People: Thank You that we have been restored to a right relationship with God.

II Corinthians 5:18-20

Leader: Thank You for the gift of adoption.

People: Thank You that we have been made full members of Your forever family. I John 3:1-2

Leader: Thank You for the gift of regeneration.

People: Thank You that Your Holy Spirit gives us new life. Titus 3:4-7

Leader: Thank You that You make us a new creation.

People: Thank You that Your Spirit allows us to live according to our original design and purpose. II Corinthians 5:17

Leader: Gracious and loving God, we praise You for these freely given gifts.

People: Help us to realize that these gifts are received by faith alone. Ephesians 2:8-9

All: Gracious and loving God, help us to continually grow in a deeper understanding of who we are in You. We are indeed amazed by Your grace! Amen.

*Song #362 “Nothing But the Blood”

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

*Unison Offertory Prayer

As we present our offerings today, we are reminded of your great love for us. Your love knows no bounds and is beyond measure. Help us to reflect your love in all that we do, including our giving. May these gifts be used to spread your love to others, bringing hope and healing to a world in need. Thank you for your love that never fails us. Amen.

*Song #361 “Rock of Ages”

Children’s Message

New Testament Reading Romans 3:21-31

Message “Entering the House: Justifying Grace”

*Response The Faith We Sing #2108 “O How He Loves You and Me”

*Benediction

May the love of the Father, the tenderness of the Son, and the presence of the Spirit, gladden your heart and bring peace to your soul, this day and all days, Amen.

Entering God’s House: Justification by Faith

Understanding Justifying Grace:

Analogy: John Wesley used the metaphor of taking up residence in a house to describe our spiritual journey. Prevenient Grace is being drawn to the “front porch” of the house as we are attracted to God. We want to spiritually “come home”. In Justifying Grace, we actually “enter the house”. By faith, we come through the “door” and enter God’s family. The entrance to God’s house

is made possible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We receive this new life by faith. Sanctifying Grace is learning to “be at home” in our new life as we grow in love for God and others.

Importance of “Justification by faith”: Historically this has been seen as a foundational doctrine. In traditional Protestant faith, it is the understanding of how sinful human beings are restored to a right relationship with our holy God. While Justification is a crucial aspect of our salvation, we should remember there are many beautiful aspects of salvation that are to be enjoyed by Christ (see today’s Congregational Prayer).

Martin Luther’s experience of justifying grace:

I greatly longed to understand Paul’s Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, ‘the justice of God’, because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him. Yet I clung to the dear Paul and had a great yearning to know what he meant. Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that the ‘just shall live by faith’. Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning and whereas before the ‘justice of God’ had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven. Luther went on to add, ‘If you have a true faith that Christ is your Savior, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God’s heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love. To behold God in faith that you should look upon his Fatherly, friendly heart, in which there is no anger nor ungraciousness. He who sees God as angry does not see him rightly but looks only on a curtain, as if a dark cloud had been drawn across his face.’