

RICHES OF GOD’S GRACE . . . LAVISHED – God gives grace in ‘super abundance’. Grace is not given grudgingly.

3RD) THE LOVE OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS US WITH HOPE AND ASSURANCE (FUTURE)

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

SEALED – In the ancient world the seal was the personal sign of the owner or send of something important to confirm that what was enclosed was true and not spurious. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit confirms that we actually belong to God. (Branding? Micro-chipping a pet? 2-factor authentication? Engagement ring? – None of these analogies are adequate.)
DEPOSIT – “Earnest” or “down payment”. The Holy Spirit is a ‘guarantee’ that we will be kept forever in God’s loving family.
INHERITANCE UNTIL REDEMPTION – Christians have assurance of an eternity with God.

SUMMARY: From eternity to eternity, our the Trinity pours one continuous flow of blessing upon His people. Salvation brings us into a secure, unending relationship with our God. 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ
WHEN YOU BELIEVED – We chose to believe and receive God’s gift of love. The Biblical definition of belief includes a continued dependence and reliance that increasingly orients our loves around Jesus. This is the theme of the rest of Ephesians.

ALGONA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#BeUMC



WELCOME SERVE LOVE

This Week’s Schedule:

August 23

- Worship 5pm

August 24

- Worship 9am

August 25

- ELO 9-2pm
- Ad Board Meeting 6:30pm

August 26

- Homestead 9am
- Mat Weaving 9-11:30am

- Van Buren 10am

- Prayer Devotions @ 12 noon

August 27

- ELO 9-2pm

August 28

- Football Supper 5-7pm

August 29

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

August 30

- Worship 5pm

Announcements



Mission of the Month– Food Packaging

Block Party

September 10

5-6:30pm

Sign Up to help out!

Christian Ed
Training Day for all Teachers & Volunteers
September 7 @ 6pm

Do you enjoy working with children? We are needing help with our Wednesday Night Kid’s Ministry. Call the office for more information.

Fall Kickoff @ Vets Park
September 7 @ 10:30am



Homecoming
Weekend
Sept. 27 & 28

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship *“Redeemed” (Sunday)*

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

People: Thanks be to God for such great mercy.

Leader: Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

People: Thanks be to God for new beginnings!

Leader: Let us worship God with joyful hearts, trusting God to renew us and all things.

People: We will lift our praises to God with hearts refreshed by grace.

Unison Opening Prayer

We gather to worship you trusting that no one or situation is beyond your concern, or your embrace. Such love astonishes us. Without your grace we cannot imagine such love. Inspire us with a vision of love which will change the world and our lives through the love and mercy we meet in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

***Song** #61 *“Come, Thou Almighty King” (Saturday)* *“Jesus Messiah” (Sunday)*

Old Testament Reading *Psalm 8*

Congregational Prayer

Leader: This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! *II Corinthians 5:17*

People: Thank You, Jesus, that I am a new creation in Christ! Lord, You have given me an entirely new nature. Help me put on that nature, choosing to walk in Your ways.

I am no longer defined by what I’ve done but by what Jesus has done for me. I have been washed clean! Help me to joyfully walk in that freedom today!

Leader: See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! *I John 3:1*

People: Father God, thank You for loving me so perfectly. Help me remember that I am Your child, and there is nothing I can do to make You stop loving me. When I get caught up in what others say or think about me, help me remember the immense value You have already given me.

Leader: Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. *John 15:15*

People: What a friend I have in You, Jesus! Cast out the enemy’s lies when I feel like I am burdening You with my needs. Lord, remind me that You delight in me as I confide and depend upon You as a friend. I know I am never truly alone. May I grow ever more aware of Your friendship and presence in my life through Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Song** #327 *“Crown Him with Many Crowns” (Saturday)* *“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” (Sunday)*

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

*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** #340 *“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” (Saturday)* *“There Is A Redeemer” (Sunday)*

Children’s Message

New Testament Reading *Ephesians 1:1-14*

Message *“Who God Says You Are”*

***Response** *The Faith We Sing* #2064 *“O Lord, You’re Beautiful”*

***Benediction** *Numbers 6:24-26*
May the Lord bless you and protect you.
May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.

Who God Says You Are Ephesians 1:3-14

What I “harp” on as your pastor . . .
To remind you _____
so you can _____
It’s crucial to see yourself as God sees you! We all build our self concept on something. Are we building in a way that produces confidence and security or self-doubt and fear?

1ST) THE LOVE OF GOD THE FATHER BRINGS YOU INTO GOD’S FOREVER FAMILY (PAST)
3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he[predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

BLESSED . . . EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING – Understanding our identity in Christ results in our praising God. This is a cycle of positivity!
HEAVENLY REALMS – We have a whole new spiritual realm of being.
BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD . . . IN LOVE – Our standing with God is rooted in His love and eternal plan, not our moral performance.
ADOPTION – By grace we are brought into a family on the same footing as a child by birth. The point of a child of God is to reflect God’s character as we are transformed by the Holy Spirit who lives within us. The love of God is the foundation for Christian ethics.

2ND) THE LOVE OF GOD THE SON BRINGS US COMPLETE FORGIVENESS (PRESENT)
7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us.

REDEMPTION – Being set free someone from slavery.
THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS – The cross of Jesus is the central act that brings us release from the debt of our sins.
GRACE – There is no sense of entitlement for a Christian. Our status with God is a sheer gift.