

Announcements

Mission of the Month HEIFER International

This Week's Schedule

January 11

Worship 9am
Ault Bible Study & High School Sunday School 10:15am

January 12

LHN 8:30-11:30am
ELO 9-2pm

January 13

KCC Foundation Awards Ceremony Rental 9-12pm
Mat Weaving 9-11:30am

Homestead 9am

Van Buren 10am

Missions 5:30pm

January 14

LHN 8:30-11:30am
ELO 9-2pm

Vine Meal 5:30pm

Bells, Kids Club, Confirmation 6:15pm

High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm

January 15

LHN 8:30-11:30am
Charity Circle 9am

Friendship Circle 1:30pm

January 16

ELO 9-11am
Office closes @ 12 noon

January 17

Worship 5pm



The gift of a goat provides milk, cheese and butter for nourishment. On small farms, goats are often the key to a family's survival.

Goat is \$120

Goats help families feed themselves

On small farms, goats are often the key to a family's survival. Give a goat to a family in need. Along with training and education in its care, each goat gift donation:

- Provides milk, cheese and butter for nourishment
- Boosts income through sales of extra milk
- Encourages better crop yields by creating fertilizer and clearing land

Goats are known for providing delicious milk, which can be used to create cheese that can be sold for income, in turn providing a family's children the opportunity to go to school. Goat milk is more easily digestible, and one animal can produce up to four gallons a day.

Goats are ideal for zero grazing, which means very little land is needed to raise them. Their natural curiosity and intelligence also makes them great pets for families with children.



Algona First United Methodist Church

January 10 & 11, 2025

WELCOME SERVE LOVE

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship *Psalm 95:6-7*

All: "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."

Opening Prayer

All: We come before You, Lord, in humble adoration, ready to worship You with all that we are. Amen.

***Song #400 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 40:1-5*

Congregational Prayer *Hymnal Prayer of Confession #892*

***Song #545 "The Church's One Foundation" Verses 1, 2, 4, 5**

Receiving of New Members & Affirmation of Membership

Vows *Hymnal 38-39*

Recognition & Installation of Church Officers

Dear Lord, with hearts uplifted in hope, we present our prayers for vision as we install these leaders. Grant them eyes that see beyond the present moment, understanding the tapestry of Your divine purpose. May their leadership be marked by clarity of purpose and a deep understanding of the path You have laid before us.

May they possess the foresight to lead us with wisdom and discernment, making decisions that align with Your eternal plan. We thank You for their commitment to guiding us toward a future illuminated by hope and purpose, and we trust in Your guidance to navigate the journey ahead. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

*Unison 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 #340 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"**

Children's Message

New Testament Reading *Luke 3:1-18*

Message "Preparing for Jesus"

***Response #349 "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"**

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.

Sermon Notes

Repentance: A Heart Open and Tuned to the Living God

Luke 3:1-20

Repentance reorients us from the voices of the world to the Word:

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— **2** during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Repentance connects us with God's heart of forgiveness:

3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Repentance reorients our lives around God:

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. **5** Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. **6** And all people will see God's salvation.'"

Repentance calls for inner righteousness, not false confidence in outer religiosity:

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **8** Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. **9** The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

Repentance is treating others well, especially in the areas of economic compassion and justice:

10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. **11** John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." . . . **12** Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" **13** "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them . . . **14** Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

Repentance enthrones Christ and dethrones self:

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. **16** John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." **18** And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Calling the powerful to repent often has consequences:

19 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, **20** Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

Luke's first readers would have caught the revolutionary implications of this account. Do we?