

Words of Service for December, 2017/January, 2018
Algona First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 S. Moore Street, Algona, IA 50511
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Sunday Worship 10 am
Pastor Chris Burtnett
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FROM THE FRONT PORCH

How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? If you're keeping all of them, great! Good for you! But, from past experience, I know that we're pretty good at keeping our resolutions for the first few weeks of a new year and then.....we taper off and fall back into previous patterns of living. Yes, sometimes we may manage to keep one or two, but the odds are against us. In spite of our best intentions, it's difficult to maintain the discipline to make them stick. So, if you let your resolutions fall by the wayside, that's okay. Why? Because Lent is almost here.

I don't make resolutions anymore for the reason mentioned above. It saves me from feeling guilty about falling short of what I had planned to do and be. I still feel the pull to make them, but I figure, "What's the point if all I end up doing is forgetting about them?"

So, instead of making resolutions, I've found a replacement practice that I think might serve all of us much better. I read an article a few weeks ago by a fellow non-resolution maker who addressed this conundrum. Instead of resolutions, the author does a rededication. In other words, rather than make pledges to work on specific aspects of their life, this person pledges to devote themselves wholly and earnestly to being an all-around better person in the year ahead than they were before, rededicates themselves to working to live in a new and better way.

February is upon us. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is the 14th (also Valentines day by the way). In my mind, it's the perfect time for rededication. We don't always keep our resolutions. Neither do we always keep living faithful lives in the manner that Jesus exemplified and God expects.

Lent is a time for what I call "re-ing" things, like reflection, re-evaluation, repenting, renewal.

Let's add rededication to our list of Lenten disciplines. Let's make this Lenten season a time of rededication. To once again devote ourselves wholly and earnestly to being the type of disciples Jesus invites us to be. Let's rededicate ourselves to living more faithfully, a life that reflects the One we say that we follow.

Pastor Chris

DECEMBER/JANUARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December

No Board Meeting

January

- Organ was tuned in early December.
- Algona Plumbing inspected the furnaces in the church to see that they are operating properly.
- As of January second we are now operating under the Tri-Conference Agreement which includes the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences.
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed January 22-26. Our congregation will host on Monday, January 22.
- Our annual organ concert has been rescheduled from February 11th to

February 25th. The time will remain the same at 1:30.

- Still working with A-plus tree service to take down the tree on the west side of the parsonage driveway.
- The glass on the west entry door of the Education/Fellowship building was cracked. It will be replaced when the weather warms up.
- The lock on the south door of the Education/Fellowship building will be replaced. We'll also replace the locks on all other entry doors so one key can be used to unlock them to reduce the number of keys needed.
- Organ chimes have been repaired and other speaker installed.
- Annual Meeting followed by a potluck meal will be February 4th.
- Ash Wednesday Service will be February 14th. Time to be determined.
- Discussed policy for cancelling worship due to inclement weather. Pastor Chris and Board President Mick Schlievert will communicate to make a decision when necessary.
- Next meeting will be February 21st.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH WHEN:

- a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.
- your group or committee plans a meeting or event, so the date and time can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.
- either your home, cell or business phone number changes, so we can update the church records.
- you are planning a move, whether locally or out of town.
- a new baby arrives in your family in the family or another church member or friend.
- a member of your family leaves home to attend college or establishes a new residence.
- a church member or constituent dies and the church can be of assistance.

***Complete minutes of the Board meetings are available in the church office.**

Organ Concert February 25 Ryan Mueller



Introduced to the pipe organ by his Great Grandfather at a very young age, **Ryan Mueller**, has developed a love and passion for the King of Instruments and its music. He started his formal piano education in the third grade with Mrs. Susan Eichstadt and subsequently began his formal organ studies his freshman year of high school with Prof. John Reim at Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI. He has participated in masterclasses by Hector Olivera, Jonathan Moyer, and John Schwandt. He holds the colleague certification from the American Guild of Organists, was a recipient of the 2014 OHS E. Power Biggs Fellowship, and a 2017 AIO Scholarship. Ryan is organist at St. John's Lutheran Church in Okabena, Minnesota.

Even though he is only 21 years old, Ryan's endeavors have taken him to prominent venues around the country such as St. John the Divine, New York, NY, St. John's Cathedral, Denver, CO, Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas, TX, The National Cathedral, Washington D.C., and countless other concert halls, cathedrals, and churches in between. Besides playing, Ryan is even more passionate about organ building, history, and historic preservation. He frequently performs concerts and gives lectures to raise awareness for historic pipe organs. Ryan is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and currently resides in Lake City, Iowa, where he is an organ builder at Dobson Pipe Organ Builders Ltd. in Lake City. He is a past board member of the Milwaukee - AGO, DTOS, and is also an active member of the OHS, AGOYO, ATOS, NTHP, and ALCM. When not around pipe organs, he enjoys restoring classic cars, photography, perusing antique stores & art galleries,

biking, hiking, and a wealth of other activities.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Bring a dish to pass, your table service, and join us for a potluck following the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 4th! The Scuffham's will be making their delicious vegetable stew on February 14th. Bring your valentine for stew and the Ash Wednesday service at 5:30 pm! On February 25th, we will have a potluck following the worship service. The organ concert will begin at 1:30 that day.

In March, we will meet at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 14th, for Fellowship Night. We will host the annual Palm Sunday Brunch on March 25th following the worship service. Bring a brunch dish to share, and join us!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAMILY

THANK YOU from the SAUNSOCI Indian Family
We want to all thank you whole heartedly very very much for your kindness and good thoughts. Most of all the prayers. ❤️ we love you all. Grandmother Christine plans to spend your generous gift on the grandchildren's Christmas presents, groceries and new winter jackets. Wishing you and your Church a happy blessed Christmas too ❤️

Happy upcoming birthday, Karen.

On Sunday, February 18th, I will be celebrating my 80th birthday and serving cake from 9:30 until 10:30 at the United Methodist Church foyer, off the fireside room. Stop by on your way to your service at ten---come early, and enjoy a piece of cake with me. Pastor Karen Dearchs

The Kossuth County CARE Team is hosting a Quilt Show on Saturday, March 24. It will be held from 10 AM - 3PM at the Trinity Life Center, Trinity Lutheran Church in Algona, IA.

There will be a \$10 Admittance charge with all proceeds going to the Kossuth C.A.R.E. team.

We are limiting ONE quilted item per person in an effort to showcase more talent.

If you are interested in displaying a quilt or if you would like to help, please contact Brenda Bormann – bormann@ncn.net or text her at 515-341-6982 or Jane Dreyer - janedreyer95@hotmail.com or text her at 515-320-0490.

Please notify Jane or Brenda by Wednesday, March 14th, if you plan on sharing an item. We would also like the size of the quilted item to be displayed; this will help us plan the display venue.

We hope you can join us, share a quilted item, and help us help those in need!



FEBRUARY

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 	3
4 9:00 am Seekers 10:00 am Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School Annual Meeting Potluck	5 11:00am Ex-Op	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Seekers 10:00 am Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School	12 11:00am Ex- Op	13	14 Ash Wednesday 	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Seekers 10:00 am Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School	19 11:00am Ex-Op	20	21 7 pm Board Meeting	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Seekers 10:00 am Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School 1:30 pm Organ Concert	26 11:00am Ex-Op	27	28	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Join us Sunday February 25 at 1:30 for our 4th annual organ concert </div>		

MARCH 2018

All God's Creation is Very Good!
 Prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 2 World Day of Prayer at St. Cecilia	3
4 9:00 am Seekers 10:00 am Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School	5 11:00am Ex-Op	6	7	8 5:15 pm PPR Committee International Women's Day	9	10
11 9:00 am Seekers 10:00 am Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School	12 11:00am Ex-Op	13 1:00 DAR	14 5:30 Fellowship	15 2:30 pm Women's Fellowship	16	17 
18 9:00 am Seekers 10:00 am Worship 10:15 Children's Sunday School	19 11:00am Ex-Op	20	21 7 pm Board Meeting	22	23	24
25 Palm Sunday 9:00 Seekers 10:00 am Worship	26 11:00am			28	29 Maundy Thursday	30 Good Friday
						31