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Getting into the Zone

By Pastor Julie Wright

As you're aware, there are many **a-m-a-z-i-n-g** things happening at Amazing Grace this fall. Sunday School and Confirmation have resumed, Choirs are back in action, and it's good to see so many of you in worship on Sunday mornings. While we're back in the swing of things, I want to acknowledge that things are not quite the same as they were last fall. We are beginning a season of change and transition.

A new children's choir will be starting up this fall, combining two choirs into one and providing new opportunities to make a joyful noise. Additionally, there are a bunch of staff changes in the works:

- Council leaders are devoting time to prayerfully consider how to best achieve our mission with the right *pastoral staffing*.
- Teams are in place to hire a *Children & Youth Coordinator* and *Sunday School Coordinator*. Longtime choir director, Susan Young, has announced her resignation as *Director of Sanctuary Choir*, effective December 31, so we will soon be searching for a new choir director to fill those shoes.

With each of these staffing changes comes the unique blessing that each and every one of the people who are moving on from these roles plans to continue to be part of the community of Amazing Grace, serving in other ways. *That tells me one thing – that the Holy Spirit is moving and shaping this community, shaking things up and opening us up to new ways that God will work in and through this community of faith.*

Yes, I realize that this is a lot of change all at once. As my grandparents would say, *Uffdah!* Put another way, it is a perfect storm. It's not the kind of storm when you want to curl up with a good book or movie on the couch, listening to the snow/sleet/rain/hail outside, while slipping effortlessly into a delightful nap. Nope. This is an even better kind of storm! This is a sit-on-the-edge-of-your-seat, stay up late, savor the moment, beautiful kind of storm where God can surprise us at any moment. And it's happening right now!



Lutheran #1: How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?

Lutheran #2: Change???????

For some people, change comes naturally and is exciting. For others, change can be startling or overwhelming. Some people want decisions to be made rapidly. Others need time to process the information, to consider options, and to breathe...

In his book, *Managing Transitions*, William Bridges identifies change and transition as critical processes for any organization or family. Change is

Continued on page 4

Worship and Music Ministry Notes

By Louise Lentz, Worship and Music Chair

Imagine arriving at church and no one was at the door to greet you. As you walked into the Sanctuary, there was no usher to hand you a bulletin. You walked to the nursery and no one was there to care for your child. When the service began, the candles did not get lit, the scripture was not read, communion bread and wine were missing, and you could not hear the Pastor because the sound was not turned on. This would not be a worshipful experience. The Worship & Music Ministry Team recognizes the importance of our worship support roles (acolytes, altar care, greeters, nursery, readers, sound system, ushers, and worship assistants) and is planning an event to develop consistency in those roles.

All Hands Training

Calling all who serve as acolytes, altar care, greeters, nursery, sound system, ushers, readers, worship assistants, and those who want to take on one of these roles

Please join us on:

Saturday, November 5, 9:00 am – 10:45 am
For coffee, treats, conversation, and training to
“Be the Light” in our worship

Training will give everyone the confidence and knowledge to be comfortable in taking on a worship support role. The training also provides an opportunity for those who are currently serving in these roles to share your ideas and have conversation with others. Those who attended in March 2015 said the training was informative, engaging and they learned something new about their role. They enjoyed sharing ideas with others who serve, and the refreshments were tasty. Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday, November 5, 9:00 am for this event.

Now the Feast and Celebration

In the September newsletter Pastor Julie wrote that in the month of October we will we learn a liturgy called *Now the Feast and Celebration*, written by Marty Haugen, by singing this liturgy every Sunday. After that, we plan on using it once a month. We believe this will add some variety to our worship time and help us give glory to God. We would like your feedback. Please connect with any of the Worship & Ministry Team members to let us know what you think about the liturgy or our worship services. Members: Louise Lentz, chair; Trish Ebensteiner, Pastor Chris Kinney, Laurel Oseth, Brad Pipal, Nancy Pollock, Gloria Rasmussen, Angy Thelemann, Judy & Tom Thompson, and Susan Young.

October Worship



Sunday	Theme	Lessons	Worship Services
October 2 Confirmation Sunday	<i>“It’s not my job.”</i>	Lamentations 1:1-6 or Lamentations 3:19-26 Psalm 137 Luke 17:5-10	8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
October 9	<i>“I can’t”</i>	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-12 Luke 17:11-19	8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
October 16 Africa Mission Trip Reflection	<i>“Persistence Pays Off”</i>	Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 118:97-104 Luke 18:1-8	8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
October 23	<i>“Mercy”</i>	Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 Luke 18:9-14	8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
October 30 Reformation	<i>“It’s tough being short”</i>	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 Luke 19:1-10	8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

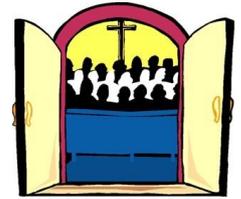
submitted by Pastor Chris Becker

On October 2nd, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, we will witness 3 young people affirm their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Please include them in your prayers as they prepare to share their faith statements.



Special Congregational Meeting

Date: October 9, 2016
Time: Between Services @ 9:15
Where: Sanctuary



Congregational MEETING

Congregational Meeting

Date: October 30, 2016
Time: Between Services @ 9:15
Where: Sanctuary

Details on Page 9

Christian Education Ministry

Sunday School NEWS

By Linda Becker, Sunday School Coordinator

Sunday School is off to a great start. We welcomed several new families on Rally Sunday and look forward to including them throughout the year. The prize for best attendance goes to our Preschool class. Teachers Patty Johnson and Kami Burgess were busy with 11 children! Thankfully we had moved the classroom to a larger room with plenty of space for children and their parents. What joy to see the excited faces coming to Sunday School for the first time!!

Praying with children is one of our goals for the year. In all of our fall stories God's people pray to God for help: Noah looks for help as he builds a great ark, Daniel prays for help as he survives the lion's den, and Joseph prays for his brothers who sell him to passing strangers.

In your homes use the Five Finger Prayer to guide children. Fold your hands together and focus on one finger at a time:



Thumb: pray for family and those closest to you
Pointer: pray for school friends and teachers
Middle: pray for the President and justice in the world
Ring: pray for sick people
Pinky: pray for yourself

Please include prayers for our faithful Sunday School Shepherds and Teachers: Patty and Kami, Emily and Robyn, Alison and Dre, and Stef and Todd. As well as rotation teachers, Anna Hahnfeldt, Sara Liegl, Kris Holsen, Trudy and Evan Johnson, Pam Rutten. Rotation teachers are always needed. Please contact Linda Becker.



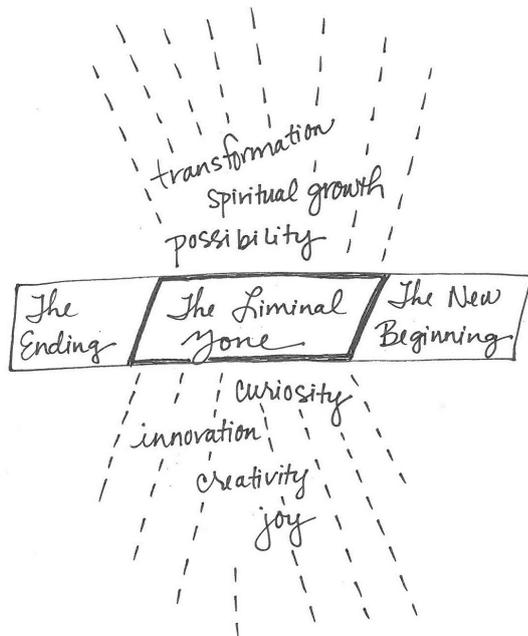
Vacation Bible School

Submitted by Amanda Vesta, VBS Coordinator

For the past 4 years the VBS program has been fortunate to have Lynn Waska as a co-coordinator. Lynn has stepped down from her role and we now have an open position. If you are interested please contact Amanda Vesta for more details at avesta@aglcigh.org. Please prayerfully consider this role in helping our youngest members of the congregation have a faith-filled week of learning!

identified as the what, when, where, and how. *Transition* is the emotional process that runs parallel to the changes. Transition is how we *feel* about the changes and how we emotionally and spiritually digest and process the changes. Change can happen quickly. *Transition takes time.*

Bridges identifies 3 phases in transition: the ending, the liminal zone (or as I call it “the zone”), and the new beginning.



The ending: As something comes to an end, it's common in this phase for emotions to be conflictual: grief and hope, joy and anxiety, shock and delight.

The liminal zone: In this phase, we may want to move quickly to the new beginning to avoid feelings of discomfort. We must resist this urge, and instead consider new ideas and have a lot of conversation, letting ourselves be a little (or a lot) uncomfortable with this reality. The key here is to stay in there together and express what we're thinking and feeling and by all means, keep on praying for the wisdom of God to guide us in our decision making.

The new beginning: Having arrived together in a new normal, we can gratefully receive the blessings that God has given — the fullness of our life together as a congregation, the relationships that have deepened, and the sense of newness that brings a fresh commitment to our shared mission.

The Zone

The liminal zone is a time when, through the energy of the Holy Spirit, *imagination, innovation, creativity* and *joy* can

spark a fire in our life together. But here's the thing — we can't fully embark upon this journey without some discomfort. There will be some of that. Brené Brown says that, “Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change.” And coincidentally, it's also the seat of belonging.

The zone is the place where we let go of the old reality and we begin to shape our future together. Amazing Grace is not new to this kind of change. With the unification of two congregations, each with a unique identity, a new church was formed. Now after 10 years since that unification, we are a vibrant congregation dedicated to doing the work of Christ.

As we make our way forward in the next few months, we are guided by our recently adopted strategic plan which will shape our decisions until the year 2020. We are led by the same God who led Moses and the Israelites through the desert for 40 years as they considered a new reality. God knows that we need *time* to move through these transitions. And getting into the zone requires us to be real about how we're doing with all these changes. So I would like to invite you to join me and others in conversation. I want to know:

- What excites you?
- What is confusing?
- What are your questions / hopes / fears?

And I'm curious to learn:

- Where is God showing up in the midst of all these changes?
- How is God surprising us?
- How is the Holy Spirit breathing new life into this congregation — into YOU?

Being vulnerable in times like these takes courage, but I know that God will provide us with the bravery to wade through these waters together. One thing that helps lighten the load when it comes to congregational change is joy. Even though this may be a time of stress, let's also make space to laugh. Even though there is uncertainty, let's celebrate! We rejoice that our God is faithful and provides everything that we need. God simply will not let us go. This is not an ending. It is a re-birth.

In the coming weeks and months, my job, and the job of all the staff and council, is to listen to your ideas, thoughts and suggestions. I welcome all of your ideas. So please, give me a call and let's talk; let's have coffee. The other thing we must all do is to pray. Join me in praying for God's wisdom and guidance in all our decision-making. We have exciting work ahead of us *Joining God at Work in the World!*

Community of Faith Events



OWLS

OLDER, WISER, LUTHERANS and FRIENDS!

**This is for all “Older – Wiser – Lutherans and Friends”
who are semi or fully retired.**

Submitted by Pastor Chris Becker

On Thursday October 27 you are invited to join me at Amazing Grace Lutheran at 11:00 a.m. for a “pot-luck” lunch and some fun together. Coffee, tea, water, lemonade, and cookies will be provided. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

We will gather in the Upper Room from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Come alone or bring a friend for some fun and relaxation.

If you have any questions contact me at cbecker@aglcigh.org. If you are able to join us please let me know by contacting me at the same e-mail address or call me at 651-455-0093..

I hope to see you on the 27th of October.

God's peace.



Save the date!! December 4, 2016

10th Annual Senior Holiday Brunch

Enjoy a Christmas brunch and fellowship with other seniors from Amazing Grace at the Pool and Yacht Club in Mendota Heights.

Contact Person: Barb Henke

When: Sunday, December 4th at 12 noon

Where: Pool and Yacht Club in Mendota Heights

Who: Those 55 and Older

Cost: TBD

Evangelism and Stewardship

Lewis House[®]: Sexual & Domestic Violence Shelters

Submitted by Sue Grundhoffer, Evangelism/Stewardship Co-Chair

Due to health issues, Bonnie Petrasek, has resigned her leadership position with Lewis House. Bonnie was an amazing advocate for the work that is being done at Lewis House and is hoping that someone from AGLC will be able to carry on in her place.

Since Lewis House opened its doors in 1979, more than 80,000 survivors of domestic violence have benefited from its safety, support and advocacy services, with help provided to over 3,000 women and children annually. Here is their website for more information:

<https://www.360communities.org/violence-prevention-intervention/lewis-house/>

Please continue to pray for Bonnie, as she has health issues that prevent her from fully participating at AGLC. However, she LOVES to get phone calls (in lieu of visits) so please feel free to call Bonnie directly for more information! If you are interested in taking over Bonnie's role as advocate, please follow up with Sue Grundhoffer or Jon Vesta.

Neighbors, Inc. Events

Submitted by Lisa Barnhart



9th Annual Great Neighbors' Duck Races, October 1, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Adopt a duck for a chance to win prizes including

the grand prize - a Jeep for a year! There will be other games and activities for the whole family. All proceeds will be used locally to support Neighbors, Inc.'s emergency and supportive programs.

Walk to End Hunger, November 24, 7:00 am at the Mall of America.

For more information on these events, please visit the Neighbor's website - neighborsmn.org

Food Shelf items needed: Baked beans, tuna, pancake mix and syrup, personal care items and paper bags.

Hospitality House

Submitted by Annie Morgan

Hospitality House Youth Development will host their annual fall banquet on October 16, 2016. Amazing Grace will sponsor a table and members will attend the dinner and banquet program to learn more about the work of HHYD and to enjoy an evening of inspiration and spiritually uplifting music, prayers, and presentations. All members are welcome to attend or to participate with HHYD as volunteers throughout the year.

Volunteer opportunities include classroom tutors, one-time assistance with set-up for special events, athletic coaches or assistant coaches, lead an activity or craft on a Fun-Friday, or offer administrative assistance. Donations of all kinds are always welcome.

There is life-giving work being done in some of the poorest and roughest neighborhoods of North Minneapolis, and AGLC is a partner in that work. Contact Mark and Annie Morgan to learn more!

THE ABCs OF RECYCLING FOR YOUTH



The Hahnfeldt family has offered to manage a recycling program with all proceeds going to the youth activity fund. They will recycle Aluminum, Copper & Brass (A-B-C). (Iron & steel values are too low). Recyclables may be placed near the boiler room or in the exterior recycle container in the trash area. Arrangements can be made in the event that a pick up is needed.



Crafters Wanted

Submitted by Zella Vandervort

Please consider donating a craft item or two to be sold in support of ELCA

World Hunger. The annual Fair Trade and World Hunger sale runs Sundays, November 20th thru December 18th. Donations are welcome anytime. Please contact Zella Vandervort with any questions. Thank you!

Missions

Global Missions

By Pastor Chris Becker



“How beautiful are the feet...”

These feet are from a man who was working to make bricks for the floor of one of the preaching points of Magulilwa parish in Tanzania. Our brothers and sisters demonstrate their faith in Jesus through their care for each other and for all those around them. This is what this man was helping to build – a place to show Jesus’ love for all.

We, at Amazing Grace, have the opportunity to become involved with building God’s kingdom through our sister congregation in Tanzania.

On Sunday October 16 we will celebrate our Global Mission month. We will share in the traditions of our global partners during our Sunday worship and then host a “market bazaar” with items from China, Guatemala, and Africa. Each of these items are unique and would make great Christmas gifts.

The funds we raise will go to completing floors in various preaching points, and providing education to students of various ages.

Invite friends and neighbors on Sunday October 16 for our “Global Mission Bazaar”.

“Some of the members of Magulilwa parish in Tanzania say Asante sana” (thank you very much)



World Hunger

Submitted by Zella Vandervort

Did you know...

...over 800 million people in the world do not get enough food each day to live healthy lives? ([World Food Programme](#))
 ...in the United States, nearly 16 million children are not sure where their next meal will come from? ([Bread for the World](#))

Did you ALSO know...

...the world produces enough food to give every living person 2,868 calories per day? ([Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.](#))

...the number of people living in chronic hunger worldwide has fallen 17 percent since the early 1990s? ([World Food Programme](#))

...in 2014, gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped support over 380 anti-hunger ministries in the United States and 250 programs in over 50 other countries – from food pantries to community gardens, from health care clinics to job training programs, and so much more?

Here at Amazing Grace, between services starting Sunday, November 20th through December 18th, we will be selling Fair Trade Chocolate, Coffee, and other gift items in support of Fair Trade and ELCA World Hunger.

Amazing Grace Justice Team

By Annie Morgan

Our team attended a leader-filled room at the ISIAAH sponsored Leadership Assembly on September 10 in Brooklyn Center. We gathered to look at the arc of our work as a group over the next six months and continuing forward until the next governor election in Minnesota in 2018.

On September 18 Amazing Grace did a neighborhood visit to build relationships and stir up conversations about issues that are affecting families in our area. While we anticipated positive results in relationship building and AGLC and ISIAAH name-recognition, voter turn-out, election engagement, and awareness of issues—our intention in these conversations was to simply be present with our neighbors and take the opportunity to listen and learn.

Our goal is to have at least 1,500 people attend a January 29 event launching the ISIAAH agenda to state and community candidates and elected officials including 2018 governor hopefuls. Now that's **PEOPLE POWER!** There is so much we can do together to insist that people in power build an economy, an environment and a democracy that includes, sustains, and uplifts all of God's children. We can create a state where all of us thrive and where everyone's dignity is protected.

We ask that you consider joining us and praying for us as we move forward.

Leadership Assembly participants, James Zentner, Judy Rhein, Louise Lentz, Mark and Annie Morgan left the day pondering questions like the ones below. What are your answers?

1. *When we live in isolation, we are more susceptible to messages of fear and hopelessness. Are we not called as a faith community to welcome and embrace the isolated? Does Jesus want us to live isolated from others?*
2. *The world wants us to stay in our churches. How is that working for the world?*
3. *If the elite few are the power, and power equals money, and money depends on the consumerism and preferences of the non-elite masses, wouldn't it be true that the non-elite masses are the most powerful?*
4. *Drug dealers and gangs are on the corners. They ARE making their presence known. They reach out to the vulnerable. Where are the churches? Are we effectively making our presence known?*
5. *Speaking against the status quo can be lonely. Was Jesus lonely? How does your love for Jesus influence your response to the status quo?*

Answers: 1. We are all members of one body (Ephesians 4:25) 2. Let your light shine before others (Matthew 5:16) 3. The prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective (James 5:16) 4. You yourselves are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in you! (1 Corinthians 3:16) 5. Return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always. (Hosea 12:6)

Bringing Peace and Grace

Submitted by Judy Rhein

As people of faith, we know that we're kidding ourselves if we expect those who follow Jesus to always be clean and trouble-free. Life has never been like that. Our church community is where we can find a safety net, a hand to hold, someone to listen to us as we reveal what our life is really all about. Church is a place where we can find people who can help show us that God can and will break through.

Addiction locks doors, forcing its victims into shamed, frightened silence. As people of God, we are called to help bring light into those places. We are called to bring the peace and grace that Jesus offers to those who have experienced the pain and fear of addiction.

This message is adapted from "Faith reflections: Addiction transfer" by Brooke Petersen in the August 2007 issue of [Café](#) magazine.

For more faith reflections like this, or to sign up for a monthly email, go to <http://www.boldcafe.org/>

Council Corner

Pastoral Transition

Submitted by Annie Morgan, Vice President

The AGLC Council and Pastoral Transition Team is recommending the congregation engage in the call process for calling a new lead pastor as we accept the notification of retirement for Pastor Chris Becker. As we take this journey to call our next lead pastor, we ask for the prayers and participation of the congregation. Please note the following congregational meetings (all will be held in the Sanctuary):

- OCTOBER 9 AT 9:15 AM – SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Nominating Committee presents a call committee for election by vote by the congregation.
- OCTOBER 30 AT 9:15 AM – FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** and Presentation of Candidate for Call
- NOVEMBER 13 AT 9:15 AM – SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Call Committee presents candidate for call and congregation votes on proposed call.

AGLC Financial Summary through August 2016

Submitted by Tim Sanborn, Treasurer

Hopefully you've received and had a chance to think about your 2017 AGLC Giving Pledge form, and are able to return them by October 16th. Pledges are a great way to help the Church plan the upcoming year's activities and set mission objectives. They will not be used as a 'bill', and there are no suggested giving amounts. A reminder may be sent out mid-year strictly to communicate what your household's pledged amount was, and what you've given for the year at that time – and this will come from the AGLC Financial Secretary who is the only person who will see the pledge or knows your household's giving.

As always, please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

2016 Year-to-Date numbers:

INCOME	\$243,591	85.4% of budgeted	\$41,609 under budget
EXPENSES	\$273,277	95.1% of budgeted	\$14,042 under budget (favorable)
NET INCOME	-\$29,687	-\$2,119 budgeted	-\$27,568 variance

2016 projected: Inc. **-\$62,020** Exp. -\$20,775 (favorable) Net Income \$41,245 under budget

Please note, the above shortfalls do not reflect the solvency of AGLC, simply the cash flow. The operating fund and operating reserve are designed and in place to cover this variance without having to rely on other assets. Also note that our current expense structure consists of fixed costs (electricity, salaries, mission giving, office supplies, property maintenance, etc.) that restrict some of our ability to reduce expenses. This means that not all Income/ giving deficits can be readily rectified solely by cutting costs.





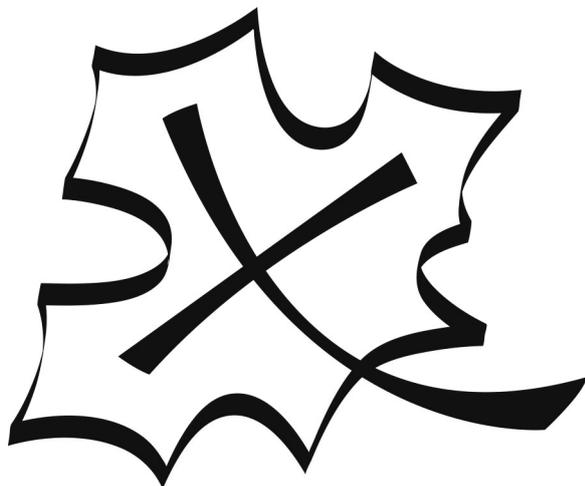
Remember

Submitted by
Pastor Chris Becker

All Saints Sunday

On **Sunday October 23rd** please start to bring a picture or any other item that represents someone who has been the light of Christ in your life. We will gather those items and display them along with candles on tables in the sanctuary as our remembrance on **All Saints Sunday November 6**. These memories can be for someone who has died or someone who is still alive. Please mark your item on the back with your name on it.

This remembrance is part of an annual event in Central America and other places of the world and is called "The Day of the Dead".



Pastoral Care—Focused Outreach

Servant Ministry Coordinator:

Pastor Chris Becker

- Meal Coordinator: Lynda Bartlette
- Ride Coordinator: Norm Beckman
- Respite Care Coordinator: Judy Thompson
- Funeral Support Coordinator: Barb Malamen

Hands and Feet Ministry— Evangelism/Stewardship Team

Coordinator: Pastor Chris Becker

October Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Beth Jacobs | 18 Joleen Ketterling |
| 3 Jeanne Zimmer | 20 J.J. Rutten |
| 4 Louise Lentz | Duane Skar |
| 6 Thea Butler | 21 Lisa Barnhart |
| Paul Rhein | Bonnie Petrasek |
| 7 Alex Bartlette | Mary Yotter |
| 8 Julie Linscheid | 22 Diane Feely |
| 10 Howard Johansen | Chris Hahnfeldt |
| 11 Eric Holsen | 26 Riley Berg |
| Noah Hunter | Adam Garfield |
| Marge Scott | Annie McIntyre |
| Renee Skoglund | 31 Kristin Gallagher |
| 14 Eli Morgan | |
| 16 Russ Barnhart | |
| 17 Muriel Arms | |
| Shaun Vandervort | |

Anniversaries

- 3 Todd and Kirsten Hoven
- 5 Tom and Judy Thompson
- 7 Annie and Mark Morgan
- 8 Emily and Eric Eliason
- 14 Jared and Brooke Hovick
- 21 John and Barb Henke
- 24 Clare and Alice Lindberg
- 25 Ryan and Merri Guggisberg
- 27 Eric and Heather Tautges

**AMAZING
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Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Joining God at Work in the World!
All are welcome!!



Website:
www.aglcigh.org

Staff:

Pastor—Pastor Chris Becker:
cbecker@aglcigh.org

Associate Pastor—Pastor Julie Wright:
jwright@aglcigh.org

Administrator—Angy Thelemann:
athelemann@aglcigh.org

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator—
In Transition

Finance/Office Assistant—
Trudy Johnson: tjohnson@aglcigh.org

Building Supervisor—
Norm Goetzke: ngoetzke@aglcigh.org

Worship Musician: Brad Pipal
Sanctuary Choir Director: Susan Young
Children's Choir Director: Angy Thelemann

Sunday School Coordinator—
Linda Becker: lbecker@aglcigh.org

Vacation Bible School Co-Coordinators—
Amanda Vesta: avesta@aglcigh.org

Main Office Hours:

(Typically)
Monday: *Working Offsite*
Tuesday—Friday: 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Deadlines:

The newsletter article deadline
is always on the 15th of the month. Bulletin
announcements or additions are due on
Wednesdays.