



## Busy: Restoring Connection with an Unhurried God

By Pastor Julie Wright

The season of Lent is set aside in our life of faith as a time to pause, reflect, prepare and journey with Jesus as he makes his way to the cross. We do this knowing the rest of the story – the resurrection story. It is a story we are invited into through God’s revealing work of love and redemption through Jesus. The life of Jesus resonates with us because we see our humanity in his; we recognize in his struggle a reflection of our own; and we rejoice in the hope found through God’s persistent presence through it all.

There are seasons or moments in our lives when it’s a bit harder to feel connected with God. Sometimes, it is our own “stuff” that gets in the way. Sometimes, that stuff is a composite of all that makes us busy – busy to the point of over-flowing. So this Lent, join me as we dial down the noise and busyness, making space to reconnect with God who waits patiently for us to breathe deeply, to savor the moment, to be centered and grounded deeply during this season of dying and rising with Christ.

### Wednesday Nights in Lent

On Wednesday nights in Lent, I invite you to come together for an evening meal and conversation, followed by worship.

- 5:30 pm Community Meal with *free will offering* (proceeds benefit AGLC youth programming)
- 5:30 pm Faith Conversations – Confirmation Students and Mentors
- 6:30 pm Children’s Choir
- 7:40 pm Sanctuary Choir (8 pm on Ash Wednesday)
- 7:00 pm Worship



Date	Theme	Scripture	Darkwood Brew Episode
March 1 – Ash Wednesday 7:00-8:00 pm Worship with Imposi-	<i>Joys &amp; Burdens</i>	Matthew 11:28-30	BUSY/Episode 1
March 8 – 7:00-7:30 pm worship	<i>Worried &amp; Distracted</i>	Luke 10:38-42	BUSY/Episode 2
March 15 – 7:00-7:30 pm worship	<i>Setting the Table</i>	Psalm 23	BUSY/Episode 3
March 22 – 7:00-7:30 pm worship	<i>Relying on God</i>	Luke 12:29-34	BUSY/Episode 4
March 29 – 7:00-7:30 pm worship	<i>Seasons of Vulnerability</i>	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	BUSY/Episode 5
April 5 – 7:00-7:30 pm worship	<i>Courage for the Journey</i>	Ecclesiastes 3:9-13	BUSY/Episode 6

To deepen the Lenten journey, this year we offer an educational resource through DarkwoodBrew. DarkwoodBrew episodes can be viewed in two ways:

- Sunday mornings starting March 5 at 9:15-10:15 am in the Upper Room, with group discussion
- Online at: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/busy/>  
 Contact the church office for the user name and password to access this series. This resource is accessible by smart phone, tablet or computer. Note that log in and password are case-sensitive.

Please invite friends, neighbors, strangers and relatives to join us this Lent. *Reconnecting with an Unhurried God* in the midst of our busy lives may be just the very balm that we all need for our bodies and souls.

In gratitude through Christ,  
 Pastor Julie Wright

<h2>March Worship</h2>			
Sunday	Theme	Lessons	Worship Services
<b>March 5</b> <i>Lent 1</i> <i>Healing Service</i>	<b>The Temptation of Jesus</b>	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Matthew 4:1-11	8:00 and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
<b>March 12</b> <i>Lent 2</i>	<b>The Love of God</b>	Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 John 3:1-17	8:00 and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
<b>March 19</b> <i>Lent 3</i> <i>Installation of Pastor Julie Wright</i>	<b>A Drink of Living Water</b>	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 John 4:5-42	8:00 and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
<b>March 26</b> <i>Lent 4</i>	<b>I Once Was Blind, but Now I See</b>	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 John 9:1-41 w 17:1-9	8:00 and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

## Urgent Need: Homeless Shelter in Dakota County



Homelessness continues to be a problem, as there are no permanent shelters for individuals and families in Dakota County. A temporary shelter has been set up at Easter Lutheran in Eagan, but a permanent solution is needed. At this time there is no need for items to be donated, such as bedding, etc, or more volunteers thanks to a huge outpouring of support. There will be opportunities to help in the future. **The biggest need now is financial support** to pay for professional shelter staff and technical assistance. A GoFundMe page has been set up to accept donations: <https://www.gofundme.com/dakcountysshelter> Checks can also be written to Minnesota Housing Partnership, a 501c3 with a note for Dakota Shelter. Contact Rebecca Bowers, Dakota County Social Services, 1 Mendota Rd. W., Suite 300, West St. Paul, MN 55118. 651-554-6029

# Worship and Music Ministry

## Preparing for Easter - Preparing for Worship

by Louise Lentz, Worship and Music Chair

Lent is the season that prepares for Jesus's most precious gift – His death on the cross, His resurrection and complete forgiveness. What prepares us for worship each Sunday and during Lent? Preludes. The preludes to our worship are intended to create a contemplative atmosphere for members to prepare their hearts and minds for the worship service. The “prelude” is the signal for a more focused response to worship to begin. Consider the prelude the first movement of worship, with an accompanying change in behavior and mindset. In an internet blog, Pastor Scott Korljan, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Traverse City, MI, answers three key questions about preludes. (To read more, or to read other topics, go to <http://www.redeemertraversecity.org/blog>.)

### Why have a Prelude?

- We live in a world of constant busyness, buzz, and information overload. Even when we are not working, we rarely find time amidst our texting, internet searches, emails and Facebook updates, to actually be still and reflect on much of anything, let alone “be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46).
- Worship is an activity that is to engage our whole being - our thoughts, words and emotions - and unfortunately this is often not the state of mind we have as we walk through the church doors on Sunday morning. The stress of the previous week (or the coming week), the list of things to do in the afternoon, the big game later that evening - and the list goes on and on - are all competing for our focus and attention. The prelude is meant to help us prepare to fruitfully participate in the most central aspect of our Christians lives: the worship of our Triune God.

### Is preparation important?

- I am afraid we are losing the idea that worship is something that we must prepare for. The reality is, however, that failing to prepare yourself for worship is a sure way to not benefit from the word of God preached, hymns sung, or prayers offered. We go to great lengths to prepare ourselves when we meet with other people, have important business meetings, etc. Without taking time to prepare ourselves for worship, not only will we not give God the praise that we should, but neither will we receive from him the good gifts that He has for us.

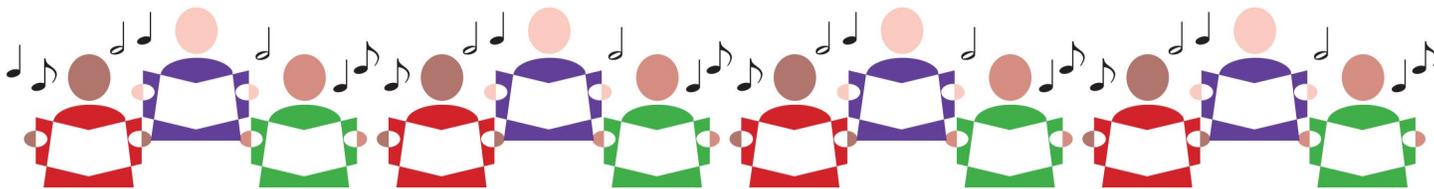
### How can we make the most of the prelude?

- There are different ways you can use this time effectively. Read a short passage of Scripture, reflect on an aspect of God's character and goodness, or simply pray and ask God to prepare you for worship. Something as simple as “Heavenly Father, help me to worship you in Spirit and in Truth this morning. Help me not to be distracted by the many thoughts and cares that are on my mind. Help me again this morning to see that you are good, and give you the praise you so richly deserve.”

This year during Lent, we will help you prepare for Wednesday night worship by projecting a reflection question during the preludes.

When the bell rings signifying the beginning of our worship and as the prelude begins, prepare for worship through silent prayer and meditation. After the service, greet one another with joy and affection.





## All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Sanctuary Choir!

Submitted by Barb Forthun, Sanctuary Choir Director

If you like to sing, but the idea of rehearsing every week all year doesn't work for or appeal to you, this could be your time to give us a try! With Lent starting on March 1, the choir has a perfect built in "mini-season" and we would love to have you join us between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

All voices from teenager and older are welcome. It is not necessary to know how to read music. Rehearsals are at 7:40 pm Wednesday nights with performances two Sundays a month, until Holy Week when we sing at all services.

**To our teenage youth:** if you are interested in checking us out, but feel a little swamped by homework, we will tailor rehearsals for you to come to the first half of rehearsal where we will rehearse the next service's music first. Then you can take the energy built up by those endorphins from singing and head home to the homework.

The people are fun, the music is meaningful, and the experience is priceless. Not sure if you have a voice good enough for choir? Then consider giving your voice back to God in the choir!



### Installation Sundae/Sunday!

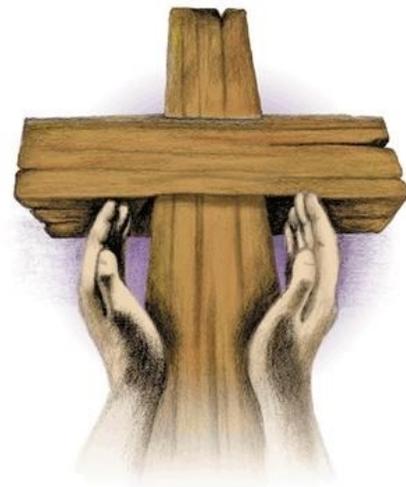
On March 19, 2017, we will celebrate the installation of Pastor Julie Wright. This is our opportunity to come together as a congregation to affirm our ministry together. We will be joined by St. Paul Area Synod Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Justin Grimm, who will deliver the message at both worship services. Additionally, we will welcome family and friends of Pastor Julie who wish to celebrate her installation and full-time call as lead pastor of Amazing Grace.

Join us after the 10:30 service for "Installation Sundaes"! We'll serve ice cream with all the toppings.

## Our Lenten Journey Begins... Wednesday, March 1st

- 5:30—6:30 p.m. Meal and Fellowship
- 5:30—6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mentor/Mentee Conversations
- 6:00—6:45 p.m. Joyful Noise Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Worship
- 7:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir (8:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday)

Come and join us as we gather for a meal, lively conversation, and worship each Wednesday night during Lent beginning on March 1st.



# From the Christian Education Ministry Team

## Hello From Sunday School!

Submitted by Kami Burgess and Trish Ebensteiner, Sunday School Co-coordinators

The news is out... Trish Ebensteiner and Kami Burgess are your new Sunday School Coordinators! We are excited to take on this new role and look forward to getting to better know the families at Amazing Grace. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are always open to new ideas and new faces to help us grow our young member's lives.



We need your help!!! We have many teaching rotations to fill for March & April... Contact one of us or check out the Sunday School bulletin board and replace a question mark with your name!



## Sunday School Listening Session

Submitted by Kami Burgess and Trish Ebensteiner, Sunday School Co-coordinators

On Sunday April 30th, we would like to invite current Sunday School teachers, shepherds, and anyone curious or interested in teaching to join us for the Adult Education hour in the Upper Room. Your new Sunday School Co-Coordinator, Trish Ebensteiner and Kami Burgess, along with Children and Youth Minister Tim Marburger, and Pastor Julie Wright would like to brainstorm with you!! Our goal is to listen to your comments and concerns about how we can improve the Sunday School program. Topics include:

1. Feedback on current program
2. Future ideas for the program
3. Ways to encourage, communicate, and grow the program



## Bible Study Resources!

Submitted by Mark Morgan

New Bible Study materials available online! AGLC has purchased an annual membership to Darkwood Brew. This is an on-line (or anywhere – accessible on mobile devices) tool with hundreds of episodes that have been crafted into small group materials for our church. Each episode is timed to fit into a traditional Sunday School or Bible study hour with plenty of room for meaningful conversation. You can go to [www.darkwoodbrew.org](http://www.darkwoodbrew.org) to preview the materials to see if they are right for your group. Ask Pastor Julie of Mark Morgan for login ID and password.

## Men's Bible Study

There is a new Men's Group (name TBD) that is meeting on Sunday nights from 6:30-8:00pm that is utilizing the Phoenix Affirmation study. All men are welcome to join! Check the calendar for locations. If you would like more information, contact Mark Morgan.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Submitted by Dre Noble and Amanda Vesta,  
VBS Co-Coordinators

**Youth...Parents... Grandparents... Neighbors...  
Friends!!**

*Come assist and help the children strengthen their faith.* Volunteer workers are needed to help run this year's exciting VBS summer program, "Glow in the Dark". Come join the fun for a few hours or a few days!



### HELP IS NEEDED IN MANY AREAS:

Classroom Assistants	Breakfast Supervision	Afternoon Rotation Help
Morning Supervision	Lunch Supervision	Outdoor Supervision
Field Trip Supervision	Decorating/Set-up	Clean-up/Tear-down
Morning Check-Out	Afternoon Check-Out	

Questions? Contact Dre Noble at [dnable@aglcigh.org](mailto:dnable@aglcigh.org) or Amanda Vesta at [avesta@aglcigh.org](mailto:avesta@aglcigh.org)

## From the Youth and Family Ministry Team

Submitted by Tim Marburger, Children and Youth Minister

### **CHILDREN and YOUTH ADVISORY Team**

A Children/Youth Advisory Group was formed in February. This group of youth, parents and interested adults will help guide our ministry. We will be looking at various topics that revolve around the ministry we do with children and youth (fundraising, parent trainings, new ideas, evaluating programs, how I'm doing, etc). We anticipate meeting no more than once a month for about one hour.

If this is of interest to you, please contact me at [tmarbarger@aglcigh.org](mailto:tmarbarger@aglcigh.org). You can also reach out with your input to the various members who have signed on to help. Presently the members of the youth advisory group are: Abby G., Hailee W., Joseph W., Lynn Waska, Mark Morgan, Pam Rutten, Caleigh T., and Tim Grundhoffer

### **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**

We started age appropriate children's bulletins were provided for worship starting in February. Please provide feedback on whether your kids like them or not.

### **CAMP WAPO**

Our reserved spots at Camp WAPO end on March 15. If you have questions about registration, please let me know.

### **MISSION TRIP**

I presently have our mission trip set for the week of **July 23 – 27 at Shalom Hill Farm**. Shalom Hill Farm was established in 1992. They chose a farmstead in Cottonwood County of southwestern Minnesota. It is a non-profit education and retreat ministry specializing in hands-on learning experiences in small town and rural culture, cultural education and environmental experiences.

Please look at your schedule for that time to see who would like to attend. I will be reaching out to eligible youth and families sometime in March. I have not chosen our topic, but would like the input of those going to decide on the above topics. I would also like to use this time as an opportunity to just spend some quality time with the youth.

### **GERTENS**

The Easter lily sale is going on until March 12. Spring Garden Orders will start March 12 and must be completed by April 2. They will be delivered on Friday, May 12.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**March 17 – 18: 30 Hour Famine** Grade 6 – 9 (in combination with several other congregations)

**April 28 – 29: Moonlight Madness** Grade 6 – 9 (in combination with several other congregations)

**June 19 – 22: VBS**

**June 26 – 29: Summer Servants, 9am – 4pm** Grades 5 – 12 (in combo with several other congregations)

**July 14 – 16: Camp WAPO SEEDS weekend** Grades 2-3

**July 16 – 21: Camp WAPO** Grades 4 – 9

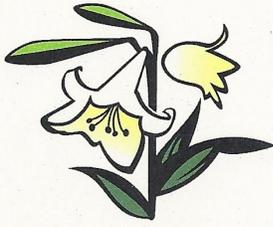
**July 23 – 27: Mission Trip**

## **Love to Bake?**

Submitted by Tim Marburger, Children and Youth Minister

Please see the blue sheet in the weekly worship bulletin and reserve your spot to share a dessert for our Wednesday night Lenten Suppers. If making a treat with nuts, please mark your dessert.

Available dates: March 1st, March 8th, March 15th, March 22nd, March 29th, and April 5th



# Easter Spring Lily Order

(Church bulletin order form)

Enjoy beautiful Easter plants and benefit the Amazing Grace Lutheran Church summer trips and camps in 2017. We invite you to help adorn our worship space on Easter morning and your home following the worship service.

All plants can be picked up following the 10:30 am worship service on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017.

**NOTE: Order deadline date is: Sunday, March 12, 2017!**

Description:	Cost per item:	Quantity	Total Cost:
6" Easter Lily- white	\$11.00		
8" Grow & Show Bulb Garden- Combination -Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Muscari	\$11.50		
12.5" Pansy Bowl - mixed	\$15.00		
6.5" Blue Hydrangea	\$16.75		
6.5" Pink Hydrangea	\$16.75		
6.5" Purple Spring Mum	\$12.00		
6.5" Yellow Spring Mum	\$12.00		
6.5" Azalea -Pink Shades	\$16.75		
6" Pink / Lavender Tulip	\$10.00		
6" Yellow Tulip	\$10.00		
6.5" Mixed Hyacinths	\$10.00		
\$25 Plant Card	\$25		
\$50 Plant Card	\$50		
\$100 Plant Card	\$100		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>		

*NOTE: Every effort will be made to supply you with your preferred color. However, due to Gerten's supply, we reserve the right to substitute color if necessary. The measurement denotes size of plant container.*

In memory or honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*(Noted in Easter Sunday bulletin)*

SOLD TO: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Attach checks, payable to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church with "Easter Spring Lily" in the memo, to this order form and place in the church office. Order deadline is March 12, 2017.**

# Notes from Evangelism/Stewardship Team

## ELCA World Hunger

Submitted by Zella Vandervort

As we embark on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, what better time to reflect on the power of God's self-giving love that transforms and challenges each of us?

During the season of Lent, we will make connections between faith, worship, and justice - central teachings of Martin Luther. His concern for the poor and his sharp rebuke of economic injustice laid the foundation for us today to see the many ways our faith calls us to strive for justice in our world. In this, the 500th year since the Reformation, Luther's call for economic justice is more pressing than ever.

Today, 1 in 9 people face hunger and 1 in 7 live in extreme poverty. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. Making sure someone has enough food for the day is not enough. Together, we must look toward the future of this church and boldly respond to the needs of the world.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger will help our global family access opportunities and earn a fair, sustainable living with dignity.

Beginning March 1st, Ash Wednesday, World Hunger boxes and envelopes will be available. Please consider filling the boxes with your change or putting a check in the envelope to support ELCA World Hunger's mission.

## China Service Ventures

Submitted by Charlotte Gronseth

Mim Nellermoe writes of visiting Ying Ying, one of those served by China Service Ventures:

It is cold, a three-layer winter clothing day. We will visit Ying Ying, a 10-year old autistic girl who is no longer permitted to attend school. In our backpacks we carry hats, gloves, scarves, and wool socks donated by Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. We also carry apples, nuts and some simple games like "Tiddly Winks"--treasures for a family so poor. After one hour we leave our bus and find a driver to take us to our general remote destination. Then we must walk through rice paddies and terraced tea fields. We ask several people if they know where the family lives. None knows for sure. We pass by piles of refuse, chickens and dogs rummaging through garbage. Finally we talk to someone who knows--up, over and around the next hill by some tea fields.

I am thrilled to be able to see Ying Ying again. Last year her little brother broke his arm. They splinted it with newspaper and string. I want to ask Ying Ying's father for permission to tutor her using horses. I train horses at a horse ranch in Xinyang in exchange for the opportunity to teach autistic children how to ride.

The family greets us warmly and puts out small stools for us to sit on. Ying Ying is so excited! She jumps up and down, smiling, and twirls around in a small dance. Her brother is shy. Neither is wearing hat or gloves in the cold. Their clothes, hands and faces are dirty, but they look beautiful to us.

(Mim continues the story but there is no room for it here. Through this and other ways of serving, many have heard the Good News and a number have come to faith.)

## Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

Submitted by Lisa Barnhart, Neighbors, Inc. Representative

### Get ready for a different kind of food fight!

Throw some food (or funds) our way this March as we try to collect more than other food shelves across the state during the annual Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. You'll not only be helping to stock our shelves for the busy summer months ahead, but you'll also be helping us secure funding distributed later in the year. So that means a donation now goes even further.

Neighbors, Inc. placed third among Minnesota food shelves during last year's campaign and this year we aren't pulling any punches – our goal for 2017 is a combined total of 350,000 pounds of food and dollars.

Watch each week in March for ways to help support Neighbor's Inc. in the March food drive!



## Thank you from Lutheran Mideast Development

Submitted by Trudy Johnson, LMD Board Member

In 2016, the AGLC Foundation graciously donated to Lutheran Mideast Development (LMD) in support of our mission to help people in the Middle East who, through no fault of their own, are watching their homes, families and their way of life being destroyed. The monies given by the Foundation have provided scholarships for young girls in the region. Following is a message from Neslihan, a recipient of an LMD scholarship.

*My past was continuous fighting and war. That's still how it goes.*

*I am 22 years old now, but looking back, the only thing I see is a childhood of gunfire, bombs and the sound of frightened, crying children.*

***This year we were forced out by the war and sent far from our home for five months.***

*When we returned we saw a city of ruins.*

*But our town was always something like that—always in turmoil. That's why we didn't get a good education. Many students gave up; quitting school.*

*I didn't give up. I didn't quit. As these events come to mind—the things I grew up with—the wars and the sound of gunfire, I can say there is a better way.*

*With your help I am in university. I've succeeded, and now that I'm here, I'll strive with everything I have to be the best I can be.*

*Thank you for helping me; I wouldn't be here without your support. With Love and Respect, Neslihan C.*

**Neslihan fled her home in haste when fighting reached her city. Five months later, she returned to see this. Without our help she would have had to drop out of college.**



# Properties Team

Submitted by Eric Tautges, Business Management Team Co-Chair and Norm Goetzke, Property Team Chair

Did you know there are a number of ways YOU can help raise money for Amazing Grace, save money on your own electric bill AND help the environment all at once? We have an unusual opportunity for all of those things if we act quickly. COMMUNITY ENERGY SOLAR INC. is building a solar garden in Rice County this year. They are offering to sell their power to Xcel Energy customers in Dakota, Rice, Goodhue, Olmstead, Dodge & Wabasha Counties at a reduced rate. The projection for savings is about 25% of your present energy cost. They are signing up customers until February 28<sup>th</sup> and have offered to pay Amazing Grace \$100 for every customer we refer. This program has been approved by the Amazing Grace Council, and information is available on the welcome table in the entryway.

We will put the electronic road sign energy on the solar program now with a potential savings of \$350-\$400 /year. Eventually we will add facility energy, potentially saving an additional \$2,500-\$3,000/year. The savings would come from the solar program and from a reduction in the Xcel price category from "General" to "Small General." To accomplish this, we need to maintain our demand KW at the present level of 24KW or less through June 2017. By installing LED bulbs and conscientious electricity use, we achieved 24KW or less starting last June. Help us continue that trend through diligent use of electricity - please turn off lights and close area doors after services and meetings to reduce heat and air conditioning cost.

Norm's motto is: "Let your little light shine for Jesus, but please turn off Xcel's." Together WE CAN make a difference.

Call Don Greeberg direct @ 612-326-0407 and tell him you are from Amazing Grace Lutheran Church.



## Calling All Aspiring or Lapsed Musicians!

Submitted by Adam Ingalsbe

Have you ever played an instrument? Would you like to play in an ensemble at AGLC a few times a year? Performances will be on an as needed basis. Once we schedule a performance, we'll contact interested people to check availability and then rehearse.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Adam Ingalsbe.

If you don't want to play but have an unused instrument at home, please let us know if you would be willing to lend it to someone for a couple of months.



**March 1, 2017**  
**Worship at 7:00 pm**

# Council Corner

## From the Council President

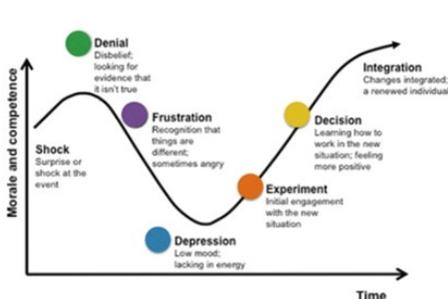
Submitted by Annie Morgan, Council President

We are in an **interim** period. The presence of Pastor Hardy, our interim pastor reminds me of this regularly. The interim is time for reflection on the past, consideration for our future, and care and grace for ourselves and others. It is in my nature to optimistically “just keep swimming” (in “Finding Nemo” fashion). I am learning, however, that it is also necessary to sit in this meantime and acknowledge it for what it is.

At the February council meeting we recounted the milestones that Amazing Grace has seen over the past ten years. A great majority of impactful shifts occurred in just one year. We celebrated employment anniversaries and lamented loss. The feelings associated with celebrations and lamentations stick around longer than a potluck or cake banquet. They can be exhausting and strengthening, and they deserve to be fully felt.

So, I am learning that it’s okay to feel tired. It’s okay to say no. It’s okay to take care of yourself. Studies of loss, grief, or change often provide evidence that the stages like the ones of the Kubler-Ross Change Curve are felt in some way at some point in the process whether we know it or not. Sometimes they come out a little sideways. **Change, loss, or stressful situations are processed differently by each of us.** That’s when grace matters. As God extends grace as we navigate change, we can offer that to each other. God also continues to work in us, creating new life and new opportunities to use our gifts, even amid denial, frustration, depression, or shock.

### The Kübler-Ross change curve



An example of how this is playing out in our congregation came up in our February council meeting. We have been thinking and talking about putting together a celebration of our one year of relationship with the Pentecostal church Piedra Preciosa. When the council considered what is already on our calendars and hearts, we decided that we would honor our relationship with Piedra Preciosa more meaningfully if we waited until summer or a time after our interim period.

As a council and congregation, we want to continue to move forward to join God at work in the world. Of course, everything we do cannot be put on hold while we adjust to God’s new creation in our lives, but it is okay to acknowledge and raise up this interim period as important work that we and God are doing. Care for yourself and others and continue to listen for God’s call for you. Where do you feel the Holy Spirit nudging?

## A Note from the Interim Pastor

So, the question that is most often asked of me here at Amazing Grace is 'how is it going for you'? And my answer always is, 'very good'. I have been warmly welcomed by the staff, council members, and congregational members. I enjoy being in your midst.

There are three main areas of responsibilities for me as your interim: (1) care and support members of Amazing Grace for a healthy transition; (2) care and support Pastor Julie Wright as your new lead pastor; and (3) facilitate a project to explore the functioning of the council, staff, and ministry teams. Through my presence in the life of the congregation in areas of presiding in Sunday worship services, preaching, Bible study, staff meetings, visits, and one-to-one interviews I am seeking to fulfill these three areas of work.

During my first week here a member asked me 'when would you know that your work as our interim is finished'? My answer then and my answer now is, I don't know. I will have an evaluation of my work by the congregation in mid- April. By then the council and myself will know how much longer I will be here at Amazing Grace.

If you want to talk with me, please contact me through the church office or my cell phone.

Do I have any advice for us during this time of transition? Yes, I do. Remember to breathe. Breathe deeply the freshness of this spring air so that your brain cells can function in the best way possible. Breathe deeply the goodness and the love of God that is all around us in a multitude of ways. Breathe deeply the wonder of what God is up to here at Amazing Grace.

Peace,  
Interim Pastor Roger Hardy

## Fellowship



### OWLS – Older, Wiser, Lutherans

Submitted by Lynn Zentner

On the third Thursday of each month, you are invited to join us at 11:00 a.m. for a “pot-luck” lunch and some fun together. Coffee, tea, water, and lemonade will be provided. **Please bring a dish to pass.** We will gather on **March 16<sup>th</sup>** at church 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.

# Attention Faithful Readers.....So Many Books!

Submitted by Barb Malamen

We gather at 6:30pm at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Cafe on Promenade in Eagan for discussion of our book of the month. We meet the third Sunday of the month. The schedule is listed below. We read a variety of books. Title suggestions are welcome any time. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Contact person is Barb Malamen. Let's read together - faithfully.

- March 19      [All The Light We Can Not See](#) by Anthony Doerr  
The story is set during WWII. It interweaves the lives of a blind French girl and an orphan German boy. We see the beauty of the laws of nature and how war can subvert them, the resilience of the human heart and the healing power of time.
- April 23      [The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared](#) by Jonas Jonasson (book kit) Allan Karlsson is confined to a nursing home and about to turn 100. He decides to climb out a window to escape and so begins an adventure.
- May 21        [The Mothers](#) by Brit Bennett  
This is a debut novel. It is a story about young love, a big secret in a small community and the things that ultimately haunt us the most.
- June 18       [The Nest](#) by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeny  
A warm, funny and perceptive story about four adult siblings and the fate of the shared inheritance that has shaped their choices and their lives.
- July 16        [The Other Einstein](#) by Marie Benedict  
The story of Mitza Maric, she is the wife of Albert Einstein. She was a brilliant physicist in her own right. They had a partnership of the mind and the heart, but is there room for more than one genius in a marriage.
- August 20     [The Husband's Secret](#) by Liane Moriarty  
At the heart of this book is a letter that is not meant to be read....
- September 17 [Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End](#) by Atul Gawande  
Making more informed choices at the end of life
- October 15    [The Wives of Los Alamos](#) by TaraShea Nesbit  
In 1943 families of mathematicians and scientists, escorted under high security move to Los Alamos, New Mexico. The wives live in isolation. The novel reads like a collective diary of hundreds of wives.
- November 19 [A Man Called Ove](#) by Fredrik Backman  
The man whose name is Ove is a curmudgeon. He's grumpy. He's cantankerous. And he is a delight.
- December      No meeting Share a favorite book with a friend.

*Note: If you are purchasing your book through Amazon.com, please consider purchasing through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=astore). Through this link, Amazing Grace will receive a small percentage of your purchase. This program is valid for all purchases through Amazon. (You can select which organization you wish to support under the Amazon search box.)*



**Pastoral Care—Focused Outreach**

Servant Ministry Coordinator: Pastor Julie Wright

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

**Hands and Feet Ministry—  
Evangelism/Stewardship Team**

Coordinator: Pastor Julie Wright



Prayer Concerns can be called in  
to Mary Garfield.

Thank you to you and those at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church for the Honor Pole. It is being displayed in our role call room.

Your appreciation and support of our department is welcoming.

**Thank You!**

Regards,  
Lt. Joshua Otis



**AMAZING  
GRACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

7160 South Robert Trail  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077



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



**Website:**  
[www.aglcigh.org](http://www.aglcigh.org)

**Staff:**

Lead Pastor—Pastor Julie Wright:  
[jwright@aglcigh.org](mailto:jwright@aglcigh.org)

Interim Pastor—Pastor Roger Hardy  
[rhardy@aglcigh.org](mailto:rhardy@aglcigh.org)

Administrator—Angy Thelemann:  
[athelemann@aglcigh.org](mailto:athelemann@aglcigh.org)

Children and Youth Minister—  
Tim Marburger: [tmarburger@aglcigh.org](mailto:tmarburger@aglcigh.org)

Finance/Office Assistant—  
Trudy Johnson: [tjohnson@aglcigh.org](mailto:tjohnson@aglcigh.org)

Building Supervisor—  
Norm Goetzke: [ngoetzke@aglcigh.org](mailto:ngoetzke@aglcigh.org)

Worship Musician: Brad Pipal  
Sanctuary Choir Director:  
Barb Forthun: [bforthun@aglcigh.org](mailto:bforthun@aglcigh.org)  
Joyful Noise Choir Director: Angy Thelemann

Sunday School Co-Coordinator—  
Kami Burgess: [kburgess@aglcigh.org](mailto:kburgess@aglcigh.org)  
Trish Ebensteiner: [tebensteiner@aglcigh.org](mailto:tebensteiner@aglcigh.org)

Vacation Bible School Co-Coordinator—  
Amanda Vesta: [avesta@aglcigh.org](mailto:avesta@aglcigh.org)  
Dre Noble: [dnable@aglcigh.org](mailto:dnable@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.