

AMAZING  
GRACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE / JULY 2017

## @The Intersection by Pastor Julie Wright

### From Good Friday Grief to Easter Resurrection

In December, we said goodbye to Pastor Chris and Linda Becker, who moved on to a new reality of their own – retirement. In mid-January, I was elated that Amazing Grace named me as your pastor. While settling into my new office and getting acquainted with my new role and responsibilities, it became clear to me that I was indeed going through my own feelings of grief – something you may have experienced, as well. My first two years at Amazing Grace provided me with a positive and formative environment in which to explore my sense of call to ministry and develop as a leader in this, God's church. I attribute these good experiences to support from the congregation and to the guidance of Pastor Chris Becker, a trusted mentor, confidante, and colleague. Together, we made a good team, if I may say so myself.

For me, the season of Lent felt different this year. I usually experience Lent with a quiet reverence, enjoying a season to sink my teeth into the journey that is Jesus's, all while knowing what waits on the other side – the Easter promise. Emerging from Easter this year, I feel as if a cloud of grief has lifted.

Grief is a fickle thing, as it comes and goes as it pleases. It is something we humans experience whenever there is a sense of loss or even a time of positive change. Riding the wave of grief is not for the faint of heart, as it takes us on a journey that is thoroughly human. What I have found is that to allow myself to feel the waves of grief allows for an appreciation of the whole human experience and then to embrace the joy that comes with what God now plants, tends and grows in this community.

### A Season of Vitality

Now begins for Amazing Grace Lutheran Church a season of planting and vitality – a time to pray for God's presence in and among us as we *Join God At Work in the World*. The spring brings rain and the hope of new growth. The summer and fall will bring the anticipation of harvest. As I get my feet wet in this new role as your lead pastor, I look forward in anticipation as we work together to see this neighborhood, indeed this world, with fresh eyes. We pray that this will become for us a season of vitality. Leaning into the Easter promise, together we can turn our eyes to Jesus and proclaim, "Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!"



**See, I am making all things new. Revelation 21:5**

*@ The Intersection* examines the joys and challenges of following in the way of Jesus at all the intersections of our lives. God meets us in all our roles and relationships, challenges, hopes and failures. God meets us "in life, in death, in life beyond death" and everywhere in between.

# Worship and Music Ministry Team

## **\*NEW\*** SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

By Pastor Julie Wright

The congregation has spoken and the Worship and Music Ministry Team has listened. After a very busy year of ministry we want to honor the Sabbath and summer rest by offering some new options to include worship in your summer plans.

- Sunday worship at 9:30 am with Holy Communion (begins May 28)
- Coming Soon! Outdoor Worship with Bonfire & S'mores! (dates TBD)

In early June, work will begin on a bonfire pit on church property, coordinated by AGLC member Evan Johnson, who is constructing the project for his Eagle Scout project. As soon as the project is complete, we will announce upcoming dates for Wednesday evening outdoor worship. We are grateful to Evan for thinking of Amazing Grace for this project, which will allow for many opportunities for gathering around the fire for prayer, worship, singing and of course... s'mores!

Please direct your questions or comments to Louise Lentz or Pastor Julie Wright.



## SPECIAL MUSIC—SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Barb and Joel Forthun, our Sanctuary Choir Director and her husband, will be providing special music for our 9:30 am service on June 11. They will provide a variety of music on marimba and piano to enhance our worship that day. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

## SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE USE OF PRAYER CANDLES

Submitted by Louise Lentz, Worship and Music Chair



Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light and life." (John 8:12) Perhaps these are the very words that have led us to believe that as long as we have Christ's light in our hearts we shall never walk in darkness.

We encourage all to light a candle and say a prayer before the service or after communion. Our children really like the "lighting" part and can learn to pray for others by lighting a candle.

For Christians, a lighted candle symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. And so it is that every time we light a candle, we are connecting our minds and hearts to Him who is ever near and ready to heed our call. With every candle lit, we offer a prayer for ourselves, for our loved ones and for our neighbors in need. That indeed is the very essence of our Christianity, we live in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, and therefore we are in communion with each other.

We light a candle for someone who needs it, whether that person is a family member, a relative, a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, a leader or someone we met on the streets. There are various reasons for our prayers. We pray for:

- physical healing for someone who is sick and suffering for a long time.
- emotional healing for someone weighed down by hurts and fears and is left with no one to come to their aid.
- someone who is going through a lot of trials and defeats and hope that the Light of Christ shows them the way, strengthens them and leads them to go beyond their current state.
- someone's protection and safety so that she or he may live life freely and without fear.
- an outpouring of blessings for those who may have lost everything and have lost all hope that they will be able to get back on their feet again.

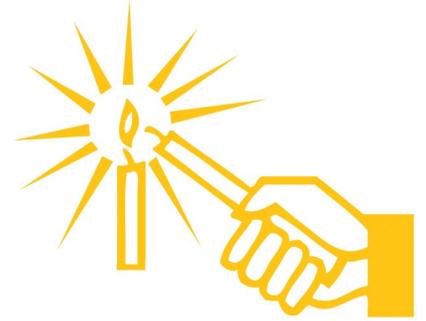
Adapted from Sepulchre Candles website <http://www.sepulchre-candles.com/>

## Sample Candle Lighting Prayer

Dear God, our loving Father,

The candles we light represent those whose lives have been touched and changed forever by cancer or other debilitating diseases and afflictions. We pray for (name the individual or individuals for whom you are praying). The light reminds us of Jesus Christ, Your Son, who is the light of the world and the light in our darkness.

Give us, we pray, comfort in our anxiety and fear, courage and strength in our suffering, patience and compassion in our caring, consolation in our grieving. But above all, give us hope now and always, through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen. ([www.pauseforhope.org.uk](http://www.pauseforhope.org.uk))



## Nursery Needs

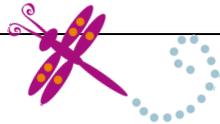
By Molly Olson, Nursery Coordinator

Hello Amazing Grace families,

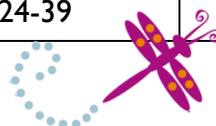
The nursery is in need of more volunteers to help look after our little ones during services. This is a great opportunity to serve our community and enjoy the smiles and giggles from our smallest church goers. Typically, volunteers would be scheduled once every month and a half or so depending on the volunteers we have signed up, and you can choose early or late service. Two volunteers are scheduled for each

service (one must be over 21 years old and a current background check is required.) Even if you do not have children who use the nursery, please consider giving your time to help with this great ministry for our wee ones. This is a fantastic service Amazing Grace offers. I can speak for many parents and say coming to church with little ones, knowing there is a place for them to go, is much easier and enjoyable for both parents and kids. Feel free to reach out to me, Molly Olson, with any questions you may have at 651-246-1498 or [m27olson@yahoo.com](mailto:m27olson@yahoo.com). Again, please consider signing up to help out- you won't regret it!! These kids truly are AMAZING!!!! Look for the sign up on the back of the blue sheet in your bulletin.

## June Worship



Sunday	Theme	Lesson	Worship Services
<b>June 4</b> <i>Pentecost</i> Senior Sending Service Pastor Hardy's Last Day	The Spirit Comes	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion <i>Reception to Follow</i>
<b>June 11</b> <i>Holy Trinity</i>	The Trinity Abides	Genesis 1:1-2:4a 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>June 18</b> <i>Pentecost 2</i>	Sending the Twelve	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Matthew 9:35-10:8	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>June 25</b> <i>Pentecost 3</i>	The Cost of Discipleship	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-18 Matthew 10:24-39	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



# July Worship

Sunday	Theme	Lesson	Worship Services
<b>July 2</b> <i>Pentecost 4</i>	Welcome Who?	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Matthew 10:40-42	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>July 9</b> <i>Pentecost 5</i>	Yokes: Heavy or Light?	Psalm 145:8-14 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>July 16</b> <i>Pentecost 6</i>	Sowing the Seeds	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:9-13 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>July 23</b> <i>Pentecost 7</i>	Weeds Take Root	Romans 8:12-25 Psalm 86:11-17 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>July 30</b> <i>Pentecost 8</i>	Kingdom Portraits	Romans 8:26-39 Psalm 119:129-136 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

## From the Christian Education Ministry Team

### Do you have any of these items to donate to our VBS 2017 service projects?

The donations will be used to make "Blessing Bags" (homeless kits) and Police Care Packages. The white sheets will be used to make bandages for Tanzania.

- |   |                            |              |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| Toothbrushes                            | Combs                      | Chapstick    |
| Travel size tooth paste                 | Adult socks                | Candy        |
| Gum packs                               | Travel size hand sanitizer |              |
| Lifesaver Mints                         | Car air freshener          | White Sheets |
| Travel size Kleenex packs               | Granola/Protein Bars       |              |
| Instant coffee packs or small canisters |                            |              |



We can always use monetary donations.

Donations can be placed on the VBS table located in the narthex. If you have any questions please contact Amanda Vesta (avesta@aglcigh.org). Thank you!



There are plans for a women's retreat this fall. The tentative dates are Friday evening to Saturday afternoon, October 13 - 14. We want to form a steering committee to work on planning the retreat. Bring your ideas for a keynote speaker, topics, and activities. Contact Barb Malamen at 454-1858 if interested in being part of the planning. All thoughts are welcome.

# 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 at any time. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Contact person is Barb Malamen 651-454-1858. Let's read together - faithfully.

- 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.smile.amazon.com). 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.)*



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

Thank you to everyone who attended the Listening Session on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for coming and for caring about our children and the future of our Sunday School Program. We value and appreciate all of your ideas, thoughts and suggestions. We will keep you informed of our progress as we evaluate and prayerfully consider all that we heard from you. Please think about how you could be a part of our Sunday School Program, in any capacity, big or small, all help is welcome. Any questions, please contact Trish Ebensteiner or Kami Burgess. Thank you again!!!!

Detailed information on the next page...

# Youth and Family Ministry Team

by Tim Marburger, Children and Youth Minister

## Sunday School Listening Session

In April all families, teachers, students, shepherds and interested folks were invited to a Listening Session to discuss this year's Sunday School program. There were about 25 people there, and it was an excellent experience as we looked ahead to the 2017-2018 school year.

We are blessed to have had Trish Ebensteiner and Kami Burgess agree to pick up the duties of facilitating our program in January. At this session we asked what people thought were the pros of our Sunday School program. This discussion led into the cons and new ideas. I have listed each of these below.

We had great interaction and numerous ideas. The Christian Education Team and Sunday School Co-coordinators will begin discussing these as we look ahead to next year. Thank you to everyone who gave feedback. Should you have additional ideas, please contact Kami Burgess, Trish Ebensteiner, Kent Rhein-Medina, Tim Marburger or Pastor Julie.

### Pros and Cons for our current Sunday School program:

#### Pros

- Specialized rooms
- 3 week commitments
- Consistent shepherds
- Variety in the ways that kids can learn
- Curriculum is online
- Engaging activities
- Teachers can teach to their strengths
- Kids are able to hear the story three different ways – at least one which they could understand



#### Cons

- High School class doesn't appear to have structure
- Not enough help in Pre-K
- Recruiting teachers is a challenge
- Too many shepherds depending on grade. Sometimes there are more adults in the class than kids.
- Need more resources when curriculum possibly lasts 10 minutes and then what?
- Would like to see more male teachers
- After Christmas program, what is there to work toward for spring? Drop in attendance after Christmas.
- Some miss the musical openings where all would gather, sing and then head to classes with shepherds.
- No mixing of Pre-K and other kids
- Each individual teacher does not really get to know each kid as they only see them once in the rotation.

#### New Ideas

- Co-teaching with another adult or a high school youth
- Wednesday as "SS education time" and save Sunday for worship only
- New focus during Lent and advertise that there will be something special/different
- Do a four-week rotation and during the fourth week bring everyone together for an activity or service project
- 3 – 4 month commitment for teachers
- Darkwood Brew Resource
- Create excitement

#### Challenges

- Attendance
- There are many commitments that children/youth and families are juggling
- Weather – winter is too cold and spring is too nice
- Sundays – we're exhausted after a full week of work/school/running/activities

## SUMMER SERVANTS (June 26 – 29)

by Tim Marburger, Children and Youth Minister



Last month I mentioned our Joint Ministry Team of five Lutheran congregations working together. Our first major event will be Summer Servants where Amazing Grace, Luther Memorial, All Saint's and St. Luke's will be working together.

If you have not registered or paid, please get that in ASAP. We would like to know head counts to let our volunteer sites know how many to expect. Cost is \$35 for Monday – Wednesday OR \$50 for all four days (Monday—Thursday).

We will serve at several different non-profits: Union Gospel Mission (men's ministry), Interfaith Action Project (families – run by our own Sara Liegl), LSS's shelter for youth, Rice Street Gardens and Camden Center (seniors).

Call me with questions or get registered TODAY!

What a great time was had by all. We had 19 swimming at our recent family swim. There was lots of splashing and laughs as we played in the pool at The Grove. Keep your eyes open to the chance we might do this one again.



FAMILY SWIM

MOONLIGHT  
MADNESS



Along with 25 other churches, three of our youth participated in the Moonlight Madness event in late April. We started the night gathering at Westwood Community Church. After 250+ youth, grades 6 – 9 gathered, we were off to The Dakota Rec Center for swimming, basketball, racquetball, ice skating and munching pretzels. By 2 am we were at the movie theaters where two watched The Fate of the Furious and the third saw The Gifted. After much popcorn, we were off for bowling and laser tag. Here's a picture of our group at roughly 5:30 am on Saturday.



**CHILDREN & YOUTH ADVISORY TEAM**

By Tim Marburger, Children and Youth Minister

We've started a Children/Youth Advisory Group. This group of youth, parents and interested adults will help guide our ministry. We anticipate meeting no more than once a month for about one hour. We have met a couple of times now and have begun discussing various topics like Sunday School attendance, fundraising, and is there a "good" time for youth to meet? We will continue to discuss many more issues.

ics like Sunday School attendance, fundraising, and is there a "good" time for youth to meet? We will continue to discuss many more issues.

If this is of interest to you, please contact me. My cell number is 612-804-3954 or my email [tmrburger@aglcigh.org](mailto:tmrburger@aglcigh.org). You can also reach out with your input to the various members who have agreed to help. Presently the members of the group are: Abby G., Hailee W., Mark Morgan, Pam Rutten, Caleigh T., Joseph W., Lynn Waska, Tim Grundhoffer, and Robyn Noble.

- 
- June 19 – 22** VBS – Youth make sure to register to be a shepherd, if not already done so.
  - June 26 – 29** Summer Servants 9 am – 4 pm Grades 5 – 12
  - July 14 – 16** Camp Wapo SEEDS (Grades 2-3)
  - July 16 – 21** Camp Wapo (Grades 4 – 9)
- 



## Our Graduating High School Class of 2017

### Andrew Tuhin Jeyachandran



- **Who is the most important person to you and why?**  
The most important person in my life is my grandma. She is the most loving, caring, and nicest person you will ever meet. She always takes care of me and does everything for me even if I do not ask for it. She showers me with love and she is the person I love most.
- **My plans for next year are:** I will be attending Marquette University.
- **According to my friends these are my best qualities:** I am very friendly, easy to talk to, funny, and outgoing.
- **When I grow up I want to be:** A pediatrician.
- **How will you make the world different?** I will help people whether it's with my job, volunteer work, or being there for a friend or family member.
- **If I could wish for three things (without wishing for more wishes or money) they would be:** I wish for as many shoes that I want, a beach house for my parents, and for all my dreams to come true.
- **When I think of my faith community I will remember:** How amazing and supporting they have been through my faith journey.



## Lexis Cole Ringgenberg

- **Who is the most important person to you and why?**  
My mom. She is honestly the strongest person in the world and she has a love for me and for other things that will never be diminished. She is my everything.
- **My plans for next year are:** To attend the University of Colorado—Boulder and study physics and pre-dental.
- **According to my friends these are my best qualities:** Sense and willingness for adventure
- **When I grow up I want to be:** A dentist working for doctors without borders.
- **How will you make the world different?** By doing what I love to do, by helping people and communities around the world.
- **If I could wish for three things (without wishing for more wishes or money) they would be:** To fulfill all my dreams and hope for the future, to travel all around the world, to make a difference in the world.
- **When I think of my faith community I will remember:** Pastor Chris and his bongos, Judy and her loving personality, all the friends I made through the church, Annie and Mark being there for all my big faith moments, and Merri pushing me to get involved and enjoy my time with the church.

## Elizabeth Tyler Rutten

- **Who is the most important person to you and why?**  
My mom because she always supports me no matter what.
- **My plans for next year are:** Inver Hills
- **According to my friends these are my best qualities:**  
I'm funny, honest, and supportive.
- **When I grow up I want to be:** something medical that doesn't deal with blood.
- **How will you make the world different?** Sharing my faith with others through things like VBS and mission trips.
- **If I could wish for three things (without wishing for more wishes or money) they would be:** travel anywhere I want, decide what I want to do and enjoy doing it, a big fluffy dog
- **When I think of my faith community I will remember:**  
growing in faith with youth on mission trips



## Shaun Erik Vandervort

- **Who is the most important person to you and why?**  
Lin Manuel Miranda, because he's cool
- **My plans for next year are:** water science, college
- **According to my friends these are my best qualities:** independent, argumentative
- **When I grow up I want to be:** Park Ranger
- **How will you make the world different?** Nothing
- **If I could wish for three things (without wishing for more wishes or money) they would be:** A stable population, a stable economy, end of world hunger
- **When I think of my faith community I will remember:** In general, they're good people

# Stewardship Ministry Team



Submitted by Todd Erickson and Joleen Ketterling, Co-chairs

In the past couple of months, the Stewardship Team has been working diligently on defining a process for the evaluation of engagement with and financial support of organizations that are consistent with AGLC's mission. This is one initiative within the AGLC Strategic Plan. In May we reviewed the "Mission Support Evaluation Process" with the Council and received very positive feedback. We will be scheduling a meeting in the near future with all AGLC Mission representatives to review this new process and discuss next steps. In the months of June and July, the Stewardship Team will review all of the organizations/missions we currently support utilizing our new tools.

We are excited because we feel this new process will assist us in making educated decisions as to our distribution of giving and help us as we plan for our Mission Support in 2018. We will keep the congregation informed as this process takes shape and informs the proposed 2018 budget. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Joleen or Todd and we can give you more information.

*A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great. - Proverbs 18:16*

## Missions Updates...

### Neighbor's Inc.

Submitted by Lisa Barnhart

Neighbor's Inc.: Are you looking for something to do as a family this summer? Volunteering at Neighbors is a great way to spend time together while helping those in need in the community. Visit [neighborsmn.org](http://neighborsmn.org) to see the various ways you can volunteer together!



## Evangelism Ministry Team

### Social Justice

By Mark Morgan

During the winter months, pursuant to the Amazing Grace Strategic Plan, the team known for its work in social justice action worked to devise a plan for relaunch. The group's goal was to clarify its role and intentions. More specifically, the Strategic Plan called for the following:

***Examine Amazing Grace's work with justice-focused organizations to determine how to best prioritize and work toward Amazing Grace Lutheran Church's justice goals.***

The group recognized that its efforts had been largely tied to the goals of the Isaiah organization, and we desired our own identity as Amazing Grace's Social Justice Team, having relationship and partnership with Isaiah and potentially other organizations.

Following is the start of the Charter document that was devised by participants in the relaunch work. All were invited and welcome to participate over the three-months of relaunch work. We continue to welcome ALL to join us in mission, prayer, and action.

## Amazing Grace Social Justice Team Charter

<p><b>Mission/Purpose Statement</b> JOINING GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Living God’s love through action and awareness</p>	<p><b>Vision for Our Congregation &amp; Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGLC offers grace and welcoming to all</li> <li>• AGLC strives for environmental stewardship</li> <li>• AGLC works to ensure dignity for ALL people</li> <li>• AGLC provides on-going educational opportunities to increase awareness about need for social justice</li> </ul>
<p><b>Effectiveness Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create monthly meeting minutes and submit to council leader (evang/stewardship?)</li> <li>• Hold 6 education sessions per year to support partnership giving and actions</li> <li>• Submit annual report by December 15, including narrative overview of year’s work</li> <li>• Hold annual ½-day retreat for reflection and goal setting</li> <li>• Annually, set short-term and long-term goals and assess mission and vision and past year’s achievements</li> <li>• Annually evaluate partnership commitments</li> </ul>	<p><b>Communication Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-monthly educational opportunities</li> <li>• On-going dialog and story-telling</li> <li>• On-going relationship building and engaging conversations</li> <li>• New member training role/agenda item</li> <li>• Social media use</li> <li>• Monthly newsletter contribution</li> </ul>
<p><b>Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Justice team work, budget, etc., are housed under the Evangelism or Stewardship Lay Ministry teams (as those teams separate, a home will be determined)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming work will be done in collaboration with evangelism</li> <li>• Educational opportunities will support stewardship partners</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Social Justice team meets monthly incorporating an education component, reflection and assessment, planning and goal setting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Leadership Roles</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> – Annie Morgan  <b>Communications Strategist</b> – Mark Morgan  <b>Education Coordinator</b> – Terrell Anderson  <b>Environmental Stewardship Coordinator</b> – Trudy Johnson &amp; Bill Bleckwenn  <b>RIC ad hoc team</b> – Susan Young &amp; Zella Vandervort  <b>Membership Manager (Internal communication)</b> – Judy Rhein</p>



## Fellowship



### OWLS – Outstanding, Wise, Lutherans



Submitted by Lynn Zentner

This month we will gather on **WEDNESDAY**, June 28th at 11:00 a.m. for a “pot-luck” lunch and some fun together. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. **Please bring a dish to pass.** We will gather at church in the Upper Room. Come alone or bring a friend for some fun, games and great conversation!

## Business Management Team



### Proposed Cell Tower – Reaching an Agreement

Submitted by Eric and Heather Tautges, Business Management Co-chairs

A few months ago, the Business Management Ministry Team informed the congregation that we had ended talks with Crown Castle Land Management regarding a proposed cell tower due to the location they wished to lease. Crown Castle was able to reassess optimal locations and has found a location that is agreeable to BMMT and the Church Council.

The next step is to present the proposed agreement to the congregation for a vote. Business Management will hold an information session on June 11<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 a.m. service. We will present an overview of the agreement, review the location of the lease agreement, and answer any questions you have. Any questions that cannot be answered at that time will be researched and brought back into discussion prior to a congregation vote on June 25<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 a.m. service. The congregational vote will be to approve or deny a lease on our land to Crown Castle Land Management.

**June 11—Cell Tower Information Meeting—10:30 a.m.**

**June 25—Congregational Vote on Cell Tower—10:30 a.m.**

## Properties Team



### SPRING CLEAN UP CHALLENGE

We have been blessed with a beautiful building in which to gather, be fed and nourished, and sent back out into the world to be the light of Christ. Our building is in need of some tender love and care. Please check out the board in the Narthex with opportunities for you to be the light and serve! Take a task card, complete the task sometime during the week or weekend when the building is open, and then place an “x” on the card and put it back on the board. There are tasks for all ages. Let’s see how many we can complete!! Questions? Please see Norm Goetzke or Angy Thelemann.

## Council Corner



### AGLC Financial Summary through April 2017

Prepared by Jared Hovick, Treasurer

Year to date Income:	\$126,611	(\$11,339 under budget – 8.2% unfavorable)
Year to date Expense:	\$139,394	(\$500 under budget – 0.0% favorable)
Year to date Net Income:	-\$12,783	

- ❖ Through four months of 2017, Amazing Grace is on budget with its ministry teams, staff and building expenses and is under budget on income.
- ❖ April's General Offering (online, envelopes and plate offering) was nearly \$3,400 under budget, bringing the year-to-date General Offering shortage to \$20,000. Amazing Grace has collected \$8,600 of Designated Funds (primarily Youth Fundraising) more than budget, bringing the total Income deficit to approximately \$11,300. While it is early in the year, please be mindful of the income shortage as you consider your gifts in the future.
- ❖ The numbers above exclude Other Income (Interest Income, Gain/Loss on Investments) and Other Expenses (Dedicated In/Out and Activity Accounts).

## INTERIM UPDATE



By Interim Pastor Roger Hardy

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Pastor these past 4 and a half months. You have graciously welcomed me into your midst, and you have made me feel a part of your mission and ministry. I conclude my work as of May 31, 2017.

I believe I have fulfilled the three areas of responsibility that I was hired to carry out:

- 1) Care for members of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church for a healthy transition,
- 2) Care for and support the new lead pastor,
- 3) Facilitate project assessing and improving staffing and lay ministry team models.

When you receive this newsletter article, many of you will have already seen my final report of strengths, recommendations, insights, and observations of the ministry here at Amazing Grace. The council has adopted my report and will appoint a small group who will follow-up with my list of recommendations. I believe these recommendations will serve you well as together you plan for your next steps in carrying out God's mission through the ministry of Amazing Grace.

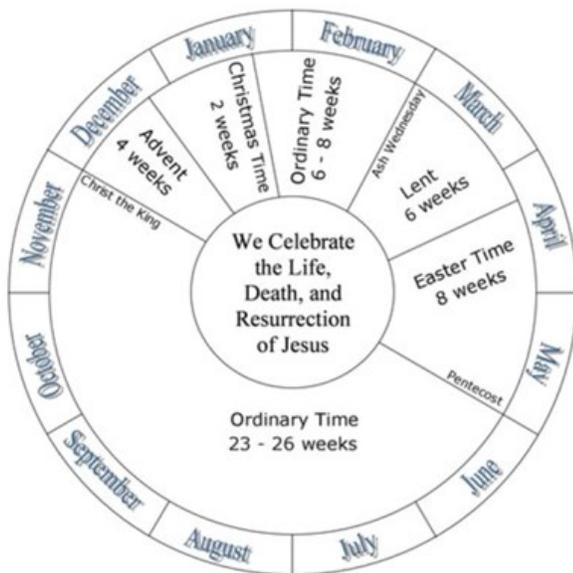
My prayers are with you, and again I say, thank you!

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Annie Morgan, AGLC President

In the church's liturgical year, between Christ the King Sunday and Pentecost, we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. There are 20+ weeks of joy, sorrow, and journeying...and then what? The liturgical calendars contain more than 30 weeks of "Ordinary Time." The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/ordinary-time.cfm>) offer that "Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply...until all things are finally caught up in Christ."

## The Liturgical Year



Recognition of Ordinary Time for Amazing Grace seems pertinent as we move into summer months and break from some of our routines (donuts, Sunday School, ministry team meetings). The liturgy takes us through the life of Christ. It's not a respite; rather, Ordinary Time is named a time for conversion. *What kind of conversion will we undergo as a faith community in the coming months?*

Our congregation is considering matters related to our pastoral transition, engagement with our growing surrounding community, opportunities to use our property and building in new ways, and we are building relationships within our membership and with our stewardship partners. As we have repeatedly reflected on the busyness, fullness, and challenge of the past months, we have considered our need to put some things on hold or to slow things down, or to be conscious about the amount of change this body can handle. At the same time, however, new leadership in our congregation and opportunities in the community should be seized and it is the responsibility of the council and staff to ensure the congregation continue in healthy forward movement.

Following is a list of items for council conversations and congregational business that will be considered in the summer months:

- Staffing needs (handled with the leadership of the business management team) – this team has been evaluating role descriptions and processes within our staff and lay ministry teams and will continue to work with Pastor Julie and the council to determine needs for staffing and ministry.
- Property use is being evaluated both in terms of our outside space and our exploration of housing a cell-phone tower and in terms of our inside space and sharing with community groups and other faith communities.
- Call of our lead pastor – the council is committed to ensuring Pastor Julie has the support and mentorship she desires as well as our partnership for a healthy and successful first year in her role as Amazing Grace's lead pastor.

## June Birthdays

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Justin Ketterling    | 21 Bruce Klopffleisch |
| 3 Angy Thelemann       | 23 Tom Lentz          |
| 4 Kent Rhein-Medina    | 24 Clare Lindberg     |
| 5 Stef Bailis          | 25 Al Stein           |
| Ingrid Emerson         | 26 Alex Guggisberg    |
| 6 Brooke Bartlette     | Cathy Jeyachandran    |
| 8 Vic Johnson          | 27 Lillian Vesta      |
| Jacob Schornak         | Hailee Waska          |
| 11 Connie Raddatz      | 29 Trisha Ebensteiner |
| 12 Miranda Barnhart    | 30 Carolyn Oleson     |
| 14 Nancy Kruse         |                       |
| Stan Marquardt         |                       |
| 15 Amanda Vesta        |                       |
| 16 Salim Omari         |                       |
| Micah Rutschke         |                       |
| 17 Don Oseth           |                       |
| 18 Pastor Julie Wright |                       |
| 20 Richard Berg        |                       |
| Trudy Johnson          |                       |
| Rachel Schornak        |                       |



## July Birthdays

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Myriam Husmann    | 18 Nate Linscheid     |
| Andrea Oleson       | 19 Brad Ketterling    |
| Joseph Waska        | 20 Mark Gallagher     |
| 2 Herb Restorff     | 21 Todd Erickson      |
| 3 Karli Grundhoffer | 22 Arvie Beckman      |
| James Jeyachandran  | Katie Klopffleisch    |
| 4 Liesl Mattson     | 23 Kate Redmond       |
| 5 Eleanor Lindeman  | 24 Janet Aguirre      |
| 8 Vince Morgan      | 25 Anne DePalma       |
| 10 Graeme Mattson   | Mike Schornak         |
| 11 Madalyn Jacobs   | 26 Yvonne Kinney      |
| Javier Rhein-Medina | 28 Charlotte Gronseth |
| Kristina Wolfe      | Clare Holsen          |
| 13 Tim Marburger    | Sandra Johnson        |
| 14 Stella Losie     | 31 Annie Pollock      |
| 16 Kris Blommel     | Michael Rutschke      |
| Joan Weiden         |                       |



**Our Summer Worship Schedule Has Begun!!**

**9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**

## June Anniversaries

- 1 Daryl and Violet Finkelson
- 8 Terrell and Elizabeth Anderson
- 11 Duane and Carmel Skar
- 16 Harlan and Myriam Husmann
- 19 Vic Johnson/Ellie Lindeman  
Jon and Amanda Vesta
- 27 Dan and Nikki Kleman

## July Anniversaries

- 1 Larry and Yvonne Kinney  
Dave and Darlene Wold
- 5 Doug and Connie Nelson
- 7 Rick and Cyndi Berg  
Nate and Julie Linscheid
- 9 Mikal and Carol Steinmetz
- 16 Eric and Molly Olson
- 18 Michael and Jennifer Rutschke
- 19 Jean Jantzen/Stan Marquardt
- 24 Jim and Lynn Zentner
- 26 Chuck and Betty Frid
- 29 Tony and Jill Redmond
- 30 Kevin and Kathy Hanson
- 31 Eric and Kris Holsen



Prayer Concerns can be called in to Mary Garfield at 612-834-2955 .



**Website:**

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

**Staff:**

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

King's Kids Choir Director: Angy Thelemann  
[athelemann@aglcigh.org](mailto:athelemann@aglcigh.org)

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

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

**AMAZING GRACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

7160 South Robert Trail  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
651-455-0093  
Address Service Requested



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