



AMAZING
GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2017

@The Intersection by Pastor Julie Wright

Doing vs. Being

We are a culture of DO'ers. Results matter. Productivity is a must. Multi-tasking is rewarded. No sick days allowed. (Well, that's what we're told anyway.) Without even pausing to take a breath, we can do-do-do-do-do until we are exhausted (...and you know what that just gets us... a bunch of doo-doo!) I have fallen into that trap SO MANY TIMES. With our heads down, we forget to look up, to appreciate God's gifts, to notice the simplest reminders of God's goodness. We can even fail to notice each other or take care of ourselves.

But God didn't create us to be efficient, non-thinking, non-feeling DO'ers. We were created in God's image. We are human BE'ings – hard wired for love, belonging, and connection.

That's why this year's theme is so timely for Amazing Grace.



To Be Still & Know is to:

- let go of all that weighs you down and trust Christ to carry it for you
- love more deeply, to seek justice, and to act with mercy

At all the intersections of your life, how or what is God calling you to BE?

Worship and Music Ministry Team

Freed and Renewed in Christ:

Reformation Celebration at Amazing Grace

Submitted by Pastor Julie Wright

In the month of October, we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. To commemorate this anniversary, worship will have a slightly different flavor, such as:

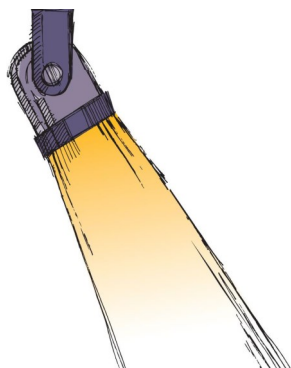
- A sung liturgy reminds us that before the invention of the printing press, the Good News was shared exclusively through singing and speaking.
- A contemporary version of The Lord's Prayer reminds us that the church we love is always reforming which helps us to celebrate God's faithfulness in the past, present and into the future.
- Some hymns will be featured from the time and style of the Reformation.
- October 29 is Reformation Sunday! Wear red to church. Enjoy special music. It's not a Sunday to miss!



We Want to Hear From You

Submitted by Louise Lentz, Worship and Music Chair

Please join us for dessert, coffee and an interactive conversation on Monday, October 16, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The purpose of the Worship and Music Ministry Team is to create services that are meaningful, relevant, Spirit-filled, and grounded in God's word. In order to make sure we are doing that, we need your feedback. The conversation will focus on your worship experience – what is relevant, what inspires you, what could we do differently to create more meaningful worship. Child care will be provided. A survey will be sent for those who cannot join us for this event. However, we believe that a face-to-face conversation is more effective and more fun than filling out a survey. Please RSVP on the blue sheet to let us know you will be attending or connect with one of the team members: Louise Lentz, chair; Trish Ebensteiner, Barb Forthun, Laurel Oseth, Brad Pipal, Nancy Pollock, Angy Thelemann, and Susan Young. We want to make sure we have enough dessert!



Spotlight on Nursery Ministry

Submitted by Molly Olson, Nursery Coordinator

Hello Amazing Grace families! The nursery is a very important part of Amazing Grace. We pride ourselves on having an open place to worship and being a “kid friendly” church. However, at times, children may have other plans and not cooperate and sit still through the service. Having the nursery available makes it much easier for our families to come to worship knowing the nursery is there for backup.

Without volunteers, the nursery would not be possible. At this time Amazing Grace is in need of more individuals 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, you'd be scheduled once every month and a half or so depending on the nursery ministers we have signed up, and you can choose early or late service. Two nursery ministers are scheduled for each service. One must be over 21 years old, and a 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. Again, please consider signing up to help out- you won't regret it!! These kids truly are AMAZING!!!!

Here are some testimonies from current nursery ministers for the nursery...

“I enjoy volunteering in the nursery at Amazing Grace because I love getting to know the kids and they always have the best stories that make me laugh! It's also a great way for the younger children to meet and get comfortable with other adults in the congregation. We are building a village and what better place to start.”

Lynda Bartlette

“I feel the nursery is an important part of Amazing Grace. Being a parent with smaller children, I can attest that having a place for children to go during service is kind of a relief knowing if my children are antsy that morning we don't have to leave, it's a nice back up if needed. We are a very kid friendly parish. Also speaking for my children, they love the nursery. They get to come to church and see their friends. They have a place to go that's theirs- kind of their “church.”

Molly Olson



Frequently asked questions about the Nursery Ministry:

Q – What is the purpose of the nursery ministry?

A – Nursery ministers provide a welcoming, caring, and safe place for the youngest of God's children during worship if needed.

Q – How many children are in the nursery on any given week, and how old are they typically?

A – Usually 3-5 children each week. The nursery is intended for children under the age of 5.

Q – How often will I have to volunteer in the nursery?

A – Depending on the number of nursery ministers we have, it's usually once a month.

Q – What are the requirements for being a minister in the nursery? Do we have to go through special training/ classes?

A – No training, just a background check would need to be completed, and you've got to have fun.

OCTOBER WORSHIP

Sunday	Theme	Lessons	Worship Services
October 1 Pentecost 17 <i>Confirmation Sunday</i>	By Whose Authority?	Philippians 2:1-13 Psalm 25:1-9 Matthew 21:23-43	8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
October 8 Pentecost 18	Foundation Considerations	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15 Matthew 21:33-46	8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
October 15 Pentecost 19	True Allegiance	Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
October 22 Pentecost 20	Gratitude in Action	Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-13 Matthew 25:15-22	8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
October 29 Reformation	Freed and Renewed In Christ	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 John 8:31-36	8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

Be *still* and know *I Am God*

From the Christian Education Ministry Team

Join us on **GO DAY!** – October 22



Door Hanger Delivery to Inver Glen

Join us October 22nd at 9:15 am as we deliver door hangers to our friends and neighbors at Inver Glen! During the Sunday School hour on October 15th the Sunday school kids will be making door hangers. Then on October 22nd anyone wanting to join in is welcome to come to Inver Glen with us to deliver the hangers!

GO DAY schedule:

- October 22, 2017- Connecting with Inver Glen
- November 26, 2017- Creating Advent Candle Wreaths
- January 21, 2018- Creating Blessing Bags
- February 25, 2018- TBD
- March 25, 2018-TBD
- April 29, 2018- TBD

Sunday School Contacts:

Kami Burgess, Sunday School Co-coordinator: kburgess@aglcigh.org

Trish Ebensteiner, Sunday School Co-coordinator: tebensteiner@aglcigh.org

VBS 2018 - Wow!

Mark your calendars for June 18 - 21, 2018! We're beginning to plan and as always, we're planning something great! Right now we're looking for people with fresh ideas to join us on the VBS team. Our first planning meeting is 5:30 p.m. October 17th. Come to the Upper Room and share your ideas for making VBS 2018 a great experience for all!!



NEVER STOP LEARNING

Adult Education Classes meet at 9:15-10:15 am in the Upper Room unless otherwise noted.

10/01/17	God is Calling: Listening
10/08/17	Conversations w/the Council
10/15/17	God is Calling: Serving
10/22/17	Go Day! – Connecting with Inver Glen



DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

Submitted by Pastor Julie Wright

Because of our special relationship with our neighbors at Inver Glen Senior Living, members of Amazing Grace have been invited to participate in a dementia support group. Facilitated by Sue Hastings, activities director, this support group is for caregivers and for those experiencing the early stages of the disease.

When: First Tuesday of each month, beginning October 3rd.
Where: Inver Glen Senior Living, Community Room
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Later in the year, Inver Glen will also be offering dementia education, which will be open to the public.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY— REVISED SCHEDULE

As a result of the above opportunity, adult Bible study will not be held on the first Tuesdays of each month. This will allow those interested to attend without a scheduling conflict.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Julie Wright at 651-455-0093 or jwright@aglcigh.org.

EXPERIENCING MARY'S MAGNIFICAT IN THE WORDS OF MARTIN LUTHER AND ELIZABETH JOHNSON

Submitted by Pastor Julie Wright

WHEN: Thursday, December 7, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
COST: \$30.00
WHERE: Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105

As we mark the 500th Commemoration of the Reformation, what do Martin Luther and a contemporary feminist Catho-

lic theologian have to tell us about Mary's Magnificat? Together we will read, sing, and delve into Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55.

Come explore the many ways the Magnificat has shaped Catholic and Lutheran understandings and faith perspectives, as evidenced by our presenters – a Lutheran professor of Old Testament and a Catholic Marian scholar.

Facilitators: **Mary Kaye Medinger, MA**, is a lifelong educator, writer, editor, spiritual director and retreat leader with a particular interest in women's spirituality, especially Mariology. **Di-anne Jacobson**, professor emerita of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, was the first woman to teach Bible at any Lutheran seminary in the US.

To Register: call 651-696-2788 or register online at www.wisdomwayscenter.org



Children and Youth

Submitted by Children and Youth Minister, Tim Marburger

DON'T SKIP THIS ARTICLE

Having just completed my review in anticipation of the "end of year", I have set a goal for myself. I would like to visit EVERY family (especially those with kids) either at home or via their activities. I know I've heard that many families lives are GO, GO, GO. If there is no time for home visits, please let me know when your kids are dancing, skating, playing football or soccer. Who doesn't enjoy a band or choir concert, a track event or even hockey? Help me achieve this goal – INVITE ME OVER or send me schedules. I truly believe that the church should be out there with the kids, not waiting for them to come here.



GREAT NEWS!!

As we progress to the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2018, we have been actively working on fundraising for the three youth attending – Alex G., Eli M. and Vinny M. We found out in mid-September that each youth received a \$300 scholarship from the ELCA. Way to go! This will be a HUGE help on reducing the \$1,200 needed to attend.

GIVE BACK, BEFORE GIVING THANKS

We sometimes hear that poverty isn't a problem in the suburbs, but at Neighbors we know differently. More than half the school kids in South St. Paul and West St. Paul qualify for free and reduced lunch. In addition, many in the areas that we serve don't have access to a car and live more than a half mile from a grocery store, which makes getting affordable, nutritious food difficult. Neighbors has been providing food and services to those in need in northern Dakota County for 45 years.

The whole family is invited to this Thanksgiving morning walk to raise funds for Neighbors, Inc. This intergenerational activity begins at 7 am inside the Mall of America. 100% of the funds we raise goes to the work of Neighbors, Inc (including the \$25 registration – no registration fee for those under 18). The Walk ends before 10 am. Questions? Email Tim at tmarburger@aglcigh.org



Give back and then give thanks!



2017 – 2018 Youth Events

As mentioned in other articles, we have begun to work with other area Lutheran congregations to provide joint ministry opportunities. I think we've come up with an exciting year. We met in July to plan our activities for the upcoming year. Please get these on your calendars and come meet your peers from All Saint's, Bethesda, Good Shepherd, Luther Memorial and St. Luke's.

- **October 22** — Cookie baking for Interfaith Action 11:45 a.m. – 2 p.m., Grades 1 – 6
- **October 11** — Project with Interfaith Action – Confirmation class along with the recent confirmands. Time TBD (but early evening)
- **November 16** — Intergenerational Activity involving Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Event. Look for the registration for the 50 spots available. Sign up begins soon. Check out the bulletin.
- **November 23** — Intergenerational participation in the Walk to End Hunger supporting Neighbors, Inc.
- **December 22** — Caroling and Mario Bros tournament hosted by All Saint's. 6 – 9 pm. Grades 6 - 12

HEADS UP—Heggie's Pizza Sale

We will be holding a Heggie's Pizza sale beginning on **November 5** and ending on **November 19**. Your orders for delivery will come in December 7. Please watch for more information on this requested fundraiser.



Evangelism Ministry Team



OWLS – Outstanding, Wise, Lutherans & The Great Pumpkin Fest

Submitted by Lynn Zentner

The October OWLS gathering will be Wednesday, **October 18, 2017**. We gather for a shared potluck lunch at 11:00 am and will conclude by 1:00 pm. If you need a ride, please call either Lynn Zentner or Laurel Oseth. This will be our Great Pumpkin fest gathering, and we hope to see all the outstanding wise Lutherans at our October get together.



HURRICANE RELIEF FUNDRAISER

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Oct 20th 6:30-9:00 pm



Featuring “**Four To Go**” (Brad Pipal’s group) playing a wide variety of music, including easy listening, classic rock, and at least one polka.

Join us in a casual atmosphere to:

- Dance
- Chat quietly
- Pretend you’re in a coffee shop and use the free wifi!

Light refreshments will be provided

Free will offering will be collected. All proceeds will go towards recovery efforts for hurricanes Harvey and Irma.



Four To Go

Brad on keyboard,
Mike on drums,
Roland on bass,
Bob on sax/clarinet/flute

HYMNTAP

Sing hymns. Drink beer. Make friends. All happening every 4th Monday of the month (Oct. 23) from 7-9 pm at Dubliner Pub at University and Vandalia on the Green Line in St Paul. Drink your favorite brew and sing your favorite hymns with the Fleshpots of Egypt, self described as Lutherland's most critically disclaimed bluegrass band. Contact person Barb Malamen.



Save the date!! December 3, 2017

11th Annual Senior Holiday Brunch

Enjoy a Christmas brunch and fellowship with others 55 and older from Amazing Grace at the Pool and Yacht Club in Mendota Heights.

Contact Person: Barb Henke

When: Sunday, December 3rd at 12 noon

Where: Pool and Yacht Club in Mendota Heights

Who: Those 55 and Older

Cost: \$23 (includes full buffet, coffee or tea, tax and gratuity)



Stewardship Ministry Team

By Joleen Ketterling and Todd Erickson, co-chairs, Stewardship Ministry Team

The apostle Paul writes, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8) When we realize that all we have belongs to God and not to us, we can't help but give it away in thanksgiving for God's generosity to us. We give joyfully, graciously and sacrificially because we know that our resources are not ours to keep but are God's to share. (Stewards of God's Love, ELCA)

On October 22, we will be distributing pledge cards to members of our congregation as we start preparing and planning for 2018. Now more than ever, we are being called to be stewards of our communities, both our faith communities and civic communities. We ask that you spend time in reflection and prayer as you think about ways you want to connect and make a difference with those next to you in the pew, those across the world, and those yet to come.



Mission Updates...

China Service Ventures

Submitted by Charlotte Gronseth

WHAT? VOLUNTEERING?

Volunteering is quite a new concept in China. Why?

In the traditional tight-knit family system volunteering outside the extended family was rare indeed.

But that is beginning to change. How?

Christians in China are forbidden to preach or teach outside the church walls. But they have been a bright light in Chinese society—Christian doctors offering free clinics for the poor, teachers offering free English classes (so important in order to "succeed.") And after a huge earthquake a couple years ago, the first teams arriving to help were Christians.

What does this have to do with China Service Ventures (CSV)?

CSV has a large ministry among the poor in Henan Province, but only three young Chinese staff members plus Jeff and Mim. So the Chinese staff have introduced the concept of volunteering to university students. Because youth in Chi-



na are searching for meaning in life, this appeals to many and up to 20 respond each year. They attend training classes and become effective and cheerful volunteers, helping with youth camps, with the Stay Behind Children (whose parents left them to find work in large cities), and much else. A number of these young volunteers have now come to faith in Jesus.

Please pray for the volunteers and those training and guiding them, that God will bless their efforts and that many of the volunteers will find the abundant life that Jesus has promised.

BOOKS FOR VIOLET'S KIDS

Submitted by Tom and Judy Thompson

Last winter when Tom and I were working/relaxing in Arizona, Violet Finkelson, a member of AGLC, sent us an email asking if we had any children's books she could have for an event in her inner-city preschool. Violet knew we had collected and distributed books for kids because she and Darrell helped us distribute them near their home the first year of the book giveaway project.

We were thrilled that the 600 books in the lower level of our home were needed as they were becoming too much for us to manage. We emailed the Guggisberg Family who went to our house and carried all the boxes up and out and brought them to Violet. (Thanks, Merri, Ryan, Alex, and Abby!) The books were a huge success. Many of the children had never owned a book. Not only did the preschool children get books, but their older brothers and sisters did as well.

There is still a need, so we were hoping that you might find a few books, infant to young adult, to donate again. There is a basket in the back hall where you may drop them off. We found that garage sales are a good place to get kid's book, Barnes and Nobles usually has overstock books, and your kids and grandkids may have some books that they have outgrown. (This is also a good time to learn about sharing and generosity!)

We thank you for your help in the past, and welcome your ongoing participation in giving books to children. If you have questions, contact Violet Finkelson, Tom, or Judy Thompson.



Council Corner

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Annie Morgan, AGLC Council President

In September, I mentioned the council members were considering how "being still" will impact the things we choose to do or not do as a council. While we talked through a number of thoughts on this, we decided on two areas of focus.

Listen - The council is continually aware of their role as representatives of our congregation in decision making and actions for Amazing Grace. In an effort to represent the views and desires of our congregation most effectively, we are focusing on ways to engage in listening sessions with lay ministry teams. On October 8, we will hold a



“Conversations with the Council” session during the Sunday School hour where we will discuss our staffing needs and planning.

Be Strategic - The council has continued to stay updated and move forward on the projects that ministry teams have taken on as a result of our strategic plan. Our vice-president continues to monitor our needs relating to updating or modifying the plan, and the council is committed to staying focused on ensuring we are taking on new projects or going in directions that are always in line with our strategic vision that was approved by the congregation.

The council offers prayers of gratitude for the ways God has been present for us, and we are thankful for the ways the congregation continues to engage and support our work.

Peace - Annie Morgan

Annie Morgan, AGLC Council President



Conversations with the Council
Sunday, October 8
9:15 am in the Upper Room

FROM THE TREASURER



AGLC Financial Summary through August 2017

Prepared by Jared Hovick, Treasurer

Year to date Income:	\$271,336	(\$4,564 under budget – 1.7% unfavorable)
Year to date Expense:	<u>\$267,400</u>	(\$11,154 under budget – 4.0% favorable)
Year to date Operating Income:	\$3,936	

- ❖ The generosity of Amazing Grace members shone through in August, as Amazing Grace's General Offering (online, envelopes and plate offering) was \$12,000 over budget, bringing the year-to-date General Offering shortage to \$11,000. Amazing Grace has collected \$6,400 of Designated Funds (primarily Youth Fundraising) more than budget, bringing the total Income deficit to approximately \$4,600 – a significant improvement from July.
- ❖ While the numbers above exclude Other Income (Interest Income, Gain/Loss on Investments) and Other Expenses (Dedicated In/Out and Activity Accounts), it must be noted that Amazing Grace received a tremendous gift in the form of a \$95,000 forgiven Note Payable during August. This windfall is reported in Other Income and is separately reported from Operating Income.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!! HOLD ON TO YOUR QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Amazing Grace has upgraded our membership database after 23 years! This means that your 3rd quarter financial statement will be the final one printed from the former database. ***Please hold onto it for your taxes.*** The statement you receive in January will only be for the 4th quarter, so you will need this one for your taxes as well. If you have any questions please contact Craig Yotter, Financial Secretary

SERMONPALOOZA—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Saturday, Oct. 14 - "Sermonpalooza" at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church in Sunfish Lake, 6:30-8:30 pm. Saint Anne's has invited 10 members of the clergy to give a mini sermon (just 4 minutes) based on questions that they pull out of a hat (preachers have just 5 minutes to prepare). Clergy are from St. Anne's, Spirit of Hope Old Catholic Church, St. Stephen's Lutheran, several other nearby Episcopal churches, and our very own **Pastor Julie Wright**. This is a fundraiser for hunger. All are welcome! Contact Pastor Julie with any questions you might have.



Prayer Chain



Prayer Concerns can be called in to Mary Garfield.

PASTORAL CARE

Please call or text Pastor Julie Wright or call the church office when you or a loved one is in need of care:

- Sick or injured
- In the hospital
- Having surgery
- In crisis
- Having trouble with marriage, family or other relationships
- In need of prayer

Remember that due to HIPAA privacy rules, hospitals do not inform us when you're in the hospital. God is with you, but we want to be there for you too.

Church office 651-455-0093
Pastor Julie Wright 651-271-1427 (cell)



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—

Coordinator: Pastor Julie Wright

Congregational Meeting



**October 29, 2017
9:15 a.m.**



**Conversations with
the Council
Sunday, October 8
9:15 am in the Upper Room**



**Worship and Music Listening Session
Monday, October 16
6:30 – 8:00 pm.**





Website:

www.aglcigh.org

Staff:

Lead Pastor—Pastor Julie Wright
jwright@aglcigh.org

Administrator—Angy Thelemann
athelemann@aglcigh.org

Children and Youth Minister—Tim Marburger
tmarburger@aglcigh.org

Finance Assistant—Craig Yotter
cyotter@aglcigh.org

Building Supervisor—Larry Kinney
lkinney@aglcigh.org

Worship Musician: Brad Pipal

Sanctuary Choir Director—Barbara Forthun
bforthun@aglcigh.org

King's Kids Choir Director—Angy Thelemann
athelemann@aglcigh.org

Sunday School Co-Coordinator—
Kami Burgess: kburgess@aglcigh.org
Trish Ebensteiner: tebensteiner@aglcigh.org

Vacation Bible School Co-Coordinator—
Zella Vandervort: zvandervort@aglcigh.org
Dre Noble: 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
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Address Service Requested



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