

AMAZING
GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2018

@The Intersection by Pastor Julie Wright

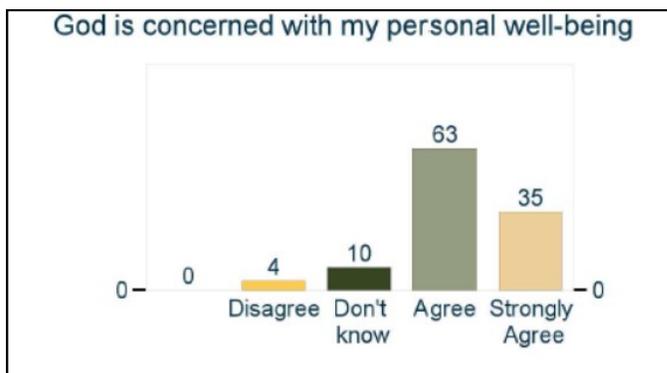
Year of Renewal: Connecting with God

In January of this year, 119 people from Amazing Grace completed a **Congregational Vitality Survey** during worship. This survey measured three dimensions of our life together (referred to as *The Three Great Listeners*):

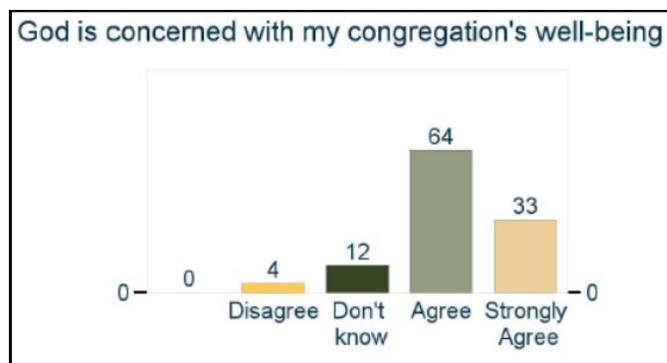
- listening to God
- listening to each other (within the congregation)
- listening to the world

God's Concern and Involvement

In measuring this congregation's connection with God, one set of questions asked people to describe the way they experience God's concern and involvement in their lives and the lives of the congregation.



Of the 119 respondents, 98 (82%) said they Agree or Strongly Agree that God is concerned with their personal well-being.



Roughly the same number (81%) said they Agree or Strongly Agree that God is concerned with this congregation's well-being.

Spiritual Growth

When spiritual needs are met, one natural outcome would be an outpouring of meaningful spiritual conversations. However, while 63% of respondents reported the pace of their spiritual growth to be “slow and steady”, “moderate”, or “rapid” this left a whopping 35% reporting their spiritual growth to be either “stalled” or “not growing”.

As the chart below attests, we can do a better job at equipping and practicing the language of faith, that is, how to talk about faith in meaningful ways.



30% report that they have “never” or only “once” had a meaningful spiritual conversation in the congregation

While most Midwesterners tend to be a little more private about their spiritual beliefs, expressing faith is part of discipleship. Perhaps the congregation can grow in this area if we are better equipped and practiced at telling our own stories of resurrection.

Feedback from the internal listening conducted during Lent with 1:1 conversations (phase one of the Year of Renewal) revealed that these *intentional conversations* yielded deep and meaningful connections to one another and with regard to faith. This gives me great HOPE that with time and intention, even more meaningful conversations can be had at Amazing Grace in the coming year.

What does this mean for Amazing Grace?

Research suggests that when people experience God as *more concerned and involved* in their daily life, they are more likely to be courageous for the sake of ministry and to more frequently engage in ministry within their congregation and in the world.

It would be important when assessing our shared ministry to discern how the congregation’s activities (i.e., worship, programming, service, proclamation, etc.) lead to action and growth – whether individually or collectively. With this knowledge this church can make bold decisions – perhaps by pruning back activities that don’t yield the results God intends for a vibrant, active and growing group of disciples of Jesus Christ.

While charts and graphs tell only part of the story of this congregation’s vitality, I know there is so much more to the story that God has written and continues to write for the sake of the gospel. Ours is a God of the resurrection, who can accomplish great things through this neighborhood, community and world.

Thank you for your engagement with this Year of Renewal. May God bless this journey we are on together.

In the peace of the Risen Christ,
Pastor Julie

HAVE NO FEAR – IT’S JUST “ME”



“Me” is Pastor Tess Panamarow. On May 1, I began serving AGLC part-time as the minister of Pastoral/Congregational care. I am hired to assist Pastor Julie in visitation, taking communion to homebound members, and overall keeping Pastor Julie informed and up to date on the status and needs of our members.

Originally, I hail from Baltimore, Maryland, but when I transferred to Concordia Teacher’s College in Seward, Nebraska, I fell in love with the Midwest, and knew that I would make my home in the mid-section of our country. Although from High School I knew God’s Call on my life was to serve as a Pastor, I felt unworthy and unqualified, so I ran away from even the thought of going to seminary. I “held out” for almost 30 years.

I graduated from Luther Seminary in December of 2000, and received my first Call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sioux City, IA. Because I had settled and put down roots in Minnesota, I figured the location of this Call was pay-back for all the jokes I had told about the state and people of Iowa!!!!

I served as a solo pastor there for 16 years, and took retirement last September. I moved back (as fast as I could) to Minnesota and have settled in Eagan. As I wondered what was “next” in my life, God opened the Pastoral Care opportunity here at Amazing Grace.

I am delighted to be with and among you to serve with, and under the direction of Pastor Julie. It is an honor to share in the ministry of AGLC as we look to Christ, receive the vision of God and the energy and power of the Holy Spirit to go out from these walls and willingly take every opportunity to do justice, love and show mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

See you in church!
Pastor Tess

Pastoral Care
*Pastor Julie will be on vacation
May 31 – June 15. During this time if
you are in need of pastoral care,
please contact Pastor Tess
Panamarow at (712) 899-9747 (cell).*



Thank You to the AGLC team who read resumes, interviewed candidates, and made the hiring decision to bring Pastor Tess on board: Becky Ahlvin (H.R. Council Rep.), Barb Malamen, and Bruce Klopfleisch. Note: This is a very part-time position (10 hours/week) and is not a “Called” position, so no call committee was required in the hiring process.

Get to know the new staff



Leanne Kojetin, Office Administrator

Email: LKojetin@aglcigh.org

Phone: 651-455-0093

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Leanne is the new office administrator and started with us at the beginning of April. Leanne compiles our Sunday bulletins and all worship bulletins.

Leanne also:

- Answers phones, welcomes, and assists visitors with needs.
- Provides office support for pastors and staff.
- Serves as a liaison to the Business Management Team
- Manages the church's main calendar and coordinates yearly planning meeting.
- Schedules the community's use of the building and obtains all required forms per the building use policy.
- Compiles, publishes, and distributes updated congregation contacts list annually.
- Maintains church database with household information.

Sunday Worship Bulletin Announcements

If you have an announcement to include in a Sunday worship bulletin, send those requests to Leanne by Wednesday mornings.



Sarah Bjorklund, Communications Coordinator

Email: SBjorklund@aglcigh.org

Sarah is our communications coordinator and came on board at Amazing Grace in December 2017. Sarah is the primary point of contact for all church communications including the monthly newsletter, www.aglcigh.org website, social media, blog, building and digital road sign, print materials, and community bulletin board.

Monthly Newsletter

If you have an article, pictures, an announcement, event, etc. to include in the monthly newsletter, send these items to Sarah by the 15th of each month.

Electronic Monitors in the Narthex

If you have an announcements or event you would like highlighted on the electronic monitor, send this request to Sarah.

Friday Email Updates

If you have an announcement or event you would like included in a Friday email update, send this request to Sarah by Thursday mornings.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Jeannie Hultman

Melanie McLean and (son) Connor McLean (new members) with current members Tim Hunter and (son) Noah Hunter



Craig, Wendy and Jack Hoffman

These individuals all joined our congregation as members of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church this spring. Welcome to our new members!



Jessica Luby

Meet and Greet our new talented staff!

June 10th at 10:30 a.m. after the service
 Our staff has almost doubled!
 Come and get to know them!
 We will have ice cream floats as a treat.



June Worship		
Sunday	Lessons	Worship Services
June 3	Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Psalm 81:1-10 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Mark 2:23-3:6	9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
June 10	Genesis. 3:8-15 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35	9:30 am Summer Worship with Holy Communion
June 17 Father's Day <i>The Joy of Planting Trees</i>	Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 2 Cor. 5:6-10, 14-17 Mark 4:26-34	9:30 am Summer Worship with Holy Communion
June 24 <i>Stilling the Storms of Life</i>	Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 Mark 4:35-41	9:30 am Summer Worship with Holy Communion

From the President



"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they all tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of mankind."

Job 12:7-10

As we enter into June we enter into the start of summer. This is a time where school is ending, sports are being played, and plans that we made during the cold winter months for the weekends to spend in the warm outdoors are taking place. We continue our theme of being still, but sometimes it feels like the more I try and slow down, the busier I get!

Each year I try not to have something going on each weekend in the summer, but it seems to always fill up, even before the summer has begun. I think that part of the reason this happens is that we live in such a beautiful state that offers so many opportunities to get outside and enjoy God's beautiful creation. I am challenging myself this summer to take time each day, even if it is for just a couple moments, to notice the animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the water (which will hopefully end up on my fishing line!) and thank God for all of His incredible creations.

The Executive team took a walk on our property at our last meeting. Do you know what a beautiful piece of land we have!? Take some time and go for a walk on our property and check it out. It is a beautiful forest that we have. Our VBS theme this month is focused on God's creation of everything around us and what makes it special. What do you think you might see if you take the time to sit and watch, pause and observe all the beautiful creations that can pass us by if we don't take the time to look? We might even learn something from these creations of God.

Blessings to your observations!

Jennifer Rutschke

President AGLC Council

Attention Theater Lovers

The games afoot in this summer's mystery at Park Square Theatre. Reserve one of 28 seats for the Saturday, August 4, 7:30 p.m. performance of *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig.

This is a fast paced comedy about everyone's favorite detective solving his most notorious case. You will find the evening anything but elementary! Save the date and watch for the sign up sheet on the community bulletin board. Tickets are \$30.

Questions?

Contact Barb Malamen 651-454-1858

From the Children and Youth Minister

By Tim Marburger

The trip to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering is quickly approaching. Flights have been purchased; hotels paid, ground transportation arranged, tax exempt status achieved, nine months of classes and so many other details. We are at the gate and ready to head out.

This trip and every other thing we do here at Amazing Grace for the children and youth COULD NOT happen without you! You helped with scholarships in the youth budget, you showed up at Cub to have your groceries bagged. You donated \$1,112 to our Global Farm offering (8 piglets, 8 chicks, 3 roosters, 3 shares of a cow, 14 honeybees, 4 goats, 6 seedlings, and 2 tool sets).

I know you have been doing this already, but I implore you to pray for not only Alex, Vinny and myself, but also the group from Luther Memorial and Christ the Redeemer who will be traveling with us. I ask you to pray for all leaders and organizers of this Youth Gathering. I ask you to pray for all 30,000 youth from around the world that are coming to Houston to be transformed – changed. The theme is “This Changes Everything.” Pray that we are changed.

We have scheduled a stakeholders’ lunch and EVERYONE at AGLC is invited. We will have lunch at Luther Memorial on Sunday, September 23, at 12 p.m. noon. More details to come, but please add it to your calendar.

Upcoming Youth Events

June 11, 2018: Grades 4 – 6 ELCA Day at Valleyfair. Cost \$20

June 18 – 21 – VBS

June 27 – July 1 – ELCA Youth Gathering

July 13 – 15 – SEEDS at Camp Wapo

July 15 – 20 – Youth Week at Camp Wapo

**July 30 – August 2 – Summer Servants
Cost \$50**



AGLC Family Camp-out God's LOVE is IN TENTS!

Everyone that is a part of the AGLC Family (regardless of household type) is invited to join us for a fun campout the weekend of August 10-12, Friday night to Sunday around lunchtime.

Where: we have reserved a group camp site at Baker Park Reserve in Medina, MN (about a 45 minute drive from church).

Co-hosted by the Morgan and Ingalsbe families.

If you would like to learn more, please contact:

Annie and Mark Morgan mavel.morgan@gmail.com

Adam and Laura Ingalsbe adam.ingalsbe@gmail.com



To learn more about Baker Park Reserve, check out their website:

<https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/baker-park-reserve>

March FoodShare Campaign

A huge thank you to the congregation for your amazing donations during the March FoodShare campaign and to Lisa Barnhart for her work as our mission representative with Neighbor's Inc. Our church brought in a total of \$2,772 and 1,933 pounds of food! With these donations, Neighbors, Inc. will continue to provide food to nearly 500 families and seniors each month. March is a critical time for Neighbors, Inc. as they compete with 300 other food shelves across the state for Minnesota FoodShare funds. The higher they finish in the rankings, the greater proportion they receive. Nearly 320,000 combined pounds and dollars were donated to Neighbor's during the March 2018 campaign, which is 5,000 pounds more than last year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to help make this years food drive a success!

Joleen Ketterling, Co-Chair Stewardship Ministry Team

China Service Ventures Benefit Concert Sunday, June 10

With the many new government restrictions on Christianity in China, China Service Ventures thanks God for the miracle of the rare government approval to continue its work in Henan Province. More than that, CSV has been invited to expand, to serve in 55 more counties in Henan! What an opportunity!

Inspired by this, Nita Qiu, a fine, young (16 years old) pianist is giving a concert to benefit CSV for carrying out their expanded mission. Many here at Amazing Grace heard her perform in our church a couple years ago. Since then she has performed concertos with several orchestras. Nationally recognized, she recently was a finalist in a national competition in Las Vegas. Those who come will not be disappointed!

Sunday, June 10, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church

924 E. 21st St., Minneapolis

Tickets: \$15 (and donations welcome!)

Wednesday Evening Outdoor Summer Worship Schedule!

****back by popular demand****

Summer will be here soon and along with summer many members are out of town on weekends. To make sure we all have opportunity to come together with our faith community, we are again offering brief Wednesday evening services around the campfire with s'mores, and social time after the service.



Mark your summer calendar for the second and fourth Wednesdays in June, July and August: June 13 & 27; July 11 & 25; August 8 & 22.

See you at 6:30 p.m. around the campfire!

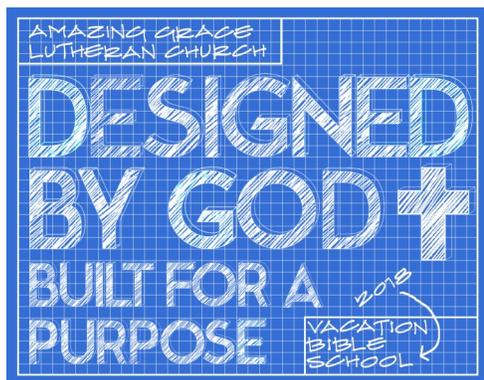
Vacation Bible School Youth Leaders – LAST CALL!

This year, each youth leader (Grades 7 – 12) will be responsible for three (3) children each day. You will be those three all day, each day. At our **mandatory** training (there will be two – 6/10 or 6/14), we will learn some of the songs and Biblical themes of the week, meet the staff and discuss procedures of care. If you are 18+ you will be required to complete a background check. Contact Leanne at the office to get that paperwork done ASAP.

Here is the link to register to participate and a link to complete a medical/emergency form:

Registration: www.bit.ly/2018YouthLeaders

Medical/Emergency: <https://aglcigh.breezechms.com/form/61ed0d>



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 18 - 21, 2018

We are fast approaching our start date for Vacation Bible School. Our theme is "Designed By God/Built For A Purpose" and it's going to be exciting! We still have openings if you have not signed up yet to attend or if you would like to volunteer.

Both the Registration and Volunteer forms can be found on the AGLC website or by going to: www.bit.ly/2018VBS

Donations Appreciated! Please look at the list on the next page and, if possible, donate an item or two. This helps us keep the cost down for our program. If you have any questions, please contact Zella Vandervort (651-769-7864 or mnhomebug@gmail.com)

VBS 2018 SUPPLY LIST

- Duct tape (all colors)
- Marbles
- Felt Squares
- White rice
- Ball head straight pins
- Colored embroidery floss or light-weight string
- Small boxes (like altoid boxes or slightly larger) to make prayer boxes
- Black, large tipped sharpies
- Paper Plates (large square and snack size round)
- Napkins
- 1-inch foam brushes
- Modge Podge
- Scrapbook elements, lace, rickrack, scrapbook paper, sequins, odds and ends to decorate prayer boxes
- Golf Pencils

Food Donations

**Non Perishable Food Donations can be dropped off starting the week of June 4th.
Perishable items should be dropped of starting Friday, June 15th.**

- Pretzels (traditional shaped and pretzels sticks)
- Graham crackers
- Whole wheat/healthy crackers
- Freezies
- Granola bars, breakfast bars, snack bars
- Cereal
- Goldfish crackers
- Raisins
- Bagged popcorn
- Yogurt covered raisins
- Whipped cream cheese
- Cheese dip
- Hummus
- Nutella
- Berries (blueberries, raspberries)
- Whole fruits (bananas, apples)
- Pineapple chunks

Looking for a fun new way to support Neighbor's Inc?

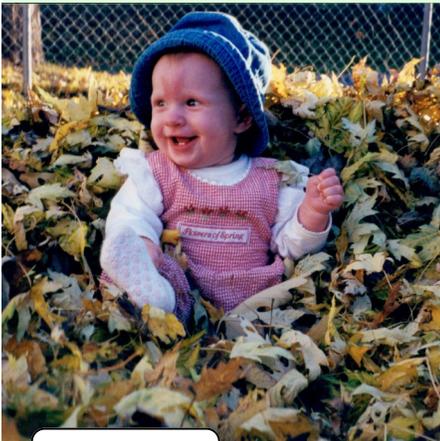
Join us Tuesday, June 26 from 6:00—9:00 p.m. for a fun-filled evening of beer, appetizers, music and more at Wabasha Brewing Company! Participants at this year's event will receive two tasty glasses of brew from Wabasha's tap selection, as well as delicious appetizers from local food vendors and restaurants. The B-52 Slider Squad food truck will also be on hand with delicious burgers available for purchase.

Proceeds benefit the emergency and supportive service programs at Neighbors, Inc.

Go to: everyeventgives.com/event/tapsandapps2018/ to purchase tickets.



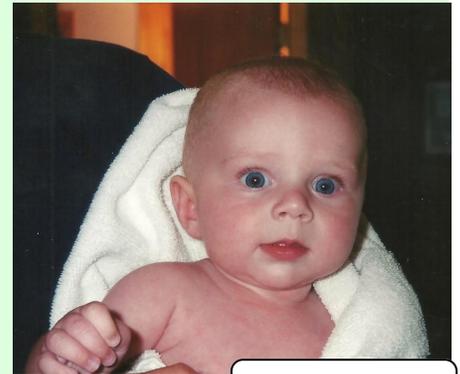
Join us Sunday, June 3 9:30 a.m. for our Senior Sending Service with a reception to follow to recognize our 2018 graduates!



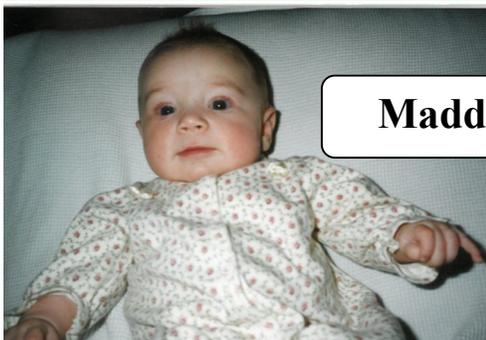
Abby



Clayton



Luke



Maddy



Mary

CONGRATULATIONS 2018 GRADUATES!
MAY GOD BLESS YOU WHEREVER YOU GO!



1-Justin Ketterling
 3-Angy Thelemann
 4-Kent Rhein-Medina
 5- Stef Bailis
 5-Ingrid Emerson
 6- Brooke
 6-Lamar
 8-Vic Johnson
 8-Jacob Schornak
 11-Connie Raddatz
 12-Miranda Barnhart
 14-Nancy Kruse
 14-Stan Marquardt
 16-Salim Omari
 16-Micah
 17-Don Oseth
 18-Pastor Julie Wright
 20-Rick Berg
 20-Trudy Johnson
 20-Rachel Schornak
 21-Bruce Klopfleisch
 24-Clare Lindberg
 25-Al Stein
 26-Alex
 26-Cathy Jeyachandran
 27-Hailee
 28-Ruth McCoy
 29-Trisha Ebensteiner
 30-Carolyn Oleson



1-Daryl and Violet Finkelson
 8-Terrell and Elizabeth Anderson
 11-Duane and Carmel Skar
 16-Harlan and Myriam Husmann
 19-Vic Johnson and Ellie Lindeman
 26-Michael and Sara Liegl
 27-Dan and Nikki Kleman
 28-Adam and Laura Ingalsbe

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary please contact the church office so that we can add it to the list!

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 are 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)

Please Note: : Pastor Julie will be on vacation May 31 – June 15. During this time if you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Tess Panamarow at (712) 899-9747 (cell).



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

Servant
MINISTRY



Pastoral Care—Focused Outreach

Servant Ministry Coordinator: Pastor Julie Wright

- Meal Coordinator: Lynda Bartlette
- Ride Coordinator: Norm Beckman
- Funeral Support Coordinator: Barb Malamen
- Personal Prayer Coordinator for Worship: Elizabeth Anderson

Hands and Feet Ministry—

Coordinator: Pastor Julie Wright



Website:

www.aglcigh.org

Staff:

Lead Pastor—Pastor Julie Wright
jwright@aglcigh.org

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

Administrator—Leanne Kojetin
lkojetin@aglcigh.org

Communications Coordinator—Sarah Bjorklund
sbjorklund@aglcigh.org

Finance Assistant—Craig Yotter
cytter@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—Barbara Forthun
bforthun@aglcigh.org

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

Vacation Bible School Coordinator—
Zella Vandervort: zvandervort@aglcigh.org

New! Main Office Hours:

Tuesday—Thursday 9:00 a.m.—3:40 p.m.

Deadlines:

The newsletter article deadline is always on the 15th of the month. Bulletin announcements 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!!