

DECEMBER 2018

@The Intersection

We Need a Silent Night in Here

There's a reason Christians celebrate Advent in advance of Christmas, because if we're not careful, the busyness of the season can overtake us. Lord knows, there's enough going on in this season to distract and exhaust, but Advent forces us to s-l-o-w down, to b-r-e-a-t-h-e deeply, and consider the arrival of the greatest gift to this world – the Messiah in the form of a newborn babe.

Advent ushers in a season of quiet anticipation in which we can really sink our teeth into what it means to be God's people who wait eagerly in a barn for Jesus the Christ to come, in the flesh. My elders keep telling me that time goes faster the older you get, and I'm starting to realize this truth. There are ways, however, in which each of us can slow down to fully appreciate the season – a way of marking this time as holy and precious.

This is the 200th Anniversary of the hymn *Silent Night*. Over the seasons of Advent and Christmas we will spend time in this much beloved Christmas classic. To complement the classic hymn, we will learn a new song called, "We Need a Silent Night in Here." The chorus goes like this:

We need a silent night in here.
We need your presence to come near.
Give us the hope we need and the peace we seek.
We need a silent night in here.

All may not be calm and bright in the world today, but neither was it in the year of our Lord's birth. That's all the more reason to breathe in deeply of the peace that Jesus offers us at this time of year.

In peace,
Pastor Julie Wright

@ The Intersection takes a look at faith at the intersection of our lives.



This fall Amazing Grace considered revising our logo, but at this time has decided against it. Thanks for all who participated in this project.



Sincere and heartfelt thanks to the members and ministers of Amazing Grace for your kindness, outreach and help during Stan Marquardt's illness and passing. Pastor Julie and Pastor Tess, thank you for you well-timed visits and ministry throughout Stan's difficult transition. And thanks to all the staff who helped prepare and make his Celebration of Life Service so meaningful. A special thank you to those who helped during the service, whether in the kitchen or in the sanctuary. You made our lives easier by being so good at what you do. You were and continue to be a blessing to us The Jantzen/Marquardt Family.

OWLS

The Outstanding Wise Lutherans have decided to rest during the busy month of December. We will not meet in December, but expect to see all you Outstanding Wise Lutherans on Wednesday, January 16 at 11 am when we'll meet again for potluck, conversations, competition, and laughs.

THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

The Annual Giving Campaign kicked off on Sunday, November 11. We ask that you turn in your pledge/commitment sheets to the attention of the Financial Secretary by **Sunday**, **December 2.** This information will be useful as we finalize our budget planning for 2019. Even if you use electronic giving, we still request you turn in your pledge sheet.

How will your generosity in 2019 create a ripple effect?

Sunday Adult & Youth Education 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. in the Upper Room

December 2: Building an Inclusive Church December 9: Building an Inclusive Church

December 16: No Adult Education December 23: No Adult Education December 30: No Adult Education



Donuts and coffee provided!

December Worship		
Sunday	Lessons	Worship Services
December 2 Advent 1 Sermon: Sleep in Peace PEACE	Isaiah 2:1-4 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
December 9 Advent 2 Sermon: Glories Stream JOY	Psalm 86:9-11 Luke 2:8-20	8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Choral Service 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Choral Service
December 16 Advent 3 Sermon: Redeeming Grace LOVE	John 1:1-5, 14, 16-17	8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School Program
December 23 Advent 4 Sermon: Let us Sing of Hope HOPE	Isaiah 9:6 Matthew 2: 1-12	8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
December 24 Christmas Eve Sermon: Calm & Bright	Luke 2:1-20	4:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion
December 30 Sermon:Is Born	Revelation 21:1-6	8:00 a.m. No Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion/Hymn Sing

From the Children and Youth Minister

By Tim Marburger

December already? Christmas knocking at the door! The anticipation of the birth of the Christ Child. Please don't lose the joy of the season with the "busyness" of the season. Be in awe. Love. Breathe. Listen. Cherish. Appreciate.

Service projects in November

Joint Elementary Ministry made over 100 sandwiches for the Sandwich Project.







Youth and Family Events Survey!

Families with children age three through high school, complete our survey to help decide fun summer 2019 activities for AGLC to participate in:

https://goo.gl/forms/ICwBVSwdKutuuh323

Union Gospel Mission Meal Packing

Over 700 meals were prepared by our joint group. It was also an evening of sorting potatoes, some which had passed their expiration date!!! What a fun evening of service.









UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

December 21, 6 – 9 pm: Grades 6 – 12, Christmas Caroling and party at AGLC

January 6, 2019: GO Day (Intergenerational activity)
January 15, 2019: CAMP WAPO REGISTRATION BEGINS
January 25 – 27, 2019: Grades 3 – 6, Camp Onamia (\$79)

February 10, 2019: Family All Ages Snow Tubing

February 17: Gerten's Easter Lily sales begin

February 22 – 24, 2019: Grades 6 – 9, Camp Onamia (\$79) **March 3, 2019:** Gerten's Spring Plant/Flower sales begin

March 10: GO Day (Intergenerational activity)

CHINESE KIDS SAY "THANK YOU!"

Through gifts from Amazing Grace many rural kids in Henan, China, who were too poor to go to school beyond eighth grade, now have hope for their future. One of those whom we have helped is Tengfei.

Tengfei—a bright kid—had always hoped to graduate from high school and attend college. But both parents were too ill to provide enough for the family. How then to pay for tuition and other school fees? Definitely—high school and college were both a futile dream. He must quit school and find a job.

But just then, his teacher told him of a scholarship given by China Service Ventures (CSV) and it was enough to attend school, not only for one year, but throughout high school. He was thrilled. At school he and other scholarship kids were regularly visited and encouraged by CSV's Chinese team and they became close, like a family. In addition, Tengfei was president of his class for three years.

When the time came to take the college entrance exams (some of the most difficult world-

wide), all were nervous. But Tengfei (he earned a top score!) and most of the others passed—a much larger percentage than the national average. Tengfei was thrilled! He was accepted in one of China's top universities. After graduation he worked two years to earn enough for graduate school.

"My whole life," Tengfei said, "I will remember CSV's purpose: 'Not to be served, but to serve.' This will be my life's goal. I firmly believe this world needs and exists because of love."

THANK YOU, Amazing Grace, for helping kids like Tengfei! THANK YOU!



Faithful Readers So Many Books!

Faithful Readers will not meet in December. Remember to share a favorite book with someone you love this month. The new year will bring a new list of books to read and discuss.

We gather at 6:30 pm at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Cafe in Eagan on Promenade for our 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 welcomed. The contact person is Barb Malamen. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Let's read together ... Faithfully.

January 20 Waking up White: and finding myself in the story of race.

by Debby Irving

What does it mean to be white?

February 17 The Good Earth

by Pearl S. Buck

The story of a farmer and family in old agrarian China. He nurtures the land as it nurtures him and his family. By contrast there is a noble family who consider themselves above the land and its workers.

March 17 The German Girl

by Armando Lucas Correa

This story sweeps from Berlin at the brink of WWII to Cuba, on the edge of revolution, to New York after 9/11 and concludes in present day Havana. Based on a true story, the novel gives voice to joys and sorrows of exiles forever seeking a place to call home.

April 28 <u>The Last Painting of Sara DeVos</u>

by Dominic Smith

Historical fiction. A rare 17th century painting links 3 lives on 3 continents over 3 centuries.

May 19 <u>Before We Were Yours</u>

by Lisa Wingate

This story is based on a real life scandal, a director of a Memphis based adoption agency who kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country.

June 16 The Underground Railroad

by Colson Whitehead

A tale chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a bid for freedom in the antebellum South.

July 21 The Spy

by Paulo Coelho

The author brings to life one of history's most enigmatic women, Mata Hari.

August 18 <u>Killers of the Flower Moon</u> book kit

by David Gann

A true account of the early 20th century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage people and law enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of the new FBI.

September 15 A Spool of Blue Thread

by Anne Tyler

This novel tells the story of "family" with all its emotional complexity.

October 20 <u>A Gentleman in Moscow</u>

by Amor Towles

Count Rostov is sentenced by the Bolschevics to spend his life in the Metropol in Moscow. He carves out a new life in his attic room and within the confines of the hotel. Thru it all he remains a gentleman.

November 17 Homegoing book kit

by Yaa Gyasi

Two half sisters unknown to each other are born in two different villages in 18th century Ghana. One is married to a white colonial in Ghana, the other is shipped to the Americas and sold into slavery. The novel moves thru tribal wars in Ghana to slavery in the U. S. It follows family generations into the 20th century.

December 2019 No meeting Share a favorite book with a friend.



2018 Holiday Gift Program at Neighbors, Inc.



The holidays can be a stressful time, but together we can help make the season a little brighter to our neighbors in need. It has been a tradition at Neighbors to connect generous holiday gift givers to families and seniors in need of assistance during the holidays. The Holiday Gift Program provides gifts for children and seniors (age 65+) living in our community. Below is a list of important dates and details for this year's program. We hope you will consider getting involved and help us spread the word!

Ways to get involved:

Adopt-a-Family or Adopt-a-Senior

You are assigned a specific family or senior for which you will shop and are given gift suggestions. Even though you will not actually meet the family involved, many have found this to be a very personal and meaningful way of sharing the holidays.

We are currently accepting adoption applications. To adopt a family or senior, please call: 651-306-2140. The deadline for gifts to be returned to Neighbors is December 12, 2018. Drop-off hours are Monday through Friday: 8:15am – noon and 1:15 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Donations

Funds and gifts are always appreciated as we can use them to keep the program going.

Volunteer

A considerable number of volunteer hours are needed to run this program. If you can spare a few pre-holiday hours for a very rewarding experience, please call: 651-272-1133.

The office for the Neighbors' Holiday Gift Program is located on the lower level of the Neighbors office building at 222 Grand Avenue W, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

Thank you so much for your generosity this holiday season!

It's A Wonderful Life Benefit Performance

Kick off your holiday season with a heartwarming performance of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," based on one of the most inspirational and best loved classic holiday movies. Set as if it were a live radio broadcast of the film from the 1940's, this performance is full of emotion, humor, sound effects, and lots of classic holiday music. Performed in the historic ballroom of The Saint Paul Hotel, this show is truly one-of-a-kind. This special performance begins the cast's seasonal engagement at the hotel and proceeds from the evening benefit Neighbors, Inc.

Date: Wednesday, December 5 Time: 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Location: The Saint Paul Hotel

Cost: \$35 per person (\$25 for Neighbors' volunteers and Community Builder Circle members)

Website: https://www.neighborsmn.org/event/its-a-wonderful-life/

Contact

Heidi Satre

heidi@neighborsmn.org

651-306-2154

Head Start Wish List

Message from Violet Finkelson: I am the family advocate at Head Start. We have families that are in need of the following items. If you have items to donate to Head Start, please e-mail Violet Finkelson at vfinkelson2@gmail.com

- A vacuum
- Clean new or used kids clothing Preschool sizes
- Hats and mittens
- Socks
- Pants
- Snow pants
- Boots



JOIN US ON GO DAY! JANUARY 6TH

Assemble School Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Join us Jan 6th as we assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. This fall we collected many items but we can use more!! It would be great to have 20-30 more of each of the following:

- ★ 70-sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled)
- ★ 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ★ Pencil sharpener
- ★ Blunted scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ★ Unsharpened #2 pencils
- ★ Black or blue ballpoint pens (NO gel ink)
- ★ Box of 16 or 24 count crayons
- ★ 2½ inch eraser
- ★ Drawstring style backpack (cloth approx. 14 x 17 with shoulder straps- NO standard backpacks)

Save the date:

Next Go Day!-February 10th, 2019- Zoomobile

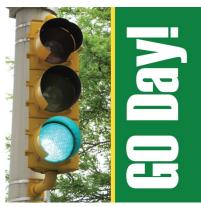
Sunday School Coordinators:

Kami Burgess <u>kburgess@aglcigh.org</u> cell: 701-550-9807 Trish Ebensteiner <u>tandkgophernuts@comcast.net</u> cell: 612-719-9548

Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, Dec 8 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

Ladies, take time out to gather for good food, pleasant conversation, and Christmas carols at the annual Women's Christmas Brunch. There is an ornament exchange for those who want to participate. A \$5 donation is requested to cover expenses with the excess going to Neighbor's Inc. Sign up sheet is on the community bulletin board. If you can help with food and/or preparations for the brunch, or have questions contact Barb Malamen 651-454-1858.



Conversation with the Council, Part II

The recent Conversation with the Council was well attended, and we thank all who were present! The Conversation was led by Kami Burgess and the focus was on the Year of Renewal. Subsequently, the Council met and, among other topics, agreed that the Conversation was valuable, but that further time is needed for the members to discuss other topics they may have on their minds. Therefore, we decided that a second Conversation with the Council would be beneficial. For the sake of brevity, I'll call it "Conversation Part II". Conversation Part II will consist of small group table discussions, in which members may dialog with each other. This format will, we expect, permit freer communication.

In Conversation Part II we would like members at each table to share their joys and concerns with one another. In addition, the Council has some specific questions for the members to consider: 1)What is the greatest joy for you at Amazing Grace? 2)If we have to cut the budget, what would you cut? 3)What are some opportunities for improvement? 4) Where is God leading us?

We will provide forms consisting of the same questions. In addition, we will provide a simplified version of the budget to aid you in your discussion. Then, after sufficient time for table discussions has elapsed, each table can share the results of their dialog with the room. Conversations Part II will be held on **Sunday, December 16 at 9:15 a.m.** We invite all members--including youth--to join us!

Stefan A. Bailis

CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR—DEC 2



The Christian Education Team is sponsoring a Children's Book Fair just in time for holiday giving! Books that help kids thrive socially, emotionally, and spiritually will be available for up to 40% off the retail price. A selection of books, including Christmas titles, will be on display, but over 60 titles are available for purchase.

Browse books in the Narthex between services <u>December 2.</u>
Stop by the book fair table to get entered into a drawing for a book give away!

The Christian Education program will receive 20% back from all purchases that we'll use for future programming.

New Worship Ministry Scheduling

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

As we gather for worship we use our various gifts in order to create a holy place where all are welcome and where we are empowered by the promises of God through Jesus Christ. We need Worship Ministry volunteers to help create this place. Worship Ministers are all of the committed individuals who take care of the "logistical details" for worship services so that we can focus on praise, prayer and worship.

Beginning in January 2019 we are trying out a new system for scheduling Worship Ministers. We recognize that members have busy schedules and cannot always serve as assigned. Starting in January, you will be in charge of the schedule. Yes, we are implementing **SignUpGenius**, an online scheduling tool, to make signing up easy. You can choose your own time and sign up for short term service (one Sunday) or commit longer term, three or four months in advance. The system is simple, easy and user-friendly.

Simply log into the system, scroll to find the Sunday(s) and service time that works for you. Click on "sign up" for the Ministry roles that you want. Click on "submit and sign up." Enter your name and email address and you're scheduled. There is also a comment section for special notes on your availability. You will receive a confirmation email within minutes of scheduling.

Written instructions and training will be provided. For those who prefer paper sign up, signup sheets will be available.

The Worship Ministry roles include:

Altar Care – Altar Care ministers set up communion and prepare the altar for our worship services

Acolyte – Acolytes light and extinguish the altar candles and assist with communion

Greeter - Greeters extend a warm welcome to all who enter our doors

Personal Prayer Partner – Personal Prayer Partners offer an empathetic, listening ear, and pray with individuals during communion

Reader – Readers share the Word of God during worship for all to hear and also assist with communion Sound System – Sound Board operators make sure our worship service and God's Word can be heard by all Usher – Ushers act as host for our worship services by attending to the needs of our congregants

Worship Assistant – Worship Assistants attend to the details of our worship services by making sure all other worship ministers are ready to serve, and assisting with worship, communion, and prayer.

Watch for additional information as we implement this system.

If you have questions, contact Louise Lentz (763) 200-0749, Leanne Kojetin or Pastor Julie (651) 455-0093.

Theater Goers - Save the Date Sunday January 13, 2019

2:00 p.m. Matinee

The Church Basement Ladies have a new production: <u>You Smell Barn</u>. The ladies are back and are getting busy with life outside the kitchen. <u>You Smell Barn</u> celebrates rural life in the 1950's with crazy antics, fresh laughs, and new songs. 32 seats have been reserved for the Sunday, January 13, 2019, 2 pm matinee at the Ames Center in Burnsville. The sign up sheet is posted on the community bulletin board. **Deadline to sign up is December 16** so don't delay! Questions contact Barb Malamen 651-454-1858.

Lyngblomsten Spirit of Giving

Giving Tree

Monetary donations and gift cards are being collected to allow staff to purchase gift items for Lyngblomsten residents and tenants. For some these may be the only gifts they receive.

Please return your generous gifts by Sunday Dec 9.





January & February Adult Education: Two Options!

As a kid I loved reading the "Choose Your Own Adventure" books where you could choose between two different endings of the story. It was fascinating to be a participant in the experience! In 2019 we will have an opportunity for you to do just that (sort of): two options for Adult Education!

Track A: Waking Up White Book Club

Join a short-term book club for the months of January and February where <u>small groups</u> will read the memoir, *Waking Up White*. This book was written by Debby Irving, a white woman, who for twenty-five years sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In Waking Up White, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her – and ultimately for all of us.

<u>To reserve this book</u>: Dakota County Library has a few copies, so reserve your copy in advance. Or sign up on the Community Bulletin Board at Amazing Grace to let Pastor if you will need a book (donations accepted but not expected). **Sign up on the Community Bulletin Board and indicate if you need a book.**

Where & When?

Small groups may meet either on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am (near the coffee & donuts or in the Sanctuary) OR another mutually agreed-upon location, day and time. Books and small group discussion guides will be available to pick up from Pastor Julie beginning on Sunday, January 6 in the Upper Room at 9:15 a.m.

Track B: Women & Justice in the ELCA

Did you know that the ELCA has Social Statements on everything from economics to caring for creation, from genetics and human sexuality to race & ethnicity? Social Statements are one way that the ELCA seeks to address important issues facing the world today by bringing faith into the public sphere. These statements also set policy for the church and guide advocacy efforts.

In 2017, a Social Statement was drafted on the topic of the treatment of *women in the church and in society*. Pastor Julie Wright has been elected to be a voting delegate to the ELCA Church wide Assembly in the fall of 2019. One of the items up for discussion and vote will be this Social Statement.

At the heart of this matter is a set of beliefs about how God intends for God's people to live in community. With the rise of the #MeToo movement, the treatment of women and girls in society, and in this church, is of utmost importance. People of all genders are encouraged to attend this study facilitated by Pastor Julie.

Where & When?

This study will meet in the Upper Room at 9:15 am Sundays: January 13, January 20, February 3, and February 17.



- 4—Adam Ingalsbe
- 6-Merri Guggisberg
- 9-Kori'anna
- 9-Jill Redmond
- 10—Elizabeth Anderson
- 10-Anna Hahnfeldt
- 11—Julie Hammons
- 11—Chris Kinney
- 11-Lou
- 13-Connor
- 16—Annie Morgan
- 19-Cyndi Berg
- 21—Patti Plash
- 22—Todd Hoven
- 22—Blytha Talalla
- 26—Jakob
- 28—Norm Beckman
- 28-Kevin Hanson
- 29—Adele
- 29—Ayden
- 30-Kris Holsen
- 31—Jim Feely

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



1—Don and Laurel Oseth

6—James and Cathy

Jeyachandran

10—Russ and Lisa Barnhart

- 14—Bill Bleckwenn and Peter Ornatek
- 18—Paul and Judy Rhein
- 28—Paul and Carol Portz
- 29—Matt and Becky Ahlvin
- 29—Ras and Gloria Rasmussen



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

Need Care & Connection?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that during the holiday season, while many look forward to festivities with friends and family, for others, this time can bring on or worsen stress, anxiety and depression. Some people experience increased financial burden due to travel, gift and/or hosting costs. Others may feel overwhelmed as the holiday season often includes a packed calendar of parties, performances and traveling that can be difficult to balance with everyday responsibilities and self-care. Not to mention: High expectations to give perfect gifts and plan perfect events, as well as loneliness for those

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

Mental or physical illness

who aren't with loved ones.

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

HIPAA privacy rules mean that 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)
Pastor Tess Panamarow (712) 899-9747 (cell)



Pastoral Care—Focused Outreach

Servant Ministry Coordinator: Pastor Julie Wright

- Meal Coordinator: Lynda BartletteRide Coordinator: Norm Beckman
- •Funeral Support Coordinator: Barb Malamen
- •Personal Prayer Coordinator for Worship: Linda Erickson

Hands and Feet Ministry—

Coordinator: Pastor Tess Panamarow



Website:

www.aglcigh.org

Staff:

Lead Pastor—Pastor Julie Wright jwright@aglcigh.org

Pastor of Congregational Care—Pastor Tess Panamarow TPanamarow@aglcign.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 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—Barbara Forthun bforthun@aglcigh.org

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

Vacation Bible School Coordinator— Zella Vandervort: mnhomebug@gmail.com

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.



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!!