



AMAZING
GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2019

@The Intersection

A Loneliness Epidemic

Americans are experiencing loneliness at unprecedented levels. Some may contribute this to an age of technology that keeps many of us occupied, heads buried in our phones or other mobile devices, or the lightening fast speed at which news travels that keeps our heads spinning within any given 24-hour news cycle. I suspect, however, that the problem goes far deeper.

A recent study from the University of California, San Diego, identifies that 75% of Americans have experienced moderate to high levels of loneliness. (*International Psychogeriatrics*, December 2018,). Loneliness is not about being alone, but is instead about a lack of satisfactory relationships.

Rates of loneliness are especially high for people in their late 20's, mid-50's, and late 80's, and is associated with physical illness. These three peak periods of loneliness are understandable because of what people typically go through at these seasons of life.

In the late 20's many people are making choices about jobs, choosing a life partner and putting down roots. In this phase of life, comparison with others can steal joy in a split second.

The mid-50's represent the midlife crisis, which is not just a phase of discontent, but also is marked by physical and hormonal changes in people of all genders, and an awareness of one's own mortality.

The late-80's can be a time of stress, depression and loneliness marked by the death of friends as well as a continuing decline in physical and mental ability.

What is the antidote to loneliness? Wisdom!

The study defines wisdom as a personality trait similar to optimism...that allows you to roll with life's punches, learn from your mistakes and develop empathy for others. Basically, wisdom and loneliness don't seem to co-exist. In something called The San Diego Wisdom Score, wisdom was defined as having six components: *control over emotions, compassion, self-reflection, acceptance of uncertainty, diversity of views, decisiveness, and spirituality.*

Over the past 12 months, as part of our Year of Renewal, with over 80 one-to-one conversations you have talked openly about your joys and concerns. The number one concern across the board had to do with health. Many of you are concerned about access to health care and the ability to navigate health insurance. So many of you discussed the struggle to maintain mental health and address addiction for you or members of your family.

The San Diego study, along with data from conversations at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, indicate that we share what so many other Americans desire: the human need to be connected, supported, and have meaningful relationships. As a church, we are uniquely situated to provide spiritual support to one another and also to strengthen and expand meaningful connection with one another and newcomers alike.

My prayer for this new year is that Amazing Grace may be blessed with an ability to broaden the circle of love and support to include so many more of God's beloved. May courageous conversations deepen existing connections, and where there is loneliness or despair, disconnection or pain, let the Lord provide a healing balm and a renewed sense of purpose into yet another year of renewal.

New Year blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Julie

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

Annual Soup Luncheon 2019

February 2, 2019
10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Luther Memorial Church
315 15th Ave N., South St Paul, MN 55075

The Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) will sponsor its annual Soup Luncheon. We are excited to have Rev. Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota, join us to share her insight about gun violence prevention.

Are you uncomfortable talking about gun violence?

Want to speak out about the need to prevent gun violence but you don't know how? Afraid that you will alienate friends and family if you bring up a "political" topic? Interested in championing gun violence prevention at the Capitol but nervous about meeting with your legislators? If so, this event is for you.

You can learn how to speak with confidence to anyone about gun violence prevention as a public health issue by attending this workshop. Great food, fellowship, an opportunity for learning—sounds like a great day doesn't it? Please consider inviting friends and family.

Welcome, Madeline Burbank!

On Sunday, January 20th, we welcome guest preacher Madeline Burbank, a student from Luther Seminary. Ms. Burbank was recently an intern at Shalom Hill Farm near Windom, Minnesota, and served as a youth minister at All Saints Lutheran (ELCA) in Cottage Grove, Minn.

REMINDER: One Worship Service & Annual Meeting – January 27, 2019
No Sunday School; No Adult Education.
Childcare provided during Annual Meeting

9:00 am Potluck Breakfast

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Annual Meeting

Please bring breakfast items to share for our 9:00 am potluck.

If your last name begins with...., then bring...

A – E Yogurt, Juice, Milk, (church will provide coffee)

F– N Hot Breakfast: Eggs, Meat, Potatoes

O– T Bread, Muffins, or Pastries

U – Z Fruit, Cereal, or Granola Bars

January Worship		
Sunday	Lessons	Worship Services
January 6 Epiphany “A Star’s Welcome”	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Matthew 2:1-12	8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
January 13 Baptism of Our Lord “Anticipation”	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Choral Service 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Choral Service
January 20 Welcome Guest Preacher Madeline Burbank	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 John 2:1-11	8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
January 27 “The Joy of the Lord Is Yours!”	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 Luke 4:14-21	8:00 a.m. NO WORSHIP 9:00 a.m. Pot Luck Brunch 10:30 Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 Annual Meeting

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



JOIN OUR
STUDY

January 6: Go Day! Intergenerational Activity

Book Study: *Waking Up White*—pick up your book & study guide

January 13: Women and Justice: ELCA Draft Social Statement

January 20: Women and Justice: ELCA Draft Social Statement

January 27: No Adult Education—11:30 am Annual Meeting

AMAZING PRAYER

1 Thessalonians 5:17: *“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances – for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

While it’s true that most of us pray on a regular basis – have you ever thought of yourself as a PRAYER WARRIOR? Warriors are the ones who serve on the front lines of battle. Warriors are willing to serve; and they have confidence in their training that, even when a task seems dangerous or a good outcome improbable, a warrior will still place themselves on the front line of service. A prayer warrior does the same.

I want to whet your appetite for a call to service in an AMAZING (Grace) PRAYER WARRIOR MINISTRY. I’ll be telling you more about this in the coming weeks as we head toward the season of Lent. (Oh, I know, we just celebrated Christmas, but I am reminded that we can’t have true Christmas unless it also contains a cross.)

Prayer reminds us that we are not in this journey alone – the Lord is our constant companion and a continually open ear for our outpouring of the things and circumstances of this life. Prayer is our lifeline for this lifetime. Anytime, anywhere is the time for PRAYER.

Little Suzie concluded her prayer by saying: “Dear God, before I finish please take care of Daddy, Mommy, my baby brother, Grandma, and Grandpa...and please, God, take care of yourself, or else we’re all sunk!”

*“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances
– for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

Pastor Tess Panamarow

From the Children and Youth Minister

Happy New Year!

As I write this, it's not even Christmas and we have had very little snow (fine with me). I hope you were able to take some time during the holidays to reflect, relax, love, breath, enjoy, and listen. We're now turning the corner and summer will quickly be upon us. The days seems to come more quickly each month.

There is much to do as the calendar flips to 2019 - as we continue to Re-Imagine Christian Education throughout Amazing Grace – we need each of you. As we continue to proceed on our Year of Renewal – we need each of you. As we worship – we need each of you. As I've listened at our various sessions; one thing springs out – many express that Amazing Grace is our community – our family.

CAMP WAPO REGISTRATION

It's that time again for registration to begin for our session of Camp Wapo on **January 15, 2019**. This annual camping experience has been enjoyed by many of our children each year. The SEEDS weekend (Grades 2 & 3) is July 12 – 14 (cost \$175)
Youth Camp (Grades 4 – 8) and Senior High Camp (Grades 9 – 12) is July 14 – 19 (cost \$455)
Here is our direct link which will become active on **January 15, 2019** (and not before – I tried): <http://lwlbc.com/amazinggrace>

January Elementary Retreat @ Camp Onamia

Winter CHILL! (Joint ministry with Luther Memorial)

Grades 3 - 6

January 25-27, 2019

Friday 7 PM - Sunday 11 AM

Cost: \$82

There is no better way to spend a winter weekend than at camp! We'll have tons of great activities, indoor and outdoor games, cool campfire songfests and worships, some really neat Bible studies, and warm up by the fireplace with some hot chocolate. Camp counselors will be back to lead us in a quick get-a-way to your favorite camp or introduce you to camp for the first time. Bring your youth group, your friends, or come alone and make new friends. Adults are encouraged to attend. 1 free adult for every 7 kids.

February Jr High Retreat

Winter BLAST! (Joint ministry with Luther Memorial)

Grades 6 - 9

February 22-24, 2019

Friday 7 PM - Sunday 11 AM

Cost: \$82

How about a weekend away from parents and school work among your friends at camp? We'll have college age counselors to lead you in games, Bible study, crafts, worship, songs, and much more. It is a great time of year to come to camp and see your old friends and meet new ones. You don't have to wait till summer to be a part of Camp Onamia. Friends are totally welcome so get signed up and get ready to have the time of your life! You don't want to miss it! Adults are encouraged to attend. 1 free adult for every 7 kids.

College Care Packages

We again ask for the congregations help as we send Care Packages to our college students. We have 17 college students that we would like to send this package to be received by Valentine's Day. When out shopping, could you pick up 17 of one item (lip balm, small tissue packets, small bottles of hand sanitizer, small bags of candy, single serve soups etc) and bring them to the church office ATTN Tim. We will pack the boxes and mail them.



DUE BY SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

January 6, 2019: GO Day (Intergenerational activity)

January 15, 2019: CAMP WAPO REGISTRATION BEGINS

January 25 – 27, 2019: Grades 3 – 6, Camp Onamia (\$82)

February 10, 2019 from 1-3pm: Family All Ages Snow Tubing (Pizza at church)

February 17: Gerten's Easter Lily sales begin

February 22 – 24, 2019: Grades 6 – 9, Camp Onamia (\$82)

March 3, 2019: Gerten's Spring Plant/Flower sales begin

March 10: GO Day (Intergenerational activity)

WHAT'S "FUN"?

Many millions of children in China are "Stay-Behind Children." Their parents have left them (maybe with a neighbor or grandparent, also poor and often in ill health) to work in large cities for their livelihood. If they can afford the transportation, they are allowed to return home once a year. The children grow up poorly clothed and fed, without hope and love. And fun? What is that?

China Service Ventures' dedicated staff, with the help of volunteers whom they train, go to these children's schools to teach what they've never had before: art and crafts, music, phy-ed, and more. Currently they are also setting up small libraries. They visit many of the homes. All this brings smiles to the children. And for the first time the children are experiencing fun—and for many, the first time love.

Thank you, Friends of Amazing Grace, for the gifts you have given to make this work possible! -Charlotte Gronseth



All Outstanding/Older, Wise Lutherans are cordially invited to gather at 11 am on Jan. 16. There will be the usual potluck, conversation, laughter, and gamesmanship. All this and we will be on our way by 1 pm. What a great escape from any January doldrums. See you there! Contact persons Barb Malamen or Laurel Oseth.

Yogadevotion

Sign up for the next session of Yogadevotion! It begins Monday, January 7 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. It will be an 8-week session at a cost of \$64. This is a great way to start your week for body, mind, and spirit. This is a welcome back to the regulars and an invitation to those who want to try something new in the new year, The sign-up sheet is on the community bulletin board.



yogadevotion·LLC
PRACTICING IN THE PRESENT

God's Work, Our Hands Reminder

Recently we added a new page to our website and it's all about you! God's Work takes many forms and we'd like to see what you've been doing. This is an important way for us to connect with each other and with the people who visit our website looking for a new church.

Are you packing meals? Delivering supplies to Neighbors, Inc? Picking up trash along the highway? Walking to end hunger? Biking to raise funds for research? Send a picture and a short description of the event to Sarah Bjorklund (SBjorklund@aglcigh.org) and she will post it to the new webpage. You could inspire someone else to volunteer!

Check out what others are doing! You can find the new page, titled "[God's Work, Our Hands](#)" under the "About Us" tab on our [website](#).

Faithful Readers: *So Many Books!*

The new year brings a new list of books to read and discuss. Faithful Readers gathers 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 (see schedule below). We read a variety of books and 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 The Last Painting of Sara DeVos
by Dominic Smith

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

May 19 Before We Were Yours
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 Killers of the Flower Moon 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 A Gentleman in Moscow
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.)

ISAIAH Convention and Legislative Session Launch

Saturday, January 19th, 2019 | 11am – 4pm

Minneapolis Convention Center

Purpose: To prepare, as ISAIAH, to lead a movement for civic inclusion, a caring economy and climate justice across MN through the 2019 legislative session. On January 19th, we intend to

powerfully lead more than 1000 Isaiah members across MN to continue to lead a prophetic movement through the legislative session and beyond to create a democracy that honors every person's dignity, a caring economy that allows us to thrive and a sustainable future for every Minnesotan.

- Celebrate who we have become as ISIAH and the power we built across MN in 2018
- Ground ourselves in a broader struggle we are faced with in this time and in our unique call to lead through it
- Deepen our strategic analysis of the opportunities before us in 2019 and the opportunities we can create toward in 2021
- Prepare to take powerful action to engage thousands of Minnesotans and our legislative leaders in dozens of meetings and actions about our faith agenda through the 2019 legislative session
- Engage in a robust conversation with Governor Walz and our legislative leadership about a shared vision for Minnesota and imagine together how we can align strategies to make real progress on agenda that honors the dignity of all people in 2019

Please register here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/QEBzwP3pzEuncczLj5tlow2> or contact Judy Rhein at (651) 454-2220 or Mark Morgan at (612) 704-9219

Calling All Computer Geeks

Amazing Grace is currently looking for an IT support specialist who would volunteer to help keep the church's network and computers operating efficiently, safely, and securely. Weekly support required is on average less than an hour per week, but on occasion it can spike to 4-5 hours.

Monthly maintenance is normally done after Microsoft releases their monthly updates, almost always the second Wednesday of the month. This is normally about 4 hours monthly for the 6 laptops we have for staff. Additionally, the 10 laptops for Sunday School require updating twice yearly, before and after the Sunday School season.

In addition, setting up a new computer or reconfiguring an old one when staff changes over takes 2-3 hours each. Maintaining the online accounts for new and existing staff can take an additional hour or two monthly.

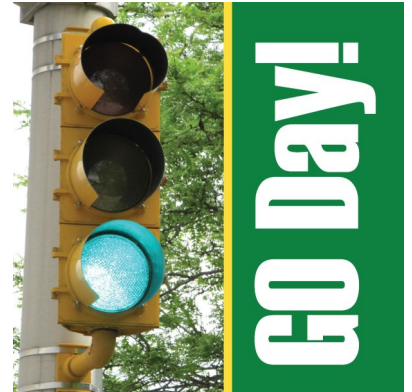
Anyone interested in finding out more information on providing the necessary IT support can contact Russ Barnhart @ rbarnhart@hennenassociates.com or the church office.

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
- ★ 2 ½ 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 kburgess@aglcigh.org

cell: 701-550-9807

Trish Ebensteiner tandkgophernuts@comcast.net

cell: 612-719-9548

Save Those Bottle Caps!

Tim Marburger is saving plastic bottle caps for a GoDay project. Please save your caps and drop them off at the church office by February 7th, 2019. The caps can be from anything that can be considered a “bottle” (such as water bottles, orange juice bottles). Please rinse them as you collect them. Thank you!



Minneapolis-Saint Paul Area Synod
2019 Reconciling in Christ Worship Service
Saturday, January 26th 2019
4:30PM

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
700 Snelling Ave S
St Paul, MN 55116

Preaching: Pastor Javen Swanson
Presiding: Pastor Bradley Smeling

Soup Supper to Follow Worship

Come and join your Twin Cities Reconciling in Christ Community
as we celebrate our RIC welcome and shared mission!

It's time for the annual Twin Cities Reconciling In Christ Worship Service - please join us! Join 42 RIC Lutheran congregations in the Twin Cities as we celebrate God's inclusive love for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. A casual soup supper will follow the service.

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 4:30 PM
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
700 Snelling Ave S, Saint Paul, MN 55116

Questions or comments? Interested in becoming more involved in the work ReconcilingWorks is doing in the Twin Cities? Please reach out to the board at treconcilingworks@gmail.com.

SignUpGenius is Here!

We are excited to announce that our **new online scheduling system** for Worship Ministers is ready for you to start signing up to serve. We recognize that members have busy schedules and cannot always serve as assigned. We are implementing this system to enable you to be in charge of your schedule. 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. Here's how it works:

Log into the system by [clicking here](#).

- ⇒ Scroll to find the Sundays and service times that work 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 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 the host or hostess 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.

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

Debby Irving Event - February 17 from 3-6pm

Come join the Saint Paul Area Synod in welcoming Debby Irving, author of *Waking up White*. Irving will be speaking and leading us in an interactive workshop. This time will be most effective if congregations plan on bringing a group ready to collaborate further with church conferences and neighboring communities. Open to Rostered leaders and community members to register.

We will focus our time on, *Leveling the Playing Field: Interrupting Patterns of Power and Privilege*; this is an interactive workshop involving mapping power, patterns and interventions.

Suggested cost of the event is \$10 per person, to be collected at the door. We do not want cost to prohibit anybody from attending this learning opportunity, all are welcome. Debby Irving will have books available and there will be an opportunity to meet her after the workshop time.

If your congregation or organization has yet to read, *Waking up White*. It is recommended to read before attending, see the attached study guide for [Waking up White](#).

Registration opens January 15. Watch the Antiracism Workgroup webpage for more details: <http://www.spas-elca.org/resources/for-congregations/anti-racism-multiculturalism/>

Questions.

Contact Pastor Jen Collins, antiracism workgroup co-lead, jcollins@hosannaforestlake.net

Why do we have Liturgy?

Have you ever come to Church on Sunday and noticed the colors of the paraments have changed? Do you wonder why is everything red today? The answer: It's the Liturgical color! Wait, we have colors? Welcome to 2019 and the Liturgical year – and yes, we have colors. As we begin the New Year, let's explore some background about our Liturgy to better understand why we have Liturgy by looking at an article written by Laura Jean Truman who is a preacher and former chaplain who blogs on the Patheos website, Old Things New, General Christian.

I didn't grow up with Liturgy. I grew up in a melting pot of Baptist, Pentecostal, and non-denominational evangelical churches in rural New Hampshire. Services were informal. We had communion twice a year, sometimes shuffling it awkwardly off our Sunday morning schedule altogether to stick it on Wednesday nights, like the weird uncle that everyone feels uncomfortable inviting to family reunions. The pastors preached "Sermon Series" on Scriptures of their personal choice, either topical (Hope) or a series from a book of the Bible (Romans). Lent meant that we stopped drinking coffee or eating chocolate, and Advent was just tapping our fingers until the real holiday, Christmas. We definitely didn't put ashes on our foreheads, and we absolutely didn't talk about the saints. We didn't fast. We also didn't really feast. The weather changed outside, winter to spring to summer, but inside our heated and air conditioned evangelical churches, we were insulated and unaffected by the seasons outside as much as we were unaware of the seasons the Church.

There is something in a human soul that needs seasons, though. There is something about surviving winter, then watching snowdrops poke up through snow and knowing that it's spring. There is something about the first cool wind that dries the sweat on the back of our necks when summer is finally over.

Most modern Western lives aren't structured around seasons anymore. Not many of us rely on rainfall patterns for our work, and none of us store up food for the winter. Sometimes it seems like we're living without any framework holding our lives together at all. We rush week to week, a gasping dash to make it to Friday and then a melancholy Sunday afternoon as we trudge into Monday. Life turns into a series of sprints instead of a long, focused marathon. Time is scattered out as a series of disconnected moments,

somehow both monotonous and panicked. Without patterns, we aren't always sure what the larger story is, and we vibrate through life trying to be good, happy, successful – at parenting, at working, at church, at friendship. This is exactly why we need the Liturgical year so badly.

The Liturgical year structures time as a series of fasts and feasts, celebrations and repentance. It lines Scripture reading up with the Church's year – what Epistle is for Advent, the time for anticipation and corporate repentance leading up to Christmas? What Old Testament story goes with Epiphany, that time between Christmas and Lent? This spiritual calendar takes seriously Ecclesiastes admonition that there is a "time for everything." It tells us that there is a time to repent, rejoice, anticipate, be afraid, be filled with hope. There is a time to yell and a time to be very silent. There is a time to work hard and a time to rest. There is a time to wait with Jesus in the Garden, horrified at what's coming, and a time to jump gleefully into the water with Peter and swim to the Risen Christ cooking us breakfast on the shore.

The Liturgical calendar connects together all our fragmented moments into a pattern. It puts our disconnected days together intentionally, like loose pearls strung carefully on a long thread. The Liturgical calendar structures our chaotic moments and creates meaning from them. And as the Liturgical calendar walks us through time, we're aware of two things: that we aren't in control, and that we aren't doing this alone.

In a culture obsessed with individuality and control, the Liturgical year invites us to release our tight grip on our lives and participate in something bigger than our individual selves. The Liturgical year sings us into its steady rhythms, inviting us to celebrate even when we are full of fear, to repent even when we're on top of the world. It tells us that we don't repent in a closet, individually, but repent together, for systemic sins as much as personal ones. It reminds us about the need for justice when we're trapped in self-centeredness, and calls us to rest in community when we'd rather plowing ahead on our own steam.

We are not great at knowing what we need. We work ourselves to death when we desperately need a Sabbath, and we give up in despair when we need courage to keep going. We aren't sure how to work productively, and we aren't sure how to rest restoratively. We don't know if shame is the same as repentance, and even though we quote "do justice, love mercy, walk humbly," sometimes it feels like we're just throwing things at the wall and hoping they'll stick.

The Liturgical calendar – that old story running through our new days, the ancient Scripture read again to fresh ears – is a lifeline thrown down to a people overwhelmed by our options and afraid we've lost the plot. We work so hard to make sense of the world and change the world and fight for the world. Sometimes, though, we are working so hard that we aren't aware of where the Spirit is already present, and where it has gone before us. When we come prayerfully to the lectionary text every week, and enter into the Liturgical year, we find that God is already there working. God is in the suffering. God is with the poor. God is in the confusion. God is on the ground before us. We are not going ahead of God, but showing up where He already is.

It is the old made new, and then the new made old again, in a pattern that keeps repeating and scooping new stories, new people, into the old stories. The Liturgical year is a steady current underneath the low-level anxiety of relentlessly chaotic daily life. May we find rest and courage together as we locate ourselves in the slow and rhythmic patterns of our ancient Church and old, old stories of Scripture.

January

BIRTHDAYS

1—Betty Trog
 4—Pam Rutten
 5—Sue Grundhoffer
 7—Kelton Holsen
 8—Cameron
 8—Carter
 9—Natalie
 9—Susan Ricketts
 12—Evelyn Rau
 13—Andrew Jeyachandran
 13—Jeff Thelemann
 14—Harper
 15—Logan
 16—Jeff Waska
 17—Becky Ahlvin
 17—Linda Erickson
 17—Ameera
 17—Maxx
 17—Tony Redmond
 18—Barb Bostrom
 18—Daryl Finkelson
 18—Lynn Waska
 20—Ras Rasmussen
 20—Tim Hunter
 23—Natalie
 23—Lucy Vandervort
 24—Larry Kinney
 25—Sue Schornak
 26—Nathan Valentine
 28—Arlene Curran
 28—Katelin Garfield
 30—Mark Bartlette
 30—Betty Frid

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



5—Greg and Joleen Ketterling
 11—Gary and Mary Garfield
 14—Tony and Anne DePalma
 15—Holly and Jan Laak

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 who aren't with loved ones.

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
- 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)

Prayer Chain



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



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: Linda Erickson

Hands and Feet Ministry—

Coordinator: Pastor Tess Panamarow

Acolytes	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
January 6	Natalie DePalma	Jack Redmond
January 13	Hope Bartlette	Karli Grundhoffer
January 20	Eli Morgan	Caleigh Tautges
January 27	10:30 service only	Kate Redmond
Greeters		
January 6	Mikal & Carol Steinmetz	Tim Sanborn
January 13	Salim Omari	Tim and Sue Grundhoffer
January 20	Louie Morgan	The Mattson Family
January 27	10:30 service only	Norman Beckman
PA System		
January 6	Duane Skar	Larry Kinney
January 13	Vinny Morgan	Pete Malamen
January 20	Duane Skar	Vinny Morgan
January 27	10:30 service only	Larry Kinney
Readers		
January 6	Helen Yotter	Sanjia Restorff
January 13	Barb Henke	Tim Marburger
January 20	Barb Malamen	Wendy Hoffman
January 27	10:30 service only	Annie Morgan
Ushers		
January 6	John Henke/Paul Rhein	Nancy Pollock/Jean Jantzen Teri Santema/Mary Garfield
January 13	Russ Barnhart/Al & Jan Stein	Michael Rutschke/ Don Oseth
January 20	John Henke/Paul Rhein	Don Oseth/Rick Berg/Craig Hoffman
January 27	10:30 service only	Korky & Trish Ebensteiner/ Todd Erickson
Altar Care		
January 6		Nancy Pollock
January 13	Lisa Barnhart	Zella Vandervort
January 20	Alison Hild	Nancy Pollock
January 27	10:30 service only	Teri Santema
Counters		
January 6		Helen Yotter/Tim or Lori Sanborn
January 13		Mary Garfield/Pete Malamen
January 20		Jan Stein/Craig Yotter
January 27		Craig Yotter/Zella Vandervort
Worship Assistant		
January 6	Mark/Annie Morgan	Louise Lentz
January 13	Tim Marburger	Tim Marburger
January 20	Alison Hild	Heather Tautges
January 27	10:30 service only	Tess Panamarow

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Epiphany of Our Lord (white) 8am Worship with Communion 9:15-10:15am Adult Ed.— GO DAY! 9:15am Sunday School - GO DAY! 10:30am Worship with Communion	7 5:30pm Yogadevotion 6:30pm Executive Team	8 9:30am Women's Bible Study 10am-3pm <i>The Gathering</i> at Salem NO Bible Study at Inver Glen	9 8:00 am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne 11:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30-6:00 pm Girl Scouts NO CONFIRMATION 6:30-7:15 pm King's Kids Choir 7:40 pm Sanctuary Choir	10	11	12
13 Baptism of Our Lord (white) 8am Worship with Communion 9:15-10:15am Adult Ed. 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion 10:30 Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Men's Group	14 5:30pm Yogadevotion 6:30pm Council Camp Wapo Registration begins	15 10:00am Knit and Chat 12:00pm SE Conference Gathering (off site) 7-8pm Bible Study at Inver Glen	16 8:00 am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne 11am OWLS 11:30 am Staff Meeting NO CONFIRMATION 6:30-7:15 pm King's Kids Choir 7:40 pm Sanctuary Choir	17	18	19 CONFIRMATION RETREAT (off-site)
20 Epiphany 2 (green) 8am Worship with Communion 9:15-10:15am Adult Ed. 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion 6:30pm Faithful Readers (off site) CONFIRMATION RETREAT (off-site)	21 5:30pm Yogadevotion 6:30 pm All Ministry Teams Meeting—Gathering Space lower level 7:30 pm Annual Meeting Rehearsal in the Sanctuary	22 10am-3pm <i>The Gathering</i> at Salem 7-8pm Bible Study at Inver Glen	23 8:00 am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne 11:30 am Staff Meeting NO CONFIRMATION 6:30-7:15 pm King's Kids Choir 7:40 pm Sanctuary Choir	24	25 Grades 3-6 Camp Onamia w/Luther Memorial	26 Grades 3-6 Camp Onamia w/Luther Memorial
27 Epiphany 3 (green) 8am - NO Worship with Communion 9:15-10:15am NO Adult Ed.—Annual Meeting 9:15am NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion 10:30am Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Men's Group 9:00 Brunch 10:30 Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting Grades 3-6 Camp Onamia w/Luther Memorial	28 10:30am Mobile Meals 5:30pm Yogadevotion 7:00 pm Council Social Gathering (off site)	29 7-8pm Bible Study at Inver Glen	30 8:00 am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne 11:30 am Staff Meeting NO CONFIRMATION 6:30-7:15 pm King's Kids Choir 7:40 pm Sanctuary Choir	31		
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED NO BIBLE STUDY at Inver Glen	2 8:00 am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne 11:30 am Staff Meeting NO CONFIRMATION 6:30-7:15 pm King's Kids Choir	3 10:00 am 10:40 am Inver Glen Worship Service at Inver Glen	4 10:30am Mobile Meals	5 9:00am Take Christmas decorations down



Website:

www.aglcigh.org

Staff:

Lead Pastor—Pastor Julie Wright
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Pastor of Congregational Care—Pastor Tess Panamarow
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Children and Youth Minister—Tim Marburger
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Administrator—Leanne Kojetin
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Finance Assistant—Craig Yotter
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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: 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.

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!!