



AMAZING
GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2019

It's a Holy Spirit Thing

Lately I've been feeling a little rattled – in a good way. Do you ever get the feeling that God is up to something...but you can't quite put your finger on it? That's where I find myself at the start of this Lenten season. I've experienced this kind of thing before, years ago, and that's when God completely turned my life upside down and inside out. At that time, I was deciding whether or not to go to seminary. I said to my mother, "But I would be over age 40 by the time I become a pastor!" Her response: "Well, God willing, you'll be 40 someday anyway, so go for it!" Off I went, into uncharted territory, lit up by the Holy Spirit and wondering what in the world God would think up next. It was a scary time for me, in some respects, because I completely surrendered myself to God. And yet, it was also the most freeing time of my life! It was a time when I found myself singing and dancing in the kitchen and also down on my knees in prayer in that same kitchen. In that season in life, I was surprised on a regular basis by the work of the Holy Spirit. *Instead of trying to figure out the Spirit, I simply decided to pay attention and enjoy the ride.*

Attending a conference last month about church revitalization, I was introduced to a book called, "**8 Virtues of Rapidly Growing Churches**" by Matt Miofsky and Jason Byassee. They suggest that the #1 virtue is:

Rapidly Growing Churches Believe in Miracles and Act Accordingly

They explain that churches that believe in miracles pray differently, see differently, and most importantly begin to act differently. It turns out that:

"Acting like the Holy Spirit is up to something in our midst is the single greatest game-changing decision a church can make."

Why does it matter how you and I pray, see and act? Because if God is about to do something amazing, I want to be part of it – and I'm guessing you do, too. When we look and expect to see evidence of God at work, we will see things we have not noticed before. When we pray with boldness, it focuses our thoughts and energy and then prepares us for what lies ahead. Prayer helps us to let go of what we want and prepare us to receive what God desires for us.

When we take action as a faith community, and as individuals, having already been grounded in prayer and attentiveness to the Spirit, then our actions will speak louder than all of our words combined.

As we make our way through the remaining days of Lent, I ask for your prayers for this faith community.

Pray with boldness. See with new eyes. Listen for the whispers of the Spirit. And one more thing: **share stories about what God is doing.** Maybe you're like me: paying attention, ready to see and tell of God's transforming power. What is God up to? I don't know...yet. *It's a Holy Spirit thing.*

Pastor Julie Wright



GOD'S GREAT EARTH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 17-20, 2019



Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School 2019: **God's Great Earth**. We are excited to bring you another year of fantastic learning and experiences! This year we will be embracing God's Creations and learning how God wants us to care for them. Our activities will center around caring for God's People, God's Animals, God's Land, and God's Waters. We will have two field trips again this year: Como Zoo and Feed My Starving Children (older kids), park and splash pad (younger kids).

Register early and get the early bird discount! You can find the registration form at:
<http://bit.ly/2019VBS>

Contact: Zella Vandervort at mnhomebug@gmail.com or 651-769-7864

Vacation Bible School 2019 Volunteers Needed

The VBS committee has been hard at work planning for a fun filled learning experience. In order for the week to run smoothly, many volunteers are needed! The needs are varied from classroom teachers and assistants (8:30 am - noon), craft time leader and assistant (noon - 3:30 pm), field trip supervisors (Tues & Thurs afternoons), as well as volunteers for early morning (7 - 9 am) and late afternoons (3 - 5 pm).

Check your schedule and see where you can plug into this experience.

For more information or to volunteer contact Linda Erickson lindae115@hotmail.com or Barb Malamen bmalamen@aol.com

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



April 7: By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism

April 14: By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism

April 21: EASTER—No Adult Education

April 28: GO DAY! Intergenerational Activities

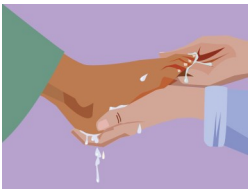
Donuts and coffee provided!

Holy Week Events



April 14—Palm Sunday

8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion



April 18—Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion



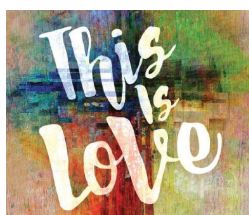
April 19—Good Friday

7:00 pm Worship



April 20—Holy Saturday—Sign up on the Community Bulletin board

9:00 am—12:00 pm Prayer Vigil



April 21—Easter Sunday

8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

From the Children and Youth Minister

Submitted by Tim Marburger

As you might recall during my time here, we have served at Lutheran Social Service's (LSS) Rezek House numerous times. It is a residence for homeless teens. We anticipate working with them again this summer during our Summer Servants experience. I wanted to share a couple of stories provided by them about the great work that is done there each day. This organization works with youth to become stable, able to access resources and to be more productive. Here are two examples of the work done at Rezek's Transitional Living Project:

Youth 1: *successfully exited from the program after being with us for 2.5 years. She is now in her apartment and is doing well. While being a part of our program, one thing she learned was developing healthy boundaries with her family.*

Youth 2: *increased her income to over \$40,000 annually. Taking full advantage of all opportunities provided to her, with the suggestion of her Case Manager, she successfully completed a program that allowed her to secure a car to get to work safely. She has been stably housed for over a year and is now gainfully employed in a career she enjoys!*

In February, five new youth moved into this program. As new youth move in there is a need for new apartment supplies. Last summer we cleaned, prepared, and stocked two apartments that had become available. These are some of the items that are needed.

- Mops/brooms
- Hygiene products: toothpaste, tooth brushes, body wash, deodorant
- Can openers
- Pillows
- All purpose cleaners
- Dish drying rack
- Pot holders, etc

We are fortunate to have Wendy Hoffman as our LSS representative here at Amazing Grace. If there are questions, or you would like to know more about this ministry with which our youth are involved, please talk to me or Wendy.

Continue to pray for all the roughly **6,000 youth** who are homeless on our streets each night.

Summer Update at Amazing Grace

Family weekend hosted by the Morgan/Ingalsbe families has been scheduled for **Friday, August 16 – Sunday, August 18**. This was very popular last year. See page 9 of this newsletter for more details.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

April 3, 5:30pm: Lenten Supper

April 6, 10am: First Communion Class

April 10, 5:30 pm: Final Lenten Supper

April 19: Easter Lily order delivered

April 21, 8:30 am & 10:30 am: Easter Worship

April 28, 9:15 am: Last GO Day for 2019

May 10, 5 pm: Gerten's Spring Plant delivery – everyone who sold should be at AGLC to help

June 2, 9:30 am: Senior High sending service followed by reception

June 17 – 20: Vacation Bible School

July 12, 13 and 14: SEEDS Weekend at Camp Wapo

July 14 – 19: Camp Wapo

July 29 – August 1: Summer Servants

News from the Women's Bible Study

Gather is the magazine published by the Women of the ELCA. The women of Amazing Grace have been using the Bible study contained in the magazine for many years and find the studies based on the Bible and the articles relevant to our every day lives. Please contact Judy Rhein at 651-454-2220 or judyann2164@gmail.com if you would like information on getting your very own copy of the magazine.

Currently we are meeting with Jesus through the Gospel of John. Here we are exploring familiar stories that lead us to deeper earthly and heavenly meanings as we encounter meetings with Jesus. We have met Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, two people seeking healing, and a hungry crowd. We reflected on how Jesus meets us in our spiritual hunger and thirst. Yet to come we will see how the lives of a woman who committed adultery, a blind man, and three friends of Jesus are transformed by faith. This series on John's Gospel will end with a study entitled Seeing the Risen Christ.

The people in these stories have experienced healing, transformation and new life in Christ. Gifts from the Holy One that only He can give. Gifts that we, too, can claim as children of God.

Come and join us on April 9 at 9:30am in the Upper Room. Snacks provided. Bring a friend, too!

News from OWLS (Outstanding Wise Lutherans)

There is no gathering in April. Next gathering: May 15, 2019 at 11 am. See you then!

Contact: Barb Malamen bmalaman@aol.com



ATTENTION FAITHFUL READERS

The book for April is The Last Painting of Sara DeVos by Dominic Smith. This is historical fiction; a rare 17th century painting links 3 lives on 3 continents over 3 centuries.

Meet for discussion on **Sunday, April 28, at Barnes & Noble Bookseller Cafe in Eagan** on Promenade at 6:30 pm. All are welcome. Contact: Barb Malamen bmalaman@aol.com

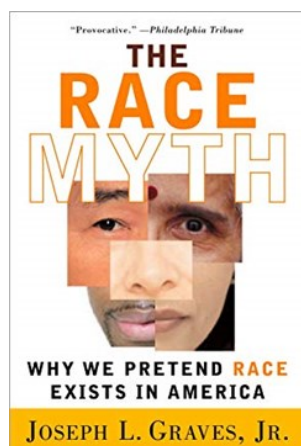
WOMEN'S RETREAT APRIL 29—MAY 3, 2019

Do you have a project you've wanted to work on? Do you have a book you want to read? Do you want to hang out with a fun group of women? Do you just want to relax? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this retreat is for you!

This is a relaxing, do what you enjoy, women's retreat. We stay at Pheasant Run Retreat Center in Hutchinson, MN and the cost is approximately \$140 per person. All are welcome! You can even bring a friend. Contact Zella Vandervort mnhomebug@gmail.com or 651-769-7864.

What's New in the Amazing Grace Bookshelf?

These books are located in the Amazing Grace bookshelf, in the Upper Room. Books can be borrowed and then returned so that others from the community may enjoy them.

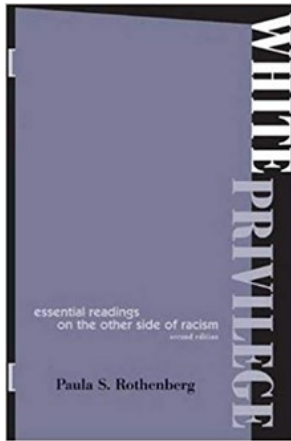


The Race Myth: Why We Pretend Race Exists in America by Joseph L. Graves, Jr.: Preeminent evolutionary biologist Joseph Graves proves once and for all that it doesn't. He explains why defining race according to skin tone or eye shape is woefully inaccurate, and how making assumptions based on these false categories regarding IQ, behavior, or predisposition to disease has devastating effects.

White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son by Tim Wise

Using stories from his own life, Tim Wise demonstrates the ways in which racism not only burdens people of color, but also benefits, in relative terms, those who are "white like him." He discusses how racial privilege can harm whites in the long run and make progressive social change less likely. He explores the ways in which whites can challenge their unjust privileges, and explains in clear and convincing language why it is in the best interest of whites themselves to do so.





White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism by Paula S. Rothenberg

Studies of racism often focus on its devastating effects on the victims of prejudice. But no discussion of race is complete without exploring the other side--the ways in which some people or groups actually benefit, deliberately or inadvertently, from racial bias.

SAVE THE DATE: August 16-18 AGLC Family Camp-out!

Please mark your calendars to reserve the weekend of August 16-18 for our second annual AGLC Family Camp-Out! We will be at Baker Park Reserve again this year, at the exact same site as last year. Everyone who is a part of the AGLC community is welcome to join regardless of household type. For any questions, please contact Adam Ingalsbe adam.ingalsbe@gmail.com or Mark Morgan mavel.morgan@gmail.com



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.

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

Year End Celebration Go Day! - April 28th

Join us April 28th at 9:15 am as we gather together to celebrate the end of another fun filled Sunday School Year. We will have fun, games, and time to appreciate our great year together! All are welcome to join!

Thank you from Sunday School!

Thank you to all who helped with the March Go Day! -Food Drive Carnival. It was a fun way to join our efforts to support our local food shelf!

Sunday school Coordinators:

Kami Burgess

kburgess@aglcigh.org

cell: 701-550-9807

Trish Ebensteiner

tandkgophernuts@comcast.net

cell: 612-719-9548

Work Crew Volunteers Needed

Join the work crew helping to refurbish Claire Eckley's home. This work day will be moving boxes into temporary storage. (Next steps: subcontractors will begin their work!)

When: Saturday April 6th, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Where: 7646 E. Borman Way, Inver Grove Heights

To volunteer, contact: Pastor Julie Wright at 651-271-1427 (cell) or jwright@aglcigh.org



Care for This Congregation Continues!

Your Amazing Grace ministry staff works together to provide prayer, visits, phone calls, and provide Holy Communion, in order to facilitate connections with God and the Amazing Grace community.



Pastor Julie Wright, Lead Pastor

I am your first point of contact for any urgent need of care, connection or prayer. This includes, but is not limited to: Mental or physical illness, hospitalization, or diagnosis, in need of prayer, problems with relationships, or any other crisis that might arise.
Cell phone: 651.271.1427.



Pastor Tess Panamarow, Pastor of Congregational Care

Pastor Tess:

- Coordinates the "Hands and Feet" ministries
- Leads a worship service with communion at Inver Glen (the senior living residence next door to the church) the first Thursday of every month at 10:00-10:30 am. (Everyone is invited, even if they are not residents of Inver Glen.)
- Provides back-up and assistance for Pastor Julie as needed and requested, such as: covering emergency calls, assisting in Sunday worship, and filling in when Pastor Julie is away, including preaching about once a month.
- Conducts visits, connecting with members who are home-bound, shut-in and in care facilities. Stops in to visit and participate with various ministry groups – "Knit & Chat," "OWLS," Vacation Bible School and others.
- The most important ministry that Pastor Tess provides for Amazing Grace Lutheran Church is PRAYER. She regularly and faithfully prays for those whose names cross her desk or are called to mind by the Spirit.



Tim Marburger, Children and Youth Minister

Tim, as our Children and Youth Minister, works with Pastor Julie and Pastor Tess on various pastoral duties, especially as they apply to the children, youth and families of the congregation. In addition, Tim spends time out in the community at events that impact our youth – their concerts, sports games, volunteering, school events, fundraisers – letting the kids and their families know that the church is not just in the church building, but in the world with them.

Amazing Grace's staff works with many other committed ministries of this church:

Funerals: Barb Malamen has a knack for hospitality! She coordinates funeral hospitality at Amazing Grace by providing food and beverages for those in grief.

Hands and Feet: Ministers with a love of God's people visit others in need of connection and prayer.

Meals: When meals for those in crisis or grief are needed, Lynda Bartlette does a great job coordinating volunteers to provide (comfort) food.

Rides: Norm Beckman, in his generosity, locates volunteer drivers to provide rides on a short-term basis.

Personal Prayers: Linda Erickson coordinates personal prayer leaders who, during most worship services, provide one-to-one prayer during Holy Communion.

Prayer Chain: Mary Garfield helps us pray for all those with prayer requests through email alerts. These prayers are a key element to healing.
Call 612-834-2955

Prayer Shawls: Gifted knitters make prayer shawls, stitched with prayers of love which are then delivered to those in need of comfort.



2—Alexander
 2— Chuck Frid
 3—Terrell Anderson
 4— Nancy Pollock
 5— Peter Schornak
 6— Abby
 8—Carol Steinmetz
 8—Kristen Hoven
 8— Zella Vandervort
 9—Hope
 10—Jed
 10—Cindy Lambert
 18—Rob Skoglund
 19— Tim Grundhoffer
 20—Leanne Kojetin
 21—Clayton McIntyre
 22—Nick
 22— Craig Yotter
 22— John Henke
 23—Mike Steinmetz
 25—Rosy Smith
 27—Hannah Hoven
 28—Heather Tautges

20—Michael and Alison Hild
 25—Bill and Julie Kunze
 25—Michael and Teri Santema
 29—Korky and Trish Ebensteiner

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30pm Yogadevotion 6:30pm Executive Team	2 NO BIBLE STUDY at Inver Glen	3 8:00am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne 2:00 pm IGH Ministerial Assoc. Mtg. At AGLC in Upper Room 5:30 pm Meal 5:30pm Confirmation-Mentor/Mentee Faith Conversations;Worship 6:00pm March Music Madness 7:00 pm Worship 7:40 Sanctuary Choir	4 10:00 am 10:40 am Inver Glen Worship Service at Inver Glen 1:00-2:30 pm Isaiah District Planning Meeting in Upper Room	5	6 9:00am-3:00pm Work Crew at Claire Eckley's home 10:00am-12:00pm First Communion Workshop
7—LENT 5 (purple) 8am Worship with Communion 9:15-10:15am Adult Ed. NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion	8 5:30pm Yogadevotion 6:30pm Council	9 9:30am Women's Bible Study 10am-3pm The Gathering at Salem 6:00-8:00 pm Garden Club meeting in Upper Room NO Bible Study at Inver Glen during Lent	10 8:00 am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne 4:30-6:00 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 pm Meal 5:30pm Confirmation-Mentor/Mentee Faith Conversations;Worship 6:00pm March Music Madness 7:00 pm Worship 7:40 Sanctuary Choir	11	12	13 Tentative—Amazing Orchestra Rehearsal
14 PALM SUNDAY (purple) 8am Worship with Communion/Sanctuary Choir & March Music Madness Kid's Choir/Amazing Orchestra 9:15-10:15am Adult Ed. NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion/Sanctuary Choir & March Music Madness Kid's Choir/Amazing Orchestra 6:30pm Men's Group	15 5:30pm Yogadevotion 6:30 pm All Ministry Teams Meeting—Gathering Room lower level	16 12:00pm SE Conference Gathering (off site) NO Bible Study at Inver Glen during Lent	17 8:00am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne NO CONFIRMATION NO King's Kids Choir 7:40 Sanctuary Choir	18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm Worship/Sanctuary Choir	19 GOOD FRIDAY 1:00-4:00pm Gerten's Easter Lily Order Delivery 7:00 pm Worship/Sanctuary Choir	20 HOLY SATURDAY 9am-12pm Prayer Vigil 12pm Decorate for Easter Tentative—Amazing Orchestra Rehearsal
21 EASTER SUNDAY (white) NO ADULT ED/ NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 8am Worship with Communion 8am Sanctuary Choir/Amazing Orchestra 10:30am Worship with Communion 10:30 Sanctuary Choir/Amazing Orchestra	22 10:30am Mobile Meals 5:30pm Yogadevotion OFFICE CLOSED	23 10:00am Knit and Chat—NOTE CHANGE FROM 4/16/19 10am-3pm The Gathering at Salem NO Bible Study at Inver Glen	24 8:00am Bulletin Announcements Due to Leanne 11:30am Staff Meeting NO CONFIRMATION 7:40 pm Sanctuary Choir	25	26 10:30am Mobile Meals 7:00pm to 7:30am Moonlight Madness Grades 6-9	27
28 Easter 2 (white) 8am Worship with Communion 8:00am-1:00pm Red Cross Bloodmobile in Upper Room 9:15-10:15am Adult Ed.—GO DAVI 9:15am Sunday School—GO DAVI 10:30am Worship with Communion 1:00-4:30pm ISALAH Event: District meeting with MN Legislators 6:30pm Faithful Readers (off site)	29 5:30pm Yogadevotion	30 NO Bible Study at Inver Glen				



Website:

www.aglcigh.org

Staff:

Lead Pastor—Pastor Julie Wright
jwright@aglcigh.org

Pastor of Congregational Care—Pastor Tess Panamarow
TPanamarow@aglcigh.org

Children and Youth Minister—Tim Marburger
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Administrator—Leanne Kojetin
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Communications Coordinator—Sarah Bjorklund
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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-Coordination—
Kami Burgess: kburgess@aglcigh.org
Trish Ebensteiner: tebensteiner@aglcigh.org

Vacation Bible School Coordinator—
Zella Vandervort: mhomebug@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

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