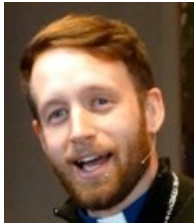




# AMAZING GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2022



## Pastor's Column

Submitted by Lead  
Pastor Tim Maybee

Dear Amazing Grace,

It's been exactly 13 years since I moved to the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Since many of you have lived here longer than I have, you probably know that the moniker, "Land of 10,000 Lakes," is actually a misnomer. There are 14,380 lakes according to the MNDNR. That's a lot of water! And, I'll be honest, it's overwhelming to even imagine so many bodies of water when you've grown up in Iowa, the Land of 65 Lakes. Even that is generous, as on 34 are naturally occurring. That's right. 34. [There are only four states in the union with a smaller percentage of surface water](#) than my home state. In Iowa we kept where we felt it belong—in the corn.

Seeing as how I spent 22 arid years of my life in the lake-less fields of Iowa, it's probably not surprising that I had never been on a sailboat until last month. As a part of a two-year long continuing education class having to do with church leadership, my cohorts and I set sail from Bayfield to the Apostle Islands on a three day tour where we would learn the craft of sailing and consider how the skills we developed there

might influence how we think about being the church together.

While I am still in the process of reflecting on what sailing can teach about church leadership, I'd like to share a couple points I've discovered so far:

1. It's not your job to be an expert.

Our ships were full of competent, capable church leaders, many of whom are not accustomed to feeling like novices. Yet, each boat had only one experienced sailor. Truthfully, we would only stay afloat if we were open to instruction from the captains on our boats. It didn't take long for us to realize that we had to become comfortable with not knowing.

This is a point that I've tried to make with confirmation guides, Sunday school teachers, and Bible study leaders. Your job is not to be the expert in the room. It's to convene a conversation. But the applicability of this truism isn't limited to educational settings within the church. Every new era brings new challenges and opportunities to figure out what it means to faithfully exist as the church together. Pretending that we have all the answers or waiting to act until we do have all the answers will do nothing to keep our boat afloat. This brings us to the second lesson:

2. We need to learn to trust each other and let others learn at their own

## Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

Recordings of  
In-person worship  
posted weekly to  
[AGLC's Website](#)  
[AGLC's YouTube  
Channel](#)

## September Events

### Bible Study

Tuesday Nights  
6:00 p.m. Upper Room

### Endowment Committee Meeting

September 7  
6:00 p.m. Upper Room

### Sunday School Starts

September 25 after  
worship

### Confirmation Info Meeting

September 21 6:30 p.m.

### Confirmation Begins

September 28 6:00 p.m.

### Newsletter Articles

Submit your newsletter  
articles to Sarah Bjorklund  
at [sbjorklund@aglcigh.org](mailto:sbjorklund@aglcigh.org)  
by 20th of each month.

speeds.

The boat we were on was 39 feet. Even for an experienced sailor, sailing such a ship solo would be terribly difficult (verging on impossible) and probably not so enjoyable. It took several of us to raise and lower sails, steer, set course with the chart, and problem-solve when things didn't work as smoothly as they should have. We quickly discovered that each of us had different tasks we excelled at on the boat. I, for one, really enjoyed the problem solving and working with the sails but was not a very intuitive steerer.

We Lutherans love to talk about vocation—the realms in which we can live out our faith. Each of us has a different set of vocations and, because of that, each one of us has a different set of gifts we bring to our communities. It can be tempting for church leaders to try to do everything. Moreover, each church has a different set of gifts and it can be tempting for a church to think it has to do everything. Part of maturity within the church is doing what we're capable of and trust others to do the same. We may notice people not doing the work the way we would have, but it's important to let others try and to let them do so at their own pace.

There will certainly be more lessons that we can derive from our sailing metaphors, but for now let's set sail into the Fall ministry kick-offs!



*Our ship's captain is at the helm, while a colleague and I talk on the bow of the boat.*

## Embody the Word—2022 Churchwide ELCA Assembly

As a gal who grew up Lutheran and who remembers the formation of the ELCA in 1988 (despite my having been a teenager at the time), I was in awe at the experience of being among 800 ELCA enthusiasts at the churchwide assembly in Columbus, Ohio, in August. As one of the lay representatives from the St. Paul Area Synod, I served as a voting member with about 22 lay persons and clergy from churches in our area. Across the assembly, more than 60 percent of the voting members were laity. To me, that speaks of the kind of people-led churchwide organization of which we are a part.

I traveled with and got to know several members and clergy from churches in our area as well as Bishop Lull and members of the synod staff. It didn't take long to be reminded of the number ELCA churches in Minnesota as compared to across the United States, as I kept getting the Southeastern Synod (comprised of states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee) confused with the Southeastern Minnesota Synod (one of six synods in our state). We are among *such a cloud of witnesses!*

(continued on next page)

The churchwide assembly meets every three years (2025 is scheduled in Phoenix, Arizona) to build on the work of the ELCA council. Bishop Eaton and her council (of laity and clergy) keep things moving in the years between assemblies. In August, we elected a new vice president of the ELCA council. The voting started with an open ballot and hundreds of names brought forward. The process reassured me that leadership roles in the ELCA are not limited to “insiders.” Imran Siddiqui was elected to for a six-year term. When Imran addressed the assembly during the voting process, he relayed that he and his wife share parenting of their young family as equally as possible. By way of the required 2/3 vote after four rounds and narrowing of the candidate pool, the assembly relayed its support for Siddiqui.

A curious action of the assembly was a public apology from Bishop Eaton to a California congregation, Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina. After issues and mistakes (which many people did not know the details of) in the Sierra Pacific Synod, members of the congregation stood before the assembly and shared their pain and accepted the Bishop’s apology. For me this was an acknowledgment that the church is full of humans who make mistakes. While we try to do our best, we may hurt others in the church, or we may be hurt by the church or others in the church. The ELCA is not without sin or wrongdoing, and God’s grace extends to the institution, its leaders, and all its people: sinners and saints.

Major memorials (proposals or statements) of this churchwide assembly focused on a “land back” movement focused on repairing relationships with and acknowledging harms to America’s native people. Discussion of the memorial led to the recommendation that congregations and synods learn more about the land they own or use and build relationships with Indigenous and tribal nations to discover what reparations or acknowledgements may be possible.

Time on the agenda was given to discussion of the memorial relating to revision of the 2009 statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.” The assembly

voted to move forward with a review of the statement and special attention paid to the possibility for removing references to “bound conscience,” which enables churches to exclude or deny rights to LGBTQIA+ sisters and brothers.

There were discussions about the ELCA becoming a more authentically multi-ethnic community, finding ways to give voice and leadership to underrepresented populations. That desire to better understand how to welcome in more diverse voices may be part of what led to the affirmative vote to commission a team for a 2020s ELCA reformation. The team will be called to make a report and recommendations at the 2025 assembly.

Sometimes it feels like change or development is slow, and sometimes it may feel as if the changes are coming fast and furiously. Like the development of any human being, there is a DNA to the ELCA that factors in along with the changing environmental influences. Together these create both continuous growth and discontinuity or disruption in identity. Across its lifespan, the church cannot control or stop growth and change and development any more than any human can, but we can make every effort to grow in integrity with our values and shared trust and love for Jesus.

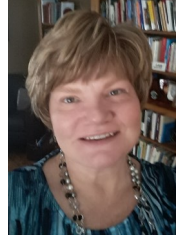


You can learn more about the memorials discussed at the [2022 Churchwide Assembly](#) and the direction of the ELCA via the ELCA website. If there is anything specific you want to know more about, I am always glad to chat about the experience and my observations.

Submitted by: Annie Morgan

## Council Corner: September Update

Submitted by AGLC President, Cyndi Berg



Summer can be a season of breaking from routines, reconnecting with family and friends, and making the most of the longer daylight hours. I hope each of you has been able to find some enjoyment in summer months, they fly by too quickly.

As we make the transition from summer schedules and activities to the start of the new school year, fall programming, and other seasonal changes, I always feel a bit of excitement and anticipation. This time of the year seems to bring with it an opportunity to celebrate new beginnings and fresh challenges, and to rejoice in returning to valued traditions.

Throughout the summer, Pastor Tim and Pastor Tess - along with staff, ministry teams and many helpers - have been praying, planning and preparing for a fruitful fall (and beyond). It is my hope that as you read through this newsletter as well as Friday email updates and Sunday bulletin announcements you are noticing the many ways in which our faith community is living out its values, mission and ministry. Amazing Grace is alive and well. In community, we are trying new things, rethinking and refreshing a few dependable favorites, and considering (and reconsidering - it is ongoing, after all) how we might, in faithful service to God, serve each other and our neighbors. It is my prayer that AGLC always be a community actively engaged in seeking, hearing and responding to God's call.

Among the plans taking shape for fall, the AGLC council invites you to a special gathering following worship on Sun. Sept. 18. Please join us for light refreshments and conversation. This is intended to be a time for deepening relationships – to ask questions, to learn from and about each other, and to lift up our shared interests and commitments.

Finally, a word of thanks...in every season there are many hands and hearts contributing to a variety of ministry efforts – all are appreciated. My heartfelt gratitude for those who provide care and comfort to those who mourn, for those who worked to clean and organize the sacristy, for those who tend the gardens (plots and pots), for those who assist with Sunday worship (greeters, readers, ushers, counters, altar care, sound system, music, and more), for those who manage the 'business' of our congregation, for those who pray, and for those who simply show up – whenever, wherever, and whatever the season – as part of this community.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
 "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."  
 – Romans 12:5*

### **Connect with AGLC Church Council and Ministry Teams**

*Immediately following worship Sunday, Sept. 18, join members of the AGLC council and ministry teams in the narthex for conversation. Coffee and light food provided. We are hoping to use this time of fellowship to strengthen our relationships to each other and our commitments to shared mission and ministry.*



neighborsinc.

## JOIN US FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16 // 4PM—7PM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17 // 10AM—3PM

You are invited to join the staff and board of directors from Neighbors, Inc. to celebrate our milestone anniversary together. Our generous community has supported Neighbors since the beginning and we want to gather together to say thank you.

*Friday: live music, food & drinks*

*Saturday: family fun day activities*

Tour our newly remodeled building

Participate in a volunteer project

Make a tie-dye t-shirt

For more information about our anniversary celebration events, Neighbors' history or opportunities to get involved, visit: [neighborsmn.org/50th-anniversary](http://neighborsmn.org/50th-anniversary).



*All ages are welcome to attend. Events are free and open to the public. Events will be held at Neighbors. Additional parking options will be available.*

## Worship and Music: September Update

One lovely day in August Julie & Nate Linscheid, plus Nancy Pollock set out to start cleaning the sacristy. As is often the case, once they started, there was no stopping this dynamic crew of three. We now have a clean, neat, and organized sacristy! Thank you, thank you, thank you! It is much appreciated!

Livestreaming is moving forward! Pastor Tim is hoping to get it up and running by early to mid-September! Rather than having someone else put in cameras and equipment, we are going to use what is called Mevo. Pastor Tim reached out to some of his colleagues, and Mevo seems to be the way many churches are going to be able to livestream cost efficiently. If you are more interested in how Mevo works, I'm sure Pastor Tim would be happy to explain.

Choir will be starting up again, with us singing once a month for now, starting in October! Yeah!!! This means practice will start sometime in September, so be watching in Friday emails. Barb will send an email also to past participants, but if you have not been a part of choir in the past doesn't mean you can't now. We welcome newcomers with open arms!!! Please don't hesitate to join in the fun.

Happy Fall everyone!!!

Together we journey,  
Jeannie Hultman



## Sunday School

Sunday School will kick off on September 25 after worship. All children ages 3-5th grade are invited! Parents are encouraged to attend. Contact Pastor Tim for more details: [tmaybee@aglcigh.org](mailto:tmaybee@aglcigh.org)

**We are also looking for Sunday School Leaders!** Would you like to grow in your faith as you impact the faith of AGLC kids? Contact Pastor Tim at [tmaybee@aglcigh.org](mailto:tmaybee@aglcigh.org) if interested.

## Looking for “hood” Samaritans!

Amazing Grace will host a "Pop Up Car Shop" on September 24 from 10am to 2pm. The purpose of the event is to provide simple car repairs to people who cannot afford them. We will do things such as replace filters, wiper blades and light bulbs. In addition to the car repairs we will have a food truck providing free meals for people who come to have their cars repaired and their families. We will also open our building and grounds and offer kids activities.

In order for the even to run smoothly, we are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- **Car repair crews:** if you are knowledgeable about simple car repairs, we could use your expertise in evaluating cars, determining what needs to be replaced/ fixed and actually doing the work.
- **Shoppers:** we will need volunteers to go to local auto supply stores to purchase items we need.
- **Registration workers:** We will need several people who can help people sign in and direct them to our car repairs crews.
- **Food serving and clean up:** we need folks to help with serving food and cleaning up.
- **Games and activities coordinator:** If you are imaginative and good with kids, please help us develop games and activities for them.

**Set up and tear down crew:** We are looking for people to help set up the activity (possibly on Friday, September 23) and tear down after the event on Saturday



Anyone interested in any of these volunteer opportunities should contact **Adam Ingalsbe**, **Cyndi Berg**, or **Katie Klopfleisch**. Sign-up sheets will also be available after church.

## Endowment Committee

The next meeting of the Endowment Committee will be Wednesday, September 7, at 6 p.m. in the Upper Room. If you have any questions about the Committee, please stop by!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Returns!

After too long of a break, we are finally ready to meet together again! Prayer Shawl Ministry, or as we affectionately call it “Knit and Chat”, will begin meeting again on Tuesday, September 13 in the narthex.


We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

Even if you can’t meet in person, you are welcome to knit at home and bring in your shawl when it is complete. There are a few kits available, if you need yarn. Please contact me if you would like one. Don’t let the name “Knit and Chat” fool you, crocheters are also welcome!



Lisa Barnhart, [lbrnhrt@hotmail.com](mailto:lbrnhrt@hotmail.com)

## Faithful Readers—So Many Books!



We gather at 2 pm at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Cafe on Promenade in Eagan. We meet the fourth Sunday of the month. The books for the rest of 2022 are listed. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Let's all read together faithfully.

**September 25** *Lady Clementine* by Marie Benedict  
The story of Clementine Churchill, the ambitious woman beside Winston Churchill.

**October 23** *The Children's Blizzard* by Melanie Benjamin  
Historical fiction that draws on the oral histories of the Great Plains blizzard of 1888 to tell the experiences of two teachers, a servant and a reporter trying to protect the children of the area.

**November 27** *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchet  
At the end of WWII, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to build an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. He buys the Dutch House, an estate in the suburbs outside Philadelphia. The house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

### December

Share a favorite book with a friend.

Questions and title suggestions contact Barb Malamen  
Phone 651-454-1858 Email [bmalamen@aol.com](mailto:bmalamen@aol.com)

## 2022-23 Confirmation!

Calling all students from 8-12 grade who haven't been confirmed yet! Confirmation begins on September 28 at 6:00 with a parents and mentors informational meeting on September 21 at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register a student, contact Pastor Tim at [tmaybee@aglcigh.org](mailto:tmaybee@aglcigh.org)

## Confirmation Mentors

AGLC is looking for adults to serve as mentors for our confirmands. This is an excellent opportunity to form vital relationships that help make faith "stickier" both for you and for the student. For more information, contact Pastor Tim at [tmaybee@aglcigh.org](mailto:tmaybee@aglcigh.org)

## September Worship Volunteers

	Sept 4	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25
<b>Greeters</b>	Janet Aguirre	Ingrid Emerson	Connie and Terry Raddatz	Judy Rhein
<b>Ushers</b>	Katie Klopfleisch and Todd Erickson	Craig Yotter and Russ Barnhart	Pete Malamen and Cyndi Berg	Norm Beckman and Chuck Frid
<b>Readers</b>	Barb Malamen	Jean Jantzen	Norm Beckman	Helen Yotter
<b>Sound</b>	Pete Malamen	Miranda Barnhart	Nate Linscheid	Bruce Klopfleisch
<b>Altar Care/ Acolyte</b>	Alison Hild	Teri Santema	Julie Linscheid	Lisa Barnhart
<b>Counters</b>	Helen Yotter	Pete Malamen	Mary Garfield	Craig Yotter

Contact [Julie Linscheid](#) if you would like to help volunteer for a future worship service!





**Website:**

[www.aglcigh.org](http://www.aglcigh.org)

**Church Office Hours:**

9:00 am—12:00 pm  
Tuesday—Friday  
651-455-0093

**Staff:**

Lead Pastor—Pastor Tim Maybee  
[tmaybe@aglcigh.org](mailto:tmaybe@aglcigh.org)  
763-233-9576

Pastor of Congregational Care—Pastor Tess Panamarow  
[TPanamarow@aglcigh.org](mailto:TPanamarow@aglcigh.org)  
651-289-2261

Interim Office Administrator—Adam Johnson  
[agladmin@aglcigh.org](mailto:agladmin@aglcigh.org)

Communications Coordinator—Sarah Bjorklund  
[sbjorklund@aglcigh.org](mailto:sbjorklund@aglcigh.org)

Finance Assistant—Vacant

Sanctuary Choir and  
Rhythms of Grace Director—  
Barbara Forthun  
[bforthun@aglcigh.org](mailto:bforthun@aglcigh.org)

AGLC President—  
Cyndi Berg  
[cyndi.a.berg@gmail.com](mailto:cyndi.a.berg@gmail.com)

**Deadlines:**

*Newsletter article submissions are due  
by the 20th of the month to Sarah*  
[sbjorklund@aglcigh.org](mailto:sbjorklund@aglcigh.org)

*Friday Email Announcements are due  
Wednesdays by 6pm to Sarah*  
[sbjorklund@aglcigh.org](mailto:sbjorklund@aglcigh.org)

*Bulletin Announcements are due  
Wednesdays by Noon to Adam*  
[agladmin@aglcigh.org](mailto:agladmin@aglcigh.org)

**AMAZING  
GRACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

7160 South Robert Trail  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
651-455-0093  
Address Service Requested



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Joining Together to Serve the World  
Around Us