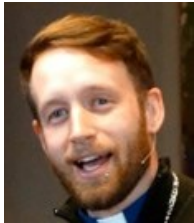


# AMAZING GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2024



## Pastor's Column

Submitted by  
Lead Pastor  
Tim Maybee

Dear Amazing Grace,

One of the metaphors that Martin Luther uses to talk about sin is an image of a person curved in upon themselves. Picture a candy cane. This image was employed by the Reformer to describe the way that we can get so caught up in ourselves that we fail to address the needs of our neighbors. The gospel, the good news of Jesus' gracious love for the whole world, is meant to lead us to look up from our navel-gazing. That is, when we don't have to strive for our own worth, when we see that our worth is given to us as a gift, we are free to stand upright and see and hear the world around us. In this way, the free gift of Jesus' love is meant to remind us of and bring depth to our relationships with others.

In a time like the one we are living in it can be tempting to close our ears to the world around us. This is especially true as very public wars and conflicts rage on in Ukraine and Russia, Sudan, and, of course, Palestine and Israel. These wars have already led to massive humanitarian crises and wherever such

crises arise we can expect an inevitable increase in the number of displaced persons in the world.

In the last few years, we have seen a huge rise in the number of forcibly displaced people. According to the UN, there were 108.4 million displaced people at the end of last year, including 35.3 million refugees, 62.5 million internally displaced people, and 5.4 million asylum seekers. Of the refugee population, 27.1 million are under the age of 18. This was even before the conflict in Gaza.

At times like these, we are reminded of our connection to the human community throughout the globe. Our neighbors, children of God, are displaced. Christ tells us in Matthew 25 that he is among those without shelter or food, those sick and imprisoned. Christ is in Ukraine and Gaza. Christ is at the southern border of the United States. Christ is in the newly arrived refugee family down the street.

As an illustration of this rich theological truth, Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine constructed a new nativity scene this year. They've entitled it, "Christ in the Rubble." It features concrete and other materials from buildings destroyed in the bombing campaign in Gaza. These pieces of debris make up the manger of Christ.

## Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

Livestream or watch  
past worship  
services:

[AGLC's YouTube  
Channel](#)

## Sunday School

After worship

## January Events

### Christmas Decoration Take Down

Sunday, January 7  
After Worship

### Knit and Chat

Tuesday, January 9  
10 a.m.

### Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays  
7:30 p.m.

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28  
10:30 a.m.

## Newsletter Articles

Submit your newsletter  
articles to Sarah Bjorklund  
at [sbjorklund@aglcigh.org](mailto:sbjorklund@aglcigh.org)

The picture below shows an image of this powerful testimony to the presence of Christ among our displaced neighbors.

The stories of our displaced neighbors must reach our ears. During the upcoming season of Lent (which starts on 2/14), we will focus our attention on stories of different refugee experiences, collected in the book, *Somewhere in the Unknown World*, by local award-winning author, Kao Kalia Yang. Yang is a refugee herself and part of the vibrant Hmong community in the Twin Cities. Her perspective will give us greater insight into Christ-in-our-neighbor.

Finally, at times like this I am encouraged by those

who relentlessly pursue justice and peace. As we listen to the joys, sorrows, and contributions of our displaced neighbors, we also give thanks for the work of organizations like Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Since 1939, LIRS has taken seriously the gift of God's love, which enables us to stand tall and love our neighbors. For this we can say, thanks be to God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Tim





## Council Corner: January 2024

Submitted by AGLC President,  
Adam Ingalsbe



<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.- Matthew 5:13-16, NRSVUE

As we turn the calendar over to a new year, 2024, it is a time for reflection, hope, and planning for all the possibilities that the new year holds. Amazing Grace Lutheran Church is blessed to have each of you as a steward of its gifts and resources. As we move forward into the future, I would love for us to continue looking for ways to use our talents to live out God's love.

As a third grader, my home congregation gave me my first Bible of my own. The lead pastor had a message for us. He said we should take good care of our Bibles, but \*wear them out.\* Putting them on a shelf or in a case and never using them would be a waste. Yes, they would remain in good condition, but they would not really be serving their purpose. He said his hope for us was that over time, our Bibles would be well loved, well used, and over time they would show wear.

My hope for AGLC is that we can be good stewards of our property, our building, our people, and our talents: that we continually seek to put them into action to fulfill God's purposes on this Earth. I hope 2024 is a blessed year for each of you, for AGLC, and for God's people (that is, everyone).

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday, January 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the upper room.

The Bible study in *Gather* magazine is used for the discussion. You do not have to subscribe to the magazine to join in the conversation. All are welcome.

### Faithfull Readers: So Many Books!

The January book is Horse by Geraldine Brooks. This is a book in the bag selection. See Barb Malamen for a copy of the book. In this book a scientist from Australia and a Nigerian-American art historian become connected by a shared interest in a 19th century race horse. One is studying the bones, the other is more interested in uncovering the history of the Black horsemen who were critical to the horse's success. Gather for discussion of this novel on Sunday, January 28 at 2pm at Barnes & Noble Bookseller Cafe on Promenade in Eagan. All are welcome.

Watch for more books to get lost in, in the February newsletter.

Let's all read together faithfully!

## Worship and Music Update: January 2024

December 2023 was a time of new “things.” We purchased a new advent wreath and a new table for the wreath. We had a Sunday of creating new ornaments for one of the trees in our Sanctuary. Also, we gave an opportunity for everyone to create or purchase new ornaments that represent theirs or their family’s faith. All the new ornaments were blessed on December 17th.

There’s an old saying, “The older we get, the faster time goes.” I’m not quite sure where 2023 has gone. Welcome 2024! May you all have a fabulous start to the New Year!

In January the Worship Team plans to start the online Church Directory! We will be looking for a photographer. If you or someone you know has an interest in taking pictures, please let the church office know. More details to follow.

As the new year begins, I am reminded of my favorite bible verse. I love knowing that God has plans for me and that I can count on Him to give me hope for my future. For that I thank God!

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

Together we journey,  
 Jeannie Hall

### Endowment Announcement

It is the start of new year, and the Endowment Committee is looking to award grants to outreach activities so we can “Join together to serve the World Around US”.

If you are involved with a local, national, or worldwide mission, welfare or relief program contact someone on the Endowment Committee to see how the Endowment Committee can help you with your cause. Pick up a copy of the Annual Report to see what the Endowment Committee did in 2023 and its new members.

### Tuesday Evening Bible Study on Hiatus

Our regular Tuesday evening bible study is currently on hiatus. We will let you know once it is able to resume.

Thank you

# Amazing Grace Financial Update – November 2023

Submitted by Russ Barnhart, Treasurer

Both revenues and expenses are currently running under budget through the eleven months ended November 30, 2023. Revenues collected are 93% of the budgeted amount or \$19,641 less than expected. Expenditures are currently at 90% of budget or \$10,406 less than expected. Through November 30, the church is running a surplus of \$10,341 which is \$6,210 better than our budgeted year-to-date ordinary net income of \$4,131 through November.

The total cash held in our various bank accounts stands at just over \$398,700 at November 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at [rbarnhart@hennenassociates.com](mailto:rbarnhart@hennenassociates.com) or talk to any of the council members before or after the church services.

## Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals: FY\_2023 - FY23 P&L

January - November 2023

	Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>278,183.51</b>	<b>297,825.00</b>	<b>(19,641.49)</b>	<b>93.41%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Total 6100 · Youth &amp; Family</b>	127.00	1,834.00	(1,707.00)	6.92%
<b>Total 6200 · Worship &amp; Music</b>	4,454.65	8,570.00	(4,115.35)	51.98%
<b>Total 6300 · Christian Education</b>	535.60	2,612.00	(2,076.40)	20.51%
<b>Total 6400 · Stewardship &amp; Evangelism</b>	18,341.12	24,278.00	(5,936.88)	75.55%
<b>Total 6530 · Office and Administration</b>	20,192.21	20,020.00	172.21	100.86%
<b>Total 6540 · Facilities</b>	17,752.86	13,250.00	4,502.86	133.98%
<b>Total 6600 · Church Properties</b>	30,667.72	41,084.00	(10,416.28)	74.65%
<b>Total 66100 · Staff Services</b>	171,639.88	182,046.00	(10,406.12)	94.28%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>263,711.04</b>	<b>293,694.00</b>	<b>(10,406.12)</b>	<b>89.79%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>14,472.47</b>	<b>4,131.00</b>	<b>10,341.47</b>	
<b>Net Other Revenue</b>	<b>93.78</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93.78</b>	
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>14,566.25</b>	<b>4,131.00</b>	<b>10,435.25</b>	

## Yogadevotion

The next session of Yogadevotion at Amazing Grace begins Monday, January 7 and extends through Monday, February 26. Class time is 6pm to 7pm.

Yogadevotion is a practice of breath, prayer and movement led by a trained yoga instructor. The practice helps to encourage healthy living and a peaceful presence. Beginning and experienced yogi are welcome in this community. All you need to participate are comfortable clothes and a yoga mat.

The New Year could be the right time to try this practice. The full class is 8 weeks at a cost of \$88. Registration is also possible for drop in classes if you want to try the class or can't schedule a full 8 weeks. Register at the link below.

<https://yogadevotion.com/class/yogadevotion-at-amazing-grace-inver-grove-heights-mn-2/>

## 2023 Giving Statements

Your 2023 giving statements will be emailed to you the week of January 15, 2024.

Please check to make sure you have received your giving statement, including checking your email spam and junk folders. Emailed statements will go to the email address of your family's head of household as listed in Breeze. Statements will be mailed to those without a head of household email address or those who ask for their statements to be mailed.

Please contact Craig Yotter with any questions or to request a mailed giving statement at [cyotter@aglcigh.org](mailto:cyotter@aglcigh.org).

Thank you for your continued support of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and our ministries.

## THANK YOU! From Elizabeth Anderson:

Many heartfelt and sincere thanks for all the cards I received from my AGLC friends for my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Your kindness in remembering me made my day a true celebration. I miss and love you all. Again, THANK YOU!

## January Worship Volunteers

*If you would like to volunteer to help with a future worship service,  
please contact Julie Linscheid*

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
<b>Greeters</b>	Teri Santema	Nancy Pollock	Connie and Terry Raddatz	Ras and Gloria Rasmussen
<b>Ushers</b>	Wendy and Jack Hoffman	Pete Malamen and Todd Erickson	Cyndi Berg and Russ Barnhart	Katie Klopfleisch and Jeannie Hall
<b>Readers</b>	Norm Beckman	Bruce Klopfleisch	Mary Garfield	Jean Jantzen
<b>Sound</b>	Nate Linscheid	Markus Linscheid	Miranda Barnhart	Pete Malamen
<b>Altar Care/ Acolyte</b>	Linda Erickson	Jeannie Hall	Teri Santema	Julie Linscheid
<b>Counters</b>				

## February Worship Volunteers

*If you would like to volunteer to help with a Christmas Eve worship service,  
please contact [Julie Linscheid njlinscheid@gmail.com](mailto:njlinscheid@gmail.com)*

	<b>February 4</b>	<b>February 11</b>	<b>Ash Wed February 14</b>	<b>February 18</b>	<b>February 25</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Nancy Pollock	Norm Beckman		Janet Aguirre	Jean Jantzen
<b>Ushers</b>	Julie Linscheid and Bruce Klopfleisch		Jean Jantzen		
<b>Readers</b>	Charlotte Gronseth	Judy Rhein		Mary Garfield	Bruce Klopfleisch
<b>Sound</b>	Russ Barnhart	Jeannie Hall			
<b>Altar Care/ Acolyte</b>	Lisa Barnhart	Linda Erickson		Jeannie Hall	Teri Santema
<b>Counters</b>					



# January AGLC Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day	2	3 NO Confirmation  7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	4 10 am Inver Glen Worship	5	6
7  9:30 am Worship  10:40 am Sunday School	8  6pm Yogadevotion	9 10 am Knit and Chat  10 am Stewardship & Evangelism	10 6pm Confirmation Workshop  7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	11	12	13
14  9:30 am Worship  10:40 am Sunday School	15 Martin Luther King Day  6pm Yogadevotion	16  9:30 am Women's Bible Study	17 6pm Confirmation MLK Day Service Project 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	18	19	20
21  9:30 am Worship  10:40 am Sunday School	22  6pm Yogadevotion	23	24  6pm Confirmation Workshop  7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	25	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship <b>10:30 am Annual Meeting</b> 10:40 am Sunday School	29  6pm Yogadevotion	30	31 6pm Confirmation Workshop  7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	1  10 am Inver Glen Worship	2	3



**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

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

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

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

Worship Musician—Sandy McAllister

AGLC President—Adam Ingalsbe  
[adam.ingalsbe@gmail.com](mailto:adam.ingalsbe@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  
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Address Service Requested



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Joining Together to Serve the World  
Around Us