

AMAZING GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024



Pastor's Column

Submitted by
Lead Pastor
Tim Maybee

Dear Amazing Grace,

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

In a matter of weeks, you will hear these words as ash is smudged upon your forehead. This year, Ash Wednesday happens to fall on Valentine's Day, February 14. The date when Ash Wednesday falls varies from year to year and is based on the timing of Easter (which always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox). Notably, Ash Wednesday has fallen on Valentine's Day once before in my career—in 2018. The dates will line up once more in 2029 and then not again until well into next century (long after I hope to retire!).

I think this is worth noting, not just because it's a rare alignment but because the two holidays complement each other so well. Valentine's is a day in our culture when people celebrate the love in our lives. It's a day to remember that we belong to, and with, one another. Likewise, Ash Wednesday is a day to remember...

...our death?

Wait, something isn't lining up here. What alignment could we possibly detect between Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday? One holiday is about love, which, the Apostle Paul tells us, is eternal. “Love never ends,” Paul writes in 1 Corinthians. The other holiday is all about our finitude, our mortality, the fragmented nature of being human. One holiday is all colorful hearts and roses, and the other is sackcloth and ashes. They seem so different from one another.

Yet, I want you to notice something about Ash Wednesday. When you come forward and you hear the truth about your created nature, “You are dust and to dust you shall return,” you will also receive ashes **in the shape of a cross**. This is where we start to see that maybe the two days do belong together after all.

You see, Ash Wednesday is certainly a reminder of our mortality, but it's also a celebration of our ashen, mortal bodies. It's a day when we realize that the finite bears the infinite. The precise location where the drama of transcendent love is played out is within and among our mortal bodies, which will someday return to dust. It's in these finite bodies that we receive, witness, and participate in the eternal love of God in Christ. The reminder of

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

Livestream or watch
past worship
services:

[AGLC's YouTube
Channel](#)

Sunday School

After worship

February Events

Knit and Chat

Tuesday, Feb 13
10 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays
7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

February 14
12pm and 6:30 pm

Lenten Dinners

Wednesdays
Feb 21-March 20
5:30pm

Newsletter Articles

Submit your newsletter
articles to Sarah Bjorklund
at sbjorklund@aglcigh.org
by 20th of each month.

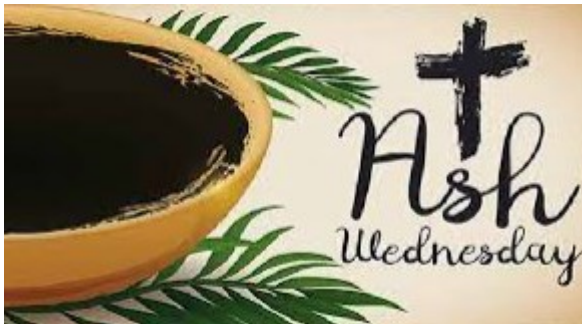
our mortality is not a threat or a reason to despair. Instead, we can delight in our finitude because God has looked upon our ashen nature and decided to put on the same flesh. We can rejoice in our dusty lives because, although we are temporary, God looks at us and finds every reason to love us.

We celebrate love on Ash Wednesday because God loves us in all our finitude, in all our brokenness, throughout this ashen life. Just as Valentine's Day reminds us that we belong to our loves, so does Ash Wednesday remind us that we belong to God. For this, we can say, thanks be to God.

In Christ,
Pastor Tim

P.S. As an added bonus, check out the Ash

Wednesday candy hearts that a friend of mine has designed for this year.



Ash Wednesday Worship
February 14
Noon
and
6:30 p.m.

Lenten Dinners—Wednesdays
February 21 - March 20
5:30—6:30 p.m.

All are invited to join us for a meal and fellowship on Wednesday evenings during Lent. A light meal will be served from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Most nights we will be serving two types of soup, simple sides and assorted desserts. You are encouraged to bring your own bowl or mug to reduce paper waste (bowls will also be provided).

We are looking for volunteers each week to bring a dessert item, add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Berg at cyndi.a.berg@gmail.com or 952-250-7720.

Council Corner: February 2024

Submitted by AGLC President,
Wendy Hoffman



That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!
Ephesians 1: 15-19 The Message

Hello Amazing Grace

As I write this we haven't officially started our new church year. Lately, several people have asked: "Are you ready?" Growing up – when someone would ask that question, it usually meant something exciting was about to happen. As I have been thinking about serving as the president of our congregation, I have been reflecting on the things I have learned from some amazing people. I feel that almost every conversation I have had at council meetings, synod training and during Christian Education activities and even one-on-one has taught me more about our mission, our values, and our hopes for the future as a church serving our community and the wider world. This verse from Ephesians came up in reading and praying for spiritual wisdom. It spoke to my heart. Amazing Grace we've got a lot to do this coming year. I am so thankful to be doing it with you.

Are you ready?
In thanks,
Wendy Hoffman

2023 Giving Statements

Your 2023 giving statements were emailed to you on January 15, 2024. Please check to make sure you have received them, including checking your email spam and junk folders. Emailed statements went to the email address of your family's head of household as listed in Breeze.

Statements were mailed January 15, 2024 to those without a head of household email address or those who asked for their statements to be mailed.

Please contact Craig Yotter with any questions or to request another copy of your giving statement at cyotter@aglcigh.org. Thank you for your continued support of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and our ministries.

Worship and Music Update: February 2024

Do you or someone you know like to take pictures? If so, we are looking for you to assist with updating photos for our online church directory. We are looking for someone to take photos for college students in August and the rest of the congregation October/November timeline. If you are interested or want more information, talk to Pastor Tim or Jeannie Hall.

Another option for serving at church would be to join the Worship & Music Team. We are looking for one to two more people who would take charge of changing the paraments. We have monthly meetings, except for June and July. This individual or team would change paraments roughly 5 times a year. Training will be provided. You would be working with an awesome team! If you are interested, or would like more information, let me know. You can call 651-600-7277 or email jeanniehall1010@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support and prayerful consideration for both ways to serve.

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
1 Peter 4:10 NIV*

Together we journey, Jeannie Hall

Neighbor's Food Drive: The annual March food drive is coming to February!

That's right, this year we will be collecting food/monetary donations for the Neighbor's Food Drive in February and delivering them to Neighbor's at the beginning of March. There are two reasons for this. First, we can deliver to Neighbor's early in March before the rush at the end of the month. The other reason is that we will be working with the Sunday School kids. In February they will be learning about the Prodigal Son.

Our goal this year is to raise \$2,820

As we work towards our goal, the Sunday School kids will move the Prodigal Son closer to his father and the feast that is prepared for his return. When we reach our goal, we will celebrate his return and share his banquet with those in need in our community.

Please consider a donation of any size, big or small, to help us reach our goal.

Thank you, Lisa Barnhart

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study will meet Tuesday, February 20 at 9:30am in the Upper Room at Amazing Grace. This month's study is part of a multi-month study titled Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith with an emphasis on human and animal interactions.

The study is found in *Gather* magazine. You do not have to subscribe to the magazine to attend the study. All are welcome. Coffee and treats will be served. Contact: Barb Malamen

Adult Education Sunday, February 18: Why We Do What We Do Part 3

For part 3 the emphasis of the study will be Baptism and Communion. Pastor Tim will lead a discussion of the Lutheran position on the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. Grab your coffee and donut and come to the upper room following worship and join the discussion. See you there.

Faithful Readers: So Many Books!

We gather on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2pm at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Cafe on Promenade in Eagan for our book discussion. There is an attempt to read a variety of books and authors. Book title suggestions are welcome. All interested readers are welcome to join in the discussion. Let's all read together faithfully!

February 25 *Anxious People* by Fredrik Bachman

Taken hostage by a failed bank robber while attending an open house, eight anxiety - prone strangers discover their unexpected common traits.

March 24 *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson a book in the bag selection

A haunting novel spanning several generations *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakotah family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and protect what matters most.

April 28 *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles

This book is based on the true story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris during WWII. It reminds us of the importance of libraries, books and the human connections that can be found in both.

May 19 *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende

The lives of a Jewish boy escaping Nazi-occupied Europe and a mother and daughter fleeing 21st century El Salvador intersect in this novel about war and immigration.

June 23 *Leave No Trace* by Mindy Mejia

A man and his son go on a camping trip to the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota. They fail to return and searchers find their camp site ravaged as if by a bear. The pair is presumed dead. Ten years later the son reappears. He is violent and uncommunicative. Can anyone reach him and fill in the previous ten years.

July 28 *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride

In September 1969, a cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of a housing project, pulls a gun from his pocket and in front of all shoots the project's drug dealer at point blank range. The reasons for and the consequences of this act are at the heart of this novel.

August 25 *Loyalty* by Lisa Scottoline

This book is an emotional, action-packed epic of love and justice set during the rise of the Mafia in Sicily.

September 22 *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty a book in the bag selection

If your mother was missing would you tell the police? Even if the most obvious suspect was your father? This is the situation faced by the Delaney children. Two of the children think their father is innocent; while two are not so sure. As the two sides square off against each other, all will begin to reexamine their shared family history.

October 27 *The Unsettled* by Ayana Mathis

This is a multigenerational novel set in the 1980's in racially and politically turbulent Philadelphia and the tiny town of Bonapart, Alabama about a mother fighting for her sanity and her survival.

November 24 *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry

When a woman stumbles across a mysterious children's book, long-held secrets about her missing sister and their childhood spent in the English countryside during WWII are revealed.

December *Holiday Break*

There is no discussion this month. Share a favorite book with someone

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)

	Feb 4	Feb 11	Ash Wed Feb 14 7pm	Feb 18	Wed Feb 21 7pm	Feb 25
Greeters	Nancy Pollock	Norm Beckman	Darlene Wold	Janet Aguirre	Ingrid Emerson	Jean Jantzen
Ushers	Julie Linscheid and Bruce Klopfleisch	Pete Malamen and Todd Erickson	Jean Jantzen and Todd Erickson	Wendy and Jack Hoffman	Pete Malamen	Julie Linscheid and Russ Barnhart
Readers	Charlotte Gronseth	Judy Rhein		Mary Garfield		Bruce Klopfleisch
Sound	Russ Barnhart	Jeannie Hall	Katie Klopfleisch	Miranda Barnhart	Markus Linscheid	Nate Linscheid
Altar Care/ Acolyte	Lisa Barnhart	Linda Erickson	Nancy Pollock	Jeannie Hall		Teri Santema
Counters	Mary Garfield	Pete Malamen		Mary Garfield		Tim Sanborn

March Worship Volunteers

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

Please contact Julie if you can volunteer to help with Holy Week services.

	March 3	Wed March 6 7pm	March 10	Wed March 13 7pm	March 17	Wed March 20 7pm	Palm Sunday March 24
Greeters	Teri Santema	Nancy Pollock	Connie and Terry Raddatz	Janet Aguirre	Ras and Gloria Rasmussen	Wendy Hoffman	Darlene Wold
Ushers	Wendy and Jack Hoffman	Julie Linscheid	Russ Barnhart and Cyndi Berg	Katie Klopfleisch	Pete Malamen and Todd Erickson	Todd Erickson	Russ Barnhart and Julie Linscheid
Readers	Barb Malamen		Julie Linscheid		Mary Garfield		
Sound	Nate Linscheid	Markus Linscheid	Miranda Barnhart	Pete Malamen	Bruce Klopfleisch	Jeannie Hall	Nate Linscheid
Altar Care/ Acolyte	Julie Linscheid		Lisa Barnhart		Linda Erickson		Jeannie Hall
Counter	Helen Yotter		Pete Malamen		Mary Garfield		Tim Sanborn

February AGLC Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 am Inver Glen Worship	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Sunday School	5 6pm Yogadevotion	6	7 6pm Confirmation Workshop 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	8	9	10 10 am— Noon Cub Bagging Event
11 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Sunday School	12 6pm Yogadevotion	13 10 am Knit and Chat 10 am Stewardship and Evangelism	14 ASH WEDNESDAY No Confirmation Noon and 6:30 pm Ash Wed Worship 7:30 pm Sanctuary	15	16	17
18 9:30 am Worship NO Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Education Sunday— Lead by Pastor Tim	19 President's Day 6pm Yogadevotion	20 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	21 5:30 pm Lenten Dinner 6 pm Confirmation Lent 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	22	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Sunday School 2pm Faithful Readers	26 6pm Yogadevotion	27	28 5:30 pm Lenten Dinner 6pm Confirmation Lent 7:30 pm Sanctuary	29		



Website:
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
763-233-9576

Pastor of Congregational Care—Pastor Tess Panamarow
TPanamarow@aglcigh.org
651-289-2261

Office Administrator—Adam Johnson
agladmin@aglcigh.org

Communications Coordinator—Sarah Bjorklund
sbjorklund@aglcigh.org

Sanctuary Choir Director—
Barbara Forthun
bforthun@aglcigh.org

Worship Musician—Sandy McAllister

AGLC President—Adam Ingalsbe
adam.ingalsbe@gmail.com

Deadlines:
Newsletter article submissions are due by the 20th of the month to Sarah
sbjorklund@aglcigh.org

Friday Email Announcements are due Wednesdays by 6pm to Sarah
sbjorklund@aglcigh.org

Bulletin Announcements are due Wednesdays by Noon to Adam
agladmin@aglcigh.org

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GRACE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Joining Together to Serve the World
Around Us