



AMAZING GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2024



Pastor's Column

Submitted by
Lead Pastor
Tim Maybee

Dear Amazing Grace,

At a recent planning meeting for this Summer's ELCA Youth Gathering, President of our congregation, Wendy Hoffman, shared a quote from Brene Brown about the difference between "fitting in" and "belonging":

"Fitting in is becoming who you think you need to be in order to be accepted. Belonging is being your authentic self and knowing that no matter what happens, you belong to you."

This distinction rings so true to me and has been on my mind a lot lately. I have certainly known the difference between changing who I am so that I can try to fit in with people around me and being offered unequivocal belonging just as I am.

Our conversation at the Youth Gathering meeting brought me back to the first day of eighth grade, starting at a new school. Growing up, my family moved quite frequently so starting at a new school was a familiar experience by the time I was in the last year of middle

school. However, this move proved to be more difficult for me than most, almost certainly because of the internal and external changes that adolescence was bringing about in me.

I remember on that first day I could not bring myself to talk to anyone. I just wanted to hide away. By the time lunch rolled around, I had managed to avoid most people. I'd planned to sit on my own in the lunchroom and NOT eat my packed lunch. God forbid anyone see how weird I look while I eat! The horror! But when I got to the cafeteria, to my surprise I was approached by another student, Tim Graham. Tim came up to me and said, "Nice name." He then invited me to sit with him and his friends. I did. And I ate. And I was the butt of no one's jokes. Slowly, over the course of months, I became more and more relaxed with this group of friends. It took time and persistence and that necessary first step of offering me a place at the table, but eventually I came to see that Tim and his friends extended to me a real sense of belonging. I thought I would have to change my behavior in radical ways (like not eating) in order to be accepted by my new classmates. But Tim and time showed me that I could be accepted for who I am. I could know real belonging.

The readings for the season of Easter this year (3/31-5/12) all invite us to reflect on belonging. We will hear that

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

Livestream or watch
past worship
services:

[AGLC's YouTube
Channel](#)

Sunday School

After worship

April Events

Yogadevotion

Mondays

6pm

Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays

7:30 p.m.

Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 27

9am—Noon

Faithful Readers

Sunday, April 28

2pm

Eagan Barnes & Noble

Newsletter Articles

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

we belong to God by virtue of what Jesus has done for us. We will read stories of the first Christians grappling with the question of who belongs in the Christian community. We will hear the author of 1 John proclaim that deepest theological truth, God is love. In this proclamation we hear that belonging is at the very heart of the person of God.

Amazing Grace, let's consider together what it means to belong in this community. Do we require others to "fit in" or do we offer the kind of unequivocal belonging to others that we've been offered in Christ? What barriers to belonging are being torn down by Christ in our own lives? Let's

think and act together.

In Christ,
Pastor Tim Maybee

P.S. Amazing Grace is sending four individuals to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July.

Wendy Hoffman and I are going with two youth, Jack Hoffman and Luke Springborn. We will be traveling with a larger group of churches from south Minneapolis and some southern suburbs. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for this big event!

Spring Clean-Up Day:

We will be hosting a spring clean-up day on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

We will have both indoor cleaning and organizing projects as well as outdoor (weather permitting) garden work planned for the day. Please bring work gloves and any other supplies or tools you think could be helpful.

Light refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Berg at cyndi.a.berg@gmail.com. Your help is needed and appreciated.

Lenten Dinners: Thank You!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the Lenten dinners a success. It was a blessing to be able to gather and enjoy great food and fellowship on Wednesday evenings throughout the season. Many hands make light work, and MANY pitched in with planning, setting up, serving, cleaning up and dessert donations each week.

A special thanks to those who offered their culinary skills and provided the main and side dishes each week:

Lynda and Brooke Bartlette

Linda and Todd Erickson

Joel Forthun

Wendy Hoffman

Jean Jantzen

Katie Klopfleisch

Barb and Pete Malamen

Annie and Mark Morgan.

Monetary donations from the dinners to be directed to the Neighbors' food drive efforts are still being totaled, but at this posting the amount is nearing \$500.

AGLC President's Update: April 2024

“Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, “Oh, thank you, God!” I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other believers. And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it.”

Philemon 1: 4-6 The Message

Happy Spring Amazing Grace,

Here we are again celebrating a new year with love and faith and all the good things we do! The new council is settling in and making a few changes to our meeting schedule so that we can offer our best service to our congregation. This year – we have a group ready to complete the first draft of an updated constitution for Amazing Grace, bringing us in line with our synod guidelines. We hope to share that with you all this fall.

Along with that we plan to continue to enjoy time in fellowship with each other and our community. We will have another Coffee with the Council time coming up soon for you to check in with us, ask questions, or offer suggestions. Keep an eye on the Friday update and bulletin for a time yet to be determined for that.

There are other opportunities in the works for a wonderful year such as more educational talks, pickleball, a camping weekend, and hopefully more- so keep an eye out for those as well. We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas or events that we can plan to continue to share our faith in Christ.

Blessings, Wendy Hoffman

Worship and Music Update: April 2024

Do you or someone you know like to take pictures? If so, we are still looking for someone to assist with updating photos for our online church directory. We are looking 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.

The Worship & Music Team is also still looking for one to two more people who would take charge of changing the paraments. We are changing our meeting schedule, rather than meeting monthly, to meeting six to eight times a year. We meet via Zoom. This individual or team would change paraments roughly 5 times a year. Training will be provided. You would be working with an awesome team, and we would love to have you join us! If you are interested or would like more information, please 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. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.”

1 Peter 4:10-11 NIV

Together we journey,
Jeannie Hall

A Look at the February SPAS Conference

In late February, Pastor Tim Maybee, Annie and Mark Morgan, and Cyndi Berg attended the Saint Paul Area Synod (SPAS) Conference Assemblies and Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders at Faith Lutheran in Forest Lake.

At its best, faith is meant to draw us out of isolation. Above all, that's what the Conference Assemblies and Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders aims to do. This is one of those special events in the life of the church that reminds us that we are more than the sum of our parts and that we are connected to a wide web of God's faithful people, all of whom are striving to help the church remain faithful to God's mission of love for the world.

The Conference Assemblies give the church a chance to make prayerful decisions to shape the future of how we engage in God's mission. This year, each regional conference elected individuals to positions of leadership in our Synod and decided on whom to send to the next all-ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2025. We also passed two resolutions and a memorial. The resolutions will now be voted on by the whole Synod at our Assembly in May and the memorial will be considered at the Churchwide Assembly.

The first resolution is a call to utilize worship-resources in our new hymnal (All Creation Sings) in response to the all-too-common gun violence events in our country. The second formalizes a partnership between the Saint Paul Area Synod and the Minnesota Multifaith Network, a diverse coalition of people of faith. The memorial has to do with building structures of support and accountability for bishops.

The Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders brings together lay leaders, ministry volunteers and church staff from across the synod for series of workshops on a variety of topics related to congregational life. The event provides opportunities to learn from experts as well as hear the experiences and perspectives of others.

From Pastor Tim: In the afternoon, I was privileged to attend a workshop on congregations addressing mental health concerns. Pastor Seth Perry (Elim Lutheran, Scandia) shared his powerful story and gave resources and insight for congregations looking to be more thoughtful in how we address mental health. A sample of his devotional and copies of the bimonthly recovery and wellness newspaper, *The Phoenix Spirit*, are available for viewing on AGLC's welcome table.

From Cyndi: I attended the Doctrine of Discovery (DOD) session led by Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls, missionary for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. The workshop provided an overview of the historical (and religious) roots of the DOD which began in the 1400s giving colonial powers the authority to claim lands and conquer people as long as those people were not Christians. In America, the doctrine was used to allow the appropriation of land from Indigenous people. It is important to gain a deeper understanding of this sad history and the continuing sociopolitical impact and ramifications that it has had on Native Peoples as well as learn about ways in which we can work together to acknowledge this history and respond in helpful, productive ways.

My afternoon workshop, led by church building consultant Anne Gerriettes, focused on exploring possibilities for church spaces. We discussed ways in which we can enhance our ministry by ensuring we

are welcoming to all. Additionally, we contemplated how the building needs of a congregation change over time and how this requires that we be open to new or different uses. We were encouraged to consider how our building may be an asset to others based on the needs of the greater community. It was interesting to hear about congregations that have partnered with community theater, artists for gallery space, childcare and senior-care facilities, non-profits organizations, and more.

From Annie and Mark: Mark attended a session on Creation Care. All six of the Minnesota synods have agreed to advocate on matters related to three areas of concerns: hunger, poverty, and care of creation. Continuing to make sure our church building is as efficient as possible is one way we can help. The Toolkit provided new resources and partners that would help us update our evaluation of what is possible: Minify Energy and EnerChange. They offer free assessments, grants and support for making changes in a congregation.

Mark also attended a session on Global Mission Partnerships to learn about the incredible growth in preaching points in Tanzania and improvements in the quality of life. Guatemala remains a mission partner in some SPAS churches.

Annie attended a session by the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement focused on asset-based approaches for making growth and change. Key themes were about co-creation of solutions and actions (engaging all stakeholders), emphasizing and enhancing what is already good (and building on the good), looking at the “something special” that every person has to share, and ensuring the voice of the “insiders” guide any work rather than having change forced upon anyone by well-intended “outsiders.”

Having attended the Synod Assembly for the past couple of years, we find it really rewarding to be a part of the larger church’s thinking and planning. We wholeheartedly recommend AGLC folks start thinking now about committing to attend the Toolkit and Synod Assembly next year. We’d love to see that opportunity go to someone new in 2025!

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!

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

April Worship Volunteers

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

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Greeters	Ingrid Emerson	Mary Garfield	Norm Beckman	Wendy and Jack Hoffman
Ushers	Bruce Klopfleisch and Cyndi Berg	Todd Erickson and Jeannie Hall	Russ Barnhart and Pete Malamen	Julie Linscheid and Katie Klopfleisch
Readers	Charlotte Gronseth	Helen Yotter	Barb Malamen	Bruce Klopfleisch
Sound	Katie Klopfleisch	Markus Linscheid	Miranda Barnhart	Nate Linscheid
Altar Care/ Acolyte	Teri Santema	Julie Linscheid	Lisa Barnhart	Linda Erickson
Counters	Helen Yotter	Mary Garfield	Pete Malamen	Tim Sanborn

May Worship Volunteers

*If you would like to volunteer to help with a worship service,
please contact Julie Linscheid njlinscheid@gmail.com*

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Greeters	Connie and Terry Raddatz	Gail Marek	Darlene Wold	Jean Jantzen
Ushers	Craig Yotter and Wendy Hoffman	Bruce Klopfleisch and Todd Erickson	Cyndi Berg and Jack Hoffman	Russ Barnhart and Katie Klopfleisch
Readers	Julie Linscheid	Pete Malamen	Mary Garfield	Norm Beckman
Sound	Markus Linscheid	Nate Linscheid	Miranda Barnhart	Bruce Klopfleisch
Altar Care/ Acolyte	Jeannie Hall	Nancy Pollock	Teri Santema	Lisa Barnhart
Counter	Helen Yotter	Pete Malamen	Mary Garfield	Tim Sanborn

April AGLC Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6pm Yogadevotion	2	3 6pm Confirmation 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	4 10am Inver Glen Worship	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Sunday School	8 6pm Yogadevotion	9 10am Stewardship and Evangelism	10 6pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	11	12	13
14 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Sunday School	15 6pm Yogadevotion	16 9:30am Women's Bible Study	17 6pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	18	19	20
21 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Sunday School	22 6pm Yogadevotion	23	24 6 pm Confirmation Lent 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	25	26	27 9am— Noon Spring Clean Up Day at AGLC
28 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Sunday School 2pm Faithful Readers	29 6pm Yogadevotion	30				



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—Wendy Hoffman
wendaful68@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

**AMAZING
GRACE**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

*Joining Together to Serve the World
Around Us*