



# AMAZING GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2024



## Pastor's Column

Submitted by  
Lead Pastor  
Tim Maybee

Dear Amazing Grace,

As most parents would say, becoming a father has been one of the most meaningful and joyful experiences of my life. It's also been one of the most surprising. This is because of all the supplemental joys that come with being a parent—joys like taking a music class with my kid or watching Charlotte form relationships with the people of AGLC. One of the unexpected auxiliary delights of becoming a dad has been the relationships Lindsey and I have been able to form with others because of Charlotte.

For over five years I have lived two doors down from another young family. Before Charlotte came along, we would greet one another with smiles and waves, but it never went beyond that. However, we discovered last spring that our kid and their kids are on the same bedtime schedule. Because of that, they have the same “zoomy” schedule. This is the time of night when the little ones just need to expend some energy. It didn't take long for us to start hanging out nearly every night

while our kids played and tired themselves out before bed. We've come to know our neighbors because we mutually benefit from spending time together. Having the support and friendship of our neighbors is a source of strength and joy for all of us.

The growth of this relationship has led me to consider more seriously a question that Jesus addresses in the Gospel of Luke: Who is my neighbor?

See, in Luke 10, Jesus is teaching when a lawyer stands up to test him. He asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus points the man back to the core of his own faith—loving God and loving the neighbor. In reply, the lawyer asks, “And who is my neighbor?” To this question, Jesus gives an unexpected and even potentially shocking response. He tells the story of the Good Samaritan. That is, a man falls into the hands of robbers and is left for dead on the side of the road. Religious and scholarly types walk by—people who should care because they know that love of God and love of neighbor go together. These respected people, however, show no interest in the man and pass by. Soon, a despised Samaritan walks by and actually stops. The Samaritan takes extreme measures to care for the beaten man. Jesus then turns the question back to the lawyer and asks which of these are acting as neighbors.

## Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Livestream or watch  
past worship  
services:

[AGLC's YouTube  
Channel](#)

## December Events

### Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, Dec 14  
9:00am

### Isaiah Gathering

Monday, Dec 16  
6:30pm

### Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, Dec 24  
4:00pm and 6:00pm

### Newsletter Articles

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

This story tells us three things about who our neighbors are. First, neighbors are not only the people who live right next door. Proximity is not the most important key to define neighbors. Second, the ethnic identity of the Samaritan would have shocked the audience. For hundreds of years, Jesus' fellow countrypeople had been harshly divided from the Samaritans. There was bad blood on both sides, rooted in religious and cultural differences. So, we learn that neighbors are not necessarily people who look, act, or think like us. They are even our supposed enemies! Finally, when Jesus asks who the neighbor to the beaten man was, the lawyer rightly says that the Samaritan was acting as a neighbor more than the pious passersby. Neighborliness, we learn, is lived out in compassionate action.

When we ask seriously who our neighbors are and when come to know them as beloved children of God, we cannot help but support and serve one another. Knowing our neighbors is meant to lead to

loving service.

The season of Advent kicks off a new church year. This year, our Gospel readings will come mostly from the book of Luke, where this story originates. Since it is a "Luke year," I think it's appropriate for us to spend time dwelling on the question, "Who is my neighbor?" This core question will guide my own devotional times, personal reflection, and decision-making processes. As a church, we'll take up this question in our worship, education, service, outreach, and even in our strategic work and council leadership. We will aim to let our neighbors define themselves and prepare ourselves to be surprised and delighted by what we learn as we meet the God who is already present in the lives and communities of those around us.

So, Amazing Grace, who is your neighbor?

In Christ, Pastor Tim Maybee

## Advent Book Study: God Has A Dream

People of faith are called to resist despair and cultivate hope. What does this actually look like in our lives? Join us this Advent season as we read together Archbishop Desmond Tutu's classic book, *God Has A Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*.

Study guides for personal reflection, one on one discussion, or small group conversation will be available Sunday, December 1.

Community discussion is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Thursday, December 19. Feel free to pick up a copy of the book on your own or talk to Pastor Tim about receiving a copy.

Copies of the book through AGLC are \$15.

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS NEEDED

Looking to get involved in AGLC's worship life this Advent season? Consider being one of our Advent Wreath Lighters.

We are looking for four individuals or families to lead our brief Advent Wreath Lighting ceremony at the beginning of worship on Dec 8, Dec 15, Dec 22, and at the Christmas Eve services (4:00pm and 6:00pm).

Interested? Contact Pastor Tim



## Worship and Music Update: December 2024

Greetings everyone,

As I write this article, it is a time in our lives to be thankful/grateful, for all that we have, and all that God has done for us. I have so many things to thank God for in my life, within my list is our Amazing Grace family. Whether a need is stated or not, you are so observant that you see a need and fill it, especially when it comes to helping with worship.

We have a need coming up and are looking for a team of 4-6 people who would be willing to rotate streaming our worship services. Adam, who has been doing the streaming, will train the team, and will help with the streaming through December. Thank you for your consideration. Please let Pastor Tim know if you are led to serve in this way. And thank you Adam, for serving and for being willing to help train. We appreciate YOU!

We are also looking for 2-4 people that would be willing to work with our prayer ground. This would consist of rotating books and toys, plus checking the activity bags to refresh them. If this is a need you are led to fill, please let me know. Jeannie Hall~ 651-600-7277, [jeanniehall1010@gmail.com](mailto:jeanniehall1010@gmail.com), or you can talk to me at church.

Thanks for all that you do to make Amazing Grace an AWESOME FAMILY!

*“Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”*

*Psalm 100:4*

Together we journey,  
Jeannie Hall

### Faithful Readers: So Many Books!

**December Holiday Break** There is no discussion this month. Remember books make great gifts and be sure to share a favorite book with a friend. Watch for the book list for 2025 in future newsletters! Book suggestions always welcome. Contact Barb Malamen 651-454-1858 or [bmalamen@aol.com](mailto:bmalamen@aol.com)

### Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study will not meet in December. The next scheduled date is January 21, 2025.



## 2025 Tanzania Scholarships

*Change the trajectory of a Tanzanian student, their family and the country*

Hello Amazing Grace friends,

Did you know that Scholarship funding is the largest investment that the partnered St. Paul Area Synod (SPAS) churches make in Tanzania each year? In 2024, SPAS churches combined sponsored:

- 1,010 Secondary School Students
- 30 Post-Secondary Students
- 17 Theological Education by Extension (TEE) classes for 17 unpartnered parishes

The average annual cost of secondary school for a student in the Iringa Area Diocese is now over **\$500/year**. AGLC's current generosity is providing 2 students from the Magulilwa Parish with full or partial scholarships and has also consistently provided TEE classes for the church's evangelists.

**YOUR HELP is NEEDED** to support more students as scholarship funding is above and beyond the partnership support provided through mission giving. *AGLC has pledged \$1,400/year in the past and we would like to challenge our community to increase that support to \$2,000 or more for 2025.* What better gift to give that person who has everything or to honor family members with this Christmas?

**Please make a contribution in any amount or for a full \$500 scholarship directly to AGLC with 'Tanzania Scholarship' in the memo line by Sunday, December 8 or earlier.** Any questions – please ask!

Asante Sana and Mungu Anawa Bariki! (Thank you very much and God Bless You), Helen Yotter  
([hcyotter@comcast.net](mailto:hcyotter@comcast.net))

### Yogadevotion

Yogadevotion meets on Mondays 6 -7 pm in the narthex of Amazing Grace. Yogadevotion is a practice of breath, prayer and movement led by a trained yoga instructor. Beginning and experienced yogi are welcome in this community. All you need to participate is comfy clothes and a yoga mat. The current session will end on Monday, December 16. There is still time to register for a drop in class to check it out. You can register at <http://www.yogadevotion.com>.

The next session will begin on January 6 and end on February 24. The full session is 8 weeks at a cost of \$88. Single day registration is always an option. Registration for the next session will be open the end of December at the above website. Consider adding Yogadevotion to your selfcare in 2025.

Questions: Barb Malamen at 651-454-1858 or [bmalamen@aol.com](mailto:bmalamen@aol.com)

### Women's Annual Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 14 from 10:00 am - Noon, is the return of the Women's Annual Christmas Brunch. As you are busy preparing for the Christmas season take a little time out to relax and recharge with good food, good conversation and favorite carols. There will also be an optional ornament exchange. A \$5 donation is requested. Funds collected beyond expenses will be donated.

There is a sign up sheet on the community bulletin board in the narthex. Guests are welcome.

Contact Barb Malamen 651-454-1858 or [bmalamen@aol.com](mailto:bmalamen@aol.com) to help with set up or food.

## December 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)*

	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 24 4pm	Dec 24 6pm	Dec 29
<b>Greeter</b>	Janet Aguirre	Ingrid Emerson	Norm Beckman	Ras and Gloria Rasmussen	Bartlette Family	Barb Malamen	Connie and Terry Raddatz
<b>Ushers</b>	Jeannie Hall and Katie Klopfeisch	Julie Linscheid and Todd Erickson	Wendy and Jack Hoffman	Bruce Klopfeisch and Pete Malamen		Todd Erickson	Craig Yotter and Jeannie Hall
<b>Readers</b>	Helen Yotter	Norm Beckman	Mary Garfield	Jean Jantzen	Scott Ferriss	Pete Malamen	Heather Tautges
<b>Sound</b>	Markus Linscheid	Pete Malamen	Jeannie Hall	Nate Linscheid		Russ Barnhart	Miranda Barnhart
<b>Altar Care/ Acolyte</b>	Julie Linscheid	Lisa Barnhart	Teri Santema	Linda Erickson		Lisa Barnhart	Jeannie Hall
<b>Counter</b>	Helen Yotter	Pete Malamen	Mary Garfield	Tim Sanborn		Pete Malamen	Craig Yotter

## January 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)*

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
<b>Greeters</b>	Jean Jantzen	Darlene Wold	Janet Aguirre	Ingrid Emerson
<b>Ushers</b>	Cyndi Berg and Julie Linscheid	Wendy and Jack Hoffman	Russ Barnhart and Bruce Klopfleisch	Katie Klopfleisch and Todd Erickson
<b>Readers</b>	Bruce Klopfleisch	Barb Malamen	Mary Garfield	Julie Linscheid
<b>Sound</b>	Katie Klopfleisch	Markus Linscheid	Jeannie Hall	Nate Linscheid
<b>Altar Care/ Acolyte</b>	Nancy Pollock	Julie Linscheid	Lisa Barnhart	Teri Santema
<b>Counter</b>	Helen Yotter	Pete Malamen	Mary Garfield	Tim Sanborn

# December AGLC Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship	2 6pm Yogadevotion	3 6:30pm Executive Council Meeting	4 6pm Youth Group 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	5 10am Inver Glen Worship	6	7
8 9:30am Worship  10:40am Sunday School/Story: Advent and Christmas	9 6pm Yogadevotion	10 10am Stewardship and Evangelism Mtg  6:30pm AGLC Council Mtg	11 6pm Youth Group  7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	12	13	14 9am Women's Brunch
15 9:30am Worship  10:40am Sunday School/Story: Christmas Gifts  Annual Reports due	16 6pm Yogadevotion  6:30pm Isaiah Gathering	17	18 6pm Youth Group  7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	19 5:30pm Girl Scouts Meeting	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship  10:40 am Sunday School/Story: Advent and Christmas	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve Worship</b> 4:00pm and 6:00pm	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 10am Inver Glen Worship	3	4





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

**Church Office Hours:**

*By appointment only*  
*Phone: 651-455-0093*

**Staff:**

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

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

Office Administrator—Kari Rogers  
[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—Wendy Hoffman  
[wendaful68@gmail.com](mailto:wendaful68@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 Kari*  
[\*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*