

# AMAZING GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2025



## Pastor's Column

Submitted by  
Lead Pastor  
Tim Maybee

Dear Amazing Grace,

Where were you born?

My first impulse when I hear this question is to respond with the obvious answer: I was born at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

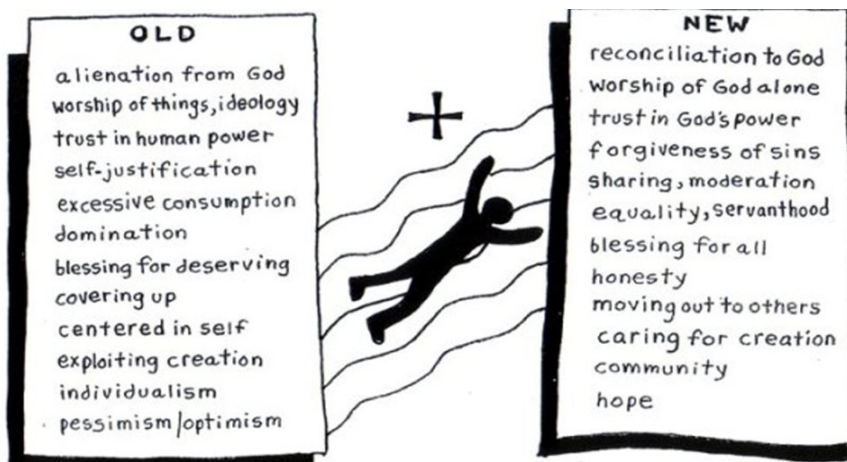
However, as we complete this year's Lenten journey and burst into the season of Easter, another response to that question arises within me: I was also born in the empty tomb of Christ, when he was raised from the dead.

It's a happy coincidence of the English language that the two words, womb

and tomb, rhyme. Faithful Christians throughout the centuries have come to value the imagery of Christ's tomb as the womb from which new life springs forth for the world. That is what Easter is all about: Christ's resurrection and our rebirth into his life.

Rebirth. New life. These images and truths that shape the Christian imagination can sometimes be trivialized as private blessings that remain as ends in themselves. Yet, in the Gospels and the letters of Paul rebirth and new life are not simply meant to be passively received and privately enjoyed. New life is meant to be lived! That is, there is a character to new life—ways in which we might live out our rebirth into Christ.

The late pastor and theologian Daniel Erlander picks up this idea in his playfully illustrated book, *Manna and Mercy*. In it, he includes the graphic below:



## Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Livestream or watch  
past worship  
services:

[AGLC's YouTube  
Channel](#)

## April Events

**Wednesday  
during Lent  
Soup Suppers**  
5:30 p.m.

**Lenten Worship**  
7:00 p.m.

**Palm Sunday**  
April 13

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 17

**Good Friday**  
April 18

**Easter Worship**  
April 20  
9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

## Newsletter Articles

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

(continued from prior page)

While this lists in this graphic are not exhaustive, they do help us start thinking about what new life emerging in our lives and communities might look like. In case you had trouble reading the words in the picture, here's what Pastor Erlander describes as the movement from the old life to the new life (the old way of being vs the new being in Christ):

It is a movement from...

Alienation from God to Reconciliation to God  
Worship of Things/Ideology to Worship of God Alone

Trust in Human Power to Trust in God's Power  
Self-Justification to Receiving the Forgiveness of Sins  
Excessive Consumption (grasping for fulfillment) to

Sharing and Moderation

Domination to Equality/Servanthood

Blessing Only for the "Deserving" to Blessing for All

Covering Up to Honesty

Self-Centeredness to Moving Out to Others

Exploiting Creation to Caring for Creation

Individualism to Community

Thinking in Terms of Pessimism/Optimism to Being

People of Hope

In the coming season of Easter, may you come to see that we only live on the basis of GRACE, and that we are called to actively LIVE on the basis of grace.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tim

## Stay Connected with the Saint Paul Area Synod

Want to become more informed about how we are being church together with our siblings throughout the Saint Paul Area Synod?

[Click here to sign up for the News and Events weekly email blast.](#)

Or, go to [spas-elca.org](http://spas-elca.org) and, on the bottom right of the homepage, there is a button that says, "Subscribe to Synod News." Click there and follow the instructions.

## Spring Clean-Up Day: Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

We will be hosting a spring clean-up day on Sat. May 3rd, 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. Your help is needed and appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Berg at [cyndi.a.berg@gmail.com](mailto:cyndi.a.berg@gmail.com).

## AGLC President Update: April 2025

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*  
**– 1 Thessalonians 5:11**



### A Season of Renewal and Hope

Easter is a season of hope, renewal, and celebration. It's a time when we are reminded of God's unwavering love and the incredible gift of new life. As I step into this new season of serving as your Church Council President, I find myself reflecting on the power of faith and community—how we uplift one another, grow together, and continue to share Christ's love in our daily lives.

As we journey through Lent and prepare for the joy of Easter, there are many ways to deepen our faith and connect as a church family.

- **New Members Classes** – We are blessed to welcome those who are seeking to join our church community. If you see a new face, I encourage you to introduce yourself and extend a warm welcome. Our church is strengthened by the relationships we build with one another.
- **First Communion Classes** – This is a special time for our young members as they prepare to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Let's keep them and their families in our prayers as they take this important step in their faith journey.
- **Faith Formation & Lent** – Lent is a time for reflection, prayer, and renewal. Whether through Bible studies, prayer groups, or personal reflection, I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to grow in faith as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

As we move through this sacred season, I invite you to take time to reflect, renew, and reconnect—with your faith, with one another, and with the mission of our church. Whether you're attending a class, joining a service, or simply offering a kind word to someone sitting next to you, every act of faith and love strengthens our church family.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I feel incredibly blessed to serve alongside you all.

May this Easter season bring you peace, joy, and the reminder that we are never alone—Christ is risen, and His love is always with us!

Blessings,  
 Lynda Bartlette

## EcoFaith Summit

**Saturday, April 5 - 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**First Lutheran, Duluth & Livestream**

Registration is open for the 2025 EcoFaith Summit, Earth's Cries, Earth's Call: Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation. The ever-increasing cries of Creation in crisis could easily overwhelm us. Instead let them serve as a clarion call to help bring life out of potential death, to help give renewed birth to all Creation, to all creatures including ourselves. Featured speakers are author and theological ethicist Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda and Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, dynamic storyteller, poet, scholar, and the first Native woman to earn a PhD in theology within the ELCA. The summit features engaging sessions, worship, exhibits, networking opportunities, lunch and encouragement for our communities to give birth to strong, creative action.

[Learn more and register.](#)

## Gerten's Spring Bedding Plant Sale: Order by 4/3

The money raised will go towards future travel expenses to Tanzania and participation in other mission ministries. Please place your order online by Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (online ordering closes at 10pm) and mark your calendar to pick up your plants Wednesday morning, May 14. Sellers will need to pick up their orders and deliver them to their customers.

To access the site and place an order:

- Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)
- Enter the Store ID code **134** into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'

## Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study will meet on Tuesday, April 15 at 9:30am in the upper room.

We are concluding our study of Faithfulness. In this study we look at faith risks, Jairus comes seeking healing for his ill daughter and an ill woman seeks healing merely by touching Jesus's cloak. All are welcome to join this study.

## Christian Faith Reflection

**Isaiah 58:6**

*"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"*

As we enter this Lenten season — marked by fasting, reflection, and repentance — we are also called to a deeper reckoning with the injustices that plague our communities. This is not a season of empty rituals, but a time to align ourselves with God's vision for justice. And yet, as we look around, the forces of oppression seem to be tightening their grip — politicians, at every level, are pushing policies that harm the poor, immigrants, and children. They seek to defund healthcare, dismantle education, and strip away the resources people need to care for their families. Their choices are not neutral; they are in direct opposition to the call of Christ to love and serve the most vulnerable. It is easy to feel weary, even hopeless, in the face of such deep-seated injustice.

But Lent reminds us that despair is not our inheritance — resurrection is. The same God who led our ancestors through the wilderness is leading us still. We must not be divided by race, class, or nationality, but **stand firm in faith, integrity, and love**. Now is the time to fight for what we know is right: a world where every child is fed, every family is cared for, and every person is treated with dignity. This season calls us to fast not only from comfort but from complacency. We must press forward, together, knowing that justice is not just a dream — it is the very will of God.

*Article based on ISAIAH 58 from the ISAIAH Organization*

## Yogadevotion

Yogadevotion classes continue at Amazing Grace. The current session continues through April 21. The late spring session begins April 28. Registration will be open April 21. Classes meet Mondays from 6 - 7 pm.

Yogadevotion is a practice of breath, prayer, and movement led by a trained yoga instructor. This could be a great way to prepare for summer activities. All you need to participate are comfortable clothing and a yoga mat. Register at: [www.yogadevotion.com](http://www.yogadevotion.com)

## Worship and Music Update: April 2025

At worship this morning I ushered, which makes me observe things sometimes I may otherwise miss. I watched as Charlotte needed her father's love and support and he took the time to comfort her as he continued to lead us in worship, showing us by example, how to serve and love one another. I watched and listened to the children of our congregation, the excitement in their voices, the way they all seem to feel that they can be themselves, one making a tower out of the communion cups. I love that!

Our children are such an important part of our congregation, and I'm happy to have them show me how to enjoy our worship time together, the way that they connect with their peers as well as adults. They are truly an inspiration for me!

In faith formation this morning we continued talking about and reflecting on lessons from Dietrich Bonhoefer. We talked about turning points in our own lives as well as turning points in Bonhoefer's life. Points that really make a difference, what happens and why it's a turning point. At the table I was at, we talked about how our first job, marriage, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, divorce, death, changing where you live or work. All these points and more, can have a great impact on our lives. Pastor Tim talked about how Christ exists as community.

The question Pastor Tim left us with as we were ending is—Who is our neighbor? We will be in these discussions throughout the Lenten season. You can come any time! No previous classes are required.

*The disciples came to Jesus asking, "Who gets the highest rank in God's kingdom?" For an answer Jesus called over a child, whom he stood in the middle of the room, and said, "I'm telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom. What's more, when you receive the childlike on my account, it's the same as receiving me.*  
*Mathew 18:1b-5*

**FYI~** New pictures to put up are displayed on a table in the fellowship hall with a sign-up sheet and samples as to where you would like to see them placed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Together we journey,  
 Jeannie Hall

## A Message of Gratitude from the Saint Paul Area Synod

*Thank you for your congregation's faithful and generous sharing of mission support with the synod and churchwide expressions of the ELCA during February 2025. This month, we hear from Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, a synod staff member who works extensively with lay leaders.*

As Lutherans we take seriously the priesthood of all believers. Each one of us has God-given gifts to offer in service to God and neighbor. Many people across the larger body of Christ take on leadership roles in their congregations as a way to further God's Kingdom.

The Saint Paul Area Synod supports lay leaders and various aspects of lay leadership in a number of ways. One of the main ways we do this is through our annual Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders, which focuses on equipping lay leaders for God's mission in their contexts. Around 240 leaders attended this event last month. There were nine fantastic workshops throughout the day...a wonderful lineup that encouraged, connected, and resourced leaders in congregations across the synod.

This fall, we will hold a six-part cohort series for presidents, vice presidents and other council members. Several former and current council leaders will join me in leading this series. It will be similar to the programming we offered in 2022-2023 with Dr. Dave Webb. Titled "Deeper Dive for Church Councils," the series will focus on many aspects of leading a church council and overall congregational leadership. I spend quite a bit of time walking with councils and executive teams as they seek to engage deeply in God's mission. We work together with the Holy Spirit to find the way forward!

The synod's work groups also seek to equip and accompany congregations. Advocates for Racial Equity (ARE) encourages us all to confront privilege and racism in and around the synod. ARE's recent event in conjunction with the synod's Vitality Team focused on the topic of deep listening and racial justice. Presenter Rachel Svanoe Moynihan led 40 people (mostly lay people) from 13 congregations through a powerful look at racial justice at this time.

Our Care of Creation work group collaborates with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod on news and events around being good stewards of the earth. We are collaborating with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to hold the annual [EcoFaith Summit](#) in Duluth on April 5. I will be there along with most of our synod work group...consider joining us in person or watch the livestream! Many lay leaders provide content for the monthly *Green Blades Rising* newsletter. This is a mostly lay-led group working to care for God's precious creation across Minnesota and beyond. [Read about all of our synod work groups here.](#)

By their nature, call committees are primarily made up of laypeople. The mobility team of the synod (the Bishop and her assistants) accompanies up to 30 call processes each year. In 2024 we installed 15 pastors in congregations. The call process is a great way for lay leaders in congregations to use their gifts for God's mission in their contexts. Each process involves prayer, training, deep discernment, and more. Our role as synod staff is to accompany congregations through each process so that they can find a new pastor or deacon to serve!

There are many other ways that the synod equips and supports lay leaders. The official roles leaders play (like president, vice president, treasurer or secretary) are the more obvious ones, but we occasionally work with outreach teams, social justice groups and worship teams. We also work with emerging leaders as they seek to find out how to best use their gifts in service. As a layperson myself, I am passionate about accompanying other laypeople as they explore ways to serve in their communities!

Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer  
Assistant to the Bishop for Lay Leadership and Equity Initiatives



## Faithful Readers: So Many Books!

We gather at 2pm at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Cafe on Promenade in Eagan for our book discussion. We meet the fourth Sunday of the month. The books for the rest of 2025 are listed here.

*There is another book change in the published schedule. The book The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams is available sooner than expected. We will read this novel in April and the previously scheduled April novel will be read in July. The new April book is a book in the bag selection, see Barb Malamen for a copy of the book. Book discussion is scheduled for the fourth Sunday of the month at 2pm at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Cafe on Promenade in Eagan. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Let's all read together faithfully.*

### **April 27    The Dictionary of Lost Words    by Pip Williams        a book bag selection**

Esme spends time during her childhood with her father and other lexicographers, who are collecting words for the first Oxford English Dictionary. She finds that many words relating to women and common people are being discarded. She begins collecting these words, continuing as she grows up, creating her own dictionary of lost words.

### **May 18    The Maid    by Nita Prose        a book bag selection**

An excentric maid discovers a guest dead in his bed in her hotel. She becomes a suspect. This is a Clue like mystery. The story explores what is it like to be just like everyone else and also totally different. Caring for one another is what is important

### **June 22    Such a Fun Age    by Kiley Reid**

A young black woman, babysitter for a white family, is accused of kidnapping the toddler in her charge when shopping in a grocery store. A crowd gathers and the action is filmed. The novel watches the drama unfold.

### **July 27    The River We Remember    by William Kent Kruger**

It is Memorial Day 1958 in a small town in Minnesota. The body of a wealthy resident is found and suspicion falls on a native American who has recently returned to town with a Japanese wife. Secrets abound in the town. Can the murder be solved before the town explodes.

### **August 24    Tom Lake    by Ann Patchett**

In the spring of 2020 Lara's three daughters return home to the family orchard. As they pick cherries the daughters ask their mother for stories of her past. As she tells her stories her daughters examine their own lives and their relationship with their mother. They also reconsider everything they thought they knew.

### **September 28    A Council of Dolls    by Mora Susa Power**

The story of three Native American women from three different eras told in part through the stories of the dolls they carry.

### **October 26    The Last Russian Doll    by Kristen Loesch**

A story of secrets, revenge and redemption that follows three generations of Russian women from 1917 revolution to the last days of the Soviet Union.

### **November 26    The Marriage Portrait    by Maggie O'Farrel**

Historical fiction. Lucrezia de' Medici marries Alfonso II, duke of Ferra. She begins to think her life is in danger, is it? Historically, the answer is yes. The author brings Lucrezia to life.

### **December        Share a book with a friend!    No Discussion**

## April Worship Volunteers

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

	<b>April 6</b>	<b>Palm Sunday April 13</b>	<b>Easter Sunday April 20 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Easter Sunday April 20 11 a.m.</b>	<b>April 27</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Norm Beckman	Gail Marek			Ras and Gloria Rasmussen
<b>Ushers</b>	Wendy and Jack Hoffman	Helen Yotter and Jeannie Hall			Katie Klopfleisch and Todd Erickson
<b>Readers</b>	Helen Yotter	Annie Morgan			Bruce Klopfleisch
<b>Sound</b>	Russ Barnhart	Nate Linscheid			Miranda Barnhart
<b>Altar Care/ Acolyte</b>	Teri Santema	Linda Erickson		Nancy Pollock	Lisa Barnhart
<b>Counter</b>	Helen Yotter	Mary Garfield	Pete Malamen		Tim Sanborn



## May Worship Volunteers

**Help needed for Lent and Easter worship:** Volunteers are needed for Lenten services on Wednesdays and Easter Sunday. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table under the Community board in the Narthex or contact [Julie Linscheid njlinscheid@gmail.com](mailto:njlinscheid@gmail.com)

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
<b>Greeter</b>	Darlene Wold	Connie and Terry Raddatz	Jean Jantzen	Janet Aguirre
<b>Ushers</b>	Cyndi and Rick Berg	Craig Yotter and Jeannie Hall	Julie Linscheid and Bartholomew Wilson	Russ Barnhart and Todd Erickson
<b>Reader</b>	Helen Yotter	Barb Malamen	Mary Garfield	Norm Beckman
<b>Sound</b>	Markus Linscheid	Pete Malamen	Nate Linscheid	Miranda Barnhart
<b>Altar Care/ Acolyte</b>	Julie Linscheid	Teri Santema	Linda Erickson	Jeannie Hall
<b>Counter</b>				

# April AGLC Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30pm AGLC Executive Committee Mtg	2 5:30 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	3 10am Inver Glen Worship	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 10:40am Sunday School/Story: Doubting Thomas 10:45 am Faith Formation: Dietrich Bonhoeffer 5	7 6pm Yogadevotion	8 10am Stewardship and Evangelism	9 5:30 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	10	11	12
13 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30am Worship 10:40am Sunday School/Story: Doubting Thomas 10:45 am New Member Class	14 6pm Yogadevotion	15 9:30am Women's Bible Study	16 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	17 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	18 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	19
20 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Worship	21 6pm Yogadevotion 6:30pm Isaiah Gathering	22	23 6pm Youth Group	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship: Guest Preacher Neighbor's Inc 10:40 am Sunday School/Story: Doubting Thomas 10:45 am Faith Formation: Convo w/ Neighbor's Inc	28 6pm Yogadevotion	29	30 6pm Youth Group			



**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—  
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[TPanamarow@aglcigh.org](mailto:TPanamarow@aglcigh.org)  
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Barbara Forthun  
[bforthun@aglcigh.org](mailto:bforthun@aglcigh.org)

Worship Musician—Sandy McAllister

AGLC President—Lynda Bartlette  
[bartlettefamily4@gmail.com](mailto:bartlettefamily4@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

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Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

*Joining Together to Serve the World  
Around Us*