AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2026



Pastor's Column

Submitted by
Lead Pastor
Tim Maybee

"[Archbishop Desmond Tutu once told author, Douglas Abrams] that people often think he needs time to pray and reflect because he is a religious leader. He said those who must live in the marketplace—businesspeople, professionals, and workers—need it even more."
—Douglas Abrams, The Book of Joy

Dear Amazing Grace,

We, children of God who follow Christ, are called to more than the mere acceptance of "business as usual." We are called to follow in the transformational way of Christ, who insists on us giving our primary and ultimate allegiance to God's kingdom, that is, the reign of God. God's reign is defined by compassion, mercy, abundance, mutuality, and reconciliation. As long as the world does not look like this kingdom, Christians will have a vocation to witness to more. Our calling is to practice what theologian Walter Bruegemann called, "prophetic imagination." This is seeing with the vision of Christ, through the lens of the cross—our foundation of grace and mercy.

Because ours is always a calling to growth in God's gracious love, which is always and ever both with us and beyond our grasp (who can claim a perfectly loving community?), we cannot treat our vocation of loving service like an item on a to-do list. The work of love is never done. The work of God through God's people is never done.

There's a story that comes up in preaching for me once in a while that I think gets at this idea: Once, in the days of his wandering ministry, Jesus, the peripatetic teacher, found himself walking through and preaching in an unfamiliar village on the margins of the region. A large crowd gathered as he preached about following in God's way.

That day, Jesus focused on his teaching about loving your enemies and doing good to those who aim to do you harm. "If someone forces you to carry their pack one mile, insist on carrying it for two." This was in reference to a Roman domination tactic in which a soldier could enlist a civilian to carry their pack, but only for one mile. Jesus' advice is to meet this effort to dominate with their own effort to love and serve.

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Livestream or watch past worship services: **AGLC's YouTube Channel**

October Events

Wednesday, Oct 14
Intergenerational Movie Night: Toy Story 5!

Sunday, October 25
10:45am
Fall Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 28
6pm
Service Event: Blood Drive

Check the calendar in the newsletter for all upcoming events

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

"Carry it for two." This community took the teaching very seriously and soon gained a reputation for literally going the extra mile. Roman soldiers looked forward to journeys that would take them through the community. It became a point of pride for the little village. They were serious disciples, committed to Jesus' teaching.

After some time, Jesus returned to the village. One of their elders met Jesus at the edge of the city and excitedly told him all about how the village took his teaching so seriously. The elder expected praise, and so was more than a little taken aback when Jesus replied, "You misunderstand me. You've heard it said, carry a pack for two miles, but I tell you, carry it for three."

This little parable is meant to illustrate, among other things, that discipleship is about a life founded on and shaped by God's love for the world. Discipleship is not a prescribed set of abstract standards or rules that we are to get in line with. It is not a means for a person to feel self-righteous or elevated over any other person, even if that elevation is rooted in one's own exemplary behavior. God didn't make anybody to be under the boot of anybody else.

As the years pass and the truth of this teaching becomes more and more evident in my experiences, I am becoming more and more convinced that healthy and open discipleship is only possible when we are grounded in a greater source of love. We call this source God, and this godly source of love was made flesh in Jesus. It is present to us and through us by way of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer is a great way to ground yourself in this source of love. If you haven't before, check out the prayer and devotional resources on the welcome table for a good place to start. Also, I'd like you to know that there is a weekly prayer and communion service being held at the Synod Offices in St. Paul every Wednesday at 9:15 am. It is open to all.

Your sibling in Christ,
Pastor Tim

Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 25

Our annual Fall Congregational Meeting is coming up on Sunday, October 25 following worship.

More information on the agenda and the potluck brunch to follow.



Fall Clean-Up Day: Saturday, October 17

We will be hosting a fall clean-up day on Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. We will be focusing on outdoor/garden projects, but there will be indoor cleaning projects as well.

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 or Todd Erickson at todderickson3@gmail.com.

Your help is needed and appreciated.

Upcoming Sunday Adult Faith Formation

You are invited to deepen your faith with friends at AGLC this fall after worship on Sundays:

October 4: Faith and Civic Life, Session 2

October 11: Faith and Civic Life, Session 3

October 18: Faith and Civic Life, Session 4

October 25: Fall Congregational Meeting

November 1: Faith and Civic Life, Session 5

November 8: Faith and Civic Life, Session 6

Upcoming Wednesday Evening Faith Formation

This Fall, we have opportunities to grow in faith every Wednesday. We'll rotate between youth-focused and intergenerational events.

October 7: Youth Group! 6:00-7:30p.m.

October 14: Intergenerational Movie Night 5:15-7:00p.m.

October 21: Youth Group! 6:00-7:30pm

October 28: Service Event: Blood Drive

November 4: Youth Group! 6:00-7:30pm

November 11: Service Event at Feed My Starving Children 7:00-8:45pm

Intergenerational Movie Night: Wednesday, October 14



Join your neighbors at AGLC for an intergenerational movie night on Wed., Oct. 14.

We'll be watching the 2026 Pixar film, Toy Story 5!

Pizza will be available beginning at 5:15p.m. and we'll get the movie started by 5:45p.m.

RSVP in the Narthex or email Pastor Tim.

Wednesday Morning Communion Service with Saint Paul Area Synod

Join Lutherans from around the Saint Paul Area Synod on Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. for a worship service of prayer and communion. Services are held weekly at Christ Lutheran on Capitol Hill, across from the State Capitol.

Contact Pastor Tim for more details.

Meet and Chat

This is a chance to just get together and talk without any agenda.

Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or the like or just come to spend time together.

Meet on Tuesday, October 27 at 9:30a.m. in the upper room. All are welcome!

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 remainder of the year are listed below.
All are welcome to join in the discussion. Let's all read together faithfully!

October 25 The Stationery Shop by Marjan Kamel

The novel opens in Tehran in 1953 with the backdrop of the American influenced Iranian Coup. A young couple in love is separated in the crush of the main square of Tehran on the eve of their marriage. Unable to find one another they go their separate ways. They are reunited 60 years later having led separate, independent lives in America. What happened that day in the square?

November 22 People of Means by Nancy Johnson

Two women. Two pivotal moments. One dream for justice and equality. The first moment is 1959, the beginning of the Civil Rights movement. The second comes in 1992 with the ruling from the trial of the officers in the Rodney King beating. The novel offers a glimpse into the quest for racial equality, the pursuit of personal and communal success and the power of love and family ties.

Reading Glasses for Tanzania Needed

Todd Erickson is collecting "reader" type eye glasses to send to Tanzania. No need to buy new glasses but if you have some laying around that you have progressed out of for stronger ones then please recycle to those in need. They must be in good shape and the strength needs to be visible inside of the bow.

Drop them off at AGLC! Thank you!

Let's Go To A Show

Twenty seats have been reserved for the Saturday, November 21 7:30pm performance of Beyond the Rainbow. This is a musical tribute to Judy Garland. The ticket cost is $35 at our group rate. **The deadline to grab one of the remaining seats is October 13.**

Act now, don't miss out!
Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact Barb Malamen.

AGLC Is Hiring for Two Positions!



Amazing Grace is on the search for a new Worship Musician, following the departure this summer of Sandy McCallister. The position is part-time and works in conjunction with our Worship Director.

Resumes and inquiries into the position can be sent to Pastor Tim Maybee at tmaybee@aglcigh.org

Grace Beneath The Surface



Pastor Message by Sarah Yotter, Pastoral Intern at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Rain, Rain, Rain… it feels like it has been falling constantly. Everything is damp, the grass seems to grow an inch a day, and there are worms everywhere. As rain permeates the ground, soaks the pavement, replenishes the air's humidity, and turns every trip outside into a mad dash, worms slowly emerge from the ground, crawl across the pavement, and go about their lives with a little more mobility than usual.

While we rush inside, the worms rush outside. There are several theories about why worms seem to evacuate their homes during rainstorms. The most common explanation is the lowered oxygen levels of the flooding soil. Others suggest that raindrops create vibrations resembling those of a hunting mole, while another theory asserts that adults of certain species surface because wet conditions make travel easier. The damp sidewalks, parking lots, and roads permit worms to migrate further and faster, as they seek new territory or mates without digging their own tunnels.

We often forget the vast ecosystem working beneath our feet until these humble neighbors surface. Worms are the often-uncelebrated heroes of our planting seasons. They aerate the soil, making it easier for plants to take root and for water to nourish them. They consume dead plants and recycle them into nutrient-rich fertilizer, mix the soil, break up clumps, and provide food for other animals. These unsung heroes do most of their work in dark and grimy soil, but their hidden labor makes the flourishing that we see above ground possible.

Creation often invites us to notice what we often overlook, beneath the beauty we admire – the flowers and ferns of our gardens, the grass in our yards, the forests we walk through, the crops that feed us – underneath it all, quiet, hidden labor prepares the soil for life. In much the same way, scripture invites us to trust that God is at work before we recognize it – preparing our hearts, renewing us, and bringing new life from places we have long ignored.

God's grace can be a bit like the work of worms, continuously active, even when we cannot see it, and present even in dark, unexpected, and forgotten places. Grace reaches into the places we dare not go, loosening what has become hardened, nourishing what has been depleted, and preparing the way for new life to spring forth. Long before the results become visible, God is already working beneath the surface.

Worms are not just an inconvenience littering our walking paths; they are engineers and caretakers of creation. Perhaps their sudden appearance after the rain can remind us to look again at what we usually dismiss and to trust that holy work is taking place beneath the surface. God's grace is tending the soil; our call is to notice, give thanks, and join in cultivating the abundant life that God desires for all of Creation.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study meets Tuesday, October 20 at 9:30am in the upper room. The study is another example of "bold faith on an unexpected journey". Here we are presented with a story of connection and courage. In this presentation of Ruth's story, God weaves love, community and promise through even the most uncertain paths. All are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Barb Malamen.

Yogadevotion

The current session of Yogadevotion runs through 10/26. Classes are held Mondays 6-7 pm in the Narthex. The next session runs 11/2 –12/21 and costs $96. Registration opens the end of October. The practice of yoga helps to increase stability and balance, important for us as we move into a Minnesota winter.
Questions? Contact Barb Malamen.

October Worship Volunteers

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

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Greeters	Norm Beckman	Anna Wilson	Jean Jantzen	Pete and Barb Malamen
Ushers	Craig Yotter and Russ Barnhart	Susanna Jackson and Katie Klopfleisch	Glen Armstrong and Cathy Polesak	Todd Erickson and Jeannie Hall
Readers	Julie Linscheid	Bruce Klopfleisch	Scott Ferriss	Louise Lentz
Sound	Sophie Ball	Pete Malamen	Russ Barnhart	Nate Linscheid
Altar Care/ Acolyte	Nancy Pollock	Jeannie Hall	Teri Santema	Julie Linscheid
Counter	Craig Yotter	Mary Garfield	Pete Malamen	Tim Sanborn

November Worship Volunteers

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

	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
Greeters	Janet Aguirre	Scott Ferris	Teri Santema	Glenn Armstrong and Cathy Polesak	Helen Yotter
Ushers	Jason Teiken and Julie Linscheid	Katie Klopfleisch and Bartholomew Wilson	Rick and Cyndi Berg	Russ Barnhart and Jeannie Hall	Todd Erickson and Bruce Klopfleisch
Readers	Helen Yotter	Heather Tautges	Mary Garfield	Jason Teiken	Bartholomew Wilson
Sound	Miranda Barnhart	Bruce Klopfleisch	Sophie Ball	Nate Linscheid	Pete Malamen
Altar Care/ Acolyte	Jeannie Hall	Linda Erickson	Nancy Pollock	Teri Santema	Jeannie Hall
Counter	Craig Yotter	Pete Malamen	Mary Garfield	Tim Sanborn	Craig Yotter

October AGLC Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10am Inver Glen Worship	2	3
4 9:30am Worship 10:30am Faith Formation	5 6pm Yogadevotion	6 10am Staff Meeting	7 6pm Youth Group 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	8 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	9	10
11 9:30am Worship 10:30am Faith Formation	12 6pm Yogadevotion	13 10am Stewardship and Evangelism 6:30pm Council Mtg	14 5:15pm Intergenerational Movie Night: Toy Story 5! 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	15	16	17 9am—Noon Fall Clean Up Day at AGLC
18 9:30am Worship 10:30am Faith Formation	19 6pm Yogadevotion 6:30pm Isaiah Gathering	20 9:30am Women's Bible Study 10am Staff Mtg	21 6pm Youth Group 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	22	23	24
25 9:30am Worship 10:45am Fall Congregational Meeting	26 6pm Yogadevotion	27 9:30am Meet at Chat at AGLC	28 6pm Service Event: Blood Drive 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	29	30	31



Website:

www.aglcigh.org

Church Office Hours:

By appointment only
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Staff:

Lead Pastor—Pastor Tim Maybee
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Worship Coordinator —Barbara Forthun
bforthun@aglcigh.org

Worship Musician—Sandy McAllister

AGLC President—Susanna Jackson

Deadlines:

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

Friday Email Announcements *are due Wednesdays by Noon to Sarah Bjorklund*
sbjorklund@aglcigh.org

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

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Joining Together to Serve the World Around Us