



**Amazing Grace**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**July 2014 Newsletter**

**Goodbye from Pastor Jason**

**Words of Thanks**

**New Opportunities for Involvement**

Pastor Jason Talsness    [pastor.jason@tisgrace.org](mailto:pastor.jason@tisgrace.org)  
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**Worship Sundays, 8:30 & 11:00**  
**Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm**



## **Goodbye.**

When I was 11 years old, I took the news of our pastor's resignation very hard. Pastor Bruce Carlson was fun and funny, preached good sermons, and supported my dad through some tough times. Pastor Carlson officiated at my father and step-mother's wedding, saying words of healing, hope, and promise to this new family. So when I heard Pastor Carlson was leaving, I was shocked and disappointed, having never heard before of this curious practice the church had of switching pastors.

Since the announcement of my move, I've been overwhelmed by your show of love and support and expressions of appreciation. You've shared memories of times together, often intimate moments, and thanked me for my service. It has been a humbling and gratifying experience to think back with you over the past ten years.

But time moves on. What I didn't understand as a child, I know now: that nothing lasts forever. Church members come and go, pastors come and go. We'd often like to crystalize moments and situations, but the world doesn't work that way. So now it is time to say goodbye.

Amazing Grace is a unique church, the spirit of the name reflects the spirit of the congregation: gracious, loving, life-changing. My family and I have been so enriched by your love and support over the years.

Most know that "goodbye" is a contraction of "God-be-with-you". As we say goodbye this month, please know that I will be using that word in this sense, may God be with you. God will be with Amazing Grace in the months and years to come, and I take comfort in that fact.

As part of my final Sunday with you on July 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Liturgy of Farewell. After putting the finishing touches on it, I am moved to share it with you on the following pages. I hope you find the words meaningful, summing up the intimate relationship between pastor and congregation.

Gratefully Yours,  
Pastor Jason Talsness

## LITURGY OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Assisting Minister Dear Christian friends, in the book of Ecclesiastes is written:  
“For everything, there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to seek, and a time to lose....”

Our pastor, Jason Talsness, is leaving us to follow another call in his life. Today, therefore, it is a time to mark the ending of his ministry here at Amazing Grace; a time to look back, and a time to look forward; a time for joy, and a time for sadness. It is a time to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for what Pastor Jason has given us in our lives together.

Assisting Minister Blessed be God.  
**Congregation And blessed be his holy name.**

Assisting Minister The Lord makes everything beautiful in its time.  
**Congregation Whatever God does endures forever.**

Assisting Minister Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
**Congregation And forget not all his benefits.**

Assisting Minister Bless the Lord, all you hosts:  
**Congregation You ministers who do God's will.**

Assisting Minister Bless the Lord, all you works, in all places of his dominion.  
**Congregation Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

Assisting Minister Pastor Talsness, on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2003, we called you to be our pastor: to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord's Supper.

With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. You have provided leadership and guidance for us in the spirit of Christ. You have challenged us with the Gospel mission in your work. You have helped us to mark our direction and encouraged us on our way. Together we have served the Lord and his Church in common devotion to the Gospel. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.

You have served our congregation faithfully for 10 years. You are now leaving our midst as you retire and take up a new phase of your ministry and life. As your fellow members of Amazing Grace, we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your new endeavor, bringing closure to your ministry here.

Pastor Jason People of God, you called me to serve in this place, and now God has seen fit to lead me to another stage in my life and service. I praise God for the years which we have shared together. I have known your love and your patience. You have ministered to me as I have ministered to you. You have been my teacher as I have been yours. I thank you for the love, the kindness, and the support shown to me and my family during my ministry among you. Hand in hand we have walked in the light of Christ, and we have grown together in the Gospel. Our lives have been intertwined by the Holy Spirit. I ask forgiveness for the ways I have sinned against you. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve you. As I leave, my family and I carry you in our hearts.

**Congregation** We give thanks to God for your years among us. We offer you our forgiveness and our gratitude for your ministry at Amazing Grace. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have sinned against you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure. As you leave us, we hold you and your family in our hearts.

Pastor Jason I forgive you and I will not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Assisting Minister Do you, members of Amazing Grace, release Pastor Talsness from the duties as your pastor?

**Congregation** **We do, with God's help.**

Assisting Minister Do you offer encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in his new field of service?

**Congregation** **We do, with God's help.**

Assisting Minister Do you, Pastor Talsness release Amazing Grace Lutheran Church from turning to you and depending on you?

Pastor Jason I do, with God's help.

Assisting Minister Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry of Christ in this congregation?

Pastor Jason I do, with God's help.

Assisting Minister We hold you in our prayers and we pledge our support and love to you and wish you God's blessing.

Let us pray: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move us in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation** **Amen**

Pastor Jason Scripture tells us that endings are only new beginnings. Therefore, let us go forth, doing God's will in our respective places, for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.

**Congregation** **Go now, and do God's will. As you have been a blessing to us, go to be a blessing to others.**

Pastor Jason As you have been a blessing to me, so also may you be a blessing to others.

**Congregation** **Witness faithfully in word and deed to the love and salvation that is known to us.**

Pastor Jason Strive for righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance and gentleness among yourselves.

**Congregation** **Give and receive comfort as you serve within the Church.**

Pastor Jason Give and receive comfort as you serve within the world.

<b>Congregation</b> Pastor Jason	<b>May God the Father bless you in your ministry in retirement.</b> May God the Father bless you in your ministry in this place.
<b>Congregation</b> Pastor Jason	<b>May God the Son be ever with you and guide you.</b> May God the Son be ever with you and guide you.
<b>Congregation</b> Pastor Jason	<b>May God the Holy Spirit equip you with everything good to do God's will.</b> May God the Holy Spirit equip you with everything good to do God's will.
<b>Congregation</b> Pastor Jason	<b>And may you always know God's peace.</b> And may you always know God's peace. Amen!
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Amen!</b>

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**THEOLOGY ON TAP**  
**Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**, will be the final installment of Theology on Tap with Pastor Jason, returning to the first venue, Babinellis Italian Restaurant in Lilburn. Theology on Tap has been

served since 2007. Everyone welcome. **Please join us @ 7:30 pm.**

### **VISITATION MINISTERS OPPORTUNITY**

Amazing Grace is starting a new Visitation Ministry. Visitation ministers will provide companionship through monthly visits to those who are unable to come to worship services. We will also offer Holy Communion. Training and instructions will be provided. If you are interested or have any questions about this exciting ministry, please contact the church office by email [office@tisgrace.org](mailto:office@tisgrace.org) or by calling (770) 381-1293 for more details.





## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

We are currently recruiting volunteers to work with us at Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

We are looking for volunteers that can help out at the store for at least a four hour shift on a weekly or biweekly basis. We can accommodate small groups up to six people that want to volunteer for just one day. Volunteers need to be over the age of 18. We are open from Monday through Friday from 10am-6pm, and Saturday 10am-5pm.

The ReStore sells donated new and gently used furniture, appliances, home décor and building supplies of all types to the public at a fraction of their retail price. The funds we raise through the sale of these items go back into our Habitat work of building homes, community and hope. ReStore is located at 100 Riverside Pkwy suite 123-A, Lawrenceville, Ga. 30043.

Call Alexandra Fuller at (770) 962-4200

## **BRAVES BASEBALL IN SEPTEMBER**

Summer is upon us and that can only mean 1 thing, it's BRAVES baseball!! Thrivent night at the Braves will take place on **Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm**. The Atlanta Braves vs the New York Mets.



Below is the direct link for ticket orders:

[www.braves.com/thrivent](http://www.braves.com/thrivent)

SAVE the date let's fill up the stadium with Thrivent Members and guests, show our support for our home town Atlanta Braves. Thrivent members please invite friends, neighbors, church and family members to come and sit with us.

James J Carella  
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# It Was A Good Day

## **2014 ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL**

The Arts & Crafts Festival held recently was a bigger and better success than ever. The planning committee would like to give a huge thank you to everyone in the congregation for supporting, contributing and coming out to the event. And, to all who were involved in the thick of jobs and activity the day of the event, immense gratitude is given. Many vendors and people commented that the music spun by John Ferguson, along with the phenomenal relay of live musicians, arranged for by Deb Brady was, "like being at a swell concert all day". That, along with the day's fine weather, led to a bit of serendipity being experienced by all in attendance. We're looking forward to a colossal event next year, too!

## **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

If you were not here for the dramatic reading and special music for Pentecost Sunday on June 8, or if you really enjoyed the service so much that you would like to see it again, a copy of the service is available in the church office. Please let the church office know or send her an email at the address of [office@tisgrace.org](mailto:office@tisgrace.org) or call (770)381-1293 to obtain a copy of the service.





**WEDNESDAYS IN JULY**  
**VBS Continues 5—6 pm with**  
**Summer Family Picnic 6 – 7 pm**

All the people of Amazing Grace are invited & encouraged to be a part of Summer VBS & Family Picnic Night! Welcome our neighbors. Come early, come late - you'll be right on time! Each family should bring a dish to share (sandwiches, macaroni & cheese etc.) just like our Lenten Dinners. Feel free to bring lawn chairs & your favorite lawn game!

**THANK YOU.**

We Made A Difference.  
You Made It Possible.

**AFFIRM 2014**

Again, the Youth of Amazing Grace would like to thank everyone who gave so generously with support for our fund raisers and with donations of money and time. Through our fund raisers, the Valentine's Dinner, Bake Sales, and Car Wash, along with designated donations, we have raised \$1,506 through June 15th, 2014. This money along with personal funds have allowed 10 of Amazing Grace's youth to once again this year attend the Lutheran church's synod-wide AFFIRM retreat. Special thanks to parents, mentors, and volunteers who gave so much time and encouragement to ensure all of our youth had the opportunity to attend this week long event.

## ALLELUIA GIRLS

Alleluia Girls is a group of women who meet for Bible Study and Fellowship and other church projects on Wednesday mornings at Amazing Grace. We are on hiatus for the summer, but will occasionally have a few events. Please stay tuned for information on upcoming events. In September we will be studying [The Power Of Praying Through the Bible by Stormie Omartian](#). We welcome and invite any newcomers.

Our function is to make all women feel welcome, wanted and part of our Amazing Grace Family.



## LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY FOR TEENAGERS

Lutheran Campus Ministry in Atlanta is a growing energetic community built on worship, fellowship, and Word and Sacrament servicing students from Emory, Georgia Tech and Agnes Scott. This ministry is led by

Pastor Matt Simpkins and Pastor Devin Strong.

You can support this ministry by bringing dinner to the Grace House on the Georgia Tech campus on a Tuesday evening, by attending the Low Country Boil event on August 23 at Living Grace Lutheran Church, or by signing into your Kroger Plus Card account and under reward details, add or edit Community Rewards detail by entering "Lutheran Campus Ministry" or upon signing into your Amazon account, go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com) and click on the Amazon Smile Logo, then select "Choose your charity" and enter "Lutheran Campus Ministries at Georgia Tech, Inc."

For more specific details about this ministry, please refer to the information on the table in the Narthex.

## GO AHEAD, "JUMP"

Almost every day God offers us an opportunity to make a difference, an opportunity to share some word of encouragement, an opportunity to share your Jesus story. Are you ready to tell it? It may seem a little frightening at first but after you tell it the first time and God does His thing, you will never be the same. You see we are never alone; Jesus promised to be with us always. You tell the story; He works the miracle. It's called a leap of faith; go ahead, 'jump'.

What this means for us then, is that like Jesus' life, our lives as well should be characterized by radical service. The kind of service that is willing and humble - service that is self-denying; service that is costly and comes from love, rather than mere duty or obligation.

In a sense then, we are to be imitators of Jesus Christ. So what does it mean to serve like Jesus? What does that look like? First, serving like Jesus is inconvenient. In other words, if we want to serve like Jesus did, we cannot expect that the needs conform to our schedule or have a list of conditions in order for us to consider serving.

In truth however, serving like Jesus means being willing to change our plans or be inconvenienced. In fact, it's about expecting to be inconvenienced. That's how opportunities to serve usually come to us.

When it comes to serving, attitude is everything! You see servant-hood is not about aptitude, but attitude. It's not about our ability, but our mindset. To follow Jesus' example of serving, is about thinking like a servant. In reality then, choosing to serve is not the same, as choosing to be a servant.

When we choose to serve or volunteer, we're still in charge so to speak. We're still in control of our service. It's still on our terms. We get to choose how and when our service takes place. However, when it comes to being a servant, there are no excuses. There are no options. A servant cannot rest or wait until time permits, to meet the needs of people who need their service. Servant-hood is a lifestyle. Volunteers choose to serve; followers of Jesus Christ choose to be servants.

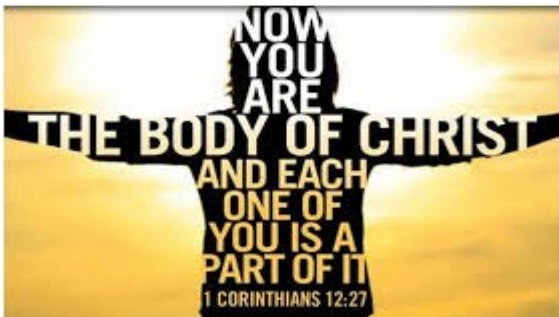
Needless to say then, serving like Jesus means, service that is done willingly and joyfully. It isn't grudging or resentful. It isn't accompanied by griping about all the things we are giving up in order, to serve. Christ-like service is service that's done gladly, without reservation; service that comes from a heart of love for Jesus and other people.

Submitted by Wayne Linke



## YOGA CLASSES

We're taking a break this summer from holding yoga classes....the first time in twelve years! I just completed a 200 teacher training certification and need some time to do some integration and planning about what next with the teaching process. There will be a Saturday morning meeting in either late August or early September to gather everyone interested in yoga, whether you've been a part of the classes or not. So keep your eyes on this space and keep stretching without me! Peace, Jill Knueppel, Yoga Teacher!



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us as we finish our study of the Gospel of John and begin studying a new book together. All are welcome.

**Adult Sunday school meets at 10 am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.**

## MEN'S RETREAT

Lutheranch has been reserved **for the weekend of Jan. 23-25, 2015.**

Mark your calendars now and plan to spend a relaxing weekend in the quiet of Tallapoosa Georgia. This is a weekend of fellowship, Bible study, worship, fun, and food.



## GRACE BAGS MINISTRY

Grace Bags are Ziploc bags filled with items to be given out to people who are in need of some food or other necessities. They are a hot commodity and very popular with parishioners!

Bags are available for purchase throughout the week or on Sunday mornings for \$5.00. Please contact the church office @ (770) 381-1293 or [office@tisgrace.org](mailto:office@tisgrace.org) to purchase bags.



## GOOD OLD GUYS

\*Our goal is to provide moral and spiritual support for each other by maintaining regular communications with our Christian brothers.

\*We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 11:00 am for pool at the Senior Center and then have lunch together at 1:00.

\*We also spend part of our event time calling or visiting with our fellow congregation members that are ill or unable to attend our meetings.

\*Our get-togethers are informal and are open to all men who wish to participate.

## MEAL MINISTRY

Take a Meal Ministry would like to ask if you are aware of a fellow member whom may be in need of meals to please let us know. Remember you are always welcome to sign up to help with this ministry. Please email [bev.upton@att.net](mailto:bev.upton@att.net) or call 678-488-2884.



## Celebration Lunch Bunch for July 2014

Hello, Amazing Grace! The Celebration Lunch Bunch has really been celebrating life by starting the month of June with lunch at California Dreaming restaurant! We had many of the usual crowd with us on June 1<sup>st</sup>!

Our list of things to celebrate was as varied as usual! Liz Linke was celebrating her 10-year High School Reunion! She was also very excited to sign her second-year contract for teaching at Fort Daniel Elementary School in Dacula! Congratulations on both of these events in your life, Liz!

Dave Linke was celebrating his boss's transfer to a new location! This improves the work environment at his location in a Gwinnett County Park.

Wayne Linke was celebrating the acquisition of a new work truck so that his personal truck gets less wear and tear! And Wayne just loves eating with all of his friends at the Lunch Bunch locations!

Again, Bob and I were celebrating the birth of our new grandson, Finn Thomas MacKinnon, born on May 1<sup>st</sup>. We also celebrated the graduation of granddaughter, Samantha MacKinnon (older sister of Finn), and grandson, Logan Johnston! It is always a pleasure eating at California Dreaming!

On Sunday, June 22, we had our usual fourth Sunday Celebration Lunch Bunch at a new place for most of us at PaPi's Cuban/Caribbean restaurant! We were fortunate enough to have guest guitarists who accompanied Liz Linke for her solo that day! They and their families joined us for lunch on the patio of PaPi's! It was warm with a breeze now and then!

We had many things to be thankful for on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mary Rhilinger was so thankful for Angie being able to go to AFFIRM and that she came home safely! Angie loved her weekend at AFFIRM and was thankful for the opportunity to go once again this year!

David and Kathy Berfield joined us for lunch on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and both were thankful that they had siblings taking care of their moms and they were able to join us for the afternoon! (Both of their mothers recently experienced injuries after falling and need in-home care!)

Griff Griffin was enjoying just celebrating life out with friends! Charlotte and Lee Bennett shared their wonderful blessing news that a new grandchild is on the way for them! (Congratulations!!)

Wayne and Linda Linke were celebrating Linda's ½ year birthday on Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Liz was going home to pack and take off for Asheville to visit with her cousin, David, while he was there on leave for a week! Dave and Debi and family skipped the Lunch Bunch to head right up to Asheville right after 8:30 church to be with David!

Bob MacKinnon was thankful for the day and all the friends gathered for lunch! I am still marveling in the Blessing of our new grandson, Finn, and Thanking God every day for this new member of our family!

We want to thank one of our visitors, Cameron Pyles, for saying the Blessing before our meal at PaPi's! He graciously volunteered as soon as a Blessing was mentioned!

Our next Celebration Lunch Bunch will be on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. We have had a request from Charlotte Bennett for us to go to one of her favorite restaurants in Lawrenceville, Hong Kong Garden, located in the Lawrenceville Town Center, at 455 Grayson Highway, Lawrenceville, 30045! (Yes, this is also referred to as "Vern's Chinese!")

Everyone can find something to celebrate! Hope to see you on July 27<sup>th</sup>!

Linda MacKinnon (770) 972-8605

# The Lawrenceville Cooperative Food Ministry

I am so sorry if you received the wrong article in your electronic newsletter last month! There was a mix-up in articles that I sent! If you received an e mail newsletter for June, your newsletter probably had a repeat of May's Coop Food Bank article!

To recap last month's count, we donated 122 items to the Food Bank in May!

The weather outside is not the only thing that is hot for June! A total of 243 items was donated in June by our Amazing Grace community!! We have several items already placed in the closet for July! I have had a request to bring back our posters for advertisement and a reminder that the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank is still in need of donated goods to help our neighbors! Look for a Poster as a reminder of our 'mission' for the Coop!

The needs of our neighbors do not change much from month to month, but there is quite a need for canned beans – pintos, black-eyed peas, lima beans, refried beans, etc.! Please bring in canned beans for protein for our neighbors! Treet, SPAM, canned chicken, and small hams are other good sources of protein for the Coop's clients!

Corn bread mixes, cake mixes, flour, sugar, and puddings are nice treats for our friends we have not met! Boxes of cereal and powdered milk are good choices for children (and adults) for any meal of the day!

Could you get through a day without soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and laundry detergent? Put yourselves in the shoes of an unemployed or underemployed person! Some of these things are very expensive!

If you do not like to give goods to the Coop, please consider making a monetary donation to the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank! Checks may be mailed (or hand delivered) to the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank located at 176 Church Street, P.O. Box 1328, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046. The building is located in downtown Lawrenceville behind City Hall! You may also put a donation for the Coop in the offering plate (please mark the envelope "Lawrenceville Coop") and it will be mailed to the Coop for you!

One of the Bible verses I read today in preparation for my article about the Coop is Hebrews 13:16 which says, "...And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God. ..."

In 2 Corinthians 9:7-9 we are reminded that, "...You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." ..."

Thank you, Amazing Grace, for all of the support you give continuously to the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank! I am amazed each time I open the Coop closet and there are new donations each time! Thank you is not enough for the Blessings you are sharing with our neighbors in our community!

I would like to remind everyone to Thank God for the United States of America as we celebrate our freedom and independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014!

God's Blessings Always,  
Linda MacKinnon





Time for a financial checkup!

*A changing life leads to changing finances- make sure you're up-to-date*

For most of us, checkups are a regular part of life. Dental visits, auto maintenance appointments and even glances in the bathroom mirror all help us monitor performance and catch potential problems and assure that all is – or will be – well.

What's true of teeth, engines and grooming is also true of finances: regular checkups are recommended. Why? Changes both great and small affect the strategies people have developed to help achieve their financial goals. Unfortunately, too many people act as though once their financial program is in place their work is done. This isn't so.

As a general rule, Thrivent Financial recommends that you review your financial program at least once each year. Certain life changes – the birth or adoption of a child, a change in marital status (married, divorced, widowed), the death of a family member or changes to your health – should serve as reminders that a financial tune-up is in order.

Other changes in personal economics can also have a huge impact on financial programs. These may include shifts in employment status or salary (e.g. loss of job or a pay cut/freeze), home ownership changes, significant changes in total assets or debt, the receipt of an inheritance, and tax law changes that can all make previous strategies obsolete.

If you have a do-it-yourself mentality, a number of print and electronic resources exist to help monitor your finances. However, most can benefit from the knowledge, experience and insight that financial services professionals offer.

Qualified financial professionals can help people evaluate their present financial strategies and keep abreast of new laws, regulations, products and economic developments. Even more important, financial professionals can challenge unrealistic assumptions people may have and help them overcome money management's greatest threat: procrastination.

To live is to experience change. How and where change will appear is impossible to predict, but a financial checkup is one sure way to help your financial objectives – and your sense of financial confidence – keep pace with all that occurs.

This article was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by local area representatives Don Goldsmith, ChFC, RICP, FIC, Kelly Goldsmith, CFP®, CLTC, FIC and Jeff Huenniger at 2385 Clower St, Suite. A, Snellville, GA 30078, 770-982-0420 or [eastmetroteam@thrivent.com](mailto:eastmetroteam@thrivent.com).

#### **About Thrivent Financial**

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*For additional important disclosure information, please visit [Thrivent.com/disclosures](http://Thrivent.com/disclosures). 925260-051414*

**Attendees:** Jason Talsness, Jacob Crowe, Wayne Linke, Vickie Speddon, Bob Lee, Gwyn Plaster, Pam Angles, David Rager, Annette Irwin, Wendy MacKinnon

**Secretary's Report:** Bob Lee motioned to accept the minutes, Gwyn Plaster seconded.

### **Combined Treasurers and Financial Officers Report:**

May 2014 regular giving was \$ 17,854.59, plus rental income of \$ 100.00, for a total income of \$17,954.59, and expenses were \$ 14,860.78, leaving an overage of \$ 3,093.81. May giving was \$ 3,089.92 over budget and May expenses were \$ 465.05 under budget.

Capital Campaign - Reserve is \$ 4,407.24

Dedicated Accounts - We have a balance of \$ 20,799.29 in various accounts (includes May 2014 receipts of \$ 989.00)

May 31, 2014 cash on hand is \$ 61,642.22

Year to date Giving/Income is \$ 9,469.82 ahead of budget, Year to date Expenses are \$ 1,613.69 under budget

### **Pastor's Report to Council - June 10, 2014**

**Welcome Council:** It is great to have you installed and onboard. I have met with many of you to prepare for the coming year, but still have a couple of you to touch base with. Unfortunately I will be away for AFFIRM next week, so it will have to be when I get back, as early as June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Update on Spanish Bible Study:** Mr. Eduardo Hernandez has been holding Bible Studies on Saturday evenings since the council gave its approval. Attendance thus far has been small. The Hernandez family has been present at our 11:00am worship every Sunday since the Bible study started, however.

**Homebound Communion** – Tara Snyder and I have been in discussion about her leading a homebound communion program. Plans are underway, but the expectation would be there'd be training and regular meetings. This is a welcome addition to our congregation. This group would report to the Nurture Commission.

### **My Schedule: Bereavement, Sick Leave, and Vacation:**

As we look at the year, I have some questions about how to attribute time away. To date, I am allotted 28 days of vacation, with 4 of those days being Sundays. Thus far this year I have taken five days of vacation and no Sundays.

However, I did have a death in the family that took me away from the office from January 21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> (10 days, one Sunday). Then in February, I had foot surgery that took me out from February 9-16th (8 days, one Sunday). It also happens that Atlanta had city-crippling snowstorms during each of those windows of time. So I am looking for direction as to how to allocate these days, and would like to work this out with the council. The Synod has guidelines for pastors for sick leave (20 days) but no bereavement guidelines. These guidelines are simply advisory from the synod, the congregation and its council has final say on all these matters.

**Respectfully Submitted,** The Rev. Jason Talsness

## **Ministry Reports:**

**-Nurture:** Vickie Speddon

**Lg Group** is getting ready to have a Pot Luck meal to be held 6/29/14 after the 11:00 service. All are welcome to come and share in food and fellowship. Bring a dish to share.

There are many things going on here at AGLC with different groups within the church as well as those we share our space with. It is sometimes not known that supplies in the kitchen are being used in conjunction with some of these other groups and therefore are out of or are very low on and need replacements. Thus if those who need or use the kitchen supplies would please be aware of the stock level and notify Charlotte Rink; or even Tracie in the office - who can notify Charlotte that a restock on an item is necessary. It would be most appreciated and would also help us to not be out of something the next time it was needed. Thank you in advance for helping in this matter.

**Alleluia Girls** have not reported anything this past month, however some of those involved with that group did help with the cake and celebration for our confirmands a few wks back. Thank you to Phyllis Moss and the other ladies who helped make happen.

**Yoga** classes are on a summer break for now. Look for start up classes to begin again toward the end of August or by early September.

**Men's Retreat** is on the calendar for January 23-25, 2015 up in Tallapoosa GA. Mark you calendars for this fun weekend and see Bob McKinnon for more details.

Bob McKinnon tells me the **Good Old Guys** continue to meet on Tuesdays for pool and lunch. In the month of May a service project was under taken to repair a deck for a lady who was brought to Amazing Grace through the blessing of the animals out reach. The project was completed last week. Thanks to Roger Nagy, Bob Koch, and Mike Alexander for there part in this project. They are in the discussion stage of outing in the future but nothing set as of now.

**Lunch Bunch** is going to PaPi's in Lawrenceville on 6/22/14 and would love to have others join them as well.

**-Outreach Ministry– June – 2014** Wayne Linke

**Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry – Linda MacKinnon**

To sum up what is needed at the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank, I think that a good thing to think about is this, "Anything that you cannot do without in your daily life is what is needed by the Food Bank!" I am so excited to report that 159 items have been donated since last report! The items donated this month have been noted as much needed items in my articles! Thank you so much for your generous donations of much needed soup items. Even though the weather is not on the cool side, there is still a real need for soups. There is a real shortage of tomato soups! Bob said there has not been any for a few weeks now! Can you imagine a child enjoying just a toasted cheese sandwich with no tomato soup to dip it in? Just typing that makes me crave a sandwich and tomato soup right now! Psalm 112:1 and 9 declare ... "How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands."... "They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."... God Bless You! Linda MacKinnon

**Blood Drive – Saving Lives! – Scott Davidson**

Our next Blood Drive is set for Sunday, June 22.

**Greeter's Ministry – Wayne Linke**

I am still looking for someone to be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday greeter. If anyone is interested, or know someone that is please let me know.

### **Cookie Ministry – Charlotte Rink**

We discussed a different way to date plates of baked goods so in case they are frozen for another Sunday, the date they were made is not written on the label. This continues to be a popular outreach as everyone is very surprised and appreciative when given their baked gift.

### **Chemo Caps – Debi Linke**

### **Grace Bag Ministry – Lud, Jackie Rager, Dave Linke**

We met last Saturday and made up 50 Grace Bags to sell at the AGLC Hospitality booth at the Arts and Crafts Show. Sales continue to be steady, we are just about at the point of making more for our congregation.

### **Arts and Crafts Festival – Grace Gang**

The Arts and Craft show is this coming Saturday, I would urge all members of Amazing Grace to give us an hour to come by and browse and talk with the people attending this event. Help us show God's love and Grace to all that attend.

### **Heart Sign Ministry – Wayne Linke**

If you know of someone that might benefit from this ministry, please let Wayne Linke know.

**Gwinnett Medical Center Volunteers** – we have a number of members volunteering their time in various capacities at GMC

### **-Discipleship: Pam Angles**

No report in June

### **-Worship & Music – June 2014 Mimi Layton**

**Pentecost** - WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! Thanks to everyone who took home origami packets and folded doves; they all came out beautiful!

**Altar Guild** – Need to determine where/how to store the mobile for future use. We also need to continue the discussion of purchasing or having someone make a banner holder.

**Music** – No new updates. 8:30 is happy that we have cut the songs down to 2 verses.

**Search for Organist/Pianist** – the HR committee met for a second time and is close to being ready to place a job listing for an organist/pianist. The goal is to have the person hired and in place by Labor Day.

### **-Property: David Rager**

#### Fly Infestation:

We experienced an infestation of flies on Wednesday last week in the Fellowship Hall reported by parent's there for the Homework Ministry. Tracie was able to get in touch with Bob McKinnon and he was able to set off a fogger. Tracie mentioned she smelled a foul odor as you go down the stairs, which could be a dead animal and the cause of the fly infestation. Bob and Griff checked around and could not find anything.

Tracie suggested that we should contract for pest control services. I don't know if we have had any other pest problems in the past, other than a hornets nest along the edge of the parking lot, but this is something to look into and see what the options and cost are and decide from there whether to pursue it.

Fire Extinguishers:

Tracie received an unsolicited call from AAA Fire Inspection that our fire extinguishers are due for inspection and service. I had her check the tags on the extinguishers and it they do list AAA Fire Protection as the company that inspects and services them, but the next inspection date is April 2016. I will call AAA and discuss.

David Rager to prepare drawings of compliant facility seating arrangements for the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

**Old Business:**

No old business

**New Business:**

Discussion around the new council structure.

Discuss policy for insufficient funds checks received from vendors. Motion by Vickie Speddon seconded by Gwyn Plaster to charge the vendor the fee AGLC is charged from the bank (currently \$15) plus \$5.00. Nannette Stahira agreed to reimburse from the 2014 Arts & Crafts festival proceeds, the \$15.00 fee for a check returned this year from a vendor due to extenuating circumstances.

David Rager motioned and Pam Angles seconded to increase Pastor Jason's vacation from 4 weeks to 5 weeks due to his eleven years of experience.

**Thank Yous:**

Bob Mackinnon and Herb Griffin for taking care of pest problem. Liz Linke for doing the council bulletin board.

Special Thanks: James Thomas Ryan for powerwashing the back stairs and other areas.

Steve Sheets for re-enforcing the poles on the soccer nets.

Thanks to Liz Linke for helping tie up strings of doves and to Connie and John Ferguson for getting the Pentecost mobile to church and hanging it. Thanks also to the foreign language speakers who helped in the dramatic reading for the service. And thanks to Mimi Layton for organizing the Pentecost origami mobile.

Thanks to Connie Ferguson for the round seating arrangement in the sanctuary, to Wayne Linke for cleaning the grill area, and the youth for the car wash, and the congregation for supporting it.

Mimi Layton to purchase a \$100.00 gift card for Lois Simon for the additional responsibilities she has undertaken due to Alayne Brown's absence.

Closing prayer lead by Pastor Jason.

Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Annette Irwin

# Amazing Grace's Events

## July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 10:30 am Staff Meeting; 7 pm Coed Barnabas Group	<b>2</b> 5-7 pm Vacation Bible School & Family Picnic; 7 pm Midweek Grace	<b>3</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm Narcanon	<b>4</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>5</b> 6-8 pm Bible Study in Spanish
<b>6</b> 8:30 am Worship; 10 am Adult SS; 11:00 am Worship; 12:15 pm EXEC Meets	<b>7</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>8</b> 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b> 5-7 pm Vacation Bible School & Family Picnic; 7 pm Midweek Grace	<b>10</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm Narcanon; 7:30 pm Theology on Tap @ Babinelli's	<b>11</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>12</b> 3 pm Piano Recital; 6-8 pm Bible Study in Spanish
<b>13</b> Pastor Jason's Last Sunday @ Amazing Grace; 8:30 am Worship; 10 am Adult SS ; 11:00 am Worship	<b>14</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>15</b> 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7 pm Coed Barnabas Group	<b>16</b> 5-7 pm Vacation Bible School & Family Picnic; 7 pm Midweek Grace	<b>17</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group ; 7:30 pm Narcanon	<b>18</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>19</b> 6-8 pm Bible Study in Spanish
<b>20</b> 8:30 am Worship; 10 am Adult SS; 11:00 am Worship	<b>21</b> 6:30 am Men's Group;	<b>22</b> 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet	<b>23</b> 5-7 pm Vacation Bible School & Family Picnic; 7 pm Midweek Grace	<b>24</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group ; 7:30 pm Narcanon	<b>25</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>26</b> 6-8 pm Bible Study in Spanish
<b>27</b> 8:30 am Worship; 10 am Adult SS; 11 :00 am Worship ; 12:15 pm Celebration Lunch @ Hong Kong Garden 455 Grayson Highway, Lawrenceville	<b>28</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>29</b> 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet	<b>30</b> 5-7 pm Vacation Bible School & Family Picnic; 7 pm Midweek Grace	<b>31</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group ; 7:30 pm Narcanon		