

# November 2015 NEWSLETTER



**Amazing Grace**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner  
3305 Lawrenceville Highway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
770 381 1293 [www.tisgrace.org](http://www.tisgrace.org)



**Worship Sundays @ 8:30 am and 11:00 am**

**Children's Sunday School and Adult Sunday School  
and Nomads, Sundays @ 10 am**

**Homework Help, Wednesdays @ 5 pm**

**Midweek Grace on the first and third Wednesdays  
of the month @ 7:00 pm**





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## A word from the Pastor November 2015

“Give thanks with a grateful heart” “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever” Psalm 118

November is upon us, and the fall is all around us. As we begin this month, we know that the days are now getting shorter, and the darkness is longer. We move from the Fall into a sense of what is to come in December as the days are colder even though the sun is still shining outside. In November, I think of what I’m most thankful for, and give praise to God for so many blessings in life. As I recount this past year, I look back to see that God has blessed me with my faith, my family, and friends. God has blessed me with good health, and good energy to do what needs to be done in his name. I am thankful for a nice home to live in, and good food to eat each day. I am thankful for the gift of sight to see the beauty around me, and to hear the voices of loved ones, and to be able to smell freshly baked bread, and to touch another person’s hands. I am thankful each day to be able to pray to God, and to worship him every day in my life.

God has also blessed me richly this year in this opportunity to serve, and to work with all of you. In these past months, I am thankful to come and to lead worship each week. I am thankful for the beautiful music from the choir, and the musicians who play and lead each week. I am thankful for each and every one of you who volunteer to make worship special for each and everyone who comes to Amazing Grace. I am thankful for Elaine Schwartz, and Debi Linke who take turns working on putting the power point together each week. I’m thankful for Art Scott, who takes care of the power point running each week. I’m thankful for every person who makes coffee, and brings food, and ushers, and greets, and provides help into the door at church. I’m thankful for communion preparers, and those who clean up. I’m thankful for the many beautiful displays at church through the seasons created by Connie Ferguson. I’m thankful for sound guys, and David Trevino who records the sermons to put them online. I’m thankful for every council member, and every team chairperson who serves tirelessly for the good of the work of this church. I’m thankful for everyone who supports and helps out with the grace bags, and for Bernice feeling the call to put together Grace kits for children in our local schools who need personal care kits. I’m thankful for each and every one of you who helps with the Wednesday night homework help night from teaching, to listening to the kids read, to helping with homework, to cooking, and bringing food to share. I’m thankful for the Old Guys group, and the Alleluia Girls, and for all that they do for others in our church, and our community. I’m thankful for everyone who works and serves on the property committee. I’m thankful for each and every service project done through this church including The veteran’s boxes, Thanksgiving boxes, the cooking for Georgia Tech, reaching out to our firefighters, and the hard work of the Arts and Crafts crew that through their special event provides funds to help meaningful ministries in the community. I’m thankful for everyone who participated in the first annual “God’s work, our hands” Sunday.

I'm thankful for Tara Snyder who heads up the care team, and the ladies who visit our shut ins. I'm thankful for Charlotte and Vern Rink, and Rick and Bev Upton for their serving as the heads of Large Group team, and I'm hopeful that others will step up to take their places in this meaningful ministry. I'm thankful for our sign guy, Dave Linke, who changes the signs. I'm thankful for all the good cooks and Large group workers. I'm thankful for every Sunday school, and confirmation teacher. I'm thankful for Bob Lee as the faithful treasurer of 12 years, and for each and every one of you who stay after church to count the money from the offering. I am thankful for the personnel team. I am thankful for the hard work of the call team, and I continue to offer my prayers for them in their task that has been set before them. I'm thankful for anyone who I'm remiss in remembering from my brain at this moment.

I'm especially thankful for the wonderful staff. I'm thankful for Lois Simon, who for 20 years has poured herself into the music and worship of this congregation. I especially thank her this year for her hard work to make the Bi-lingual service so powerfully wonderful. I'm thankful for Tracie Crowe, and Thinh Tran, the dynamic duo of the church office. I'm especially thankful for their creative minds, their hard work, their can do attitude about whatever is put in front of them. I'm thankful for Charles Anschuetz, and his wonderful playing of music for worship. I'm also thankful for his humor, and his joy in being with others. I'm also grateful for Nannette Stariha who helps out in the office each and every week with many small things that make a big difference. I thank Scharlene Beilfuss for her stepping in along with Nannette during the time that Tracie was out earlier last spring. I'm also thankful for they are all quite amazing people, and I'm grateful for each and every one of them!

This November, I want to encourage everyone to take time to thank the many people in your lives for what you are grateful for about them. God has blessed us in ways that we often miss, and can take for granted. In the gift of life, we are blessed people to have our faith, our families, our work, our homes, our life. Praise be to Jesus Christ from who all good things, and every blessings flows. May our lives be a daily living out of the praises that we sing to God by the way we live and serve God. Happy Thanksgiving to each and everyone of you. I thank God every time I see you for the wonderous grace you all have been to me.

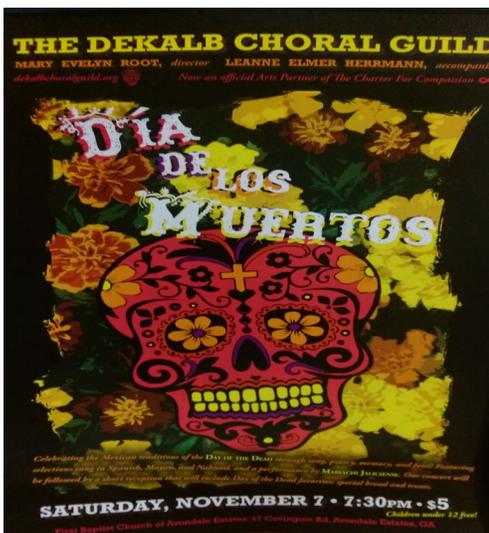
Blessings,  
Pastor Mary

## Adult Sunday School

*The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*" (Psalm 19:8)

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, explains that Jews consider the *Torah* divine and inerrant, and see it as the lens through which they view all of life and are drawn to God. In his DVD series, *The Jewish Roots of God's Word*, the Rabbi shows us that Christians can discover lessons about God and inspiration about His words from the Jewish view of the Bible that can help deepen our own Christian faith. Jewish teaching asserts that the better we get acquainted with the Bible, the better we get to know God. God's words, spoken to Moses, and then passed down from generation to generation, tell us in vivid detail how God has interacted with His people throughout history, thus giving us a priceless look at His heart.

**Join the Adult Sunday school class at 10 am as we consider the Jewish perspective on God's word and what we share about the Bible as the bedrock of both Christianity and Judaism.** This dynamic teaching series will help you understand more about the Jewish roots of our faith, as well as the Jewish faith, its traditions, history, and culture.



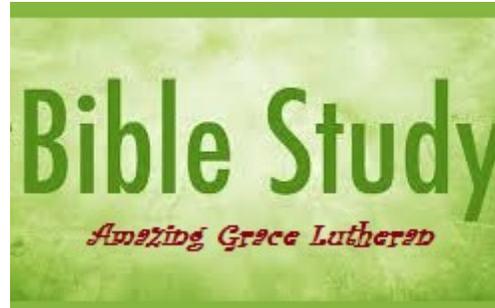
## DeKalb Choral Guild

If you would like to go to a concert celebrating the Mexican tradition of the *Day of the Dead*, please contact Lois Simon via [loissimon@aol.com](mailto:loissimon@aol.com) or (678) 677-3016 or in person. This event will be a celebration through song, poetry, memory and food! The concert will be on **Saturday, November 7 @ 7:30 pm @ First Baptist Church of Avondale Estates**, 47 Covington Rd, Avondale Estates. Tix are \$5, children under 12 are free

# NEWS TODAY

## Bible Study

Bible study dates for November are **Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** when we will look at stories and scriptures about thankfulness, and **on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** when we will look at the two Gospel accounts of Jesus birth. All studies take place at 7 p.m.in the fellowship hall. Come join us!



## Special Wednesday Midweek Grace Thanksgiving Service!

**Please join us on Wednesday, November 18 @ 7 pm,** for a special Thanksgiving worship service in the Sanctuary.





### **Thanksgiving Dinner & Concert**

All are invited to a potluck Thanksgiving dinner, followed by a Jazz Concert on **Saturday, November 21 at Amazing Grace**. The dinner begins @ 5:30 pm, followed by the Jazz Concert @ 7:00 pm. Please bring your favorite side dish to share. Turkey and drinks will be provided. We will be treated to a Jazz concert, performed by a group of musicians, including our member Bob Schwartz. **Please invite your family and friends to share in this special evening!**

### **Military Support Care Packages**

We are still collecting donations for the care packages for those serving in the military. We will be collecting these donations **through November 30**. If you know of someone who is in the military who could benefit from a care package, please contact Sharon Ritchie in person or by phone @ [\(770\) 717-9119](tel:7707179119). Thank you for your support of this ministry!



# NEWS TODAY

## Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent!

Believe it or not, Christmas is coming up soon and thoughts of decorating the church are springing to mind. We had a group of gracious people donate new decorations last year, so this will require a little extra time to put them together and up, this year. December 5th is our traditional day of decorating, but the sanctuary will be in use starting at noon that day for a piano recital. I would like to propose a two-step process this year:

**Day 1 – November 21 10:00am** – put the new decorations together

This will involve ribbons being tied, flowers put into the new garland, garland cut to size, etc.

**Day 2 – November 29, 12:30pm** – after church service – to actually decorate the sanctuary. We need as many people as possible to help both days. This is also an opportunity to be creative with the new decorations and make the sanctuary special. Many fingers make the work light!

Please come and fellowship with us as we celebrate the birth of Christ with decoration.

**Call if you have questions: Connie Ferguson 404-983-2290**



*Arise, shine, for your light has come!*

## 100th Birthday Celebration Today!

Catherine Lankford, one of Amazing Grace's Charter Members, will be turning 100 years old on Sunday, November 8! All parishioners are invited over to the Lankford's house after the 11:00 worship service, which is a few streets (& only a few minutes) from Amazing Grace, for a Happy Birthday milestone cake reception, including snacks. **The address is 435 Baggett Circle, Lawrenceville 30044.** If you have known the Lankford's for many years, or if you are a newcomer to Amazing Grace, Howard & Catherine who are a dear, fun & welcoming couple, look forward to sharing some time with you on Catherine's special day!



## Funeral Service for Randy Bowers

The MacKinnon family and the Bowers family invites you to attend a funeral service for Randy Bowers on **Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 am at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church**. There will be a lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the funeral service.



*When someone you love  
becomes a*  
**MEMORY,**  
*the memory  
becomes a*  
*Treasure*

# NEWS TODAY

## First Delivery of Care Packages for Elementary School Children

In October Bernice Johnson, Sam Burt, and Kay McKenny represented Amazing Grace in delivering the first Children's Care Packages to benefit children at both J. A. Alford Elementary and Bethesda Elementary schools. The Care Packages were well received and very much appreciated! Stay tuned to next month's newsletter for new items that will be requested for the next delivery...



# NEWS TODAY

## MIDWEEK GRACE

### MIDWEEK GRACE

Wednesday worship will be held on **November 4th and 18th at 7 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Our November 18th service will be a Thanksgiving service. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Advent worship services begin **on Wednesday, December 2nd, and also on December 9th and 16th at 7 p.m.**

### New Pictorial Directory!

We are still in the planning process for the new Amazing Grace pictorial directory. There are some spaces available for people to sign-up to have their picture taken on **either Friday, November 27 or Saturday, November 28**. The sign up sheet is on one of the tables in the Narthex.

*member*  
**Directory**

### Special Cantata Service

Please Save the Date!

Family, Friends and the Community Welcome!  
**Dec. 13th at the 11:00 service**

A Festival of Lessons and Carols with Choir, String Quartet, Organ and Hand bells. Refreshments following



**Christmas  
Cantata**

## **BI-LINGUAL BAPTISM**

In recent weeks, Amazing Grace has had the gift of being a part of some very special worship services. The first was the Baptism of Helen Reyes, and our bi-lingual service. We thank Pastor SiFuentes for co-celebrating the Baptism, and Communion that day and for the community who joined us for this very special occasion!

## **Outdoor Worship**

Pastor Tom Kenny graced us with his playing of the bagpipes for our Fall outdoor worship service. It was a crisp Fall day with the community and a wonderful lunch enjoyed by all afterwards!

## **Reformation Sunday**

Reformation Sunday was filled with remembering the work of Martin Luther, and his writing of the 95 theses, which began the Protestant reformation. On this day we also celebrated the First Communion of both Jackquelynn Hernandez, and Travis Conner. It was a tremendous day in the life of the church, and for these two young people.



## BI-LINGUAL BAPTISM SERVICE



## OUTDOOR SERVICE



# NEWS TODAY

## FIRST COMMUNION



## REFORMATION DAY





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## ***THANKSLIVING***

The Gospel of Luke tells the account of Jesus' healing of 10 lepers. Leprosy, the worst disease of their time, attacked the body resulting in missing fingers and toes, and damaged limbs. In addition to physical pain, a leper was removed from his family and community cutting off all relational ties with loved ones.

The story in Luke 17 is unique in that the focus is less on the miracle and more on the response of those healed. Ten lepers encounter Jesus and beg him for healing. He tells them to go show themselves to the priests in order to be declared "clean."

Along the way, the lepers are healed. A lifetime of leprosy erased in an instant. Diseased flesh now restored, healthy and whole. Oh, the rejoicing and celebration that must have taken place. Ten are healed, but verse 15 indicates that only one shows gratitude: "One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him."

His expression of gratitude is a lesson for all of us in *thanksgiving*:

**Realize**--Consciously reflect on how we have been blessed in our lives.

**Return**--Be present with the source of our blessing.

**Rejoice**--Be joyful about receiving any gift, large or small.

**Thank**--Express our gratitude.

*Thanksgiving* is simply living out our gratitude to God. It's recognizing the many things God has done for us and responding with thankfulness in the way that we live: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."—Psalm 100:4

While the busyness and distractions of life tempt us to follow the example of the nine who did not show gratitude, the example of one healed leper demonstrates how to orient our lives into a mindset of *thanksgiving*.

This article provided compliments of Thrivent Financial, Don Goldsmith, ChFC ®, RICP ®, FIC and Kelly Goldsmith, CFP ®, CLTC ®, FIC at 770-982-0420 or [eastmetroteam@thrivent.com](mailto:eastmetroteam@thrivent.com).

# NOVEMBER 2015

## Happy Thanksgiving!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30am Worship; 10:00am Children Sunday School; Confirmation and Nomads group; Adult Sunday School; 11:00 am Worship Service	<b>2</b> 6:30 am Men's Group; 7pm Prayer Discernment; 7 pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7pm Coed Barnabas Group	<b>4</b> 9-11:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5-7 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Midweek Grace	<b>5</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm Narcanon	<b>6</b> 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30am Worship; 10:00am Children Sunday School; Confirmation and Nomads group; Adult Sunday School; 11:00 am Worship Service; <b>12:30 pm 100th Birthday Celebration @ the LankFord's House</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>10</b> 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7pm Council Meeting - Youth Room	<b>11</b> 9-11:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5-7 pm Homework Help	<b>12</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm Narcanon	<b>13</b> 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP	<b>14</b> <b>8:00 am Cleaning of the Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30am Worship; 10:00am Children Sunday School; Confirmation and Nomads group; Adult Sunday School; 11:00 am Worship Service	<b>16</b> 6:30 am Men's Group;7pm Prayer Discernment; 7 pm Bible Study	<b>17</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7 pm Coed Barnabas Group	<b>18</b> 9-11:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5-7 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Mid-week Grace <b>Special Thanksgiving service)</b>	<b>19</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm Narcanon	<b>20</b> 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP	<b>21</b> 10am <b>Decorating Sanctuary; 5:30pm Thanksgiving Dinner</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30am Worship; 10:00am Children Sunday School; Confirmation and Nomads group; Adult Sunday School; 11:00 am Worship Service	<b>23</b> 6:30 am Men's Group	<b>24</b> 11 am Good Old Guys Meet	<b>25</b> 9-11:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5-7 pm Homework Help	<b>26</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group ; 7:30 pm Narcanon	<b>27</b> 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP; <b>Directory Picture Taking</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Directory Picture Taking</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30am Worship; 10:00am Children Sunday School; Confirmation and Nomads group; Adult Sunday School; 11:00 am Worship Service; <b>12:30pm Decorating Sanctuary</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 am Men's Group;7 pm Bible Study, Fellowship Hall					