



Amazing Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2016 NEWSLETTER

Happiness is Like Jam

You Can't Spread Even a Little
Without Getting Some on Yourself

Senior Pastor Scott Seeke
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Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770-381-1293 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
Wednesdays: 5:00 pm Homework Help
7:00 pm Midweek Grace



2016 APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



FROM THE PASTOR

In last month's newsletter article I shared the importance of daily prayer and bible reading. They are our spiritual food, and just as you wouldn't want to eat only one physical meal a week, neither should we eat one spiritual meal per week. I shared specific ways to pray, and several ways to find daily devotions. If you would like a copy of that article, one can be provided, just see me or Tracie.

I also failed to deliver on a promise to some of you. I told you that if you told me "Purple," I would tell you why, but I didn't. The truth is that I forgot I had written that. I thought I had written that I would reveal the answer in next month's article. I apologize for that, the error is mine. Anyway, the answer is this:

I wanted to see who was reading these articles.

So if you are reading this, and you are one of the people who didn't get an answer, I apologize. And if you haven't told me "Purple" yet, it's not too late. I want to be helpful and a blessing to as many of you as possible, and you telling me "Purple" lets me know when that is happening. So thank you.

Now let's get back to prayer and bible reading.

My goal for all of us is to make prayer and bible reading a habit. We all need them to be part of our routine, like brushing our teeth and taking a shower. Well, anyone who has ever been around a child at bedtime knows that they don't like changing their habits. None of us does. The gravity of our routines always pulls us. That's why we want to make prayer and bible reading habits: so that they are what we gravitate towards. So we gravitate towards God, not other things. That's why making prayer and bible reading a habit are so important.

Unfortunately, the bible doesn't have a simple, easy method for developing better habits. No one does; we just have to do them. But Jesus does show us how to develop good prayer habits. It's not simple, and it's not easy, but developing new habits never is. Here's what you do:

Find a mentor.

That's what a disciple is: someone who is being mentored. Find someone who reads their bible daily, or who is a person of prayer, and ask them to help you do better. Just go up to them and ask them to be a mentor. Ask them to teach you how to pray, or to read your bible, or both. Ask them to hold you accountable. Meet with them regularly. Call, text, email them when things are going well so they can celebrate with you. Contact them when you are struggling, ask for their encouragement and support. Encourage them to hold you to your commitments when you are struggling, and to coach you in how to do better.

The Jesus model of developing habits is not to be found on the pages of a self help book or in the latest magazine article. It is to be found where we find God most easily: in the bible, and in the bible the Jesus model of personal growth is mentoring. He mentored his disciples. He showed them how, and then provided both encouragement and accountability when they struggled.

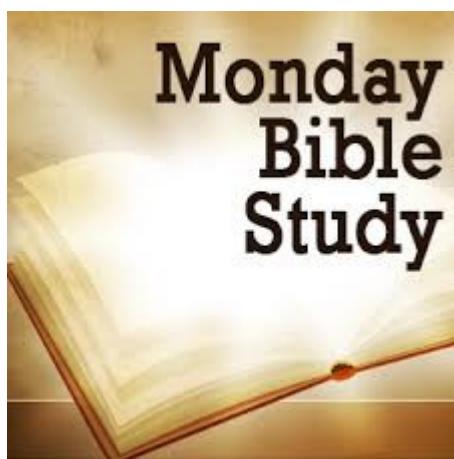
If you want to read your bible daily, and to pray daily, and don't know how, find a mentor. Do what they do. Be discipled. Let them show you how to be more Christ-like, so you can show others.

God loves you and so do I.
Pastor Scott



Monday Evening Bible Study

Please join us for co-ed Monday evening Bible Study on **Mondays April 4th and April 18th @ 7 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a engaging, lively discussion of the Book of Acts. All are welcome! No previous Biblical knowledge is necessary.



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Lent and Holy Week Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make Lent and Holy Week so special. Many of you put in long hours preparing, serving, and leading. It was a blessed week for all of us, and no doubt for God as well. Thank you!



Thank You!

On behalf of the AGLC family, a big Thank You goes to the following Offering Counters for the extra time spent each Sunday to count the additional dollars collected during the Wednesday Lenten services, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday: Wayne Linke, Leah Linke, Janet Hutchins, Lud Ludvigson, David and Jackie Rager, Gary and Shirley Haselow, and Bob and Kendra Koch. You are all very much appreciated!



Update on Women's Shelter PJs and Robes Donations

Your love for others continued to shine again. As of Easter Sunday 3/27, the end of this project at this time; we collected 16 more items. Overall, we have donated over 50 items. The 16 items will be delivered in early April. I know we are truly providing a blessing to these women. Thank you !

Lenten Season Offering

The Church Council voted that the 2016 Lenten Season Offering would be given to Special Kneads and Treats, which is a non-profit specialty bake shop in Lawrenceville, designed to provide Special Needs adults within the surrounding community a place to learn a skill and develop a sense of accountability and pride. The program allows this special group of people an opportunity to provide for those less fortunate or in need, such as local Food Ministry Cooperatives, Elderly Care Facilities, Battered Women and Children's homes, as well as many small locally owned businesses, and individual consumers. Profits from standard sales are injected back into community programs to further assist Special Needs awareness, research and many other areas of need. AGLC will be providing them a check for a little over \$1,200.



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Arts & Crafts Planning Meeting

Please join us **Sunday, April 10th @ 1 pm** @ Sweet Baby Jane's Home Cooking @ 3650 Satellite Blvd, Duluth 30096. We will discuss our next steps in the planning phase for the annual Arts & Crafts Festival on October 1st.



Wednesday Evenings in April



Homework Help resumes, starting on **Wednesday, April 13th @ 5 pm**. We really need Adult volunteers, as we have around 20 wonderful children who need Homework Help in various subjects. Please consider volunteering on Wednesday afternoons.

Midweek Grace also resumes, starting on **Wednesday, April 13th @ 7 pm**. Please join us for a 30 minute worship service of hymns and prayer, led by Pastor Scott for the first time!



They are Here!

The member directories are now here! Pick one up for your family! The books are on the Narthex table. Please check your name off the list located on the right side of the box on the Narthex table.



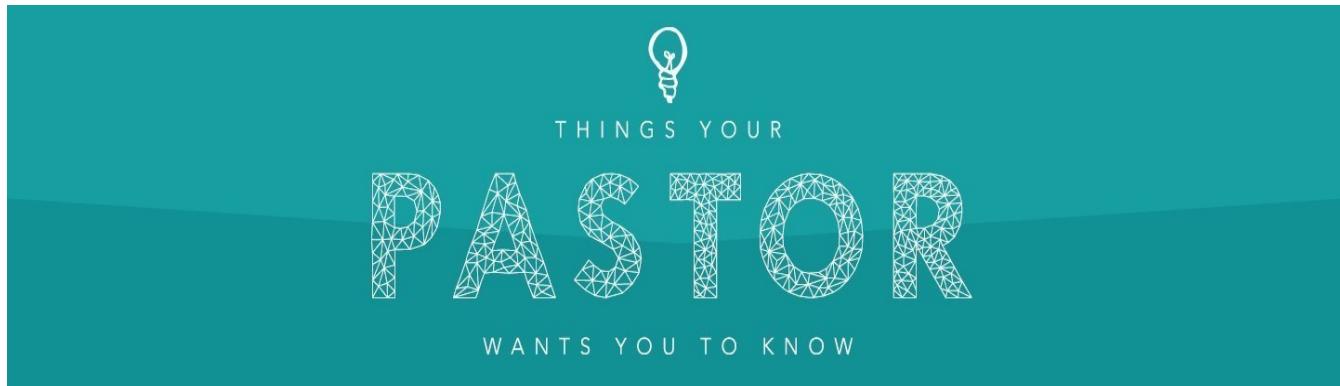
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Watch Pastor Scott's Movie

Come to the Fellowship Hall @ 10 am and join the Adult Sunday School class to watch and discuss Pastor Scott's movie, *Get Low*, a powerful story of redemption and second chances featuring Robert Duvall, Bill Murray and Sissy Spacek.

Join us on Sundays, April 3rd, 10th and 17th.



Getting to Know Pastor Scott

Pastor Scott wants to get to know you better, so this Sunday look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and join him on an Eating Adventure. How it works is simple:

- Sign up for a time (there are lunch and dinner options)
- Pick a restaurant
- Invite a friend or three...or don't
- He'll show up

That's it! Pastor Scott enjoys all kinds of food and doesn't mind driving, so if you want to have lunch and it's not near church, that's okay. He is happy to come to you.

Also, over the summer there will be opportunities to have dinner with he and his family. If you can host a meal for 10-12 people, please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board and he will work with you to find a date and time.

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Membership Inquiry Lunch



If you are new to Amazing Grace, we are SO glad! Thank you! Please be our guest at the Membership Inquiry Lunch on **Sunday, April 17th after the 11:00 worship.**

At this lunch we will share the details of membership at Amazing Grace. You are not making a commitment to join by attending this lunch, nor will you be pressured to do so. Lunch will be provided. If you cannot attend the lunch, Pastor Scott will make other arrangements to help you learn what membership means so you can make an informed decision. Indicate

your interest on the bulletin board in the hallway, and thank you for being part of the Amazing Grace community!

Youth Yard Sale

Please support our Youth by bringing in your donations for the Youth Yard Sale. The Yard Sale will be on **Saturday, April 23 from 10 am—3 pm**. Please tell your friends and neighbors to come by the church on Saturday, April 23 starting at 10 a.m. to get the best deals and help our youth attend this awesome camp!



You were Awesome!



We had a great turn out at our Easter breakfast youth fundraiser! Lots of wonderful food was enjoyed and the youth raised over \$750 for our AFFIRM scholarship fund!! After the event, our youth graciously donated the leftover food to our local firefighters who were on call during the holiday.

AFFIRM is a fabulous summer camp that our youth attend every year. Our goal is for every youth who wants to attend AFFIRM to be able to do so. However, it is expensive: \$425 per person, which is a significant barrier to some. Will you sponsor a youth to attend AFFIRM with a \$100 gift? Just write "AFFIRM" in the memo line of your check and place it in the offering. On the memo line you can also designate a specific youth, or you can not mention anyone and the funds will be directed to those most in need. Thank you!

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Campus MINISTRY

stop by. There will also be an opportunity to make a donation to this great ministry.

Campus Ministry

On **Sunday April 10th** our guest preacher will be Pastor Devin Strong from Lutheran Campus Ministry at Georgia Tech. He will preach at both worships, and will be speaking about campus ministry at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room. If you have a loved one approaching or in college, or just want to know more about campus ministry,

Zumba Party

You are invited to a Zumba party on **Friday, April 15th from 5:30 - 8:00 pm @ Bunten Road Park**, located @ 3180 Bunten Rd in Duluth (770) 814-6981. \$5 minimum donations are requested. Proceeds will be used to support and defray expenses for Amanda, sister of Ana Reyes, who will soon be undergoing surgery for breast cancer. Playroom help is also needed to tend to children who will be coming with their mothers. Thank you for your support!



A Fun Day!

A good time was had by all with our Neighborhood families on **Wednesday, April 6th**, with a Spring Break party, which included pizza, hot dogs, cake, fun games and fellowship! Thanks to all who made this event happen!

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Celebration Lunch Bunch

The Celebration Lunch Bunch is going to be eating out
after the 11am service on Sunday, April 10th!

Our destination is Hong Kong Garden in Lawrenceville, located in the Kroger Shopping Center at 455 Grayson Highway (Route 20)! All are welcome to come and celebrate something in your life or just sit back and enjoy some good Chinese cuisine! Hope to see you there!

Prayer Discernment Group

Please join us on the 1st & the 3rd Monday evenings of each month @ 7 pm for a quiet time of prayer, reflection, and a discussion of our prayer time spent together. All are welcome to join us in April on **Mondays April 4th and April 18th @ 7 pm in the Sanctuary.**



Men's Retreat

Men, please save the date of **January 27-29, 2017**, for the Men's Retreat at Lutheranch.



This will be a weekend of great Christian fellowship, fun Activities, and wonderful food! Pastor Tom Kenny will be joining us to lead the Saturday Bible study and Sunday worship!

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The Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank

Oh, what a beautiful morning after Easter this is as I compose my Food Bank Article! I was disappointed with the weekend drizzles and out right raining, but today makes up for the chill and wet of the weekend!

I pray that all of you of Amazing Grace gathered with family/friends/both for a wonderful meal in celebration of Jesus' awakening from the grave!

In Cumming where we shared an Easter dinner with our son and family, there was a short time when it stopped raining and the older grandchildren hid Easter eggs of goodies for the younger grandchildren! The parents and grandparents watched with joy as five little ones ran all over the yard looking for the bright colors of the plastic eggs! After the hunt, they all gathered on my son's trampoline and were enjoying their success in filling their baskets with their new found treasures!

It sounds kind of crazy, but I felt a similar joy when Amazing Grace was packed to capacity on Easter morning!! I have not ever seen the church filled with more people in my 27 years of attending AGLC! It was crowded, but it was a good crowded! All of those people came to join us to celebrate Jesus' victory over Death! It gives me such a wonderful feeling that so many people were all in our little church to rejoice with us on this one Sunday! I wish there were more Sundays like that, but one step at a time!

But, wait...this is not about Easter Sunday, it is about the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank! It has experienced capacity occupation of goods donated (or purchased) to help our friends and neighbors who may need a little boost to feed their families for a week at a time once a month as eligible and needed. But the needs of our neighbors are not always met with a capacity stock of goods!

There is always someone somewhere in our midst who is in need of help! And, we are members of the Lawrenceville/Dacula area that help other folks in our area to get through hard times that come up once in a while! And if anyone lives in this area and needs some help, you can go to the Coop Food Bank to seek some help.

Since last time, we have collected and delivered 135 items to the Coop Food Bank. I know I go on and on about their needs, but personal items - shampoo, soap, lotions, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and things like that are always in low supply and great items to donate.

The needs of the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Coop Food Bank as listed on its website include for April - canned meat, canned, soups, dry cereal, oatmeal, and grits, canned fruit, canned and dry beans and jelly!

My motto for the Food Bank is 'Give Something!' If you happen to not be a shopper, you can always give a monetary donation through Amazing Grace or to the Coop at Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank, 176 Church Street, P.O. Box 1328, Lawrenceville, GA 30046!

If you would like to be a volunteer at the Coop Food Bank or like to know more about the Coop, please mark Thursday, April 21st on your calendar to attend a Volunteer Orientation class at 7:00 p.m. at the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank located at 176 Church Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 (located behind the Lawrenceville City Hall Building in downtown Lawrenceville)!

A last note of Scripture from Psalm 9:18 "...But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. ..." Please help our neighbors in need! God is counting on us to help our neighbors! One can good a week and possibly \$1.00 will be appreciated always!

Thank you so much, Amazing Grace, for all of your support to our neighbors in crisis!

Love always, Linda MacKinnon



BE NOT AFRAID

Be not afraid is one of the most commonly repeated phrases in the Bible.

It is a phrase spoken by God, prophets, kings and angels. It is uttered to nations, to shepherds and to a young woman named Mary. In so many ways, and to so many people, these words of comfort are expressed over and over again.

Jesus was well aware of how fear impacts people, and in the Sermon on the Mount he encourages his disciples to not be distracted by food, clothing and the worries of life, but to realize how valuable each person is in the eyes of God (Matthew 10:31).

Even with these assurances, our human tendency leads us to fear. And fear often results in worry and frustration.

But rather than living in fear of the future, consider how you can be a good steward of your health, resources and life:

- Health—Am I taking care of myself? Will I live a long and healthy life?
- Finances—Do I have enough now? Will I have enough for the future?
- Legacy—Why am I here? Am I living my life with purpose?

It requires intentionality and action to live as good stewards. And it takes practice to walk in faith instead of fear.

While we might still feel afraid, God has promised to be with us, to surround us with those who can help us and to bring perfect love which casts out fear (I John 4:18).

Perhaps one of the reasons that this phrase is used so often in Scripture is that we seek reassurance all along life's journey. But whatever the concern, whatever the challenge, our directive is steadfast: Be not afraid.

This article provided compliments of Thrivent Financial and Don Goldsmith, ChFC, RICP, FIC and Kelly Goldsmith, CFP®, CLTC, FIC at 770-982-0420 or eastmetroteam@thrivevent.com.

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP	2
3 8:30 am Worship; 10 am Adult Sunday School watches "Get Low"; 11 am Worship Service	4 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7 pm Bible Study, 7pm Prayer Discernment	5 11 am Good Old Guys Meet	6 9-11:30 am Alleluia Girls; 11:00am Homework Help Spring Break Party	7 10 am Spanish Bible Study; 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	8 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP	9
10 8:30 am Worship; ; 10 am Campus Ministry Talk; 10 am Adult Sunday School watches "Get Low"; 11 am Worship; 12 pm Celebration Lunch @ Hong Kong Garden; 1 pm Arts & Crafts Meeting @ Sweet Baby Jane's Home Cooking	11 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	12 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7pm Council Meeting	13 9-11:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Midweek Grace	14 10 am Spanish Bible Study; 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	15 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP; 5:30 pm Zumba Party @ Bunten Road Park	16
17 8:30 am Worship; 10 am Children Sunday School; Confirmation and Nomads group; Adult Sunday School (watches "Get Low"); 11 am Worship Service; 12 pm New Member Inquiry Lunch	18 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7 pm Bible Study, 7pm Prayer Discernment	19 10:30 am Staff Meeting; 11 am Good Old Guys Meet	20 9-11:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Midweek Grace	21 10 am Spanish Bible Study; 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	22 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP; Please bring in your Youth Yard Sale items	23 10 am—3 pm Youth Yard Sale
24 8:30 am Worship; 10 am Children Sunday School; Confirmation and Nomads group; Adult Sunday School; 11 am Worship Service	25 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	26 11 am Good Old Guys Meet	27 9-11:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Midweek Grace	28 10 am Spanish Bible Study; 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	29 6:30 am Men's Group @ IHOP	30