

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER



Amazing Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Scott Seeke
3305 Lawrenceville Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770-381-1293 www.tisgrace.org



Worship Sundays @ 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School Hour, Sundays @ 10 am
Wednesdays: Homework Help @ 5 pm
Worship @ 7 pm

Love by Serving...And How!

This month we continue discussing the second part of our new slogan, which is "Grow in Love, Love by Serving." So we know we are to love others by serving them. Ok, great. But how well are we doing that here?

Probably better than you think.

In all the churches I've been in, folks tend to think that all the other churches are just like them. That they act the same way, do the same things, and have the same values. Let me assure you: all churches are not the same. Not every church hugs each other during the passing of the peace. None do it as long as we do. Not every church prays for each other like we do. There are many things about Amazing Grace that make us unique, and our service is one of them.

I have never been part of a congregation that is as active in service as this one. I mean that. I've been part of ten churches in my life, some for a long time and some quite short, and I've never seen so many different ways to serve, and so many people involved. I've been part of churches that range in size from thirty in worship to eight hundred, and none of them were as involved in service as we are. Not a one. It's amazing.

I invite you to visit the Council bulletin board near the coffee area and look at our church's new Organizational Chart. It's quite impressive. You will see that Outreach has more ministries than any other, and it's not even close. It's a fantastic visual reminder of what I already know: this church is great at service, and that's something to celebrate. I hope that you will take the time to have a look at that organizational chart, and that you can let yourself be amazed, because it really is amazing. And so are you.

God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Scott



HOST Accomplishments and Activities 2016 Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

General Background and Information

Hispanic Outreach Strategy Team (HOST) formed in August.
Congregation endorsed Hispanic Outreach Program in December.
Church Council authorized spending \$ 1000 for HOST activities.
English as a Second Language (ESOL) investigated .
Grants from the ELCA investigated.
Thrivent funding investigated and used for Christmas party and supplies.

Hispanic Community Integration into Amazing Grace

Student music program increased – choir and instruments.
Hispanic Community member's involvement in church services as lay assistants increased.
Hispanic Community fund raising involvement at Rally Day a success.
Fund raising for Palma Family was very successful.
Hispanic Community involvement in Sunday School increased.
Hispanic Community involvement in Youth Programs increased.
Language Classes held and discontinued

Homework Help

Program deemed a significant success with significant growth.
Needed books and bookcases purchased.
New space with shelving constructed and made available.
More space made available for reading room.
Presentation made at Bethesda School resulting in increased students and parents.
Bethesda student Lilianna helped through discussions with Bethesda School.
Volunteer and student lists developed and updated.
Christmas Party and Caroling a success.



NEWS TODAY

Exciting News about LutheRanch

This week we received some exciting news about LutheRanch, and it was timely because we are having a men's retreat there this weekend. The news is this:

LutheRanch will soon be fully serving campers and guests with the opening of the McKanna-Sandrock Retreat Center! The dedication will be **August 5, 2017**, and we hope to have a great crowd from Amazing Grace there to celebrate. I know I will be there!

Because of the generosity of our congregation, and people like you, Amazing Grace will be listed on the Wall of Honor at McKanna-Sandrock, and I have been asked to share with you the gratitude of Novus Way for all you have given.

I am a big believer in camps and retreats. They have been a vital part of my faith walk for over thirty years. In fact, I set a goal to attend one weekend retreat and one weeklong camp every year. We need places like LutheRanch for these ministries to take place, and you stepped up to the plate years ago. Your gifts have made a difference. Generations that come after us will be blessed because of your generosity during this campaign. It is one more reason I am honored to be your pastor. So, on behalf of Novus Way and all the lives you have blessed. Pastor Scott



Choir Rehearsal Schedule

It has become apparent that, for a variety of reasons, the choir's rehearsal schedule needs to change. However, how it will change has not yet been decided.

That's where you come in.

Paper copies of a survey are on the table in the Narthex. If you are a member of choir, **or have wanted to participate**, please fill out this survey and return it to Lois either Wednesday or Sunday.

This is a great chance for anyone who has interest in choir to indicate when they are available, and for current choir members to have their voices heard about when rehearsals will be.

Thank you all for your musical ability, your dedication and your flexibility.



NEWS TODAY

Midweek Grace Sermon Format

Between now and Lent, the sermon format during Midweek Grace will be the "dialogue" type of sermon that has been used in past years. In this format the sermon is conversational, a dialogue between all present. If you are a fan of that style, give it a try!



Blood Drive

Please consider giving a donation for the next quarterly Blood Drive at Amazing Grace being held on **Sunday, February 26 from 9 am—1 pm.**



Lent Worship Planning

Lent is coming, and we're looking for some creative folks who want to help make Lent an amazing worship experience. If you would like to help select the drama for Midweek Grace during Lent, or have some creative gifts you would like to use, or you just like to plan worship, please stay after 11:00 worship on **Sunday Feb. 12** for a meeting to set the plan for Lenten worship. Paper copies of what will be discussed at the meeting are on a table in the Narthex.



NEWS TODAY

Super Bowl of Caring

As our Atlanta Falcons get ready for Super Bowl LI, there are local and global options for us to tackle an even bigger opponent than the New England Patriots: hunger.

The local option is to donate money to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Donations are being accepted on **Sunday, February 5** in the lobby after worship. Choose which team you want to support, donate in their basket, and let's see who wins! All donations will go to the Lawrenceville CoOp, an incredible ministry that Amazing Grace helped found to share God's love with the poor in our community.

The global option is the Big Game Challenge. We in the Southeastern Synod have challenged the New England Synod to see who can raise more money to end World Hunger. See the weekly email for steps on how to donate for the Big Game Challenge for Team Atlanta.



Hunger Walk 2017

The date for this year's Hunger Walk has been set and our team page is up! The walk is **Sunday March 5, 2017**, and our captain is Jennifer Linke. To join Team Amazing Grace, follow the link in the weekly email. You can also sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Let's have a great walk and raise a pile of money!



NEWS TODAY

Acolyte Training

Would one of your children like be to an acolyte? We could use more acolytes at both worships, and are holding a training session on **Feb. 12 in the Sanctuary starting at 10:00 am**. Yes, we know it's during Sunday School, we got permission from the Sunday School teachers. :-)

To sign up for the training, email Pastor Scott, pastorscott@tisgrace.org or Worship chair Trish Ladd-Thomas, jayhawkswmr@gmail.com.



Hospitality Training

Every Sunday, amazing volunteers help with worship by greeting worshipers, handing out bulletins, serving communion and more. Would you like to join a hospitality team and serve on Sunday mornings? If so, you're in luck!

There will be Hospitality Training from **9:45-10:45 in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Feb. 19**. At this training session you will learn everything you need to know to welcome and serve on Sunday mornings.

And there's food!

To sign up, please email Irene Kart, Ikart1@aol.com or Pastor Scott, pastorscott@tisgrace.org or just let one of them know that you're interested when you see them. Hospitality is a really fun way to serve, hope you can come!

And did we mention that there's food???



AFFIRM 2017

AFFIRM 2017 is just around the corner! For those who don't know, AFFIRM is a one week long summer camp for grades 6-12, and it is the highlight of the year for most of our kids. It's also a highlight of my year. I love AFFIRM, and am going as Unit Director of the Exodus unit.

Fundraising is critical for the Youth, as AFFIRM costs \$425 per person. Last year the Youth were able to raise enough money to cover the cost of everyone attending. That is the goal for this year as well, so expect to hear about a lot of AFFIRM fundraisers in the weeks and months ahead.

Go to the AFFIRM website, where youth and parents can read more about it, and Youth and their parents can download the AFFIRM information and application. AFFIRM is an amazing experience, and our Youth always come back on fire. I can't wait to see what will happen this year, and look forward to the chance to support them in raising the necessary funds. Pastor Scott



Pastor Scott's Article

Pastor Scott has an article in the January 2017 issue of *Living Lutheran*. It is on page 42 in the *Faith and Family* section. The article is titled "The Gift of Godparents" and it is about the blessing that godparents can be. You can read the article in its entirety in the weekly email sent on January 18.

ARTICLE.

NEWS TODAY

Your Legacy: Family, Church, Charity A Thrivent Event

Unleash your generosity! Want to help sustain your church's foundation? Or your alma mater's endowment fund? And leave an inheritance? If there are people or causes you care about, we can help you uncover ways to enrich their futures. Join us for a presentation on estate and giving strategies and we'll discuss how to ensure your legacy lives on. It's better to give and receive. Learn how.

Are there people and organizations in your life that you care about and want to help sustain financially? If so, be sure to attend this complimentary one-hour presentation, "Your Legacy-Family, Church, Charity," with refreshments on **Sunday, February 5 after the 11:00 am worship service** in the Fellowship Hall.

Thrivent Financial representatives Don & Kelly Goldsmith will introduce you to ways to unleash your generosity and ensure your legacy lives on. To RSVP, contact Kristen Silveus at 404-580-1488 or email her at Kristen.Silveus@Thrivent.com



Help for Women's Shelter

Please consider donating new or gently used PJs & Robes for the homeless women of Gwinnett County who find shelter at the Salt Light Center in Lawrenceville. The **collection continues through February 19** and the donation box is in the Narthex. Contact Debbie Teal in person or via email, debateal@gmail.com, if you have any questions. Thank you!



WOMEN'S SHELTER & SUPPORT



Financial Contributions & Safety

The Synod has brought to our attention that Bank Checks have been stolen in recent months from a specific church's mail box in TN. Therefore, we are notifying our members as awareness.

Every **Sunday**, our Offering Counters document all contributions. Then our Financial Secretary, Shirley Haselow, enters all contributions to each member's account. We then produce quarterly Contribution Statements. Please review your Statements carefully each quarter to confirm your money is

documented accordingly. If you see a discrepancy, please contact Shirley. We also want to make you aware that if you are interested in changing from a Bank Check to a free automatic secure bank draft process, we offer the Simply Giving process. After completing a simple form and giving it to Shirley, your contribution securely leaves your bank account at the time of your choosing, just like a Bank Check; but the postal service, nor mailbox exposure, is involved. Let Debbie Teal or Shirley Haselow know if you have any questions.

Lent Pancake Dinner & Lent Schedule

This Lent we are taking an old tradition and doing it in a new way. Our Youth invite you to join them for a pancake supper fundraiser on AshWednesday.

That's right, it's not on Tuesday, it's **on Ash Wednesday**.

The Youth are excited to have the dinner on Wednesday because it will bring the church together with the Homework Help families, who will be given the night off from bringing meals.

The dinner will begin at 6:30 on Ash Wednesday, which is March 1st this year. It will end just before 7:30, when we will all go upstairs for worship. Again, the dinner is a Youth fundraiser for Affirm, with a freewill donation.

We will follow the same schedule every Wednesday in Lent: dinner at 6:30, then worship at 7:30. Every week other than Ash Wednesday, the worships will feature Holden Evening Prayer and a drama.



NEWS TODAY

Youth Ice Skating Event

The Youth are going Ice Skating on **Sunday, Feb. 12 from 2-4 p.m.** The event is at the Forum in Duluth, catty-corner from Gwinnett Arena. We will have a potluck lunch and leave church at 1:30, returning to church 4:30-4:45ish.

Admission is \$8/person, and skate rental is an additional \$4. Email Trish, jayhawkswmr@gmail.com, if you are interested, with enough people we can get a group discount!



Grace Cafe, Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, February 26th 2017 9am to 10:30am and 12 to 1 (Fellowship Hall)

Eat, drink, relax and listen to music and live performances by our youth and others in the church. Grace Cafe will have coffee, tea and juice, along with small breakfast finger foods and baked goodies! This is a Youth fundraiser for Affirm.

If you are unable to make it, but want to donate or help out in some way, please contact Kathy Rhilinger @ 770 733 0076 or katmusic@bellsouth.net.



NEWS TODAY

500 Years of Reformation

Join us in Adult Sunday School **beginning February 5th** for the twelve part series Reformation Roots, created by Select Learning, a life-long learning partner of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Sunday School starts at 10 am in the Youth Room.

When Martin Luther posted his “Ninety-five Theses” on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517, no one expected the breadth of evangelical reforms in Christian teaching and practice that followed. In every dimension of Christian faith a renewed trust in God’s forgiving mercy replaced a reliance on teachings and practices that, like the sale of indulgences, were vulnerable to abuse and corruption.

Preaching a few years later, Luther said, “I opposed indulgences ... but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing. I did nothing; the Word did everything.”

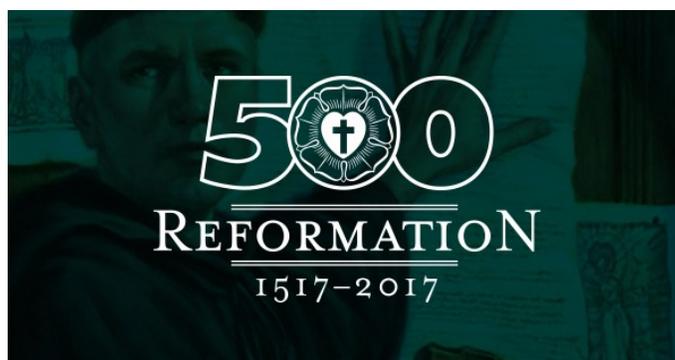
When he began to propose reforms in worship, he wrote similar words. “This is the sum of the matter: let everything be done so that the Word may have free course.” Nearly 500 years later, the results of this evangelical confidence in God’s forgiving and liberating Word are evident today in Christian communities of all types throughout the world.

Series samples:

<https://vimeo.com/126216098> Check out the series trailer

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/72201534> Luther’s Breakthrough: God Freely Gives Righteousness

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/72202573> Martin and Katie



NEWS TODAY

Military Donations

We are beginning our annual collection of military donations. Here is what we are asking of you: Please provide names of any military personnel for which we can put on our list. Also, there is a list of specific sundry items being requested for the military personnel which is on a poster in the Narthex. **Collections will be taken through April 2.**



Help Our Military
HEROES

Are you looking for a special way to celebrate Lent and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation?

A special devotional booklet from Augsburg Fortress called "Free Indeed" has been purchased by two church members. This beautiful, full-color devotional takes you through Lent with daily readings from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, reflection, and prayer. "Free Indeed" invites you to reflect on Martin Luther's guide to the basics of Christian faith during the Lenten season, and within the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The two members ordered 60 regular print booklets and 15 large print booklets. These will be available, on a first come, first serve basis, in the spinning display case in the Narthex **starting Sunday, February 26th**, since Ash Wednesday is March 1st. A small blue clear container, with a slit on top, will be available for donations if you feel inclined.

————— 1517–2017 —————
the
REFORMATION
OF EVERYTHING

Exploring a movement that changed the world



THRIVENT
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ONE THING

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" – Isaiah 43:19

New things often lead to change, and many of us resist change because we find it uncomfortable. We fear change when we don't know, or feel in control of, the outcome. But God calls us to walk in faith – not in fear – and trust him when the time comes for change.

When it comes to your financial life, small changes can make a big difference. Spending your income more carefully or making plans to care for your family can result in greater peace of mind and security. Instead of making numerous changes at once, commit to changing just one thing in your finances in 2017.

Consider these ideas for making a change:

Brown bag your lunch. Instead of going out to eat for lunch during the week, try bringing your own lunch as a money-saving alternative. Not only will it help you pinch pennies, last night's leftovers might even taste better than the original! Start by packing a lunch just once or twice a week as you make the transition.

Save more. If your employer offers a retirement savings plan, contribute 1% more this year. Or, consider having money automatically withdrawn every month to go directly to a savings account. Over time, these changes can make a big difference in the amount you accumulate.

Meet with a financial professional. Seek out guidance from a professional to help you plan your future. A financial representative can help you set goals, manage your funds, protect your family and show you how to leave a legacy.

Ask your friends for help and encouragement. Tell your friends what you are doing and ask them for suggestions and encouragement. They might have some great recommendations and may even join you in making a change themselves.

Don't be afraid – just do one new thing and see how your life changes!

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

In Attendance: Pastor Scott, Mimi Layton, Elaine Schwartz, Liz Linke, Debbie Teal, Bob MacKinnon, John Ferguson, Trish Ladd-Thomas, David Rager, Bob Lee

Absent: Phillip Speddon

Opening devotional: Pastor Scott

Spiritual Autobiography: John Ferguson

Secretary's Minutes: The minutes from the December meeting were approved via email on December 27 2016. A motion was made by Elaine Schwartz and seconded by Mimi Layton to accept the minutes, and the motion carried.

Combined Treasurer and Financial Administrator's Report for December

December 2016 regular giving was \$16,027.27, plus Interest Income \$4.55, plus Rental Income \$250.00, for a total of \$16,281.82, which is \$4,347.31 under budget. Expenses were \$19,485.23, which was \$1,686.51 over budget.

December 2016 YTD Income was \$820.94 less than December 2015 YTD Income. December 2016 YTD Expenses were \$48,442.37 less than December 2015 YTD Expenses.

2016 Year to Date Giving/Income is \$4,811.80 under budget.

2016 Year to Date Expenses are \$6,827.24 under budget.

Dedicated Accounts – We have a balance of \$46,268.16 in various accounts, which includes December 2016 receipts of \$2,130.43 and expenses of \$2,711.04. Balance of Old Capital Campaign Dedicated Account, which is included in above balance equals \$2,509.88.

December 2016 cash on hand is \$111,490.87, which includes \$46,268.16 Dedicated; therefore, not in reserve/not liquid for general expenses.

A motion was made by Trish Ladd-Thomas and seconded by Bob MacKinnon to accept the financial administrator's report, and the motion carried. A motion was made by David Rager and seconded by Trish Ladd-Thomas to accept the Treasurer's Report, and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report for January

Membership Changes

The Helfrichs and Dovers officially transferred their membership to other churches. Jackson Edward Rink is scheduled to be baptized on Feb. 5.

2016 Worship Attendance

Tracie is doing the final calculations, but I have run the rough numbers, and our Average Weekly Worship Attendance was around 130, a 15-20% increase over 2015.

- Sunday worship attendance averaged 122 when we had two worships, dropping to 96 when we had one in the summer.

- 8:30 averaged 22 over the year. It was 25 in the spring, dropping to 19 in the fall.
- 11:00 averaged 100 over the year. It was 97 in the spring, rising to 105 in the fall.
- Midweek Grace averaged 29 over the year.
 - o Advent attendance averaged 14 per week
 - o Lent averaged 50 and VBS averaged 60
 Excluding VBS and Lent, but including Advent, yearly average was 14. Spring was 14, summer was 18, and fall was 12.

Council Org Chart

Is about to be printed. Where should it go when it's done? After discussion the chart will be added to the "Meet Your Church Council" bulletin board near the restrooms.

Hospitality and Acolyte Training

Wayne Linke is leading Hospitality Training on Feb. 19 between worships. There will be food in the narthex for those folks as well. We have four children who wish to become acolytes and will be having a training for them as well, maybe at the same time, maybe not.

First Communion

Three additional children received special instruction and had their First Communion on January 8. They are Jonathan, Kimberly and Wuilver Palma.

Sign Ministry

Still looking for someone to serve in this ministry.

Shut-in Ministers

Are going strong and even finding new people to visit and new ways to serve shut ins in our church and community. Thank you to Tara Snyder, Jackie Rager, Kay McKenny, Sandee Page, Debi Linke and Linda MacKinnon for this awesome ministry!

Strategic Planning

Had planned to meet all day on Saturday Jan. 7 but it was cancelled, so we have not met since before Christmas. I ask that Pam Spearman be added to the committee. We are currently working on a plan to increase our ministries in Lent by helping people find their passions. We are also working on the outline of a five-year plan. I would like to have a "Town Hall" with the congregation in early February to discuss Lent, date is to be determined.

Finance Team

No one seems eager to serve. This is on the back burner for now

Faith Community Network

Just when I had given up, Lisa Grizzard has agreed to go through the training and be our Parish Nurse. Amazing! Lisa will be joining in the next new members class.

Spring Membership Inquiry Program

Still planning to receive New Members May 7. The class will likely start March 12-26, take a break for spring break and Easter, then resume April 23-May 7.

Youth

Are having a planning meeting Sunday the 22nd to plan the spring calendar, including AFFIRM fundraising.

Vacation Time

I took January 5th off, and will be taking Spring Break week off. This will include the first Sunday of that week, April 2, but not the second, as that Sunday (April 9) is Palm Sunday.

A motion was made by John Ferguson and seconded by Trish Ladd-Thomas to accept the report, and the motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Nurture - Phillip Speddon

Debi Linke, Linda MacKinnon, Kay McKenny, Sandee Page, Jackie Rager, and Tara Snyder are the visitation ministers and have decided to have regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM, at the church, and after our meeting, they go do their visitations in groups of two. Currently, they are visiting Linda Linke, Sarah Kuldip, Anne Jones, Betty Richardson, Pat McGuinn, David & Martha Wroolie, Joan Krack & The Pichetto's. Pastor Scott visits everyone also, plus Bob Danner and Bernice Johnson. Pastor Scott has added a "Sending" prayer and blessing of communion on the Sunday worship prior to our visits to include the congregation in the ministry.

Discipleship - John Ferguson

Sunday School is gearing back up after the Christmas season. Nothing much to report, but will have more in February.

Outreach - Bob MacKinnon

- The Hunger Walk for 2017 is March 5th 2017. The park will open at 12 noon and the walk starts at 2:00 and events end at 4:00 with the park closing at 4pm. The walk will be held at 755 Hank Aaron Drive. Registration is now underway.
- PJs and robe collection is now underway. So far the response looks good. Debbie Teal delivered 4 large shopping bags filled with PJs and Robes today. The SaltLight contact was very appreciative.
- Family Promise is still in plans for the near future. After the LutherRanch retreat I will look into having someone come and tell the congregation about who they are and what they do.
- Collections for the military care packages is underway. Looking for names and addresses.

Worship & Music - Trish Ladd-Thomas

- For our midweek services during Advent, we performed Holden Evening Prayer. Many thanks to our prayer leaders ~ Nina, Liz, Lisa, Angie, John, Bob Schwarz, and Debi! Attendance for these services was up compared to weeks before Advent.
- We had the Brass Quintet perform at the December 18th service. We also had children from Homework Help there to sing during the service. Thanks to Bob, Angie, DJ, Madelyn, and Trish for playing, and the Homework Help kids for their songs! We had Christmas Eve services on Saturday, December 24th at 5:00pm and 10:00pm; the 5pm service was well attended, however the 10pm service was much lighter. We had one service on Christmas day and New Year's Day at 10:00am.
- We met January 8th after the late service to discuss Midweek services going forward, as well as preparation for Lent. Wayne Linke was unable to attend the meeting, but he mentioned to me that in years past, the format for Midweek services included discussion of Bible passages (usually those that would be read at the upcoming Sunday service), followed by Communion. He felt that attendance may be down because of the change in format. Discussion took place during the meeting to determine interest in attending Midweek services; during Lent, VBS, and Advent attendance is high and was not questioned. Many of the members that have trouble attending Midweek service are helping the kids in Homework Help, and they end up missing the service or arriving late. A point was made that serving the children of Homework Help is a form of worship, and that the Midweek service could possibly blend with the activities taking place in the Fellowship Hall. Jacob Crowe said that he would ask our families that attend Homework Help what kind of format would serve them well; this past Sunday, he stated their response was that they would enjoy a Bible study format. We discussed having different formats during the weeks outside of Lent, VBS, and Advent, and a suggestion was also made to have groups meet at their homes for additional Bible study that include dinner and some form of worship. A meeting will be held during Lent to prayerfully decide the future of Midweek services after Lent and also after VBS. The group agreed to continue Midweek services until further discussion and prayer could take place.
- Lent formats were also discussed, with dramas and Holden Evening Prayer being the most liked. An additional meeting to determine the drama for Lent will be held soon, and the Congregation has been encouraged to offer their services of participation in the dramas.

Property - David Rager

- Replaced flush valve in men's toilet.
- Repaired lock on window at Sunday School room in Fellowship Hall.
- Getting estimates to replace polybutylene piping in Fellowship Hall and replace the gutter and clean other gutters.

•
A motion to accept the commission reports was made by Debbie Teal and seconded by Bob MacKinnon and the motion carried.

New Business

- Lent - worship times for Lent, Mid-week, Holy Week, Easter
 - 5:30PM Homework Help

- 6:30PM Dinner
- 7:30PM Worship (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, & Good Friday) Easter: 9:00AM & 11:00AM

A motion to approve the times for Wednesdays in Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday was made by Trish Ladd-Thomas and seconded by Debbie Teal, and the motion carried.

- Approve Pam Spearman for Strategic Planning

A motion to approve adding Pam Spearman to the strategic planning committee made by Bob MacKinnon and seconded by Mimi Layton, and the motion carried.

- Strategic Planning Update
 - We are currently a "pastoral" size church. If we get to where we want to be by 2022 (150 in worship/300K budget) we would be a "transitional" size church
- Results of Midweek Grace Meeting – see Worship & Music Report
- Festival Outreach – Nannette came to Pastor Scott about putting together an outreach ministry to have booths at festivals in the area, and hand out AGLC materials. Council wants to hear about cost of booth rentals, supplies/brochures, etc.
- Worship Planning Team - special seasons i.e., Lent, Advent, Pentecost, etc. - To be discussed later

Old Business

- Staff Discussion – A motion to approve HR recommendations for staff made by John Ferguson and seconded by Trish Ladd-Thomas. 6 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 2 abstentions.
- Nursery Policy - Debbie Teal & Pastor are researching existing policies as examples
- Capital Campaign – no discussion; tabled until next meeting.
- HOST update – Pastor provided the council with a list of the items that HOST has been working on since its inception
- Nominating Committee – nothing to report at this time

Thank You's

- Parry Moss for repairing men's toilet.
- David Berfield for repairing window lock.
- Tara Snyder, Jackie Rager, Kay McKenny, Sandee Page, Debi Linke and Linda MacKinnon for their work with the visitation ministry
- Thank you for all the Folks who made Christmas Eve services such a success
- Eric Layton and Target for donating Christmas trees to homework help families
- All the folks who donated Christmas gifts for the Angel Trees
- Thank you to Connie and John Ferguson, Janet Hutchins, Debi Linke, and Debbie Teal for taking down all the Christmas decorations.

Spiritual Autobiography for next month: Bob Lee
Closing Prayer

Motion to adjourn was made by Debbie Teal and seconded by Bob MacKinnon and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Linke.

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Midweek Grace; No Choir Practice	2 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	3	4 12 pm TEC Ministry Event
5 8:30 am Worship Service; 10 am Sunday School Hour; 11 am Worship Service with Baptism; 12 pm Super Bowl of Caring; 12 pm Thrivent Legacy Seminar	6 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7pm Prayer Discernment Group	7 10:30 am Staff Meeting; 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7pm Jazz Band	8 9:30 am Alleluia Girls, 5 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Midweek Grace; Choir Practice TBA	9 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	10	11
12 8:30 am Worship Service; 9:30 am EXEC Meeting 10 am Sunday School Hour; 10 am Acolyte Training; 11 am Worship Service; 12 pm Lent Worship Planning Meeting; 2 pm Ice Skating for Youth	13 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7pm Council Meeting	14 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 3:30 pm Bible Study	15 9:30 Alleluia Girls 5 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Midweek Grace; 7:30 pm Choir Practice	16 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	17	18
19 8:30 am Worship Service; 9:45 am Hospitality Training; 10 am Sunday School Hour; 11 am Worship Service	20 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7pm Prayer Discernment Group	21 10:30 am Staff Meeting; 11 am Good Old Guys Meet 7pm Jazz Band	22 9:30 Alleluia Girls 5 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Midweek Grace; Choir Practice TBA	23 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship Service; 9 am Blood Drive; 9 am Grace Café; 10 am Sunday School Hour; 11 am Worship Service; 12 pm Grace Cafe	27 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	28 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 3:30 pm Bible Study				