

FEBRUARY 2018

NEWSLETTER

Sunday: 8:30 am Worship Service
10 am Sunday School Hour
11 am Worship Service
Wednesday: 5:30 Homework Help

Interim Pastor Michael Millum
3305 Lawrenceville Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770-381-1293 www.tisgrace.org



Amazing Grace
Lutheran Church



FROM THE PASTOR

Those of us who have been raised in churches that observe the season of Lent have probably been familiar with the practice of giving up something during Lent as a spiritual discipline in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. After years of growing up and giving up chocolate or soft drinks during Lent, we may wonder what good any of this does anyway to prepare us for the celebration of Easter.

During the Lenten Season, we focus on such themes as mortality, and we are encouraged to be brutally honest about our sins and shortcomings. Self-denial, often through fasting, is a discipline that has been practiced in the church for centuries during Lent. And the practice of giving something up during Lent is a form of fasting, without requiring someone to go totally without food for a day, or a period of days.

Fasting, I believe, can be a useful exercise spiritually, because when the stomach starts to rumble, reminding you that you have not fed it recently, we are also reminded that all nourishing food is a gift from God, and we are utterly dependent on God to provide us with what we need to sustain our lives. And as long as we are thinking about God our provider, we can give thanks for all that he has blessed us with.

Self-denial in some form is useful, because we are reminded of what Jesus sacrificed on our behalf. So that rumbling tummy, or the craving for dessert or the ice cream we gave up for Lent, is a reminder to us of all that Jesus denied himself for our sakes.

Of course, some are quick to point out that most of what people elect to give up in Lent is trivial and pitiful compared to what Jesus gave up. So why bother at all? Point well taken!

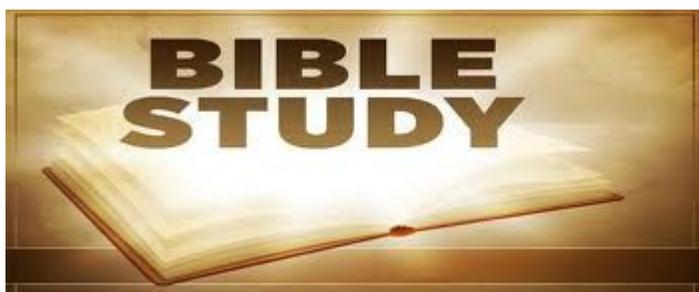
While Lent is certainly about much more than the sacrifice of chocolate, or a coffee as we commute to work in the morning. (Since I am not a coffee drinker myself I really have no idea where people in Georgia buy their coffee. In New England it was Dunkin' Donuts of which there are very few down here). Lent is certainly not about less than this. Thus, I am a believer in the practice of some form of self-denial or sacrifice during Lent. Save up the quarters or dollars you would spend on the coffee and pastry in the morning over the six weeks of Lent. By Easter you may find that you have saved up fifty dollars or more, money you would not have missed if you had continued to spend it on the coffee and pastry. Then take the money you have saved and give it to the Food Co-op, or a local homeless shelter. Such practices bring us

closer to God through Lent.

These are not works that earn us a dearer place in God's affections. But they are what we can do to join with Jesus in the journey of self-denial he makes all the way to Jerusalem and his death on the cross. Then having sacrificed (albeit in a minor way) during Lent, we are better placed spiritually to celebrate the awesome joy and promise of Easter!

I want you to know how much I am looking forward to making this Lenten journey with the good people of Amazing Grace!

Have a Blessed Lent!
Pastor Mike



New Bible Study

Pastor Mike's Bible Study will begin studying a new book **this Tuesday, February 6.**

Please join our small group for a lively discussion @ **6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. New faces are welcome!

Wednesday Ministries

Please join us on Wednesdays for these ministries:

Alleluia Girls meet for a Bible Study @ 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, followed by lunch.

Homework Help meets @ 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Adult volunteers help children with their weekly homework. New volunteers and new children are always welcome!

Choir Practice meets @ 7:15 pm in the Choir Loft.



New Sunday School Teachers and Curriculum

One of the things I have been seeing as a need at Amazing Grace since my arrival has been the shoring up of Christian Education for the wonderful children of our congregation. Let me say, first of all, God bless Becky O'Brien for being there Sunday after Sunday with our children in Sunday school. She has built a wonderful relationship with the children, and has helped to facilitate the building of friendships among the children who come on Sunday mornings. However, there has not been much teaching happening, and this has been a concern, not only for me, but for a number of parents.

Thus, we held a meeting/training session last Sunday with some folks who have been recruited or have volunteered to do some teaching.

One of the challenges is that we face is that we have children from age three or four all the way up to middle school age grouped together for Sunday school. Right now, the teenagers we have are in confirmation with myself and John Rhillinger on Sunday morning, and the plan is to divide up the remaining group Pre-K through 2nd Grade, and 3rd Grade through 6th grade. (We may tweak the groupings as time goes on). And we are blessed with three to four teams of teachers, who will trade off preparing a lesson for the older and younger groups each week. This new approach to Sunday school is beginning this Sunday. Our volunteer teachers are: Liz Linke, Debi Linke, Wayne Linke, Wendy McKinnon, Ana Reyes, Nicole Speddon, Tricia Powell; and (as substitutes) Joanne Calabrese and Deb Millum.

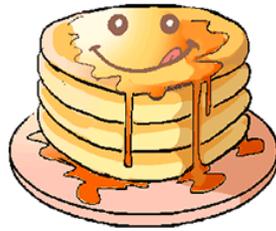
It seems as though we have a willing and enthusiastic group of teachers, and we can only hope that this will strengthen our Christian Education offerings for children at Amazing Grace, and help us prepare for a time when we may have enough children to have grade level classes. Wouldn't that be a blessing?! It certainly is in the realm of possibility. I dare say that not too many years ago it would have been hard for some of you to imagine a time when we would have a resurgence in the number of children in the congregation. But indeed God has blessed us with such growth. Now that we have the children, we must fulfill our responsibility to help form them in the faith!!!

I'm certain that Joe Murray would also want me to put in a plug for adult Sunday school as well. Just because we reach a certain age doesn't mean we have outgrown the need to learn and grow further in our faith as adults. Joe Murray leads adult Sunday school between the Sunday services in the Youth Room. Check it out!!



Sunday School Singers

The Sunday School Singers will sing on Sunday, February 4 during the offering, their song with African drums. **On February 4 we will gather at 10:30 a.m. before the 11:00 worship service to practice the song one more time.** The children are asked to wear bright colors, so we can match our African song.



Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday: The Pancake Fest

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shriving, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. As far back as 1000 AD, "to shrive" meant to hear confessions. (Trivia note: the term survives today in the expression "short shrift" or giving little attention to anyone's explanations or excuses).

Historically, Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden by the church to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they all would go bad by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do?

Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... Pancakes, and lots of them. Today, the Shrove Tuesday pancake tradition lives on throughout Western Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, and the UK.

In New Orleans it's known as *Fat Tuesday* which kicks off the Mardi Gras festival with wild celebrations just before the austere Lenten season

The Barnabas Men's group will be serving pancakes for Shrove Tuesday again this year at Amazing Grace on Tuesday, February 13, from 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. in the fellowship hall. Please come and join us for pancakes and fellowship on Ash Wednesday Eve as we kick off the Lenten season. Talk to Wayne Linke if you have any questions.



Hunger Walk

The annual Hunger Walk will be on **Sunday, February 25 @ Turner Field**. If you would like to participate, please sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or/and contact Trish Ladd-Thomas, Amazing Grace's Team Captain. Walkers/Runners will be accepting sponsored donations from any members that do not wish to Walk. Thank you.

Softball League

All Saints Lutheran Church has reached out to Amazing Grace asking for men who may be interested in playing in a Lutheran men's softball league. **The season begins March 11.**

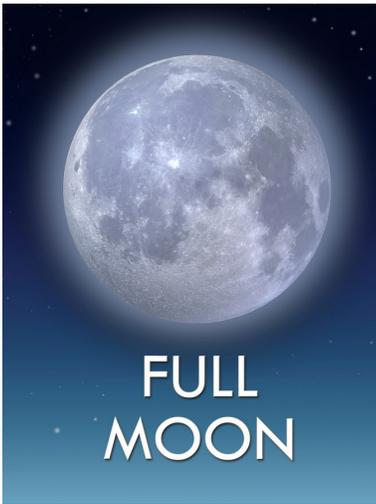
For more information or/and to show your interest, please contact Kevin Swanson by phone at [678- 945-4224](tel:678-945-4224) or via email at KSwanson@unitedforming.com



Meals for Mary Rhilinger

Mary Rhilinger, a long-time member of Amazing Grace, is currently homebound after surgery and is still in need of meals to be delivered to her home.

If you would like to provide a meal to Mary, could you please send an email to the **office**, at office@tisgrace.org and we will provide available dates for meals to be delivered to Mary.



Full Moon Fridays!

We are planning to start "Full Moon Fridays" in February on the closest Friday to a full moon. We will fire up the smoker, grill, fish cooker, whatever we need to cook with and have a fire in the pit. Everyone is invited! You will need to bring a chair to sit in, your beverage of choice, and if possible a snack to share. If you play, bring your instrument, we might just have a singing!

Our first event will be at Wayne's house on Friday, February 2, starting about 6:30, spend an hour or stay all night. If you need an address or directions call Wayne Linke, 404-788-0474. I hope to see you here!

Update on PJs and Robes Donations

Your love for others continues to shine. As of Sunday 1/28, this season's project collected 3 large kitchen bags of nicely folded gowns, robes, and PJs for the Salt Light Center Women's Shelter in Lawrenceville. The delivery of these items will be a heartwarming joy for me. I know we are truly providing a blessing to these women. Thank you! Sincerely, Debbie Teal



Grief Share

A local church has reached out to Amazing Grace inviting our interested members to meet at their church for a weekly grief support group.

For more information, please contact:

St Edward's Episcopal Church

737 Moon Road, Lawrenceville Ga

email: griefshare@stedwardsonline.org

Web: <http://www.stedwardsonline.org/>

Phone: 770-963-6128





VISITATION TEAM

This article highlights an important ministry you may not have heard much about, but one that will provides participants with more satisfaction and joy to your heart than you would have thought possible.

It is The Visitation Ministry.

We visit our home bound members; those in Assisted Living/Nursing Home Facilities and ones unable to attend our weekly worship services for extended periods of time.

We go once a month offering conversation, prayer and Holy Communion. We bring the assurance of Go's presence, and the comfort of knowing their church family forgotten them. We always go in pairs.

The number of active members of the visitation team is dwindling, and we find ourselves needing to replenish to keep this needed ministry vital. When I give my time to visit with the home bound of Amazing Grace, I always come away so happy and filled with the Holy Spirit after we leave each person. The happiness in their eyes, faces and conversation is always more a blessing to me than to them.

I came to this ministry by joining the rest of the team one afternoon to try it out. I went to minister to those we visited, and found they were ministering to me. I discovered that I was called to visitation ministry. I invite you to join us one day, you may find yourself as called and fulfilled by this ministry as I did.

Please contact Pastor Mike or myself, Kay McKenny, if you would like more information. Remember – only once a month for 3 or 4 hours of the most satisfying, loving and giving experience for yourself and those special AGLC homebound members.

God Bless!

Sincerely, Kay McKenny



with Habitat for Humanity®

Nicaragua Trip
May 12-20, 2018

Cost \$1,400. plus airfare
(\$1,050. for Thrivent Members)

Contact Don Goldsmith
DGoldsmith@HabitatGwinnett.org
or Brent Bohanan
BBohanan@HabitatGwinnett.org

WORLDWIDE

Nicaragua Premier Destination



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SERVE FAMILIES.
BUILD COMMUNITIES.**

Join our Thrivent Builds Worldwide team as we head to Nicaragua on May 12-20, 2018. It will be an experience of a lifetime that you won't want to miss!

To learn more, be sure to attend the informational meeting on Monday, Feb 19 at 7pm.

Contact BBohanan@HabitatGwinnett.org to learn more.

Deadline to register for the trip is February 28.

Trip Cost is \$1,400 plus airfare. (\$1,050 for Thrivent Members) which includes:

- Transportation to and from the airport, hotel and building site
- Lodging in secure and clean hotels...
- Three meals a day, snacks and pure drinking water

#livegenerously #thriventbuildsworldwide

**ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES
FOR THE SANCTUARY**



I/We wish to donate _____ Lily (Lilies) to adorn the chancel area for the Easter services, to the glory of God and:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Make your check payable to: “Amazing Grace Lutheran Church” for \$15.00 each, earmarked: “Easter Lilies”.

Forms and checks may be placed either in the offering plate or brought/mailed to the church office.

Deadline to order is: March 18th!

Lilies can be picked up after the 11:00 Easter service!



Lenten Dinners & Worship

Please join us for Wednesday evening Worship during the season of Lent.

Wednesday Lent services begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 14. Worship begins @ 7 pm.**



Lent dinners begin on Wednesday, February 21 @

6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lent dinners are every Wednesday from February 21—March 21 @ 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share with the group.

Lent Worship begins after dinner on February 21 @ 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Lent worship is every Wednesday evening from February 21—March 21 @ 7:30 pm.



Financial Statements

Financial Statements for members are on the table in the Narthex. Please take a few minutes to look for your family's statement and go ahead and take your statement home. Thank you!

Souper Bowl of Caring to Benefit the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry!

As in year's past, we are asking everyone to vote for their choice of the Super Bowl winner with an item which benefits the COOP.

This year we are requesting that you cast your vote with liquid dish detergent, dish washing pods, Cascade powder, etc. **for the Patriots!**

If your team is the Eagles, please cast your vote with any kind of laundry detergent - powder, liquid, pods, etc.

Each item will be a vote!

And, Cash is also an option for this wonderful cause!





Name	Birthday
Nan Bidessy	2/22
Joanne Calabrese	2/17
Savannah Calabrese	2/28
Tracey Gray	2/8
Reyna Hernandez	2/2
Freddie Hoefler	2/3
Anne Jones	2/14
Dave Linke	2/12
Liz Linke	2/27
Wayne Linke	2/12
Bob MacKinnon	2/1
Kay McKenny	2/17
Sergio Miranda Cervantes	2/24
Jonathan Palma	2/12
Wuilver Palma	2/3
John Rhilinger	2/19
Vickie Speddon	2/1
James Usry	2/23
Vickie Whitehead	2/10
David Wroolie	2/24

The Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank

Hello, Amazing Grace! I don't think the Super Bowl will have taken place before you see this article about the Coop! In the past, we have held a voting of who the winner of the Super Bowl may be by taking a vote with money collected after each service to pick a winner at Amazing Grace! Each dollar equaled one vote! This year perhaps you have seen the suggestion that you consider 'voting' for your choice of who will win by bringing in something for the Coop Ministry Food Bank!

Bob MacKinnon is suggesting if you are a supporter for the New England Patriots, please consider bringing several gifts of liquid dish detergent, dish washing pods, or powder dish detergent for the Coop Food Bank.

Or, if you are a supporter of the Philadelphia Eagles, please bring in laundry detergent powder, or clothing washing pods or liquid clothes detergent for the Coop Food Bank!

One Box or bottle of your choice of detergents will equal one vote for your favorite team!

If you are confused about the voting, please make your vote with a check or cash!

The outcome of the Super Bowl does not matter to the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank! This is our way of supporting the Food Bank with these limited given gifts of Laundry Soaps and Dish Soaps!

I am recommending that you shop at the Dollar stores for the packages of detergents because the Coop can no longer break down any large boxes of detergents!!

So, please stop by a dollar store and pick up some dishwashing soaps or laundry soaps to cast your votes on Sunday for the team you are supporting to win Super Bowl LII!! One package of either kind of detergent equals one vote! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, for your support of the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank! Enjoy the big game!

Since last month, we have collected 82 items to be delivered to the Coop! Thank you so much for helping our neighbors in need! I keep saying if you don't know what to bring in, look at what you buy for your family and chances are someone who is a client at the Coop Food Bank will ask for an item you have donated!

It does not matter how little or much we give! We know our limits and you give accordingly!

In 2 Corinthians 9, verse 7 we read, ... "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." ...

Please search your hearts and decide that God has given you enough to share with our less fortunate neighbors!

Also remember that a monetary gift is also very welcome!

The next Orientation for Volunteers for the Coop will be held on Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the present Coop location!

I will forego the Mission Statement of the Coop for this month!

Please 'vote' for who you want to win the Super Bowl LII! Thank you very much for the continued support you give the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank each month!

God Bless You All! Thank you!

Linda MacKinnon

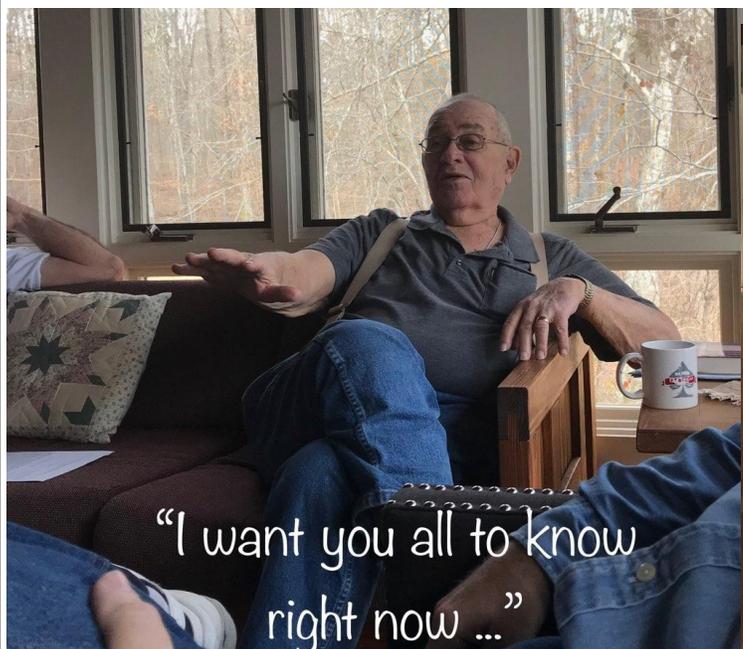


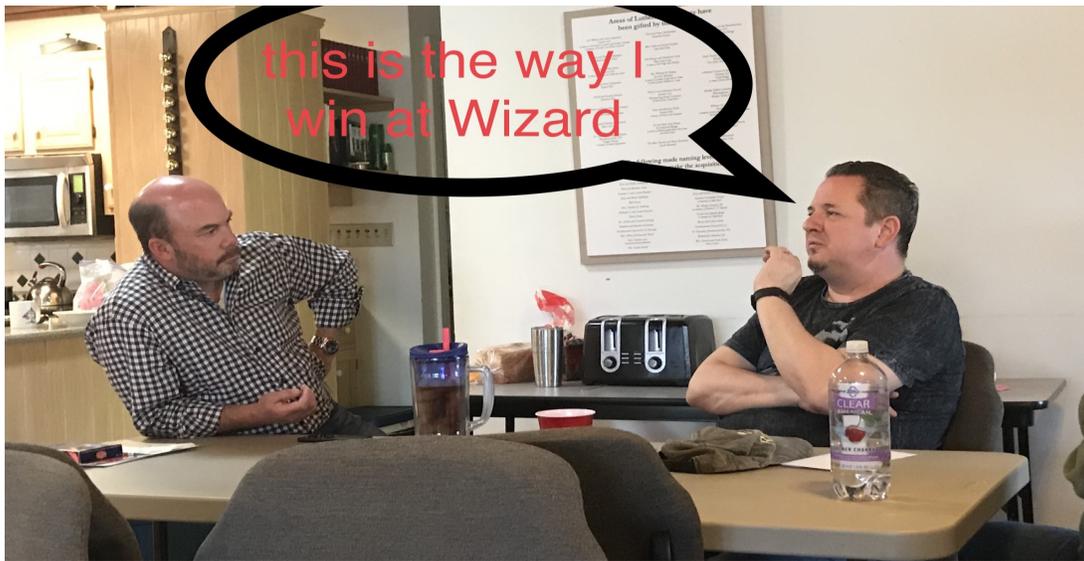
AGLC MEN'S 9TH ANNUAL RETREAT

Real Men.... Our 9th annual retreat theme was "Real Men" and their relationship to singing, prayer and worship, and loving passionately. Tom Balog, director of the Lawrenceville co-op, led the retreat attendees in devotions for the weekend. 18 men attended the retreat and we shared songs and worship with 4 guitarists. There was impromptu music and singing from the sun porch, card games, a brief interval for hiking before the rain set in, and some really good food. I think everyone enjoyed themselves again this year and planning will begin soon for our 10th year before long.

Check out these pics and look for more in the Narthex.

We have room for 25 men (using the top bunks) at Lutheranch Holy Trinity House. With our 10th year coming up it would be nice to have a full house at the end of January 2019!





Like vultures, they watch for their "Lee's steak"



In Attendance: Pastor Mike, Lisa Larsen-Moss, Liz Linke, Debbie Teal, Trish Ladd-Thomas, Wayne Linke

Absent: Elaine Schwartz, John Ferguson, Lee Bennett, Marilyn DelCampo, Bob Lee

Opening devotional: Pastor Mike

Spiritual Autobiography: Nicole Speddon

Secretary's Minutes: The December minutes were approved via email by consensus vote on December 22 2017.

Combined Treasurer and Financial Administrator's Report for December

December, 2017 Regular Giving was \$21,828.00, which is \$672.00 under budget. Expenses were \$19,164.86, which was \$193.02 over budget.

December, 2017 YTD Income was \$22,825.04 more than December, 2016 YTD Income. December, 2017 YTD Expenses were \$13,133.40 less than December, 2016 YTD Expenses.

2017 Year to Date Giving/Income is \$18,963.24 over budget.

2017 Year to Date Expenses are \$26,990.64 under budget.

Dedicated Accounts – We have a balance of \$36,984.79 in various accounts, which includes December, 2017 receipts of \$1,713.54 and expenses of \$1,603.66.

December, 2017 cash on hand is \$115,629.96 which includes \$39,984.79 in Dedicated funds; therefore, not in reserve/not liquid for general expenses.

For December, we very closely received our expected income. December brings a bit higher amount in expenses, and we barely went over that amount. We anticipated a large deficit for the year, which did not come to fruition; this was largely due to saving expenses over the Summer using Supply Pastors and not paying the usual expenses that come with a Senior Pastor. Our giving was also greater than we budgeted ~ wonderful news!

THE COMBINED REPORTS ARE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS VOTE

Pastor's Report

•Hospital Visits: 4

•Home visits: 6

•Shut-in Visitation: 3

•Church Meetings: 3

•Bible Studies: 2

•Worship Services, Preaching opportunities: There were five Sundays in December and I was present for each of those. I preached 2 services on December 3, December 10, I preached at the 8:30 service only, and the pageant was featured at 11:00 a.m., that day. For the remainder of the month through 12/24 there was only one service. 12/17 featured the cantata. Then on 12/24 there was one service at 10:00 a.m. in which we observed the 4th Sunday of Advent. December 31, 2017: We held one service again at 10:00 a.m. at which I preached.

•Special Services during December. 3 midweek Advent Services were held: I prepared the liturgies and wrote the skits for each of those services, recruiting willing participants to help me present the skits. 2 Christmas Eve services were held: The 5:00 p.m. service, known as the

family service, did very much focus on the families and children of AGLC. I recruited a number of children to make Chrismons, and read brief descriptions of what each of the Chrismons mean, as children from the congregation hung them on our trees. The 10:00 p.m. services was a very traditional service of candlelight on Christmas Eve, in which I preached.

- I participated in homework help in December, helping one of the children complete an assignment in which she had to produce a powerpoint presentation on European explorers, and the lives of American Indians in The northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest, Canadian regions. On the final week of Homework Help prior to the Christmas breaks for the children, I led an activity in which children made Chrismons for the Christmas Eve Service, and I read the Christmas story to the children while the Christmas party and gifts were prepared for the children downstairs.

- 0 weddings, baptisms or funerals in December

- Attended 1 Magi Conference Meeting of pastors.

- The Advent and Christmas seasons are always demanding and challenging in the life of the church. However, this is a challenge I always get up for. After months of ordinary time in the church following Pentecost through the summer time, it is always exciting to have a seasonal focus, and especially to be able to prepare for and celebrate one of the high holy days in the church. I want to thank all of the people at AGLC who got me up to speed on the usual practices during this time: Debbie Teal and the members of the Worship and Music Committee; Connie Ferguson, for the thought and planning that went into the way the decorations for Advent and Christmas were set out. Connie made these in advance of leaving to be with her daughter for the birth of her grandchild. Lois Simon of course for the preparations of all the music during Advent and Christmas, especially the cantata. I am thankful to Tracie Crowe, for filling me in on the history of Christmas here at AGLC, and for helping me to provide some special touches for the 5:00 Christmas Eve service.

- As I mentioned, I wrote the Advent service skits, in response to the feedback I received that people in this congregation enjoy dramas during the midweek services. I am eager to know how these did or did not meet the expectations of those who attended these services.

- I enjoyed celebrating the Advent and Christmas services in this congregation. Attendance in general I think was quite good, especially on December 24, with a total of 217 worshipers between the three services that day. This may skew the statistics a bit, because Christmas Eve doesn't often fall on a Sunday. Still it was a healthy day of celebration and worship.

- I have been asked to serve a TEC retreat this Sunday afternoon. This is the youth arm of Via De Cristo, as I understand it. So following the services Sunday I will be driving to the Camp of Many Colors in the North GA mountains about an hour from here, to provide a eucharist service for the campers, and lead a talk.

- I planned a pageant part II, for the celebration of Epiphany done as a Children's sermon during yesterday's service. Regrettably we didn't have many children with which to act out the story, but I think this generally went pretty well considering the limitations of the number of children we had.

- Confirmation is floundering badly. We only have 3 participants this year; two of whom have hardly participated at all to this point. We have not had a meeting of the class in over a month either, and have only had two classes since Fall. I have to get with John Rhilinger to find out where he is with Confirmation. We have discussed some format changes, but there are no firm plans that I know of to this point.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Nurture – Marilyn DelCampo

Nothing to Report

Discipleship – John Ferguson

No Report Submitted

Outreach – Wayne Linke

- The PJs & Robes Drive for Salt Light Center Women's Shelter in Lawrenceville is starting January 7 thru January 28, 2018. – Debbie Teal
- We sent \$400.00 to Special Kneads and Treats - Wayne Linke
- Some details for the Souper Bowl of Caring, money will not be turned down, but to make a competition for people to cast their votes by bringing dish soaps for one team and laundry detergents for the other team! Since we do not know the names of the teams yet we cannot put names on any advertising, but we can start talking it up in Church right away! Since the Coop can no longer break down any large powders, we are asking for **LIQUIDS AND/OR PODS** in both Laundry AND Dish Detergents! – Bob and Linda MacKinnon
- Our congregation donated at least 27 animals through the ELCA Good Gifts Christmas Campaign! Remember that these are gifts that can be given all year long and for any occasion!
- We are scheduled to serve dinner to the Campus Ministry at GT on Tuesday, 4/17. Wayne Linke

Worship & Music – Debbie Teal

- Advent Services – I believe everyone, kids included, got a lot out of our "What Is Advent?" themed Wednesday & Sunday services. Wednesday night services at 7:00pm were well attended and the Joyous Light service along with Dramas were successful.
- Hospitality and Worship Assistants were arranged and confirmed for December.
- Advent and Christmas Decorations were beautiful.
- Christmas Pageant with Sunday School Kids was enjoyed by all on 12/10.
- Choir Cantata on 12/17 was spectacular.
- Christmas Eve Services on Sunday 12/24 at 10 AM; 5:00 PM & 10 PM were all well attended.
- February 14th is Ash Wednesday, so our next full W&M Committee meeting will be January 10, 2018 at the church at 2:30 PM.
- Magnetic Name Tags for Council and Hospitality are ready to be distributed in January.
- The Hospitality Team schedule for 2018 has been created. We can always use more volunteers.
- The Worship Assistant schedule for 2018 has been created one quarter at a time to allow for new folks to enter into the rotation.
- Tracie & Think continue to schedule the Acolytes, Readers and PowerPoint Operators – Please let them know if you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions.
- Lois will schedule the Holden Evening Prayer song leaders for Wednesday Lenten services, so let her know if you're interested.

Property – Lee Bennett

- Met HVAC tech and repaired 2 heat pump systems. Sunday school system was low of refrigerant and sanctuary unit 3 had control wiring problem.
- Also, coffee maker malfunctioned. No resolution plan at this time.

COMMISSION REPORTS ARE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS VOTE

New Business

- Computer in choir loft - we have a computer donated to us by Louise Radloff. It is not in use yet, but Think is working to get it up and running in the next week or two. There are some parts that are needed along with new wires as it has different connection ports from our previ-

ous computer.

•Gift Cards for Assistance - Wayne and Trish are going to look into funding and logistics of revamping such a program and bring their findings to our February Council Meeting.

Old Business

•Semi-annual Meeting Recap - 2018 budget was approved, and there were questions from a few members about the financial standing of the church. There was a deficit in the 2017 budget of over \$30K. At the beginning of 2017, Bob and the council told the congregation that if each family increased their giving by \$5 a week, then we could erase the budgeted deficit. When looking at the 2017 numbers, our offerings were over \$20K more than what we received in 2016. Not only did we not incur that deficit, we actually had a small gain. As a council, we feel that it is important to keep an eye on income and expenses to make sure that we stay on track, but at this time, we are in a good place financially. We will continue to keep stewardship in the forefront with quarterly updates and temple talks.

•Nominating Committee - the slate of names for the nominating committee were approved at the semi-annual congregational meeting in December. The members of the nominating committee are:

- Elaine Schwartz
- Jimmy Herchek
- Tracey Gray
- Lud
- Debi Linke
- Wendy MacKinnon
- Bob MacKinnon

•Update on Call Process - we have received three yeses and 1 no so far. The remaining potential members will be contacted by members of council over the next week or two. The first alternate letter has been sent out, and we will follow up with that individual as well. If we receive more nos, letters will be sent out to the remaining names on our alternate list.

•Financial Secretary - Trish is in the process of taking over for Shirley as interim financial secretary. She thought she had a full time replacement, but that person is not available. **If you are interested in serving as Financial Secretary, please let Trish know!**

•Synod Assembly June 1-3 2018 - Parry Moss and Lisa Larsen-Moss will attend as our voting members.

Thank You's

•All the Staff and all the Volunteers, those in view of the congregation as well as those behind the scenes, who were involved with the preparations and implementation of the Advent services, the Christmas Pageant, the Choir Cantata, and the Christmas Eve services. We are all truly blessed to have each other in our lives as we worship with each other and care about each other all week long.

•Thank you to Shirley Haslow for two years of service as our financial secretary!

•Big thank you to Pastor Mike and the entire office staff for all their hard work during the holiday season

•Thank you to everyone who helped with Outreach functions in December

Spiritual Autobiography for next month: Liz Linke

Closing Prayer

CONSENSUS TO ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted by Liz Linke.

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	2 8:30 am Men's Group	3
4 8:30 Worship; 10 am Sunday School Hour & Confirmation Class; 10:30 am Children Practice singing; 11 am Worship	5 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment Group	6 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 6:30 pm Bible Study	7 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 3:30 pm Staff Meeting; 5:30 pm Homework Help; 7:15 pm Choir Practice	8 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	9 8:30 am Men's Group	10 10 am CASA Meeting
11 8:30 Worship service; 10 am Sunday School Hour & Confirmation Class; 10 am HEP Group Practice; 11 am Worship service	12 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	13 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7 pm Council Meeting	14 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5:30 pm Homework Help; 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship; 8 pm Choir Practice	15 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	16 8:30 am Men's Group	17
18 8:30 Worship service; 10 am Sunday School Hour & Confirmation Class; 11 am Worship service	19 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment Group	20 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 6:30 pm Bible Study	21 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 3:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Homework Help; 6:30 pm Dinner & 7:30 Lent Worship; 8 pm Choir Practice	22 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	23 8:30 am Men's Group	24
25 8:30 Worship service; 10 am Sunday School Hour & Confirmation Class; 11 am Worship service	26 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	27 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 6:30 pm Bible Study	28 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5:30 pm Homework Help; 6:30 pm Dinner; 7:30 pm Lent Worship; 8 pm Choir Practice			