

MARCH 2018
NEWSLETTER



Amazing Grace
Lutheran Church

Lent

Sunday: 8:30 am Worship Service
10 am Sunday School Hour
11 am Worship Service
Wednesday: 5:00 Homework Help

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



FROM THE PASTOR

PEACE MARCH

Hindsight always brings clarity. Thinking back on our experiences and adventures with Jesus, especially that final, fateful week of his earthly pilgrimage with us, from the vantage point of Easter I always discover new meaning and truth.

We had been traveling to the city of Jerusalem for weeks, and the trip had been punctuated by runs in with our Jewish leaders, the scribes and Pharisees who challenged Jesus' authority to teach and heal; and by three predictions from Jesus himself, warnings that when we arrived in the Holy City, he would be arrested and tried and put to death by his enemies. Needless to say it had been a long and wearing journey and none of us was entirely sure what to expect once we entered the city.

We arrived at the Mount of Olives overlooking the city. We could see the caravans of travelers crowding into the city, the Temple glistening in the sun. But before we started down the mountain Jesus did something else unexpected. He sent two of our number into one of the villages on the Mount of Olives which overlooks the city to the east. "There," he said, "you will find a colt tied to a tree that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here to me." "What if somebody asks why we are untying the colt?" we were all wondering, but as usual Jesus had anticipated the question and said, "If anyone asks you why you are doing this simply say, "The Lord needs it and will send it right back." A short time later they returned with the cold. Of course it had no saddle, so a few of us took our outer garments off and put them on the animal so Jesus could sit on them. We lifted Jesus onto the colt and started down the road that would lead us into the city.

At first it was quiet, with only the hooves of the colt clomping on the road and the sound of the wind blowing through the olive trees. Then we heard movement and excited voices ahead, "There he is!" "Here he comes!" A crowd was beginning to gather, children were shouting. People began cutting branches from the trees that lined the road, taking off their cloaks and spreading them on the dusty ground, making a lavish, multicolored carpet. We wondered and began to speculate among us, did Jesus plan this? No, but he had anticipated it. So often he knew what was coming when we hadn't a clue.

More and more people joined our little parade until we became quite a throng. Soon our confusion gave way to excitement as we became caught up in spontaneity of the celebration. We shouted and danced and sang praises to God. For those brief moments all the tension and grief of the journey that brought us here melted away, and I remember thinking, "This is the way it should be. This is the sort of welcome Jesus should receive as he enters the city."

Voices began to echo across the valley, shouting, "Hosanna! (God save us). Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Jesus was receiving a king's welcome. He was riding into Jerusalem like a conquering military leader.

Then I looked at Jesus and saw that he did not look the part. Riding on the back of a colt he didn't strike a very imposing figure. Occasionally he would smile and wave at someone in the crowd, but otherwise he wore a rather somber expression. Jesus hadn't given in to the enthusiasms of the crowd.

It was only after Easter that several of us remembered words spoken long ago by the Prophet Zechariah:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

We searched our memories to recall the words that came after.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations.... (Zechariah 9:10)

The people were clamoring for a warrior, a Messiah to lead them to victory over their enemies, the Romans who had invaded our land and occupied our Holy City. Jesus had staged a peace march into the city.

Then we remembered another parade that had probably occurred on the other side of the city earlier that day. Whenever the Roman governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, rode into the city from his headquarters in Caesaria Martimai, on the Mediterranean sea, he entered riding, not on the back of a young donkey, but on a mighty warhorse. He came into the city, not in the name of the Lord, but in the name of Caesar; and he wasn't surrounded by a ragtag crowd waving tree branches, but by soldiers in full military armor, riding chariots and marching, drums playing, brandishing their swords and spears. His military procession was a show of force meant to inspire fear and send the message, "if you get out of line we will crush you!!"

That was quite a day, a Sunday to we could never forget. It was the beginning of a week we would never forget. Now from the standpoint of Easter, not the cross that was looming, but the empty tomb, the message of the day seems so clear. The Kingdom of God was not a political institution. It would not be ushered in by violence, or revolution, or the manufacture of more swords, or automatic weapons, or high tech computer guided missiles and drones. Peace can never be imposed on others by threat and force. The Kingdom will only come through the triumph of faith, hope and love, freedom, understanding, justice, shalom.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!



Mid-Week Lenten Services

This Lenten season in March our Lenten observances will be on **Wednesdays, March 7, 14 and 21 at 7:30 pm**. Services feature Holden Evening Prayer, the much-loved musical setting that has been used for years at Amazing Grace. Instead of the drama format that has been used during Lent for a number of years during Lent, we are exploring the "I Am" sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of John. These are being presented by looking at the passages in John's Gospel in which they appear. Then Pastor Mike offers, not a sermon on these passages, but a meditation, eliciting input and insights from the gathered congregation. The services last between 30 and 45 minutes!

So make mid-week worship an integral part of your observance of Lent. Enjoy Holden Evening Prayer, and reflect upon what it means for Jesus to declare, "I am...the light of the world:...the bread of life;...the good shepherd;...the resurrection and the life;...the true vine."

Homework Help!



Homework Help Schedule Change

Homework Help's schedule will change in March during Lent. Homework Help begins @ 5 **pm** with the children having a snack and Homework Help. Dinner with the congregation follows from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Then worship begins @ 7:30 pm.

Soup and Sandwich Dinners

Join us for Soup and Sandwich dinners for Lent, on **Wednesdays March 7, 14 and 21**. The dinners are from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Please bring a dish to share with the group.





Lutheran Campus Ministries

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

We are scheduled to once again take evening meals down to the Lutheran Campus Ministry house on **Tuesday, 4/17, at 5:00 PM.**

If you would like to help pay for, serve this meal, or just have questions, please talk with Wayne Linke. Pastor Devin Strong is the Lead Pastor of Lutheran Campus Ministry; it will be fun to break bread with him and the students at the Grace House.

Save the Date for:

God's work. Our hands Sunday

The ELCA invites you to Save the Date for:
God's work. Our hands. Sunday, on Sunday, Sept. 9.

"We join together to use our various gifts in service to our communities – this is work you do every day, sharing the love of Christ with all of God's people."



Volunteers Needed!



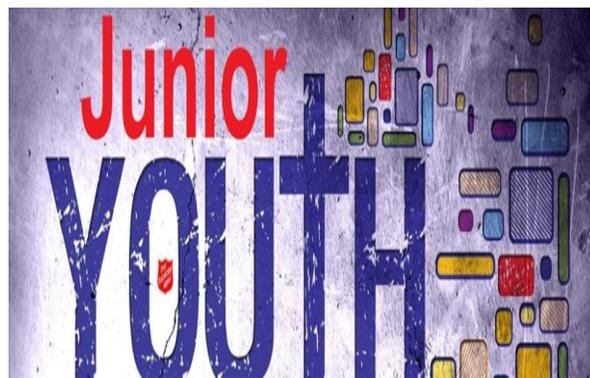
Thrivent Financial is sponsoring a Thrivent Builds program along with Habitat for Humanity in the Athens, Georgia area for the first time since the program began in 2005! We will be sponsoring 2 home renovations in 2018 and we need volunteers to help!

Join us for our kickoff **on Saturday, March 3!** We need volunteers that day and every Saturday through August. If you're interested in joining us, click the red "Join Us" button below to sign up or contact Bridget at bridget@athenshabitat.com, [706-208-1001 ext. 202](tel:706-208-1001)



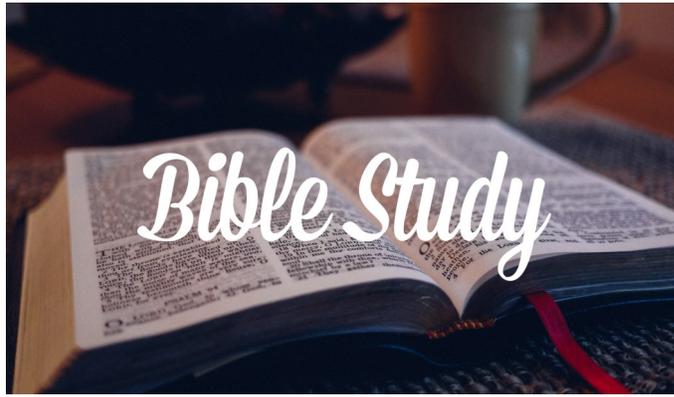
Vacation Bible School (VBS)

We are already planning ahead for Vacation Bible School (VBS)! If your group's ministry would like to involve children's help this summer, please contact the office, office@tisgrace.org or Pastor Mike.



Junior Youth Group Fun

Youth, who are in elementary and middle school, please join us on **Sunday, March 4 @ 1 pm** for a fun time at Amazing Grace. Plans are to have lunch and then a Scavenger Hunt! This event is planned from 1 pm - 2:45 pm. Please bring your lunch and join us for a fun time!



Bible Study

Pastor Mike continues a new Bible Study on the letter of James **every Tuesday @ 6:30 pm**, except the 2nd Tuesday of the month (Pastor Mike attends a Council Meeting).

All are welcome! We hope to see both familiar and new faces to join in our study and our discussion!

Prayer Discernment Group

We meet on the **1st & 3rd Mondays** of the month @ **7 pm** in Amazing Grace's Sanctuary for a quiet time of peaceful prayer together. Newcomers are welcome.

Taller de Oracion y vida (Prayer and Life Workshop)

We are a new ministry for children and we discuss prayer applications for daily life in a workshop **every Friday night @ 7 pm** in Amazing Grace's Fellowship Hall. New children and parents are welcome.



Full Moon Friday

We are planning our next "Full Moon Friday" **on March 2 starting about 6:30 pm at Wayne Linke's house**. 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 last month was a great success with over 40 people attending. If you need directions contact Wayne Linke and I will get the address to you. I hope to see you there!



Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry

Job Description

Position: Staff Assistant

Hours: PT Non-Exempt 20-25 hours per week

Date: February 12, 2018

Office and Administrative Duties

- *Pantry Duties – Assisting Pantry Manager*
 - Create and maintain spreadsheets and other documents using MS Office to assist pantry manager with inventory reporting.
 - Assist pantry manager with other reporting and forms management as needed.
- *Program Duties – Assisting Program Manger*
 - Place weekly phone calls to Season with Love participants to receive and document food orders and other requests.
- *Operation Duties – Assisting Assistant Director*
 - Create and submit partner ministry documentation.
 - Maintain and stock client interview rooms
 - Maintain and stock volunteer appreciation items (snack baskets, special treats and incentives)
- Other duties as set forth by Assistant Director.



Important Message!

MISSING

Timothy Cunningham



Atlanta, GA
Age: 35 Years

Height: 5' 11"
Weight: 230 lbs

Hair: Black
Eyes: Dark Brown

Timothy Cunningham has been unaccounted for since Monday afternoon, February 12, 2018. He was last seen at his workplace in Chamblee, GA. He returned to his home in the Bolton neighborhood of Atlanta, GA.

If you have any information about Tim's disappearance or his whereabouts, please call 911.

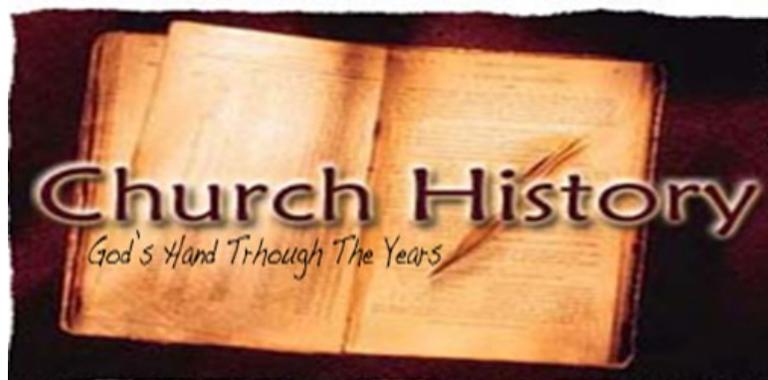
Set Your Clocks Forward

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, **March 11**. So please remember to set your clocks **forward one hour** on **Saturday evening, March 10**.



Could You Help with Amazing Grace's History?

A documentary is being produced to capture the life of AGLC. We will start by collecting your photos and memories in both digital and non-digital format. Please include your name, email, and phone number to ensure that they are safely returned to you. If you have questions please contact Sandee Page at spage46@gmail.com or 678-323-6400.





Sound System Volunteers

“We need a few sound system volunteers. The duties include maintaining a supply of lapel mic batteries; confirming that the handheld mics are ready for use at particular Sunday services and special services (i.e. Wednesday’s during Lent, Advent, etc.) as needed; understanding how the sound board mixer works; and other similar duties as needed. You will receive training. Please let Debbie Teal, Thinkh Tran, or Lois Simon know if you are interested. If you don’t see us, leave a note in the Worship & Music Commission Council slot on the wall in the office.”

Visitation Ministry

Volunteer opportunities are available for the Visitation Ministry. For more information, please contact Kay McKenny at bkmckenny@gmail.com or Pastor Mike.

Hospitality Volunteers

We are in need of Hospitality Volunteers for worship. Hospitality volunteers help with greeting parishioners, handing out bulletins, preparing, serving and cleaning up Communion, ushering during the Offering and during Communion, and making coffee and cleaning up the fellowship area. If you have an interest in serving, please contact Debbie Teal, the Council Worship & Music Chair. Debbie can be reached via phone at (770) 624-1487 or via email at debteal@gmail.com



Join the Refugee and Immigration Services Department of



For a

BRUNCH

to learn about



Our new faith and community engagement
initiative

SATURDAY, March 17th

10:00 am at Wahoo! Grill

Please invite members from your community!

Kindly RSVP for your group by February 20th



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
MAGI CONFERENCE 4 SPRING GATHERING

APRIL 7, 2018
EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2375 HIGHWAY 20 SE
CONYERS, GA 30013
(770) 760-9211

WOMEN IN ACTION



- 8:30 AM REGISTRATION \$15.00
- 9:00 AM BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP
- 9:30 AM BUSINESS MEETING
- 10:30 AM BREAK
- 10:45 AM PROGRAM
Evelyn Brown - Backpack Buddies
- 11:30 AM HANDS ON—SERVICE PROJECT
- 12:15 PM LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP
- 1:00 PM WORSHIP

*Please plan to join our sisters in Christ for a
morning of fellowship and worship.*

MAGI CLUSTER LEADERSHIP:

Shirley Connelly, Coordinator
sconnelly@bellsouth.net or 770-891-5513
Diane England and Bernice Bland, Co-Members at Large
Judy Aukes and Judy Johnson, Co-Recorders

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 offer-
ing 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!

A Living Lutheran Legacy

A Living Lutheran Legacy is a partnership between the ELCA Southeastern Synod and St. John's, Atlanta, GA. More specifically, it represents the Synod's planned move of its offices to St. John's. After years of occupying office space downtown, the sale of the Woodruff Volunteer Center, where the office is currently located, and a need to decrease what is currently spent on rent and parking, compelled the Synod Council to evaluate office space options. St. John's has been seeking a tenant and ministry partner so that it can continue to be a rich resource in the community it serves. You can help this dream become a reality by making a financial contribution today!

Moving the Synod office to St. John's will enable the Southeastern Synod to increase mission support by significantly reducing costs for rent and parking. The savings enables the synod to keep more mission support dollars for mission and ministry. Increased mission support dollars will enable the Southeastern Synod to:

- revitalize congregations
- start new ministries
- prepare new leaders and reduce seminary debt
- prepare for and respond to disasters
- support our ministry partners

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Southeastern Synod has raised just over \$350,000 in gifts and pledges!

To discuss contribution opportunities, please contact John and Ellen Yates at [jyates@mmmlaw.com](mailto: jyates@mmmlaw.com) or 404-504-5444 or Bishop H. Julian Gordy at [bishop@elca-ses.org](mailto: bishop@elca-ses.org) or 404-589-1977 or visit www.elca-ses.org.

Questions? Contact Deacon Michelle Angalet, Assistant to the Bishop, at [mangalet@elca-ses.org](mailto: mangalet@elca-ses.org) or 404-589-1977.

Thank you for your generous donation and for helping us build

A Living Lutheran Legacy!

Your partnership helps us to increase our ministry impact throughout Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee, and anywhere else the ELCA is at work in the world.



Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, March 25, we will observe Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Worshipers are instructed to gather outside, where we will have a prayer of blessing followed by a procession. We are inviting everyone to bring an instrument for the procession. Everyone is invited to play their instrument in whatever way or pitch they like, making a "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice" (Psalm 98:4) and "Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!" (Psalm 100:4).

When we process into the sanctuary please put your palm in the front center, and then place your instrument on the left side beneath the screens. Those who go first should put their instruments at the rear, with the assortment growing outward as more people enter the sanctuary. Then you may take a seat in the sanctuary for worship. Once everyone has entered we will sing the Gathering Song.

If it is raining, we will do a shorter procession indoors.

Children Singing

We will be treated to the children of Amazing Grace singing on **Palm Sunday, March 25** during the 11:00 am worship service. We hope you will make plans to join us on this Sunday.

Children and parents, please plan to arrive @ 10:30 am on March 25 to practice before the worship service.





Good Old Guys

The "Good Old Guys" are a group of guys who meet every Tuesday morning at Bethesda Senior Center at 11:00 AM to shoot pool and fellowship until around 12:45 PM and then meet at a prearranged restaurant for lunch.

Over the years this group of men have taken on a variety of service projects. The picnic tables on our front lawn were built by this group, a deck was repaired for a lady who was having financial trouble, and they have assisted with projects with Gwinnett Senior Services, just to name a few of the projects. They also have a Christmas project that has existed for several years, donating to a fund to help families in need during the holiday season.

This year at Christmas a donation was made to ELCA Good Gifts, sending a donation of \$204.00 to purchase farm animals for ministries supported by the ELCA. It was decided by the "Good Old Guys" to continue these gifts to the ELCA and \$1:00 a week is donated to a fund to continue our outreach to the Good Gifts program and hopefully our Christmas project will continue to be an annual showing of love and a concern for those who might need a little assistance during the Christmas season. This is an amazing group of guys and I hope and pray they will continue to meet and fellowship for many years to come.



Secret Sisters

Reminder for all women who participate in the Secret Sisters ministry, please remember your Secret Sister with a card or a special gift during Easter. Of course, we hope that you are remembering your Secret Sister during other times throughout the month as well. The box underneath the Prayer Request table in the Narthex continues to be a good place for leaving gifts or retrieving gifts for Secret Sisters. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Moss at 770-921-6688 or via email at phyllismossbpt@gmail.com

Holy Week Worship Schedule:

Palm Sunday, March 25, @ 8:30 and 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday, March 29, @ 7:30 pm

Good Friday, March 30, @ 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 1, @ 9:00 am and 11:00 am



Easter Worship

Easter worship services will be on **Sunday, April 1** in the morning at **9:00 am** and **11:00 am**.

Please bring your family and friends to join us for the resurrection of Jesus!

Easter Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

We will have a **Pancake Breakfast @ 10:00 am** and an **Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:15 am** on Easter Sunday, April 1. All are invited for these festivities!



Call Committee Appointed

The Council has formally appointed the following members to Amazing Grace's Call Committee:

Connie Ferguson

Jimmy Herchek

Parry Moss

Joe Murray

Sandee Page

Ana Reyes

We are thankful that they have each agreed to take on this important job. Please join us in praying for guidance and discernment for the Call Committee as they prepare for the journey of calling a full-time pastor for Amazing Grace!

committee members



Announcements

If you would like to have an announcement made during worship, please let Pastor Mike or someone from the office know prior to Sunday morning worship.



Name	Birthday
Nesbitt, Inez	3/1
Kart, Gary	3/5
Wroolie, Martha	3/5
Linke, Ben	3/6
Hlavka, Allan	3/7
Schwartz Jr., Bob	3/7
Spearman, Scott	3/9
Larsen-Moss, Lisa	3/11
Plaster, Terry	3/13
Burt, Sam	3/16
Hernandez, Jennifer	3/16
Ladd-Thomas, Emma	3/16
Hoefler, Sue	3/18
Mack, David	3/19
Johnson, Duncan	3/23
Conner, Lawson	3/27
Schwartz, Linda	3/28
Speddon, Amy	3/28

The Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank

The Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank has just announced the greatest news! The expansion of the Coop is now on its way to being a reality with the purchase of the new building recently! Now it is time for the renovations to begin on the new bigger space at 52 Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville! Volunteers will be needed to help prepare the building for its reopening in this location very soon! If you like to help do things like this, please think about volunteering your time and talents to this project! Bob MacKinnon is our main volunteer and hopefully will have some information about when remodeling will begin!

The rumors are that the Coop hopes to be moving into the new building Memorial Day weekend! I suppose it all depends on what needs to be done to ready the premises! It is a dream for this organization that is falling into place! Please prayerfully consider volunteering your services in any way you can – renovating, moving, praying – these are all important aspects of the Coop’s move to the new building!

Until then, the present building still needs our support of goods and money! And I want to remind everyone that the Coop always needs these food items...canned fruits, jellies, instant potatoes, and canned meats! Also always needed by the community is shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, sizes 5 and 6 diapers, laundry detergents, dish soaps and feminine products!

Since my last report we have donated 50 items! Some of these items are from the Super Bowl Challenge! And I would like to add that all 50 of these items were either dish detergents OR laundry detergents! Please keep these two items on your list to bring to church for the Coop! I remind you that these items are one dollar (\$1.00) at the dollar stores! At the same time, food is important too! Consider bringing in a food item that is listed and always needed! You know what you need at your house and our neighbors could need the same items! Thank You so much for your generosity!

I will end with one of Bob’s (my husband’s) favorite prayers. “Lord, remind me today that while I was a sinner. You embraced me with Your deep and unconditional Love and brought me into the Fellowship of Your Grace. Lead me to someone I can love as You loved me! Amen!”

Thank you for your generosity in helping our neighbors who sometimes need our prayers and help!

God Bless You Always,
Linda MacKinnon



In Attendance: Elaine Schwartz, Lisa Larsen-Moss, Liz Linke, Lee Bennett, Debbie Teal, John Ferguson, Wayne Linke, Pastor Mike

Absent: Bob Lee, Trish Ladd-Thomas, Marilyn DelCampo

Guests: None

Opening devotional: Pastor Mike

Spiritual Autobiography: Liz Linke

Secretary's Minutes: The January minutes were approved via email by consensus vote on January 20 2018.

Combined Treasurer and Financial Administrator's Report for January

January's combined treasurer and financial administrator's report will be presented at the March Council Meeting.

Pastor's Report

1. 8 Worship Services (4 Sundays), 8 sermons delivered + Holy Communion those Sundays.
2. 7 Church related meetings, including 1 Staff Meeting, 1 HR meeting with Rudy B., 1 Congregation Council Meeting, 1 Exec. Committee meeting, 1 Sunday school teachers training meeting, 1 Worship and Music Meeting, 1 meeting with Ana Reyes plus representatives of prayer ministry workshop she proposes we begin at Amazing Grace, 1 lunch meeting with Connie Ferguson regarding Lent.
3. 2 Bible studies
4. 4 Office/counseling Appointments
5. 9 Hospital calls
6. 6 home visits
7. 3 Retirement/nursing home visits
8. 5 Homework Help tutoring
9. Men's Retreat weekend, presided at communion for closing worship
10. Sunday programming for TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) weekend

A major focus for me during the month of January has been assembling a group of volunteers to trade off Sunday school teaching duties. Several folks volunteered and were recruited to teach, and a meeting was held following church services on Sunday January 28. I led discussion of how we would divide up responsibility for the teaching and Liz Linke volunteered to put a schedule. The new schedule has been assembled through the month of March. I also provided teachers with materials from my library for use to compose lessons. I also spoke to volunteers about how to find materials online that can be used. My hope is that this will be sufficient to enable teachers to plan engaging lessons without the church having to purchase expensive Sunday school curriculum. However, Christian Education is important, and if the materials I've provided do not offer enough helps for teachers the church in spite of budget constraints may have to purchase some curriculum. This is an investment in the children that bring life and offer a future for the church.

I have been working to get a handle on Lent at AGLC, and planning in advance for Ash Wednesday, mid-week Lenten services, Holy Week and Easter. I have discussed with Tracie how we can work ahead on some of the office work related to worship and bulletins, etc. to reduce the stress level during this busy season of the church year.

A family whose children I baptized in November are becoming more active with AGLC. They have been frequent attendees at Homework Help, and have been in church the last two Sundays. I have begun discussing membership with them, and my hope is to hold a membership class with them and anyone else who might be ready to join in the near future. Lent would be an ideal time for this, as it has historically been a season of preparation for baptism.

The pastor's Bible Study changed from the Book of Acts to the letter of James and had 10 people present for the first session, and a lively discussion. Hoping that the selection of shorter biblical books

that can be taught in a four or five week time frame will reboot the study and re-energize it.

We have a family hasn't been seen by anyone since before Christmas. I have reached out through email, and others have contacted them as well. There has been no reply from them. They have probably left the church. No one seems to know why. It has been suggested that there was a pretty close relationship with Pastor Scott, and may not feel connected to the community anymore. This is sad of course, but not totally unexpected. During any pastoral transition, usually people will leave a church for one reason or another. *During the meeting, a member of council reported that they had spoken with the family; they are still around and hope to be back in worship soon.*

- **Jr. Youth Group** In addition to the revamping of our Sunday school structure, Becky O'Brien has brought me what I think is an exciting idea of doing a Jr. Youth Group. This would be open to all elementary age children from our church as well as homework help children and their friends, etc. It would be a fun fellowship group, I am thinking would meet every other week on Sunday afternoon at the church. When the weather improves we would do mostly outdoor activities, games, scavenger hunts, etc. I would also plan to bring some learning/devotional element to it as well, but that would be understated, and the fun highlighted to generate and keep interest among the children. I am also hoping if we can get the few teenagers we have to come, plus some of the teens we see frequently at homework help, my wife may be able to work with them and begin doing youth activities with them. As of now leaders would be: myself, Becky O'Brien, Deb Millum. All have been trained in Safe Church, and have received background checks. Any additional leaders would need to receive same training and checks if they don't already have it. Since we would do mostly activities at the church planned by myself and Deb and Becky I believe financial needs would be minimal. I don't anticipate this costing the church much, as Deb and I have much experience planning activities like this with children and youth.

Council voted unanimously to give Pastor the go-ahead for starting a Jr. Youth Group with Becky O'Brien.

- **Prayer Workshop for Children** Ana Reyes has requested to use the church building on Friday evenings to host a prayer workshop for children. It is a program from the Roman Catholic church. *There were no objections from council for her to use the building. She will need to coordinate with the office to make sure there are no conflicts.*

COMMISSION REPORTS

Nurture – Marilyn DelCampo

Nothing to Report

Discipleship – John Ferguson

The 2018 Sunday School session continues to evolve.

Liz Linke has stepped up as Sunday School coordinator. She has started a teacher schedule/rotation. They are pulling the readings from the lectionary. So far we only have February scheduled as I am still waiting to hear from a few teachers with their availability through the end of the school year.

The children are split up into lower grades (PK-2nd) Upper grades (3-6th) and confirmation (7-9th). This is to compensate for the learning differential between the age groups. The office will have the schedule and will be including SS teachers in the bulletin, as well as sending out reminder emails the week before. Sunday School teachers are: Debi Linke, Liz Linke, Wayne Linke, Wendy MacKinnon, Becky O'Brien, Ana Reyes, Nicole Speddon; substitutes are Deb Millum & Joanne Calabrese.

The lessons will follow the lectionary, and the teacher will decide which reading to focus on (OT, Psalm, NT, Gospel) Components of SS will be: story/lesson, craft/activity, highs/lows, closing prayer.

There will be no Sunday School on 4/1 (Easter), but that is the only week Sunday School is being canceled.

A big thanks for Liz taking this task on.

Outreach – Wayne Linke

- We had a successful blood drive on January 7.
- 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.

- Hello, Amazing Grace, even though Super Bowl Sunday did not get much advertisement and the 'crowds' did not fill the pews, the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank was the winner of 19 items of various types of Dishwashing Detergents! The Coop also was a bigger winner with 35 various Clothes Washing Detergents! There were also various items in the closet that equaled 20 items! Altogether, 74 items were delivered to the Coop Food Bank! Also, \$49.60 was collected as parishioners left the church! No votes were counted for the game, but there were a few more \$\$ in the Eagles offering plate! I guess we picked correctly for the Eagles being the winners this year! Thank you so very much for all of your support for the Coop Food Bank! Our neighbors cannot thank us individually; but I thank you over and over again for your kindness and generosity to our neighbors in need!
- We are scheduled to serve dinner to the Campus Ministry at GT on Tuesday, 4/17.
- The annual Hunger Walk will be on **Sunday, February 25** @ Turner Field. Walkers/Runners will be accepting sponsored donations from any members that do not wish to Walk. 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.

Worship & Music – Debbie Teal

- W&M Committee meeting was held January 10 with Debbie, Pastor, Lois, Charles, and Debi. We missed Connie, Judie and Sandee.
- February 14th is Ash Wednesday, so that service, Lenten Wednesday services, and Holy Week services were main topics. Further discussions and plans will be made during our next meeting which will occur the last week of February.
- Hospitality Team volunteers are always welcomed.
- Anyone interested in becoming a Worship Assistant should contact me.
- Tracie & Thinh continue to schedule the Acolytes, Readers and PowerPoint Operators – Please let them know if you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions.
- Music plans are well underway for Lent and Easter.
- We need sound system volunteer(s). The duties include maintaining a supply of lapel mic batteries; confirming that the handheld mics are ready for use at particular Sunday services and special services (i.e. Wednesday's during Lent, Advent, etc.); understanding how the soundboard mixer works; and other similar duties as needed. You will receive training. Please let Debbie Teal or Lois Simon know if you are interested. If you don't see us, leave a note in the W&M Commission Council slot on the wall in the office, or in Lois' Choir Director slot.

Property – Lee Bennett

- Nothing to Report

COMMISSION REPORTS ARE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS VOTE

New Business

- Communion Bread
- Now that we have moved to intinction, we should move to just using flatbread or naan instead of having someone bake a loaf of bread each week.
- Alarm/Office
- Elaine is going to email Bob Lee about getting a copy of the invoice from the alarm company to figure out why we are being charged for false alarms when the police aren't being dispatched.
- Living Lutheran Legacy Campaign
- The Synod office is moving to St John's Lutheran Church and is asking for congregations to give money above their synodical giving. There is a letter that will be posted in the Narthex, bulletin, and March newsletter.

- Decision making between council meetings - if you have something to send out to council between meetings, please label them as either: Please be aware/FYI **OR** This needs to be voted on/Action Item
- Color Copies - there are a lot of color copies being made, and color copies cost significantly more than black and white. Pastor Mike is going to bring this up at the next staff meeting to find out what all is being printed/copied in color, and if there are items that can be printed in B&W instead of color.
- Partners in Celebration - Elaine will post info about this opportunity for members to support redeveloping and mission congregations

Old Business

- Computer in choir loft - Think was able to reset it to a original and new factory version. It was set up with the same login/password. The computer is linked with the sound system and the projector system. He also installed Microsoft office 2010 version in it. The computer has been in use since Sunday, January 21.
- Gift Card for Assistance - Wayne went to Walmart and QT; neither has gift cards that can only be used for food/gas and not "vices." The council discussed purchasing QT cards and Walmart cards. Wayne's idea is that if we have a limited number of cards purchased each month to be kept at the office, to be handed out at Pastor and Tracie's discretion to people who come in looking for help. Wayne is going to purchase 5 of each card for the month of February. Visitors will continue to get information about community resources (co-op, etc.)
- Nominating Committee Update - has not met yet due to illnesses and scheduling conflicts.
- Call Process Update - the call committee met on 2/11 and elected Connie as the chair. They are working to schedule a meeting with Michelle Angalet.
- Spanish Bibles - Liz is going to check with the HOST committee to see if a version of the bible has been chosen, and will look into who is going to purchase them.
- Coffee maker - Lee has been trying to find a Bunn repair company with no luck, and will come back to council in March with information on costs for a smaller Bunn maker as a replacement.

Thank You's

- Liz Linke for taking on the task of Sunday School Coordinator
- Thank you to all who share their time and talents with us.
- Thank you to Loiuise Radloof for donating the computer for the choir loft, and to Think for making it functional for use!
- Liz and Lisa for helping to keep exec in order while Elaine was down with illness
- Thanks to Debbie Teal for getting name badges for council members.
- Thank you to all who helped in outreach functions in January.

Spiritual Autobiography for next month: John Ferguson

Closing Prayer

CONSENSUS TO ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted by Liz Linke.

MARCH

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; 6:30 Full Moon Party @ Wayne's House ; 7 pm Taller de Oracion y vida	3 Thrivent Builds Meeting
4 8:30 Worship; 10 am Sunday School Hour + Confirmation Class; 11 am Worship; 1 pm Junior Youth Group Event	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 pm Homework Help; 6 pm Lenten Dinner; 7:30 pm Lent Worship; 8 pm Choir practice	8 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	9 8:30 am Men's Group; 7 pm Taller de Oracion y vida	10
11 8:30 Worship service; 10 am Sunday School Hour + Confirmation Class; 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 pm Homework Help; 6 pm Lenten Dinner; 7:30 pm Lent Worship; 8 pm Choir Practice	15 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	16 8:30 am Men's Group; 7 pm Taller de Oracion y vida	17 10 am LSG Brunch @ Wahoo Grill
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 pm Home- work Help; 6 pm Lenten Dinner; 7:30 pm 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; 7 pm Taller de Oracion y vida	24
25 Palm Sunday 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	29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship; 7:30 pm NA Group	30 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship; 7 pm Taller de Oracion y vida; 8:30 am Men's Group	31