

# August 2018 NEWSLETTER



*Amazing Grace*  
*Lutheran Church*

**Sundays: 10 am Worship Service for Summer Schedule**  
**Wednesdays: 5:30 pm Homework Help**

**Interim Pastor Michael Millum**  
**3305 Lawrenceville Highway**  
**Lawrenceville, GA 30044**  
**770-381-1293**    [www.tisgrace.org](http://www.tisgrace.org)



# FROM THE PASTOR

In Deuteronomy chapter 4 we find this warning from Moses: **“You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it...”**

I find this interesting, because Jesus felt perfectly free to adjust and alter the laws and traditions of Israel. In Matthew, in what we refer to as the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus climbs to the top of a mountain to deliver the law to his disciples, much like Moses did. He is presented as the new and greater Moses, the One with the authority to add to and take away from the law, not for his own convenience, but so that the spirit and intention of the law would be fulfilled. So, in the Sermon on the Mount we hear Jesus say things like, **“You have heard it said, ‘You shall not kill,’ but I tell you that you must not even become angry with your brother or sister....You have heard it said that you must not commit adultery, but I tell you that if anyone looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”** This is what Jesus is concerned about after all—the heart of the matter. When the Pharisees took exception to Jesus healing on the Sabbath, Jesus declared himself the Lord of the Sabbath. He has the authority to modify and even violate the letter of the law, so that the substance and the heart of the law might be preserved.

We Lutherans are said to believe that we are “justified,” redeemed through God’s grace alone by our faith in what Jesus has done for us in his death and resurrection, and not by our own attempts to be obedient to God’s law. Indeed this promise is the core of what we call the gospel. Yet the one thing that has always surprised me, coming as I do out of another tradition, is that Lutherans are some of the staunchest legalists I have ever met. One thing I’m certain none of us wants to hear is how much like the Pharisees we all are. But we are all traditionalists in one way or another, and all the more so it seems where religion and faith are concerned. Traditions are important. They are comforting and familiar; they tell us who we are and where we came from and they give us a set of values to live by. Yet some of us are I think overly attached to the letter and the law and the word of scripture.

We all know people who are deeply devoted to reading and studying the scriptures, and can quote chapter and verse on just about any subject or issue that comes up in conversation. Indeed, I wish many more of us were devoted to the reading and study of the scriptures. But there are occasions when I think Episcopal Priest Barbara Brown Taylor is right. She says that some Christians fall so in love with the words on the page

that those words then become a substitute for the experiences they describe. Someone once observed that the people of the book sometimes put the book above people.

This is entirely contrary to the example Jesus set. There are times when the letter of the law must be set aside so that we may respond more appropriately and effectively to the needs of our brothers and sisters. How can we know when or how to break a law or tradition for the greater good of those around us? This is where God's Spirit is crucial to the equation. We must open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, and be open to her insights if we are to be faithful to the intent and heart of God's law, rather than becoming slaves to the letter of it!

## **Teachers Requested!**

We are looking for a few folks to help teach children's Sunday School starting in September!

Our goal is to have enough folks that teachers only have to commit to once a month. Sunday school is broken up into 2 age groups, k-2nd grade and 3rd-6th grade. Sunday school lessons follow the lectionary, and teachers may choose which reading they base their lesson off of. Rally Day is 9/16 and the first day for Sunday School is 9/23. If this is

something you may be interested in or if you have any questions, please talk to Liz Linke or Pastor Mike.



## **Youth Retreat**

Informational Meeting: **Sunday,  
August 12 after Church Service**

**Read more about the Retreat on page 14!**

## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS 2018**

This year God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is **September 9**. Our major project is helping with a Thrivent Financial Faith Build, hosted by Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity. We have signed up to participate on Saturday, September 8. The home site is located at 4195 Old Norcross Road, Duluth, GA 30096. There are also non-build activities that you can participate in if you like such as provide lunch, donate a microwave, create a Welcome Basket for the family, and more (see information coming soon a board in the Narthex). See David Berfield or Wayne Linke with questions. We are also planning a couple less rigorous projects on Sunday, September 9, after our worship service that will also be kid friendly. We are going to try a new project, painting rocks with encouraging words or phrases, even smiley faces, then placing them along walking paths in parks around our community. This idea comes from TrishLadd-Thomas and Lisa Larsen-Moss. Please see them with any questions.



### **The Alleluia Girls are Coming Back!**

After a long summer break, the Alleluia Girls will resume meeting on **Wednesday, August 29 @ 9:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. For those who may not be familiar with this ministry, we are a women's Bible Study who meets to study and discuss the Bible through related readings. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 am and then often our Bible Study is followed by a lunch outing to a local restaurant where we continue to have fellowship together. We have a great time getting to know each other while sharing in our discussions! We would love to have all women who are interested join us, even if this will be your first time in coming to the Bible Study!



## **THANK YOU TRACIE!!!**

In case you haven't heard the news, Tracie Crowe has resigned her position as Office Administrator for Amazing Grace, effective August 10, 2018. Tracie has occupied this position for seven years, and has seen a great deal of pastoral transition during that time. Tracie will leave a big vacancy. She is the consummate professional, always greeting people on the phone and in person with a friendly, welcoming demeanor. She loves Amazing Grace, and that is evident in the conscientious way that she has approached the job since she has held it. She likes things done right and holds herself and others to that standard. With Jacob now retired they wanted more freedom to pursue other interests and goals for themselves. There will be a formal goodbye planned for Tracie, but we wanted the good folks of Amazing Grace to know that this would be the last newsletter she edits for the office. Thank you, Tracie for effort and creativity you have brought to the office. You will be greatly missed and you have left some big shoes to fill!!



## **New Nurture Council Chair**

We would like to welcome Vickie Speddon back to our church council! Vickie is taking over the Nurture Commission for Marilyn DelCampo. The council held a vote at the retreat June 23 and approved Vickie unanimously. The congregation will vote at the December Semi-annual meeting. Vickie will complete the 2nd year of Marilyn's term, and is eligible for re-election at the May Semi-Annual meeting. Thank you to Marilyn DelCampo for your service on the council!



## Weekly Ministries at Amazing Grace:

**Prayer Discernment Group**, meets on the 1st & the 3rd Mondays of the month in the Sanctuary @ 7 pm

**Good Old Guys Group**, meets every Tuesday at the Bethesda Park Senior Center @ 11 am

**Pastor-led Bible Study**, meets on the 1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Fellowship Hall @ 6:30 pm

**Homework Help**, meets every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30—7:00 pm

**Men's Barnabas Reunion Group**, meets every Thursday in the Youth Room @ 7 pm

**NA Group**, meets every Thursday in the Fellowship Hall @ 7:30 pm

**Men's Breakfast**, meets every Friday @ the IHOP on Hwy 29 @ 8:00 am

## Ministry Events for August and September

**August 1** - Back to School Supply Night for Homework Help

**August 4** - Landscaping Work Day

**August 8**, Homework Help resumes

**August 12**, Blood Drive

**August 16** - Baseball Game Outing

**August 18**, Amazing Grace's annual Fish Fry & Thrivent Baseball Outing

**August 24**, Youth Retreat

**August 25** Unity Race Ministry, from 10 am - 6 pm at Stone Mountain Park

**August 29**, Alleluia Girls Begin Meeting

God's Work Our Hands is **September 9**.

Rally Day is **September 16**.



## **Landscaping Work Day Produces Great Results!**

A huge Thank You to all who helped to beautify Amazing Grace's grounds on Saturday, **August 4!** Your hard work made a huge difference in sprucing up the exterior of Amazing Grace!



## **Annual Fish Fry is August 18**

Please bring your family and friends to the annual Amazing Grace Fish Fry **Saturday, August 18 @ 6:30 pm**, rain or shine! Please bring a side dish to share!





Name	Birthday
Siso, Nina	8/3
McKenny, Bill	8/4
Silveus, Kristen	8/6
Moss, Phyllis	8/8
Bretschneider, Bob	8/9
Mendez-Magana, Angelyne	8/12
Bennett, Lee	8/15
Linke, Leah	8/16
Lee, Laini	8/18
Miranda-Reyes, Sergio	8/23
O'brien, Becky	8/23
Schultz, Diane	8/23
Spencer, Cole	8/27
Marzec, Conor	8/30
Barnes, Dot	8/31



## **Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry, in Loving Memory of Linda MacKinnon**

For over ten years Linda MacKinnon faithfully wrote a monthly article about the needs of the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry. Linda's great passion for the Lawrenceville Coop was well known to all who knew her. Linda excitedly promoted the importance of specific donations and volunteers needed for the COOP. Each month, in Linda's articles, she closed with a scripture verse and of course the contact information for making donations to the COOP. From Linda's article in the February 2008 newsletter, she wrote of being inspired by 1 Corinthians 13 by writing, "I feel the love of God each time I open the closet at church and see there are some offerings to the Food Bank."

So on behalf of Linda, we hope you will continue to support the Lawrenceville COOP!

<http://www.lawrencevilleco-op.org/donate/> or mail your check to:

52 Gwinnett Drive, Suite C, P.O. Box 1328  
Lawrenceville, Ga. 30046



## **Milagro – Creating Miracles in Guatemala**

Since its founding in 1991, the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala – ILAG) has always been about ministering to people living in the margins of Guatemalan society, particularly the indigenous poor.

The Saint Paul Area Synod and the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA have been in companion partnership in supporting ILAG for more than 25 years.

Currently, the Lutheran Church in Guatemala has more than 2,000 members in 17 congregations and operates an elementary school in Guatemala City serving over 100 students.

ILAG's newest mission is to help break the cycle of poverty in areas of Guatemala by bringing about changes in the lives of young women between 10 and 20 years of age through the Women's Education Center, an education complex just recently completed in Guatemala City, called MILAGRO (a Spanish acronym for "Women of ILAG Breaking Barriers" which translates in English to MIRACLE). Most rural women are regarded as nothing, primarily unpaid producers and caregivers of large families, with a cultural tradition of being "Practically Sold" at age 12 to 17 to older men when families can no longer support them.



## Milagro Ministry Update

Last Sunday (August 5), we presented the latest ministry effort by the partnership of our ELCA southeastern synod, the ELCA St. Paul synod in Minnesota, and the Lutheran Church in Guatemala (ILAG). Thank you for the very warm reception and interest in the MILAGRO (Miracle) mission - where young girls from the rural areas of Guatemala are being taught life skills in the hope it will break a longstanding cycle of poverty, including the tradition of "practical sale" of young teen girls for marriage when families no longer support them.

Find out more about ILAG and MILAGRO at [iglesialuteranaagustina.org](http://iglesialuteranaagustina.org) .

You can help the girls of MILAGRO in several ways:

1. Prayer
2. Financial support through the 2018 GALA fundraiser, special offering, etc.
3. Make cards for MILAGRO, sending a picture of yourself plus a favorite bible verse and/or personal message. Don't worry about language, let God do the translating.
4. Make a personal visit on one of the planned mission trips with the synod's Guatemala team.

Feel free to contact me for additional information at [jhercek@msn.com](mailto:jhercek@msn.com) or (404) 429-9528. Pastor Stephen Friedrich, of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, co-leader of the Guatemala Team, may, also, be contacted at [pastorstephen@lcrmarietta.org](mailto:pastorstephen@lcrmarietta.org).

The Atlanta 2018 GALA FOR MILAGRO will be **Saturday, September 8th** at the Downtown Hilton, 255 Courtland St NE, Atlanta 6:00 - 9:00 pm.

The keynote speakers will be:

- The Reverend Karen Castillo, President-Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala
- The Reverend H. Julian Gordy, Bishop Southeastern Synod of the ELCA

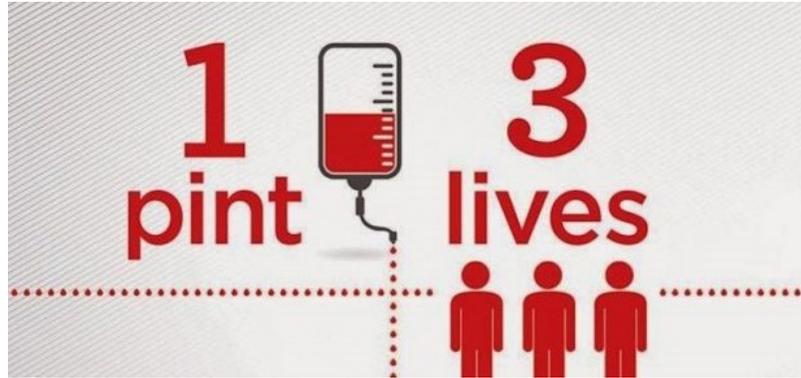
The program will include:

- Silent Auction, including blown glass by Parry Moss
- Dinner
- Live Music
- Guatemalan Market
- Cash bar

Tickets are \$50 per person. Please help if you can. It's a terrific cause. -Jimmy Hercek

## Blood Drive

Please consider donating blood for the upcoming Blood Drive next **Sunday, August 12**. Thank you for your consideration of helping someone in critical need.

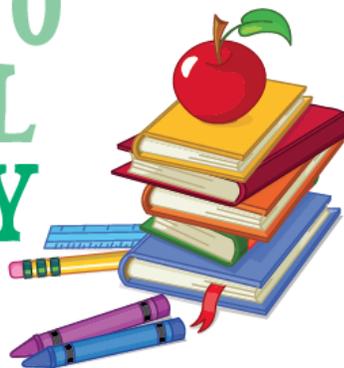


## School Supply Night

Your generous donations made it possible for over 30 neighborhood children to receive new backpacks and school supplies for the start of the 2018 school year!

August 1 was a great night of comradery for children and adults, including a discussion of new information for the start of the Fall semester of Homework Help and ending with a wonderful Blessing of backpacks by Pastor Julie! Thanks to all who made this possible!

BACK TO  
SCHOOL  
SUPPLY  
DRIVE



## Baseball Game Outing

The "Good Old Guys" will be going to the Gwinnett Stripers game on **August 16**. The Gwinnett Stripers will be playing Buffalo. We invite all men of the congregation to join us! Please contact [Joe Murray](#) or [Bob Mackinnon](#) if you are interested in joining the group for the game, so we will know how many tickets to purchase for our group.



## Thrivent Night at the Gwinnett Stripers Baseball Game and Tailgate Party!

Please join us before the **Gwinnett Stripers game on August 18** for food, fun & fellowship as well as participate in a generosity project with 4 local non-profit organizations:

[The Path Project](#)

[Nothing but the Truth](#)

[Friends of Gwinnett Seniors](#)

[Family Promise of Gwinnett](#)

You may be inspired to lead a future Thrivent Action Team with one of these organizations, and you'll be able to sign up on site.

The tailgate party starts at 4:30 p.m., and the Stripers play the Buffalo Bisons at 6:05 p.m. Tickets for the game are \$11, and parking is \$5 at the gate. We will provide the hot dogs, chips, drinks and cookies during the tailgate. ***The first 50 attendees will receive a special promo item, so bring a friend or your family and arrive early!***

Location: Coolray Field 2500 Buford Dr NE, Lawrenceville, GA

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# YOUTH RETREAT

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Location: **R-Ranch** in Dahlonega, GA

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Informational Meeting:

August 12 after Church Service

Retreat: August 24 - 26

To kickstart the school year we want to invite parents of youth (6th grade - 12th grade) to an informational meeting about a youth retreat at R Ranch located in Dahlonega, Georgia. It will be an opportunity to relax ,have fun, and learn more about the Bible.

At the retreat there will be fun activities such as: horseback riding, pool, hiking, movie room, youth rec room (pool table, and other games) bible study, and an opportunity to grow in faith.

In Attendance: Pastor Mike, Lisa Larsen-Moss, Trish Ladd-Thomas, Pam Rink, Debbie Teal, Vickie Speddon, Wayne Linke, Lee Bennett  
Guests: Sandee Page, Parry Moss  
Absent: Liz Linke, Bob MacKinnon

Opening devotional: Pastor Mike

Spiritual Autobiography: Bob MacKinnon - will postpone to August Meeting

**Secretary's Minutes:** The June minutes were approved via email by consensus on June 20 2018. The council minutes will continue to be published in the next month's newsletter.

### **Combined Treasurer and Financial Administrator's Report for May**

June, 2018 Regular Giving was \$14,488.54, which is \$88.54 over budget. Expenses were \$17,839.64, which was \$859.53 under budget. June was a decent month because Giving was over budget and Expenses were less than anticipated, but nothing exceptional transpired in either category.

June, 2018 YTD Income was \$1,359.63 less than June, 2017 YTD Income.

June, 2018 YTD Expenses were \$3,029.79 less than June, 2017 YTD Expenses.

2018 Year to Date Giving/Income is \$7,078.36 over budget.

2018 Year to Date Expenses are \$2,328.28 under budget.

Dedicated Accounts – We have a balance of \$36,455.51 in various accounts, which includes June, 2018 receipts of \$140.00 and expenses of \$1,345.00.

June, 2018 cash on hand is \$110,021.54 which includes \$36,455.51 in Dedicated funds; therefore, not in reserve/not liquid for general expenses.

*THE COMBINED REPORTS ARE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS VOTE*

### **Pastor's Report**

Eight home Visits; four hospital visits; eight nursing home, rehabilitation facility, homebound visits.

- Five church meetings (including half day Council Retreat, Saturday June 23)
  - Four Office Visits
  - Four Worship Services, four preaching opportunities.
  - One baptism.
  - One funeral service.
  - Three sessions of VBS
  - 3 Bible Studies
  - House Blessing for Bob and Elaine Schwartz on June 16.
1. VBS has occupied an immense amount of time in June. Each Wednesday has been entirely devoted to getting ready for VBS. I am planning the art lessons, the Bible lesson to go along with the service project that is being done. The lessons have entailed dividing the children into two different age groups. We have participation from far more teenagers than I anticipated. And they have not been able to appreciate some of the material geared to younger children as you can all imagine. So this has meant planning two lessons with the various age groups in mind. Where the art lessons are concerned, I have also been planning one art project for young elementary age, and one for older elementary age/teenage. So this is what I anticipate it will be like when Lois and I do the Art Camp beginning next year. Both I and the church will have to become accustomed to my Wednes-

days being almost entirely devoted to this effort in the future. (This assumes nothing about my future here at Amazing Grace. I know that the term call still needs to be voted on and approved by the congregation).

2. I had my first funeral since become Interim Pastor of AGLC on July 3. I mention this as a way of saying that I thought the congregation responded in a wonderful way to Roger Nagy and his family. They chose to hold everything related to the funeral here. Kudos to Kay McKinney, Sam Burt, and Sandee Page for doing such an outstanding job of coordinating the meal following the funeral. Thanks to all who set up the Fellowship Hall to host the meal. Also in general I am grateful to all of our membership who showed up for the visitation and service to support Roger and his family. I know he felt well cared for by the congregation during this time.
3. I found the Council Retreat on 6/23 to be very positive and energizing. People were invited to immerse the occasion in prayer, and to bring Bible verses and/or prayers that had particular meaning to them and say why at the beginning. This was very enlightening, and got everything going in a positive direction. Goals were established for the proposed term call. Also there were many more ideas discussed for outreach and evangelism for AGLC. All in all a very positive, hopeful and empowering day for those who attended.
4. In addition to the Council Retreat on 6/23, AGLC hosted a combined meeting of the AGLC Congregation Council and the Council of All Saints Lutheran Church to begin exploring the possibility of doing some joint ministry together. The meeting was facilitated primarily by Kim Stover, pastor of All Saints. It was a time devoted chiefly to getting to know each other, to discovering the ways in which we are similar and different as congregations, and to building trust to facilitate our working together in the future. The congregations both understand themselves to be very loving and caring communities, and both have experienced significant transitions in recent years. Both also relate to communities with similar demographics.
5. Plans are underway for a VBS Sunday in August. The question is when, as Lois and I will be on vacation after VBS ends. Also plans are in the works for Rally Day, as we anticipate a return to the nine month schedule in the Fall of 2 worship services, and Sunday school. I would like Rally Day to be as fun-filled and planned with the kids of the church in mind as possible. Since it is called Rally Day it should have a Pep Rally feel to it to build up enthusiasm for the beginning of Sunday school.
6. In light of discussion about resuscitating the youth ministry of the church in the traditional format of middle school and High school, Trish Powell, who has expressed an interest in working with the youth at AGLC, myself and my wife are planning to have lunch together in a couple of weeks following the Sunday service to make some plans to get this kicked off. I will also be inviting Becky O'Brien to join us. This does not mean that we would discontinue the work we have been doing with the Junior Youth Group at AGLC. Hopefully we will have the leadership and participation to keep both groups vital. This will bode well for the future I think as kids from the Jr. Youth Group grow into the Youth Fellowship age and hopefully remain involved.
7. Just some reflection on the Healing Service that was held this past Sunday 7/10. I found it to be a very meaningful experience. This was one of the few services that went almost exactly the way I envisioned it, which I believe is attributed to the participation of the Holy Spirit in the preparation of the service. Some 30 people I think came forward for healing prayers, and there were a number of people were happy to be involved in laying hands on those who came forward. I saw a number of people who were moved by the experience of being prayed for and anointed on Sunday. I too was moved by the experience. I was especially appreciative of Charles Anschuetz who volunteered to pray for and anoint me; and by two of our AGLC children coming forward to participate in laying hands on me. It was wonderful to learn that they were engaged in that way. The way the service went I think is a testament to the need for healing ministry at AGLC. I am aware of course that not everyone thought it was a good idea to do this on a Sunday morning, but I felt this was the best way to make this available to people who needed it most. I welcome feedback from folks on this.
8. A significant amount of time was spent at the last Worship and Music meeting in June discussing ways to trim the length of the worship service on Sunday. In my experience a

standard Lutheran Liturgy that involves Holy Communion is difficult to do in under an hour and fifteen minutes. I know that brevity is not one of my strong suits, but I have been trying to pay attention to the length of the sermon, and keep it to fifteen minutes, which some people may feel is still too long. In addition to eliminating the psalm and Creed on most Sundays recently I have implemented a strategy to shorten the Passing or the Peace and the announcements. Debbie Teal and I have met to look at what Christ the Lord Lutheran Church does to keep its services to around 50 minutes, as they do four services back-to-back on Sunday.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **Nurture – Vickie Speddon**

No Report Submitted. Vickie is working to get contact info for folks under her commission.

### **Discipleship – Bob MacKinnon**

No Report Submitted.

### **Outreach – Wayne Linke**

- I am working on scheduling to serve dinner to the Campus Ministry at GT during the Fall term. Wayne
- We have signed up to help with the Thrivent Habitat build on 9/08. I have invited all Saints to partner with us. Since it is the day before "Gods Work, Our Hands", we feel that this can be our large project for this year. David Berfield
- We are planning to have a Temple Talk about the Guatemala Synod's effort called the MILAGRO (miracle) Women's Education Center, and what their needs are that we might help with. Jimmy Herchek
- The VBS youth made up 50 Grace Bags. Lud
- The VBS youth are going to make the next batch of "Heart Signs" for distribution. Wayne
- We are once again going to advertise "Good Gifts", especially the need for drinking water. Liz

### **Worship & Music – Debbie Teal**

- W&M Committee met June 18. Topics included: 1) Summer worship. 2) Background color of PowerPoint. 3) Confirmation will be scheduled for Reformation Sunday in October. 4) First Communion will be taught by Judie and Pastor likely in September and then a Sunday will be picked. 5) We will complete a Wish List of items needed and/or wanted prior to the Stewardship Campaign and before the 2019 Budget is created. 6) Christmas Decorating will likely happen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>) and will be announced to request volunteers. 7) Choir Cantata and Children's pageant dates to be announced soon.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> service included a Baptism, so Altar Guild tasks were completed.
- The formal Choir rehearsals are on hiatus for the summer. Will restart in September.
- Hospitality, Acolytes, Readers, PowerPoint Operators and Worship Assistants are scheduled for couple months at a time rather than month by month.
- We still need one or two Sound System Volunteers. Please let Debbie or Lois know if you're interested.

### **Property – Lee Bennett**

No Report Submitted.

- Lee is looking for a work day to improve appearance of front of the Church. He suggested Saturday, 8/4, to start at 8:00 AM. **Approved**. Members suggested a pot-lunch after work. Vickie heading this up
- 8/18 for Fish Fry. **Approved**
- He said he would get information to Tracie to put in bulletin

### **Youth - Nicole Speddon**

As a youth of the Church, I feel as though we SHOULD team up and join with other nearby churches. I feel it would make all the difference because those churches do a lot more youth activities and fundraisers. I personally have many friends who go to different churches around

the area such as Christ the Lord in Lawrenceville, Nativity Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, and Epiphany Lutheran church in Suwanee.

I personally want to be involved in this church, but things are not like they used to be. We do not have as many older youth activities / trips like before. I understand that we have Junior youth Program, but what about the older youth. This is my last year as a youth and Madilyn, Sarah, and Johnny will be the only ones left.

I am interested in doing mission trips again like Habitat for Humanity. As a kid I looked forward to doing that and then the year I was eligible to go, they stopped doing it. My Friends at Epiphany recently took a mission trip down to Haiti and spent time down there doing mission work. Epiphany's commitment to the poor is lived out through their partnership with the Haitian Timoun Foundation. The mission of HTF is to foster hope and sustainability with dignity for the people of Haiti. Through HTF, Epiphany invest in initiatives led by the people of Haiti to help strengthen economic development, community engagement and local leadership. Their efforts are intended not to replace what Haiti people can better do for themselves but to support and help build sustainability. Epiphany's partnership with HTF has led to numerous immersion trips to Haiti and the development of life-changing relationships with HTF's Haitian staff and partners. These trips are life changing and a culture shock to most people. To have the opportunity for members of our church to experience God's work through us, is truly wonderful and amazing to see God working thru us.

*COMMISSION REPORTS ARE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS VOTE*

**Old Business**

- Nursery New Hire – in the Nurture Commission, present to congregation beginning of September: Lisa
- Financials in Bulletin: Trish – working, should be complete soon.
- Nurture Commission: Vickie Speddon to finish Marilyn Delcampo's term. Congregation to vote in December.
- HR Committee: 2 people added to the Committee: Pam Rink and Vickie Speddon
- Input from Council Members on Employee Handbook:
- Parry will send out electronic copy to all Council members for comment.
- Term Call Update: Lisa: in progress.
- God's Work Our Hands:
- Scheduled Sept 8 for Thrivent Habitat for Humanity build – David Berfield heading up.
- Painted Rocks coordination by Trisha and Pastor Mike
- Kids writing notes and packing bags for 3 fire stations near the church – Debbie to head up
- Wayne will write note to Tracie to put in bulletin
- Wayne will look into purchasing shirts for GWOH.
- Safe Gatherings
- Certification in progress for those who work with children
- Do we need to get certification for those who visit the elderly? Sandy said she would speak to Kay about information being provided to those who visit the elderly and they do not need certification. Council feels Safe Gathering training most needed for those who work with children.

**New Business**

- Special presentation by Sandee Page
- She is working on a documentary of our church history.
- She wanted, and got, council's support for her to start a caregivers support group and open it to community as well as our church. Approved
- Filling Office Administrator Position 8/10/2018
- Pastor and HR committee will review and update job description.
- Pastor and HR committee will research time required and pay rate.

- Council would prefer not hiring a church member.
- This is our current Administrative Assistant, we will work with him in this transition.
- We could post on Synod Newsletter
- Meeting with All Saints 6/26/18: Where do we go from here: Pastor Mike
- Possibly exchange Temple Talks and/or Pulpit Exchange to meet each other and discuss our and their outreach programs
- Pastor Mike will send an email to possibly share an office staff person (shared ministry)
- Family Promise and Homework Help may be other possibilities for shared ministries
- Clean out reading room:
- Idea is to make reading room into a computer room
- Where is everything going to go?
- Host committee will be told they can make the room into a computer room – Please contact Lee Bennett
- Update on screens in Sanctuary: Debbie T – working on it
- Changes were made with the background of the PowerPoint
- The sunlight may be an issue making the two sides readable
- Could dim the lights above the screen
- Parish Records: When do we update?
- Tracie and Pastor Mike working on update. Annette Erwin does Parish Records
- Our new Financial Secretary is Elaine Schwartz
- Suggestion Box @ Church: Liz has come up with a form and Council wants Liz to move forward with this effort.
- CPR: Debbie T – table until next month
- Financial Class: Dave Ramsey: Trish – table until next month
- Theology on Tap: Pastor Mike
- Thursday may be better than Monday
- Topic discussion
- Could be a shared ministry
- Habitat for Humanity: Wayne
- David and Wayne committed \$1,000 to the build as well as labor is scheduled for 9/8 and will be part of God's Work our Hands.
- Bob Lee has suggested an individual that wants to clean church at same cost as we are presently paying. Those that work in the church need to be bonded and insured. Others are interested in the job.
- Rudy wants the council meeting minutes to be included in the News Letter - **Approved**

### **Thank You's**

Thank you to David Berfield and Debi Linke for their years of being wonderful Worship Assistants.

Thank you to Jimmy Herchek for becoming a Worship Assistant.

Thank you Sam Burt, Sandee Page and Kay McKinney for organizing the funeral reception after Joyce Nagy's service

Thanks to all those who participated in the laying on of the hands

Thank you Pastor Mike for the healing service

Thank you Lisa for your hospitality for the retreat

Thanks to all who were involved with preparing the Altar Guild items for the Baptism that occurred July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you Parry Moss for taking notes during the July council meeting.

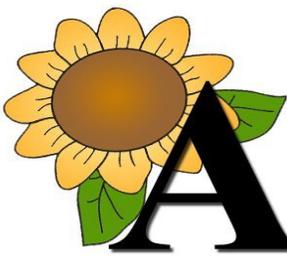
Thank you Marilyn DelCampo for your service on council.

Spiritual Autobiography for next month: Bob MacKinnon

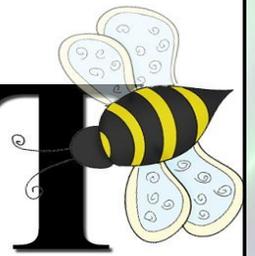
Closing Prayer

*CONSENSUS TO ADJOURN*

Respectfully submitted by Liz Linke.



# AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Wednesday Night Service for Vacation Bible School Children	<b>2</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	<b>3</b> 8:00 am Men's Group	<b>4</b> Landscap- ing Work Day
<b>5</b> 10 am Worship Service	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment	<b>7</b> 11 am Good Old Guys Meet	<b>8</b> 5:30 pm Home- work Help	<b>9</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	<b>10</b> 8:00 am Men's Group	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9 am—1 pm Blood Drive; 10 am Worship Service After Worship, Youth Retreat Info Meeting	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Visitation Ministry Meeting; 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7:00 Council Meeting	<b>15</b> 3:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Home- work Help	<b>16</b> Men's Group Baseball Outing 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	<b>17</b> 8:00 am Men's Group	<b>18</b> 6:30 Annual Fish Fry, Thrivent Baseball Outing
<b>19</b> 10 am Worship Service	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment	<b>21</b> 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>22</b> 5:30 pm Home- work Help	<b>23</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	<b>24</b> 8:00 am Men's Group Youth Retreat Begins	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 am Worship Service	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	<b>28</b> 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>29</b> 9:30 am Alleluia Girls ;5:30 pm Homework Help	<b>30</b> 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	<b>31</b> 8:00 am Men's Group	