



Amazing Grace

Lutheran Church

November 2018 NEWSLETTER

H a p p y

Thanks Giving

Sundays:

8:30 am Worship Service

10:00 am Children and Adult Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

Wednesdays: 5:30 pm Homework Help

Pastor Michael Millum

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Lawrenceville, GA 30044

770-381-1293 www.tisgrace.org



FROM THE PASTOR

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

Happy New Year! I know that sounds very premature. We are two months away from January 1, 2019; and we have so much ground to cover between now and then: namely Thanksgiving and Christmas. But there is a minor feast day, which this year will come on the last Sunday in November, called Christ the King which marks the end of the year in the church. The following Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent, and with Advent comes the New Year on the church calendar.

The feast of Christ the King is a relative latecomer on the Christian calendar. It was created by Pope Pius IX in 1925. On the first celebration of Christ the King, Mussolini had been ruling Italy for three years, a young rabble rouser by the name of Hitler had been out of jail for a year, his Nazi party was growing in popularity, and the world lay in a Great Depression. In such a time, Pius IX asserted that, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, Jesus Christ is Lord and King over all earthly kingdoms and rulers. The world needed this declaration, because cruel and demonic leaders were about to plunge this world into war. The world needed it then, and we need it now as much or perhaps even more.

Another event that is upcoming in November is Election Day. I'm sure that like me all of you are being treated to an overdose of political advertising these days. With every election I think that political advertising can't sink any lower but somehow it always does. What makes it so offensive is not just that the advertising is so negative, but those seeking our votes seem to believe that we're not intelligent enough to be able to see through their half-truths and their bold faced lies.

With every election the question is raised, Who's in charge here? Or Rather, who will be in charge here? We Christians give a different answer to this question than most of the politicians vying for your votes. Jesus' kingdom appears marginalized, small, insignificant. The largest buildings in most cities are those built and run by the government. How can we speak of the reign of Christ in a world that seems so solidly in the hands of those who have no allegiance to him or his kingdom?

Our rulers specialize in violence, coercion—military and legislative—the exercise of raw power. In Jesus, we have a king who rules through suffering love. He does his work, not at the capital city, the seats of power and prestige, but in little, insignificant, out of the way places like Bethlehem and Nazareth. He prefers to work, not with those whom we consider powerful and commanding, but rather with those whom the world regards as being little and insignificant, people like us.

He did his best leading from a cross. Here we have a radically different definition of king and kingdom and power because it is tied to the true, living God and his ways rather than to our false gods and their ways.

No wonder so few follow, no wonder that this peculiar kingdom has had its critics, and enemies, and even today, two thousand years after his brutal death, is ridiculed and often ignored. Yet perhaps this makes it all the more miraculous that there are still some who consider themselves citizens of this counter-kingdom. It is as if you bear two passports. One says that you are a citizen of this country, your native or adopted land. Another says that you belong to the people of the covenant, that you are answerable to a higher standard of judgment than our own conscience or even the laws of our state. Our lives and actions are judged ultimately by how well they conform to the plans and purposes of the creator.

Therefore we gather, on a regular basis, at least once every week on Sunday morning, to do our politics. That is, we come together to debate the basic political question, "Who is in charge here?" Our answer to this question has important consequences for our lives and everything we do as a nation. I do believe we are living in the greatest nation on the face of the earth, and that God has blessed us to be a blessing, a beacon of light and truth and justice to all people. But we are a nation *under* God, and I believe there are times when we have come dangerously close to worshiping the gift and not the giver. If we believe that Jesus Christ is King and Lord over all earthly kings and kingdoms, and we are bold to proclaim that he is, then we cannot make all our decisions on the basis of what we believe is in our best interests or in the name of national security. The message of the scriptures is that we can't afford to place more faith in our political leaders and the might of our military or our wealth than we do in Jesus Christ and the sacrificial saving power of his cross.

When the world seems to be coming apart, and storm clouds gather, and it seems more like night than dawn, it is important to know who is in charge. It is a great source of freedom and courage to know who sits on the throne.



**CHRIST
OUR KING**

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On **Sunday, November 4**, AGLC observed all Saints Sunday. The following names were read: **HELENA MIRANDA CARREOLA, JIMMY P. FERGUSON, JERRI GREINER HERCHEK, KENDRA KOCH, LINDA ANN MACKINNON, NOMA MARTIN, JOYCE NAGY, MICHAEL NESBITT, CHARLENE TIMMONS, LARRY UAY, JOSEPH GUTHRIE, DOROTHY SCHWADERER AND JAN SCHWADERER**. These names represent members of AGLC who died in the last 12 months as well as names of family members of some of our AGLC members. In addition to the reading of the names, a slide show of photographs was presented on the screens, and a lovely altar arrangement with framed photos of the saints, and candles. We remember all the saints of our congregation; and though our sense of loss is keenly felt, we celebrate that these saints have gone on to the church of the eternally living!



CONSECRATION SUNDAY

November 11, will be Consecration Sunday for AGLC. Estimate of giving cards were distributed on Sunday, November 4, as well as Time and Talent Inventories, for you to take home and fill out prayerfully. We are asking you to bring them with you when you come on November 11 to place on the altar at the conclusion of our worship service at both 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Please think of your pledge of financial support, and of your time and talent, for our congregation, as your investment in the future life and mission of our congregation. As you know we are facing significant challenges financially. But rather than think pessimistically about this, we can choose to respond enthusiastically and generously to the significant outreach and mission of our congregation in this community. See you in church on November 11!!!

Giving the Gift of Time, Talent, and Treasure

<https://goo.gl/forms/BshCNRcRrYkEDO8y2>

TAKE ONE STEP UP...FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH



In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ and his church, I plan to TAKE ONE STEP UP in my giving.

- STEP UP BEYOND TITHING** My desire is to do more than God's minimum.
- STEP UP TO TITHING** I will give 1/10 of my income to God's work.
- STEP UP TOWARD TITHING** I am not yet a tither, but I will move toward that goal.
- I WILL COMMIT MORE THAN LAST YEAR** \$_____ per week.

Name _____ Date: _____

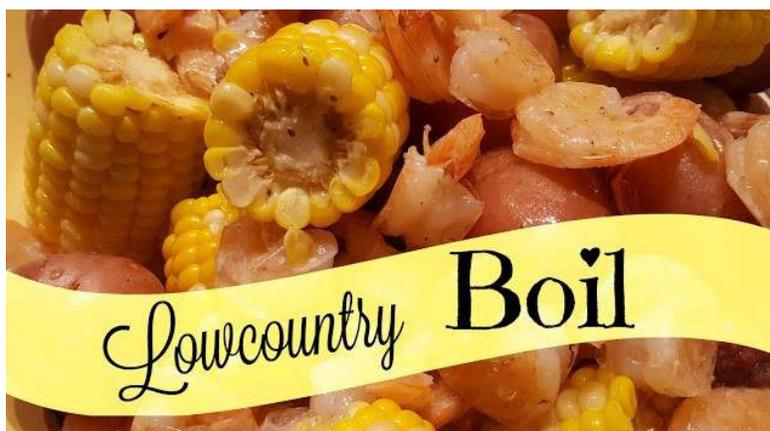
Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD

THANKSGIVING LOW COUNTRY BOIL

In an effort to change things up a bit and hopefully generate new interest; we are NOT going to have an AGLC family feast the Saturday before Thanksgiving, but we are going to give thanks for our AGLC family and the gift of life by having a Low Country Boil on Sunday November 18 immediately after the 11:00 service. This will give everyone ample time to donate blood for LifeSouth and share in God's bounty. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex but there are also cards to take that have the items we need. Please take as many or as few as you'd like and bring them on Sunday 11/18/2018 and give them to Bob or Lud before the worship service so they can be included in the boil – PLEASE DO NOT sign the sheet and take cards, we need to know that we have all items covered. If you have any questions please contact Bob MacKinnon (678-327-6199) or Lud (678-226-1726).



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Once again this year, we will hold a Thanksgiving worship service on the eve of Thanksgiving: Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. This year, members of the Youth Fellowship will provide much of the leadership of the service as another way for the youth to provide service to the church. The service will feature readings of scripture, prayers, a drama presented by the youth, and of course Holy Communion. Please come and offer your thanks to God for a year of blessings prior to sitting down with your family to eat your annual feast. See you there!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are struggling at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday service for help, especially with PowerPoint operators, and lectors. We are asking 8:30 attendees who are not currently serving in these capacities to consider volunteering. Please email the church office, or speak to Debbie Teal, who is the Worship and Music chairperson. Thank you.

V O L N T E E R

All that's missing is U!

WELCOME WAGON

The issue of how we might reach out, particularly to the people who will be moving into the housing development being built across the street is being addressed, and one of the ways we would like to proceed with this is by putting together a welcome wagon, containing information about area businesses, recreational opportunities and facilities, community and county resources and of course information about worship times, programs and offerings at Amazing Grace. We will need the assistance of anyone who has had experience with welcome wagons elsewhere, and especially from people who might have contacts with area businesses and programs who would have literature and advertisements, or maybe coupons to include in the packet. We will also need folks on the ground to knock on doors and distribute the Welcome Wagon packets. Evangelism is often considered a dirty word, especially by those who associate it with knocking on doors and passing out religious tracts. What we have in mind is going door to door, but the conversation piece will be the welcome wagon packet and offering neighborliness and hospitality to the new residents of the area. We will of course tell the folks who answer the door that we are from Amazing Grace Lutheran across the streets. This is an initiative that cannot just be accomplished by one or two people, and it may take us a bit out of our comfort zone, but we will probably find it is necessary for us to do that if we are going to reach out effectively and invite people into our community. You will be hearing more about this. But if you think you might have some expertise or contacts we can use for this ministry please speak to Pastor Mike, Lisa Larson-Moss or any member of the Congregation Council. Thank you!

welcome 
wagon[®]

Weekly Ministries at Amazing Grace:

Prayer Discernment Group, meets on the 2nd & the 4th Mondays of the month in the Sanctuary @ 7 pm

Piano Class, meets on every Friday @ 5:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall

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

Alleluia Girls Bible Study, will resume every Wednesday starting on September 29 @ 9:30 am

Homework Help, meets every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall @ 5:30 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



CHILDRENS CHOIR

All children, ages 8 and up, are invited to join our Children's Choir. Beginning on November 18th, after the 11:00am church service, please stay for one hour to practice two songs for the Christmas Cantata on December 16, 2018. Lunch will be provided. Being a participant in this Children's Choir will be an exciting experience in a child's life at Amazing Grace. Hopefully future music and classes will commence in January.



CELEBRATION PARTY FOR TRACIE

Following the 11:00 a.m. service on November 4, the congregation met in the Fellowship Hall to say a long overdue thank you to Tracie Crowe for the seven years she devoted to the Office Manager position at AGLC. Those in attendance enjoyed a wonderful potluck meal and a large number of deserts. In addition, the congregation presented Tracie with lovely gifts, a decorative wall cross and a painting, that the Crowes may display at their new beach home when it is constructed. Thank you Tracie, for your years of service in the church office, your conscientiousness and professionalism, and all the best as you and Jacob enjoy travel and other pursuits!



CONGRATUATIONS SARAH CALABRESE!

The folks of AGLC wish to congratulate Sarah and her family. This past Sunday, October 28, AGLC celebrated Sarah's Confirmation. This is the culmination of two years of Confirmation study. Sarah is a very active member of our youth fellowship. She participates in the life of our congregation as a Sunday morning lector and communion assistant. She is a talented violinist, and has shared her musical talents by playing in worship on occasion. Sarah is also thinking about joining the ranks of our Sunday school teachers. We look forward to her continued participation in the life of AGLC as an adult member, and watching her mature into the outstanding young woman she is already becoming. Following the service on Sunday a reception was held in the Fellowship Hall, giving people the opportunity to congratulate Sarah personally. The church also presented Sarah with a special teen study Bible to mark the occasion of her confirmation.





| Name | Birthday |
|--------------------|----------|
| Robert Koehler | 4-Nov |
| Tiffany Linke | 8-Nov |
| Damon Ladd-Thomas | 10-Nov |
| Raelynn Wilson | 14-Nov |
| Charlotte Bennett | 15-Nov |
| Sarah Calabrese | 16-Nov |
| Shimen Kilundu | 20-Nov |
| Diana Spencer | 20-Nov |
| Roger Nagy | 22-Nov |
| Jackie Hernnandez | 23-Nov |
| Bernice Johnson | 23-Nov |
| Carol Drake | 24-Nov |
| Christian Kilundu | 24-Nov |
| Charles Anschuetz | 25-Nov |
| Drew Hoffmaster | 25-Nov |
| Joel Mendez-Magana | 26-Nov |
| Debra Castro | 27-Nov |



In the meantime, we are running low on our food donations and the number of clients being served is continuing to rise. If you already have a Food Drive planned, please let us know that date. Also, it would be helpful, if you could add something in your communications asking for food donations to the Co-Op. Our website is updated weekly with the most needed items.

Current Needed Food Items

- Rice
- Pasta and Rice Mixes
- Vegetable Soup
- Chili
- Grits
- Oatmeal

Most Needed Personal Care Items

- Shampoo/Toothpaste/Deodorant/Soap
- Diapers (Size 5 & 6) and Pull-Ups
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Feminine Products

let's
celebrate!



THRIVENT

Thrivent Member Network
Florida & Georgia Region



An Annual Member Celebration at Atlanta Botanical Garden

As a Thrivent member, you are part of a regional network that brings members—Christians who value being wise with money and living generously—together. Being part of this network gives you opportunities to put your faith into action so you can live a wise and generous life, powered by your passion.

Mark your calendar for An Annual Member Celebration at Atlanta Botanical Garden because we'd love to have you join us. This event is hosted by the Thrivent Member Network—Florida & Georgia Region.

Join us at the Atlanta Botanical Garden for a private event that includes Thrivent member updates. Participate in a generosity project with fellow Thrivent members and friends, and take time to enjoy the Garden Lights through the evening.

Please feel free to register a guest to celebrate with!

Event Details:

Sunday, November 18, 2018

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Atlanta Botanical Garden

1345 Piedmont Avenue Northeast

Atlanta, GA

Tickets are available at www.ThriventGardenLights.Eventbrite.com. RSVP early to secure your spot! Children 3 and over are \$10. Adults are \$20.

THRIVENT
celebrates
our members

This special meeting is brought to you by your Thrivent Member Network.

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Amazing Grace Host Activities Update October, 2018

This article is based on a presentation given by Rudy Beilfuss to All saints Lutheran Church on August 12, 2018.

The Hispanic Outreach Strategy Team (HOST) represents an outreach ministry formalized in 2016 reflecting the Amazing Grace mission statement to "Grow in Love, and Love by Serving." It is the largest outreach program we have ever had. The primary goal of HOST is to provide input to Amazing Grace on how we can effectively integrate the Hispanic community into our church. Also, the HOST Team oversees three programs 1) Homework Help 2) Vacation Bible School, and 3) Lutheridge Camp. The current team members are Rudy Beilfuss, Becky O'Brien, Judie Lee, Debbie Linke, and Ana Reyes. Although most of the participants in these programs are Hispanic, we welcome all students. We also have volunteers from the church that we count on to assist with specific tasks each week, and we get support from church staff. We also get significant help from the Hispanic community – especially "The Mamas".

Homework Help

Homework Help is an evolving program and changes somewhat each year. Our goal is to maximize our time with Homework, Math, English Skills, and Reading. The parents of our Homework Help students are mostly comprised of individuals for which English is a second language and their limited English knowledge makes it difficult for them to help their children with homework. The parents stay at church while their children receive the much-needed help. The parents generally bring food and help with food service and cleaning up after we eat and at the end of the evening.

The Homework Help program is designed to provide help to elementary, middle, and high school students. Every Wednesday evening during the school year we meet for a potluck dinner, we have time for fellowship, and then we proceed to help with homework. We generally have 15 to 25 students.

We start the evening at 5:30 with a prayer and potluck dinner. At 6:00 we start with Homework which lasts to 7:00. Upon completion of Homework, or if a student does not have any homework, elementary school students can read, or work on grade level sheets we provide, and older students can read or participate in some music training. We have provided our students with school supplies costing over \$1,000 each of the last two years.

We try to be flexible in our approach. We emphasize to volunteers that they do not need to be there or bring food every week, or have expertise in the subjects - we will provide help if they have problems of any kind.

Vacation Bible School

Most of the children that go to our Vacation Bible School (VBS) program also attend Homework Help. VBS is held on six Wednesdays during the summer from about 5:00 to about 7:00. Our focus for the last two years has been God's Grace in Action. Each week we have a bible story and use that message by doing service projects for the community. For example, this year we made cards and tissue paper flowers for the sick and elderly, made Grace Bags to give to the poor, baked cookies for our cookie

ministry, and we contributed food to the Lawrenceville co-op. The kids learn not only about the different ministries at Amazing Grace but also learn how to reach out and make a difference in our community. We experimented this year with the addition of some art and music, which we hope to add in 2019.

Lutheridge Camp

Lutheridge is a camp facility in North Carolina owned by the ELCA. The participants attending our summer family centered camp are primarily the same people that participate in our Homework Help and VBS programs. In the last two years we averaged about 9 families and 40 participants. The feedback from the family members attending indicate they have an unforgettable experience in a spiritually enriching environment. They have told us they come home feeling blessed to be part of a congregation that supports them and the needs of their families. The Hispanic community provides significant financial support for the program through the sales of tamales to congregation members and friends. The Hispanic community has told us that they have experienced and seen the teamwork operating between the families as they worked together to raise funds for this program. In 2018 for example, with the funds generated from tamale sales and contributions from Amazing Grace we were able to pay the full camp fees for a needy family, as well as half the camp fees for each of the rest of the families.

Resources

How do we do all this? We have two primary resources – Time and Money. First, people volunteer their time, which is our biggest resource, People bring and/or buy food - we eat a lot of Pizza. We receive Individual contributions of money. The Church has a small budget for outreach. In the last two years we used \$ 3,000 of designated outreach money we received from St. James. Fund raisers from the sale of tamales made by the Hispanic parents raised around \$ 3,700 in the last two years. We used these funds for the cost of Lutheridge attendance. We also use Thrivent Action Team Projects for Homework Help and Vacation Bible School. I estimate that we will have received a total of about \$5,000 in 2017 and 2018 combined.

Churches Working Together and Sharing

We have all read about, seen and experienced the decline in church membership, especially with the younger generation. The world is changing, and the need to change and do things differently is always with us. We understand that there are concerns about how well two churches will be able to work together. It will be different. However, I believe we can all benefit from sharing, learning from each other, and working together. As a member of Amazing Grace for 27 years I have experienced a willingness for our church to share whatever we have, and I would expect to hear the same from members of All Saints. Although we are all concerned about the future of our own individual churches, ultimately, we are all on the same team. I hope we can move forward and learn more about how we can better leverage the biggest, and possibly most underused resource we have – working together.

We invite you to come see what we are doing at Amazing Grace, and join in the fun.

FALL FAIR 2018

The Annual Fall Fair for the children of AGLC and the community was held on Saturday, October 20 and it was very successful, as you can see from the photographs included. There were over 30 elementary age children, 11 youth, and several adults who participated in all. The event was planned and hosted by the AGLC Youth Fellowship Group, and by Pastor Mike and Deb Millum, and Trisha Powell. The event began with games led by Pastor Mike. Children played pen the stem on the pumpkin. Blindfolded children stuck a stem made of construction paper on to a poster that was drawn by Pastor Mike. The child who came closest to where the stem was supposed to be got to take the poster, a picture of a friendly pumpkin with a friendly black cat popping out of it, home. Then the children went outside and did relay races, including mummy a-go-go, a game in which a small child is wrapped up in toilet paper to look like a mummy, then carried by team mates to the finish line.

Next, came a candy scavenger hunt, followed by fall crafts led by Deb Millum (See pictures for the adorable turkeys made by the children). After the crafts were concluded, the children went outside to the pumpkin patch and selected a pumpkin, then spent the remainder of the evening, either carving or painting their pumpkin. Children also participating in guess the number of candy corn and M &Ms in a dish, and the child who came closest to guessing the correct number got to take the candy home.

Finally, Pastor Mike painted a pumpkin to look like one of the M &M characters and the child who had a Halloween sticker on the bottom of his or her plate won the pumpkin to take home. Needless to say a great time was had by all who participated, children, youth and adults alike!!





Free Christian College Fair

Get educated on getting educated.

Tuesday, November 13th

6 - 8^{PM}

12Stone Church

2050 Sugarloaf Circle, Duluth, GA 30097

YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Meet with admissions officers from Christian colleges.
- Learn what to expect when transitioning from high school to college from an expert financial professional in college planning.
- Learn your college funding options and how you can avoid excessive debt.
- Discover Thrivent Student Resources' tools and resources and learn how they can assist you in every step of the college journey.

REGISTER AT: [TSRCollegeFair-Duluth.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tsr-college-fair-duluth)

QUESTIONS? 603-362-6322 or ann.lague@thrivent.com

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[ThriventStudentResources.com](https://www.thriventstudentresources.com)

No products will be sold at this event.



In Attendance: Lisa Larsen-Moss, Trish Ladd-Thomas, Liz Linke, Pam Rink, Bob Lee, Debbie Teal, Lee Bennett, Bob MacKinnon, Wayne Linke, Pastor Mike Millum

Absent: Vickie Speddon

Opening devotional: Pastor Mike

Spiritual Autobiography: Lee Bennett

Secretary's Report: The September minutes were approved via email by consensus on September 20 2018.

Combined Treasurer and Financial Administrator's Report for August

September 2018 Regular Giving was \$13,716.15, which is \$1,183.85 under budget. Expenses were \$15,718.45, which was \$1,950.22 under budget. September was a better month than August; Giving was more and Expenses were less so we are moving in the right direction.

September 2018 YTD Income was \$11,613.37 less than September 2017 YTD Income. September 2018 YTD Expenses were \$12,995.93 more than September 2017 YTD Expenses.

2018 Year to Date Giving/Income is \$1,874.03 over budget.

2018 Year to Date Expenses are \$5,437.11 under budget.

Dedicated Accounts – We have a balance of \$34,438.24 in various accounts, which includes September 2018 receipts of \$297.00 and expenses of \$335.86.

September 2018 cash on hand is \$99,396.36 which includes \$34,438.24 in Dedicated funds; therefore, not in reserve/not liquid for general expenses.

THE COMBINED REPORTS ARE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS VOTE

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR AUGUST

- 1.Home Visits = 3
- 2.Nursing Home/Homebound Visits = 5
- 3.Hospital Visits = 8
- 4.Worship Services/Preaching Opportunities = 8
- 5.Church Meetings = 4
- 6.Bible Studies = 3
- 7.Office Visits = 1
- 8.Staff Meetings = 2
- 9.Homework Help Sessions = 4
- 10.Youth Meetings = 1
11. First Communion Classes = 2
- 12.Confirmation Classes = 4
- 13.The coming of Fall has brought the return of Sunday school and the Fall schedule, and the resumption of some pastoral duties that I did not have during the summer months. In other words I am saying that Fall is a busy time. There has also been much advance planning, with Reformation Sunday and All Saints bearing down on us, and Advent and Christmas right around the corner. Worship and Music and the staff have already done a con-

siderable amount of discussion regarding the Cantata and this year's Christmas Pageant, as well as Christmas Eve. It is hard for me to believe that I am beginning my second round of preparing for this time of year here at Amazing Grace, something I didn't think I would have the privilege of doing. But I love this time of year and am looking forward to the challenges.

14. You will notice in my visitation statistics that there were more hospitalizations in September and early October than in months past. Actually most of these have occurred since October arrived. The hospital visits have taken me to Grady Hospital as well as Northeast Medical Center in Gainesville, my first visit to each of these respective medical facilities.

15. For the last few months I have talked about the likelihood of a membership class. I believe we are close to getting it scheduled. The participants will be Robin Clavijo, the woman who sang the song in Spanish during communion yesterday at 11:00 a.m., and Marisol Lopez, a woman who brings her children to Homework Help regularly. She has been visiting on Sunday quite often for several months. Her son received his First Holy Communion October 7, and her daughter is a part of our Jr./Sr. High Youth Group. The daughter also may be joining our Confirmation class which would bring us up to five Confirmands. It is looking like we would hold the class on a Thursday evening. I will begin publicizing it, and inviting anyone else who would like to be included besides the two persons that I know of at present. My wife will also most likely join with this class, though I don't think I am going to require her presence at the class. I think her years of being married to a Lutheran pastor, as well as her experience of teaching Lutheran theology to confirmands probably will be sufficient preparation for her. The class will begin meeting soon, and then we will decide amongst the participants when will be the best time for them to formally join our congregation. Hopefully the first new members in better than a year will be experienced by the congregation as a positive and hopeful thing!

16. We will also be confirming one of our Confirmands Sarah Calabrese on Reformation Sunday this year. Hopefully we will be able to make this an exciting celebration for her! Currently we are reviewing Luther's Small Catechism in Confirmation.

17. I would like to comment further on the First Communion classes I taught in September. I work hard to make these classes fun and interactive for the kids participating. I taught by having them make a collage, doing a scavenger hunt looking for clues on the meaning of baptism, and by making monkey bread (sugar cinnamon bread) together in the kitchen, which we then used in our rehearsal of their First Holy Communion. I also have the kids make a First Communion banner which we displayed on the altar October 7.

18. We were blessed to have four participants in all, and one of the participants was also baptized in the service on October 7. It is important to note that he was very enthusiastic and asked to take part in the First Communion Class as well as to be baptized on his own volition, with no suggestion or compulsion from anyone else. This was the result of his being brought into our congregation by one of our members who brings him to Homework Help. He has experienced the hospitality of the people of Amazing Grace and has chosen for himself to become more involved. He also enthusiastically volunteered to read our First Reading during the October 7 service. I think this is an excellent example of what can happen when a member of our parish issues the invitation to a child to come and participate in one of our offerings for children. He has met and been welcome by the adult volunteers of Homework Help, and has felt at home here, and he wanted to get closer to God, and be included formally as a member of the family of Christ in our church. He of course wouldn't articulate it as I have, but from my observations and interactions with him, and the experience of speaking to his grandmother over the phone and discussing his baptism with her, I know he has felt at home here. This is how the best form of evangelism can work. It is personal. Since children and teenagers are

some of the toughest groups to interest in the church, I think we are doing something right here at AGLC.

19. I would like to qualify my inclusion of the last Youth Ministry event in my report by saying that I was not in attendance at that event, but I did help to plan it with my wife and Trisha Powell who met with the youth on September 30. The other thing I want to point out is that we had nine youth in attendance that evening. We started with 10 at the Retreat in August. One of the challenges was going to be keeping the youth we started with involved and keeping the momentum we build with the August retreat going. So far we have been able to maintain the interest of most of those youth. We had one youth bring a friend to the September 30 meeting, and he has said he wants to be included going forward. We have established an electronic method of communicating with these youth, many of whom are from families who aren't members of AGLC.

20. Sunday October 14, our Stewardship Drive will get into swing. I have met with Jimmy Herchek to plan the concentration in worship. We have scheduled some lay folk including Jimmy to give temple talks. I am also going to work over the next weeks to finish up a video I have been working on with David Trevino that will underscore some of our current outreach, including Homework Help, Sunday school, and the Lawrenceville Food Co-op. Then we will also present the Welcome Wagon ministry, the Arts and Music Camp idea, in an attempt to help people catch a vision for what we can do as a congregation to further the spread of the gospel in our community and to build up our own congregation. The best way to encourage people to give financially to the congregation is to get them excited by a vision of what we might do together with the help of God, instead of showing them statistics and graphs and budgets which don't excite anyone. Consecration Sunday this year will happen on November 11.

21. I am going to be part of the Local School Advisory Committee through Bethesda Elementary
22. Blessing of the Animals Sunday October 21 at 4PM

COMMISSION REPORTS

Nurture – Vickie Speddon

No report Submitted

Discipleship – Bob MacKinnon

No Report Submitted

Outreach – Wayne Linke

No Report Submitted

Worship & Music – Debbie Teal

•Rally Day, Sunday, September 16 – Think and I verified continuing volunteers and recruited a few more folks for Hospitality, Acolytes, Readers, Children Messengers, PowerPoint Operators, Worship Assistants, etc. We still need more volunteers, especially for the 8:30 service.

•The PowerPoint background has been changed to black with white writing. It seems to be working well.

•World Communion Day, October 7th will be celebrated.

- First Communion was taught to four children and will be celebrated Oct. 7 and Oct. 14
- Choir rehearsals restarted Wednesday, September 5th at 7:15pm.
- Confirmation will be Reformation Sunday, October 28th.

Property – Lee Bennett

- There has been an inconsistent, small leak somewhere in the pantry area. We are looking into where the leak is coming from, but still not sure. Please let Lee know if you see any water on the floor in the pantry or the basement bathroom.

COMMISSION REPORTS ARE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS VOTE

Old Business

- Office Administration
- Celebration/Gift for Tracie - more to come
- Screens for Back Wall - the pieces and parts have been purchased and donated, and should be installed 10/14/2018.
- Stewardship Campaign - set to begin 10/16 with consecration Sunday being 11/11. See point 19 in Pastor's Report for more information on the Stewardship Campaign.
- We will also make a Time & Talent sheet for members to fill out in addition to a monetary pledge. Hopefully this will get more of our members involved in AGLC ministries.
- Alarm call list updated - Lee will have a new list put together by the November meeting.
- Bob Lee will update the master key ring.

New Business

- Semi-Annual Meeting - scheduled for December 9, between services at 10AM.
- Nominating Committee - 5 members plus President. Wayne & Debbie have volunteered to be on the committee; Lisa will contact members to fill the other 3 spots.
- Positions opening up in 2019: VP, Financial Administrator (P Rink completing Trish's term), Nurture (V Speddon completing Marilyn's term), W&M, Outreach
- Individual who wants to use church for coaching sessions. Discussion. Pastor will speak with this individual and others to see what we can work out, as we think this could be a good community outreach for us.

Thank You's

- On behalf of Lisa: Thank you to the whole council for supporting me as president over the last few months, specifically through the term call process!
- Thank you to Bob Schwartz for working with our band students to play for Rally Day
- Thank you to Judie Lee for making the cheerleading shirts for our children on Rally Day.
- Thank you to Connie Ferguson for decorating the church for Rally Day.
- Thank you to Pastor Mike for creating the goal post and teaching the kids the song.
- Thank you to Deb Millum for flipping the scoreboard numbers so quickly.
- Thank you to Bob Lee, Lud, Pam and folks who brought pot luck donations for our first ever Tailgate party as part of Rally Day.
- Thank you to Liz Linke for the long awaited knowledge of how to help Sandee Page and Debi Linke create our PowerPoint slides into black background and white lettering, including the musical pages.

Spiritual Autobiography for next month: Trish Ladd-Thomas
Closing Prayer

CONSENSUS TO ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted by Liz Linke.

NOVEMBER

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | 1 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group | 2 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:45 pm Piano Class | 3 Kendra Koch's Memo- rial Service |
| 4 All Saints Sunday 8:30 Worship Ser- vice; 10:00 Sunday School Hour; 11 am Worship Service; Celebration for Tracie | 5 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort | 6 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 6:30 pm Bible Study | 7 9:30 am Alleluia Girls ;5:30 pm Homework Help; 7:15 pm Choir Practice | 8 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group | 9 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:45 pm Piano Class | 10 |
| 11 Consecra- tion Sunday 8:30 Worship Ser- vice; 10:00 Sunday School Hour; 11 am Worship Service | 12 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment Group | 13 9:30 am Visitation Ministry; 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7:00 pm Council Meeting | 14 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 10 am Staff Meeting; 5:30 pm Home- work Help; 7:15 pm Choir Practice | 15 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group | 16 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:45 pm Piano Class | 17 |
| 18 8:30 Wor- ship Service; 9 am—1 pm Blood Drive; 10:00 Sun- day School Hour; 11 am Worship Service; Low Country Boil | 19 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort | 20 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 6:30 pm Bible Study | 21 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 10 am Staff Meeting; 5:30 pm Homework Help; 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve service | 22 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group; 7:30 pm | 23 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:45 pm Piano Class | 24 |
| 25 8:30 Wor- ship Service; 10:00 Sunday School Hour; 11 am Worship Service | 26 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment Group | 27 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 6:30 pm Bible Study; 7:00 pm Peachtree Band of Jazz | 28 9:30 am Alleluia Girls ;5:30 pm Homework Help; 7:15 pm Choir Practice | 29 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group; 7:30 pm | 30 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:45 pm Piano Class | |