

May 2019
NEWSLETTER



Amazing Grace
Lutheran Church

Sundays:
8:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesdays: 5:30 pm Homework Help

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FROM THE PASTOR

BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Most people desire a place of belonging and acceptance. We find this in various places and groups, in our families, among our friends at school, around the pool table, if you are one of the "Good 'ol Guys," at the Wednesday Bible study, if you are one of the "Alleluia Girls," and of course some people don't feel they have a people or a community. The author of the New Testament letter of 1 Peter, declares to his Gentile readers, "**Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy**" (1 Peter 2:10). His message is to those who because they were not Jews, and therefore did not belong to the family of Israel, were far off from God. But Jesus, through his death and resurrection has opened up what was formerly a very exclusive community. Therefore those who were not a part of the people of God, through Jesus Christ, have been granted admission to the family.

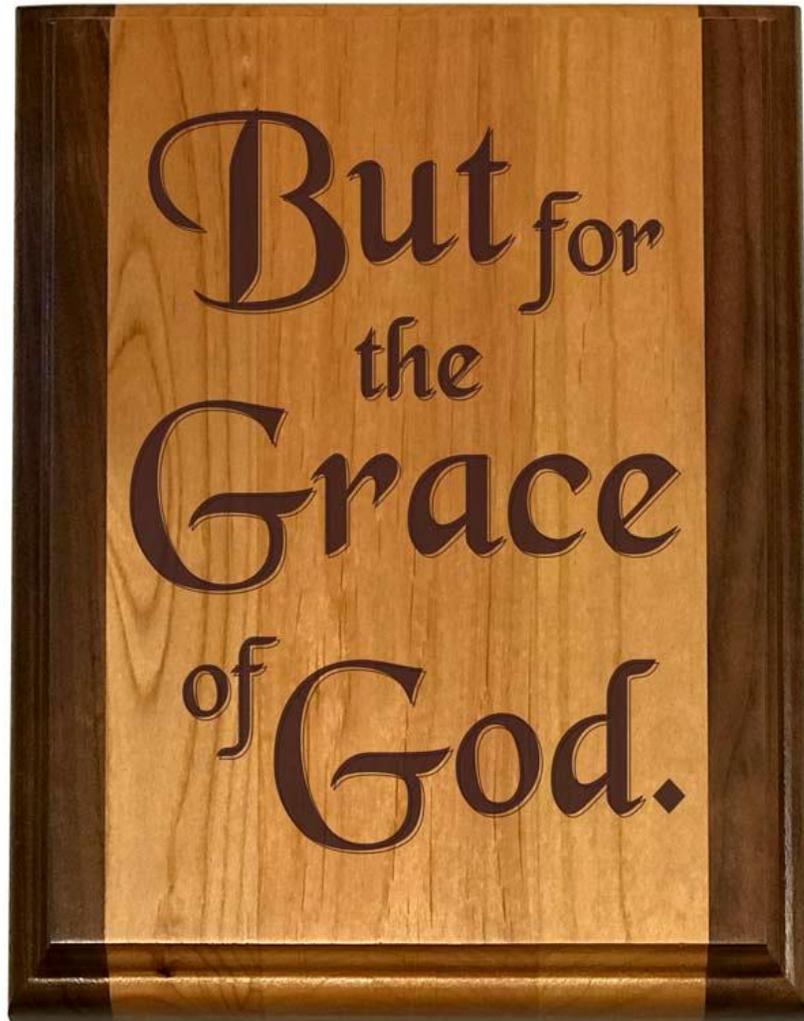
You may not be able to relate to these words or to the issue that 1 Peter is addressing. That is because as far back as memory will take you, you have always had a place of belonging in the family of God where you have felt welcomed and valued. That is because when you were barely a twinkle in your heavenly Father's eye, he crossed the distance between you and him and embraced you in baptism. God circumvented all of the obstacles to a relationship with you and made you his own.

The author of First Peter also calls us living stones who are being built into a spiritual household, with Jesus himself as our cornerstone. In my former parish, the front wall of our worship space, where the cross was mounted over the altar was brick. Some of the bricks were an odd shape, misshapen I believe intentionally, to give the wall a unique appearance. It must have been difficult for the masons who worked on that wall to include the odd shaped bricks along with the standard bricks, to make it all hold together. Yet in its own way the wall was a thing of beauty, and it provided an ideal backdrop from which to muse on words like this from 1 Peter. Just as every brick had its place in that wall, so every member of the body of Christ here at Amazing Grace has a place in this congregation. We all bring our unique shapes, gifts and graces to the dynamic and ministry of the congregation. Our collective presence is vital to the health of the whole congregation. Members have come and gone in large numbers through the years. Those who have left us have created an absence and a loss that is keenly felt. Others that have joined us along the way and been included in our family, have been built into this spiritual household, by God the architect of our family. Those who go missing for a time are missed and when they return they find that there is still a place at the Lord's table for them.

Most of us are familiar with the expression, "but for the grace of God go I." In fact, we are so well acquainted with the saying that we usually abbreviate it. We simply say, "But for the grace of God..." and people understand what we mean. This sentiment, it seems to me, is at the very heart of the verses I have been discussing. But for the grace of God, we are nobodies. But for the grace of God, we are not a people, we have no race, no tribe, no identity. By the grace of God, we are somebodies. By the grace of God, we not only have a family of origin, mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings to care for us, but we are members of the largest, most diverse family on earth. By the grace of God, we like living stones are being built into a spiritual household, given a place of belonging and a purpose. A place is set for us every Sunday at the table of God's grace.

You did nothing to achieve this or merit it. In all of this God took the initiative and sought you out through Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Long ago in a Bethlehem manger he was born, and on a hillside outside of Jerusalem he died so that you would become somebodies, God's children, God's chosen, a holy nation, a kingdom of priests, nothing short of royalty.

But for the grace of God...



SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The Spring semi-annual meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday May 19 at 10AM**. This meeting is held to elect new Congregational Council members, approve annual reports including the annual audit and other such matters of business as may seem necessary. In order to have a vote, we must have a quorum of members present, so please make every effort to join us!

The following slate of nominees has been approved by the church council for a congregational vote at the semi-annual meeting:

President - Trish Powell

Vice President - Jimmy Herchek

Financial Administrator - Joe Murray

Nurture - Debi Linke

Worship & Music - Bob Schwartz

Outreach - Bob MacKinnon

Discipleship – Sandee Page



SEMI-ANNUAL
**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

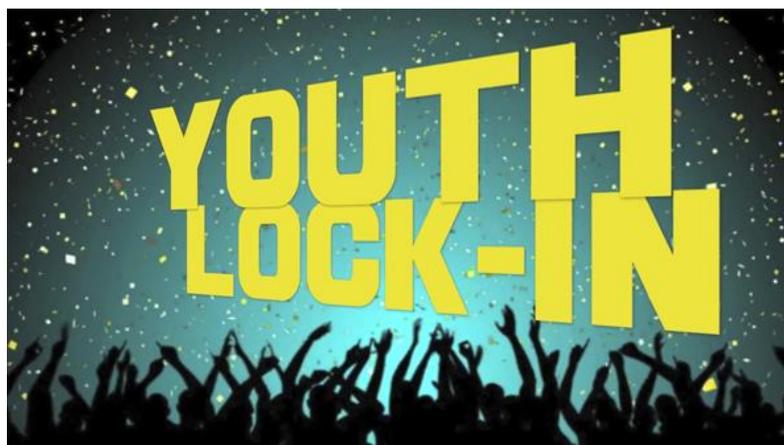
VBS, 2019!

A theme for this summer's AGLC VBS (Vacation Bible School) has been chosen: It will be: "God Is The Best Superhero!" VBS begins on Wednesday afternoon June 12, and will run for five Wednesdays until July 17. There will be no VBS session the week of July 4. Further details and times will be announced once they are decided.



YOUTH LOCK-IN

An end-of-the-school-year youth Lock-in is planned for Friday, May 17 and Saturday May 18. The event will get underway about 5:00 p.m. (or when people start to arrive) with a cookout on the church grounds, followed by a fun evening of games, group activities and hanging out. The youth will sleep (maybe) at the church in the basement. The next morning we will make breakfast together before everyone goes on their way. There will be plenty of adult chaperones, male and female, for the event. Any youth, sixth grade or older is welcome to attend.



AFFIRM ~ SUMMER YOUTH EVENT

Do you have a child who has completed 6th grade through 12th grade this summer? The Southeastern Synod offers a Summer Youth Camp experience that nurtures their faith and trains their discipleship skills. My children have all attended AFFIRM each summer, and it is their favorite event of the year! They meet other Lutherans, and develop relationships that have lasted into their teenage years. For Registration and more information, you can go to: <https://www.sesyouth.org/affirm>

If you would like to talk to one of the kids who has attended, see Nicole Speddon! She and Madelyn Ladd-Thomas will be attending this year, and they would love to tell you about their experiences!!



"TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG"
"JUNTAS SOMOS FUERTES"
Fundraiser to support
Recoleccion de fondos para apoyar a
NORMA HERNANDEZ

FUNDRAISER TO
SUPPORT
NORMA
HERNANDEZ
AND FAMIMLY

Basket raffle is on May 12, 2019. Ticket for \$5



Basket raffle
Rifa de canastas

May 12, 2019

Boleto/Ticket

\$5.00



SECRET BROTHERS

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church will be starting the First Annual Secret Brothers event 2019, directed, produced and created by Michael Calabrese.

The Sign up is due by Easter Sunday, this is for all men of our congregation. The sign up sheet will be located in the Narthex lobby.

If you have any questions don't ask Michael Calabrese, ask Magic Mike!



THRIVENT NIGHTS

Our Thrivent Member Network will once again be hosting a Thrivent Night at the Gwinnett Stripers. This is an event for the entire Southeast Region of Thrivent , so you may receive more than one invitation! Please share with your congregations. Let me know if you have any questions via kristen.silveus@thrivent.com. Thanks!

Kristen R. Silveus

Thrivent Night at the Gwinnett Stripers	
What:	An opportunity for Thrivent members and friends to gather together for fellowship, food & fun and a generosity project!
When:	Saturday, June 8
Where:	Coolray Field 2500 Buford Dr, Lawrenceville, GA
Time:	5:00 p.m. registration and dinner 6:05 p.m. game begins
Cost:	\$11 for ballgame tickets. Parking is \$5 at the game. The Thrivent Member Network is covering the cost of dinner.
Generosity Project:	Benefitting Gwinnett County Habitat for Humanity
Registration:	https://groupmatics.events/event/Gwinnettthrivent8



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 @ 5:00 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

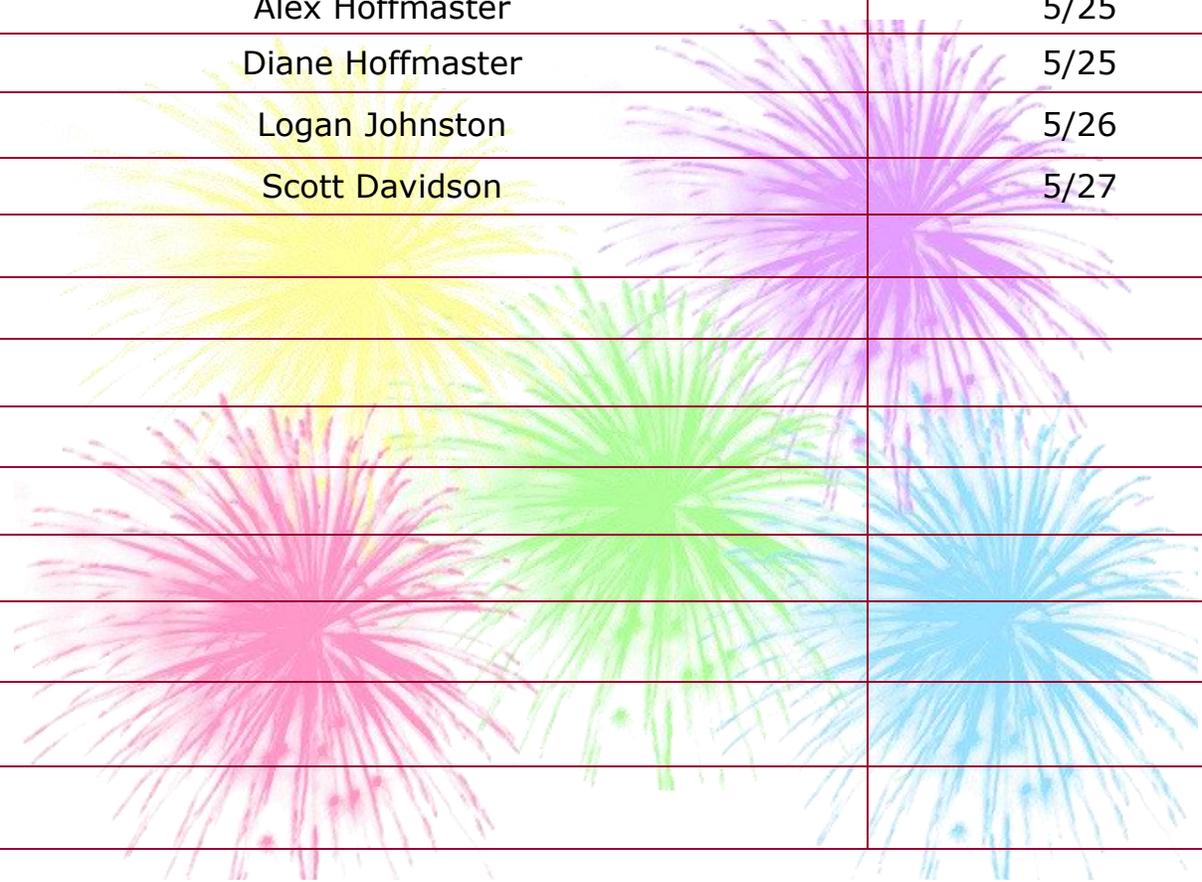
Men's Breakfast, meets every Friday @ the IHOP on Hwy 29 @ 8:00 am





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Name	Birthday
Jenna Schultz	5/6
Vernon Rink	5/9
Shirley Haselow	5/10
Tracie Crowe	5/18
Herbert Griffin	5/19
Charlotte Rink	5/20
Sabrina Starr-Dalton	5/22
Judie Lee	5/23
Alex Hoffmaster	5/25
Diane Hoffmaster	5/25
Logan Johnston	5/26
Scott Davidson	5/27



LAWRENCEVILLE CO-OP

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

- PEAS
- LIMA BEANS
- CANNED TOMATOES
- TUNA
- CHILI

Most Needed Personal Care Items

- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- DISH SOAP
- SHAMPOO



MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5:30 pm Homework Help 7:30 Choir Practice	2 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	3 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:00 pm Piano Class	4
5 8:30 Worship Service; Sunday School Hour; 11 am Worship Service	6 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	7 11 am Good Old Guys Meet	8 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5:30 pm Homework Help 7:30 Choir Practice	9 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	10 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:00 pm Piano Class	11
12 8:30 Worship Service; 10 am Sunday School Hour; 11 am Worship Service	13 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment Group	14 9:30 am Visitation Ministry; 11 am Good Old Guys Meet; 7:00 pm Council Meeting	15 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5:30 pm Homework Help 7:30 Choir Practice	16 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	17 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:00 pm Piano Class; 5:00 pm Youth Lock-in starts	18 Youth Lock-in ends
19 8:30 Worship Service; 10 am Semi-annual Meeting; 11 am Worship Service	20 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort	21 11 am Good Old Guys Meet	22 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5:30 pm Homework Help 7:30 Choir Practice	23 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	24 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:00 pm Piano Class	25
26 8:30 Worship Service; 11 am Worship Service	27 6:30 pm Peachtree Trombone Consort; 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment Group	28 11 am Good Old Guys Meet	29 9:30 am Alleluia Girls; 5:30 pm Homework Help 7:30 Choir Practice	30 7 pm Men's Barnabas Group; 7:30 pm NA Group	31 8:00 am Men's Group; 5:00 pm Piano Class	