

Amazing Grace's February 2012 Newsletter



Amazing Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

In this Month's Issue:

Find out the Connection between Dante, Brad Pitt
and Pastor Jason

Lent is coming, **We want You** to join us for Dinner & a Drama

If you can **or** have ever wanted to be an Actor or
to Destroy a Building;
If you can Walk, Read, Eat, Pray;
If you Love Someone,
then **you are perfect** for participating in an upcoming
activity or joining a small group at Amazing Grace,
find out how inside ...



Lent and the Seven Deadly Sins

Nobody likes to hear bad news. Bad news is a downer. Most of us especially don't enjoy hearing bad news about ourselves. Bad news is delivered with unfortunate regularity, from the doctor, a lawyer, an accountant or elected official. There is a tendency to react to bad news without thinking, directing our frustration at the most convenient target, the messenger.

Christianity is often included in this collection of bad news deliverers. Part of this bad rap is warranted, as self-righteous judgment which has been hurled carelessly from certain quarters of the greater church. This type of bad news is destructive, ill-timed and misplaced.

Yet Jesus Christ, spent a great deal of time and energy conveying to his contemporaries news that many of his hearers understood to be bad, the notion of sin. Jesus spoke to the human condition, due to sin there is brokenness in our relationships with one another and with God. The root of the Greek word for sin, *hamartia*, the root of which relates to "missing the mark". Jesus states clearly that all humans miss the mark, even those who strive for perfection in the eyes of God.

An obstacle to this process is the human propensity to avoid the negatives. We want to distance ourselves from such unpleasantness. We're inclined to react by touting our positives and diminishing our failings. It is tempting, if not convenient, to blame God for the messes we're in. For those who are brave enough to look at what Jesus talked about, they will see the gaps, see where they've fallen short.

Lent – The bad news and the Good News

God does not leave us alone with this condition. With Jesus, the bad news of our sinful selves leads to the Good News of the Gospel. God sent his son Jesus to save sinners. Jesus rescues us from sin by his grace, love, and forgiveness. New life comes from Christ, sin is defeated because we are "more than conquerors from him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

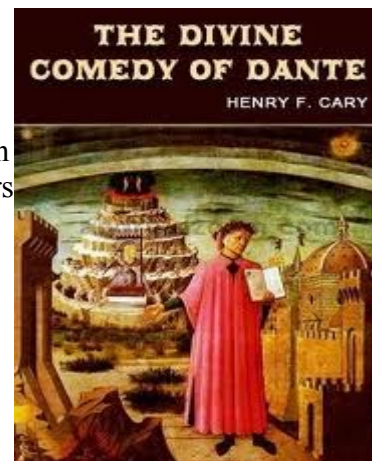
Jesus said "the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). There is such a beautiful simplicity to this invitation to honesty. Instead of resisting the notion of sin, let's acknowledge it. No person is uniquely sin-free. We each have our issues. Coming to terms with this reality is easier when we know Jesus loves sinners.

Lent is the time for doing just that. This church season is a special period of time (40 Days) to reflect on the realities of sin head-on and our need for redemption. Lent has two services that function as "bookends". Lent starts with Ash Wednesday where worshippers confess their sins and are confronted with their mortality. Lent ends with Good Friday where we observe the death of Jesus as the ransom for the sins of us all.

Sermon Series – The Seven Deadly Sins

The emphasis every Lent is on turning away from sin through repentance and self-denial. This year we will do so through the lens of a sermon series on the Seven Deadly Sins. The Seven Deadly Sins were compiled by the early church as a way for new Christian converts to learn about the faith and what behaviors to avoid and seek forgiveness for.

Since then the Seven Deadly Sins have often been a focus of Western art and literature. Works ranging from Dante's highly influential "Divine Comedy" written in the 1300's to the movie "Seven" starring Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman, the Seven Deadly Sins have been a subject of curiosity and fascination.



Here are the Seven Deadly Sins:

1) Pride 2) Envy 3) Anger 4) Sloth 5) Greed 6) Gluttony 7) Lust

Each week we will focus on what the Bible has to say about one of these sins, hearing stories, wisdom and guidance from scripture about these sins and how they pollute our lives, revealing our need for Christ. One minor obstacle: the series doesn't fit perfectly into Lent. The series is seven weeks long and Lent has five Sundays plus Palm Sunday. So we'll be getting a head start, hitting the ground running come the first Sunday in Lent.

Here's the schedule:

Feb. 12 Pride

Feb. 19 Envy

Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday

Feb. 26 Gluttony

March 4 Sloth

March 11 Anger

March 18 Lust

March 25 Greed

The goal of this series isn't to bum everybody out with bad news about how bad people are. Instead, the goal is to hear and learn how Christ works in our lives, saving us from our propensity to commit these sins, loving us into a new way of living.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.

Luke 4:18

See You in Worship,
Pastor Jason Talsness

Prayer and Healing Service

HEALING SERVICE

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14. There will be a Healing Service on **Wednesday,**

February 15th at 7:00 pm. This is a service prepared for anyone seeking healing of any kind. There will be a special time when individual worshipers will be welcome to come forward for prayers and anointing with oil.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Please join us for an Ash Wednesday worship service on **Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 pm.** There will be no soup and sandwich dinner on this evening prior to worship.



LOVE LIFE
LIVE  **LENT**
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD

ACTORS NEEDED FOR LENTEN DRAMAS

Those who have a gift and/or interest in drama are invited to be a part of our Lenten Midweek Drama series on the Seven Deadly Sins.

Each week on Wednesday nights

there will be a drama with a small cast. This year the dramas will be directed by Mandi Lee*. **Rehearsals will be Sunday afternoons after 11:00am worship.** If you are interested, please contact Tracie in the office at office@tisgrace.org or at (770) 570-7407.

Mandi Lee is a member of Amazing Grace having grown up here. She is an actress and recent graduate of Webster University's Conservatory of Theater Arts with a B.F.A. in Acting. She is currently located in Atlanta, GA, and is working in theater and film.



SOUP AND SANDWICH DINNERS

AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR LENT

We invite everyone to join together to share dinner on **Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall** prior to worship services during the Lenten season. Please bring your favorite soup and sandwiches to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We will provide drinks.

Lenten dinners will be on the following Wednesday evenings:

- **February 29th**
- **March 7th**
- **March 14th**
- **March 21st**
- **March 28th**

Our worship services will begin @ 7:30 pm with our Holden Evening Prayer and will feature our special Seven Deadly Sins dramas.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—OUR NEXT BUILD

Once again this year Amazing Grace will participate in a Habitat for Humanity project by working with two other churches on a Rehab of a home in Snellville. The house is located at 3877 Burnt Leaf Lane in Snellville. We will join with Christ the Lord Lutheran Church on **Saturday, Feb. 25 from 8:00 am—4:00 pm** and with All Saints Lutheran Church on **Saturday, April 28 from 8:00 am—4:00 pm**. If you would like to volunteer to help with the build, please contact David Berfield @ (678) 662-7543 or sign up on the sign-up sheet on the board in the Narthex.



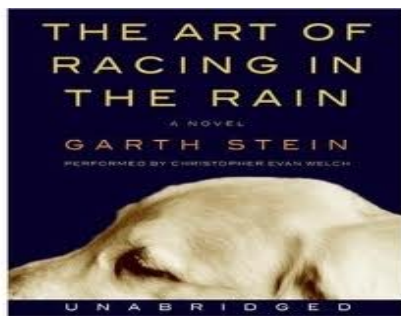
HUNGER WALK

Each year Atlanta area churches join together to participate in a Hunger Walk which raises money for local food pantries. Amazing Grace will participate in this year's Hunger Walk on **Sunday, March 11, 2012**. Please mark your calendars to participate and stay tuned for future announcements with more details!





The next session of Lutheranism 101 will be on **Monday evening, February 6th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm**. If you are interested in attending this course, but could not come to the first session, please contact Pastor Jason to let him know that you would like to attend the class. For this course we will dig deep into a Lutheran understanding of Christianity as well as the teachings of the Christian church. For more information please contact Pastor Jason Talsness at (770) 570-7407 or pastor.jason@tisgrace.org.



BOOK CLUB'S NEXT MEETING

The book club meets on **Sunday, February 12th at 3:00 pm in the Youth Room** to discuss “*The Art of Racing in the Rain*” by Garth Stein. **For a review of this book, go to <http://www.amazon.com/Art-Racing-Rain-Garth-Stein/dp/0061537934>.**

Please join us for an always lively discussion!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Youth will be collecting donations for the Lawrenceville Food Coop on Super Bowl XLVI (Souper Bowl) **Sunday, February 5**. After the 8:30 and 11:00 am worship services, we will ask everyone to vote on who they think will win the bowl game by making a donation for their team. All proceeds will be donated to the Lawrenceville Food Coop.



NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Why not look for love in all the right spiritual places? Introducing NOOMA: A six week Adult Sunday School program by Pastor Rob Bell. Join the Valentine's Week kick-off on **February 12th @ 10:00 am in the Youth Room** as we begin by looking at the joy, struggle, and complexities of relationships between men and women based on Old Testament scripture from the Song of Solomon and the Book of Proverbs. Suitable for all ages and audiences (but most likely the hottest Sunday School Class you will ever experience). Join us Sunday, February 12th, at 10 am in the downstairs Youth Lounge to see and discuss how and why it's so important to be spiritually grounded in all aspects of love.



VALENTINE'S DINNER

Everyone is invited to our annual Valentine's Spaghetti dinner on **Saturday evening, February 18th, in the Fellowship Hall, starting at 5:00 pm.** We have several exciting activities planned for everyone, including being treated to a fashion show by our youth. We are still asking for youth to coordinate on

entertainment, such as playing a musical instrument, dancing, singing, or another creative activity. We also need Youth volunteers to help set-up, cook, serve, and clean-up after the dinner. This should be a very fun evening for all. Please join us!

MEN'S RETREAT

The annual Men's Retreat begins on Friday night, **February 3rd @ LutherRanch.** You can arrive as early as 1 pm, or you can join us in the late afternoon. We have 15 men signed up for the retreat, with space available for 3 more men. If you are still interested in coming on the retreat, please contact Bob MacKinnon @ (770) 972-8605 or roblin1@bellsouth.net. Meals are already planned. Please bring snacks and beverages to share. This retreat should be a very fun time of great Christian fellowship with the men of Amazing Grace as well as some men from Oak Road Lutheran Church. Last year's retreat included a time for devotion, card-playing, great live music led by several men at the retreat, really good meals, and of course great conversation.



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the companies that merged to form it have been helping Lutherans for over one hundred years. All Lutheran congregations are served by Thrivent representatives, and we at Amazing Grace are blessed to have Kelly and Don Goldsmith as ours. Thrivent offers congregations helpful articles on financial management. You will now see these articles regularly in Amazing Grace's newsletters.

Five questions to consider before refinancing your home

Before refinancing, be sure it's right for you

Attracted to today's record-low interest rates, many homeowners are seizing the opportunity to refinance, saving on mortgage payments and freeing cash for other uses. Tempting as lower interest rates and monthly payments can be, it is important to think about your unique situation and if this is right for you. Here are five questions from Thrivent Financial Bank to aid in the decision-making process:

Do I have enough equity built up?

Refinancing is usually feasible when you have at least 10 percent of equity in your home. Refinancing is possible with less than 10 percent, but extra fees may be assessed.

Do I have any overdue payments, and is my credit score acceptable?

Lenders like to see no late payments within the last 12 months before refinancing, and most of them require a minimum credit score. If you have debt or bad credit, you may not qualify for the loan. Free annual credit reports are available from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion (visit www.annualcreditreport.com). Even if you choose not to refinance, knowing your score and working to improve it is a smart move.

Are mortgage rates low enough to be worth refinancing?

One consideration is the "two-percent rule," which says that your new refinance rate should be at least two percent lower than your current rate to be worthwhile. The savings should be enough that you are able to make up for the cost of the new loan in savings within a reasonable time period. Thrivent Financial Bank has an online "Refinance Breakeven" calculator to help determine the time frame for paying off your mortgage, visit ThriventBank.com/refinance

Has my property value gone down recently?

If your property value has decreased since you purchased your home, your new mortgage may not be enough to cover the original loan. Refinancing is usually not recommended when a home's value has significantly decreased.

How much time is left on my current loan?

If you are down to the last few years before paying off your current loan, it's best to stick with it. Refinancing may provide extra cash now, but with a long-term loan you'll end up paying more.

Lower monthly payments can allow for more room in your budget, but don't let them deceive you; lower monthly payments do not mean you suddenly owe less on your home. Continue using the money you save each month for debt reduction, savings and smart spending. In the long run, self control now will reap more benefits down the road as you strive for a happy and prosperous future. For more information, visit <http://ThriventBank.com/refinance>

Bank products and trust services are offered through Thrivent Financial Bank, (Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender), a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Insurance, securities, investment advisory services, and trust and investment management accounts are not deposits, are not guaranteed by Thrivent Financial Bank, are not insured by the FDIC or any other federal government agency, and may go down in value.

About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, provides a full range of banking products and services to more than 60,000 customers nationwide. Based in Appleton, Wis., the bank manages more than \$550 million in assets and serves its customers through with a nationwide network of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representatives. Thrivent Financial Bank also offers award-winning online banking services that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, visit www.thriventbank.com.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit, Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping approximately 2.6 million members achieve financial security and give back to their communities. Thrivent Financial and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, disability income insurance, bank products and more. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent Financial creates and supports national outreach programs and activities that help congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit Thrivent.com. Also, you can find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Don Goldsmith, FIC, is a Financial Consultant with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in Snellville. He can be reached at 770-982-0420 or don.goldsmith@thrivent.com. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping approximately 2.6 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. This column was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by this representative.

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. *Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, 800-847-4836, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.* Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents of Thrivent Financial. For additional important disclosure information, please visit Thrivent.com/disclosures. 201104282

The Lawrenceville Cooperative Food Ministry

Greetings to you, Amazing Grace! As I type, I am thinking about Noah and his family aboard the Ark! We have had so much rain lately, I am amazed thinking about how much food for not only Noah and his family was stocked aboard the Ark, but enough for all the pairs of animals God instructed him to bring with them!

I have the privilege of going to a store in the rain if I need something for a meal or any snacks I might be craving! I also have the money that I can spend getting just about any food items or personal items I need for my daily life!

Yet, I know that there are people around me that do not have the same privilege of shopping whenever a craving hits them or even when their empty stomachs are growling for lack of something to eat! Rain or sunshine does not make any difference in a hungry person's life!

That is when the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank can help people who might need a little aid with a week's worth of grocery items and some personal care products.

There was a report recently that there are over 600 volunteers from our community who help out at the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry in all kinds of ways. Also included in this report was the statement that \$.92 of every \$1.00 collected goes directly to helping the clients who come to the Coop! Volunteers and donations are so very important to the well being of the Coop.

On Super Bowl XLVI Sunday, February 5th, members of our Youth Group will be hosting the annual Souper Bowl of Caring Event. All are asked to vote with your monetary donations for the team - New England Patriots OR New York Giants - you think will win this year! All donations will be given to the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry! When voting, please remember ninety-two cents of every dollar goes to the clients of the Food Bank!!! Thank you, Amazing Grace, for all the support you always give the Souper Bowl of Caring!

This month 179 items have been donated to the Coop from Amazing Grace. At the time of this article, personal items like toothpaste, deodorant, soap, and shampoo have been in very short supply and are very welcomed items by the clients. Also needed is laundry detergent and baking supplies - cake mixes, corn muffin mixes, flour, and sugar. And a monetary gift is always welcome by the Coop! A quick reminder that donations may be made through Amazing Grace in a church envelope marked the "Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry," OR by making your donation directly to the Coop at:

Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry

P.O. 1328

Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046

You may also donate directly to the Coop by visiting its location at:

176 Church Street

Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046

Thank you for all the support you have given the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry Food Bank in the past! Every item is appreciated so very much! I am repeating the first part of Matthew 25:35 this month for my Bible verse. It starts ...*"For I was hungry, and you fed me...."* With each item I donate to the Food Bank, I feel like I am giving it directly to Jesus because He is hungry! It is such a wonderful feeling! Maybe you should try it!

God Bless You, Amazing Grace!

Linda MacKinnon

AGLC FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am Alleluia Girls Meet 7:00 pm Midweek Grace 7:30 pm Choir Practice	2 7:00 pm Via De Cristo 7:30 pm Narcanon	3 6:30 am Men's Group Men's Retreat Begins	4 9:00 am Yoga Class
5 Souper Bowl of Caring 8:30 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School & Confirmation 11:00 am Worship Men's Retreat Ends	6 6:30 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Lutheranism 101 Meets	7 10:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet 7:00 pm Education Meeting	8 9:30 am Alleluia Girls Meet 7:00 pm Midweek Grace 7:30 pm Choir Practice	9 7:00 pm Via De Cristo 7:30 pm Theology on Tap 7:30 pm Narcanon	10 6:30 am Men's Group	11
12 8:30 am Worship; 10:00 am NOOMA ; Sunday School & Confir- mation; 11:00 am Worship; 12:00 pm EXEC Meets; 3:00 pm Book Club Meets	13 6:30 am Men's Group	14 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet 7:00 pm Council Meets	15 9:30 am Alleluia Girls Meet 7:00 pm Heal- ing Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	16 7:00 pm Via De Cristo 7:30 pm Narcanon	17 6:30 am Men's Group	18 9:00 am Yoga Class 5:00 pm Valentine's Dinner
19 8:30 am Worship 10:00 am NOOMA ; Sunday School & Confirmation 11:00 am Worship	20 6:30 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Lutheranism 101 Meets	21 10:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet	22 9:30 am Alleluia Girls Meet 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	23 7:00 pm Via De Cristo 7:30 pm Theology on Tap 7:30 pm Narcanon	24 6:30 am Men's Group	25 8:00 am- 4:00 pm Habitat Rehab in Snellville
26 8:30 am Worship; 10:00 am NOOMA ; Sunday School & Confirma- tion; 11:00 am Worship; 12:00 pm Celebration Lunch @ Shane's Rib Shack	27 6:30 am Men's Group	28 11:00 am Good Old Guys Meet	29 9:30 am Alleluia Girls Meet 6:30 pm S&S Dinner 7:30 pm Holden Even- ing Prayer & Lent Drama			

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Joint Council Minutes
January 10, 2012 @ 7:00 pm**



Attendees: Pastor Jason Talsness, David Berfield, Parry Moss, Rick Upton, Lee Bennett, Debi Linke, Bob MacKinnon, Elaine Schwartz, Wesley Stubbs. **Absent:** Jacob Crowe, Bob Lee, Butch Whitehead.

Spiritual Autobiography and Opening Prayer given by Parry Moss. **Secretary's Report:** Lee Bennett moved to approve the December minutes. Bob MacKinnon seconded. Motion carried. **Financial Officers' Reports:** Combined Treasurer's and Financial Officer's report submitted by Jacob Crowe: December proved to be a very good month for Amazing Grace. December giving was \$19,794 and expenses, including payroll taxes and mortgage principal were \$15,441, leaving a surplus of \$4,352. Our revenue was \$319 more than budget. December expenses were \$284 over budget. Year to date giving was \$193,219 and year to date expenses, including payroll taxes and mortgage principal were \$190,266, leaving a surplus of \$2,953. Year to date giving was \$2,781 less than plan and year to date expenses were \$8,525 less than plan (primarily because we have saved \$7,692 by not paying our church secretary, offset by higher electricity and supplies and materials). Ending operating cash was \$15,088. Capital campaign – we received contributions of \$1,585 and have a balance of \$28,326 for future projects. Dedicated accounts – we have a balance in various accounts of \$14,172. Total ending cash was \$57,507. **Pastor's Report:** 1. **Sanctuary Seating:** The kickoff meeting will be the evening of January 29th. The purpose of this meeting is to organize a plan of action: to assess our current seating and plot a way to find, all things considered, optimal seating for our future. We have concluded that the logical order of decision-making goes chairs first, then flooring. There will be listening sessions in the future, likely between services, to allow input from the greater congregation. But a cross section from the congregation is needed to do some groundwork, research, explore options and make a recommendation. Elaine Schwartz has agreed to chair the kickoff meeting. 2. **Habitat for Humanity:** The Gwinnett Chapter of Thrivent Builds Habitat for Humanity has again been awarded a project. Amazing Grace has been invited to participate again. There is a kick-off meeting on January 24 at 7:00pm where the dividing of the weeks will take place. Amazing Grace will likely take two Saturdays with another Lutheran church, both of which will occur between Feb. 25th and May 19. We'll be asked to make a financial commitment as well as provide lunch for one of those Saturdays. The build this time is a remodeling of a foreclosed home. The address is 3877 Burnt Leaf Lane Snellville, GA. 3. **Healing Service:** There will be a healing service on Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00pm. 4. **Lent:** Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22nd this year. We will continue our annual Lenten tradition of Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer. I am exploring doing dramas again as a part of worship, but if I can't find a director, I will instead give a sermon. I'd prefer to continue with dramas. 5. **Constitution Revision:** Ed Sterrett has agreed to work with me on a draft for a revised constitution. The process, in short: Update to the latest version of the model ELCA constitution, have you, the congregation council approve it. Send it to Synod Constitution reviewer (and former member of Amazing Grace) Rev. Randy Jones. Upon his approval, present it to a congregational meeting for adoption, ratify the constitution at a second congregational meeting (either called or the next planned meeting). Upon ratification, send a copy to the synod offices for their records. 6. **Hunger Walk:** Each year, Atlanta area churches have a Hunger Walk to raise funds for food shelves. In recent years, Amazing Grace has not always participated, but I would like for us to this year. The event is on Sunday after church on March 11, 2012. Butch Whitehead, how would you like coordinate the arrangements for this event? **Ministry Reports:** **Action:** No report. **Large Groups:** No report. **Small Groups:** The retreat at LutherRanch as of this report has 14 men signed up. If anyone knows of someone who would like to attend the retreat, we still have room. The date is February 3-5, 2012. In February, the Book Club will meet on the 12th at 3:00 PM to discuss "The Art of Racing In the Rain" by Garth Stein. This is a story told from a dog's perspective. All are welcome to join us in the Youth Room. The "Good Old Guys" continue to meet on Tues. at 11:00AM. The place of meeting and where we eat are sent out in an email. **Stewardship:** No report. **Property:** No activities for property management this month. **Worship and Music:** Organ repairs will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks. It is likely most of the music budget will be used for a new cantata for Christmas. There is a meeting January 29, 2012 to discuss sanctuary seating. **Education:** No report. **Youth:** 1) Game Night will be held at the church on Saturday, January 21st, from 6:00 to 8:30. 2) Trinity Lutheran Church has invited us to participate in a joint day of fellowship and worship on the last Saturday in January, January 28th. It will start at 9:00 at their church and go to around 3:00 or 4:00 in the afternoon. 3) The Youth will be collecting donations for the Lawrenceville Food Coop on Super Bowl XLVI (Souper Bowl) Sunday, February 5. 4) The Youth Valentines Spaghetti dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th, at church, starting at 5:00. **Old Business:** None.

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Joint Council Minutes
January , 2012 @ 7:00 pm**



New Business: 1) **Pastor Jason's Presentation:** Pastor Jason gave a thought-provoking presentation about the "perceived role of the Church" and the role the Bible delineates for the Church. 2) **Wayne Linke's resignation:** Effective 1/1/12, Wayne Linke has resigned his position as Vice President / President-Elect of the AGLC Council due to a serious car accident in December 2011. Council will need to find a replacement Vice-President / President-Elect to serve the remainder of Wayne's term. 3) **Sanctuary Seating:** There was a brief discussion about the sanctuary seating in anticipation of the organizational meeting 1/29/12. It was brought to everyone's attention that any new seating and flooring will need to be installed in accordance with new building codes that might not have been in effect when the Church was built. 4) **Habitat for Humanity:** There was a brief discussion about AGLC's decision to participate in the upcoming Habitat for Humanity "Build." It was agreed that AGLC will contribute financially as we are able and provide workers and other volunteers. 5) **Cleaning of the Church:** Issues around the cleaning situation at AGLC were discussed. There is a contract with "FQS Commercial Cleaning Service" dating back to February 2003. Rick Upton, as Property Chairman, agreed to discuss Council's concerns about the quality of cleaning with the company. 6) **Communication:** Concern was expressed by several Council members about the difficulty in communicating significant, unplanned events affecting members of AGLC and the Congregation as a whole. Council agreed to table this discussion and revisit it at the February Council meeting. **Thank You's:** Wendy MacKinnon for sponsoring the Youth Christmas Party. James Ryan for painting the hallway to the Fellowship Hall. All who helped put up and take down Christmas decorations. Phyllis Moss for organizing the wedding reception. All the "guys" who gave for the "Christmas families." **Spiritual Autobiography for February 2012:** Bob MacKinnon. **Closing Prayer:** In closing, Council prayed the Lord's Prayer. Motion to adjourn by Wesley Stubbs; seconded by Lee Bennett. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Spearman

Its Tax Time!

Please pick up your 2011 Contribution Statements. They are located on the table in the Narthex. By taking a moment to pick up your statement, you will help to save on postage fees. Also, please consider Amazing Grace when deciding what to do with that refund.



breath

balance

blessing

YOGA CLASSES

Baby, it's cold outside! At least for the moment... we all need to generate some warmth. You may think that yoga is slow and restful, but stretching can heat a person up from the inside! Come check it out! **We meet on Saturday mornings at 9:00am, in February on the 4th and the 18th in the Fellowship Hall.** Hope to see you there!

2012 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday, April 13th - Sunday, April 15th

“An Attitude of Gratitude” - some time for women of the congregation to gather and reflect, have fun and serve around the concept of giving thanks in any circumstance. We have space for 20 participants, but need 10 people with a firm commitment to stay two nights to make this a go. Like last year, it will be possible for participants to join us for Saturday only as well. We're headed back to the retreat facility at Lutheranch, west of Atlanta.

Cost: \$28.00/night, plus food cost TBD. There is a sign up sheet in the entryway at church or you can email or call Jill Knueppel - 678-985-9078, jillknueppel@bellsouth.net.

Sign up Deadline : Sunday, April 1 , 2012 (no kidding!)



Men
of
Faith

FRIDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

We meet on **Friday mornings @ 6:30 am @ the IHOP on Pleasant Hill Road.** Please join us as we break bread, share knowledge, make each other laugh and solve the problems of the world – all in about 60 minutes.

COUPONS FOR SAILORS PROGRAM

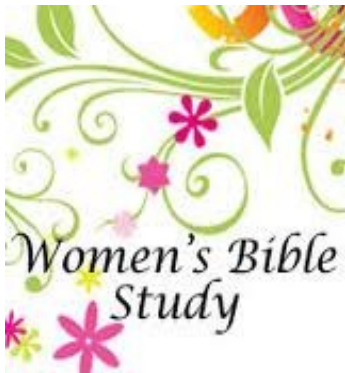
I would just like to remind everyone about the “Coupons for Sailors Program” we have been supporting for a few months now! IF you receive or buy a Sunday newspaper, you can look for the grocery coupons that are sometimes enclosed as part of the newspaper. You just clip the coupons you need first, then clip the remainder coupons and bring them to Amazing Grace in a quart-sized baggie. There is a small white box made available for you on the table in the Narthex to place the baggies with the coupons. If you are not able or do not wish to clip the coupons, just place the circulars in the white box and the coupons will be clipped for you! Thank you for supporting this worthwhile program!



Please remember that coupons that are expired for us have not necessarily expired for Navy families. Many vendors extend the expiration date of coupons for as much as six months! And also, no coupons for restaurants or specific stores will be accepted!

Once again we thank Carol Schwartz for bringing this program to our attention and for mailing the coupons to the Fleet and Family Support Center.

Thank you so much,
Linda MacKinnon



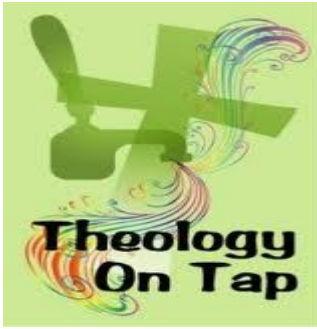
ALLELUIA GIRLS

We are a group of women who meet once a week to study scripture together, allowing each member of our group the opportunity to lead a Bible Study. We also share in a time of spiritual and personal fellowship with one another. All women are welcome to join us on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00!**

CELEBRATION LUNCH

Does it seem like you don't have enough time to catch-up on the lives of those at Amazing Grace? How about joining a group for lunch to just “catch-up” and to celebrate special occasions in our lives. Please join us on **Sunday, February 26th, after the 11:00 am worship service at Shane's Rib Shack, located at 4835 Sugarloaf Pkwy, Lawrenceville 30044 (770) 962-1870.**





THEOLOGY ON TAP

You are invited to a comfortable setting to join in a small group discussion about a Christian topic chosen by Pastor Jason. This month we will meet on Thursdays **February 9th and 23rd @ 7:30 pm @ Babinelli's Restaurant** in the Kroger shopping center on Lawrenceville Hwy in Lilburn. You are welcome to bring a friend!

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request which you would like to share, please either put your prayer request on the prayer sheet in the Narthex, or contact the office or Pastor Jason by phone or email. Contact information: Office # 770-381-1293, email: office@tisgrace.org or pastor.jason@tisgrace.org. Also, if you would specifically like for your prayer request to be shared with members of the congregation prior to Sunday, please let the office or Pastor Jason know and your prayer request will be included in Pastor Jason's "This Week at Amazing Grace" email.



GOOD OLD GUYS GROUP

We meet on **Tuesday mornings @ 11 am** for fellowship & to work on church-related projects. We are always coming up with new ideas for projects. If you have an interest in joining this group, please contact Griff @ (404) 202-6104 or grief@mindless.com.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church's Council & Ministry Leaders

(Council positions in bold and italic print)

President	David Berfield	(678) 662-7543
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Pam Spearman	(770) 597-5887
Treasurer	Bob Lee	(770) 662-8226
Financial Administrator	Jacob Crowe	(770) 300-3869
Financial Secretary	Kathi VanAcker	(770) 937-3441
Property Management	Rick Upton	(404) 514-6648
Stewardship	Wesley Stubbs	(770) 330-8044
Action	Butch Whitehead	(770) 962-5150
Cookie Ministry	LeeLinda Baggett	(770) 925-9323
Spiritual Directions	Craig Storlie	(678) 595-1935
Altar Guild	Judie Lee	(770) 662-8226
Music Director	Lois Simon	(770) 277-6659
Worship & Music	Elaine Schwartz	(770) 931-6977
Education	Deb Linke	(770) 638-9666
Nursery Ministry	Sue Hoefler	(770) 923-7488
Youth Group	Parry Moss	(770) 923-1045
Large Group	Lee Bennett	(404) 557-6092
Small Group	Bob MacKinnon	(770) 972-8605
Care Card Ministry	LeeLinda Baggett	(770) 925-9323
Prayer Chain	Phyllis Moss	(770) 921-6688