

Worship Order

May 5, 2024
Ascension Sunday

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC 8:00 Organ Prelude
10:15 "Open Up the Heavens "



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 8:00 "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" (v. 1-3, 6) LSB 493
SONG 10:15 "Holy is the Lord"

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LITANY FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

GOD'S WORD: Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & GIFTS

HYMN 8:00 "See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph" (v. 1, 2, 4) LSB 494
(sung to the tune of "Ode to Joy")
SONG 10:15 "Revelation Song"

THE MESSAGE "I'll Be Back" Pastor Tim Eichberger

CONFESSION OF FAITH The Apostle's Creed

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF CHRIST

DISTRIBUTION 8:00 Reflective Instrumental Music
10:15 "New Wine"

DISMISSAL

SENDING AND BLESSING

HYMN 8:00 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (v. 1, 4, 5) LSB 525
SONG 10:15 "Song of Hope (Heaven Came Down)"



Thanks for signing the pew pad to let us know you're here!
Visitors, share your contact information so
we can connect with you.



4886 CR 472
Oxford, FL 34484
www.amazinggracelc.org

CHURCH OFFICE

352-748-1201
HOURS Tue - Fri: 8:30-3:30 pm

*Pastor Mackowiak is also available
at other times for counseling
and other needs.
Contact him at 608-572-0709.*

STAFF

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Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
May 5, 2024 ~ Ascension Sunday

Pastor Tim Eichberger



Welcome to Amazing Grace!

We're so glad you joined us for worship today as we celebrate Jesus' return to Heaven after His resurrection. You will find the worship order on the back of this bulletin, along with many announcements inside! May you feel God's presence in this place as you worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.



OUR MISSION as a congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
is to "Experience Christ's Love. Live It. Share It."





Our belief regarding the "Lord's Supper", also known as Holy Communion, is that it is a joyous sacred act established by Christ Himself and given as a gift to the Church. God's Word teaches: Let a man examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink of the cup. (1 Cor. 11:28-29).

Therefore, in accordance with Scripture, and out of loving care for all, we invite all to join us at His table who:

- Confess and sincerely repent of all your sins. (1 John 1:8-9)
- Believe that only through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, does God forgive your sins and give you newness of life (Is. 53:4-6; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor 5:17)
- Believe that in and with the bread and wine, you receive not merely a symbol, but the true Body & Blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins and the strengthening of your faith. (1 Cor. 10:16; Matt. 26:28)
- Recognize that participation at the Lord's Table is a "proclaiming of the Lord's death" (1 Cor. 11:26) and indicates public agreement with the Biblical teaching of the Sacrament and a oneness in faith in Christ alone as Savior.

If you cannot receive wine, grape juice is in the center of the tray. If you need gluten-free wafers, please let Pastor know. If you cannot come to the altar, please let the usher know so Pastor can serve you at your seat. Non-communing children may join their parents and receive a blessing.

Our church family is a circle of strength and love. With every new connection, the circle grows. Every joy shared adds love. Every crisis faced together makes the circle stronger.



Have you noticed it's been brighter when you come to evening church events?

Thanks to the work of Gary Wanzong, Property Ministry Leader and Bob Kiehl, the parking lot lights for the church and Early Learning Center were updated with much brighter LED lights in February. Thank you men!

To the Voting Members of Amazing Grace:

The task of the Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and Early Learning Center Call Committee is to identify suitable pastoral candidates. After diligent review, interviews and prayerful deliberations, the Call Committee identified their top three candidates for consideration (in alphabetical order): Rev. Dr. Paul Burtzloff, Rev. Christopher Fairbairn, and Rev. James Uglum.

A congregational meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, May 12, 2024, immediately after a single 9 am church service, to vote on issuing the Divine Call. We pray you can attend this important meeting to hear the recommendations of the Call Committee. Members of the Call Committee, alongside Aimee Knoepfel and John White, who participated in the interviews, will be present to address any questions.

"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will act." Psalm 37: 5

In Jesus' love,

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and Early Learning Center Call Committee



The Amazing Grace Women's Spring Retreat was a great success! More on this in our next newsletter which has been postponed until after our upcoming congregational meetings.



**Wildwood Elementary School
Accelerated Reader
Awards & Pizza Party
Thursday, May 16, Noon-4pm
at Wildwood Elementary**

Volunteers will help prepare for this event, set up at the school, and distribute books and pizza to the top 10 readers in each grade level.

You will also interact with the children individually and show them God's love. Meet at church at noon and carpool to the school.

Sign up TODAY at the CONNECT CENTER or contact Lois Schaefer, 352-250-6541.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Members, please mark your calendars:

Congregational Voters Meeting to Call a Pastor - NEXT Sunday, May 12.

There will be ONE worship service at 9 am followed by the Voters Meeting.

More details have been sent to voting members in a separate Grace Notes. Hard copies of candidate profiles may be picked up from Susan Gordon today or during the week.

Congregational Voters Meeting for the Election of AGLC Board of Directors - Sunday, May 19, 2024

This meeting will be held between services at 9:15.

Candidate profiles for this election have been sent to members via email and are included in this bulletin. Absentee ballots for this election are available at the Welcome Center.

**Ladies Second Monday Lunch Bunch
Monday, May 13, 1 pm
Glenview Country Club
3194 Glenview Rd, The Villages**

This is a joyous opportunity to build friendships and meet new people. All ladies are welcome! Sign up at the Connect Center.



"Women of Grace" Bible Study, led by Betty Eich, will resume tomorrow, May 6 for 4 weeks on Monday at AGLC, 10:30-noon.

The new study, "They Walked with God," will focus on a different person of the Bible each Monday and discover what each has to say to women in 2024.

Come and bring a friend! Be a part of this amazing group of women!



DEB BECK*: Deb has been attending Amazing Grace Lutheran Church since 2019. A graduate of Purdue University, she has been married to Brad for 37 years and has 3 grown children living in CA, TN, and NC.

Deb works for Thrivent, Southeast Region, as a consultant and Certified Kingdom Advisor. She is part of the Stewardship Committee for Amazing Grace, chaired the Capital Campaign for the ELC Expansion, and currently serves as Region 2 Lay Representative for the FL/GA LCMS District Board of Directors.

Deb has a heart for assuring that the next generation knows the Lord. She is very active with Thrivent, including community projects. Deb has served one 2-year term on the Board of Directors.



JOHN WHITE*: John and his wife, Marliese, have been members of Amazing Grace since July, 2020. He currently serves as a Deacon, President of the Board of Directors and a member of the Finance Committee. He is also active in Sunday Bible Studies and enjoys other volunteer opportunities for AGLC

In previous congregations, John has served terms as President, Vice President, Worship Assistant, and as an Elder. He was active for 16 years in Bible Study Fellowship, serving 13 years in the Children's Program as Children's Leader, Assistant Children's Supervisor and Children's Supervisor. He is also a trained Stephens Minister.

John's career involved 40 years in corporate finance, mostly in senior management positions with private companies and nonprofits. John and Marliese have three daughters and four grandchildren who live in Oregon.





FRANK MULLER: Frank has been a member of the LCMS since he and his wife were married at Trinity Lutheran Church in Islip, NY in 1984. Frank's children were baptized there, attended the preschool, received their first Holy Communion, Confirmation, and were part of the youth group, which Frank was a volunteer for over ten years.

Frank served as Sunday School President, sat on the boards of education and preschool, Chaired the worship and music committee and was VP of the Church Counsel. He was also a Communion Lay Assistant, usher and on Altar Guild.

In Frank's time as a member of the working community he worked for and owned Delicatessen's for over 40 years. After retiring, or really quitting the business seven years ago, he had the chance to work at his Church's preschool as their custodian for three years. He feels that job was a gift from God!

Frank has been a member of AGLC for three years. In that time he has volunteered for Phil's Friends, making palm crosses, Easter decorating and coffee hour. He has helped with property work for the Church and the ELC. His desire is to become more involved in any area where there is a need. Frank is humbled to be considered for a position on the Board of Directions of AGLC.



KIETH SCHMADEKE: I am a full-time resident of The Villages. My wife, Marlys, and I joined Amazing Grace in 2023, after visiting 4 or 5 churches in the area. We decided to join A.G.L.C. because of the warm welcome we received the first morning, friendly faces and introductions. We felt really glad to be here.

Raised in western Iowa in the small town of Schleswig, baptized July, 1954, and I started attending Sunday school at three at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hanover Township, a church built by my great, great grandfather in 1889. I was confirmed there in 1968.

Marlys and I married in 1984, while I was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, Iowa. I served as a youth group assistant, ushered and served on the Board of Elders for several years. In 2017 we moved to Urbandale, Iowa and joined Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, also attending their men's ministry Bible class.

While attending regular church services and the Thursday morning men's Bible class and seeing the various mission projects going on, I wanted to get more involved as well and appreciate being considered as a candidate to serve on the Board of Directors.

Outside of church activities, I enjoy golfing, hiking and socializing with friends and family. We both enjoy spending time back in Iowa with our two grandsons, Owen and Cooper.



NEW SUMMER BIBLE STUDY!
Wednesdays
1-2:30 pm
Beginning JUNE 5
for 8 weeks

**“Navigating Change”
(and keeping your sanity!)**

How do we process change in the light of knowing God's character and in view of Scripture?

Join with us this summer as we explore the challenging idea of change! If you need to miss a week for travel, it's okay.

**All are welcome!
Sign up at the Connect Center today
and bring a friend!**

(Led by Susan Gordon)

Other News!

- ◇ The church building will be pressure washed next Saturday, May 11, so be aware when parking or entering if you need to access the building.
- ◇ Thank you to Dale and Joyce Meyer for the use of their wine glasses for the recent Wine 101 class.
- ◇ Friday, May 24, the Early Learning Center will have a “Dance with a DJ” party in the ELC multipurpose room.
- ◇ There will be a Phil's Friends packing event on Saturday, June 8. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets and donation lists.



ELC STAFF MEAL—July 11

Would you be willing, maybe with friends, to provide a simple meal for the Early Learning Center Staff for their **July 11, 6 pm meeting** (25-30 staff members)?

You can be reimbursed up to \$100 for the cost of the meal, but would need to be at the ELC on that date to set it out. **There is a sign up sheet at the Connect Center. Thank you!**

Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Day

Monday, May 6, 4 pm

St. Timothy's Catholic Church
1351 Paige Place, Lady Lake, FL

Meet survivors, liberators, and rescuers through the Shoah Foundation.

This Week's Church Calendar

SUN 5/5	Traditional Worship NO BIBLE STUDY	Worship Center	8:00am
MON 5/6	Contemporary Worship Women of Grace	Worship Center Fellowship Hall	10:15am 10:30am
TUE 5/7	Holocaust Remembrance Bible Study Fellowship	St. Timothy's Worship Center	4:00pm 11:30am
WED 5/8	Men's Bible Study New Member Class	Bradenton Rec Fellowship Hall	8:45am 4:00pm
THU 5/9	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	7:30am
SAT 5/11	Church Building Pressure Washing		
SUN 5/12	Blended Worship Pastoral Call Voters Meeting immediately follows	Worship Center	9:00am

IMPORTANT NOTICE

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the Congregational Meeting (“the Voters Meeting”), an election will be held for four Board of Directors positions.

- **The meeting will be held at 9:15 am between our regular services.**
- **Please note that per our Constitution, no nominations are permitted from the floor during the Voters Meeting.**
- **Absentee ballots have been attached to the Grace Notes and may also be picked up at the church.**
- **The Biographies of those who have accepted nominations and met the qualifications below are printed here. (incumbent*)**

A person is eligible to serve on the Board if they meet at least four of the following qualifications:

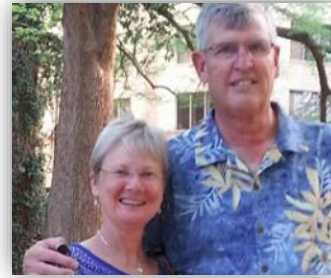
1. Join in worship at Amazing Grace at least 75% of the regularly held services
2. Participate in Sunday Bible Class and/or Small Group Bible Study
3. Share the Good News of Jesus personally as evidenced through bringing people to worship, activities and Bible Studies
4. Regularly serve the congregation and/or community by using their individual gifts
5. Strives to contribute 10% or more of their income toward the work of God's Kingdom

In addition, Officers and lay leaders shall be looked to as model disciples of Christ who live according to God's Word and Commandments.



The Amazing Grace Board of Directors is the governing body of the church, working with the Pastor to determine policies, financial business, capital projects, ministry matters that are not already assigned to various committees, and more.

The Board of Directors is made up of seven members who serve two-year terms for a maximum of three terms. Elections are held each Spring for any Board positions that need to be filled. The Board meets once a month and communicates via email in between if needed.



ROBERT (BOB) KIEHL*: Bob has been a member the LCMS his entire life and a member of Amazing Grace for the past three years. Before moving to Florida, he spent about 8 years seeing this great country RVing with Karen, his wife of 52 years, and visiting many LCMS congregations. Prior to leaving St. Louis, he was active in Youth leadership, Boards of Education, Board of Stewards, Missouri District and LCMS boards and committees.

He has held many positions in his professional career including regional and national sales management positions with Fortune 100 companies and as a consultant to not-for-profit organizations and businesses in the St. Louis area working on talent acquisition/development and business growth initiatives. He was also elected to serve as City Councilman for three terms.

Bob is active in the Welcome center activities, ushering, and other congregational ministries and he has led various Board of Directors initiatives. He now lives in the Spanish Springs area of The Villages. Bob is honored to be considered for a second term on the Board of Directors at AGLC.



JOHN LeFAVOUR: John and Shari LeFavour moved to Oxford in 2020 and recently transferred their membership to Amazing Grace from Our Savior's Way in Ashburn, VA.

John is retired from the U.S. Navy and currently works as a healthcare consultant supporting Department of Defense health programs. Shari is a teacher and taught preschool at their previous church's Child Development Center. She also worked in the music department at Trinity Christian School in Northern Virginia.

They have two grown children, Elizabeth, who is currently working in Uruguay and Jack, a graduate student at Texas A&M.

John served as Vice President of the Church Council for several years at Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church and was also a member of the Building and Call Committees. He also served as a Liturgical Assistant, Usher and Communion Assistant throughout their time in Virginia. John enjoys serving as a Communion Assistant at Amazing Grace and also serving on the current Call Committee.

John is honored to be considered for a board position at Amazing Grace and would joyfully serve if elected to support the work of the church and congregation.