



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

December 2020 Newsletter

29860 Dequindre, Warren, MI 48092

www.aglc-warren.org



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Wednesdays in Advent
December 2, 9, 16th
Worship service on Zoom
at 7:00 P.M.
The link is sent via



Christmas Eve
Worship

5:00 P.M. on Zoom
Music from our Praise Band
and Choir
Communion

The link is sent via e-mail or
call the church office.

On November 22, 2020, fifty years to the day after the first woman was ordained in the Lutheran Church in America, Amazing Grace voted to call me to be your new pastor! I am so deeply grateful for your overwhelming support and for the opportunity to serve God in and with you!

A call is a funny thing - there's no real analogue in the rest of the world. When you call a pastor, it's not really about hiring an employee. Rather, it's about trusting that the Holy Spirit will inform your judgment, as well as the judgment of the seminary and the church at large. It's about trusting that the Holy Spirit will bring pastor and congregation together in a fit that feels right emotionally and spiritually. Both the congregation and the pastor must be able to say, yes, the Holy Spirit is moving in us to bring us together.

I am convinced that this is true. I have rarely felt so at home in a church as I have at Amazing Grace. I've remarked more than once that AGLC reminds me of my childhood congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church in South Paris, Maine. Trinity was not a large congregation, but it was faithful and strong. Like you, they cared deeply about helping the community and raising their children to love Jesus. The people were hardworking, faithful, and forthright. When my parents divorced, and my mother was raising two children on her own in Maine, far from family and without a car because my mother didn't drive, they became our extended family. I have seen the same love and spirit at work in Amazing Grace time after time since I have joined you!

I would love to be able to invite all of you in person to a joyous ordination ceremony. The pandemic means that I cannot do that. I will be ordained in early January (watch for the date) and we will try to stream the service live on Facebook. There will likely be only the bishop, a few family members, one or two other pastors, and me in attendance. But we will find a way to stream the service so that you all can watch along! And we will rejoice that despite the seeming darkness of our present time, we can still see the light: God always finds a way to build community, bring people together, and care for God's flock.

I ask for your prayers and your honesty, your support and your openness. I will offer you the same. I am committed to doing ministry with you, and I firmly believe that God has amazing plans for Amazing Grace in the years to come. I am so excited to be joining you as your pastor!

Peace, Pastor Susanna