



# Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

## March 2021 Newsletter

29860 Dequindre, Warren, MI 48092

[www.aglc-warren.org](http://www.aglc-warren.org)



Peter Fisher	3
Sheila Roberts	6
Edna Williamson	8
Michael Martinson	12
Mike Duerksen	14
Doug Tingley	14
Jean Regan	19
Dominic Duerksen	20
Joan Shelby	23
Charles Smith	23
Dana Trysh	24
Jeff Switzer	26
Michelle Cayer	28
Cathy Jarvis	29
Mary Ellen Mazurek	29
Sarah Switzer	29

A year ago, I was worried. No one knew much about the Coronavirus except that it was spreading fast. I wrote a message to Council outlining what I thought would be the worst case scenario - needing to suspend worship for a few weeks if the pandemic reached Michigan - and how we might handle it. I attended a retreat for interns in Ohio and woke up in the middle of the night worrying about the Chili Cookoff on March 15 and the Middle School trip to the Gathering up north at the end of the month. What was the best thing to do?

We decided to cancel the Chili Cookoff, just to be safe, and then Living Water Ministries canceled the Gathering, and then the Bishop's letter, asking us to suspend in-person worship, arrived. Council met - in person for the last time in many months - on the evening of March 13, and voted to follow the Bishop's recommendation. I was deeply grateful that we had acted decisively and were unified, but completely at sea about what to do next. How would we stay together as a congregation? How long would this last? What in the world would we do for worship?

What's the best thing to do when we are worried and uncertain? Well, talk to our friends and advisors - and I did: Council members, Denise Rodi, other pastors, Synod leadership, people in the Congregation, my family. But as the old hymn says, our most important friend is Jesus.

What a friend we have in Jesus!, All our sins and griefs to bear  
 What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer.  
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear  
 All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer

Prayer has sustained us through the last 12 months. Prayer has allowed us to ask for guidance, for strength, for persistence, for inspiration, and most importantly, for wisdom. Prayer has given us peace and calm beyond understanding, and has prepared us for the Holy Spirit to act as we have found new ways to be church together online.

And here we are, a year later (who would have thought it would be a year?) and we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Now, here's the thing about lights and tunnels. The light is always there - we just can't see it at the beginning. Just so, God is always there, no matter how worried, frustrated, anxious, or angry we are. And prayer is the key to knowing that.

They say the family that prays together, stays together. We are a family at Amazing Grace - in fact, I've never known a church with more of a "family" feel to it in all my years. As we move forward, and begin to plan for possible in-person worship and what that might look like, please pray. Pray for wisdom and insight for Amazing Grace's leaders. Prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do and when - not necessarily what we want on our preferred schedule - but what God wants on God's time. Give thanks for the ways that God has strengthened and sustained us through the last year so that we may look forward to the future God has planned for us. Amen!  
 Susanna Muzzin, Pastor



Wednesdays in Lent  
 Zoom Worship  
 February 24,  
 March 3, 10, 17, 24  
 Maundy Thursday, April 1  
 Good Friday, April 2  
 Zoom Worship at 7:00 P.M.