

*St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church*  
*Pastor Anthony E. Schultz*  
*Epiphany 2 - Sunday, January 20, 2008*  
*John 1:35-39*

*Amazing Grace—How Sweet!*

**The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” “Come,” he replied and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.**

Nine of us went out for lunch a couple of weeks ago – after Church – to Pizza Hut! We had big plastic cups of soda. *Some* had salads. We had fresh baked pizzas. Some with spicy pepperoni and mushrooms and onions. Some with just lots and lots of cheese. We talked about so many happy things it literally made your cheeks sore from smiling so hard! When was the last time you did that – smiled so hard it made your face hurt? We talked about Church – about Jesus’ love for people in China – a billion people half a world away. We were talking about Jesus – when a very little person named Hadley – was asked if she would like to sing – right there in the Pizza Hut. Yeah – she would sing. What would she sing? She would sing, “Amazing Grace!” “One verse?”, her daddy asked. “Three verses...” she said. “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me” – she sang. Oh, she had lots of different notes. Sometimes – she would hit a note she really liked. And she would stick with that note – *that same note* – for a whole bunch of words. “I once was lost – but now am found – was blind but now I see.” It was wonderful! She kept on going. Verse two – “The Lord has promised good to me – his Word my hope secures...” She kept on going. Verse three – “Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; ‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far – and grace will lead me home.” Without a moment’s hesitation – verse four. “When we’ve been there

ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun – we've no less days to sing God's praise – than when we first begun!" Amazing grace! That's exactly what that was! A little girl – born in unbelief and damnable sin – now born again through holy baptism – adopted into the family God. It is a sweet and precious fruit of faith in such a small package. When such a small person – sings for her Heavenly Father.

God grant that we spend every day with Jesus – through reading our Bible. Then let us reflect his unconditional forgiving love in all we say and do.