

THE SPIRIT

June/July 2023

Amazing
Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF GRAYS HARBOR



Philippians 4: 4-7⁴⁻⁵ Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

6-7 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. [The Message version]

Most have you have heard by now that after much prayer and a long discernment process, I have decided to retire effective August 1st, my last Sunday leading worship at Amazing Grace being July 30th. Since our June and July newsletters are combined, I want to share a few thoughts about this time of change.

Encouraged by Paul's words to the Philippians, I am committed to being even more intentional than ever to paying attention to where God is showing up in my life and in the life of the congregation. In this beautiful season gardens are often on my mind. Steve and I have been planning our gardens for awhile now. What began as pandemic diversion has grown into a satisfying, almost meditative practice at times. Our plans have evolved with the passing seasons, with our growing understanding of what thrives in this rainy climate and what certainly does not, and with the realization that one city lot can only hold so many trees, one raised bed can only grow so many tomatoes. If we try to push beyond those limits the harvest is diminished and the quality of our fruits and vegetables suffers. Knowing limits, our gardens and our own is an act of faithful stewardship.

Seems to me that all of life is a garden, full of beautiful flowers, tended and nurtured over the years. And every garden sprouts weeds, despite our efforts to reduce their population. They are tenacious. Gardening life has taught me that both flowers and weeds are gifts. That each teaches us and stretches us and deepens our understanding in its own way. Most importantly, not holding too tightly the distinctions between weed and flower deepens our dependence on God's grace. I have been surprised by how many times, what I originally identified as a flower turned out to be a weed and many a weed has grown to be a treasured flower in the garden of my life.

Living within the limits given to us, to all of us, is an act of faithful stewardship. So, leaving Amazing Grace at this time is something I do with a sense of acknowledging limits and celebrating everything with gratitude. To name only a few of the things for which I am thankful, I give thanks:

for all the ways we have faithfully followed Jesus in loving God and loving our neighbors together.

For each moment of our lives shared; moments of joy and celebration and moments of sorrow and confusion, even despair – that we were blessed with the presence and love of each other, tangible expressions of God's love for each of us.

For the strength and resilience you hold within you as the body of Christ in this place – strength in learning how God is calling the church into new forms for a new world; resilience in the face of the unknown whether that is a pandemic and the new ways it forced us to worship and form community or it is a world changed by increased division and polarization forcing us to learn anew what it means to live as people radically shaped by and for LOVE.

For the image of God that You, each of you carry within you.

For the Holy Spirit that has been promised will always be with us, advocating for us, comforting us, guiding us into the future, individually and as a congregation.

And leaving Amazing Grace at this time is done with a sense of sadness and glad anticipation in equal measures. Leaving those you love behind is difficult AND I trust that:

God is guiding all of us into God's good future.

God is preparing each of you with new strengths for ministry that will stretch you to serve God's mission to love the world.

God is preparing a new leader who will come to love you as I do and lead you as God empowers and calls them to lead for a new time.

The prayer of St. Brendan seems especially helpful to me in this time. The story goes that St. Brendan set sail in a small coracle of wood and oxhide from Ireland and ended up in Newfoundland, an amazing achievement in the 5th century.

The Prayer of St. Brendan

*Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.*

*Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
to be stronger than each storm within me.*

*I will trust in the darkness and know
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.*

*Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for You.*

I look forward to seeing each of you in the coming weeks!

In Christ, Pastor Val



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, the decision was taken to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to “reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism.” This is no small task!

The Commission for a New Lutheran Church that led to the formation of the ELCA completed its work 35 years ago—before TikTok, smartphones, and telemedicine. Even MTV was relatively new. The world has changed a lot since then, so perhaps it is time to take a look at our statements of purpose and principles of organizational structure.

There has been a range of reaction to this—excitement, trepidation, a call to tear the church down completely and then rebuild it, requests to maintain the status quo, and everything else in between. There has even been the suspicion

A TIME OF RENEWAL

voiced by some that a cabal of churchwide leaders on Higgins Road has already completed the project (actually, no). We have committed to being a thriving church rooted in tradition and radically relevant—the tradition being our theology, not culture or cuisine.

The church is unique among institutions. It is divine and also very human. It is the only institution whose reason for being is to preach the gospel in its purity and to administer the sacraments according to the gospel. “The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world” (ELCA Constitution 4.01).

Do we always get it right? No. Since, as it has been said, the church is not a hotel for saints, but a hospital for sinners, there are many things in the long history of the church and in the much shorter history of this church that have caused harm—even deadly harm—to people and creation. And yet, God continues to use

the church and our branch of it to be an ambassador of hope and to keep telling the radical story of grace. We are a both/and church that understands the baptized to be at once saints and sinners.

Here is part of an essay by 20th-century Roman Catholic brother Carlo Carretto:

“How baffling you are, oh Church, and yet how I love you! How you have made me suffer, and yet how much I owe you! I would like to see you destroyed, and yet I need your presence. You have given me so much scandal and yet you have made me understand what sanctity is. I have seen nothing in the world more devoted to obscurity, more compromised, more false, and yet I have touched nothing more pure, more generous, more beautiful. How often have I wanted to shut the doors of my soul in your face, and how often I have prayed to die in the safety of your arms.”

That pretty well sums up the beautiful, maddening, sublime and broken reality of the church and of its

people. God alone preserves the church and God alone renews it. But God, in God’s inscrutable wisdom, continues to call, gather, enlighten and make “holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith” (Small Catechism) and invites sinners to be part of the body of Christ.

I call all of us to be in prayer for the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. The commission will meet together for the first time in July. Pray for openness to God’s Spirit, humility in discernment, and bold trust that God will bless our efforts as we seek to give the gospel free course in the world.

Bishop Eaton



WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality everything and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all

may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.

God’s people join in prayer for Sister Gerry Marie, Doug Swanson, Dean Christianson, Carmon Shaw, Emmersyn, Dora Bergsma, Josiah, Monica Wilson, Yvette Koerner, Peggy, Mert Turner, Audra Wieler, Tim Garney, Michael Silver, Helen Velling, Mike Barkstrom, Cher, Linda, Tom Plumlee and we pray for family and friends mourning the death of Jean Wehage. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



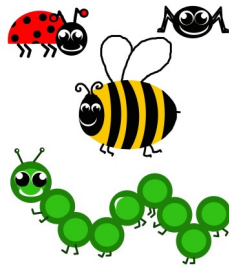
June/July BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

Tim Alstrom, June 1
Chrissie Kincaid, June 1
Stephanie Gunderson, June 3
Shelby Kincaid, June 7
Andrew Penttila, June 9
Diane Hanson, June 17
Noelle Anderson, June 18

Gene Schermer, June 21
Val Metropoulos, June 27
Laurie Paulsen, June 29
Mike Kupka, July 6
Calvin Evanson, July 8
Donna Morrisette, July 11
Rian Winter, July 12
Nicole Evanson, July 19

Suzan Stegemoeller, July 22
Amanda Kaufman, July 23
Arlene O'Connor, July 23
Joan Rabung, July 31



Hayley & Adam Sykes, July 12
Keith & Lynette Lile, July 23
Mike & Judi Hubbard, July 24
John & Doris Tieder, July 25
Coleman & Laura Carle, July 26
Tim & Pam Alstrom, July 27
Stephen Natwick & Anneliese Kraiger, July 29

ANNIVERSARIES:

Tobi & Gary Buckman, June 19
Tim & Molly Leithold, June 21



Naomi, Carmon, & Ruth Ann for helping Vicky assemble materials.

Hank & Diane for helping out with sales for the AGL apparel and **Amy** for designing apparel.

Helpers who take food down to the Food Bank.

Suzan for providing donation baskets for Food Bank, Salvation Army and Cold Weather shelter.

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **PLU** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$45.11
- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$50.67
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in American** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$638.15 to ELCA Good Gifts
- **Habitat for Humanity** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$50.67

Lay minister, Hank Bilderback, assists Pastor Val on Pentecost Sunday. *Picture taken and submitted by*

Diane Hanson



SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

June 6

Judi Hubbard, Leader

Mike & Karen Barkstrom, Pastor Val, Trish Safstrom, Sarah Channel, Darci Jewitt,

Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw:
360-532-2940

Doug from UGM says to plan on 35-45 dinner

guests and to have food there between 3-4:00.

If food needs to be heated up or cooked drop off earlier.

You may deliver food to the door in the alley. Ring the bell by the door and they will come and get the food.

QUILTER'S NEWS

On Wednesday, May 3rd, the quilter's boxed and shipped 145 quilts and 145 personal kits to Lutheran

World Relief. We gave 5 to the Aberdeen Clothing Bank, 19 the Friendship House (Women's Shelter) and sold 1 locally.

Our last meeting for this year will be June 7th. During the summer we will be collecting sheets for the backing of the quilting and after July 1st will be collecting items for school kits that will be shipped in November to LWR. After July 1st you will find our display in the



Parish Hall for the school kits. We always appreciate how much our congregation supports us with our projects.!

We will begin our “new year” on the first Wednesday in September which will be the 6th.

UNION GOSPEL MISSION July 4

Vicki Mitchell, Dorothy Stephens, Pam Alstrom,
Joelle Buckman, Joan Rabung

Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw:
360-532-2940

Doug from UGM says to plan on 35-45 dinner

guests and to have food there between 3-4:00.

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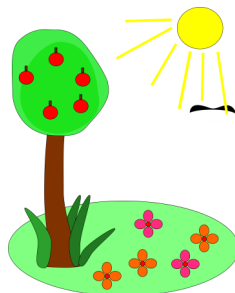
You may deliver food to the door in the alley. Ring the bell by the door and they will come and get the food.

GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS

Sunday, September 10.

This is an opportunity to spend a few hours making our community a better place.

We will do two projects, one in the fellowship hall and the other out in the community.



Please consider what you would like our projects to be this year.

We need a coordinator for the in-house project and another coordinator for the community project.

Please consider taking on one of these roles, or find a co-organizer or even a team to share the duties.

Contact Suzan Stegemoeller (360) 249-6986 with questions and ideas. SHALOM

FOOD BANK BASKETS

There are now 2 baskets in the fellowship hall for contributions to local food banks.

One is for the Aberdeen Food bank, the other for the Salvation Army Food Bank.

Members of AGL serve as volunteers in both agencies.

Church Council made the decision to honor both food banks. Food items can be placed in either

basket (you choose).

Lists of specific needs will be made available when necessary.

For questions contact: Greg Johnstone or Judi Hubbard for Salvation Army Food Bank. Joelle Buckman for Aberdeen Food bank. Suzan Stegemoeller for Out Reach. Thank you so very much for your steadfast generosity! Thank you!!!

Suzan S.

UNION GOSPEL HELP WANTED!

The May/November Union Gospel Mission Team is in need of 2 new members.

Teams provide meals at the Union Gospel Mission in Aberdeen on the first Tuesday of each month.

AGL has 6 teams, each provides a meal twice a year for roughly 50 hungry folks.

For information about the May/November Team contact Kristine Finazzo at (360) 532-6053.

For all other questions contact Suzan Stegemoeller at (360) 249-6986. Thank you

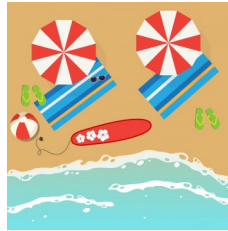
TIPS FOR HOSTING FELLOWSHIP HOUR

-- Check the schedule to see when you are hosting. If your name is first on the list it is your responsibility to coordinate with the others

--Have someone on your team check kitchen supplies to make sure needed things are there i.e.; cups, coffee, sugar, etc. If you cannot bring a supply item, call the church office and we will get some help

--Our sacred (?) rule is to have coffee and something to eat with it! People also appreciate other things to drink, i.e. juice, water, hot tea. It's your choice of food items.

--You can bring paper plates or use church dishes, the latter requires you to use the dishwasher. Instructions are available in the kitchen



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE WHAT IS IT?

Since I am filling in for the unexpired council term for Fellowship Ministry I thought I better find out what I am supposed to do. In simple terms the By-laws explain that this ministry will promote and supervise the fellowship programs of the congregation in 4 ways:

- 1- Promote ways in which new members shall be made to feel welcome and receive instruction in the Lutheran faith as well as orientation to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church.
- 2- Provide opportunities for fellowship events
- 3- Have a pictorial directory or other means of helping members identify each other.
- 4- Provide for a systemic visitation of inactive/homebound/shut-in members.

Fortunately we seem to excel at most of these. We have long had a goal of being a welcoming congregation. We have yearly events such as the pie auction before Thanksgiving, attending



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

What is this Ministry and what is currently happening?

PreK-5th Grade Youth (Any age welcome!): Per families' requests, we plan to meet the first Sunday

--Napkins--there are cloth napkins in the kitchen you may choose to use. If so, please launder them and return before next Sunday. Usually there are napkins in the cupboard, but you may also choose to bring your own. Any color is fine. Alternately you can choose to go with the liturgical colors of the day as used in the sanctuary.

--Tablecloth--the large tablecloths are in the cabinet between the table and the window or already on the table.

--Please launder any cloth items used, i.e. towels, tablecloth, etc. and return before next Sunday.

--If you need more people on your team please contact Lynette Lile or the church office and we will try to be helpful.

the PLU Christmas concert, caroling, honoring graduates, summer picnics and this year celebrating the 20th anniversary of Amazing Grace in September with emphasis on the newly refurbished stained glass windows. We have weekly coffee hour after church.

The budget for this committee is almost non-existent so it relies heavily on all the generosity of members as well as some supplies from Thrivent. This is why if you are scheduled to be fellowship host for a Sunday, please check the kitchen to make sure there are appropriate supplies (coffee, sugar, napkins, etc) that you may need. If you cannot bring them please contact the church office and we will fill in.

There are many quietly generous people in this congregation which is the reason why all these events work so well. It is mostly a bottom-up as opposed to a top-down way of generating great fellowship together.

We have vibrant committee members that spend their energy and talents to make these things happen. May it ever be so!

Lynette Lile

of each month following worship. Families enjoy having their children remain in worship with them, and utilize the worship bags (located in back of church) to actively involve their children in the service. The Faith5 and fellowship together is our focus.

Vacation Bible Camp: Prior to COVID, we partnered with 1st Presbyterian, and St. Andrews. However, children from these churches are older now and fewer families with children are attending. Saron Lutheran in Hoquiam has graciously invited us to host with them this year. VBC meets June 18th – 22nd from 5:00 to 7:30. Dinner, games, stories, crafts, and snacks.

6th – 8th Grade Youth: Confirmation Class is led by Pastor. We have one student currently attending.

9th-12th Grade Youth: We have one student attending 1st Presbyterian Youth Group with friends. Joan Rabung graciously invites and transports any

interested youth to Holden Village each year. This year, she was able to finally return last weekend post COVID with Maddie Winter and Carmen Shaw.

Fellowship Activities for Youth and Families: If you would like to share your artistic, musical, or craft talents with us – we would love that!! We have many ideas in the works: campfire, BUNCO, movie night, your ideas??

Family Space in Sanctuary: We are currently brainstorming ideas with Mike Barkstrom and the property team to creatively design an area in the sanctuary that allows more space for families and children to sit together during worship.

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

There is currently one guest family staying in our program and we have an opening for one family.

Please contact Cinderella at (360)986-3948 or fscfamilypromisegh@gmail.com for more information.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY!!

Chaplains on the Harbor continues to collect cold weather supplies for those experiencing homelessness.

- *Sleeping bags
- *Fleece blankets
- *Clothing including socks, coats, sweat pants, and jeans

Donations can be brought to church and left in the fellowship hall.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Homelessness is open to ideas and suggestions as to how AGL can support and empower this population. Committee members are Liz Ellis, Curtis Steinhauer, Debbie Colangelo, Darci Jewett and Suzan Stegemoeller.

Thank you so much for continuing to support this vulnerable group of people.

GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth and families will meet this Sunday, June 4th, after worship in the fireside room for Faith5

and then move outside to create art and positive messages with sidewalk chalk for the congregation and neighborhood to enjoy. Dress for the weather and wear sunscreen!

VBS

Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity
The best week of the summer!

New friends, Amazing experiments, Creative games, Super-fun snacks, Surprising adventures, Incredible music

Sunday, June 18th—Thursday, June 22nd

The Rose Center — 210 K Street, Hoquiam.

The fun begins at 5:00pm with dinner and ends at 7:30. For more information, please call 360-532-4611 or email us at sarongraysharbor@gmail.com

Register online at www.sarongraysharbor.org

SARON LUTHERAN EVENTS

Flea Market & Plant Sale at The Rose Center on June 3rd at 9am.



ARDITH SAVOY REMEMBRANCE

After worship on June 4th, Carmon and the fellowship team serving that day will be including a remembrance of Ardith Savoy during fellowship time. Carmon says she will have "a picture of Ardith

Savoy, a very young picture, and I have typed up some of my memories of our relationship. It is just a celebration of her life and honoring how much she enjoyed being at Amazing Grace even as her health declined. She so enjoyed being a nurse. Her son, William, and daughter, Margaret, may attend."

CELEBRATON 2023 MEETING

Next celebration meeting is June 29 in sanctuary at 7pm.

The Celebration Committee is seeking the following: 1. ADDRESSES of people you

want to receive an invitation (to Dee Erickson), 2. Written RECOLLECTIONS of Church Memories, typed or by hand, of Trinity, Our Savior's or Amazing Grace, (to Vicki Mitchell) and 3. PHOTOS of church events from the past (to Vicki Mitchell).

SAVE THE DATE: CELEBRATON 2023

Saturday, Sept 23rd-- "Celebration 2023". Celebrate our restored stained glass and our 20th Anniversary as a unified Amazing Grace Lutheran Church.

Celebration Service at 2:00 pm. In the sanctuary and displays, stained glass demonstration, Swedish and Norwegian food, video, etc. from noon until two o'clock, and after service until 4:00 or longer.

CELEBRATION 2023-CHOIR

For Your Consideration and Forward Thought!! Would like you to think about joining the celebration choir for the Sep 24 Celebration. All voices, all levels, and



all ages (friends, too), are welcome to participate. We will be gathering after Labor Day to begin rehearsals. Much more information will be coming to you in the August newsletter.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

Do we have your latest address & contact info? Do we have a recent photo of you? All members and friends are encouraged to be a part of our new direc-

tory. We are getting close to going to print on this. If you have updates please contact: Amy Ostwald at aaostwald@gmail.com or Arlene Torgerson at danishdame@comcast.net. Thanks!

THANK YOU AMAZING GRACE CONGREGATION

Our trip began on Thursday evening. We knew each other (sort of) but now we were to be with each for three days and what would happen????

We had a fantastic time at Holden Village and the theme was, we are ENOUGH! Which each of us may forget at different times. We need to be encouraged and reminded about God's Love for us.

The speaker, Ellie was excellent and Lacey Brown's music was good for me but Madison and Joan would have to let you know how they felt.

Joan and Madison had to sort of help me as there were a lot of stairs, and they both ran things back to the room so I did not have to. I am so grateful. I did do my ice cream scooping and I always enjoy that.

We were lucky enough to meet the Youth Leader from St Mark's at Tacoma Narrows, Ingelaurie Lisher. They are going to be trying to get youth from Lutheran Churches together over these next few months as they gather interest and Joan has agreed to be the person learning more about it.

Knowing each other, we learned through our time together that Joan will not speak in public, Madison is very capable doing things on her own, playing clarinet, or getting to places on time, not like Carmon and Joan who were late to pottery. But we really learned about each through our nightly devotions.

We learned about our Touch Tree. When we are lost who do we reach out to and feel safe with? Then we discussed what color we are! It was fun because I learned what Madison thought and I was so very surprised

because she said, "You are Yellow!" Then she gave fun words to describe me....It is so wonderful to have that time together and grow together. Joan and Madison went on the nature hike and continued to talk about God's creations. We learned Madison might follow her interest in Forestry in the future.

We were the Sending Church and Madison played her clarinet, "Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin with ME!" She did awesome and then, as people exited the service, she was outside playing "Hit the Road Jack!"

The best part of the whole experience was learning about each other and having fun. Madison sketched her band friends and even one of the staff who ate breakfast with us. Madison said happily, "I can't wait to come next year and bring friends and more youth from church."

Thank you so much for your support and we hope to share items made and talk a little more about sharing our experiences.

Bishop Rick Jaech, preaches the sermon "Seeking God's Shalom" at the Southwestern Wa Synod Assembly. This sermon was recorded and will be shown across the Synod in our local churches. *Photo taken and submitted by Diane Hanson.*



SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON SYNOD NEWS

From Suzan Stegemoeller

"The Southwestern Washington Synod is that portion of western Washington State from the Columbia River in the south up through Tacoma to Federal Way, Auburn and Enumclaw in the north. It then curves westward around the Puget Sound (Salish Sea) to include all of the Olympic Peninsula. Our Synod, then, reaches from the Columbia to Canada, and from the Cascades to the Pacific Ocean.

We acknowledge that this land and water is the traditional territory of 16 federally recognized Native American tribes: the Chehalis, Cowlitz, Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Puyallup, Quileute, Quinalt, Shoalwater Bay, Skokomish, Squaxin Island, and Suquamish, as well as additional tribes not recognized by the federal government, including the Chinook. The surrounding mountains, valleys, shorelines, and waterways are imbued with their presence. We seek to nurture our relationship with our Native American neighbors and our shared responsibilities to this place, their homelands, where we mutually abide.

The ministry of our Synod is carried out by the 30,000 members and leaders of our 88 congregations and special ministries, including chaplains, deacons, mission developers, and our partner ministries, such as Lutheran Community Services NW, Pacific Lutheran University, and the Faith Action Network. Our Synod Office is in Tacoma, WA.

The Southwestern Washington Synod is one of 65 synods that comprise the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are part of Region I of the ELCA, which is made up of the six synods in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Alaska. The word "synod" comes from the Greek language and means "walking the road together". From: swwasynod.org



Diane Hanson, Pastor Val and I attended the Southwest Washington Synod Assembly in Auburn, on June 6. The theme for the day was "Seeking God's SHALOM". It was an interesting, uplifting and productive day. We heard about many ministries taking place around the synod. We partook in elections of officers and various other positions needing to be filled within the synod. And, we visited with other attendees, and representatives of ministries. The assembly began and ended with worship and prayer. I was elected to serve as the female layperson representative on Synod Council for the Coastal Region of SWWA Synod. My first meeting with the council is on June 10 in Longview WA. I ask for your prayers and support as I fulfill this new position.

On May 6th, Suzan Stegemoeller, Pastor Val, and Diane Hanson attended the Southwestern WA Synod Assembly in Auburn. This year's theme was "Seeking God's Shalom." Suzan was elected to serve on the Synod council. *Photo taken and submitted by Diane Hanson.*

CTC AMAZING GRACE 3RD STAGE REPORT

At a Congregation meeting on 3/26/23, more than 40 members gathered to discuss three defining aspects of ministry and mission. The question put before the gathering was: imagine in 1 year's time from now, what programs worked successfully, what resources were available and which people contributed their time and talents to make those programs successful.

I am grateful to Liz for accurately writing down the comments that were orally offered.

A summation of what was reported to the group now follows.

Five categories of programing emerged:

1. Sunday worship and programing;
2. Outreach events;
3. Communication modes;
4. Internal organization; and,
5. Conflict reduction processes.

First, Sunday mornings: Uplifting worship services; joyful worshipful moments particularly at the end of worship; a sense of peace entering the building that lasts throughout the morning's worship; youth involvement; solid preaching; uplifting music; active Sunday School programming. For programming, creating new Small Groups and strengthen current Small Groups and Bible study opportunities; partnering with local churches for VBS; listening to the needs of youth (people with healthy passionate involvement with youth are elected to church governing positions and regularly report to Congregation); marking important social milestones for member families.

Second, Outreach: Strong connection with Family Promise that includes emphasizing congregational support for the program as well as making the program and its connection to AG more visible to the surrounding community; making space available for music and providing instruments and practice time for performance from and to the community; sponsoring community dinners; knowing (and agreeing upon) mission actions; integrating those who would be new members; strengthening current missional ministries; cementing AG's reputation for being advocates for the homeless people in your community; making known public advocates for civic involvement who are members of AG; some members are well professionally networked in Aberdeen; PSALM program is strong, vibrant and expanding; Music program grows because high schoolers and college students are invited in; partnering with City/County entities on low income housing.

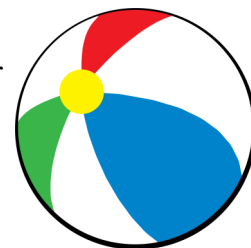
Third, Communication modes: greater mobilization of social media platforms to send more information to members and community; frequent opportunities for congregation-wide intentional communication and (respectfully curious) conversations.

Fourth, Internal organization: enthusiastic leaders are elected for governance positions and opportunities are created for intentionally nurturing future leaders; people believe we can accomplish what we set out to do; examine what resources are available to accomplish our agreed upon goals; effective stewardship program tied to anticipated goals; programs/events that strengthen fellowship in our church community; determine priority of decision making in the congregation, (eg does Council decide or does congregation decide or do small groups decide or does Pastor decide or what combination of the above determines course of action?); celebrating 20th anniversary of merger.

Fifth, Conflict resolution processes: establish and publish "Code of Conduct" for respectful communication; use the process of "1-2-4 All" to gain broader understanding of perceptions of ministry issues; develop a process for moving on through difficult problems; continue healing processes; open up and discuss the issues pertaining to Trinity; have prayer time when issues arise.

Next step suggestion: regather an appropriate group – could be Council, selected individuals, whole congregation – to rank the above items and then set about determining what resources are available and who will do the steps necessary to make the dream actually happen in a year. Of course, unless the Lord has blessed whatever ideas emerge, they won't happen. We pray for that blessing and wisdom!

Laurin Vance, CTC Director



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 18, 2023

Vision: A welcoming place where grace happens.

Mission: To Experience and share God's love through worship, education, and community.

Values: Radical Hospitality; Passionate worship; Intentional faith development; Risk-taking mission and service; Extravagant Generosity.

Attendance: Mark Smalley, Pastor Val, Tara Main, Diane Hanson, Sarah Channel, Suzan Stegemoeller, Michelle Weiberg, Lynette Lile

I. Call to Order – In the fireside room by Mark Smalley-6:15pm

Appointment of time keeper Suzan and start recording

II. Prayer and Devotions

A. Opening Prayer & Devotions – Mark

Exodus 18:17-21 & Philippians 3:13-14

What is the difference between a calling and a job?

B. Sign up for Devotions

-Suzan in May

-Lynette filled in months.

III. Establish Quorum

IV. Review and Approve Agenda M/S/P

Added under Business items: i. Office Furniture

V. Approve minutes from meetings: March 21st M/S/P

VI. Business items (these are generally items that are beyond any one ministry or don't fit under any ministry, special requests from the community) (30 min)

A. New Computer for Church Office – Sarah

The new computer and monitor were donated to the church by a congregation member. A new ergonomic keyboard, mouse and wrist rest were purchased. We are currently using a home version of Office Microsoft 365 which is the online web-based suite, but we should qualify for a non profit version, which would give us multiple email addresses and documents could be saved on the cloud. This version allows account holders access from any computer. Sarah has sent in the application for non-profit version.

i. Office Furniture

The Office Administrator uses old office furniture. Sarah went down to A.O.E yesterday and got a quote. The council discussed purchasing and payment of new furniture. The church office will be getting new furniture so it's more convenient for the person working in the office.

Motion to take \$1500 out of memorial for office furniture payment. **M/S/P**

B. CTC

Thank you, Diane and Liz, for all your hard work.

i. Listening session feedback

-discussed what was documented during sessions.

ii. Next steps

-Lauren will need to process the discussion and then decide on what the next steps will be.

C. How to make Council an opportunity to grow in faith and have fun too!

i. Schedule a meal at a council member's home.

ii. May 16th Council Meeting will be at Pastor Val's Home.

D. Council member terms – Mark

-Talk about whether new council members that took over the committee positions of previous council members (who stopped before terms were completed) will serve the remaining terms left.

E. Council communication spotlight for May

Each month a ministry leader will write a brief article on their council position for the SPIRIT and present it to the congregation. Mike Barkstrom will be in April. Michelle Weiberg will be



in May.

- i. Purpose to educate the congregation and facilitate communication.
- ii. What does the constitution say about the ministry.
- iii. How can the congregation help and become involved in the ministry.

F. AGLC T-shirts and Sweatshirts – Diane

-This project was originally set up by the PSALM team to raise money for scholarships, but due to COVID, was set aside. Scholarships are not needed at this time so project will be refocused to the Celebration 2023. The council discussed various ideas on selling the items in reference to cost. Hank and Diane will be taking orders during fellowship hours. Pay at time of order.

Motion for Hank and Diane to move forward for having AGLC t-shirts and sweatshirts and other clothing attire paid upfront at cost or donations. **M/S/P**

G. Synod Assembly – need to approve hotel costs for participants – Mark

Diane, Pastor Val, and Suzan will be attending. Joelle will be working as a volunteer.

Discussion regarding logistics was held, no accommodations will be needed, after all.

H. Madison Winter car wash, for Aberdeen HS Gender Sexuality Alliance Club, scheduled for this Saturday was postponed due to weather and will be rescheduled.

VII. Ministry team reports:

(30 min)

A. Worship – Sarah

The committee met on Sunday. Discussed replacing pianos in sanctuary and fellowship hall. Kris will be finding out the costs of pianos for fellowship hall.

i. Piano fund raiser

-Hank already has a fundraiser in progress.

B. Outreach – Suzan

AA would like to host a monthly potluck open to the AA community. They'd be using the fellowship hall one Wednesday each month from 4:30 to 7 pm. The third Wednesday works best for the group. Open to using other Wednesdays if third Wednesdays doesn't work.

Motion for Suzan to explore with Hank and Pastor Val when to schedule monthly potluck.

M/S/P

i. Moore Wright Group donations-

-Moore group donated hundreds of toothbrushes and hand sanitizers to AGLC to distribute however we want.

ii. Request to collect food for the Salvation Army Food Bank

Discussed Judi's suggestion that we donate 6 months to the Food Bank and 6 months to the Salvation Army. Judi and Suzan are volunteering to purchase baskets that can be filled. Once a month the baskets will be blessed during worship. Judi would provide a list of specific food items to be donated.

iii. Greater Grays Harbor Inc. is holding a meeting on local housing issues on April 25. Debby Colangelo and Suzan Stegemoeller are planning to attend. There will be information from the Moore group and other agencies that deal with housing in our area.

The other meeting in May is on substance use disorders and how they're connected to the housing and homelessness issue.

C. Youth & Family – Michelle

i. VBS

-Provided information on how church can be involved. Sarah Channel will be AGLC representative for VBS.

ii. Sunday School

First family education activity will be in May. Michelle shared some of the activity ideas being developed. Focus on family activities with faith that can be recreated at home. Goal is to provide families with a foundation to build from.

iii. High School Holden Trip

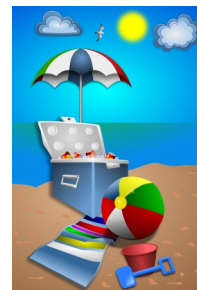
-On the waiting list. Joan is hopeful that they will get in, because they are such a small group.

D. Fellowship – Lynette

i. Celebration of windows and anniversary of the joining of 2 churches to become Amazing Grace

1. Possible Dates Sept 23rd or 24th

Discussed having the window celebration on Sept. 23rd and 20th Anniversary



- celebration on September 24. Also talked about having a pinata for the kids.
- ii. Small Group Meetings: Next meeting is May 18
- iii. Erin Burns will graduate from high school this June. Confirmation class will be making the quilt.
- iv. Yvette Koerner- people will have a chance to sign birthday cards which will be delivered to Yvette.
- v. Fellowship hosts list- posted on the cork board in the kitchen.

E. Property – Mike: absent.

- i. Family Promise Use agreement
- ii. Michelle, Mike, and Sarah met to discuss a larger family section in sanctuary. More information will be shared when Mike is back.

VIII. Financial Reports: (30 min)

- A. Treasurer’s Report –Tara
 - i. Approve March bills paid **M/S/P**
 - ii. Financial Secretary’s Report – Tara

IX. Pastor’s Report (IX – XI 15 min)

Pastor will start announcing on how people can help with being assisting ministers. They don’t need to be part of PSALM. Pastor Val will be going on a silent retreat.

Adjournment and closing prayer - Mark 8:48

PASTOR’S REPORT April 2023

Activities that are part of pastor’s work most months.

WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday worship – Plan and lead
 Plan seasonal and special worship services
 Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing
 Prayer
 Meet with ministry leader as needed
 Liturgical Arts team

ADMINISTRATION

Reports: congregational; synod; ELCA
 Conference deans – meet bi-annually & as needed

Recordkeeping: updates to documents; church ledger
 Work with office administrator: bulletins, newsletter, etc.
 Council meeting & Exec. Comm. meeting monthly
 Newsletter - writing, editing
 Meet with treasurer as needed
 Mutual Ministry meeting monthly
 Endowment Committee advisor

FELLOWSHIP/PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING

PSALM – mentor; spiritual direction

Prayer Chain – coordinate w/ Brenda Grant
 Grace notes weekly or as needed
 Pastoral care as needed
 Coordinate with ministry leader as needed

OUTREACH

Facebook page – outreach through social media.
 Coordinate with others to support homeless and marginalized people
 Meet w/ ministry leader as needed

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Meet w/ ministry leader as needed

YOUTH AND FAMILY

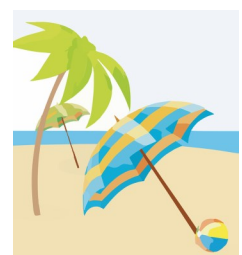
Intergenerational events
 Adult study: plan and participate
 Confirmation: plan and lead
 Sunday School: coordinate with ministry leader
 Young people’s message

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM

Study and integrate into sermons

OTHER ACTIVITIES in April

Activities specific to this month



OFFICIAL ACTS: None
PASTORAL CARE: Visit, calls, texts, messaging as needed
ADMINISTRATIVE: Work with consultant
OUTREACH: Consulted with team leader
WORSHIP: Led Holy Week services
 Preparing worship for Easter season
 Sermon preparation with Keith
 Consulted with team leader
YOUTH/FAMILY/EDUCATION: Consulted with team leader in preparation for S.S.
PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Silent Retreat April 23-28th
VACATION: April 11-12th; April 29-30th
UPCOMING: Pentecost May 28th
 Vacation June 20-25

OFFICE HOURS

Church office is open: **Tuesday & Thursday 8-2, Wednesday 8-1 & Friday 8-11.** AGLC Office
 360.532.8250 amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val— Please call, text or email to set up a time to meet. 360.580.8977, vmetropou-
 los001@luthersem.edu

BUILDING REPAIRS/MAINTANCE

Please notify Mike Barkstrom or send a message to the church office if there are any repairs needed at the church. Sometimes members or visitors notice things that need to be fixed that the committee is not aware of. Your input is helpful in these matters.

Mike Barkstrom: mkbarks1@gmail.com- (360) 589-1393

Ministers: The People of
 Amazing Grace

Pastor: Val Metropoulos
 (360) 580-8977
vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Church office: 111 E. 4th Street
 360) 532-8250
amazing111@comcast.net
amazinggraceaberdeen.org

Pianist: Kristine Burns

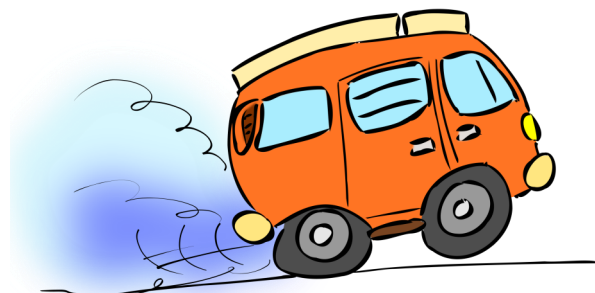
Hank B. looks on as Macks tries his luck with the Pentecost pinatas!
Photo taken and submitted by Kathleen Wehage.



APRIL BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INCOME STATEMENT Month Ending April 30, 2023 General Fund	AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INCOME STATEMENT Month Ending April 30, 2023 Maintenance Fund
Revenue	Revenue
General Fund \$ 12,172.75 Youth Fund \$ - Memorial Fund \$ - M Thompson Fund/Piano \$ - Total Revenue <u>\$ 12,172.75</u>	Maintenance Fund \$ 1,890.00 \$ - 4F Dinner \$ - Thrivent Family Promise Maint Fund \$ 100.00 Total Revenue <u>\$ 1,990.00</u> Total in FP Maint Fund \$400.00
Expenses	Expenses
Pastorial \$ 10,623.80 Payroll \$ 2,331.50 Payroll Taxes \$ 538.88 Shipping \$ 617.50 Supplies \$ 160.93 Utilities \$ 1,770.92 Software \$ 133.81 Misc \$ 135.17 Synod Assembly \$ 442.00 Total Expenses <u>\$ 16,754.51</u> Net Income <u>\$ (4,581.76)</u>	Home Depot \$ 435.58 Sherwin-Williams \$ 134.36 Total Expenses <u>\$ 569.94</u> Net Income <u>\$ 1,420.06</u>
AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH General Church Equity Month Ending April 30, 2023	AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Maintenance Equity Month Ending April 30, 2023
Beginning Equity March 1, 2023 \$ 25,694.92 Net Loss \$ (4,581.76) Benevolences \$ (147.40) Church Equity March 31, 2023 <u>\$ 20,965.76</u>	Beginning Equity March 1, 2023 \$ 16,514.18 Net Income \$ 1,420.06 Less Withdrawals \$ - Maint. Equity March 31, 2023 <u>\$ 17,934.24</u>

Income statements continued on next page.



AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH GENERAL BALANCE SHEET April 30, 2023		AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MAINTENANCE BALANCE SHEET April 30, 2023	
ASSETS		ASSETS	
General Fund	\$ 13,161.75	Maintenance Fund	\$ 17,934.24
Youth Fund	-		
Memorial Fund	3,856.35		
M. Thompson Fund <i>(piano)</i>	8,443.39		
Prepaid Insurance	-		
Prepaid Website	168.00		
Total Assets	<u>\$ 25,629.49</u>	Total Assets	<u>\$ 17,934.24</u>
LIABILITIES		LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ -	Accounts Payable	
Salaries Payable	\$ 2,331.50		
Federal Taxes Payable	\$ 1,940.86		
WA State Taxes Payable	\$ 391.37		
Total Liabilities	\$ 4,663.73	Total Liabilities	\$ - \$ -
CHURCH EQUITY		CHURCH EQUITY	
Church Equity	\$ 20,965.76	Maintenance Equity	\$ 17,934.24
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$ 25,629.49</u>	Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$ 17,934.24</u>

JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

June 4

Assisting Minister: Diane Hanson; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Reader:** Hank Bilderback; **Ushers/Greeters:** Joelle Buckman & Dee Erickson; **Depositors:** Anneliese Kraiger & Kathy Wehage; **Fellowship Hosts:** Shaw, Green, O'Connor, Lokken, Fernandez; **Communion setup:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Curtis Steinhauer

June 11

Assisting Minister: Hank Bilderback; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Reader:** Kristine Finazzo; **Communion Assistants:** Joelle Buckman & Joni Hildreth; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mark & Amy Ostwald; **Depositors:** Ruth Ann Carlson & Joelle Buckman; **Fellowship Hosts:** Hanson, Erwin, Seelke, Main; **Communion setup:** Laura Carle; **Stream Team:** Steve Swanson

June 18

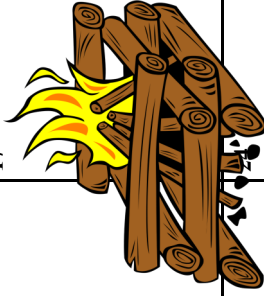
Assisting Minister: Joelle Buckman; **Liturgist:** Curtis Steinhauer; **Reader:** Dee Erickson; **Communion Assistants:** Arlene Torgerson & Steve Swanson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller; **Depositors:** Carmon Shaw & Greg Johnstone; **Fellowship Hosts:** Finazzo, Evanson, Hubbard, Waite, Winter; **Communion setup:** Carmon Shaw; **Stream Team:** Amy Ostwald

June 25

Assisting Minister: Hank Bilderback; **Liturgist:** Greg Johnstone; **Reader:** Theresa Kaufman; **Communion Assistants:** Joan & William Rabung; **Ushers/Greeters:** Jim & Michelle Weiberg; **Depositors:** Kristine Finazzo & Mark Ostwald; **Fellowship Hosts:** Barkstrom, Hildreth, Buckman; **Communion setup:** Tara Main; **Stream Team:** Keith Lile



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6	7 QUILTING 9-12 AA 5:30-6:30	8 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	9	10
11 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 HANDSEWERS 9-3	14 AA 5:30-6:30	15 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	16	17
18 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20	21 AA POTLUCK & MEETING 4:30-6:30	22 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	23	
25 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 HANDSEWERS 9-3	28 AA 5:30-6:30	29 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3 COUNCIL MEETING 6:15PM CELEBRATION MEETING 2023 7PM-SANCTUARY	30	



JUNE



President	Mark Smalley	(360) 249-1955	marktrish86@gmail.com
Vice President	Diane Hanson	(360) 581-4806	djh431@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Tara Main	(360) 580-1577	taramain@comcast.net
Youth & Family	Michelle Weiberg	(360) 532-6512	weibergs@comcast.net
Outreach	Suzan Stegemoeller	(360)580-3407	suzansteg@hotmail.com
		LANDLINE: (360) 249-6986	
Worship	Sarah Channel	(360) 888-9538	channel924@gmail.com
Fellowship	Lynette Lile	(360) 589-3117	carcounseling@gmail.com
Property	Mike Barkstrom	(360) 589-1393	mkbarks1@gmail.com
Pastor	Val Metropoulos	(360) 580-8977	vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Financial Secretary-This position unfilled. To be managed on a non-council basis and report to President..

JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

July 2

Assisting Minister: Joelle Buckman; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Reader:** Arlene Torgerson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Roger & Carmon Shaw; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Greg Johnstone; **Fellowship Hosts:** Beman, N. Kraiger/ A. Kraiger, Debandt; **Communion setup:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Curtis Steinhauer

July 9

Assisting Minister: Diane Hanson; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Reader:** Darci Jewitt; **Communion Assistants:** Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller; **Ushers/Greeters:** Naomi Kraiger & Theresa Kaufman; **Depositors:** Ruth Ann Carlson & Kathy Wehage; **Fellowship Hosts:** Weiberg, Channel, Teveliet, Jewitt, Steinhauer; **Communion setup:** Carmon Shaw; **Stream Team:** Steve Swanson

July 16

Assisting Minister: Hank Bilderback; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Reader:** Greg Johnstone; **Communion Assistants:** Diane Hanson & Mark Smalley; **Ushers/Greeters:** Tim & Pam Alstrom; **Depositors:** Joelle Buckman & Anneliese Kraiger; **Fellowship Hosts:** Schermer, Rabung, Carlson, Stephens; **Communion setup:** Laura Carle; **Stream Team:** Amy

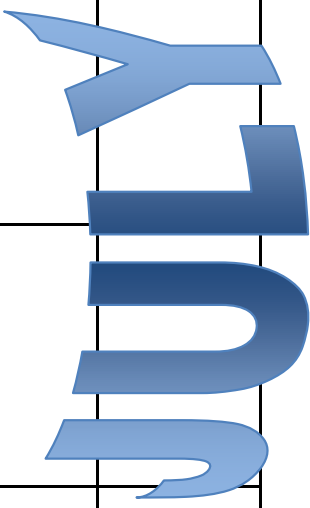
July 23

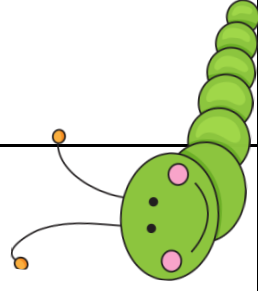
Assisting Minister: Joelle Buckman; **Liturgist:** Curtis Steinhauer; **Reader:** Michelle Weiberg; **Communion Assistants:** Theresa Kaufman & Darci Jewitt; **Ushers/Greeters:** Joan & William Rabung; **Depositors:** Anneliese Kraiger & Kristine Finazzo; **Fellowship Hosts:** Alstrom, Tieder, Johnstone; **Communion setup:** Tara Main; **Stream Team:** Keith

July 30

Assisting Minister: Diane Hanson; **Liturgist:** Greg Johnstone; **Reader:** Steve Swanson; **Communion Assistants:** Sarah Channel & Dee Erickson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Arlene Torgerson & Joelle Buckman; **Depositors:** Ruth Ann Carlson & Carmon Shaw; **Fellowship Hosts:** Kaufman, T. Buckman, Colangelo, Gienger; **Communion setup:** Dee Erickson; **Stream Team:** Curtis Steinhauer



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4	5 AA 5:30-6:30	6 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	7	8
9 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 HANDSEWERS 9-3 SENIOR ART GROUP 10-3	12 AA 5:30-6:30	13 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	14	15
16 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 SENIOR ART GROUP 10-3 COUNCIL MEETING 6:15PM	19 AA POTLUCK & MEETING 4:30-7:30	20 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	21	22
23 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 HANDSEWERS 9-3 SENIOR ART GROUP 10-3	26 AA 5:30-6:30	27 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	28	29
30 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	31 OFFICE CLOSED					





Please join us for worship
Sundays at 10am in person or on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Amazing-Grace-Lutheran-Church-114570725233786/>

Or anytime at: amazinggraceaberdeen.org
AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Grays Harbor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

VISION

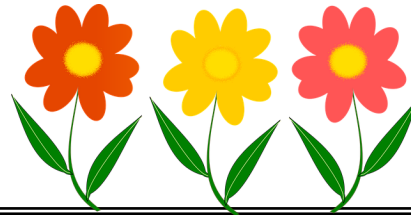
A welcoming place where grace happens!

MISSION

To experience and share God's love through worship,
education and community

VALUES

Radical Hospitality
Passionate worship
Intentional faith development
Risk-taking mission and service
Extravagant generosity



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of
Grays Harbor

111 E. 4th Street

Aberdeen, WA 98520

360.532.8250

amazing111@comcast.net

www.amazinggraceaberdeen.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE