

THE SPIRIT

December 2023



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

THE GIFT OF DEMOCRACY AND THE OFFICE OF CITIZEN

Dear Friends in Christ,

Reformation Day and Election Day regularly fall close to each other this time of year in our country. This coming Tuesday, October 31, is Reformation Day and the following Tuesday, November 7, is Election Day.

The gifts of the Reformation are many, but as I write this newsletter, I find myself thinking about Luther's perspective on government and being a citizen. It's important to notice that Luther's views about being a citizen spring out of his then-revolutionary affirmation of "the priesthood of all believers". In Luther's day, society viewed people as having lives of meaning and worth only if they were "close" to God because of their righteous, spiritual work (nuns, priests and popes), or because they had high social ranking and power (princes, bankers and emperors.) In his reading of St. Paul and the Gospels, Luther re-discovered that we are all equally valued and cherished by God, not because of what we do or who we are socially, but because God unconditionally loves and prizes each one of us. Luther then went on to say that, just as we are all equally loved by God, so we are also given lives of equal meaning and purpose. From the first moment of our baptism, we all become priests, called and empowered to serve and care for others as God has cared for us.

The exact form of our priesthood depends on the context of our lives and what we are specifically called to do. Luther used the term "office" to describe the different vocations we take on. We might use the term "role". We live out our priestly faith and love in the variety of offices and roles we play in our lives: parent, schoolteacher, farmer, nurse, business worker, pastor. And, yes, the "office" of both citizen and government leader are among the roles that Luther identifies as part of God's royal priesthood.

Luther was still very much shaped by the sixteenth century society around him that was just emerging from feudalism. Therefore, he did not leap immediately into full-scale democracy. However, the rights and duties that he proposes for common people and

their government leaders are quite stunning.

As cities in Germany became "Lutheran", they welcomed advice from Luther about how to reform their government structures so that they would better reflect God's equal, life-changing love. In response, and for the first time in Europe's history, Luther mobilized local governments to: (1) Establish and financially support free schools open to all boys and girls. (2) Establish a social assistance program that would provide material help to people in crisis (widows, the ill, the unemployed.) This welfare program or "community chest" would be equally administered by a balanced leadership group of two nobles, two city council leaders, three town citizens and three peasant farmers. Democracy was truly emerging out of Luther's re-discovery of the priesthood of all believers. The office of "citizen" became a holy calling! (For much more information about this, see Dr. Torvend's book listed below,)



There is obviously much more to explore about Luther, but I want to return to the issue that led me to think about his perspectives on citizenship, namely our local elections coming up and the national elections a year from now that are already drawing much attention. It is easy to feel cynical about the political process and the caustic campaigning that takes place. Many Americans wonder about the future health of our country.

In the face of that turmoil, reading Luther has encouraged me to see again how the office of being a citizen is part of our priesthood as God's people. It's true that American democracy is still an experiment in the process of being developed. We groan at its limits and imperfections. Luther himself was blinded by his tragic and wrong prejudice against the Jewish community. Growth is needed in all of us.

However, being an active citizen is a holy calling. In the same way that parents care for children, God is working through us as citizens to care for our nation

and the world, and to bring grace, blessing, and justice to all.

So, Luther would say to us, VOTE! Tell everybody you know to vote! Make sure everyone has the right and access to vote. The election of leaders is, of course, an important part of democracy. By their skill, values and vision, leaders guide and shape our nation, cities and states. Therefore, it's good that we spend time debating and voting on who will lead us. However, we make a big mistake if we think that our leaders are going to figure everything out and fix everything by themselves. The world is way too complicated for any one leader to have all the answers and solve every dilemma. Democracy only succeeds when we citizens stay involved in discussions, planning, and actions as each new challenge is faced. Fair, collaborative decision-making is an ongoing element of democracy that we are still learning to use.

We also have an important ministry of healing and reconciliation to do. So much anger, bitterness and violence is evident throughout our country. Therefore, our ministry as citizens must include bringing all people together and rebuilding a sense of commu-

nity, even as we make complicated decisions as a nation.

I urge you to engage in the gift of democracy and the office of citizen that God has granted to us. May God bless and guide us as we enter a new chapter in our journey together as a nation.

P.S. Here are books I have enjoyed that connect our Lutheran tradition and citizenship: Samuel Torvend, *Luther and the Hungry Poor: Gathered Fragments*, (Fortress Press); Timothy Lull and Derek Nelson, *Resilient Reformer: The Life and Thought of Martin Luther* (Fortress Press); Carter Lindberg and Paul Wee, editors, *The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation* (Lutheran University Press).

Bishop Rick Jaech



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: Maize Jane is surrounded by family as she is confirmed by Pastor Doug. *Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.*



Maize Jane's (MJ) special confirmation cake!
Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



One of the many quilts blessed before shipping for outreach. Kristine Finazzo and Amy Ostwald hold up this gorgeous quilt for photo.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



BLESSING of the QUILTS: These beautiful quilts are prayerfully made by the quilters ministry for local and global outreach.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

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 to-

gether with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.
God's people join in prayer for Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller, Janice Harder, Sam Rabung, Kristin Mullen, Pastor Eric Utto-Galarneau and family, Paul Staats, Arlene O'Connor, Tobi Buckman, Monica Olden, Cheri, Dana, Susan Bylund, Dacey, Dean Christianson, Emmersyn, Josiah, Yvette Koerner, Mert Turner, Audra Wieler, Michael Silver, Helen Velling, Cher, Linda, Tom Plumlee



December BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

Paula Elder, December 4
 Loyd Gill, December 10
 Jeannette Green, December 10
 Gloria Bilderback, December 11
 James Green, December 14
 Karen Barkstrom, December 17
 Dorothy Stephens, December 18
 Karen Anderson, December 24
 Stephanie Kaufman, December 27
 Molly Rabung, December 30

ANNIVERSARIES:

Brenda Grant & Liz Ellis, December



Remembering all the precious souls that have gone before us.
Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



Naomi, Carmon, & Ruth Ann for helping Vicky assemble materials.
Helpers who take food down to the Food Bank, Salvation Army and Cold Weather Shelter.
4-F Dinner crew and all others for putting together this event.
Bells of Grace for the music that was provided on Sunday, November 12
A.G. Choir for singing on November 19.
Everyone who provided names for All Saints Sunday.
Everyone who provided items for the silent and live pie auction.
Special thanks to Gary Morean, Nicole Evanson, Sarah Channel and Amy Ostwald for helping with the Pie Auction



Celebrating Veteran's Day with a cake at Amazing Grace. *Photo submitted by Judi Hubbard.*

4-F DINNER THANK YOU

A very BIG Thank You to all that attended and supported our pot roast dinner this month. We had 33 dining in person and 30 pick up!! We could never do this without the help of many.

Eileen and her delicious rolls, Cindi (new member and so helpful in the kitchen) and Karen for their delicious apple crisp, Madison and her friends KamaKani and Judy for serving, singing and playing their instruments, Ruth Ann for playing patriotic songs for us to sing along with and Hank for leading us in prayer.

Raffle baskets were made by Joan and Dee. The lucky winners were Eileen, Annelise, Arlene Torgerson and Debby Colangelo.

On dish duty were Mike and Naomi. Mike Barkstrom was available whenever we needed support!! Kristine and I enjoyed shopping and preparing the meal, every year we learn another tidbit to work smarter

not harder ! We raised \$2071.00 (I apologize for quoting the wrong amount on Sunday)

Our 10% tithe will go to Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster and The local Salvation Army Food Bank 1/3 each.

Two Thrivent Action Cards enabled the event to be "total profit". The funds will be added to the kitchen counter replacement account.

It was so heart warming to hear all the fellowship going on---something we all have missed.

If you were not able to make this meal, we hope you can join us for the next.

We look forward to our next event and your continued support.

Judi and the team

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Habitat for Humanity** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$52.80
- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for donations of \$52.80 & \$52.01
- **PLU** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$52.80
- George and his son (across the alley) thank A.G. for delivering Thanksgiving Dinner

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

QUILTER'S UPDATE

The quilter's sent their fall shipment to Lutheran World Relief on Monday, November 1st. Our goal is to send 150 school kits. But, the contributions from the members of Amazing Grace helped us to put together 203 school kits. We know your generous help with monetary donations, school supplies and filling individual school kits made this possible.

Thank you for helping the less fortunate children around the world get an education. Included in this shipment were 71 quilts and 4 baby kits. We couldn't do this ministry without you and all of the men who help us box items and then load the truck.

As a side note, we so appreciate all of the sheets that are donated for the backs of the quilts and fabric that we can make into a warm quilt. If you are free on the 1st, 3rd or 5th Wednesday of a month come join us. We are working in the parish hall from 9:00-12:00. And yes, we have a great coffee break at 10:30!

Roger and Mike loading quilts .

Photo submitted by Judi Hubbard



UNION GOSPEL MISSION

December 5

Judi Hubbard, Leader

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

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



FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

Family Promise welcomed a new guest family to our Shelter Program last week, a mom and her two daughters. We will be opening up a spot for a third family in the coming weeks.

We are seeking volunteers to serve as evening and weekend Day Center Hosts. Volunteer Hosts provide hospitality to Family Promise Guest families as well as supervision to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants. (Please note that you do not need to provide meals as a host.) Shifts are flexible to accommodate busy schedules and youth volunteers



WANT TO BE AN ELF?

ELF stands for Elevate Local Families

This Christmas season we will again provide Gift Cards to families in need.

Families can then have the joy of shopping for their own family. Our teachers and social worker connections help us find the families in most need.

Your donations and pie auction bidding make this possible. Please bring gift cards (or a donation) to the church office (or put in offering plate marked for ELF). We ask that the gift cards be Walmart or Visa gift cards. \$50 cards would be a useful denomination.

Doug from UGM says to plan on 35-45 dinner guests and to have food there between 3-4:00.

Team leaders need to contact Doug on cell phone prior so he can give current numbers. 360 888 6382

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.

are welcome with adult supervision! Orientation and training are provided. Please contact Angel at (360) 986-3948 or fscfamilypromisegh@gmail.com for more information or to request an application and background check consent form.

It's time for our Annual Holiday Quilt Raffle! This year we are featuring two beautiful quilts. Tickets for these art handiworks are \$2 each and **the winners will be drawn on Friday, December 8, 2023.** For tickets or more information, please contact Family Promise at 360-986-3944 or familypromisegraysharbor@gmail.com.

Any amount is appreciated and will be pooled with other donations to reach the appropriate amount per family.

In addition, we'll make a small gift bag with holiday goodies and we'll include the gift cards.

We will need donations of small containers of nuts, holiday cookies, candy, etc. for the gift bags. Thanks in advance for your generosity. Bring these donations to the parish hall or church office by **Sunday, December 10. Questions?** Contact Amy Ostwald aaostwald@gmail.com or 360-482-2306

UNDIE SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

Bring socks and underwear to be given to individuals living at the Union Gospel Mission and Friendship House.

*mens socks

*mens underwear and tee shirts - size M thru 2X

*women's underwear - size M thru XL

Tara Main (360) 580-1577

and

Suzan Stegemoeller (360) 249-6986

can answer any questions.

As always, thank you for your generous support.

MINISTRY REPORTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

It's time to start getting ministry reports ready. All reports need to be into the office by December

31st so that the office can compile them into the booklet for distribution to the congregation on January 14th.

HOSTS 2024

The list is available on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for any changes, subject to changes as events occur. We will try to keep you informed to the best of

our ability. Revised list will be available on the corkboard in the kitchen in January.

GOOD GIFTS

Giving to GOOD GIFTS is one way of supporting worldwide ministries of the Lutheran Church. These ministries assist families, communities and projects around the globe.

Visit the GOOD GIFTS tree in the parish hall.

There is a donation envelope next to the tree. (Make checks payable to AGL / memo - GOOD GIFTS.)

You can also go on line to make your donation. Information is in the GOOD GIFTS Catalogue. Please take one home.

For additional information contact: Suzan Stegemoeller at (360) 249-6986 or Debbie Colangelo at (360) 500-0001

Thank you very much!!

URGENT NEED FOR WARMTH!!

There are roughly 100 unhousted people living in Aberdeen.

They are in need of heat.

You can help by providing propane canisters: Coleman, 8 to 9 inches tall, dark green, in packs of 2 for \$10 per pack, available at Wal*mart and Bi-Mart. Bring them to church and place in the "Cold Weather

Supplies" basket in the parish hall. Thank you so very much for extending God's love to these very vulnerable children of God.

For more information contact Suzan Stegemoeller, (360) 580-3407.



COLD WEATHER SUPPLIES

Chaplains on the Harbor is actively involved in several ministries serving the unhousted.

We can offer support in two ways.

- 1.) Prayer for their ministries as well as the unhousted members of our county.
- 2.) Donations of tarps, sleeping bags, warm socks, winter coats and rain gear.

Items can be placed in the designated basket in the fellowship hall.

Thank you so much for your generous and steadfast support.

Suzan Stegemoeller - Out Reach Chair - (360) 249-6986



14 people from Amazing Grace and Family Promise celebrated Thanksgiving together with dinner and fellowship. We also delivered 3 meals to our neighbors.

Photo Submitted by Darci Jewitt

PRAYER REQUEST PROTOCOL

When requesting prayer for yourself or another, please specify if you'd like the person's name printed in the Sunday bulletin (public) or sent out via email to the Prayer Chain (confidential).

Some just want one or the other, while others want the name in both venues. Please indicate what your wishes are. Requests early in the week have a better chance of the name being printed in the Sunday bulletin.



Prayers are requested by sending an email to: Kathy Wehage at kwehage55@yahoo.com or Brenda Grant at Brenda_k_grant@hotmail.com

Due to confidentiality issues, we trust that you have checked with the person you are requesting prayers for and that it is OK that their name is put out to the public.

Thank you,
Kathy and Brenda

STREAMERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICE VIDEO

We'll train you! Can you devote a Sunday morning once every 4-6 weeks? We have an easy-to-follow protocol on the computer system in the back of the church to run the video and sound system.

It's all set up to work seamlessly. And there are several people that can help if you have questions. Talk to Keith, Amy or Xander if interested or email the church office at amazing111@comcast.net

SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK

In addition to food items for the Salvation Army food bank, Kim, our coordinator says toothbrushes,

toothpaste, combs, and shampoo are needed.

All your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

Judi Hubbard--just one of our representatives

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

The Home Communion team is working to ensure that those people who request Communion at home receive it once a month or as needed.

Our current team of Carmon Shaw and Mike Hildreth is assisted by Pastor Doug. We will expect to

visit Mary Ann Major, Eileen Audett, Yvette Koerner, Lloyd Gill and Joyce Smith. If you know of others that would like Home Communion please contact one of us or the church office. If you would like to join our team, let us know that as well. The Communion kits will be blessed on the first Sunday of each month at the altar before being sent out. Lynette Lile

PASTORAL CARE

If you or someone you know needs a call from the Pastor please contact Pastor Doug at 360.339.3773 and doug.knutsonkeller@gmail.com



GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Families with children, please plan on being part of

this great tradition. Invite friends and family for the Sunday school program on December 10th.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!!

Sunday, Dec. 10th, is our annual caroling event. We will meet at 3 pm at the church to go caroling at our shut-ins. We will return to church about 5 pm for yummy chili and hot chocolate.

Xander Johnstone will be providing chili. Hopefully, our "mens auxiliary" will be available to stay behind to prepare for our return!!
Look forward to seeing you at these fun activities!!!



CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve service is at 7pm 12/24 with fellowship to follow.

Please bring a favorite treat to share at fellowship that evening if you can.



POINSETTIAS

If you'd like to share poinsettias, drop them off anytime. If you would like to honor a

loved one in this way, let Vicky know the name that should be printed in the bulletin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth and families will meet Sunday, Dec. 3rd following worship in the fireside room. We will be reading the story, "Joseph and the coat of many colors".

On Sunday, December 3rd, the youth and their families will be attending the 1:30 matinee of "Joseph

and the Technicolor Dreamcoat" at the Driftwood Theater. We are so blessed to have this opportunity to attend thanks to an anonymous donor from our congregation! We welcome others from Amazing Grace to join us!

Families-meet outside of the theater at 1:00 PM.

MUSIC PRACTICE SCHEDULE:

Handbells will meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at

6:00. Choir will meet every Sunday at 9:00. Additional rehearsals before performances.



Pastor Rebecca Shjerven, Asst. to the Bishop, talks to the congregation about the work of transition and the development of a Ministry Site Profile. The Transition Team has been formed and will lead the congregation through this process.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

Pastor Rebecca Shjerven answers questions regarding the Transition process.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



Check out the new family area in the back of the church. The families say "thank you!"

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



Sasha, Maize Jane and Eilidh love to worship in the new family space in the sanctuary. Thank you for creating this space for us and our families!

Photo submitted by Michelle Weiberg



OUTREACH: OPEN HOUSE for the renovated Salvation Army food bank took place on November 6th in Aberdeen. AG volunteers, who are active at the Salvation Army foodbank, participated in the OPEN HOUSE.
Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

Inside the newly renovated Salvation Army food bank. It is a grocery store concept, where people in need can have choices and shop with dignity.
Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



Southwestern Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.
The Rev. Richard E. Jaech, Bishop



November 7, 2023

Greetings!

I am so thankful for your continuing Mission Support for the ministry that we do together as the Southwestern Washington Synod. Your faithful contribution each month enables us to carry out our Synod ministries of assisting congregations in their call processes, providing our PSALM and seminarian training programs, supporting new mission congregations, and helping congregations work together in partnerships.

Your support for the Synod is an extension of the generous and faithful ministry you do each day in your congregation and neighborhood. Our world is a very unsettled place right now. So many of us long for a new measure of God's peace in our hearts, in our families and in the world. As I see and hear about your ministries, I know that you are following the guidance and power of the Christ as we together seek God's shalom in every part of our lives.

As you know, the Synod passes on 40% of your Mission Support to our national ELCA church body, which carries out such vital ministries as supporting the work of 150 missionaries around the world, training new pastors and deacons in seven ELCA seminaries, and addressing hunger and suffering.

Thank you for all that you do!

Enclosed you will find the statement for your congregation's Mission Support during this last fiscal quarter. Please contact us if you have any questions or corrections to make.

God bless you in every way!

In Christ,

Bishop Rick Jaech



328	ELCIN (Namibia)	\$560.21	705	PLU	\$560.21
325	Living Stones Prison Min.	\$560.21	300	SWWA Mission Support	\$8,151.21
2013	May Youth Weekend	\$795			

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 17, 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: Sarah Channel, Pastor Doug, Mark Smalley, Suzan Stegemoeller, Lynette Lile, Mike Barkstrom, Tara Main, Diane Hanson

I. Call to Order – Mark Smalley 6:15

A. Appointment of time keeper-Suzan and start recording

II. Prayer and Devotions

A. Opening Prayer & Devotions – Sarah

What are the attributes of a good leader not just as individuals but also as a group?

B. Next Month Michelle

III. Establish Quorum

IV. Review and Approve Agenda M/S/P

Added under Business Items: E. Schedule date for Budget meeting and B. Transition Team 3. Pastor Rebecca from the Synod Office, Under Property: 2-Carpets, 3-Counters & 4-f dinner, and 5-Pews. The worship committee will report last under Ministry reports.

- V. **Approve minutes from meetings:** September 19th **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. Olive Crest /Teresa Snow – Suzan (listen to again)
 - Teresa works for an organization called Ignite ILS. Ignite ILS is a program designed to help kids that are aging out of the Foster Care System to become independent adults. Olive Crest works with churches to support foster families in a couple of ways. Suzan would like Teresa to come back and speak to the congregation after the holidays. If people are interested in what they hear they can speak with Teresa about the process of helping with volunteering.
 - B. Transition Team – Pastor Doug
 1. Possible members
 - The council discussed diverse candidates whom they could talk to about joining Transition/Call committees. A transition team needs to be set up in at least the next month.
 - C. Pastor Rebecca from the Synod office
 - Pastor Rebecca will meet with the whole congregation about Transition meeting on November 5.
 - D. Flag in the Sanctuary – Mark
 - Discussed what the policies from the ELCA are. Pastor Doug will contact Laurin Vance to have him help lead the congregation through a discussion about the issue.
 - E. PLU Concert/M. Thompson/Pie Auction – Mark/Sarah
 1. Schedule date for the PLU concert is December 3.
 2. M. Thompson fund was depleted to pay for the new piano.
 3. Offers were made to donate scholarship money for tickets in memory of M. Thompson.
 4. The pie auction is set for November 19. Proceeds from the auction will go to the ELF program. Any fundraiser the church puts on we tithed 10% to mission outside of the church. Since the pie auction is going to a mission beyond our church walls, 100% of the proceeds will go to ELF.
 - F. Schedule date for Budget meeting
 - Budget meeting is scheduled for November 28th.
- VII. **Ministry team reports:** (30 min)
- A. Outreach – Suzan
 1. Getting information out about outreach programs and keeping in touch with current programs.
 2. Good Gifts and ELF. The proceeds from the Pie Auction will go to the ELF program. Suzan will oversee Good Gifts along with decorating the tree with help from Debby Colangelo.
 3. Suzan will speak with Pastor Barb and Teresa Snow about coming to speak with Council and congregation about giving a sermon message.
 4. Sock and Underwear Sunday: Tara Main suggested sponsoring a Sunday during which members bring socks and underwear to church to be given to local shelters.
 5. Synod News: Bishop Jaech will be retiring in 2025. The Synod council will begin the search process for his replacement in early 2024.
 6. Ad-Hoc Committee on Homelessness not met. The city, County and other entities are coming together to form a plan to address homelessness.
 7. Chaplains on the Harbor will not be providing a cold weather shelter.
 8. Suzan will write an announcement for the newsletter about Transition mission. When Suzan gives her outreach report to the congregation she'll write a Transition report based on outreach report.
 - B. Youth & Family – Michelle: absent
 - C. Larger Family Friendly Sanctuary Space
 - The potential date for moving the bench in the sanctuary is November 4.
 - D. Fellowship – Lynette
 1. Visitation ministry
 - Met with Pastor Doug about being more coordinated about getting communion to the shut-ins.



2. Nov pie auction - November 19. Proceeds will go to ELF program.
3. 2023 Celebration coloring books
Ordered 60 more coloring books. Displays from Trinity and Our Saviors are downstairs for future use. Brochures are available to anyone who wants one.
4. Christmas Caroling and chili feed-December 10th
5. Reformation Sunday, October 29 - Cake will be provided by Sarah.
6. Our Saviors Lutheran Building -Next year is the 100th anniversary.

E. Property – Mike

1. Family Promise Agreement - Mike gave agreement to Arlene and there were no problems.
2. Carpets - The project will be from Monday-Wednesday in October. It could take until Friday.
3. Counters & 4-F Dinner
Would like to start hosting dinners again. The 4-F dinner coming up is scheduled for November 11. Proceeds from the dinner will go to the counter tops in the kitchen with a 10% tithe taken out for mission. Motion to do the kitchen counter tops and to use the proceeds from the 4-f dinner on November 11 **M/S/P**
4. Pews
The council discussed If we use high school kids to move the pews, it could be a liability for the church. Mike suggested that we use the ResCom people to move the pews.

F. Worship – Sarah

1. Candle lighter and bell snuffer
2. Communion
Sarah will share what was discussed at the October worship meeting and ponder about said discussion until November meeting. The council is welcome to join the next worship committee meeting.

VIII. Pastor’s Report

IX. Financial Reports: (30 min)

- A. Treasurer’s Report –Tara
 1. Approve September bills paid **M/S/P**
- B. Financial Secretary’s Report – Tara
 1. Vanco on Website – Phil
Phil has asked Tara to oversee Vanco. Tara will investigate it.
- C. Options for electronic giving - Pastor Doug
Discussed
 1. Tithely.com

X. Task Assignments

XI. Adjournment and closing prayer - Sarah 8:28



**INTERIM PASTORS REPORT
November 2023**

The journey of Amazing Grace continues forward as we enter into this time of thanksgiving and the holy season of Advent. With this in mind I would like to express my personal thanks to all the wonderful and caring people of this congregation for your prayers and well wishes during my shoulder surgery and recovery. Thank you to Mark and Diane, your president and vice president, and to the council for their flexibility around my procedure. Thank you to the PSALM ministers who fill in and bring the Good News on Sundays. And, again, a special thank you to the quilters who beautifully mended the quilt my grandma gave me, just in time to keep me warm as I recover. Anyway, all that to say, you all are truly Amazing!

In October your council made the invitation, gathered names, contacted individuals and formed the Transition

Team. The congregation and Transition Team met with Pastor Shirven on November 5th to start the process we will all be a part of. It is vital that we all participate and do our part to reflect, explore and dream for the future of this congregation. It will take time but we know and trust that God is walking with us through this process.

It is the promise of the season of Advent. As we prepare for and remember the birth of the Christ child. We grab hold of the promise that Christ is already here, in our hearts, in our minds, and in our midst. And to that we can say, thanks be to God!

God's Peace,
Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller
360-339-3773

Below is my running calendar for Amazing Grace:

Calendar:

- Nov. 1 - Office hours
 3 - Office hours
 5 - Worship with Amazing Grace / Pr. Schervin / Executive meeting
 6 - Office hours
 7 - Shoulder surgery in Seattle
 14 - Medical recovery leave
 15 - Medical recovery leave
 21 - Office hours (12:noon) / Council meeting (6:00 pm)
 22 - Office hours
 26 - Worship with Amazing Grace
 28 - Office hours (12:noon) Finance meeting (6:00 pm)
 29 - Office hours
- Dec. 3 - Worship with Amazing Grace
 5 - Office hours / Interim Pastor Zoom
 6 - Office hours
 7 - Bishops Euchrist @ St. Marks (10:am)
 12 - Office hours (12:noon) / Executive meeting (6:00 pm)
 13 - Office hours
 17 - Worship with Amazing Grace
 19 - Office hours (12:noon) / Council meeting (6:00 pm)
 20 - Office hours
 24 - Christmas Eve / Worship with Amazing Grace 10:00 am & 7:00 pm.
 26 - Family Vacation (Leavenworth)
 27 - Family Vacation (Leavenworth)
 28 - Family Vacation (Leavenworth)
- Jan. 2 - Office hours
 3 - Office hours
 7 - Worship with Amazing Grace
 9 - Office hours
 10 - Office hours
 16 - Office hours
 17 - Office hours
 21 - Worship with Amazing Grace
 23 - Office hours
 24 - Office hours
 30 - Office hours
 31 - Office hours



OCTOBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INCOME STATEMENT Month Ending October 31, 2023 General Fund	AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH GENERAL BALANCE SHEET October 31, 2023
Revenue	ASSETS
General Fund \$ 33,418.72	General Fund \$ 24,990.42
Youth Fund \$ -	Youth Fund -
Memorial Fund \$ -	Memorial Fund 2,356.89
M Thompson/Piano \$ -	Thompson/Piano Fund -
	Prepaid Insurance 5,389.31
	Prepaid Website 48.00
Total Revenue <u>\$ 33,418.72</u>	Total Assets <u>\$ 32,784.62</u>
Expenses	LIABILITIES
Pastoral \$ 9,802.47	Accounts Payable \$ -
Payroll \$ 3,204.05	Salaries Payable \$ -
Payroll Taxes \$ 484.59	Federal Taxes Payable \$ 1,059.89
Worship \$ 584.40	WA State Taxes Payable \$ -
Supplies \$ 255.58	
Utilities \$ 1,078.39	Total Liabilities \$ 1,059.89
Software \$ 117.46	
Misc \$ 35.18	CHURCH EQUITY
Insurance \$ 1,077.86	Church Equity \$ 31,724.73
Carpet Deposit \$ 10,000.00	
Total Expenses <u>\$ 26,639.98</u>	Total Liabilities and Equity <u>\$ 32,784.62</u>
Net Income <u>\$ 6,778.74</u>	
AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH General Church Equity Month Ending October 31, 2023	
Beginning Equity \$ 20,244.20	
Net Income \$ 6,778.74	
Benevolences \$ (1,278.31)	
Thompson Fund \$ 5,505.50	
Outstanding Benevolence \$ 474.60	
Equity Oct 31, 2023 <u>\$ 31,724.73</u>	



**MAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT**

Month Ending October 31, 2023
Maintenance Fund

Revenue	
Maintenance Fund	\$ 17,191.41
Deposits	\$ 200.00
4F Dinner	\$ -
Thrivent	\$ -
Family Promise Maint Fund	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 17,391.41
Total in FP Maint Fund	\$1,000.00

Expenses	
Home Depot	\$ 312.16
	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 312.16
Net Income	\$ 17,079.25

**AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN
MAINTENANCE BALANCE SHEET**

October 31, 2023

ASSETS	
Maintenance Fund	\$ 17,079.25
Total Assets	\$ 17,079.25

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	
Total Liabilities	\$ -

CHURCH EQUITY	
Maintenance Equity	\$ 17,079.25
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 17,079.25

**MAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Maintenance Equity**

Month Ending October 31, 2023

Beginning Equity	\$ 17,191.41
Net Income	\$ 200.00
Less Withdrawals	\$ 312.16
Equity Sept 30, 2023	\$ 17,079.25



A.G. Thanksgiving Dinner

First to sample the goodies.

Photo submitted by Darci Jewitt

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

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

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

Pianist: Kristine Burns



OFFICE HOURS

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

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller 360.339.3773 and
doug.knutsonkeller@gmail.com

Office hours for Pastor Doug: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 am to 4 pm. Flexible depending on evening meetings. On scheduled Sundays he is available for meetings with committees after fellowship and private meetings.



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:

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
Interim Pastor	Pr. Doug Knutson-Keller	(360) 339-3773	doug.knutsonkeller@gmail.com

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

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

December 3

Presider: Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Reader:** Darci Jewitt; **Communion Bread Baker:** Lynette Lile; **Ushers/Greeters:** Roger & Carmon Shaw; **Depositors:** Joelle Buckman & Anneliese Kraiger; **Fellowship Hosts:** Finazzo, Evanson, Hubbard, Waite, Winter; **Communion setup:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Xander Johnstone

December 10

Children's Christmas Program

Presider: Diane Hanson; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Reader:** Arlene Torgerson; **Communion Assistants:** Sarah Channel & Carmon Shaw; **Communion Bread Baker:** Lynette Lile; **Ushers/Greeters:** Tim & Pam Alstrom; **Depositors:** Greg Johnstone & Kathy Wehage; **Fellowship Hosts:** Hildreth, Buckman; **Communion setup:** Laura Carle; **Stream Team:** Amy Ostwald

December 17

Presider: Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller; **Liturgist:** Greg Johnstone; **Reader:** Kristine Finazzo; **Communion Assistants:** Dee Erickson & Joni Hildreth; **Communion Bread Baker:** Lynette Lile; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mark & Amy Ostwald; **Depositors:** Ruth Ann Carlson & pending; **Fellowship Hosts:** Beeman, N. Kraiger/ A. Kraiger, Debandt; **Communion setup:** pending; **Stream Team:** Keith Lile

December 24 Sunday Service

Presider: Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Reader:** Diane Hanson; **Communion Assistants:** Arlene Torgerson & Theresa Kaufman; **Communion Bread Baker:** Lynette Lile; **Ushers/Greeters:** Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller; **Depositors:** Greg Johnstone & Kathy Wehage; **Fellowship Hosts:** Weiberg, Channel, Teveliet, Jewitt; **Communion setup:** Tara Main; **Stream Team:** Xander Johnstone

December 24

Christmas Eve Service

Presider: Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Reader:** Marti Debandt; **Communion Assistants:** Joan & William Rabung; **Communion Bread Baker:** Lynette Lile; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mike Hubbard & Madison Winter; **Fellowship Hosts:** Diane Hanson & Kathy Wehage; **Communion Set-up:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Amy Ostwald

December 31

Christmas Songs

Presider: Hank Bilderback; **Children's Sermon:** Children's Christmas Songs; **Liturgist:** Greg Johnstone; **Reader:** Michelle Weiberg; **Communion Assistants:** Darci Jewitt & Mark Smalley; **Communion Bread Baker:** Lynette Lile; **Ushers/Greeters:** Naomi Kraiger & Joelle Buckman; **Depositors:** Mike Hubbard & Mark Ostwald; **Fellowship Hosts:** Schermer, Rabung, Carlson, Stephens; **Communion setup:** Dee Erickson; **Stream Team:** Keith Lile

A.G. Thanks-giving Dinner

Dishing up to eat.

Photo submitted by Darci Jewitt



A.G. Thanks-giving Dinner.

Helping prepare the food

Photo submitted by Darci Jewitt





ANNUAL PIE AUCTION: Gary Morean is at it again! Auctioning AG's pies and other specialty items. He is assisted by Nicole Evanson.
Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



A wide variety of items were donated for the Annual Pie Auction. The auction brought in over \$5,000 to support E.L.F. (Elevating Local Families) during the holidays. *Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.*



THANK YOU, Nicole Evanson, for organizing and assisting Gary Morean with another successful Pie Auction! Thank you to Sarah Channel for streamlining payments!
Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



Maddie delivers this auctioned item to the highest bidder, Ken Mitchell. *Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DEC. 3 PLU CONCERT @ 2 LEAVE PARKING LOT @ 11:30					1	2 L.A.T 8:30AM ADVENT DECORATING
3 9 CHOIR 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP FIRST ADVENT	4	5 SENIOR ART GROUP 11-3	6 QUILTING 9-12 AA 5:30-6:30	7 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	8	9
10 9 CHOIR 10 WORSHIP & CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 10 FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS CAROLING- MEET @ CHURCH AT 3PM SECOND ADVENT	11	12 HANDSEWERS 9-3	13 AA 5:30-6:30 BELLS 6PM -SANCTUARY	14 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	15	16
17 9 CHOIR 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP THIRD ADVENT	18	19 COUNCIL MEETING 6:15	20 AA MEETING & POTLUCK 4:30-7:00 BELLS 6PM	21 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	22	23
24 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP CHOIR/BELL PRAC- TICE @ 6PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE- 7PM FOURTH ADVENT	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26 HANDSEWERS 9-3	27 AA 5:30-6:30	28 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	29	30 
31 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP NEW YEAR'S EVE	Upcoming Events 12/31 REPORTS DUE FOR ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND LEADERS *					
Annual Meeting-January 28						



**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