



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church  
in America

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Amazing  
Grace  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF GRAYS HARBOR

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5**

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**AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Call to Order by Pres. Phil Stegemoeller

- Approval of the minutes of the previous annual meeting **M/S/P**
- Phil discussed the new accrual accounting process being used by the Council for the budget. All income and expenses are reported in the month that they occur and not waiting for an actual invoice to record an expense.
- Phil reviewed the budget for 2023 and answered a question about Pastor's salary. Tara had found that we had been under paying the Pastor for a few years, so there is a slight jump. Phil invited recommendations and ideas for saving money.
- All the committee reports are in the annual report.

Darrell gave the report on endowment.

- Last year Endowment paid \$288,120.93 toward the stained glass windows.
- \$26,680 was paid for the sound system.
- At present \$251,492 in the main fund at Thrivent.
- Proposed 2023 budget is \$12,000.

Suzan reported on Outreach.

- Chaplains on the Harbor have been unable to find a place for the cold weather shelter, so keep them in your prayers.
- Consultation to Clergy did over 40 interviews. Lauren will give report to the Pastor and the council. Next step will be Congregation Assembly for constructive communication about what we want our congregation to be. Naomi suggested that this become a regular process for the congregation.

Joe had the report on Property

- Kitchen remodel
- Stained Glass window project
- Technology upgrades – Audio System.
- Kudos to Mike Barkstrom, Mike Hubbard, Roger Shaw, Judy Hubbard, Liz Ellis, Steve Swanson, Keith Lile, Zander Johnstone, and Jim Weiberg

Elections

Motion to elect Mark Smalley for President, Diane Hanson for Vice President, Mike Barkstrom for Property, Michelle Weiberg for Youth and Family, and Sara Channel for Worship, Kristine Finazzo for Endowment, Phil Stegemoeller for Endowment, Elaine Lokken and Mark Ostwald for Nominating Committee by voice vote **M/S/P**

Motion to approve the budget for 2023. **M/S/P**

Motion to approve the Gift Policy. **M/S/P**

## **INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT – 2023**

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." - Jeremiah 29:11*

Since September 1, I have had the honor of serving as a half-time Interim Pastor at Amazing Grace. During this time, I have had the privilege of getting to know a congregation that embodies faithfulness, passion, care, and an outward focus. The various reports contained within this Annual Report truly reveal the essence of this church as a body of Christ, within the context and ministries of Gray's Harbor.

Leading this church is Council President Mark Smalley and Vice President Diane Hanson, along with a dedicated group of council members. Through their thoughtful, careful, and prayerful leadership, I am confident that they will guide this congregation successfully through this time of transition. The task of "working the process" and "calling a new pastor" may seem daunting, but I firmly believe that this faithful group and congregation will thrive. I am genuinely excited for Amazing Grace, knowing that the Lord indeed has plans for "a future with hope" for this remarkable place.

As the interim pastor, my focus is on providing encouragement, continuity, and support for the wonderful work that Amazing Grace is already doing. I remain connected to our Southwestern Washington Synod, ensuring that our efforts align with the broader mission. My responsibilities include half-time preaching, office hours, pastoral visits, pastoral care, and attending council and committee meetings as necessary.

Truly, Amazing Grace is an extraordinary place. It is a blessing to be a part of what God is accomplishing here and now, in this particular time and place. May God's blessings and guidance be upon us as we embark on this new year, 2024, and beyond.

With God's Peace,

-Interim Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2023**

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: .... a time to break down, and a time to build up" (Ecclesiastes 3.1, 3.3b)*

2023 has been a time to break down and a time to build up for Amazing Grace.

In February we received Pastor Laurin Vance's first report based on his interviews of the congregation. His interviews brought up many concerns, including a lack of clarity about the mission of AGLC, the decision-making process, and unresolved conflict. The congregation then participated in a listening session facilitated by Pastor Laurin. Those who participated found it very meaningful to hear each other and to be heard. Pastor Laurin also facilitated another meeting in August to help us walk through the discussion of moving pews in the sanctuary.

Pastor Laurin has guided us through a process where everyone was heard, and their opinions valued.

Your Church Council has taken Pastor Laurin's report about the lack of clarity very seriously. It is on our minds during every discussion at every Council Meeting. We are committed to doing a better job of communicating and listening.

Also, during this time of transition, we have been guided by the Synod on the process. We appreciate the thoughtful advice from the Bishop's associate, Rebecca Shjerven. We had a fulfilling farewell for Pastor Val, with an outpouring of love and thankfulness for her years at Amazing Grace. Pastor Rebecca also guided us to Pastor Doug as an interim, to help us through the call process. His years of experience, wisdom, and calm have been helpful in this time of change.

Pastor Shjerven has continued to help in setting up a Transition team. We have been blessed with a strong, committed team that is now in place, busy with the work of clarifying the congregation's mission and completing the Ministry Site Profile. This team will be looking to talk to as many members of the congregation as possible. When they have completed their work, a Call Committee will be formed. The Call Committee will use the information developed by the Transition team to help in calling a Pastor later this year.

During this time of breaking down and building up, the work of fulfilling Amazing Grace's mission has not stopped. Please read all of the reports included in this Annual Report to get the full idea of what a group of wonderful, passionate, and motivated people are called to serve and worship at Amazing Grace. Please consider joining the groups and committees in their work. Always keep your Pastor, the Church Council, PSALM team, and the Transition team in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Smalley  
Council President

## **ANNUAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 2023**

*God has given every human being a gift, or talent, to use for His purpose. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). God wants us to use these gifts to help others and glorify Jesus Christ, not ourselves.*

**The 2023 goal** was to make the Vice President an active working position within council and a co-leader with the President. The constitution has limited write up duties for each position of council chairs, especially the Vice president role. This past year council has had different chairs give a talk in church which included a write up for the SPIRIT on what the congregation thinks they do, what the constitution says they do, and what their position actually is responsible for and what they oversee.

It is well worth having co-leaders to split the duties and manage church business and ministries. Co-leaders have a broader range of gifts and talents to use and can bounce ideas and decisions off each other. The church within society is in a huge transition and it will take strong leadership of all council members to move through AG's transition and move in a direction that is Spirit led. We are committed to prayer and discernment, and listening to all members at this time.

The first six months of this year I worked with Mark and Pastor Val as we continued to access Pastor Laurin Vance. Pastor Val retired from AG and the PSALM team assisted with services until we hired our transitional part-time Interim Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller in September. Due to having a part-time pastor it opened up many jobs around the church which as vice president and a lay minister I was able to fill in.

**An overview but not in detail:**

\* Attend monthly executive board meetings with Mark and Pastor Doug. Attend monthly council meetings.

\* Communicate with Mark and Pastor on Transition Team and Progress. Meet with Pastor and/or Mark as needed.

\* Support and assist council members' ministries when requested to do so.

\*Weekly: Assist Vicky in weekly input, corrections, and review of Sunday bulletins, Grace notes, announcements, and managing incoming e mails as needed. Answer other questions as needed for church business and ministries. Plan and coordinate the worship schedule which includes the presider, preaching, and Young People's Message for Sundays Pastor Doug is not here. Write Sundays Prayers of the People 2 to 3 times a month. Assist Vicky with the monthly SPIRIT.

**Continuing Leadership Education:**

1. Completed a 10-week course on sermon writing through (BSP) Back-Story-Preaching and the Homiletics Festival online through Luther Seminary.
2. Enrolled in the SYNOD 12 session Thriving Leadership Formation (TLF) co-hort group. Runs through April 2024.
3. Attended Zoom meeting with Namibia taskforce. Met Alison Richard, the newly appointed ELCA Chicago leader and Rev. Dr. Themba from Madagascar who is the Regional Rep. for South Africa. There will be a planning conference in Chicago in 2024. My plan is to attend.

In His Service,

Diane Hanson, Vice President

Executive team, Council member, PSALM team, Worship committee, Liturgical Arts Team, Fellowship team, and Namibia task force.

## **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT - 2023**

Chairman: Darrell Lokken 360-532-0615 (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 4-year term) 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Secretary: Kristine Finazzo 360-532-6055 (3<sup>rd</sup> year of 4-year-term) 1st term  
Treasurer: Jim Weiberg 360-532-6512 (1<sup>st</sup> year of 4-year-term) 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Member: Phil Stegemoeller 360-580-9310 (4<sup>th</sup> year of 4-year-term) 1<sup>st</sup> term

A local budget of \$12,000 was approved for 2023. There was a carryover of \$7076 from 2022 for a total budget of \$19,076 for 2023.

On Jan. 20, 2023, a final payment of \$152,198 was sent for the windows project.

There were three in-person meetings during the year in addition to several telephone discussions. The fourth quarter meeting was done by phone as there were no new proposals presented. The expenditures for the year can be viewed on the attached distribution sheet. There are several proposals still pending.

Phil Stegemoeller has agreed to another four-year term and the committee is recommending his nomination to the council. We are also requesting a local budget of \$12,000 for 2024. If there are any questions or inquiries about this report please feel free to contact me at my listed number.

-Darrell Lokken (Chairman)

**AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND**  
**TABLE OF DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023**

Total Incoming Gifts in 2023: OK to Spend = \$ 9000.00  
 To Principal = \$ 0

**Dollars to be Allocated in 2023 \$12,000 + \$7076 (leftover 2022 Budget) = \$19,076**

<b>DISTRIBUTION GROUPS</b>	BYLAWS Prescribed % Distribution	Potential \$ to Allocate 2023	\$ Allocated	Distibuted To	Date Distributed	Remaining This Category
<b>1. Outreach &amp; Missions</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>	\$1,000	Turkey Quake Relief	02/13	
	2022 Balance	\$0	\$500	Diane Hanson	06/09	
			\$1,500	Quilters	11/30	
		\$1,150		(From #5)	10/09	
			\$1,750	Family Promise	10/10	\$0
<b>2. Capital Improvements</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>	\$20	Cathedral Crafts - Tax	01/31	
	2022 Balance	\$5,476	\$256	Church Coffee Pot	06/09	
				Celebration 2023 Committee	06/09	
		-\$950	\$1,787	(Move to #3)	06/09	
		-\$100		(Move to #4)	06/09	
				(Move to #4)	10/10	
		-\$1,250		Bell Choir - Lights	10/10	
			\$393	Unused Returned from 2023 Celebration	11/20	\$4,780
			-\$460			
<b>3. Community Outreach</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	\$750	Salvation Army	06/09	
	2022 Balance	\$350	\$750	Union Gospel Mision	06/09	
			\$1,000	Aberdeen Food Bank	06/09	
		\$950		(From #2)	06/09	\$0
<b>4. Youth Activities</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	\$750	Kupka Scholarship	06/09	
	2022 Balance	\$200	\$750	Weiberg Scholarship	06/09	
		\$100		(From #2)	06/09	
		\$1,250		(From #2)	10/10	
						\$1,250
<b>5. Any or All of Above Categories</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	\$750	Kauffmann Scholarship	06/25	
	2022 Balance	\$1,050				
		-\$1,150		(Move to #1)	10/09	\$1,550
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$19,076</b>	<b>\$11,496</b>			
<b>Part of Total Allocations Unspent</b>		<b>\$7,580</b>				<b>\$7,580</b>

Endowment Fund Money in 1st Security Bank as of 12/31/23: **\$9,070**  
 Value of Funds Invested in the InFaith Account as of 11/30/23: **\$274,440**  
 Total Endowment Funds as of 12/31/23: **\$283,510**

**Notes:**  
 01/20/23: \$152,178 from Principal / Final Payment Windows Project  
 11/27/23: \$4000.00 from anonymous - OK to spend locally  
 11/29/23: \$5000.00 from anonymous - OK to spend locally

## OUTREACH MINISTRY - 2023

AGLC Outreach Ministry has been active in 2023 serving the needs of people in Grays Harbor and beyond in a variety of ministries.

**Food Banks** — Members continue to generously support both the Aberdeen Food Bank and the Salvation Army Food Bank. Donations are collected from the parish hall baskets and brought to the Food Banks by Joelle Buckman and Greg Johnstone.

**Family Promise** — The main floor of our parish hall continues to be the home of Family Promise of Grays Harbor. Changes due to the pandemic continue to affect how Family Promise is run, but nevertheless, multiple families were provided a safe space to live, and volunteers continue to participate. Darci Jewitt serves as director.

**Chaplains on the Harbor** — We supported COTH this year with prayer for their ministries and cold weather supplies for them to distribute to our unhoused neighbors. We also provided propane in small canisters to help people heat their tents.

**E.L.F. (Elevate Local Families)** — Amazing Grace E.L.F. elves were able to give \$4,650 in gift cards and gifts to 51 local families and 6 young people living at the Youth Shelter. All proceeds from the pie auction in November were donated to this effort. Many thanks to all in the congregation who baked, knitted, and created – and then bid generously at the pie auction to help many families in need at Christmas through E.L.F. Thank you to Amy Ostwald for organizing this ministry and to Gary Morean for serving as auctioneer at the Pie Auction.

**ELCA ‘Good Gifts’** – The ELCA Good Gifts program helps provide families with the means to earn an income through agriculture. Gifts include a flock of chickens for eggs, bees for honey, cows and goats for milk or meat, seeds for planting, etc. Your generosity travels far around the world. Thank you to Debby Colangelo for co-chairing this effort.

**Union Gospel Mission Meals** — Teams continue to provide meals at the mission in Aberdeen on the first Tuesday of each month. Six teams each provide a meal 2x a year for about 50 hungry people. Gratitude for all who participate.

**God’s Work, Our Hands** — In September, 25 members gathered after worship to put together school kits for children around the world who have no access to school supplies. Without supplies they are not fully equipped to attend school. All the supplies were donated by AGL members. Thank you to Eileen Schermer, Arlene Torgeson and members of AGL Quilters for organizing this ministry.

**Undie Sunday** – On December 10 we sponsored our very first Undie Sunday. Members brought an abundance of socks, underwear, and t-shirts to church to be blessed and then distributed to the Union Gospel Mission and Friendship House. Thank you to Tara Main for coming up with this idea and serving as chief organizer. We plan to hold our next Undie Sunday in fall of 2024.

**Sisters in Recovery (SIR)** – This 12-step group has been meeting in our building for many years. The group has grown and was given permission by church council to display their literature rack and conduct monthly potlucks in the AGL fellowship hall. This is outreach on our part in that we so generously share our space and accommodate their schedule. (The group donates a small amount every quarter as a token of gratitude and to honor their tradition of self-support.)

**Other Outreach Ministries** – Salvation Army Kettle Ringing, Coastal Harvest Christmas baskets and Quilters (see their separate report).

**SWW Synod Council and the Namibia Task Force** – I was elected to Synod Council this year and have enjoyed participating in it as well as the Namibia Task Force. These are ways for me to reach out beyond our local area.

I attended two workshops in 2023, one with Debbie Colangelo about housing in Grays Harbor and one by myself about drug addiction in Grays Harbor. Both were very informative and left me with a sense of hope for the future of our area.

I have mentioned very few names in this report. Almost every member of AGL has participated in Outreach this year. We Lutherans are taught by Jesus to be generous. In 2024 we will be evaluating our Outreach ministries as we move forward in our search for a new pastor. I look forward to continuing many if not all our current ministries as well as exploring and beginning new and different options for extending God's love to our neighbors. I ask you to think and pray about what risk-taking mission means to you and our congregation.

God's Peace to You,  
With Gratitude,  
Suzan Stegemoeller, Outreach Chair

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE - 2023**

### **Worship**

Our congregation experienced a major transition in 2023 with the retirement of Pastor Valyn Metropoulos. Many congregants stepped up to fill the gap during our transition, including the Psalmists, musicians, and worship assistants.

After Paster Doug Knutson-Keller joined us as interim minister in September, we continued to seek out creative and innovative ways to fill our needed pulpit supply, including asking members to speak and teach during service.

Overall, we chose to make minimal changes to our worship service while our congregation works through our ministry transition.

### **Music**

In January, Kris Burns and Hank Bilderback set a goal to raise the necessary money to replace the grand piano in the Sanctuary. After an education session with the piano shop owner from Olympia, a few members set forth with a plan to offer small fundraisers to work towards the goal. Those initial fundraising opportunities sparked a fire and by the end of June, the full amount had been raised, including enough to replace the piano in the Fellowship Hall, as well.

In August, Hank and Kris restarted the church choir to perform at the Window Dedication Celebration in September. The choir has added a joyful noise to our Sunday services and its return has been much appreciated by the congregation.

### Liturgical Arts Team

The Liturgical Arts Team (LAT) met several times throughout the year to change the Sanctuary decorations for the church season. Our group of dedicated volunteers put a lot of time and energy into each season change. Highlights from the past year include the decor during Lent in early 2023 and the end of the year Advent decor that included hand-made banners and a beautiful royal blue paraments that represent our congregations past and our future.

### Altar Guild

The Alter Guild is the silent partner in our worship. Each week, our members set up and clean up communion on Sunday morning. You rarely see them; they rarely need a substitute or forget to set up. I am beyond grateful for their work and consistency in ensuring our communion service happens each week.

### Worship Committee

The Worship Committee consists of the council representative, accompanist, choir director, liturgical arts team representative, psalmists representative. Our current Worship Committee includes Sarah Teveliet Channel, Kris Burns, Hank Bilderback, Dee Erickson, and Diane Hanson.

The Worship Committee met several times this year to discuss questions and concerns brought forth from the congregation. The three major topics discussed this year include funding for the piano replacement, symbol uses in the Sanctuary (crosses, candles, banners, etc), and communion service.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Worship is full of opportunities for congregation members and friends to get involved with Amazing Grace. If you are interested in the Liturgical Arts Team, Altar Guild, communion bread baking, Worship Committee, or serving during worship service, please contact Sarah Teveliet Channel, [channel924@gmail.com](mailto:channel924@gmail.com).

-Sarah Channel

## **CHOIR/BELLS MINISTRY - 2023**

The Bells of Grace accompanied several services in 2023, including Easter and in the Amazing Grace anniversary celebration in September. We welcomed a new ringer in the fall, Dee Erickson! We have bell practice twice a month. We are always looking for additional ringers, so please consider joining!

The vocal choir met up again in the fall, after only singing together a few times throughout the pandemic, in preparation of the anniversary celebration; the AG choir was joined by singers from Saron Lutheran—First Presbyterian Church for this performance. Choir rehearsals take place every Sunday at 9:00, and all are welcome to join!

We look forward to ringing and singing God's praises in 2024!

-Kris and Hank

## **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY - 2023**

The year started off with Carrie Erwin continuing her Fellowship Chair position. The potluck was held for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Easter Breakfast was put on by the men of the church. Plans were beginning to take shape for our AGLC anniversary highlighting our stained-glass windows, recently refurbished. Then Carrie needed to bow out of her chairmanship. I was appointed to fill in for her and started in March for the remainder of her term which is until Jan. 2024.

For Pentecost Sunday we celebrated at Fellowship Hour with a pinata for the children. The pinata symbolizes the different cultures/languages present that first Pentecost day.

A Fellowship Committee transparency talk was given to the congregation on July 2nd so we could all better understand its purpose. Later that month we planned and celebrated a baby shower for the Steinhauer family. Earlier in the year a baby shower was given for the Fernandez family.

Pastor Val made the decision to retire this year, so a Farewell was held for her in July. It was complete with food, cakes, speeches, gifts and goodwill! Thanks to Kathy Wehage and her group of helpers for making this a memorable occasion.

An article was written for the Spirit hoping to clarify the roles and expectations of people when they are the designated Fellowship Hosts for any given Sunday. Also addressed was the commitment to bring communion to the homebound.

A Fellowship Committee was formed with members being: Vicki Mitchell, Judi Hubbard and Carmon Shaw. We, along with Pastor Doug, made a plan to bring communion to our 5 members that would enjoy this service. Thank you to Mike Hildreth who also volunteered to bring communion to the homebound. We decided to bless the Communion kits on the first Sunday of each month, so you can expect to see them on the altar.

In September final plans were made for the Anniversary Celebration 2023. On Saturday September 23rd we held that celebration, highlighting the newly refurbished stained-glass windows, inviting the community, enjoying special music, appreciating the words of symbolism from Bishop Jaech and eating scrumptious Scandinavian desserts. We also had a stained-glass making demonstration and archival information displayed. Vicki Mitchell headed this whole effort and gave "tours" of the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary based on her vast knowledge and experience leading tours to chapels in Europe. Eileen Shermer headed up the food aspect and had several helpers for that including lefse made from the Sons of Norway. Over 20 people volunteered in some way to make this event hugely successful. Ken Mitchell illustrated a complimentary color book celebrating the windows. These color books have also been given out with some of the ELF Christmas packages in December. Beautiful brochures explaining the windows were given out and continue to be available in the pews for anyone who wants to read about them or take one home. Special thanks to the Johnstone's and Amy Ostwald for their contributions to the brochure.

The next day we celebrated after worship with an anniversary cake. It was decorated using two of Ken Mitchell's illustrations for the color book. It was a beautiful cake, and we thank Doris Tieder for cutting it although she had second thoughts about cutting something so incredible! Thanks to Annaliese Kraiger for donating the cake.

Reformation Sunday, October 29th, we celebrated the happy occasion of Confirmation for Maizie Jane Jewitt.

Our updated church directories were finished and distributed! Many thanks to Amy Ostwald and Arlene Torgerson for their enduring work on this!

Sunday, November 28th was the annual Pie Auction and Potluck after church. We had a live and silent auction as in years past. Over \$5,000. was raised to support E.L.F (Elevate Local Families) in our community. Thank you especially to Nicole Evanson, Kristine Finazzo and Gary Morean for making this auction so much fun!

December brought us caroling to the homebound which was spear-headed by Judi Hubbard. Family Promise generously contributed their van for our transportation. It was followed by chili and hot chocolate after a successful outing. Thanks to Xander Johnstone for the chili!

Christmas Eve brought Holy Night Fellowship after the candlelight service which warmed us with cocoa and goodies thanks to Diane Hansen and Kathy Wehage.

We continue to have Fellowship Coffee Hour every Sunday after church with members and friends taking turns hosting. That calendar for hosting is posted in the kitchen so we can all plan ahead. Members and friends regularly are generous with keeping our kitchen supplied with needed food/paper items.

Our confidential prayer chain is lovingly maintained by Brenda Grant and Kathy Wehage. We thank them for constantly keeping us involved with our spiritual connections and how God works with his people.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Lile

### **4-F DINNERS (FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP and FUNDRAISING)**

With Covid behind us, we were ready to resume our dinners. We offered a hybrid version this year. April was our kickoff St Patty dinner. Mike and Karen once again worked their magic with corned beef and cabbage! We had 30 dining in and enjoying fellowship. We offered take out to 26. Raffle baskets were put together by Joan and Dee. The winners were Carmon and Annelise.

November found Kristine and Judi in the kitchen preparing pot roast. We welcomed our new kitchen helper Cindi. We served 33 in and 30 take out. Joan and Dee again put together raffle baskets. The winners Arlene, Eileen, Annelise and Deb Colangelo.

The proceeds from the dinners were \$3, 848, Our 10% tithe was divided between Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster and the Salvation Army Food bank.

We appreciate all the behind-the-scenes helpers with bread baking, dish washing and serving. Thrivent Action cards help with the cost of food, carry out containers and raffle baskets.

The proceeds from our dinners supplement the maintenance account. Mike and Roger work very hard to keep everything in great shape!

We enjoy preparing and serving these dinners. It was great to hear all the fellowship that was taking place. Oh how we all missed that!

Your support is very much appreciated! We look forward to more food-fun-fellowship and fundraising in 2024! Your 4-f team- Mike B, Karen, Kristine, Jill, and Judi

### **PROPERTY REPORT - 2023**

2023 has been a year of transition from Covid responses to opening the facility up for all uses again. Jim Weiberg continues to do an outstanding job as grounds keeper. He volunteers his time and is here as often as needed, regardless of weather and other challenges for his time. Take a moment and thank him for all that he does.

Mike Hubbard and Roger Shaw are masters at getting things done quickly and completely. They have a knack of anticipating needed changes and tackling them as their time allows. Most likely if you notice changes, they are the ones who have made it happen. The kitchen remodel, new lighting in the parish hall and basement of the church, flooring in the quilters room, new thermostat for the sanctuary, new shelving for the quilters, taking loads to the dump, general cleaning and removing outdated and unwanted material and many other tasks they are the ones to say a big thank you.

Judi Hubbard continues as our custodian and does a marvelous job. We never have to worry about cleanliness with Judi on the job.

4F started up again this year with one take out meal and one combined of either sit down or take out. Both were a success, and the group will continue as long as we can sell the grub and have the energy to continue. We are currently raising monies to replace the kitchen countertops.

Two major projects were completed in the last year. The stained-glass windows were removed, the frames refurbished, storm system for upper and lower windows of the church installed, windows taken to Wisconsin and totally refurbished, resealed and reinstalled in the sanctuary. Quite a feat and one that the whole congregation should be proud of. The carpet in the parish hall was replaced; including the Fireside room, the north end room, and the stairs leading to the exit from the north end of the parish hall.

A family area was set aside in the sanctuary so that the children can entertain themselves at the table and parents sit in the pew and take part in worship.

Our church building is 100 years old this year and is in remarkably good condition. We are always looking for areas that need attention and to get an early fix so the repairs are less costly. The old saw of “a stitch in time...” is certainly important so please help us keep an eye on the facility and let us know if you see something that you think needs attention or would like to see changed.

On our radar now: New carpeting for the sanctuary, finding an elusive leak in the basement of the parish hall in certain weather systems, maintaining the wooden stairway leading up from the parking lot, hand rail on the east door of the Family Promise facility and guard rail above the basement door to the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Barkstrom, Property Manager

## **YOUTH AND FAMILY CHILDREN’S MINISTRY - 2023**

We are blessed to have a variety of active youth ministries at AGLC: 1) Sunday School; 2). Confirmation; 3) Jr./Senior High School Youth Group; 4) Vacation Bible Camp; and 5) Youth Fellowship Fun

### **Sunday School:**

In March, families met to decide on a new direction for Sunday school following COVID – a reset. Families chose to meet once a month following worship. Beginning in April, the youth began meeting together, with three families attending regularly and building great relationships together. (Maise Jane Jewitt and Eilidh Channel; Maks and Sasha Gienger; Madison and Jace Winter)

During Sunday school, we have done a variety of faith-building and service-related activities:

making “Gratitude Jars” to remember the great things God has provide in our lives; creating steppingstones as retirement gifts for Pastor Val; learning about the parting of the Red Sea while making Goop; making blessing bags with treats to give to friends; and helping to assemble school kits. During Advent, the youth entertained the congregation with “The Sounds of Christmas” story about the birth of Jesus.

Each week, activity and coloring sheets relating to the weekly passage/message, are placed on the table in the family area for families. In addition, worship boxes are fully stocked with items children can use to enhance their participation during the worship service. We encourage ushers to share these with families visiting AGLC, or use the materials from these worship boxes yourself... hold onto a cross while praying or swirl a ribbon stick in the air while singing!

The family area was established at the back of the sanctuary in November. This is a wonderful area for current families to enjoy and worship together as a family. The extra space is handy for young families with baby carriers and strollers to be able to sit together, as well.

### **Confirmation:**

Maise Jane Jewitt, Calvin Evanson, and Lexi Delaney met together with Pastor Val prior to her retirement, expanding their faith and learning more about what it means to be a child of God. In October, we celebrated Maise Jane’s confirmation during worship with Interim Pastor Doug Knutson Keller. What a blessing!

### **Jr/ Senior High Youth Group:**

Although we do not have a group that meets at AGLC, Madison Winter actively participated along with friends at our neighboring church, Aberdeen First Presbyterian.

Joan Rabung, Carmon Shaw, and Madison Winter traveled to Holden Village in May for the annual youth conference on beautiful Lake Chelan. Madison is looking forward to inviting several friends to attend along with her next spring.

We honored one high school graduate this year – Erin Burns from Hoquiam High School.

### **College Youth:**

Each February we send Valentine care packages to college age youth. Last year we mailed 5 packages filled with goodies donated by our generous congregation members. These thoughtful packages were sent to Jacob Mensinger, Kylie Weiberg, Amanda Kaufman, Trace and Jared Erwin.

**Vacation Bible Camp:** Vacation Bible Camp “Daniel in Babylon” was held June 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. AGLC joined Saron Lutheran at the Rose Center in Hoquiam. AGLC provided, prepared, and served one meal during the week. Sarah Teveliet and Kris Gienger organized the crafts for the week and Carmon Shaw helped several nights, as well. Aiden and Shelby Kincaid, Eilidh Channel and Maisie Jane Jewett, Jace and Madison Winter, and Maks and Sasha Gienger attended from AGLC.

### **Additional Youth and Family Fun/Activities:**

- April - The annual Easter Egg Hunt
- October - Chapman Farms Pumpkin Patch with friends from Family Promise
- December - Attending the Driftwood play, “Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat”, thanks to anonymous and generous donors from AGLC

-Michelle Weiberg

## QUILTER'S REPORT - 2023

*"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." Ecclesiastes 9:10*

The above verse describes our quilting group perfectly as we continue to make quilts and prepare health and school kits for Lutheran World Relief and to benefit the needy in our community. This year we have sent 216 to

Lutheran World Relief, sold 2 and delivered 19 to our local Friendship House for the women and children. In addition, we sent 145 health kits, 203 school kits and 4 baby kits to LWR.

We could not have accomplished this without the wonderful support of our congregation. We are so thankful for the monetary support from the Endowment Fund. The donations of money and or buying supplies for the school kits helped us to really exceed our goal of 150. Of course, we are especially thankful for the men who faithfully help us with tables, plus packing the boxes and loading them into the truck for shipment twice a year to LWR. And last, but not least, the donations of sheets has helped us to make wonderful bright and colorful quilts. Thank you!!!

Beginning Balance		\$6,269.37
Receipts	Endowment Fund	1,500.00
	Quilts Sold	110.00
	Batting sold to Saron	80.00
	Donations	1,872.01
	Total donations	\$3,562.01
Disbursements	Lutheran World Relief	1,152.00
	Batting	886.80
	Sewing machine clean & repair	212.65
	School, health kits & quilts	1,236.21
	Total disbursements	\$3487.66
Ending Balance		\$6,343.72



## MEMORIAL REPORT - 2023

A memorial from Mary Kay Long in memory of her parents, Bob and Aileen for \$99.47 was received. I sent an acknowledgement note.

Respectfully submitted-Judi Hubbard-Memorial Secretary

## STATISTICAL REPORT 2023

Total Baptized Membership: Approx. 125  
Total Confirmed Membership: TBD  
Number of families: 79 (after audit of membership in 2023)  
Average weekly attendance (54)

### OFFICIAL MINISTERIAL ACTS

Baptisms: children 2 adults 0  
Confirmation/Instruction: 3  
Confirmed: 1  
Communion instruction: 4  
Marriages: 0  
Funerals: (members) 0 (non-members) 0

<b>MEMBERS RECIEVED</b>	<b>Baptized:</b>	<b>Confirmed:</b>
Baptism-children	2	0
Baptism-adults	0	0
Confirmation:	0	0
Letter of transfer IN	0	0

### **MEMBERSHIP LOSS**

**Death (1)**  
**Letter of Transfer OUT (0)**

### **Average weekly attendance per month 2023**

January 57  
February 52  
March 47  
April 61  
May 50  
June 47  
July 50  
August 46  
Sept. 49  
Oct. 56  
Nov. 59  
Dec. 70

**AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - ACCOUNT BALANCES**  
**By Tara Main – pages 17&18**

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INCOME STATEMENT Month Ending December 31, 2023 General Fund	AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH GENERAL BALANCE SHEET December 31, 2023
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>
General Revenue                   \$ 25,909.69	General Fund                               \$ 41,216.40
\$ -	Youth Fund                                 -
\$ -	Memorial Fund                           2,357.13
\$ -	Thompson/Piano Fund                   -
Total Revenue <u>\$ 25,909.69</u>	Prepaid Insurance                       3,233.59
	Prepaid Website                         -
	Total Assets <u>\$ 46,807.12</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>LIABILITIES</b>
Pastoral                               \$ 6,339.92	Accounts Payable                         \$ -
Payroll                                 \$ 2,911.00	Salaries Payable                         \$ -
Payroll Taxes                         \$ 149.39	Federal Taxes Payable                   \$ 1,103.77
Worship                                \$ 1,220.54	WA State Taxes Payable                 \$ -
Supplies                                \$ 287.99	Total Liabilities                         \$ 1,103.77
Utilities                                \$ 1,464.89	<b>CHURCH EQUITY</b>
Software                                \$ 213.29	Church Equity                             \$ 45,703.35
Misc                                    \$ 51.61	Total Liabilities and Equity <u>\$ 46,807.12</u>
Insurance                               \$ 1,077.86	
Total Expenses <u>\$ 13,716.49</u>	
Net Income <u>\$ 12,193.20</u>	
<b>AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH General Church Equity Month Ending December 31, 2023</b>	
Beginning Equity                       \$ 41,753.95	
Net Income                             \$ 12,193.20	
Benevolences                         \$ (3,463.84)	
Other Benevolences                   \$ (4,736.08)	
WA Cares Act                          \$ (43.88)	
Equity Oct 31, 2023 <u>\$ 45,703.35</u>	

## Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Expenses by Month

Year Ending Dec 2023

Description	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total for Year
Pastoral	\$ 9,413.23	\$ 9,529.09	\$ 9,858.05	\$ 10,623.80	\$ 9,700.22	\$ 9,700.22	\$ 9,700.22	\$ -	\$ 5,980.10	\$ 9,802.47	\$ 3,966.19	\$ 6,339.92	\$ 94,613.51
Payroll	2,447.26	2,712.59	4,717.21	2,331.50	3,293.59	5,242.24	2,550.74	2,614.25	2,970.95	3,204.05	3,197.50	2,911.00	\$ 38,192.88
Payroll Taxes	847.36	(191.12)	(72.20)	538.88	428.97	2,011.45	2,322.39	259.55	862.66	484.59	188.41	149.39	\$ 7,830.33
Worship	382.16	193.03	26.50	617.50	935.00	337.81	-	614.31	176.29	584.40	1,106.87	1,220.54	\$ 6,194.41
Supplies	97.09	310.72	1,237.79	160.93	108.70	317.62	301.32	73.38	1,315.22	255.58	61.87	287.99	\$ 4,528.21
Utilities	1,983.07	1,921.45	2,155.41	1,770.92	2,057.07	1,501.76	1,081.46	1,218.84	1,099.48	1,078.39	1,615.74	1,464.89	\$ 18,948.48
Software	117.46	133.81	430.81	133.81	117.46	253.77	117.46	350.90	134.90	117.46	245.55	213.29	\$ 2,366.68
Insurance	-	-	-	-	775.58	804.75	804.75	804.75	804.75	1,077.86	1,077.86	1,077.86	\$ 7,228.16
Misc	147.16	192.90	67.41	135.17	129.66	138.09	114.56	136.61	87.06	35.18	103.64	51.61	\$ 1,339.05
Benevolences	2,159.02	1,100.17	1,017.09	1,142.46	1,700.23	1,110.03	2,044.42	1,167.80	1,190.56	1,172.62	2,542.82	2,187.80	\$ 18,535.02
Synod Assembly	-	-	-	442.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 442.00
Office Furniture	-	-	-	-	1,643.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,643.80
PNW Printers	-	-	-	-	1,452.95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,452.95
Piano Deposit	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000.00	-	6169.49	-	-	-	\$ 14,169.49
Out Reach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	416.51	-	-	-	-	\$ 416.51
Carpeting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000.00	15,509.51	-	\$ 25,509.51
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 17,593.81</b>	<b>\$ 15,902.64</b>	<b>\$ 19,438.07</b>	<b>\$ 17,896.97</b>	<b>\$ 22,343.23</b>	<b>\$ 21,417.74</b>	<b>\$ 27,037.32</b>	<b>\$ 7,656.90</b>	<b>\$ 20,791.46</b>	<b>\$ 27,812.60</b>	<b>\$ 29,615.96</b>	<b>15,904.29</b>	<b>\$ 243,410.99</b>

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 21,590.23</b>	<b>\$ 11,001.70</b>	<b>\$ 10,170.90</b>	<b>\$ 11,424.60</b>	<b>\$ 17,002.25</b>	<b>\$ 21,690.55</b>	<b>\$ 22,734.87</b>	<b>\$ 11,762.04</b>	<b>\$ 12,080.77</b>	<b>\$ 11,726.20</b>	<b>\$ 37,767.20</b>	<b>\$ 25,909.69</b>	<b>\$ 214,861.00</b>
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Short/Over	\$ 3,996.42	\$ (4,900.94)	\$ (9,267.17)	\$ (6,472.37)	\$ (5,340.98)	\$ 272.81	\$ (2,258.03)	\$ 5,272.94	\$ (8,710.69)	\$ 6,778.74	\$ 8,151.24	\$ 12,193.20	\$ (284.83)
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Fund Transfer					\$ 1,500.00								
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Friend in Need Fund						\$ 175.30	\$ 265.97	317.76	\$ 370.56	\$ 422.57	\$ 535.34	\$ 632.37	
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## Amazing Grace 2024 Proposed Budget

Acct #	Description	Actual 2023 Expense	2023 Budget	Proposed 2024
5050	Pastoral Salary	45,220.46	65,326.00	73,000.00
5055	Pastoral Housing	6,583.33	9,000.00	10,000.00
5060	Pastoral Pension& Medical	24626.33	45,900.00	20,000.00
5065	Pastoral Social Security Offset	3306.46	5,686.00	6,400.00
5070	Pastoral Continuing Education	800.00	800.00	800.00
5075	Pastoral Mileage	867.28	500.00	500.00
5080	Sabatical Reserve	-	500.00	500.00
5085	Supply Pastors	-	700.00	700.00
5090	Bishop Convocation	-	-	250.00
5100	Secretary Salary	14779.26	18,000.00	17,000.00
5115	Custodial Salary	2,499.60	2,500.00	2,800.00
5120	Treasurer Salary	2507.99	2,400.00	2,800.00
5125	Musician Salary	9061.48	12,000.00	10,000.00
5130	Workers Compensation	636.37	1,200.00	700.00
5135	FICA & Payroll Taxes	10,252.10	10,000.00	10,000.00
5140	Payroll Service	752.00	700.00	700.00
5150	Worship Supplies	1963.57	1,500.00	1,200.00
5155	Piano & Organ Maintenance	0	500.00	500.00
5160	Music Supplies	186.50	-	200.00
5165	Choir Director	-	-	800.00
5170	Adult Education	185.74	500.00	500.00
5175	Fellowship Program	385.31	-	200.00

5180	Synod Assembly	392.00	200.00	200.00
5190	Youth and Family Programs	844.97	200.00	1,000.00
5240	Other Outreach Programs	2119.46	1,000.00	1,000.00
5250	Building Maintenance	-	1,000.00	-
5305	Building Heat	5218.37	3,500.00	5,000.00
5310	Building Electricity	5821.04	8,000.00	6,000.00
5315	Phone/Internet	1449.09	1,500.00	1,100.00
5316	Water & Sewage	2482.18	1,500.00	2,500.00
5320	Garbage	1327.5	1,500.00	1,400.00
5325	Postage	851.6	1,200.00	900.00
5330	Software	2011.93	1,650.00	1,500.00
5335	Copy Machine	911.82	1,200.00	1,200.00
5340	Kitchen Supplies	-	-	100.00
5345	Custodial Supplies	267.8	275.00	275.00
5355	Office Supplies	1914.92	1,200.00	1,200.00
5360	Business License	20.00	20.00	20.00
5365	Insurance	7930.33	8,000.00	9,000.00
5368	Bank Fees Payroll	200.00	150.00	150.00
5370	Bank Visa Interest Fees	97.50	-	-
5375	Vanco Fees	226.55	324.00	200.00
Totals	Bank of the Pacific Misc	-	-	-
		\$ 158,700.84	\$ 210,131.00	\$ 192,295.00
	Benevolences	\$ 18,389.00	\$ 23,350.00	\$ 21,089.00
	Total Giving needed to fund budget	\$193,267.98	\$ 233,481.00	\$ 213,384.00

## NOMINATIONS For 2024

### COUNCIL POSITIONS:

#### **Lynette Lile, Fellowship, 1st 3 year term**

Lynette just finished serving the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for a Council Member who stepped down.

#### **Tim Alstrom, Financial Secretary, 1st 3 year term**

##### Continuing to serve their terms are:

Outreach: Suzan Stegemoeller (3<sup>rd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term)

Property: Mike Barkstrom (3<sup>rd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term)

Youth and Family: Michelle Weiberg (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term)

Vice President Diane Hanson (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term)

Worship: Sarah Teveliet Channel (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term)

President: Mark Smalley (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term)

### **Endowment Committee:**

#### **Phil Stegemoeller, 1st 4 year term:**

Phil just finished serving the 4<sup>th</sup> year for a Committee Member who stepped down.

##### Continuing to serve their terms are:

Chairman: Darrell Lokken (3<sup>rd</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 year term)

Secretary: Kristine Finazzo (4<sup>th</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> 4 year term)

Treasurer: Jim Weiberg (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 year term)

### Amazing Grace Church Council 2024

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 (360) 249-6986	suzansteg@hotmail.com
Worship	Sarah Channel	(360) 888-9538	channel924@gmail.com
Fellowship			
Property	Mike Barkstrom	(360) 589-1393	mkbarks1@gmail.com
Interim Pastor	Pr. Doug Knutson-Keller	(360) 339-3773	doug.knutsonkeller@gmail.com

# GRACE

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

#### And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

**Amen.**

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr.  
Julius Röntgen

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