

# The Spirit

November 2020



## Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart



You may remember the song, Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart:

"Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks."

What you may not know is that "Give Thanks" was written by Henry Smith and that it was his only published worship song. He composed 300 other songs that were **never** published. Smith wrote it after graduating from college and having trouble finding work. Not, only that, he also suffered from a degenerative condition that eventually left him legally

blind.

That story reminds me of the Apostle Paul, who **while imprisoned in a Roman jail** wrote this, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

I need these reminders of people who in all the important ways were just like me, and you, who were able to give thanks and rejoice in the midst of their adversity and suffering!

Our struggles, our sadness, and confusion and fear are real. It doesn't do anyone any good to deny that there are valid reasons for feeling that way in the middle of a triple pandemic of disease, political upheaval and racism. But, people of faith have throughout history reoriented themselves around what is truly important, **trusting that God is still God and God is with us bending that long arc of**

**the moral universe bends toward justice and that we are held in God's heart now and forever.**

How we hold on to that truth is also given to us from the departed saints of the faith:

1. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.  
The Lord is near.
2. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
3. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things.**

And the result will be that: “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 4-8

This isn’t to say it’s easy. It isn’t to say we should cover our ears and like the child trying to drown out the unwelcome truth loudly shouting, “La, la, la, la.” There truly are events happening in our world that



## Jesus and the election

I think this is almost invariably (note the tiny escape clause) an accurate statement: *Lutheran pastors do not tell parishioners how to vote.* Not only is this technically illegal but also probably unwise.

I can't recall who said, "Overtly partisan sermons only reveal which newspapers arrive each week at the parsonage."

All political candidates are flawed—some more flamboyantly than others. Allegiance to a political party and its candidates cannot be blindly synced with faithfulness to the kingdom of God.

Pastoral hesitation in touting “orthodox” voting has nothing to do with the oft-quoted (and usually misunderstood) phrase “separation of church and state.” Our constitutional forebears weren’t claiming that faith and politics should never mix. They were insisting that **no particular religious expression could be imposed on the local citizenry.**

need our attention, our prayer and our engagement. But they are not ultimately what determine our joy or our peace. They are the focus of the work we are given by God to bring God’s peace and joy to ALL people. But they cannot destroy that peace or that joy. That is protected deep in the heart of God where we reside now and forever.

In that spirit of trust, I offer this prayer from the Corrymeela community of Ireland:  
God of the dust to which we return,  
God of the ash that enriches the soil:  
there are seeds from trees  
that open  
only after a fire has passed through.  
They push the tips of their roots down  
when the sunlight above has space.  
May we remember  
that after all we see passes away,  
the gifts you promise remain.  
Faith. Hope. Love.  
And the greatest of these  
is taking root now  
in the soil of compassion and kindness.  
Amen.

[www.corrymeela.org](http://www.corrymeela.org)

Engagement with political leaders in shaping national and local policy is an **important facet of faithful discipleship.** “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you,” God advises via Jeremiah (29:7)—surprising counsel offered to exiles living in a temporary setting.

If you think about it, we’re all exiles, living in a temporary setting. Our true homeland and primary citizenship are elsewhere. Even so, Christians are instructed to pray “for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity” (1 Timothy 2:2).

The word “Lord,” repeatedly assigned to Jesus in the New Testament, is unsettling and radically subversive. **If Jesus is Lord of our lives, all earthly allegiances, including family, flag and fiduciary backup, take a back seat to our devotion to this man.** Signing on with Jesus means we give the man practical priority in all the affairs of this life, the

narrow gate, never easy. “The road is hard that leads to life” (Matthew 7:14).

In a clever aside to Jesus, my friend, theologian Will Willimon, writes: “At my advanced age, your frenetic pace is beginning to show on me. I long to locate, to bed down, settle in, and sit tight on what I already know of you rather than be forced to follow into some unknown destination. I find it remarkable that you have absolutely nothing to say about retirement.”

Jesus plans to challenge his chosen (at any age) wherever we happen to be. Like it or not, this includes joining us this November in a voting booth as we privately ponder a slate of candidates and their core convictions.

People have told me that how they vote is entirely their own business. I get that, but don’t be surprised if another voice whispers reminders of his advice, as Lord of heaven and earth, to disciples like me and you:

*Blessed are the poor* (Luke 6:20).

*Love your enemies* (Matthew 5:44).

*You cannot serve God and wealth* (Matthew 6:24).

*I was a stranger and you welcomed me* (Matthew

25:35).

***Contrary to popular belief, Christians do not enter a voting booth alone.***

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Many Novembers ago, I was sitting in a pub with church friends and the topic turned toward the coming election. One close pal said, “You know, I love Jesus, but I’d never vote for him for president.” I remember lots of laughter, including mine. I think I know what my friend meant by that, but I left the pub that night with an odd feeling, and it had nothing to do with the beer.

I sincerely doubt that Jesus would even want to be president of our country. His Lordship, for Christian starters, is global, concerned with many flags. But what I felt that night, in retrospect, was a rather dismissive shelving of Jesus in certain realms of our lives. If Jesus is not Lord of all, he may soon be Lord of very little.



By Frank G. Honeycutt, writer and  
ELCA pastor living in Walhalla, S.C.  
Printed in Living Lutheran



## WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

### Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

you surround us with your compassion and your love.  
For that: **we give thanks!**

Your peace is as close to us as our own folded hands  
and bowed head . For that: **we give thanks!**

You have sustained your people through war, and  
hunger, disease and despair. For that: **we give thanks!**

We plead for your intervention in our world today.  
Bring hope and healing to places ravaged by covid-19.  
Sustain those who wait and watch and weep: medical  
personnel, those who are dying, those who are entrusted  
with making decisions that affect the lives of so  
many: teachers, school administrators, those who govern,  
law enforcement officers.

Bring hope through your people’s renewed commitment  
to living and serving as you have called us to by  
seeing those that are overlooked, serving those who  
have been forgotten, loving those who are despised.

Bring healing and comfort to those closest to us who  
are in need: Joseph, Carl & June Bender, Madonna

Posey, Jean & Ray Hodge, Cathy Kallio, Lynn, Cindy & Harley, Isaac & his mother, Annie, Jeff & Bob, Nancy, Courtney, Adrienne, Bud, Andrea Barkstrom, Holly Henderson, Carter, Susie Kallendar, Ginny Clark, Philip, Matthew Green and his family, David Shaw, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean, David Hanson and for friends and family mourning the death of Betty Schlaht. May she rest and rise in glory

You hold them and love them even more than we do.  
Your healing has restored so many that we have  
prayed for. For that: **we give thanks!**

When we are tempted to despair, to blame, to lash  
out in anger, remind us of your forgiveness and com-  
passion poured out for us in the death and resurrec-  
tion of Jesus our brother. Still our tongues. Calm our  
spirits.

When we lose heart and slip into despair your Spirit  
intercedes with us with sighs too deep for words. For  
that: **we give thanks!**

For all these things and for those people and situa-  
tions that need healing and hope that only you know  
we pray in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**



## November BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS:

Rachel Schermer, November 1  
Heather Colwell, November 2  
Jane Schermer, November 9  
Jill Waite, November 12  
Ken Mitchell, November 13  
Theresa Kaufman, November 22  
Gregory Johnstone, November 23  
Larry Murray, November 23  
Judi Hubbard, November 26

Sarah Gardiner, November 27

Roger Shaw, November 27

Jace Winter, November 28

Jenifer Kaufman, November 29

Naomi Kraiger, November 30

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Mark & Amy Ostwald, November 27



**Everyone** who continues to donate to the food bank.

**Kristine Finazzo & Judi Hubbard** for looking into the old, old records for someone who used to be associated with the congregation.

**Kristine Finazzo & Judi Hubbard** for delivering some of the October newsletters.

**Union Gospel Mission** for those of you who provide meals and for adjusting to any changes they may have in helping people stay healthy.

**Ken Mitchell** for the beautiful art work for the bulletin covers.

**Everyone** who is helping out with the readings during Sunday Worship service.

**Mike Hubbard & Roger Shaw** for working on the furnace room.

Everyone who has started bringing in the canned milk for the Thanksgiving Baskets.

**Everyone** who participated in the Living Stones Prison Raffle.

**Mike Barkstrom** for preparing the sanctuary for in person worship.

**Judi Hubbard** for the extra cleaning that in-person worship requires.



### THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE 4-F DINNER

Another successful drive through dinner! On October 3 we prepared 77 take out dinners. Mike and Karen prepared their "yummy" chicken, green beans and salad.

Darci, Sarah and Jane baked up their delicious rolls. Kristine, Jill and Judi made a delicious caramel apple spice cake with cream cheese frosting.

Madison helped Mike with packaging up the meals, Pastor Val was on hand to help deliver meals and greet folks and Mike Hildreth provided the Grace in the takeout meals. George and Selena Burgin from the Olympia Thrivent office came to lend a helping hand. We used a Thrivent card for expenses.

We deposited \$3405.00, and \$173.00 was received from the online giving. Our 10% tithe this dinner will be divided between Altrusa, Salvation Army Food Bank and LWR.

Selena was the winner of the beautiful bag donated by Beate.

We are thankful to our members and friends for supporting our ongoing maintenance fund. The roof is completed and paid for!!

Blessings, your 4-F team.

PS—"see " you at our next dinner.



## THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Family Promise** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$93.98 from Sept.
- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$99.61
- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$43.49

## SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

### UNION GOSPEL MISSION

November 3

Kristine Finazzo, Leader

Liz Ellis, Molly Leiithold, Michelle Weiberg.

Lynette Lile, Marti Debandt

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

Kitchen manager, Doug, would like to have food

there at **3pm** if possible.

When you deliver, drive into the back alley, then call the Union Gospel office at 360-533-1064 and they will come out to the back alley to carry the food in for you.



### ABERDEEN & HOQUIAM FOOTBALL 2020

~Together We Can~

The Grizzlies and Bobcats are excited to announce a joint effort for Foodball 2020. Students from both schools have teamed up and will be announcing a **joint fundraising total on Monday, November 9th**. Food banks in each town will be supported from this grand total. We are excited to combine our efforts, and to continue the nearly 40 years of Foodball tradition in our community.

How to Donate:

- Mail checks\* to either high school:

Aberdeen High School

410 N G. St. 501 W.

Aberdeen, WA 98520

Hoquiam High School

201 W. Everson Ave.

Hoquiam, WA 98550

\*checks can be made out to either Aberdeen Food-

ball or Hoquiam Foodball

**\*checks must be received by Monday, November 9th to count toward our total**

- Drop off check at AHS or HHS main office during school hours: 7:30am-3:00pm
- Online with debit/credit card:

ASD website w ww.asd5.org: Donations accepted through RevTrak.

Click the DONATE TO FOOTBALL button on the District homepage

Hoquiam High School website for additional donation opportunities. Click on FOOTBALL 2020

- Food Donations accepted at Dept. of Licensing, Grocery Outlet, Aberdeen Safeway, Hoquiam Swanson's & Hoquiam Rite Aid

## **THANKSGIVING FOOD BANK BASKETS**

The Food Bank will distribute 125 baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas to families who are experiencing food insecurity this year. Amazing Grace has been asked to provide one can of evapo-

rated milk for each basket. **We need to have 125 cans ready for boxing on Nov. 19th and another 125 to box on Dec. 21st.** These can be dropped off outside the office during office hours Mon., Tues., and Fri. from 8-1. Thank you for your generosity!



## **PIE AUCTION**

**Our annual pie auction is HAPPENING!** It will be in two parts, a silent auction and a live auction. **The live auction with Gary Morean will be right after worship Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> ON FACEBOOK LIVE.** It will feature the traditional pie auction items: pies, cakes, baked goods of all kinds. **It will be limited to 20 items. The first 20 people to contact the office claiming a spot will be included in the live pie auction.** All other items are very much

welcomed and appreciated in the **SILENT AUCTION** which will be on the Amazing Grace website from **Sunday 11/15 – 11/24.** [amazinggraceaberdeen.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeen.org). Please let Vicky know about your contribution to either auction by calling or emailing the office: 360.532.8250 or [amazing111@comcast.net](mailto:amazing111@comcast.net).



## **FAMILY PROMISE OF GRAYS HARBOR ANNUAL QUILT RAFFLE**

It's time for our Annual Holiday Quilt Raffle! Tickets for this beautiful handiwork are \$2 each and the winner will be drawn on December 11,

2020. To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact Family Promise at 360-986-3948 or [fpghcasemanager@gmail.com](mailto:fpghcasemanager@gmail.com) or drop by the Day Center Monday through Friday between 10 am & 2pm.



## **FEED THE HUNGRY CHRISTMAS STOCKING COMMITTEE**

The Feed the Hungry Program, through Catholic community Services is preparing this year's Christmas Stocking packages for those in need of a little cheer.

The current Covid 19 pandemic prevents us from collecting contributions via donation boxes so we are requesting contributions from local churches. **At AMAZING GRACE, we will gather new men's winter gloves to be donated to this effort.**

**If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, you may send a check to**

Feed the Hungry  
PO Box 1734  
Aberdeen, WA 9852  
Contact: Jeannine Bramstead 360-533-4641 or  
Cher Keller—Program Coordinator for  
Feed the Hungry: Cell 360-500-7629 or office 360-637-8563

## **CARE TEAMS**

Our faithful Care Team leaders have been checking in with everyone for **6 months** now! Thank you, Care Team!

Some of the team members would like to step down and move on to other things, so if you would be able to make approximately 10 phone calls every other week, or so, just to check in and listen for any needs with members and friends of the congregation, please let Pastor Val know as soon as possible.



## FOOD BANK

Families in need of help from the food bank has increased by 211% from March – Sept. this year compared to the same period in 2019. That's a 289% increase in individuals seeking food this year. Please remember them when you're shopping for groceries. They are especially in need of baby wipes, peanut butter, mac & cheese and diapers sizes 2,4,5, & 6. Please leave donations Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 8-1 in the

box outside the office. If it's raining or at other times, please leave them in the parish hall. If you prefer to send a monetary donation that may be sent to: P.O. Box 444 Aberdeen, WA 98520

## FOOD BANK DROP-OFF

In order to help our Food Banks, please drop off food, diapers or other items at the parish hall at Amazing Grace.

**TASK FORCE for resuming in-person worship has recommended that we continue worship on facebook live while also beginning to have a few people in the sanctuary in person. If you would like to attend worship ON SUNDAY, please contact the church office BEFORE NOON the Friday before (two day prior to worship.)** The first 12 people will be contacted that they will be expected in worship. If you are not called or emailed, you were not among the first 12 people. All safety protocols will be enforced:

1. masks are mandatory (we'll have some available) and must remain the entire time including while singing.
2. seating only in designated areas,
3. maintaining at least 6 feet distance,
4. everyone MUST sign in so that contact tracing is possible if needed
5. Everyone will be dismissed to minimize contact and there will be no lingering in the sanctuary after worship

## OFFICE HOURS

Vicky is on vacation from November 2-6. Regular office hours will resume the following Week: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8-1.

**Pastor Val will check in daily for phone and email messages.**

**No one** should be in the office while Vicky is there. You can drop mail in the mail slot or drop Food Bank donations in the fellowship hall. If you need help, talk to Vicky through the door or call her: 360.532.8250.

Please let Pastor Val or a council member know of any concerns or needs that arise for you AND ways you'd like to help others. We are figuring this out together. None of us has ever been the church in a pandemic! **What we know is that we are called to love God and Jesus told us that loving our neighbors (all of them, especially the marginalized) is how God wants us to show that love! So, what does that look like here, today in Aberdeen, WA?**

## ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Thank you for your faithful giving for the mission and ministry at and through Amazing Grace! Our website now has an online giving option using your credit/debit card or bank accounts. Please visit our website: <https://www.amazinggraceaberdeen.org/giving> While you're there check out the daily devotions, the newsletter, photos and lots more information about Amazing Grace. As always, you may mail in your tithe or drop it in the mail slot at the office.

## **HEALTHY COMMUNICATION IN TOUGH TIMES**

Healthy communication is important in the best of times. Throw in a pandemic and political turmoil and things can get messy. In the church we are especially careful to express our love for each other and for all our neighbors by practicing healthy communication skills. Some basics that are helpful in all relationships include the following.

- Everyone speaks for themselves. Each of us needs to take responsibility for expressing our own feelings or concerns.
- When there is a concern, we go directly to the person involved. Honest, direct, loving commu-

- nication is the basis of all healthy relationships.
- If the concern is not resolved after direct communication, we ask a neutral person to join us in that conversation for the sake of understanding and healing.
- We avoid triangulation. Triangulation occurs when one person does not communicate directly with another person, instead using a third person to relay communication to the second. Triangulation distorts relationships and makes clear communication difficult.
- We pray for each other trusting that God loves us all and in prayer can heal our hurts and restore relationships.

## **COUNCIL MEETING CHANGES**

As we continue to adapt to a changing world, your church council has found new ways to meet and continue its' work, concisely stated as: ensuring that **“the purpose of the church is fulfilled (Love God and Love Neighbor) and managing the property and finances of the congregation so that purpose #1 can be fulfilled.”**

We have found Zoom meetings to be useful but exhausting and challenging. So, we divided the work of council into two parts: Mission and Administration. The first council meeting each month, on the second Tuesday we focus on the mission of the church., hearing reports from ministry leaders and addressing mission needs. The second council meeting each month, on the fourth Tuesday focuses on administrative responsibilities, including financial, hearing reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. Each meeting is scheduled to last one hour. We do our best to stay within that hour, honoring the reality of the stress and exhaustion many of us are feeling during this time.

In addition to those changes we do as much of the work ahead of time as possible, communicating via email, submitting reports far in advance so there is time for questions to be answered before we meet.

As has always been the case, congregation members are invited to join council meetings. If you have an agenda item you want included at the meeting or if you would like to sit in on a meeting, send those requests to council president, Joelle Buckman. She can be reached at: [joelle\\_buckman@email.com](mailto:joelle_buckman@email.com) or 360.589.6111. Please submit those requests far enough in advance that she can determine at which meeting they would be most appropriate.

Zoom meetings require a link which must be kept secure to avoid being “zoom bombed.” (I know! For every new technology there a new way to make things difficult. Zoom bombing is when unwanted people join the meeting sometimes flooding it with inappropriate or disturbing photos or video.) Joelle will provide you with that link so you can join the meeting. There will be time at the end for you to comment if you wish to do that. **It is most appropriate to contact the council member that your question addresses outside of council meeting.** They are always available to answer questions. Their contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

## **Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Administrative Council Meeting Minutes September 22, 2020**

**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.**

**As Church Council, we 1. Ensure that the mission of the church is fulfilled (Love God and Love Neighbor) and 2. Manage the property and finances of the congregation so that purpose #1 can be fulfilled.**

Attendance: Pastor Val, Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman, Phil Stegemoeller, Amy Ostwald, Carrie Erwin, Theresa Kaufman, Mike Barkstrom

- I Call to Order by Pres. Joelle Buckman 6:00
- II. Prayer and Devotions – 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations – Ch. 4 It was decided that we would postpone reading this until later.
- III. Establish Quorum
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda
  - Added: Approve Minutes for 8/25/20 and 9/8/20 minutes.
- V. Review, correct and final approve of minutes from 8/25 & 9/8 **M/S/P**
- VI. **Financial Reports**
  - A. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman
    - In the Balances of Church accounts, Theresa will take out the line item for Technology and will put in Chaplains dinner with a starting balance of \$200.
    - Motion to approve expenses **M/S/P**
      - 1. Updated costs for health insurance
        - Synod will make numbers available when they are ready.
  - B. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller
    - Phil's monthly report had a little discrepancy.
      - 1. Giving Statements with stewardship letter
        - The Giving Statements and letter will be going out 4<sup>th</sup> week of September.
      - 2. New Program for financial secretary
        - Still looking into which program to use. The Servant Keeper is cheaper and better software and its self-contained.
- VII. Business items
  - Funding Audio/Video updates
    - There are two questions to figure out first: Do we need to do this? And then decide where the funding is coming from. The cost is about \$4500. The quote is 6-8 weeks old. Keith will get final quote before we go any further. Several funding sources will be explored.
    - Motion to move forward with the technology upgrade as Keith has outlined. Funding sources will be identified before purchases are made. **M/S/P**

#### **Task Assignments**

- Theresa will create a sub-account for donations for the Chaplains dinner
- Theresa will get costs for health insurance when they are available.
- Phil will correct his monthly report.
- Amy will get together with Theresa about website giving.
- Joelle will get together with Phil about the Financial Secretary program
- Joelle will put in a request to the endowment fund for the funding Audio/Video updates. When she receives an answer council will proceed from there.

Adjournment and closing prayer 6:35pm

### **Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Mission Council Meeting Minutes Oct. 13th, 2020**



**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.

**As Church Council, we 1. Ensure that the mission of the church is fulfilled (Love God and Love Neighbor) and 2. Manage the property and finances of the congregation so that purpose #1 can be fulfilled.**

Attendance: Joelle Buckman, Mike Barkstrom, Curtis Steinhauer, Pastor Val, Dee Erickson, Amy Ostwald, Phil Stegemoeller, Carrie Erwin

- I. Call to Order by Pres. Joelle Buckman 6:16
- II. Prayer & Highs and Lows
- III. Establish Quorum (I – III: 15 min)
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda M/S/P (IV: 2 min)
  - Under Property: added (1) Update on North Tower leak repair & (2) Additional Expenses for Maintenance
- V. **Business items** (these are generally items that are beyond any one ministry or don't fit under any ministry, special requests from the community) (10min)
  - A. Mutual Ministry Update – Joelle
    - Will meet next week.
  - B. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative – Pastor Val/Curtis
    - Will meet twice in October. They are in the process of finding a new director for the Affordable Housing Initiative.
  - C. 4F Dinner – Oct. 3 – report
    - A very successful dinner for about 90 people. Raised \$3405 through donations and \$173 through online giving, for a grand total of \$3,578. 10 % tithe of this dinner will be divided between Altrusa, Salvation Army, Food Bank and LWR.
  - D. Food Bank use fellowship hall – to distribute boxes out on Thursday, November 19, a week before Thanksgiving and Monday, December 21 the week Christmas
    - The fellowship hall will be used a total of four times (twice to assemble & twice to distribute) for the November and December Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets. There will be three people working, while following safety protocols. The Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets will be handed out outside.
  - E. Bel-Aire Property up-date
    - At a special congregational meeting in June 2015 a decision was made to sell the property and disburse the money as follows: . 90% to the Endowment Committee and 10% goes somewhere else. If another option is to be offered it will require a congregational vote.
- VI. **Ministry Reports** (25 min)
  - A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val
    - LAT Team: Have not met in person for a while. Pastor has been changing paraments. The LAT Team is in email discussions to virtually meet soon to plan for upcoming seasons.
      1. Resuming in-person worship Task Force – report
        - Task force has been discussing this issue for months. We have decided we need to consider the emotional and spiritual needs of the congregation. We will be very slowly welcoming small numbers each Sunday. The Facebook live services will continue to be conducted along with the small in-person gatherings each Sunday.
        - October 25<sup>th</sup> is Confirmation/Reformation Sunday. Attending Sunday Service: Bell choir, Natwick family and worship leaders.
        - Steps in progress for in-person worship: (1)First Sunday will be the people that aren't able to access through computer, (2) After that we'll ask people to sign up through church office, prioritizing people who have not yet attended in person.
      2. Report on audio/video updates; Tech Grant update
        - Total cost is \$6,914. Church received \$5,000 from the Endowment committee. We will start with having only one camera but will have two eventually.
    - B. Outreach –Amy Ostwald
      1. Family Promise
        - Suzan stepped down. No replacement yet.
      2. Chaplains dinner-No change
    - C. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer
      1. Sunday School-In the process of getting it started for the year. The plan is to send parents a survey to best meet their needs.
      2. Confirmation – Pastor Val Annika Natwick will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday - October 25th
      3. Adult group study
    - D. Fellowship – Carrie Erwin

- November 22<sup>nd</sup> is pie auction. It's being planned and information will be made available soon.
- Carrie is planning activities for when Sunday services gets back to normal.

E. Property – Mike Barkstrom

1. North Bell Tower leak repair-Water runs down into the northeast corner, basement bathroom.. Mike has been working with Lupo and has a bid to not exceed \$850 plus tax.  
-North Bell Tower leak repair-It's an attempt to fix and solve problem, if it doesn't work, it would require hiring a lift and tearing all louvers out and rebuilding them or sealing them up with stucco. M/S/P.
2. Expenses for the Maintenance department

- Requesting council's approval for the expenditure of \$800-850 to build a new work bench for the maintenance shop and to replace a worn-out drill/driver. We have some of the material on hand, some will be donated, and some will be purchased. Approved the expenditure.

F. Stewardship- Letter went out with Giving Statements.

Pastor's Report

Task Assignments

- Pastor Val and Curtis will meet to discuss Sunday school list.
- Pastor has thoughts for LAT team and will meet with L.A.T to discuss.
- Curtis volunteered to have the Environmental health staff from the county talk with Mike. Curtis will give them Mike Barkstrom's contact number
- Curtis needs to get in contact with Keith and Adam to discuss the Dell Alienware Laptop situation and will report to Pastor Val.
- Pastor Val will meet with Carmon to discuss Family Promise
- Dee will email a list of procedures for the Pie auction to Carrie
- Mike will look to see if there are any bells in the bell tower

Adjournment and closing prayer 6:58

**PASTOR'S REPORT Sept 2020 - regular activities during pandemic; all meetings on Zoom**  
**WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP**

- Sunday worship – Plan and lead
- Plan adult education
- Plan seasonal and special worship services
- Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing
- Prayer
- Meet with ministry leader as needed
- Reports: congregational; synod; ELCA
- Conference Pastors meet with Bishop weekly

**ADMINISTRATION**

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

**FELLOWSHIP/PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING** PSALM – mentor; spiritual direction

- Prayer Chain – coordinate w/ Brenda Grant
- Grace notes weekly or as needed
- Pastoral care as needed
- Visits at homes or parks during good weather

Coordinate with ministry leader as needed

**OUTREACH**

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

**BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE** Meet w/ ministry leader as needed



<b>YOUTH AND FAMILY</b>	Adult study: plan and participate Confirmation: plan and lead Sunday School: coordinate with ministry leader
<b>STEWARSHIP/EVANGELISM</b>	Study and integrate into sermons
<b>OFFICIAL ACTS</b>	None
<b>PROFESSIONAL GROWTH:</b>	Spiritual Direction Supervision Group
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES in September</b>	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE:</b>	Task Force for resuming in person worship
<b>PASTORAL CARE:</b>	40 Days of Prayer as Our Nation Prepares for an Election – prayers to congregation and on facebook Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed
<b>WORSHIP:</b>	Weekly text study with synod pastors
<b>YOUTH/FAMILY/Education:</b>	Confirmation for coming year
<b>OUTREACH:</b>	Synod Affordable Housing Initiative meeting
<b>STEWARSHIP:</b>	
<b>VACATION:</b>	Aug. 15 – Sept. 2
<b>UPCOMING:</b>	October 25 Reformation/Confirmation Sunday

### Upcoming events:

**Food Bank Christmas Baskets– November 19**

### SEPTEMBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 22,536.50
-PSALM		\$ 100.00
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,620.00
-Music		\$ (13.54)
-Bells		\$ 465.95
-Friends in Need		\$ 410.84
-Reformation Fund		\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild		\$ 367.00
-Noisy Offering		\$ -
-Family Promise Maintenance Holding		\$ 2,000.00
Chaplains Dinner		\$ 320
-Grace Fund		\$ 340
	TOTAL	\$ 31, 538.29
Fundraising Checking		\$ -
Maintenance Check-ing		\$ 48,266.63
-Roof		\$ -
Youth Checking		\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings		\$ 2,306.36
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 1,907.82



President	Joelle Buckman	(360) 589-6111	Joelle_buckman@email.com
Treasurer	Theresa Kaufman	(360) 537-1190	Theresamarie4739.3@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Phil Stegemoeller	(360) 580-9310	phil@willisent.com
Youth & Family	Curtis Steinhauer	(360) 580-2301	turtis21@gmail.com
Outreach	Amy Ostwald	(360)-482-2306	Ostwald@olynet.com
Worship	Dee Erickson	(360) 533-7948	deekaye1@comcast.net
Fellowship	Carrie Erwin	360-500-3767	mcerwin@comcast.net
Property	Mike Barkstrom	(360)532-3319	mkbarks1@gmail.com
Endowment	Darrell Lokken	(360) 532-1615	delokken@comcast.net
Pastor	Val Metropoulos	(360) 580-8977	vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu
Church Secretary	Vicky Kolb	(360) 532-8250	amazing111@comcast.net

## 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

111 E. 4th Street, (360) 532-8250

[amazinggraceaberdeen.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeen.org)

[amazing111@comcast.net](mailto:amazing111@comcast.net)

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

[vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu](mailto:vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu)

**Office Administrator:** Vicky Kolb

**Liturgists:** Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle,

Curtis Steinhauer

**Musicians:** Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke





Please join us for worship  
Sundays at 10am on our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Amazing-Grace-Lutheran-Church-114570725233786/>  
Or anytime at: [amazinggraceaberdeen.org](http://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

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Grays Harbor

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

