

The Spirit

June/July 2020

Amazing
Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF GRAYS HARBOR

June 2020. We're not even half way through this year that has caused seismic shifts in so many parts of our lives. Something I read in preparing a sermon recently used the phrase, "Notice who is centered in the story." They were not talking about the Bible, but that phrase set my imagination loose to think of Scripture in a new way, asking, "Who is centered in this story." I'll be exploring that a lot in the weeks to come at least in my own thoughts. But, it added to my conviction that you all did not need to hear from me in this moment. You hear from me almost every week. **Now, we all need to listen to the voices that should be 'centered' at this moment. The voices who are crying out in anguish and lament.** The voices who have been silenced, lynched or marginalized for generations and the voices who have been silenced due to Covid 19, 109,000 over 3 months time in the USA alone. There are many voices that should be heard from each of those groups. I've chosen one from each. The first voices are represented by Chris McNair, an ordained elder in the UMC. The second voices are represented by a photo showing a fraction of the names of those who died from Covid 19, who can't speak for themselves. There is much more to say about each of these tragedies. For now, **we listen with open hearts, praying that the Holy Spirit would lead us to recognize our own brokenness and give us the humility and courage to repent and do the hard work of change for the sake of a God's kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven.**

"It's six o'clock in the morning. I awake to a cool breeze coming through the window. It's quiet outside. **My family has come through another night of protests and rioting here in south Minneapolis.** Last night, like the three nights previous, was full of gunshots, unexplained explosive bangs, police sirens and people shouting. The National Guard and state



patrol have been called out, enforcing a citywide curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. But the alleys and streets around my house are active through the night with furtive figures sneaking around and raucous groups of white men in masks looking to do damage. People are looting in broad daylight. Looters, not protesters. Protesters protest; looters loot. While all the crazy is going on,

protesters gather in peace at the site of George Floyd's murder. Tears trickle down my wife's cheeks as we stand hand in hand, joining in the protest. People reflecting the cultural diversity of this community gather all day and into the night to grieve, mourn, and protest another unjust killing of a Black man. We have to change!"

"Where is God in all this? God is in the anguish and fear of community residents. God is in the angry chants and demands for justice invoked by protesters. I feel God's presence as tears run down my own cheeks as I witness the destruction and mayhem engulfing my neighborhood. God sees, God knows, and God cares. I share my neighbors' sense of great loss, beyond the dehumanization of a people, manifest in the death of George Floyd. More than just stores and businesses and terrible loss of life (at least one person was shot by a store owner while looting), I see the loss of community, of trust, of having nice things here in my neighborhood, of familiar places I've grown attached to like old friends."

"People ask, 'Why are they destroying their own community?'" People want to understand what is happening. **But sometimes there is no way to understand what someone else is feeling unless you have been in their shoes and lived their life.** Imagine if you felt like there was so little regard for your life that you had no other recourse but to explode, venting your anger on everything around you, even

“George Floyd is the last straw breaking the camel’s back of the frustration felt by people in this community. Black lives matter. Does this really have to be said? Ask George Floyd, Philando Castile, Jamar Clark: three black men needlessly killed in the Twin Cities by police in the last five years, with little or no consequence to the perpetrators. Apparently, some lives matter more than others. One protest slogan demands “Legalize being Black!” A simple request actually. **Just stop killing black people. That’s all**

“It’s day six since George Floyd was killed by the police two blocks from my house. That brutal act has sparked protests and riots that moved from this little corner of my neighborhood to engulf the whole southside, the entire city, and now cities major and small across the United States and the entire world. It has become a cause and rallying cry for civil rights. The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s was rejuvenated by the protests in Birmingham as America and the rest of the world witnessed on

[illegible]

God's work. Our hands.

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

ficer and his son while jogging in Brunswick, Ga. (Feb. 23, 2020). Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency medical technician, was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment while serving a "no-knock warrant" (March 13, 2020). Dreaseon (Sean) Reed, a 21-year-old from Indianapolis died after being shot at least eight times by an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officer (May 6, 2020). George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis while begging for his life, a block away from Calvary Lu-

ELCA reaffirms commitment to combat racism and white supremacy

theran, an ELCA congregation (May 25, 2020). As the Conference of Bishops, **we condemn the white supremacy that has led to the deaths of so many unarmed Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color in our country.** We grieve with, pray for and stand in solidarity with the families and friends of all whose loved ones have been and continue to be victims of injustices run amok, racist violence and the insidious venom of white supremacy.

The ELCA's social policy [resolution](#), "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric," adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, states: "**As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions.**" As church, together we must work to condemn white supremacy in all forms and recommit ourselves to confront and exorcise the sins of injustice, racism and white supremacy in church and society and within ourselves as individuals and households.

On May 21, the ELCA Southeastern Synod hosted a

WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
we come to you in prayer today,
longing to see and sense your presence in these
uncertain times. **We pray for your world,**
as we seek to understand and find a way to stop the
spread of COVID-19.

Bring comfort to those who grieve,
remembering especially those in the hardest hit areas
of our country and around the world. Give peace to
those who are anxious, caution to those who needlessly
risk their health, hope for all who are struggling
economically, socially, mentally, physically, and in
any manner because of this pandemic.

Lord of Lords, even as countries like
Brazil see increasing numbers of cases,
other countries like **Germany and New Zealand**
are lessening the restrictions on their residents.

Guide the leaders in government
and health officials
as they make exceedingly difficult decisions
in the days and weeks to come.

We give you thanks for the blessings we have seen,
for the efforts of so many people making masks, do-

[webinar](#): "Becoming the Body of Christ – Condemning White Supremacy" in response to the killing of Ahmaud Arbery. This is one of many strategic opportunities happening across this church to address white supremacy and racist rhetoric. On June 17, we will gather again as church to commemorate the Mother Emanuel 9 and to repent of racism and white supremacy. An online ELCA prayer service, including leaders from across the church and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as preacher, is being planned for June 17, 2020, marking the fifth anniversary of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9. We encourage congregations to reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and dismantling white supremacy that continue to plague this church by marking this day of penitence with study and prayer leading to action. <https://www.elca.org/emanuelnine>

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
and signed by the Council of
Bishops of the ELCA



nating food and money, sharing their creativity and innovative skills to encourage creative solutions to problems. We give thanks for artists, musicians, and all those who offered their creative skills to bring us joy and laughter in this time of disruption.

We pray for the farmers everywhere but especially in **Africa**, as they experience a second, larger surge of locusts, as the insects rise to plague levels and they cause widespread destruction in **Kenya, Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia**, and other nearby countries.

In the **United States** we pray for justice following the killing of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery, black men who were victims of the sin of racism. May these tragedies that follow so many tragedies like them bring white people to examine the part we all play in supporting racism and discrimination in our country, and around your world.

Remind us always that our life is not our own,
but belongs to you.

Inspire us to dream of how we might be a beacon
of hope for those living in disorder

to come alongside them while they find order;
alongside them while they reorder their lives.

Teach us, great Healer, to remember our purpose is to
care for our neighbor as ourselves. **Amen.**



JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

Tim Alstrom, June 1
Chrissie Kincaid, June 1
Stephanie Gundersen, June 3
Shelby Kincaid, June 7
Andrew Penttila, June 9
Diane Hanson, June 17
Gene Schermer, June 21
Betty Schlaht, June 25
Pastor Val Metropoulos, June 27
Lauri Paulsen, June 29
Mike Kupka, July 6
Evelyn Ellingsen, July 7
Calvin Evanson, July 8
Donna Morrisette, July 11

Nicole Evanson, July 19
Suzan Stegemoeller, July 22
Amanda Kaufman, July 23
Arlene O'Connor, July 23
Joan Rabung, July 31

ANNIVERSARIES:

Tim & Molly Leithold, June 21
Hayley & Adam Sykes, July 12
Keith & Lynette Lile, July 23
Mike & Judi Hubbard, July 24
Doris & John Tieder, July 25
Coleman & Laura Carle, July 26
Tim & Pam Alstrom, July 27
Stephen & Anneliese Kraiger, July 29



Everyone who
continues to donate
to the food bank.

Mike Hubbard and Roger Shaw for their work on
the inside and outside of the building.

Theresa Kaufman for all the work that the treasurer
position requires and for taking council minutes in
May.

Jim Weiberg for faithfully tending to the grounds
every week.

Kristine Finazzo & Judi Hubbard for doing the
deposit each week.

Ken Mitchell for providing the cover art for the bul-
letins during the Easter season.

Curtis Steinhauer and Pastor Val for attending to

the needs that having
porta potties available
in the parking lot has
created.

Kris Burns and Hank Bilderback for providing
beautiful music for the Memorial Day service.

Liturgists leading us in singing each week: **Greg
Johnstone, Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Curtis
Steinhauer, and Laura Carle.**

CARE TEAM members for keeping us all in touch
and identifying needs: **Suzan Stegemoeller, Judi
Hubbard, Carmon Shaw, Dee Erickson, Mike
Barkstrom, Judi Hubbard, Amy Ostwald, Mike
Hildreth, and Vicki Mitchell.**

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$134.23
- Dear Amazing Grace,
Thank you for the lovely Easter basket you sent us. We enjoyed it and I hope that you are doing well. I look forward to being at church and seeing everyone again. Hope you are well.
-Madison Winter
- Thank you for helping us remember and honor our service members on Memorial Day.
-Elaine and Darrell

No in-person gatherings including Sunday morning worship until further notice. Please look for more information in the Friday Grace Notes each week, special emails as they come out and on the Amazing Grace website; amazinggraceaberdeem.org

OFFICE HOURS

Church office is open Tuesday & Thursday 8-1. **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.amazinggraceaberdeem.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.

NOTES TO THOSE WHO ARE ALONE

We all need human contact. Many of you are staying in touch with friends via phone calls or postcards. Vicki Mitchell requests that you also send a postcard or note to her mother, our dear, Ginny Clark at Westhaven since she is confused about receiving no visitors. Any note of encouragement would be appreciated. Vicki asks that you mail them to her. She reads them to Ginny through the window. Vicki's address is: P.O. Box 1186 Cosmopolis 98537

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

UNION GOSPEL MISSION July 7

Maurita White, Leader Vicki Mitchell &
Virginia Clark, Joyce Smith, Paula Elder, Dorothy
Stephens, Pam Alstrom

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



They are doing 2 seating's currently to keep the residents separate from the people coming in off the street. Residents eat at 6pm, others at 7pm. The kitchen manager, Doug, would like to have food there at 3pm. Probably

would be a good idea if the team leader calls a day ahead to confirm that your meal is coming, When you deliver, drive in to 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. (You all don't have to show up at the exact same, just call in when you get there). There will be no volunteers serving inside at this time. Contact Doug Jones (kitchen manger) by 8:30pm the night BEFORE if there are any changes.

UNION GOSPEL TEAMS

We are making a few minor adjustments to Union Gospel teams. Team members assist in making dinner (to feed 60) for Union Gospel Mission 2 times per year. Each team member delivers some aspect of the meal, agreed on with the team leader. If you are not on a team but would like to be, contact the

church office. If you are on a team but need to step-down from this ministry, let us know. The goal is to balance the team numbers. We will not move you from your team without asking (and very few people will be moved anyway). Some teams serve meals, some just deliver food. At this time (pandemic) we are only delivering food, no serving. Thank you!

LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY

Your involvement is encouraged! You are invited to write a short (*no more than 350 words, please*) letter. A short paragraph with just a few sentences is fine. Maybe share a Bible verse that gives you hope in these days or tell where you have seen God in this time or write a prayer or reflect about a song you have heard the praise band sing. All contributions are welcome and will be

gratefully received by our men. You can sign your note with your first name or just put "brother/sister in Christ." Feel free to write more than once - since we're doing this on a weekly basis, lots of letters are needed! Please email Sandi your letter(s) as you are able. Your participation will be deeply appreciated. Sandi's email: LivingStonesAssis-tant@outlook.com



ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Committee is planning a meeting probably sometime in the last 2 weeks of June. We will be dealing with the scholarship requests and any other requests we have received. If anyone is planning to make a request we would appreciate being able to deal with it at the time of the late June Meeting.

Darrell Lokken



FOOD BANK

continues to distribute food every Tuesday from 3-5 and signs up more families every week. They are in need of canned goods, especially corn (whole kernel) peas and green beans, and boxed macaroni and cheese. They need diapers size 4,5, & 6. If you leave donations in the fellowship hall, we'll get them to the Food Bank on Tuesdays.

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 Tuesday or Thursday between 8-1. There's a box outside the office you can put your donations in, unless it's raining, in which case, Vicky can let you into the parish hall.

FAMILY PROMISE

UPDATE:

Family Promise is very much alive and actively formulating plans to reopen. Meticulous attention to safety for staff, guests and volunteers is the top priority. Fi-



nances are strong and staff are busy interviewing prospective families.

We will notify you as soon as we have more detailed information.

Please keep this program in your prayers.

Thank you!!

Suzan and Carmon

GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

FREE SYNOD WORKSHOPS ONLINE

The Synod is offering free online educational workshops on a variety of topics. Each will have a presentation, time for Q & A during the event, and a follow-up session at a later date, if class desires. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

You may register for as many as you'd like, just click on the link at the bottom of each workshop description for a simple registration form. You may also find them all on the Synod website at <https://lutheranssw.org/events/online-workshops>:

Descriptions are below:

TOP 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Wednesday, June 3rd at 6-7:30pm

Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3k-dNwiJSxecEv5iArieoA

Learn three things that you can easily do in your congregation using social media to grow community. Presentation will include budget-friendly options.

Presenter: Cort Okfen, webmaster for St Marks Lutheran Church by the Narrows, Tacoma, owner of most followed twitter handle in S. Tacoma, and owner of Okfen & Associates, an internet marketing company.



COMPASSIONATE INTERGITY

Saturday, June 6th 10-11:30am

Registration: [http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=magpslfab&oeidk=a07eh237y5s871bcee0)

[llr=magpslfab&oeidk=a07eh237y5s871bcee0](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=magpslfab&oeidk=a07eh237y5s871bcee0)

Have you ever wondered how you could cultivate the compassion called for in the Charter or help others cultivate that compassion? compassionate Integrity Training (CIT) is a great place to start!

Learn about how this program, which Holy Trinity Lutheran church has implemented, is a resiliency-informed program that cultivates human values as skills, so we can thrive as individuals, and a society within a healthy environment. By learning skills to calm our bodies and mind, becoming more emotion-

ally aware, learning to practice compassion for ourselves and others, as well as engaging with compassion in complex systems, we can build towards compassionate integrity: the ability to live one's life in accordance with one's values with a recognition of common humanity, our basic orientation to kindness and reciprocity.

This will be an online live meeting, and will not be recorded, as participants will practice meditation and other personal practices.

Presenter: Pastor Kristin-Luana Baumann, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Port Angeles, Compassionate Integrity Training Facilitator.

STEWARDSHIP IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Watch Video Anytime <https://youtu.be/jdLFX47eBnA> Follow-up discussions with Rev. Mike Ward and Paul Marsh will be available June 10th at 10am and 6:30pm for live virtual conversation (links below)

Life has changed dramatically in the last few weeks and that change is still unfolding. In the midst of this change, people are needing the peace and comfort provided by faith in God. At the same time, as our normal patterns are upended and the nation is struggling economically, we worry about financial resources for our ministries. It is critically important now that we focus on how we tell our story of impact, how we invite people to generosity, how we envision a future where our congregations are more important and vital than ever.

In the video you will learn tangible ideas for responding during this crisis and how to put in place the infrastructure to keep generosity flowing to your congregations. Presenters will also point out messag-

ing that you should avoid during this time. Additionally they are sharing resources about responding to this crisis that can be found at <https://gsbfundraising.com/category/news/> This session is suggested for pastors, stewardship leaders, finance committee members, council members and others engaged in congregational leadership.

Presenters: GSB Partner, Rev. Mike Ward, CFRE, author of *Abundance: Creating Cultures of Generosity*, and his colleague, Paul Marsh, CFRE

Registration: No need to register to watch video. Then, you may register for a Zoom discussion with Pastor Ward on either June 10th, if desired. Please join Pastor Ward for Follow Up Conversations about his video, "Stewardship in Uncertain Times" via Zoom:

Wednesday, June 10th at 10am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223633105>

Wednesday, June 10th at 6:30pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324986426>



4F DINNER IS BACK!

Save the Date: **Wednesday June 10th, pickups beginning at 5pm.** 4F Dinner team has joined the new norm and will be offering a Pickup dinner. Let us do the cooking, you can enjoy a wonderfully short ride (for some) to get out of the house. Sorry you will have to set your own table and wash your own dishes. The Barkstrom's will be whipping up a 5-star barbecued pork loin (or fish for non-pork eaters) yummy potato casserole, bacon green beans and mixed greens salad. Eileen Schermer will be making her amazing focaccia bread. And Judi, Kristine and Jill will be making lick your plate bread pudding.

It will be a no contact delivery. Specifics to be de-

cided, but most likely you will be asked to park in the parking lot and we will deliver your dinners to your trunk. **For reservations contact Judi Hubbard 360-532-8577 or email jhubbard1952@comcast.net by June 3rd.**

Prepayment is required and there are several options for that. You may send a check for \$20 to the church noting 4F dinner; drop cash in an envelope in the mail slot at the church again with a note designating it for the 4F dinner OR pay on the Amazing Grace website using the GIVING button. (Use the drop-down arrow to designate it to the 4F dinner.) P.S. Invite your friends and neighbors to this delicious event.



MANNA & MERCY

Everyone who was in Manna and Mercy before, regardless of which day you met, please join us on Zoom to continue our study. We'll pick up about where we left off. We'll start all over for anyone who wants to do it again and those who want to start from the beginning. We'll meet on Thursdays at 5:30pm. If that day or time does not work for you, please let me

know and we'll adjust as possible to accommodate most schedules. If you need a book, please let me know and I'll make sure you get one Here's the link: Time: June 4, 2020 5:30 and every Thursday. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88522568151?pwd=SWs1SVRYcVRUVnFVZ3FzTlZ4RSszZz09> Meeting ID: 885 2256 8151 Password: 725563

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2020**

A brief council meeting was held on Zoom the first week that not meeting in person was deemed wise. It was a meeting to address only the immediate concerns.

Worship on FB live with a minimum of people participating was decided approved through April 26th, noting that it was likely to continue after that.

Worship leaders will use social distancing and good handwashing and cough covering practices.

Amy will add the Facebook Live link to the website.

Council discussed other groups using the building. Phil agreed to talk to Suzan about the Sisters in Recovery Group. Pastor Val will ask Vicky to contact the Girl Scout leader

Vicky will work regular hours

Judi agreed to make bank deposits.

Council discussed the change to Pastor Val's compensation as a result of five years of benefits mistakenly being based on the wrong defined compensation. During those five years Pastor was paid the correct amount but the amount contributed to her retirement and other benefits continued to be calculated based on that wrong amount. Because of that there is a significant jump in the cost of her benefits each month of 2020.

There was no financial report.

Submitted by Pastor Val 6/3/20

MARCH BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name		Date	Total
Checking			\$ 20,900.18
-PSALM			\$ 954.00
-Caring Cupboard			\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve			\$ 2,620.00
-Music			\$ (13.54)
-Bells			\$ 465.95
-Friends in Need			\$ 314.26
-Reformation Fund			\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild			\$ 367.00
-Noisy Offering			\$ -
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 28,339.39
Fundraising Checking			\$ 1,860.90
Maintenance Checking			\$ 43,423.89
Youth Checking			\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 3,062.78
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,907.82

Noisy Offering paid
460.80 to ELCA for
Good Gifts program

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
April 21, 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.

Attendance: Pastor Val, Amy Ostwald, Judi Hubbard, Joelle Buckman, Mike Barkstrom, Curtis Steinhauer, Theresa Kaufman, Phil Stegemoeller

- I. Call to Order Joelle Buckman 6:30
- II. Prayer and Devotions – Pastor Val
- III. Establish Quorum
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda **M/S/P**
- V. Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting, March 17, 2020 **M/S/P**
- VI. Financial Reports
 - i. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman
 - Reconcile maintenance account balance, follow up with Mike B.
 - Transactions by Account **M/S/P**
 - b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller –
 - Synod treasurer training – emphasis on payroll protection plan, 1% interest rate loans funded by SBA. Bank of the Pacific out of funds at this time, but feds have authorized release of additional funds. AGLC is on the "waiting list" and will be contacted should we become eligible. Criteria will be established by council members to determine if we will accept the loan, which could be forgiven if the funds are used as mandated by the SBA. **M/S/P** for AGLC to remain on the list and criteria for loan acceptance. Phil, Judi and Joelle on committee to determine if accepted, AGLC will follow through with application. Mike offers his help on this committee as well.
 - i. Online giving- Theresa contacted Vanco and additional "accounts" can be added to the drop down menu with a quick login and keystrokes. Theresa will add "Maintenance" to drop down on website.
- VII. Business items (these are generally items that are beyond any one ministry or don't fit under any ministry, special requests from the community)
 - a. Restructuring meetings:
 - Refer to handout sent by Pastor Val. Make our council meeting and the time spent more purposeful and meaningful. Current structure is somewhat cumbersome and time consuming. Financial portion of the meeting should not be the major time consuming component to the monthly meetings. It is suggested that the meeting be broken into two separate hour long sessions. One hour for focus on financials, the second hour will focus on other agenda items, strictly for focusing on the mission of the church.
 - Financial reports due from Phil and Theresa to council by the 10th to give everyone plenty of time to review, and the financial meeting (zoom or in person) will occur on the 4th Tuesday of each month.
 - b. Reimagining Ministries
 - Going forward, because of these unprecedented times, how do we fulfill the values of our ministries. What is it that we need to bring to our one hour meeting? Reports need to be really tied to the mission. We want our time to be more focused and tied to the mission.
 - This meeting should be on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 5:30 meeting time. – move that we change our meeting structure to two one hour meetings, max – mission 2nd Tuesday at 5:30 and administrative 4th Tuesday also at 5:30 – **M/S/P**

IX - Family Promise

FP proposes average monthly payment of \$825 and we reconcile quarterly.

Other Business - Congregation member opposed to delivery of porta potties to the church property. That this was done without a congregational vote or input. Pastor Val commented that the council was thorough and thoughtful in their decision to make the approval. Amy suggests that an answer to

the question was that it was very completely discussed. Pros and cons were considered, it comes to the point that the congregation needs to trust the council. Deliberation was considerable. Pastor points out that we don't "vote" on mission items. We acted in good faith voting by email. Everyone agreed that an email vote was acceptable. Grace Notes went out prior to the potties being installed. ByLaws say that votes can occur via zoom, and it was later found that Synod guidelines dictate voting should not occur via email.

Pastor Val sending chart from heroic phase to despair. Responsibilities of leaders in any groups is to be strong, be even and not let yourselves sucked into anxiety. We are to remain non-anxious and calming as a leaders.

Adjournment and closing prayer 8:22
Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Kaufman

APRIL BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name		Date	Total
Checking			\$ 13,801.38
-PSALM			\$ 954.00
-Caring Cupboard			\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Re-serve			\$ 2,620.00
-Music			\$ (13.54)
-Bells			\$ 465.95
-Friends in Need			\$ 375.63
-Reformation Fund			\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild			\$ 367.00
-Noisy Offering			\$ -
-Family Promise Maintenance Holding			\$ 1,500.00
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 22,801.96
Fundraising Checking			\$ 1,860.90
Maintenance Checking			\$ 22,524.88
-Roof			\$ 22,179.29
Youth Checking			\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 3,087.78
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,907.82

Picture provided by Diane Hanson of the newly remodeled fireplace in the Sunday School room. Thank you Mike Hubbard and Roger Shaw for your hard work and fine craftsmanship.



America was afflicted with a pandemic of the soul before it faced the pandemic of the body.

What are some first steps, then, toward finding our way forward?

Remember who we are, and who God made us to be.

As God's children, we are all beings made in the image of God, not only individually but also collectively reflecting his being and his character. This is the fundamental truth of who we are as a people.

Yet, from the earliest beginnings we have been tragically broken and divided, oppressing one another both inside our closest ethnic group (Cain slaying Abel) and outside (Taylor, Floyd, and Arbery). The arc of God's movement throughout the history of humankind—to restore us to one another and to himself—will ultimately not be thwarted. The apostle Paul tells us we are created to be together no matter which category of people we belong to—Jew or Greek, slave or free, white people wearing MAGA hats and card-carrying Black Lives Matter members—and to take up the burdens of the other without respect to identity (Gal. 3:28).

In heaven, when everything is made new and all is set to right, the togetherness for which we are made will be restored! The apostle John describes a vast crowd from every nation and tribe and people and language, reflecting the glory of their Creator (Rev. 7:9). That is the glory for which we were made. When these trials and tribulations fade away, our truest essence—together!—will emerge.

Listen, lament, and give thanks.

We will only begin to heal as a people when we begin to hear one another. Those who have walked by God's grace through great grief and lament in their lives (often in our more marginalized communities), and have chosen to not be victimized by it have many times forged into their souls the greatest moral and spiritual authority. Without defensiveness, without counterargument, without self-justification, we as white Christian Americans need to listen to our black brothers and sisters, whose experience of this country is often radically different from our own.

If we truly listen, we may begin to feel the grief and lament. We may recognize that at times, there are no words to touch such deep places. The word "injustice" fails to describe the violence to Taylor, Arbery, or Floyd, or the psychic cost to all black Americans who have experienced something in the same vein, or simply bear the burden of knowing that such things all too often happen to people who look like them. We can and we should hold onto that on behalf of our brothers and sisters, [lamenting](#) in the great spiritual and biblical traditions.

If we are not people who have experienced this other side of the American experience, then we should be grateful for all those (particularly in the black community) who have stayed so patiently with us in this American process. When they do not give up on the church, America, or even us as individuals when they would be so abundantly justified in doing so, that is grace and extraordinary strength in action.

Raise your voice and take action.

It is not enough to be non-racist. We need to use our voices and take action to stand against racism. Our brothers and sisters need us to speak. They are (too often literally) dying for it.

In the words of King, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal."

Our faith—which is one of sacrifice and redemption, not power—has been used as a tool by political forces for centuries, and that is never more tragic than when it is used to oppress people in the name of Jesus. In the US, in too many cases the white church notoriously advanced a theology that the slavery of African people was intended by God, and we live and breathe that heritage today. As just one of a nearly infinite number of examples of that legacy, in the church of my upbringing (in Connecticut in the 1970s), the mixing of races and intermarriage was forbidden.. Excerpted from Christianity Today June 3, 2020



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	deekayel@comcast.net
Fellowship	Judi Hubbard	(360) 532-8577	jhubbard1952@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

amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle, Greg Johnstone,
Charles Scamman, 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
*AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Grays Harbor***



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of
Grays Harbor

111 E. 4th Street
Aberdeen, WA 98520
360.532.8250

amazing111@comcast.net
www.amazinggraceaberdeen.org



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