



# The Spirit NOVEMBER 2013

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church – 111 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street - Aberdeen, WA 98520 - 360-532-8250**

Reformation Sunday I shared this picture with those of you who were in worship. Fear that the church was distorting this insight into the heart of the Good News was one of the reasons for the reformation. Martin Luther saw it as so central that he felt compelled to take drastic action, refusing to let go of the promise that he saw there.

The Lutheran church has, at times been accused of being wishy-washy; of being a closed club satisfied with our good theology but making little difference in the world. I think that is because at times it seems that we have misunderstood what it means that “There’s nothing you have to do.” We have nothing to do to save ourselves or to make ourselves right with God or to heal the brokenness that is part of being human. God has done all that needs to be done and we can’t add to it or detract from it. We are claimed by God. We are God’s BELOVED!

But, this is also true: “We [Christians] believe ourselves to be engaged this very moment in that which is the hope of the world. Our commitment is to the Lord of that redemptive community which has the task of pushing back its boundaries until it holds the world. There will be no peace or healing in our day unless little islands of koinonia [Christian community and fellowship shaped by the Holy Spirit] can spring up everywhere—islands where Christ is, and because he is, we can learn to live in a new way.” *Elizabeth O’Connor*



God has done everything that is needed to heal us so that we can know God’s love fully, completely, truly. What is left to us is our response to that life-changing truth!

We see around us the evidence of broken lives: homelessness, addiction, children exposed to more horror than we will ever know, families racing through their lives feeling estranged from each other, longing for a better way but without good options; evidence of people not recognizing their own beloved-ness; not knowing how to live in that beloved-ness; not knowing that they are called to “islands of koinonia... where Christ is and because he is, we can learn to live in a new way.”

We don’t have to **do** anything and yet there is a world waiting to see what difference God’s love and God’s people make in the world. There is a world dying for lack of the hope, forgiveness, peace and freedom that we know are ours as followers of Jesus!

We don’t have to **do** anything to be loved by God. But, we have a **lifetime of sharing** God’s love; being ‘islands of Koinonia’ for a world starving for the truth.

We do this, being ‘islands of Koinonia,’ in many ways already. But, since it is **the hope of the world**, we may need a greater sense of urgency, a greater sense of God’s purpose for our lives so that our eyes are opened and our hearts are moved to take risks for the sake of bringing God’s peace and healing here and now.

Thank you for joining me on this walk with Christ. Tell me what ways God is opening your eyes and moving your heart and please pray with me that God will shape us even more into an island of koinonia for the sake of our world.

*Pastor Val*

# **November 2013 CHURCH CALENDAR**

1	Friday	Office Closed	
3	Sunday	9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.  11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	HYMN FEST (come early & sing your favorite hymn) Worship w/Holy Communion/Sunday School Fellowship Youth Meeting (Middle & High School students) Property Meeting (see article in newsletter) Music Teacher Showcase @ 7th Street, Hoquiam
5	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	CHURCH COUNCIL
6	Wednesday	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilting & Men's Maintenance Handbells Choir <i>Susan leaves on vacation. She will return on Wednesday, November 20th.</i>
8	Friday	Office Closed	
10	Sunday	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Worship w/Holy Communion/Sunday School Fellowship Communion Visitation Teams meeting Election of Thrivent Officers
12	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
13	Wednesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Handbells Choir
15	Friday	Office Closed	
17	Sunday	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship w/Holy Communion/Sunday School Program practice begins Fellowship
20	Wednesday	Susan returns from vacation 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilting & Men's Maintenance Handbells Choir
22	Friday	Office Closed	
24	Sunday	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.  11:15 a.m.	Worship w/Holy Communion/Sunday School Program practice Fellowship CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES DUE! (Stuffing due for Thanksgiving Food Baskets) THANKSGIVING PIE AUCTION & POTLUCK
27	Wednesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Handbells Choir
28	Thursday	HAPPY THANKSGIVING	
29	Friday	Office Closed	

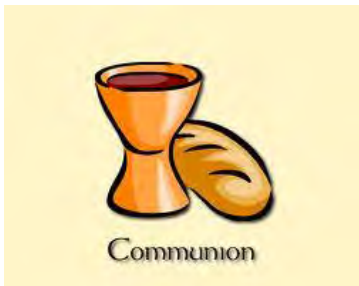
## **HYMN FEST**

Come to church around 9:45 a.m. to sing some of your favorite hymns. Kris Burns will provide the music. This will be a time when you can request your favorite hymns .... And we will sing them! **The Hymn Fest will happen on the first Sunday of each month.** *"Singing hymns are prayers to God's ear"* **PLEASE JOIN US! (November 3 & Dec. 1)**



**YOUTH MEETING for all Middle School & High School students: this Sunday, November 3, right after worship in the nursery. COME FOR GAMES, CONVERSATION & FOOD!!**

**PROPERTY MEETING.** Anyone interested in helping with various projects around the property, please plan to attend a meeting **after worship on Sunday, November 3.** Everyone is welcome, whether you've worked on projects for years or are thinking about getting involved. We'll be coordinating jobs and brainstorming solutions for a few projects. There's a lot to do here but many hands make light work and coordinating it all will make it manageable for everyone.



**COMMUNION VISITATION TEAMS** meet after worship next Sunday on **November 10th.** If you have been involved in taking Communion to shut-ins or if you think you might be interested in participating in this ministry, please plan to attend this meeting after worship. We'll talk about the practical aspects but also about how this fits into the larger ministry of the congregation.

**Sunday School families:** We will be collecting an offering in Sunday School each week during Advent which begins December 1<sup>st</sup>. The kids will choose something from the Giving Tree to purchase with the money collected. Remembering that everything we have, we have received from God helps us to keep our focus on Jesus in this joyful season of giving. Returning some of what God has given us helps those who have less to know God's love through us.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE**

**Practices begin on Sunday, November 17, 24 &**

**December 1, 8**

**Christmas Program: December 15th**



# ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK & PIE AUCTION



**Sunday, November 24th after worship.....Start preparing your pies.....**

**What you should bring: A-J Salads; K-O Desserts; P-Z Casseroles**

**or bring whatever is convenient for you!**

**Gary Morean will be our auctioneer extraordinaire!**

**It's Shoe Box Time!**  
**Bring filled boxes to Amazing Grace**  
**Nov. 17th - 24th.**

Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

- 1 Use an empty shoebox** (standard size)
- 2 Will your gift be for a boy or a girl?** age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
- 3 Fill the box** Ideas: small toys, school supplies, hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth -- NO liquids or lotions), cap, sunglasses, hair clips, flashlight, with batteries ...



- 3 Please donate \$7** You can write a check to Samaritan's Purse.
- 4 Place a rubber band around each shoebox** and bring it to church Sunday November 17th through November 24th. Leave them under the altar so they can be blessed before we ship them off!

# **NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Rachael Schermer, Geri Stubb
- 2 Heather Mitby
- 7 Lynn Tangvald
- 9 Jane Schermer, Cindy Schlaht
- 12 Jill Waite
- 13 Dave Edwards, Ken Mitchell
- 14 Leif Tangvald, Marc Waite
- 17 Craig Anneberg
- 18 Sharon Schermer
- 21 Greg Stubb
- 22 Theresa Kaufman
- 26 Judi Hubbard
- 27 Sarah (Braaten) Gardiner, Goldie Palmer, Roger Shaw
- 29 Jenifer Kaufman
- 30 Naomi Kraiger



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 27 Mark & Amy Ostwald

## **PRAYING FOR.....**

***Dorothy Schefstrom, Nicole Claussen, Pam Thorson, Chug Anneberg, Julie, Carey Trader, Al Carlberg, Cherie Vroman, BJ Bastin, Eileen Audett, Richard Kraiger, Leif Tangvald, Doug George, Captain Les Ratcliffe, Barb Williams, Jean Hanson (Diane's mom)***

***Prayers for the children of Leslie Lujan who were recently attacked by their family dog. Leslie was the former nursery assistant at Amazing Grace. The children were sent to the hospital but are now home recuperating.***

# thank you

- **Thank you to Edward Lapanwan** who provided us with the beautiful piano music on Sunday during worship. The music he played was the following: 1) *Praeludium by JS Bach* and 2) *Prelude Op.28 No.15 by F. Chopin*
- **Thank you to Keith & Krister Lile** for painting the front doors on the church. We can now be called the “Lutheran Church with the friendly BLUE DOOR....” Great job guys!
- **Thanks to Darrell Lokken & Gene Schermer (and all others who have helped) for scraping and painting around the windows.**
- **Many thanks to the Quilter’s** who recently sent our **90 quilts & 144 school kits** to Lutheran World Relief. The quilter’s also gave **51 quilts to local charities**. Thank you to the men who helped package and load the truck. The truck brings the items to Seattle and they are then sent on to Baltimore for distribution to other countries in need. (See pictures in this newsletter)
- **Thank you to those who have contributed items to the Grays Harbor Youth Center.** Please note the different items that are a continuing need for the Center:

*For shelter....Tooth brushes, Toothpaste, Girls jeans or pants smaller sizes (0-5), Gloves, Stocking hats, Chapstick, Cough drops, Oatmeal, Hair brushes, Combs, Lysol Wipes, Soups, Lunch Snacks (granola bars, hostess cakes, little Debbie’s, chips, non-perishable fruit, etc.)*

*For Street Outreach....Ponchos, Travel toothbrushes, Waterproof matches, Glow sticks, Gloves, Hats, Hot hands, Cough drops, Travel size lotions, Chapsticks, Small first aid kits, Travel size laundry detergents or Pods (like the new Tide Pods or ALL or all the different brands that come out with the little concentrated balls), Duct tape, Soup packets (like Lipton cup of soup), Instant Oatmeal in packets not bowls as they need to fit in our bags to carry easy*

If you prefer to give money, please make your checks out to

**GRAYS HARBOR YOUTH CENTER**



## **DONATE FROM YOUR COUCH – GH YOUTH CENTER**

So we have set up a wish list on Amazon.com that makes it possible for you to actually donate to our program straight from the comfort of your couch! We are so excited to find this program so please pass this link onto as many people as you like or refer them to our Facebook page, it is active and ready for people to start ordering from our wish list which will ship directly to us, no shopping, no going to the post office, no guessing on what our real needs are, it's all right there for you! Thanks for all your support! If anyone wants information on how to make this work for your program call or email me and I will be happy to share with you! *Erin Pankey, Program Supervisor*

<http://amzn.com/w/3JUHI5MAZNQQK>

## **MUSIC TEACHER SHOWCASE: 7<sup>th</sup> STREET THEATER, NOVEMBER 3, 7:30 p.m.**

Seventeen area music teachers from the public schools and private studios will perform in our third Music Teacher Showcase. The concert will feature both solo and ensemble performances, including piano, strings, guitar, woodwinds, brass, and voice.

Merry Jo Zimmer (piano), Jeffrey Freed (violin), and Jenny Leighton (cello) will perform two movements from the Mendelssohn Trio in D Minor. Violinist Karen Meikle and Merry Jo Zimmer will also perform with Wendy Koski in Isomuro's "Spring Suite for Euphonium, Violin and Piano."

Violinists Debra Akerlund and Karen Meikle, accompanied by Merry Jo Zimmer, will perform three violin duets by Shostakovich, and flute teachers Connie Bevington and Beth Ginther will perform a flute duet, "Andante and Rondo" by Doppler, also accompanied by Merry Jo Zimmer.

Mezzo-soprano Joy Dorsch, a voice teacher at Grays Harbor College, will perform a vocal solo accompanied by Ruth Kivi, and voice teacher Christine Hill will perform a vocal solo and two duets with Ken Albert.

Voice and piano teacher Kari Hasbrouck will perform a vocal solo, piano teacher Rebekah Cowles will perform an arrangement of "Over the Rainbow" by Dan Coates, and piano teacher Nikkol Daniels will perform "Toccata in D Minor" by Bach with a segue into "Stairway to Heaven" by Coates. Guitar teacher Bruce Hughes will also perform two selections.

## **FOOD BANK HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS**



### **HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS**



**BREAD / STUFFING MIX NEEDED!**

Thanksgiving / bring by November 24  
& Christmas Baskets / by December 20

Bring to the Parish Hall or Church Office

If you wish, write a check to: Darrell Lokken

## **SALVATION ARMY KETTLE DRIVE**

Join Amazing Grace in supporting the  
"Salvation Army Kettle Klash"

**THURSDAY**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5th**

**HARBOR CITY CHURCH**

**(formerly Alexander Young Elementary)**

**Doors open @ 11:30 a.m.**



The Annual Salvation Army Kettle Klash will be on Thursday December 5. This year Pastor Val will be our team captain for the fun-filled affair. There will be a great lunch prepared by the O'Briens, special music and the usual Kettle Klash, when each of the team captains take their red kettle throughout the audience collecting donations from those attending. Last year the Klash earned nearly \$19,000 for The Grays Harbor Core of the Salvation Army. All of these funds are used by the Army's Social Service to meet human needs in our area.

Tickets for the Kettle Klash are \$15.00 each and pays for the wonderful luncheon. Get your ticket at the Church office or from Dorothy Stephens. Last year Amazing Grace had the most people of any team and we would like to do that again.

If you cannot attend but would like to make a donation, leave your donation with Susan or the church office. Checks should be made out to Grays Harbor Salvation Army.

## **NOVEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Week of November 3** Dan 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149  
(All Saints Sunday) Eph 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31

**Week of November 10** Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9  
(Pentecost 25) 2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38

**Week of November 17** Mal 4:1-2a Psalm 98  
(Pentecost 26) 2 Thess 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

**Week of November 24** Jer 23:1-6 Psalm 46  
(Christ the King) Col 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43



## NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3—ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY (Choir sings)

**Pastor:** Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant:** Diane Hanson; **Communion Assistant:** Helen Eklund; **Ushers / Greeters:** Loyd Gill & Nancy Miller; **Reader:** Chris Seelke; **Depositors:** Karen & Mike Barkstrom; **SS Teachers:** **Pre-1:** Anneliese Kraiger; **2-6:** Amy Ostwald; **Fellowship Hosts:** Dee Erickson, Amy & Mark Ostwald; **UNION GOSPEL MISSION:** (Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Hostess: Donna Spere)

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10—25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Pastor:** Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant:** Arlene Torgerson; **Communion Assistant:** Richard Kraiger; **Ushers / Greeters:** Dennis & Donna Morrisette; **Reader:** Elaine Lokken; **Depositors:** Bob Salmon & Donna Spere; **SS Teachers:** **Pre-1:** Kristne Finazzo & Nicole Evanson; **2-6:** Stephanie & Amanda Kaufman; **Fellowship Hosts:** Diane Hanson, Ray & Jean Hodge, Suzy & Scott Laird, Pete & Mary Ann Majar

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17—26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Pastor:** Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant:** Trish Safstrom; **Communion Assistant:** Mark Smalley; **Ushers / Greeters:** Eileen & Gene Schermer; **Reader:** Carmon Shaw; **Depositors:** Ray & Jean Hodge; **SS Teachers:** **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE** (Donna Morrisette, Molly Leithold, Stephanie & Amanda Kaufman); **Fellowship Hosts:** Bob & Mary Ellen Salmon, Arlene Torgerson, Vicki Mitchell & Ginny Clark

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH —CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant:** Jill Waite; **Ushers / Greeters:** Trish & Mark Smalley-Safstrom; **Communion Assistant:** Mike Barkstrom; **Reader:** Cathy Kallio; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Pete Majar; **SS Teachers:** **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE** (Donna Morrisette, Anneliese Kraiger, Chris Seelke); **Fellowship Hosts:** PIE AUCTION; **Union Gospel Mission** (December 3) Judi Hubbard

#### DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

- 1 Kaufman, Williams, Alstrom, Carle
- 8 Kelling, Shaw, Green, Seelke
- 15 Schermer, Tieder, Ebel
- 22 Kraiger, Natwick, Kupkas
- 29 Bring Cookies (D. Erickson, Ostwald, Morrisette)



**BIBLE QUIZZING:** A group of students who have memorized the book of James and the 1<sup>st</sup> three chapters of Romans. The upcoming quiz meet will test their mastery of the material. It allows them to compete individually and as teams and to have a lot of fun with other teams in the NW District. **This meet is being hosted this year at the 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. Church of Aberdeen, 4<sup>th</sup> & Broadway, FRIDAY, NOV 15 @ 7 p.m. & continues through SAT, NOV 16 from 8 a.m. with worship & devotions. The quizzing begins at 9 a.m. and ends around 4 p.m.** You & your family are invited to come and see what Bible Quizzing is all about during the meet.

Housing for students (and adults) is needed for Friday night. Students can sleep on the floor (they will bring a sleeping bag) but adults would appreciate a bed. A small nutritious snack would be appreciated on Friday night, as well as breakfast the next morning. The quizzers will be ready for the host homes about 10 p.m. Friday night and return back to the church at 8:15 Saturday morning. IF INTERESTED, contact Rick Hole @ 360-5813189.



**VACATION CRUISIN' WITH SUSAN.....** Ports of call: Miami, St. Maartens, St. Thomas, Nassau, Bahamas & back to Miami. Susan will leave on Wednesday, November 6 and will return on Wednesday, November 20. Pastor Val will be in the office on Tues-Fri. If Pastor is not there, please leave a message and she will get back to you.

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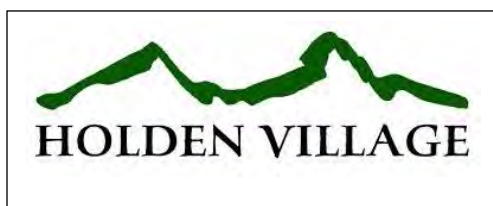
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### **Women's Retreat at Holden Village on February 7-10, 2014**

This event fills up fast, so sign up as soon as possible. We all register ourselves and then we can make travel plans to Chelan together. <http://www.holdenvillage.org/visit/reservations/>. Please let Joan Rabung know once they register so that she can get an accurate list. Email to: [jjrabung@yahoo.com](mailto:jjrabung@yahoo.com)



### **PLU CONCERT**

Joan Rabung is purchasing group tickets for the **PLU CHRISTMAS Concert**  
**Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm.**

We will have two five star vans so we can all ride together. If you are interested,  
Email to: [jjrabung@yahoo.com](mailto:jjrabung@yahoo.com)

# **Amazing Grace Church Council**

## **10/1/13 - Meeting Minutes**

### **Council Members present:**

President – Arlene Torgerson; Vice President – William Rabung; Secretary – Jeannette Green; Treasurer – Barb Williams; Fellowship- Joan Rabung; Worship- Lynette Lile; Youth & Family – Dee Erickson / Absent; Outreach – Kristine Finazzo; Property – Coleman Carle / Absent; Financial Secretary – Jim Weiberg; Pastor Val Metropoulos

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Pastor Val led council in a centering exercise and prayer.

### **Treasurer Report:**

Barb presented the checking balance at an estimated \$3,294.67 with September payroll expenses paid. William moved to pay bills as presented. Lynette 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion about the change in health insurance for church employees. William moved to approve the continuation of the Gold Plus insurance coverage for Pastor Val and Susan. We will get a subgroup together to review insurance options for our next budget year to decide what we can afford. Lynette 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Financial Secretary's Report**

Jim reported we received \$12,550. We balanced out the month of August since it was higher than average.

### **Youth, Family, & Education:**

No report.

### **Fellowship:**

Joan reported that so far three people have expressed interest in going to the retreat at Holden in February, if you are interested contact Joan ASAP. The pie auction will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November right after church. Advent activities will include a Luftsa making party and Holden Vespers. Christmas caroling will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **Outreach:**

Kristine reminded everyone about the stroganoff dinner on the 13<sup>th</sup>. So far there are about 30 people who have purchased tickets. Raffle tickets are also being sold for \$1. Judy is working on additional donations for multiple raffle items such as driftwood tickets, dinners, wines.

### **Property:**

Coleman was absent.

Arlene reported the urinal still needs to be fixed in the shelter. The lease for the shelter is automatically renewed every two years unless either party has an issue.

The original lease was signed in 2006. We would like to invite Erin to our next council meeting to share what's happening with the youth in the shelter.

### **Worship:**

Lynette reported, we will have a processional next Sunday.

Reformation Sunday is at the end of the month.

We will have a 9:45 a.m. hymn sing-along prior to church starting.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Val shared she has attended cottage meetings. She has visited Channel Point for shut-in visits. She has visited with Carey Trader.

She met with Sarah T. Channel regarding our youth Jr. Sr. High group, which will meet at 11:30 on Sunday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

Payroll policy- There was discussion about updating a memo that was dated April 22, 2010 under the subject: change to current time sheet/payroll procedure.

This memo will be updated signed by council president, Council Treasurer, and employees who turn in time cards.

Pastor Val asked if we have a mutual ministry committee. She shared in her experience the committee is formed by council and is made up of 4-5 people who have positive attitudes and who can maintain confidentiality. They are individuals who provide insight and act as a soundboard.

The constitution needs to be fixed Pastor Val will work with Gene Schermer to have ready for the January Meeting.

Since there was no more business the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:35 p.m.





# PASTOR VAL'S INSTALLATION



## QUILT SUNDAY, October 27, 2013



### Recent Wedding

Mr. & Mrs. Kyle & Ingrid Morean

2715-11<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Apt #1

Washington, D.C. 20001



Wedding picture of Ingrid Stegemoeller & Kyle Morean

*"Children of our Church"*



# AMAZING LUTHERAN CHURCH

111-1/2 East 4th Street

Phone: 360-532-8250

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

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

*"The Church where Grace Happens!"*

## **AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**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**

### **STAFF**

Pastor, Valyn Metropoulos

Susan Bylund, Office Administrator

Kristine Burns, Organist & Handbell

Hank Bilderback, Choir Director

Cathy Kallio, Custodian