

The Spirit FEBRUARY 2014

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church – 111 E. 4th Street - Aberdeen, WA 98520 - 360-532-8250 webpage: amazinggraceaberdeen.org Email: amazing111@comcast.net

WHAT THE HECK IS LINT? (and other common questions)

Humility is not a matter of beating ourselves up. It is not a question of judging ourselves as stupid or sinful, as hopeless and bad. Who are we to judge these things? Humility is the gentle acceptance of that most tender place inside ourselves that throbs with the pain of separation from the Beloved [God]... It is the Sabbath of the soul when we heed the call to cease creating and remember that we are created.

Mirabai Starr

Actually, it's L E N T and the short answer to my own question is: because it (Lent) allows us time to practice humility and humility is essential if we are to live our faith and walk with Jesus as disciples. (Ok, not so short.) Humility is about as counter cultural a practice as can be found in America in the 21st century so practicing humility and supporting one another in that practice takes intentional time and effort. As the quote above points out, humility is the stance we take in order to experience God as God and to experience our proper relationship with God as God's beloved. Taking any other stance sets us up to try to be God of our own lives and distorts the life of discipleship.

Practicing humility is not degrading. Humility is empowering since it affirms our responsibility in relationship with God. Practicing humility can be as simple (and as difficult) as rearranging our schedule so that we can show up and participate in worship each

week (which we do not only for ourselves, but for those others in our community of faith who need us to be there – we never know what impact our presence or our absence will have.) It can be as simple (and as difficult) as committing to participating in midweek Lent gatherings. (Our musicians have agreed to provide leadership for two Holden Evening Prayer services every Tuesday night during Lent. We will share a meal in between those services so that either before or after the meal you can participate in worship. My hope is that a month's notice will allow time to plan for this schedule change.) We practice humility when we recognize that we don't have all the answers and can't do this life of faith on our own. We need each other, which is why Jesus established the church, so that we would never have to, or try to, go it alone! Like it or not, life hands us many ways to practice humility other than attending Lent services here at Amazing Grace. But that's one of our reasons for being, so I hope we can support one another in that.

There is an ELCA mission congregation in Denver, House for All Saints and Sinners led by a tattooed, self-described "sarcastic" Lutheran, Nadia Bolz-Weber. She says that she and the handful of people who began the new congregation with her knew they needed to "experience the heart of the Christian year" [Lent and the three days of Easter] together. Rev. Bolz-Weber says, "It was only having walked through the paschal mystery of Jesus' betrayal, death and resurrection that we were able to start talking with any integrity about who we were as people of God and how might we be the church together."

HFASS is an 'emerging' church which means different things to different people. But usually, emergent churches appeal to those who are **unfamiliar or disillusioned with the organized and institutional church**. Their approach, in general, is to look at every aspect of church life and how it interacts with the culture, retaining what is essential and faithful and rejecting what is unnecessary or in their view, may be even harmful to contemporary Christian community.

Amazing Grace is a long way from being a mission start congregation. But, since we face a time in American history when there are unprecedented numbers of people claiming NO religious affiliation; unprecedented numbers identifying themselves as

spiritual-but-not-religious/atheist/agnostic and since we live in the part of the country with the LEAST number of church goers, maybe it would serve us well to see ourselves as, at least in some ways, EMERGENT. If that perspective helps us to open our-selves to see new possibilities for how God is calling us into the future to be the church, faithfully participating with God in what God is already doing here, then maybe that would be a good way for us to understand ourselves.

A beginning would be for us to experience "the heart of the Christian year together." It's interesting that as "emerging" churches reclaim the traditional liturgies of the church (with their unique modifications) for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, more traditional mainline churches, such as Amazing Grace are seeing a decline in the number of people who attend these worship times. I'm not sure what that means. But, I do know that these are services are grounded in scripture and can bring us into the mystery of God's presence.

Ash Wednesday we receive the cross of ashes on our forehead and hear the words spoken **for us**, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," a vital reminder that we are mortal and we are sinners, regardless of how we understand that theologically. Weekly, we meet Tuesday evenings for the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service and a shared meal, reinforcing cross+generational relationships and experiencing faith practices that will strengthen us and support one another as we all live into our baptismal promises to teach the faith to the next generations.

Lent culminates in Holy Week with services (really, one service in three parts) on each of the Three Days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. This year, all of these services will be held at Amazing Grace. Maundy Thursday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper by receiving this gift of grace with those who have gone through a time of instruction during Lent, learning about what communion is and what it means for us. This instruction is especially for children who may or may not have been receiving communion all ready. If you feel your child would benefit from this instruction, please let me know so that they can be included. If there is interest in an adult version of this instruction, we will do that as well. Let me know by emailing me or Susan in the office or by phoning the

office. (All of those numbers and addresses are on the back of the worship folder every week.)

Gathering around these stories of Jesus' life, death and resurrection grounds us as people of God in the mystery of the cross interpreted by the resurrection and the resurrection interpreted by the cross. As Christians, that is where we find our identity: in cross and resurrection held together. If we focus only on the cross and Good Friday OR only on resurrection and Easter, we distort the faith and miss the meaning of both. This is not easy for us to understand and not comfortable for us to live, which is why we need each other and why we need to revisit this heart of our faith every year. That is why we need not only the joy of Easter morning but also the stark space and honest words of Good Friday.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Lent worship and cross+generational gatherings begin Tuesday, March 11th and continue every Tuesday through April 8th. Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13th. Maundy Thursday is April 17th followed by Good Friday and Easter on April 20th. Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ at Amazing Grace and invite friends and neighbors to these times of formation and worship so that we can experience the mystery together and be formed to be God's people here for this time.

May you live this month in the peace of knowing that God is with you!

Pastor Val

PRAYER



We all pray, but some people feel especially called to pray on behalf of others and for the needs of the world, our community and our congregation. If you are interested in learning more about prayer as a faith practice or if you are interested in serving on a prayer chain please sign up in the parish hall. Talk to Pastor Val for more information.



COME TO THE QUILTER'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON: Sunday, February 9th immediately following the worship service. Menu will include: SOUP, French bread, fruit & cookies. Donations will be accepted.

Monies will be used to defray costs of the Health Kits that are sent to LWR in May. The quilters hope to send 150 kits this year. If you cannot attend, the quilters will accept donations. Just give your check or cash to one of the quilters.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, 3/2 Choir sings @ AGLC

Wednesday, 3/5 ASH WEDNESDAY

Tuesdays, March 11-

April 8th Holden Evening Service

followed by soup and +cross gen activity followed by Holden Evening Service

Sunday, March 16 Bells play @ AGLC

FELLOWSHIP, FOOD & FUN: St. Patrick Dinner

February 2014 CHURCH CALENDAR

2 Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:45 a.m. HYMN FEST 10:00 a.m.Worship

Installation of Council & Recognition of Outgoing Council Members & Visitation Blessing

11:00 a.m. FELLOWSHIP 12:00 p.m. CONFIRMATION

4 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. CHURCH COUNCIL

7:00 p.m. UNION GOSPEL MISSION

5 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Quilting & Maintenance

6:00 p.m. HANDBELLS 7:00 p.m. CHOIR

7 Friday Office Closed

9 Sunday FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Quilter's Soup Luncheon Youth Meeting

12 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Quilting & Maintenance

6:00 p.m. HANDBELLS 7:00 p.m. CHOIR

14 Friday Office Closed / VALENTINE'S DAY

16 Sunday SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

10:00 a.m. Worship / Handbells play 11:00 a.m. FELLOWSHIP

11:00 a.m. FELLOWSHIP 12:00 p.m. CONFIRMATION

19 Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Handbells

7:00 p.m. Choir

21 Friday Office Closed

23 Sunday SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

10:00 a.m. Worship (Choir at Saron)

11:00 a.m. FELLOWSHIP

Youth Meetina

26 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Quilting & Maintenance

6:00 p.m. Handbells 7:00 p.m. Choir

28 Friday Office Closed

Don't Forget our HYMN FESTS

Come to church around 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 2 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!

PRAYING FOR.....

Nicole Claussen, Pam Thorson, Julie, Carey Trader, Al Carlberg, Cherie Vroman, BJ Bastin, Eileen Audett, Richard Kraiger, Doug George, Barb Williams, Betty Mitchell, Christopher Robin, Ray Hodge, Yvette Storsved, Chrissy Kincaid, Jim & Peggy Erickson, Jaime Matisons and those who are homeless.

YOUTH SHELTER NEEDS

If you want to give the Youth Shelter kids a gift during the year, please check their wish list at Amazon.com, where the books they want are listed.

The Youth Shelter has 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

YOUTH CENTER NEEDS: paper products: plates, paper towels and toilet paper (1-ply). The shelter list on Amazon has recently been updated.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Maizie Jane Jewitt
- 6 Mike Barkstrom, Jane Teveliet, Kylie Weiberg
- 7 Krister Lile
- 11 Joyce Smith, Doris Tieder
- 13 Joelle Dickson
- 16 Joseph Finazzo
- 17 Allison Dickson, Emil Frafjord, Darci Jewitt, Amy Ostwald
- 18 Elaine Lokken
- 20 Donna Spere
- 22 Brady Green
- 23 Phil Penttila
- 25 Molly Leithold
- 26 Charlotte Kupka, Mari Rabung

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 James & Jeannette Green
- 13 William & Joan Rabung
- 14 Phil & Cindy Penttila
- 17 Rich & Cherie Vroman
- 23 Jim & Michelle Weiberg
- Dave & Kim EdwardsJim & Peggy Erickson

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of February 2: Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Week of February 9: Isaiah 58:1-9 [9b-12], Psalm 112:1-9 [10], 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Week of February 16: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

Week of February 23: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Psalm 119:33-40, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23, Matthew 5:38-48

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2—4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; Liturgist: Keith Lile; Worship Assistant: Lynn Tangvald; Communion Assistant: Jenifer Kaufman; Ushers / Greeters: Bob &

Mary Ellen Salmon; Reader: Steve Swanson;

Depositors: Mike & Judi Hubbard; **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Making Valentine cards — Hiedi Seelke; **Union Gospel Mission:** Tuesday, February 4 (Eileen Schermer);

Fellowship Hosts: Dee Erickson & Ostwalds

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9—5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; Liturgist: Laura Carle; Worship Assistant: Molly Leithold; Communion Assistant: John Pellessier; Ushers / Greeters: Dennis & Donna Morrisette; Reader: Richard Kraiger; Depositors: Mark Ostwald & Pete Majar; SUNDAY SCHOOL: Anneliese Kraiger; Fellowship Hosts: QUILTERS' SOUP LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16—6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; Liturgist: Hank Bilderback; Worship Assistant: Jeannette Green; Communion Assistant: Madi Green; Ushers / Greeters: James & Brady Green; Reader: Carmon Shaw; Depositors: Ray & Jean Hodge; SS Teachers: Anneliese Kraiger; Fellowship Hosts: Finazzo, Evanson, Ellingsen, Hubbard

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; Liturgist: Keith Lile; Worship Assistant: Steve Swanson; Communion Assistant: Mari Rabung; Ushers / Greeters: William & Joan Rabung; Reader: Walt Ebel; Depositors: Darrell Lokken & Mike Barkstrom; Sunday School Teacher: Laura Carle; Fellowship Hosts: Bylund, Bilderback, Kallio, Southern

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; Liturgist: Hank Bilderback; Worship Assistant: Mark Smalley; Communion Assistant: Trish Safstrom; Ushers / Greeters: Tim & Pam Alstrom; Reader: Judi Hubbard; Depositors: Donna Spere & Bob Salmon; Sunday School Teacher: Laura Carle; Fellowship Hosts: Alstrom, Tieder, Salmon, Schermer

In making up our lists for Worship Assistants, we are attempting to have families serve together., also..... we would like everyone to participate in worship so please let Susan know if you are interested!

YOU CAN DO IT!

Chicken Dinner Update Thank you thank you !!!

Thanks to some very generous members: Thrivent Financial, the Endowment Committee and the congregational support with our dinners and raffles. We have accomplished our "first" goal. Our last dinner brought in \$1920.00 WOW!

The grand prize winners were the following: Dinner and theatre tickets to Rediviva--Helen Eklund;
Mariner tickets-Richard Kraiger; Facial by Lori Walsh--Arlene Torgerson and two Driftwood tickets-Eileen Schermer; Raffle basket by Donna---Carmon Shaw; Cookies--Kathy Wehage

Thank you to the Barkstroms for all of their culinary efforts---from set up-- to clean up-- to baking fresh bread to --planning ---shopping ---etc. etc. We have developed into a well-oiled machine. We still have some projects to complete so the FOOD---
FELLOWSHIP---FUNDRAISING dinners will continue as long as you continue to support these events.

Signed, Your FUN committee!

P.S. Thank you Kristine, Jill, Marge, Chrissy, Laura, Eileen, Donna, the youth servers, Joan, Mike, Al, Doris, John, Mark

IF YOU STOP BY JAY'S FARM STAND, PLEASE THANK THEM FOR THE FOODS THEY PROVIDED FOR THE CHICKEN DINNER.

THANK YOU'S

**Dear Amazing Grace Parishoners, We just want to let you know how we believe you truly ROCK! All the youth loved all the gifts you donated at Christmas, they were so generous of you. Thank you so very much! All of you are so wonderful to us with all that you do to help us with our mission in serving the homeless and at-risk youth whether donating food, clothes, blankets, hygiene products, gifts or prayers. All of these are appreciated as well as important and so very helpful. Thank you again to each and every one of you. May God bless all of your wonderful souls. Sincerely, Erin Pankey

**Dear Amazing Grace Endowment Board Members, We want to express our most sincere appreciation to you for the generous financial donation from the Endowment Fund. You could have chosen to give that money to a number of people or organizations and we feel so blessed that you chose us. I assure you that the money will be put to good use in helping the youth in this community, as they have so many needs. Thank you again so very much. May God bless each of you! We truly love our Amazing Grace Lutherans! Sincerely, Erin Pankey

**To all those at Amazing Grace Lutheran, Thank you for letting us use your facilities and for showing us your hospitality. Thanks. From the Catholic Community Services G.H. Transitional Housing.

THANK

THANK YOU to Hank Bilderback, Diane Hanson, Kathy Wehage, Lynnette Lile, Amy Ostwald and Pastor Val for taking their time and energy and recently attended a session in Tacoma learning about worship possibilities.

Thank you to John Tieder, Gene Schermer, Steve Swanson, Roger Shaw, Jesse Channel for the work that was done in the sanctuary. Thanks to Ray Hodge for providing the scaffolding. Thanks to Keith Lile & Coleman Carle for the insulation work in the pipe room and the work in the entry way.

THANKS to all those who donated items and helped with the recent PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT. This endeavor proved very successful in helping the homeless in our community.

THANKS to **Cathy Kallio** who continues to keep our church facilities sparkling & shining in all ways.

THANKS to Lynnette Lile, Arlene Torgerson & Jim Weiberg for their diligent work on the Church Council. We also thank the following people who will serve in leadership on our Church Council for the coming year:

Mark Smalley	(360) 249-1955
William Rabung	(360) 533-1050
Jeannette Green	(360) 532-2888
Barb Williams	(360) 612-3632
Mike Kupka	(360)533-6640
Joan Rabung	(360) 533-1050
Kris Finazzo	(360) 532-6053
Diane Hanson	(360) 533-0601
Dee Erickson	(360) 533-7948
Coleman Carle	(360) 538-1137
John Tieder	(360) 533-4951
	William Rabung Jeannette Green Barb Williams Mike Kupka Joan Rabung Kris Finazzo Diane Hanson Dee Erickson Coleman Carle

Amazing Grace Church Council 01/07/14- Meeting Minutes

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Council Members present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

<u>Treasurer Report</u>: Barb presented December bills. Coleman moved to approve the payment of December bills. Lynette 2nd. Motion passed. Our checking Balance as of 12/31/13 in is \$3,062.56.

Barb presented the 2014 proposed budget with a couple of minor changes. Dee moved to approve the 2014 budget, Coleman 2nd it. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report: Jim reported our record of giving for December was \$16,795. In looking at our 2013 budgeted expenses we are at 93% of our yearly budgeted expenses.

Fellowship: No Report

<u>Outreach</u>: Kristine reminded everyone about the dinner this Sunday. She and Judi are still selling raffle tickets through the week and after Church on Sunday.

<u>Property:</u> Coleman inquired about the door by the shelter and to whether or not someone is making sure if it is getting locked after church and events at the church. The question was asked if checking the door near the shelter to make sure it is locked should be one of the responsibilities for fellowship hosts. This brought up the discussion of developing checklists for ushers, worship assistants, and others who help on Sundays. Coleman also reported he had not heard anything about rodents in the shelter and neither has Pastor. Hopefully we have seen the last of those visitors.

Worship: Lynette wanted to share much appreciation to many of our church members who helped decorate the sanctuary. From the tree to the swags, we were **blessed throughout the season. There will be new** liturgies with new hymns. The Worship Committee will try to have a few more hymns that people know to end our service with. On January 17-18, many of our Worship Committee will attend a workshop to learn about faith, music, and art. The next committee meeting will be January 14th.

<u>Youth & Family:</u> Dee reported the youth will go sledding on Saturday, January 11 at Paradise by Mt. Rainier.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Val outlined her activities for the month of December.

Worship Leadership

4 Sunday worship services

2 Christmas services

Chose hymns and liturgies

Sermon – study, reading, writing, text study meeting

Prepared bulletins with secretary

Prayer

Administration

Staff meeting – weekly
Council meeting – monthly
Newsletter – help secretary with content
Staff evaluation

Pastoral Care/Counseling

Hospital visits - 1

• Outreach/Visitation

Homebound and assisted living visits

• Meetings:

Project Homeless Connect – coordinating efforts to meet needs of homeless and fragile individuals and families; Sarah Monroe, deacon at St. Andrew's – coordinating services; Erin Pankey – Youth Center needs Coordinated caroling with assisted living facilities Kettle Klash for Salvation Army Designed newspaper ad for Christmas

Building and Maintenance

Cleaned up clutter (hymnals, papers, etc.) in sanctuary Set up for +Gen event

Youth and Family

Planned, prepared, and presented Cross+Generational Advent event.

Meet w/ Sarah Teveliet Channel – Youth Group – before each youth meeting

Confirmation beginning next week – I hope.

Vacation Days set

2 days of vacation in January (not on Sundays)

• Continuing Education

Bishop's Eucharist in Elma with all local pastors.

 New Business: Jeannette expressed concern with the process of the minutes. They are not always reviewed and/or commented on by all council members via e-mail. Council decided that after minutes are sent out each council member will hit "Reply All" and state they approve the minutes and/or make changes.

Jeannette also shared two different facility rental agreements. One was very simple and one was quite complex. She will work with Pastor to draft a combination of the two and then present to council.

Pastor led council in devotions that gave members the opportunity to reflect over the past year on council.

Since there was no more business the meeting was closed at 9:20 p.m. with a blessing for each of us given by each of us.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

As our world changes and the Christian faith is increasingly marginalized or misunderstood it is important for us to understand our own practices. Please join a group exploring some interesting questions like, "What is that we do when we worship? How is God involved in worship? What is essential in worship and what is not? We'll read and discuss a small book together, "Central Things: Worship in Word and Sacrament." Sign up in the parish hall. There will be space for you to indicate what day and time would be best for you to meet.



HELP NEEDED

We have a couple jobs in the office that can be done by a member of the congregation. You can do it yourself or get a couple people to help you. They are jobs that can be done at the church or at home.

1) Organizing bulletin cover art work by Ken Mitchell so that they can be used better on our church bulletins. Pastor Val can help explain this job to you and, if you are interested contact her. Ken has drawn many great pieces of art which we are anxious to use.

OR

2) Organize information given by members regarding their gifts and talents so that they can be matched with various ministries. Remember the forms we all filled out with personal info and various interests we would like to share? We would like to see these organized by interests so that we can use all the talents we have in our congregation. Contact Susan if you are interested.

If you never filled one of these sheets out, please contact Susan and she will give you a copy.



WHO IS CELEBRATING THEIR 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE?

The Congregation is invited to the 60th Anniversary of

Bob & Mary Ellen Salmon Saturday, March 22, 2014 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Rotary Log Pavilion

Please RSVP:

kim.dixon@me.com or (425) 922-3750

Come & enjoy the festivities; a light buffet will be served with a champagne toast

AMAZING LUTHERAN CHURCH

111-1/2 East 4th Street

Phone: 360-532-8250

Email: amazing111@comcast.net

Website: 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