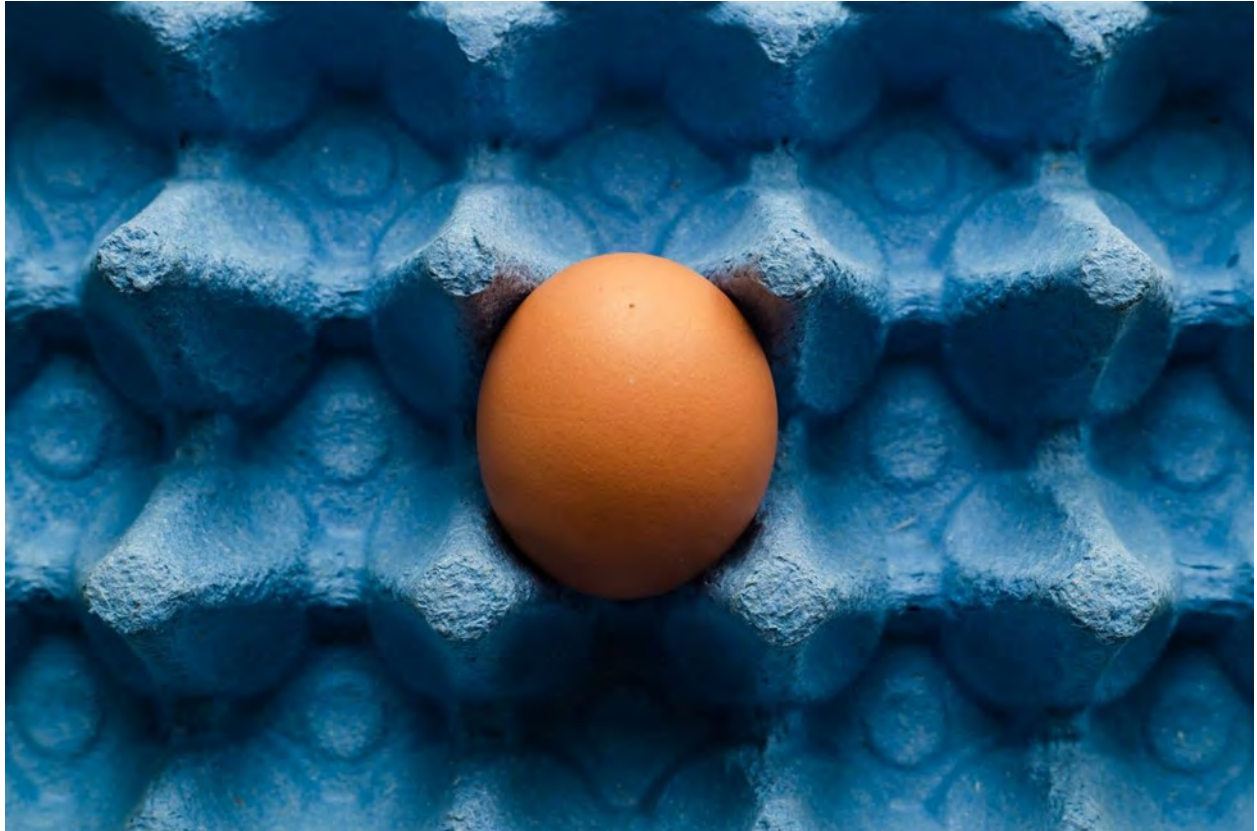


The Spirit

September 2020

Amazing
Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF GRAYS HARBOR



A Quiet Life

What a person desires in life
is a properly boiled egg.
This isn't as easy as it seems.
There must be gas and a stove,
the gas requires pipelines, mastodon drills,
banks that dispense the lozenge of capital.
There must be a pot, the product of mines
and furnaces and factories,
of dim early mornings and night-owl shifts,
of women in kerchiefs and men with
sweat-soaked hair.
Then water, the stuff of clouds and skies
and God knows what causes it to happen.
There seems always too much or too little
of it and more pipelines, meters, pumping
stations, towers, tanks.
And salt - a miracle of the first order,
the ace in any argument for God.

Only God could have imagined from
nothingness the pang of salt.
Political peace too. It should be quiet
when one eats an egg. No political hoodlums
knocking down doors, no lieutenants who are
ticked off at their scheming girlfriends and
take it out on you, no dictators
posing as tribunes.
It should be quiet, so quiet you can hear
the chicken, a creature usually mocked as a type of
fool, a cluck chained to the chore of her body.
Listen, she is there, pecking at a bit of grain
that came from nowhere.

+ Baron Wormser

Sometimes, when the stuff of life becomes too much, we are only able to look more closely at what is simply before us; that which is given in this moment. We offer thanks if that is ours to give. We may be able only to pay attention, seeing the gift just as it is, whatever it is and simply being with it.

There is no grace in skimming over the hard parts, like a water strider gliding on the surface unaware of the depths below. There is no forgiveness needed for simply being here now.

Someday, perhaps, thanks will be ours to give again. Someday, perhaps. Now, bidden or unbidden God is present.



Southwestern Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Congressman John Lewis, who died this past week, lived out his faith and served his country by making “good trouble”. When something was happening that was terribly unjust...for example, when African American people were not permitted to eat at “whites only” restaurants or when people of color were not allowed to vote...Lewis bravely confronted and “troubled” those who were acting unfairly, so that they would start doing what was right. He stirred up “good trouble” for a good and necessary outcome.

The reformer, Martin Luther, did that as well (which is why a friend of John Lewis was named, Martin Luther King, Jr.) In the 1500's, when the reformer Luther saw church leaders selling early release tickets out of purgatory, called indulgences, and saw the church focusing more on accumulating wealth than proclaiming the love of God, Luther “troubled” the church leaders with his public speeches and writings, wanting them to change. For those of us who are thankful that the Reformation took place, that was “good trouble.”

Jesus also practiced “good trouble.” Along with his

STIRRING UP “GOOD TROUBLE”

constant compassion and healing for suffering people, Jesus challenged, confronted and disobeyed local leaders when they blocked God's love and caused people to suffer. He turned over the tables of the money changers in Jerusalem, he repeatedly upset the Pharisees by welcoming social outcasts into his community, and he even troubled his mother into expanding her sense of who her “family” was.

John Lewis was committed to God's vision of dignity, freedom and justice for all, and he knew that in order to change imbedded, unfair laws, you often needed to protest injustice with your actions, as well as your words.

However...and this is a vital part of Lewis' faith-practice...John Lewis never resorted to violence as a tactic. Rather, following the example of Martin Luther King, Jr., Lewis practiced civil disobedience and non-violent resistance when he challenged an unjust law or social practice.

Jesus, also, never resorted to violence against people when he opposed sinful and unjust systems. “Those who live by the sword will die by the sword,” he said. Tragically, Martin Luther did resort to violence

when he encouraged the rulers in Germany to kill the poor farmers who were revolting against abuse. Even more terribly, Luther told the German authorities to imprison Jewish people, deny them work, take away their property, and even kill them, simply for being Jewish. Four hundred years later, the German Nazis used Luther's writings to justify the murder of six million Jewish people. These are actions of Luther for which we modern day Lutherans repent.

I am writing about John Lewis not only to honor a great model of faith, but also to help myself sort through my own feelings about both protest and the violence done by some protestors on the city streets of America.

I completely support the right and necessity of public protest, which is one of our constitutional rights as American citizens and also part of our Christian calling. Silence or apathy is not an option when people are being mistreated. In our nation, black, brown, and indigenous people routinely experience cruelty, violence, and disrespect. If the governing authorities will not correct that, then all citizens should band together and make some "good trouble" until they do.

However, I completely oppose the violence and destruction that some protesters are doing. At the same time that 97% of the protestors are expressing them-

selves in a passionate, but peaceful manner, 3% (or less) are setting fires, breaking windows, and attacking other people. This is both morally wrong and bad strategy. I understand the hurt and rage that lies behind violent protest. Violence, however, starts a downward cycle, as we have seen with the arrival of masked, unidentified federal agents who have further escalated the violence in a counter-productive way.

The errors of the few should not keep us from following our calling as citizens and disciples of Jesus. God calls us with the vision of a community where everyone receives full life in body, mind, and spirit. God wants for us a world where all people and creation itself enjoys the peace that passes understanding. With our words and actions, we join with Jesus in building that world. And, when we get stuck in some unhealthy social patterns and unjust practices, we do everything we can, including stirring up some "good trouble," to set things right in a non-violent way.

May God bless us and guide us as we walk this challenging path together.

In Christ,

The Rev. Bishop Jaech



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: Cathy Kallio, Beate Wahl, Hank Bilderback,
Ray Hodge, Chris Seelke, Betty Schlaht, Lynn,
Cindy & Harley, Isaac & his mother, Annie, Jeff &
Bob, Nancy, Courtney, Adrienne, Bud, June Bender,
Andrea Barkstrom, Holly Henderson, Carter, Susie
Kallendar, Ginny Clark, Philip, Matthew Green and
his family, David Shaw, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean,
David Hanson and family and friends morning

the death of Pastor Val's mother, Marilyn Metropoulos. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

You hold them and love them even more than we do. Your healing has restored Ella Swanson, Mike Barkstrom and Chris Seelke. For that: **we give thanks!**

When we are tempted to despair, to blame, to lash out in anger, remind us of your forgiveness and compassion poured out for us in the death and resur-

rection 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 situations that need healing and hope that only you know we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

John Stephens, September 3
Juli Kupka, September 5
Michael Erickson, September 7
Annika Natwick, September 7
Kathy Wehage, September 8
Vicki Mitchell, September 12
Mike O'Connor, September 15
Andrea Ostwald, September 16
Martha Beeman, September 18
Coleman Carle, September 19

Louise Paul, September 19
Linda Ebel, September 20
Bret Kaufman, September 21
Hannah Erwin, September 25

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dee & Michael Erickson, September 12
John & Dorothy Stephens, September 15
Craig & Jane Teveliet, September 18
Erik & Juli Kupka, September 21



Everyone who continues to donate to the food bank.

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

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

Hank Bilderback, Curtis Steinhauer, and Laura Carle for helping out with Sunday worship while Pastor Val was gone.

Union Gospel Mission for those of you who pro-

vide meals and for adjusting to any changes they may have in helping people stay healthy.

Mike Barkstrom for fixing the deadbolt key slot to the church office door.

Amy Ostwald for helping Vicky with bulletins, Grace Notes or any other issue.

Joelle Buckman— for being available to help out for any emergency situation.



THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Habitat for Humanity** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$61.37
- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$61.37
- **Dearest Pastor Val,**



Greetings to you and the people of Amazing Grace. I am writing to thank you for your generous contributions of \$345.82 for our Namibia companion relationship. I am encouraged by Wartburg Seminary's actions to provide online theological instructions in Namibia. Meanwhile, all of us are continually encouraged and strengthened by the support of members of your congregation. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

In Christ, Rachel Pritchett– Namibia Task Force

Update on Namibia activities-page 8-9

- **Dear Amazing Grace,**

We at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Montesano would like you all to know how very much it means to us that you are choosing the help Chaplain's on the Harbor. We prepare just one meal a month for their Sunday dinners and we are grateful that your church is so generously making your space available to facilitate this ministry. Thank you for your open, loving spirit and kindness to the neediest in our midst.

Blessings,

St. Mark's

- **Thank you from Quilters,**

The quilter's have been so thankful for the donations of school supplies and cash by all of our members. With your help we will be able to include 100 school kits in our November shipment. We know they are desperately needed around the world!! Wherever they go, you can be assured your generosity will make a huge difference in a child's life!

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY ANNUAL RAFFLE

Thank you for supporting the Living Stones prison ministry through your prayers, visits, ingathering of items, and financial gifts. We are excited to announce our 2020 raffle.

There will be not one but four prizes: **The grand prize is \$2,020 cash** and the second is a \$202 cash prize. The third and fourth prizes are creations from our men-one is a quilt and the other is art-work.

Tickets will be \$5 each or 6 for \$25. To buy tickets contact Joe Fernandez: joseph.m.fernandez@gmail.com

Ticket sales will run from Sept. 20 through Nov. 1. The drawing will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 17.



SEPTEMBER 13- CHAPLAINS' DINNER- feeding our neighbors in need

On Sunday September 13, Amazing Grace is planning to provide food for the Chaplains' Dinner now served from our own parish hall (for 140-160 people — in to-go containers). If you would like to be

on the team preparing food for this meal (in your own home), or if you would like to donate money to help with the shopping, please contact the church office (or contact Amy Ostwald: aaostwald@gmail.com, 360-482-2306)

4-F DINNER

Save the date, October 3, for a drive-through pick-up dinner! At 5pm. Barkstroms will be making yummy chicken (or fish), salad, bread, caramel apple cake. The tickets are \$20.

Again we are asking you pay in advance

Send response to jhubbard1952@comcast.net We

look forward to seeing you .Your 4-F team

Mike Barkstrom feels this should top off the roof fund.

The new Thrivent representative, George Burgin, is planning to be there too.



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



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 for your donations. in, If it's raining, 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. Finances 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

DEAR CHURCH: A LOVE LETTER – We're taking a break until October! Please read this book before then and we'll be prepared to talk about racism in our denomination.

No in-person gatherings including Sunday morning worship until further notice. We continue to be guided by guidelines from the CDC, The State of WA, The ELCA and the SWWA Synod.

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.amazinggraceaberndeen.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.

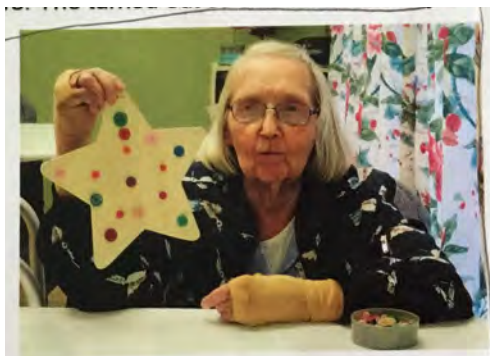
HEALTHY COMMUNICATION IN TOUGH TIMES

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 communication 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.



Ginny Clark at Westhaven Villa.
July activities and crafts.



Artists Ken and Vicki Mitchell of Cosmopolis, have responded to this time (during the pandemic) a bit differently. While Ken, a retired art teacher from Aberdeen's Harbor High School, pursued some artistic endeavors and conducted research for historical paintings, his focus has been more on the couple's flowers and garden.

Vicki, however, has produced a plethora of art. Her work included finishing 20 illustrations for essays she's written, painting postcards, completing a coloring book for Harpers Ferry national Historic Park, and creating miniature papier-mache hats from different historical periods using materials she found at home. She also painted pictures on hymnal pages to give to her mother, who has dementia and lives in a nursing home but can still recall the old hymns.

"One of the reasons I've done so much is that I had an opportunity of time that I haven't had for forever. The other part was to keep my brain active and to thwart my grief of not being able to see my family."

Both Ken and Vicki took on a special request during this time-each creating a coloring page depicting a fairy riding a unicorn for their 4-year old granddaughter, who promises more similar commissions.

Article in: COASTAL Currents Magazine



Vicki Mitchell created this pansy in pastel.



Ken and Vicki Mitchell with one of Ken's paintings.

Early talks for distance theological training in Namibia underway

By Rachel Pritchett, chair, rachelpritchett@msn.com, Southwestern Washington Synod Namibia Task Force (Article dated August 2020)

Greetings friends of Namibia,

Here's an update of everything's that happening in our synod's ELCA companion relationship with the three Lutheran church bodies in Namibia.

In early May, a historic consultation with representatives of the ELCA and of the dozen countries in southern Africa involved in companion relationships was to take place. Reconciliation was the theme, and we were expected to take up the difficult topic of failing seminaries and Bible colleges in the region. Chriss and Brian Brickert of Faith Lutheran Church of Shelton and myself were going. Led by bishops from Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and New Jersey, quite of few folks from the larger group also were to visit our friends in Namibia.

All that didn't take place, of course, due to COVID-19.



Talks are underway now to have a digital consultation instead. The problem is that some participants in Africa might not be able to take part, due to lack of internet access. Stay tuned and contact me if you would like to take part.

The Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson of Wartburg Theological Seminary, one of the participants in the companion relationship, said recently that his seminary is in early conversation with the financially struggling United Lutheran Theological Seminary Paulinum about developing a distance-learning model.

I and many others are excited about a partnership for online learning between Wartburg, Paulinum, its supporting churches and the ELCA. Paulinum, loved by many in our synod, is the only source of Lutheran theological education in Namibia. Its demise would greatly threaten the development of new religious leaders in this largely Lutheran country. I have asked to be involved in this effort, and I'll keep you updated.

I want to thank all of the churches who have given so generously to our friends in Namibia, including Peace Lutheran Church of Puyallup, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Olympia, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of Aberdeen and Elim Lutheran Church of Port Orchard. We are always willing to come present to your congregation.

As for COVID in Namibia, there have been 1,400 COVID cases and seven deaths there, though underreporting is suspected. The western coast is on a stricter lockdown than the rest of Namibia, according to the Rev. Phillip Knutson, ELCA global regional representative, Southern Africa.

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 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. Council members are always available to answer questions. Their contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

Please pray for your church leadership, including Pastor Val. These times are challenging for all of us. The leadership of the church feels that challenge personally as well as the need to faithfully listen to God's Spirit leading the church into an unknown future.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

July 28, 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, Pastor Val, Amy Ostwald, Dee Erickson, Theresa Kaufman, Phil Stegemoeller, Mike Barkstrom

- I. Call to Order Joelle Buckman 6:09
- II. Prayer and Devotions – 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations – Ch. 3
Passionate worship: Taking worship where the people are.
- III. Establish Quorum
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda
Under Business items added Porta Potties to agenda
- V. **Financial Reports**
 - A. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman
 - Theresa will amend report.
 - motion to remove Judi as a check signer and add Joelle Buckman, Mike Barkstrom, Curtis Steinhauer and Theresa Kaufman as signers. **M/S/P**
 - Transactions by Account **M/S/P**
 - B. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller
 1. New Program for financial secretary
 - Phil will talk with a representative about the new program (Breeze) about any information that he can hand out to council.
- VI. **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. School District request- no update
 - B. Chaplains on the Harbor request-facility usage on Sundays for 100+ people. They are fully insured. Discussion items included: 1. Amazing Grace needs to be named as additional insured. 2. Do not charge for use of space.
 - Motion to move forward with the Task Force recommendation with the edits that were discussed. **M/S/P**
 - C. Love our Neighbor Fund-postponed
 - D. Synod Tech Grant- Pastor applied for it. Will hear in results August.
 - E. Porta Potties-There was a discussion about the porta potties. Neighborhood Watch in the area is not happy with porta potties being there which they feel adds extra traffic and makes it unsafe.

Task Assignments

- Will continue with chapter 3 at next meeting. Pastor asked Council members to re-read chapter 3 and be ready to give feedback regarding how we are currently doing worship.
- Bank is ready for current signatures and Theresa will let Mike and Joelle know when they need to sign
- Pastor Val will send out the revised agreement

- Amy will be in contact with the Chaplains on the Harbor
- Mike will pass along to the Neighbor Watch that Pastor Val can talk with them at their next meeting.
- Approve minutes for July at next meeting.
 - Add to Agenda: allow congregations members to attend zoom meetings. If they have something to bring to council then it needs to be given to Joelle in advance. There will be an opportunity for any comments at the end of the meeting.

Adjournment and closing prayer 7:27

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Mission Council Meeting Minutes

August 11, 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, Pastor Val, Dee Erickson, Phil Stegemoeller, Amy Ostwald, Curtis Steinhauer,

- I. Call to Order by Pres. Joelle Buckman 6:03
- II. Prayer and Devotions – 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations – Chapter 3 – **Bring feedback regarding worship after refreshing our minds about this chapter's insights.** Passionate Worship: We have a good foundation. Worship moves into the passionate realm when we are less evaluative and more expectant; expecting God to act in worship. Participants who prepare throughout the week “committing themselves to giving more attention to their own spiritual preparation to avoid moving through services by rote.”
- III. Establish Quorum
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda
- 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. Mutual Ministry Update – Joelle
 - Continuing to meet once a month. Reading 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations.
 - B. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative – Pastor Val/Curtis
 - Working with a development company called Blockable. Blockable will do all the development for a 10% fee and churches own the building. Blockable did an inventory of every site in the Synod. 27 sites were reviewed. rated on 3 scales: red-not interested, yellow-could work but has barriers to clear first, green- good opportunity. 6 properties got a green rating. Amazing Grace property in Bel Aire received a yellow rating. Since the property is large they did think they could get the number of units on that site that would make the project feasible. Community has enough demand to fill the units. They are concerned about the city's density requirement.
 - C. 4F Dinner – take out - Oct. 3
 - Will discuss via email.
- VI. Ministry Reports
 - A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val
 1. Resuming in-person worship Task Force – report: Continues to meet.
 2. Report on audio/video updates; Tech Grant update
 - All equipment is in for phase 1 (Wi-Fi equipment). Keith and his assistant will put it in place by Sunday to give it a try.
 - Pastor Val applied for the Tech Grant but has not heard back.
 - B. Outreach – Amy Ostwald
 1. Union Gospel Team- The list is updated and finished and were sent out to



the teams.

2. God's Work, Our Hands- Sunday, September 13th. no plan in place yet but working on it.

3. Eileen Schermer and other quilters have continued to quilt. Quilters will also be making school kits.

Announcements will be in the bulletins, grace notes and newsletter

4. Request from William Rabung and school district – update?

5. Porta-Potty Ministry - Pastor Val and Curtis

-Continues to move on. Many people continue to use them; not just the homeless.

6. Family Promise

-They are continuing to work on finding a family.

7. Love Our Neighbor Fund – Friend in Need?

-This project will be dropped. Will look into other ways to help people in need.

8. Chaplains dinners- First Sunday in using the fellowship hall for the Chaplains dinner will be on August 16th.

C. PSALM report – Joelle & Pastor Val

-The participants that were taking the PSALM class, graduated.

D. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer

1. Sunday School- A meeting scheduled for Friday to meet with the Sunday school teachers and Amy to make a plan in reaching out to parents in making a plan for the school year.

2. Confirmation – Pastor Val

-Continues to meet once a week. Will be seeing a couple of projects done by the kids in the next few weeks as part of the children's sermon.

3. Adult group study –Dear Church Thurs. 6pm

4. Morning Prayer – Thurs 10am

-Lightly attended. Will not meet while Pastor Val is on vacation. Pastor Val is thinking about doing this on Facebook live.

E. Fellowship – Appoint a ministry leader to fill out this term

-Motion to elect Carrie Erwin to the position of Fellowship M/S/P

-Care Team- Will be checking to see if Care Team should be reorganized.

F. Property –Will get report during Administrative Financial meeting.

G. Stewardship - Discerning and funding mission and ministry – 4F Dinner funds

-Stewardship: our values and mission should determine our spending. We'll revisit the two books that council has been reading which talk about stewardship to help us discern how to wisely steward our finances.

Pastor's Report

Task Assignments

-Any volunteers welcomed to practice with pianist once a month for Sunday services.

-Curtis will provide Pastor Val with the Blockable spreadsheet and she will hand out to council members

-Curtis will get in contact with United Way about the Pooled Benevolence Fund and will let Pastor Val know the results.

-Joelle will add the Property report to the Administrative Financial Council Meeting Agenda.

-Schedule Stewardship topic as a separate discussion

Adjournment and closing prayer 6:53

PASTOR'S REPORT July 2020 - regular activities during pandemic; all meetings on Zoom

I see these reports as a way for council and the congregation to get a sense of what pastors spend their time on day in and day out. While some of those activities are similar during this pandemic many things have changed. We have found ways to continue worship and some fellowship, outreach and education. But, many things have not translated well to a time when being together in person is risky.

As the whole world tries to imagine and plans for the future, we will find ways to do the things that are important to us. Other things may need to be released as we determine that they are no longer relevant to our mission. We're all figuring this out as we go and **it will take all of us** to make this a good transition for the sake of the hope we find in God's love and mercy for all people.

I am finding it of utmost importance to dedicate more time than ever to prayer and reading Scripture as a way to keep my focus on God and what God is doing in this time. I trust that spiritual grounding will prepare

me to serve in whatever form the future takes. I hope you will join me in committing to spiritual practices that provide you that grounding. Please let me know if I can help you with that.

Pastor Val

WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday worship – Plan and lead
Plan adult education
Plan seasonal and special worship services
Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing
Prayer

ADMINISTRATION

Meet with ministry leader as needed
Reports: congregational; synod; ELCA
Conference Pastors meet with Bishop weekly

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

Food Bank meetings
Monthly local Pastor's group
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

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Adult study: plan and participate
Confirmation: plan and lead
Sunday School: coordinate with ministry leader

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM

Study and integrate into sermons

OFFICIAL ACTS None

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Spiritual Direction Group

Reading online sources in preparation for livestreaming worship; planning for virtual Sunday School; changes in church needs after pandemic

Books: Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times – Steinke; When Things Fall Apart – Chodron, Healthy Communication - Steinke

OTHER ACTIVITIES in July

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Research/install antivirus software on office computer
Research/purchase Licenses for music and liturgy broadcast
Reorganized council meeting structure to accommodate distance meetings and good use of time for maximum effectiveness
Task Force for resuming in person worship – weekly
Met with prospective members

PASTORAL CARE:

Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed

WORSHIP:

Weekly text study with synod pastors
Morning Prayer weekly on Zoom
Researching new ideas for online worship
Plan outdoor worship
Plan for continued online worship in fall and winter

YOUTH/FAMILY/Education:

Confirmation weekly ½ hour
Adult book study – Dear Church
Researching possibilities for S.S. based

in homes or led virtually

OUTREACH:

Food Bank meeting
Synod Affordable Housing Initiative meeting
Chaplains on Harbor Sunday meal planning
Porta Potty ministry



STEWARDSHIP:

Researching: long-term funding changes in congregations and the effects of changes in church participation due to pandemic

VACATION:

None

UPCOMING:

Sometime in August or September, I'm planning a visit to see my mother in Helena but coordinating with the care facility she lives in is difficult due to Covid concerns. I may need to quarantine in Helena after I arrive. I'll be able to work remotely from my quarantine site.

I'm also planning a trip to Billings to finish disposing of my parents belongings. That will be scheduled after the visit to my Mom is scheduled.

I am working with several people to ensure that there is worship leadership in my absence.

Upcoming events:

4-F dinner on October 3

JULY BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name		Date	Total
Checking			\$ 17,120.46
-PSALM			\$ 100.00
-Caring Cupboard			\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Re-serve			\$ 2,620.00
-Music			\$ (13.54)
-Bells			\$ 465.95
-Friends in Need			\$ 293.97
-Reformation Fund			\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild			\$ 367.00
-Noisy Offering			\$ -
-Family Promise Maintenance Holding			\$ 1,800.00
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 25,485.38
Fundraising Checking			\$ -
Maintenance Checking			\$ 26,617.78
-Roof			\$ 22,179.29
Youth Checking			\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 3,087.78
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,907.82

\$854 sent
back to
SWWS -
\$100 re-
tained for
next group



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	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

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amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle,

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
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

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE