



The Spirit

MARCH 2014

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church – 111 E. 4th
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"Taking steps is easy. Standing still is hard."

Regina Spektor

We 'stand still' for 40 days during Lent, stepping out of the frantic rush so that we can hear the still, small voice of God in the midst of the clamor; the voice of God calling us to return home, to breathe with the Spirit, in and out; to let God be God **for us**.

We bring our **WHOLE** selves into this still time. We bring **our faith and our doubts**, our hopes and our fears. We bring our **frail trust and our sturdy brokenness**. We bring our **shining compassion and our dismal generosity**. We bring the good and the evil within us knowing that **God is already there**. God knows it all, sees it all, understands it all, **LOVES** us in it all!

We begin with the **TRUTH** of Ash Wednesday! For 40 days we will not look away from the awful truth that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We will not look away from all of the **ways we posture and pose**; the ways we **try to fool the world and God**; the ways we **try to convince ourselves that we don't need anyone else**, not even God. We won't look away because it is only in looking and not turning away from that truth that God can teach us, shape us, and form us into people who can begin to hear the truth which is the answer.

*"Lent, for me, is not about (and has never been about) sacrifice or penance or appeasing some unexamined heritage. It's about interrogative love, passionate justice, and **learning how to wonder again** in the midst of all the awful, awful sadness. It's about asking how beauty might occur in the midst of our fragile, decaying lives. It's about creating new songs, stories, images scribbled in dust and ash that reexamine what human beings can be for the life of each other and the life of the planet. The short-shrift harmonies we sometimes manage to sing never are pure or clear, and the words and questions often grate against our ears with their grittiness. But Lent is about the questioning, the ambiguity of grit and glory."*

Jake Erickson on Huffpost



During Lent, we practice "**habits of the heart**" knowing that we need them because we are all too eager to fool ourselves about ourselves. We practice these habits so that we can stand still long

enough for God to work in us. The first habit is showing up in those places that God has promised to show up and asks us to show up – among God's people to be formed by word and meal, prayers and song and being a part of a flesh and blood community.

Sundays in Lent we will gather together to hear stories of people much like us, whose lives were forever changed by their encounter with Jesus. **We will look for ways that our questions may be a part of the "ambiguity of grit and glory"** that happens in those stories. We will look for ways that we may learn "how to wonder again."

Tuesdays we'll sing the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer and learn about habits of the heart, those ancient practices that Christians have always used **to allow God to open our hearts and prepare us to join with God in 'creating new songs, stories, images scribbled in dust and ash.'** We'll look at heart habits that are based in abstinence like simplicity, solitude and sacrifice. And we'll look at heart habits that are based in engagement like study, service and prayer.

There will be two identical times of Holden Evening Prayer to choose from, one before and one after soup supper. As we eat we'll pay attention to relationships, using faith practices to prepare us continue what Lent has begun in us. **I hope you will make a commitment to this 6 weeks of 'standing still' so that together we are prepared to live our faith in a deeper more intentional way.**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday March 5th at 7p.m. and continues every Tuesday and Sunday through April 8th. We gather for Holy Week services Maundy Thursday, April 17th, Good Friday, April 18th and Easter, April 20th.

TUESDAY HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER: 5:30 OR 7:30

SOUP SUPPER AND +GEN ACTIVITIES: 6:15

MARCH 11TH – APRIL 8TH

One opportunity to serve soup supper is still available! April 1st we need two soups (one with meat, one without), bread, butter and milk. Coffee and tea are available at the Church. Supper is served at 6:15pm so you have plenty of time to join in Holden Evening Prayer either before or after soup. Find some friends to help and it will be FUN!



COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP

These community services are a long standing tradition in Aberdeen, with each congregation hosting the service and providing soup and bread luncheon one week. Amazing Grace will be host on Friday, March 28th.

Lunch begins @ 11:30 a.m. followed by a short service at noon. This is an opportunity for us to share our Amazing hospitality with our community during Lent.

We need 2 people to bring a soup (one w/meat & one without meat), 2 people to bring rolls & butter. **Please let Susan know if you can help! or bring something. We also need help setting up, serving & cleanup.**

COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP

"TESTING JESUS? TRUSTING JESUS!"

Fridays in Lent

11:30 a.m. LUNCH Noon WORSHIP

March 14 "In the Desert" First Presbyterian, Aberdeen

March 21 "On the Hill Top" Saron Lutheran, Hoquiam

March 28 "All the Kingdoms" Amazing Grace Aberdeen

April 4 "In the Heaven" 1st Methodist, Hoquiam

April 11 "In the Garden" 1st Methodist, Aberdeen

April 18 GOOD FRIDAY "On the Cross" St. Andrew Episcopal, Aberdeen**

**Good Friday will include a Procession of the Cross from Hoquiam to St. Andrew's. A lunch will be served after the Noon worship.

MARCH 2014 CALENDAR

2 Sunday TRANFIGURATION

9:45 a.m. HYMN FEST

10:00 a.m. Worship / Choir & Handbells

Communion 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
(Jill Waite, hostess)

5 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Quilting & Maintenance
6:45 p.m. Choir / NO BELLS
7:00 a.m. ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7 Friday Office Closed

9 Sunday FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT- Daylight Savings Time begins

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

11:15 a.m. faith+life (youth group)

11 Tuesday LENT WORSHIP

5:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

6:15 p.m. Soup Supper & +Gen Activity

7:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

12 Wednesday

6:00 p.m. HANDBELLS

7:00 p.m. CHOIR

14 Friday Office Closed

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE AT 1st
Presbyterian Aberdeen 11:30 Lunch / Noon Worship

16 Sunday SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 a.m. Worship / Bells

11:00 a.m. FELLOWSHIP

12:00 p.m. CONFIRMATION

5:00 p.m. ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

18 Tuesday LENT WORSHIP

5:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

6:15 p.m. Soup/Bread Supper

7:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

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

6:00 p.m. Handbells

7:00 p.m. Choir

21 Friday Office Closed

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE at Saron,
Hoquiam 11:30 Lunch / Noon Worship

22 Saturday 1-4 p.m. SALMON ANNIVERSARY

23 Sunday THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

11:00 a.m. FELLOWSHIP

11:15 a.m. faith+life (youth group)

25 Tuesday LENT WORSHIP

5:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

6:15 p.m. Soup Supper & +Gen Activity

7:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

26 Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Handbells

7:00 p.m. Choir

28 Friday Office Closed

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE at
Amazing Grace, 11:30 Lunch / Noon Worship

29 Saturday 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT

30 Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 a.m. Worship / Dickson Baptism

11:00 a.m. FELLOWSHIP

FIFTH SUNDAY faith+life service event!



ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Sunday, March 16, 5:00 p.m.

Corned Beef & Cabbage, dessert, beverage
Guests are welcome---bring a friend or two!

\$20 adults \$10 children

One dollar raffle tickets will be available for a chance to win a special handmade box donated by Bob Salmon

Reservations must be made by **Friday, March 7** so that we can order the meat. Please respond to Judi Hubbard jhubbard1952@comcast.net or to the church.

IMPORTANT OUTREACH MEETING

On Sunday, March 16th, during the 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, there will be a meeting with Kristine Finazzo to discuss anything you have a passion for in helping our congregation, neighborhood, city, nation or world. It can range from feeding the hungry, helping our youth or elderly, or a world mission trip!

If you are interested in joining this Outreach Ministry, please attend this meeting.

HYMN FESTS

Come to church by 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 6 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 happens 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, Al Carlberg, Cherie Vroman, BJ Bastin, Eileen Audett, Richard Kraiger, Doug George, Becky (Stubb) Ratcliff, Barb Williams, Parker Ebel, Betty Mitchell, Christopher Robin, Peggy Erickson, Chrissy Kincaid, Jaime Matisons, Nicole, Gwen, Karuna Johnson, Donn Stubb, Arlene Torgerson's sister, Kay, for the young people and workers at the youth center; for those who are

homeless, especially: Gregg, Randy, DJ, Dustin, Leona, Angel and her baby, and long-term caregivers especially Jack Bastin, Rich Vroman & Carol Stubb. Prayer for the family & friends of Carey Trader who are mourning his death and celebrating his resurrected life in Christ.

THANK YOU to Dennis & Donna Morrisette for providing our church kitchen with two new crockpots. The Morrisette's also replaced the missing roaster with a "brand new shiny" one!

(This roaster will be installed with a special chip so that if it is taken away from the building it will begin to play a very loud tuba version of "Amazing Grace" until it is returned. ☺)

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

4	Francis Beeman
5	Jim Erickson
6	Lana Lile
7	Tom Dickson, Hayley Erickson
9	William Rabung
10	Connie Chillman, Steven Kincaid
11	Scott Laird
15	Laura Carle
20	Mary Ann Majar
22	John Kincaid, Craig Teveliet
24	Tim Leithold, Josie Weiberg
26	Moonbeam Kupka
27	Jordan Weiberg

ANNIVERSARIES

11	Donna & Dennis Morrisette
15	Trish & Mark Smalley-Safstrom
20	Mary Ellen & Bob Salmon

MARCH SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of March 2: Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2,
2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

March 4 ASH WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17,
2 Corinthians 5:20b-5:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Week of March 9: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7,
Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19

Week of March 16: Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121,
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

Week of March 23: Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95,
Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

Week of March 30: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23,
Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 2—TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant:** Mark Smalley; **Ushers / Greeters:** Tim & Pam Alstrom; **Reader:** Judi Hubbard **Depositors:** Bob Salmon & Donna Spere; **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Anneliese Kraiger; **Union Gospel Mission:** Tuesday, March 4 (Jill Waite); **Fellowship Hosts:** Tim & Pam Alstrom, Doris & John Tieder, Gene & Eileen Schermer, Bob & Mary Ellen Salmon

SUNDAY, MARCH 9 – FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant:** Arlene Torgerson; **Communion Assistant:** Kristine Finazzo; **Ushers / Greeters:** Paula Elder & Maurita White; **Reader/Acolyte:** Cathy Kallio; **Depositors:** Gene & Eileen Schermer; **Sunday School Teacher:** Michelle Weiberg; **Fellowship Hosts:** Al & Marge Kelling, Jill Waite, Carmon & Roger Shaw, Jim & Jeannette Green

SUNDAY, MARCH 16 – SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant:** Diane Hanson; **Communion Assistant:** Cathy Wehage; **Ushers / Greeters:** Mike & Judi Hubbard ; **Reader:** Elaine Lokken; **Depositors:** Carmon Shaw & Helen Eklund; **SS Teachers:** Hiedi Seelke ; **Fellowship Hosts:** Diane Hanson, Kathy Wehage, Ray & Jean Hodge

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 – THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile ; **Worship Assistant:** Susan Bylund; **Communion Assistant:** Laura Carle ; **Ushers / Greeters:** Elaine & Darrell Lokken; **Reader:** Vicki Mitchell ; **Depositors:**

Maurita White & Hiedi Seelke; **Sunday School Teacher:** Molly Leithold ; **Fellowship Hosts:** Harold & Molly Johnson, Donna Spere. Joan & William Rabung

SUNDAY, MARCH 30 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship & Communion Assistant:** Gary Morean; **Ushers / Greeters:** Cathy Kallio & Carmon Shaw; **Reader:** Chris Seelke; **Depositors:** Ray & Jean Hodge; **Sunday School Teacher:** ; **Fellowship Hosts:** Pete & Mary Ann Majar, Keith & Lynnette Lile, Dennis & Donna Morrisette

SALT AND LIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

Emerson Manor Apartments in Hoquiam Evacuated

The majority of tenants who were recently evacuated from the Emerson Manor Apartments in Hoquiam because of fire damage have no insurance covering them for this event. They have no assistance to help purchase new clothing, furniture and appliances lost due to the water damage. Anchor Bank, also displaced due to the fire, has graciously set up a fund to assist the residents of the Emerson Manor Apartments called **Emerson Manor Assistance Fund**. Anchor Bank locations throughout Grays Harbor County will accept monetary donations for the displaced Emerson Manor Apartment tenants. Please, **ONLY** monetary donations will be accepted for this incident, because each tenant requiring assistance has specific needs. Anchor Bank has taken the lead. Let's follow their example and help neighboring Harborites!

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- **UNDER THE BRIDGE MINISTRY:** Amazing Grace is providing sandwiches for this outreach during March (5 Sundays). We will make sandwiches after worship each Sunday. (We only need 12 a week, so it will be quick.) We need lunch meat or

tuna, bread and snacks. (Snacks must be soft as many people who live outside often have poor teeth.)

- Vicki Mitchell, who works at the Gravity Center, has identified a young couple in the community that is in desperate need of clothing for their baby. Clothing size is 18 mos. - 2 years. They also need diapers and a plastic rain cover for their stroller since they walk all over town. If you can help, bring these items to the church or drop them at the Gravity Center located at 1700 Cherry Street, Aberdeen.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT AMAZING GRACE?

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're reading and discussing a small book together, "Central Things: Worship in Word and Sacrament." We're meeting Sunday mornings at 8:45 IN THE PARISH HALL. PLEASE JOIN US!

PRAYER CHAIN

There is no right or wrong way to pray. We are people of prayer simply because God calls and invites us into relationship through 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. The prayer chain has been formed but more people can always be added. If you have a prayer request, please contact Susan in the office (360.532.8250). All requests are confidential and will be shared only with the prayer chain. We will continue to pray for your request until you ask us to stop so we appreciate hearing of resolution to prayers.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

If your child has not received instruction in communion, please let Pastor Val know. Whether they have been receiving the bread and wine or a blessing, if you think they are ready to learn more about it and think about what it means, let me know. We'll have some instruction during Lent and then they will receive their first post-instruction communion on Maundy Thursday which this year is April 17th.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BAPTISM?

If you or your children have not been baptized and you are interested in learning more about it, please let me know in the next few weeks. We will be meeting during Lent.



LOOK WHO IS CELEBRATING 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

SALT AND LIGHT SIGHTINGS

"You are the salt of the earth..." "You are the light of the world. ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5: 13-16

Thanks to everyone who reported ways they had found to BE salt and light in their daily lives. Sharing these small or large acts of generosity and kindness that we do or that we see others doing, inspire and encourage us all to be on the lookout for ways we can be the hands and feet of Christ here in our own town. I know there are many every day. (I have forgotten some that I heard. Please write them down and send them in mail or email.)

Here are a few examples:

A restaurant owner who tells people who find themselves short of cash for their bill, "Just take care of it next time you're in. Don't make a special trip in to pay us." And he's only been "left holding the bag" one time in over 10 years.

A customer left \$100 with a restaurant owner with the instructions, "Buy lunch for as many people as you can with this and tell them Merry Christmas. But don't tell them who it's from." Most people were quite taken back; it put a smile on every one's face and several people said how generous that was but they would like to pay for themselves so someone else could get a free meal.

A Christmas Eve tradition while eating dinner out with the family is to pay for dinner for another family and their children who is eating there.

Buying a theater ticket so that a friend experiencing car problems and dental expenses can attend a performance with the group.

Offering to help carry a scooter for a grandmother trying to manage her tired, uncooperative grandchild on the walk home from a play date.

Buying a meal for a couple living in their van; then helping to pay for repairs for the van and a few night lodging with the help of Amazing Grace's "Friend in Need" fund. Butch at B&B also helped with the cost of the repair.

On two cold nights in February when the temperatures dipped below 15 degrees, Amazing Grace was Salt and Light for the homeless community when we opened the doors, providing a warm place to sleep and two hot meals. (The Presbyterians helped a lot, providing breakfast and taking hot chocolate out to those who wouldn't come in. Our Police Department helped by bringing two people in who didn't know we were open.)

Hats and mittens knitted, food and clothes donated; a need is named and the people of Amazing Grace jump to provide even more than is requested whether it's for the youth center people, the clothing

**bank, students at the Gravity Center or the
unhoused, YOU ARE SALT AND LIGHT!**

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 26, 2014

The annual meeting was called to order by Arlene Torgerson, Council President. The 2013 Annual Report and Annual Budget for 2014 were passed out. A quorum was present. The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were MSP.

There are three openings on council. Mark Smalley was nominated for the position of President, Mike Kupka for Financial Secretary, and Diane Hanson for the Worship position. It was MSP that all nominees be accepted.

The 2014 budget was presented and Pastor Val explained the percentage decrease in the benevolence portion from 6% to 4% and the decision to move to first fruits giving.

The budget was MSP.

Pastor Val thanked Arlene Torgerson, Jim Weiberg, and Lynette Lile for their many years of service on council.

Amazing Grace Church Council 02/04/14- Meeting Minutes

Council Members present:

President – Mark Smalley / Present
Vice President – William Rabung / Absent
Secretary – Jeannette Green / Present
Treasurer – Barb Williams / Present
Fellowship- Dee Erickson / Present
Worship- Diane Hanson / Present
Youth & Family – Vacant /
Outreach – Kristine Finazzo / Absent
Property – Coleman Carle / Present
Financial Secretary - Mike Kupka / Present
Pastor Val Metropoulos / Present

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. President Mark Smalley opened the meeting with devotions. Prayer tasks were assigned. Quorum was established with the presence of 7 members of council.

The agenda for the meeting was approved as corrected. There was a motion by Coleman to approve the January minutes. Barb 2nd. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Barb presented January's paid bills. Jeannette moved to approve the payment of those bills. Dee 2nd. Motion passed. Our un-reconciled checking Balance as of 1/31/14 is \$3,356.42. We did pay our benevolences at the lower percentage.

Barb asked the council to find a replacement for her because of health reasons.

Jeannette moved to remove outgoing President Arlene Torgerson's access privileges to the Amazing Grace bank accounts and to add current President Mark Smalley's name to the bank account. Dee 2nd. Motion passed. Barb asked Mark to go to Anchor Bank to sign the signature card.

Financial Secretary's Report: Mike reported our record of giving for January was \$16,606. This amount does include a one-time donation of \$5000.00 that was made to the church paint and maintenance fund.

Mike will revisit the process for individuals to offer their monthly giving via online. There was discussion about how to handle large donations in the future, is there a gift policy in place? Pastor will bring an example of a gift policy to the next council meeting for review.

Barb handed over a letter from Church Mutual, noting items from their last inspection that needed to be corrected.

Fellowship: Dee shared the dinner in January went well. A group of ladies will be going to Holden for a weekend retreat.

A copy of the coffee hour sign up list was passed out. Dee and pastor will work on a prayer chain/list.

Outreach: No report.

Property: A list from November of "repairs needed" was shared. Mark will ask Coleman for a revised list so work can continue to be performed.

Worship: Diane is pleased to be on council and shared her recent experience at the transformation workshop. Much was learned at a recent workshop that was attended. A Liturgical Arts Team (LAT) will meet on Thursday night. Worship committee will also meet.

During Lent we will have Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter at Amazing Grace. We will offer two Holden Evening services. The first service will be at 5:30 soup at 6:15, a cross generational activity and then another evening prayer service at 7:15.

Youth & Family Pastor filled in by saying that the sledding had been cancelled, but there was bowling this coming Sunday @5.

Pastor's Report for January:

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

4 Sunday worship services

Chose hymns and liturgies

Sermon – study, reading, writing; text study meeting

Prepare bulletins with secretary

Prepare prayers for worship weekly

Prayer

Worship committee meeting

Liturgical Arts Team (worship workshop attendees and me)

-Met to share what we learned and plan to work together in future.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff meeting – weekly

Council meeting monthly

Newsletter - help secretary with

content and design; Annual Report preparation; Annual

Meeting; Prepared job description/checklists for

Ushers/Greeters; Readers; Worship Assistants

PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING Homebound and assisted living visits

OUTREACH/VISITATION

: 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; Project Homeless

Connect Day; Clothing Bank 2 hours a week; Street ministry w/Sarah Monroe.

Interfaith Advocacy Day at Washington Capitol – visited legislators and learned about issues specifically of interest to faith community.

Coordinated housing for a couple living in their van with the help of Mike Barkstrom – used Friend in Need funds (this was December)

Ministerial Assoc. Meeting (Non-denominational)

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE Consulted with Coleman to understand what repairs are still needed so that any painting done will not be damaged for water leakage.

Programmed thermostats in sanctuary and parish hall for special needs.

YOUTH AND FAMILY: Meet w/ Sarah Tevliet Channel about Youth group – as needed.

Plan and lead Bible Study and faith+life discussion every other Sunday; Confirmation every other Sunday for 1 1/2 hours

OFFICIAL ACTS (Baptisms, funerals, weddings) One graveside service – Edna Wyniger

VACATION 2 days of vacation in January

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Worship workshop in Seattle – 2 days& Bishop's Prayer Retreat and Convocation – 3 days

New Business

March 29th will be the council retreat. Location possibilities are: Aberdeen or Hoquiam library or possibly the Galilean church in Ocean Shores. Council would leave around 10 a.m. and be done by 2 or 3 p.m.

Mark shared a letter from Joan Rabung resigning from her position on council.

Stewardship Report: No report.

Task Assignments

- Pastor will bring a copy of the gift policy to the next council meeting

- Pastor and Coleman will review the information needed by Church Mutual.

- Electronic Giving – Mike Kupka will investigate how this works.

- Mark will talk with the nominating committee to discuss replacements for Barb and Joan on Council.

- Pastor Val will confirm the location of the Council Retreat.

-Mark will discuss with Coleman the priority list and associated costs for the church property.

+++++We closed in prayer and adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

From The Praying Life

“As you prepare your hearts for lent, what do you need for the journey ahead? These are my prayer for your journey:

• An honest friend who will help you discern God's will for you and offer tangible support.

• Obedience to God regardless of what others might think of you.

• Acceptance of failure and suffering as part of the journey of transformation.

• Simplicity and patient trust in God.

• And a pure heart, a heart scoured slick and smooth as a copper pot, that you may follow your dancing Lord all the way to Easter morning!

May this season offer you richness, astonishment, and a few graceful shimmies, as Christ transforms you from one degree of glory to another.

Report from the Property Committee

Last year, Amazing Grace made incredible progress in the upkeep of our aging facility. It took help from many different members of our congregation: those who made all of the wonderful fundraising dinners and auctions items; those who did demolition; the volunteers who went up on the scaffolding to scrape and plaster; those who painted; and many more. The end result was that the outside of the church is freshly painted, and we have a new roof over portions of the sanctuary. Many thanks to all involved.

This year we have many more projects to keep our buildings from deteriorating. The property committee has compiled a list and set priorities of which projects need to be done this year and which can be put off until later. We felt it was important to share this list with the congregation and we will keep a copy of it on our bulletin board in the Parish hall. This list will be reviewed by the Church Council at the March 4th Council Meeting to look at priorities and costs.

Our projects for this year include:

- Removing graffiti from the west side of the Sanctuary.
- Repair the leaking roof on the skywalk from the Sanctuary to the Parish hall.
- Repair the leaking roof on the outside breezeway into the Parish hall.
- Install a nonslip surface on the breezeway concrete walkway.
- Paint the concrete steps under the skywalk, so they are more visible at night.
- Repair Parish hall urinal.
- Install nonskid on wooden stairs down to the parking lot and paint the last concrete step.

- Plaster and drywall the organ room.
- Plaster and drywall the room above the skywalk.
- Replace the leaking downspout next to the office and fill hole under the foundation footing.

Future projects (in the next couple of years):

- Replace the door to the Sanctuary basement west side.
- Replace the door to the office.
- Change the Sanctuary lights to a brighter LED.
- Complete drywall of the furnace room.
- Prep and paint the front entry walls with a new color scheme.

Longer range projects (out several years)

- Replace the sills of the ground floor windows.
- Nursery/childrens room – prep and paint
- Remove steam heaters in the Parish Hall.
- Replace roof flashing on the Sanctuary in the corner by the sound system
- Replace window sills on all of the stained glassed windows.
- Replace the knob and tube wiring in the sanctuary.
- Replace the furnace in the Sanctuary

As we go through the year, we will try to get cost estimates on these projects. As anyone with an older home knows, we will always be adding projects to the list as other projects are completed. If you see anything about our facility that you have a question about, ask a member of the property committee or the Church Council

AMAZING GRACE 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, Val Metropoulos

Susan Bylund, Office Administrator

Kristine Burns, Organist & Handbell
director

Hank Bilderback, Choir Director

Cathy Kallio, Custodian