



The Spirit

MAY 2014

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
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Did you know that if we were to take Christmas out of our faith we would lose two chapters at the beginning of Matthew and Luke? That's it! Our culture wouldn't like it much, but it wouldn't change our faith radically. But, if we take **Easter** out, we have NO New Testament at all. We have NO Christianity AT ALL! That would change everything.

"We shouldn't allow the secular world with its schedules and its priorities; its semi-religious events, its cute Easter bunnies, to blow us off course. This [Easter] is our greatest day; a day too important to celebrate for a **single** day and walk away from it."

N.T. Wright in Surprised by Hope

In some ways, I think the **church** (not Amazing Grace specifically but the Christian church in general) **has gotten blown off course** and it's time for a course correction. Our one day celebration of Easter is simply a symptom of that. But, from the great, honest questions people shared in worship on April 27th, I think there is a sense among us that that is true. Your questions were real and important and they get at the heart of just what Christianity is all about. (You can find a copy of them elsewhere in this newsletter.)

If we don't get the answers to those questions right, we don't get our faith right and we don't get life right. There is too much at stake in the world and in our lives and the lives of our children and those we love, not to try to get this right.

When the first disciples huddled behind locked doors in fear after the crucifixion, Jesus came to them with words of comfort, "Do not be afraid." Go and tell the others..." Jesus taught them what it all meant (Luke 24:27) Jesus offered up the proof of the wounds in his hands and side to the doubting (Luke 24: 38-43); ate with the skeptical (Luke 24: 41-42); Jesus fed those hungry for truth in the middle of chaos (John 21: 12-13); Jesus offered the guilty forgiveness, a chance to repent and join the work of God's mission (John 21: 14-19)

Jesus did not wait until these people understood perfectly what had happened before he came to them or before he gave them work to do in God's mission. Jesus did not wait until all their questions had been answered and their doctrine systematized. Jesus came to them in their confusion and questions and worry and he said, "Don't be afraid."

On Sunday, May 4th, I offered a response to one of the questions that was raised. I said that after living with all of your questions and mine for the week, the one I chose to address was **"Will the confusion ever end?"** I said that the **answer is yes and no and 'it depends.'**

First 'no.' There are some things we will not understand until we are standing in front of God on that glorious day when Jesus returns to make all things right. That's the truth. We can't know all things. We're human. We are not God.

The second answer though is yes, there are some things we can know that can help the confusion. Those are things that we know through faith; those things that we know deeper than facts; the things that

'cause our hearts to burn within us.' It's not knowing the way we know science but it is knowing.

And lastly, in answer to the question 'Does confusion ever end?' the answer is **"It depends."** It depends on **how badly you want to know the answer.**

My question for you is,

How badly do you want to know the answers to your questions? What are you willing to do to receive answers?

Are these idle questions you raised because I invited them, but really make little difference to your life? Or are these questions ones that could make the difference between your being able to continue worshipping, continue to walk with Jesus or falling away?

If these weren't serious questions for you, what **are** your urgent questions? What do you need to know so that you can give your life fully to the life of faith? Because, make no mistake about it:

Jesus is asking for your WHOLE life, not one hour a week or even one day a week. God claims our WHOLE lives, because God has given us WHOLE, abundant, eternal life and wants us to live that life in the joy God offers!

Jesus met those sad people on the road. But, they weren't able to recognize him and receive the Word of truth from him, until they gave him some **time. They had to be with him, to listen to him explaining the meaning of the Bible to them. Until they took time to eat with this stranger they did not know who it was they were eating with.**

We can **expect no less commitment** required of us to receive the answers we need. If we cannot give that time then the answer is, "The confusion will **never** end."

Watch and listen for ways you will be invited to take time to learn the answers to your questions. Most of your questions cannot be answered in a sermon. Some will require **studying the Bible**, a willingness to **reevaluate what we think we know** (but may be simply a partial version of the faith) and they will require **prayer and conversation** together. It will take time. It will take effort. **It IS worth it!**

We go unafraid into God's good future knowing that God goes with us. We have a responsibility as faithful disciples to do what it takes to understand our faith and our God to the best of our abilities, so that we are equipped to join in God's mission to bring God's kingdom 'on earth as it is in heaven.'

I thank God that we are in this place at this time so that we can go about this holy work together!

Pastor Val

Faith Questions of the people of God at Amazing Grace

Gathered the week of April 27th

Please send in other questions via email, facebook page or phone call or drop them in the offering plate.

Issues:

When does God say human life begins?

Faith:

Is it OK if I believe in all religions?

Is there more than one path to God? Are some more valid than others?

Does confusion ever end?

Bible:

Did Noah really have 2 of every animal or just what they needed to sustain their group?

How did the lions not eat the rabbits?

Are there rock people (Noah movie)?

How do I defend my faith when I don't know all the answers?

Why is it so hard to discern God's will?

Why are divorced/remarried people considered adulterers?

Would Martin Luther be offended by his name being used by the beliefs associated with many Lutheran congregations?

Nature of God:

Does God laugh, make funny faces?

How can God be 3 in 1 and 1 in 3 – Triune God?

Does God live in our heart?

Is God present in our being?

Heaven:

How do we know heaven is real?

What do angels wear?

What does heaven look like?

Can my pets go to heaven? Why or why not?

What happens to non-Christians when they die? (Muslims, Buddhists, etc.)

Will I see my loved ones in heaven?

If you don't do confirmation will you go to heaven?

Will my gay friends/relatives make it to heaven?

Will unbaptized go to heaven?

Do people who are unbaptized or don't know God go to heaven?

Science:

Does God have other worlds?

Church:

Why aren't people coming to church?

Why are there so many Christian denominations?

What do I say to my kids when they want to know why they have to go to church?

Worship:

Is there any one right way to worship?

Death/resurrection:

How did Jesus die and then live again?

Why do things have to die?

Problem of evil and suffering:

Why do bad things happen to good people?
Why do good things happen to bad people?

MAY 2014 CALENDAR

1 **THURSDAY**

National Day of Prayer

2 **FRIDAY** – Office Closed

3 **SATURDAY**

4 **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8:45 a.m. **BOOK STUDY**

9:45 a.m. **HYMN FEST**

10:00 a.m. **WORSHIP/CHOIR**

Compassion Sunday

SUN. SCHOOL / SUN. TIMES

11:00 a.m. **FELLOWSHIP/Sunday Sch Mtg**

12:00 p.m. **Confirmation**

7 **WEDNESDAY**

9:00 a.m. **QUILTING / MAINTENANCE**

6:00 p.m. **HANDBELLS**

7:00 p.m. **CHOIR**

9 **FRIDAY** – OFFICE CLOSED

11 **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER /
MOTHER'S DAY**

8:45 a.m. **BOOK STUDY**

10:00 a.m. **WORSHIP / SUNDAY SCHOOL**

11:00 a.m. **FELLOWSHIP**

13 **TUESDAY**

10:00 a.m. **PASTORS GROUP IN PH**

14 **WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m. **HANDBELLS @ Saron**

6:30 p.m. **CHOIR @ Saron**

16 **FRIDAY** – OFFICE CLOSED

16-17 **FRIDAY & SATURDAY—SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

18 **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

8:45 a.m. **BOOK STUDY**

10:00 a.m. **WORSHIP / SUNDAY SCHOOL**

11:00 a.m. **FELLOWSHIP**

21 **WEDNESDAY**

9:00 a.m. **QUILTING / MAINTENANCE**

6-7 p.m. **NO MUSIC REHEARSAL**

23 **FRIDAY**—OFFICE CLOSED

25 **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

8:45 a.m.

BOOK STUDY

10:00 a.m.

WORSHIP / SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 a.m.

FELLOWSHIP

26 **MONDAY**

MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

28 **WEDNESDAY**

6:30 p.m. **HANDBELLS**

7:30 p.m. **CHOIR (short rehearsal)**

29 **THURSDAY**

Ascension of Our Lord

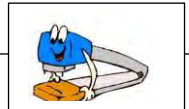
30 **FRIDAY**—Office Closed

Don't Forget our HYMN FESTS

Come to church around 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 1st to sing some of your favorite hymns. Kris Burns provides the music. 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!**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP IN THE OFFICE?

Susan needs help stapling the bulletins together on Thursday afternoon. If two people help it will take about 20 minutes. If this is something you would like to do, please contact Susan.



MAY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Al Kelling
- 2 Kariann Penttila
- 6 Janice Frafjord, Hiedi Seelke
- 8 Sophie Kupka
- 9 Hank Bilderback, Mary Koski
- 12 Cherie Vroman
- 17 Kristine Finazzo
- 20 Mark Smalley
- 23 Cindy Penttila

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Scott & Suzy Laird
- 27 Al & Marge Kelling

MAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of May 4: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23.
Luke 24:13-35

Week of May 11: Acts 2:42-47,
Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

Week of May 18: Acts 7:55-60,
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16. 1 Peter 2:2-10,
John 14:1-14

Week of May 25: Acts 17:22-31,
Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22,
John 14:15-21

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MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, MAY 4—THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Acolyte:** Susan Bylund; **Ushers/Greeters** Keith & Lynnette Lile ; **Reader:** Arlene Torgerson; **Depositors:** Ray & Jean Hodge; **Sunday School Teacher:** Michelle Weiberg; **Fellowship Hosts:** Vicki & Ken Mitchell, Ginny Clark, Theresa Kaufmann & girls

SUNDAY, MAY 11—FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MOTHER'S DAY)

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant:** Judi Hubbard; **Communion Assistant/Acolyte:** Mike Hubbard ; **Ushers/Greeters:** Donna & Dennis Morrisette; **Reader:** ; **Depositors:** Maurita White & Helen Eklund; **Sunday School Teacher:** Anneliese Kraiger; **Fellowship Hosts:** Laura & Coleman Carle, Arlene Torgerson, Mark & Trish Smalley-Safstrom

SUNDAY, MAY 18—FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant:** Gary Morean; **Communion Assistant/Acolyte:** Jeni Kaufman; **Ushers/Greeters:** Theresa Kaufman & Amanda Kaufman; **Sunday School Teacher:** Anneliese Kraiger; **Fellowship Hosts:** Karen & Mike Barkstrom, Martha & Francis Beeman, Nancy Miler, Loyd Gill & Inez Coulter

SUNDAY, MAY 25—SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant:** Cathy Kallio; **Communion Assistant/Acolyte:** Carmon Shaw; **Ushers/Greeters:** Jeannette & Brady Green; **Sunday School Teacher:** Laura Carle; **Fellowship Hosts:** Karen & Mike Barkstrom, Martha & Francis Beeman, Nancy Miler, Loyd Gill & Inez Coulter

*Thank you to Ray & Jean Hodge for the wonderful meal
in celebration of their anniversary!*



Update Hodge Anniversary Dinner: The recent deposit from the recent dinner was \$1,275.00. The food portion was paid by the Hodges. A great time was had by all and everyone enjoyed celebrating the Ray & Jean's 62nd Anniversary.

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What's Happening?

"Linda and Walt Ebel gave a short presentation during the service on Sunday, May 4th, on 'Compassion International' and an information table was set up in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

Compassion International is a Christian charity which supports impoverished children worldwide. "

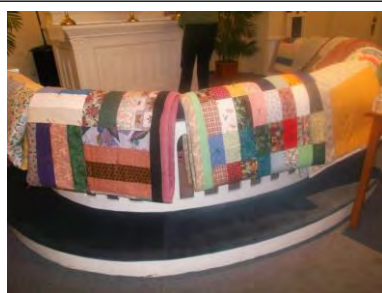
REQUEST FROM THE YOUTH CENTER DOWNSTAIRS

*The basement ceiling tiles have been completed today (April 29). If anyone could **donate any kind of shelving and/or Rubbermaid-like boxes** in order to complete our organizing efforts, it would be greatly appreciated.* Erin Pankey

(If you can help, please let Susan know and we'll get it to Erin.)

QUILTS & KITS.....

On Sunday, April 27, the church was adorned with many colorful quilts. Our quilters have been very busy. On Wednesday, April 30th, we will ship 135 quilts, 150 health kits (plus 21 health kits which were compiled during our Lenten services) to Lutheran World Relief. Also, 50 more quilts have been set aside for local charities



We are studying the book "Central Things: Worship, Word & Sacrament" on Sunday morning @ 8:45 a.m. PLEASE JOIN US!



**Hiedi Louise Seelke
Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014**

(Hiedi's sponsors: Lynnette Lile & Amy Ostwald)



Join the Outreach Committee and Sunday School Children as we provide to others this Mother's Day!!

For Mother's Day (May 11) we will be collecting items to be donated to the women's shelter. Bring an item or two to share with those in need. Some gift ideas

include: **small shampoo** **pens**
hairbrushes **non-alcoholic mouth wash**
note cards **toothbrushes**
small toothpastes

travel soap dishes or containers **scissors**
Dollar Store ibuprofen **sunglasses** **stamps**
Deodorant **flip flops** **small notebooks**
Needles & thread **puzzle books** **word searches**
Crossword puzzle books **small boxes of chocolates**

Rubbermaid containers to hold things

Be creative and have fun as we share our love with others. Drop by the items to Susan before Mother's Day or simply bring them to church on Mother's Day!

We will also begin collecting men's socks and underwear to donate to Union Gospel Mission for Father's Day. (June 15)



Many thanks to all those who worked behind the scenes making Lent & Easter a joyous occasion!

Thanks to **Pastor Val & Steve Swanson** for providing the chicken for the Easter Family dinner. About 40 people attended the dinner. The dinner was a celebration of the resurrection life we share in Christ and honoring the newly baptized into that life, especially **Hiedi Seelke** who was baptized that day.

Thank you to **Kathy Wehage** for creating the ALLELUIA on the back wall of the sanctuary. It beautifully adorns the cross from Trinity Lutheran church. (Mari Rabung below in photo)



Thank you to **Diane Hanson** and **Kathy Wehage** for decorating the church in its Easter finery.

Thank you to **Diane Hanson, Kathy Wehage and Eileen Schermer** for cleaning up all the candle holders.

Thank you to **Pastor Val** for all her hard work during the Lenten & Easter season. Her work did not go unnoticed and we all appreciate her special **touches** throughout the Holy Season.

Our musicians provided us with beautiful music throughout Holy Week. Thank you to **Hank Bilderback, Kristine Burns, Debbie Scoones, Geri Stubb, and Sandy Loyd** and the **choir and handbell choir**.

Thank you to **Keith & Lynnette Lile** for providing **fresh Starbucks** coffee for our Easter breakfast.

Thank you to the Amazing Grace congregation for presenting bibles to our third grade students: **Erin Burns & Anna Matisons**.

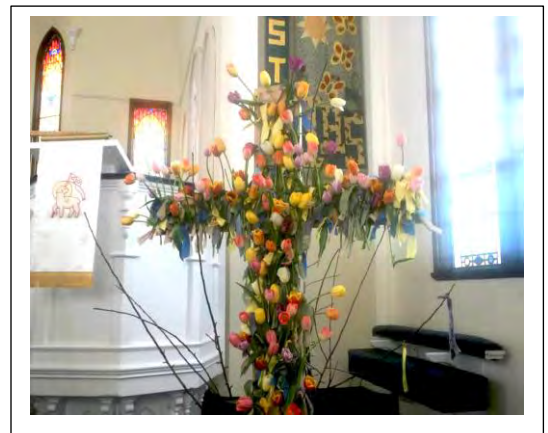
Many thanks to our following young people who assisted in the Easter worship: **John Pellessier, Andrea Ostwald, Madi Green, Brady Green, Jordan Weiberg, and Jeni Kaufman..**

Thank you to **Walter Ebel** for sharing his musical gifts in worship.

Thank you to all the men who worked on the organ room: **Mark Smalley, Jim Weiberg, Keith Lile, Mark Ostwald, Steve Swanson, Ray Hodge, Gene Schermer and Coleman Carle and Lynette Lyle**. It's great to have the sound of organ music in our midst again!

Our Annual Easter Breakfast was provided through the hard work of **Brady Green, Steve Swanson, John Tieder, Jim Weiberg, Gene Schermer, Mike Hubbard, Darrell Lokken, William Rabung, Jordan Weiberg, Mark Smalley, and Bob Salmon**. Thanks fellas!

Thank you to **Amy Ostwald** for providing the gorgeous tulips that decorated our Easter cross.



YOUTH & FAMILY

Letters from Friends

LETTER FROM AILEEN LONG'S DAUGHTER

Dear Susan,

I just wanted to let you know that mom cancelled her Internet service. So, her email address is no longer. If others need to know, please share!

If you, or Amazing Grace, needs to notify mom of anything, feel free to use my email address.

Margit Long Rustvold at togasabode@comcast.net

Thanks so much Susan!

Happy Easter Season and Holy Week!

Margit

FYI: Mom is still at the Care Center getting rehab. She is better but walking again is slow and still somewhat painful. We hope she can rehab well and return home soon.

April 24, 2014

Val,

Happy Easter! I hope you and the people of Amazing Grace had a great celebration!

We are a month away from commencement!

There are lots of student activities as they prepare papers, study for exams, attend classes and complete senior projects!

Thank you for Amazing Grace and your commitment to PLU standards.

God's Blessings,

Lee

PLU Office of Congregation Relations

LEAVING A LEGACY

*True meaning is leaving something or someONE who lives on to
bless the world long after you're gone.*

We wrapped up the seven week preschool experiment a couple hours ago on stage at HBI with fifty 3 - 5 year olds singing their hearts out, dancing and spelling [using sign language] up a storm, and then doing skits! It was marvelous.

A new friend, Dhiren Harchandani, from UAE and I skyped last night and the topic of "leaving a legacy for your children" came up. It reminded me of the Epilogue for my yet completed book "The Meaning of Meaning in a Post-Gutenberg/Neo-Google Age". In the book, I closed by saying that **true meaning is leaving something or someONE who lives on to bless the world long after you're gone.**

This could be a brilliant sculpture or work of art, a hit-song that touches heart-strings, an epic novel or films. But few of the stars and stories and paintings today will be still on the radar screens 20 years from today, let alone a generation or two.

The one part of you that can live on is the investment you make in people in general, and in your children [I would say: *all* children – Pastor Val] in specific. The moments, memories, and memes you weave into the stories, histories, video and narratives of their lives will walk with them when they put you in the ground.

Walking from your own grave in the lives of those whose lives you've influenced the most; that is a special kind of immortality. It is a special kind power.

To me, that's meaning.

At this moment in time when you can create a message and hit the far corners of the world instantly, one might say we've moved from the industrial to the information age. But one might speculate that even that age is fading from the rear-view mirror at an ever-increasing speed.



People have always talked about "paying attention." It's a currency. It is not just "a" currency, it is "the" currency of the post-information age. You can always make more money. You will never make more time.

If I get that done even in a small way, and die the next day, I can live with that.

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A photograph of three people seated at a table covered with a light pink tablecloth. On the left is a woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white patterned blouse. In the center is a woman with short grey hair, wearing a light blue shirt and a patterned scarf, holding a small blue box. On the right is a man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, a light purple shirt, and a striped tie, holding a white mug. The table has a vase with yellow flowers, a woven basket, a small white cup, and a plate with a knife. The background shows a well-lit room with other people and furniture.

A group of four people are seated at a table covered with a light blue cloth. From left to right: a man in a dark long-sleeved shirt is partially visible in the background; an older woman with short white hair and glasses wears a red jacket over a white blouse; a woman with dark hair and glasses wears a grey top with a black collar; and a woman with dark hair and glasses wears a purple and white patterned jacket. On the table are a vase with yellow flowers, a wire mesh basket, a smartphone, and several white cups. The background shows a room with large windows and other people.

WALT & LINDA EBEL & family



9

COMING EVENTS



FOOD.....FUN...FELLOWSHIPFUNDRAISING

The Food-Fun-Fellowship-Fundraising group is hosting the Spring –in-to -Summer **Dinner**
Sunday June 8th 5pm

Kabobs and trimmings-what the trimmings will be is yet to be determined but it will certainly fill you up

Please dress ready for summer---hats-visors-fun shirts ...sandals & sunglasses!

\$20 adults and \$10 for children

So save the date and watch and listen for more details

RSVP to jhubbard1952@comcast.net or Susan at the office

SOLID ROCK SUMMER CAMP VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Monday, June 23 through Thursday,
June 26**

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

The host church is the Aberdeen Presbyterian Church, along with Amazing Grace, St. Mary's Catholic and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Pastor Doug of the Aberdeen Pres. Church has written the curriculum this year!



Put these dates on your calendar!!!!



DRAFT COUNCIL MINUTES

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 1, 2014

- I. The Amazing Grace Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Mark Smalley.
- II. Opening devotions were read by Diane Hanson.
- III. Prayer tasks were assigned as follows: Thanksgiving/Diane, Intercession/Jeanette, Petition/Dee, Praise/Mark.
- IV. Mark noted that a quorum was established for this meeting.
- V. The Agenda was reviewed and m/s/a.
- VI. The minutes from the last meeting, March 4, 2014, were m/s/a with minor corrections.
- VII. Financial Reports:
 - Treasurer's Report – Chrissie Kincaid
Chrissie has been meeting regularly with Barb to learn her new duties. They also met and paid bills yet she was unable to bring printouts as Barb is in the hospital and Chrissie did not have passwords for the computer programs.
 - Financial Secretary's Report – Mike Kupka.
Mike submitted the March 2014 Record of Giving. March's total was \$16836.58.
- VIII. Business items:
 - A.-B. It was m/s/a to require two signatures on checks. It was m/s/a to have a total of four signers on the account held with Anchor Bank. It was m/s/a to remove the following names from the Anchor Bank Checking Account:

President: Arlene Torgerson
Vice President: William Rabung
Treasurer: Barb Williams
 - It was m/s/a to add the following names to the Anchor Bank Checking Account:

President: Mark Smalley
Vice President: Diane Hanson
Treasurer: Christine (Chrissie) Kincaid
Secretary: Jeannette Green
 - C. It was m/s/a to have Diane Hanson take over the Vice President position for the rest of this year. Diane shared she is willing to do it, yet asked council to be prayerful about someone coming forward with the willingness to serve on council.
 - D. Stewardship position on council. At this time we will not seek out a replacement for this position. We should all be prayerful about this position and who would be willing to serve in this capacity in the future.
 - E. Church Mutual – Pastor Val talked about the report from a representative from Church Mutual. After discussing the report with the represented there were only a couple of things that were required to complete and the rest were recommendations. The report included:
 1. Sidewalks need to be fixed – Required
 2. Remove the clothes in the youth shelter that is near the
 3. ceiling- Required Mark will take his truck to shelter on Saturday.

4. Exit signs need to be placed over doors - Recommended
5. Need sprinkler system- Recommended
6. Need burglar alarm - Recommended
7. Need CO2 monitor- Recommended
8. Bars on windows – Recommended

The ordinance and Law coverage will increase and we will also have an increase for insuring our handbells.

- F. Priority List – Coleman’s top two priorities for the year totaling \$8-9,000 include:
 1. Repair the leaks in the two portions of the roof.
 - a. Skywalk
 - b. Breezeway (by office) Chimney Leak
 2. Lighting for the Organ Room
- G. Fire Extinguisher Inspection – Chrissie called Fireguard and learned it is \$9.50 per extinguisher. Coleman will work with Susan to schedule
- H. Gift Policy – Gene Schermer and Arlene Torgerson are willing to work on Emergency Cold Weather Policy, and Youth protection Policy –are currently being worked on by Pastor Val and Mark.
- I. Electronic Giving – Mike looked into the electronic giving options for those who would like to set up their weekly or monthly giving and not have to worry about it. The website is www.simplygivingbythrivencu.com.
- J. Pictorial Directory – Pastor Val reported it is currently being worked on and hopefully out soon.
- K. Carpets – There was a question about our carpets being cleaned in the sanctuary. Pastor will talk with Cathy to find out more details.
- L. Gay marriages at Amazing Grace – Pastor Val reminded us with the legalization of gay marriage we need to decide whether or not gay marriages can be performed in our church. We will need to vote on this at our next council meeting. This brought up the question as to what our current policy is for weddings at the church in general, which there does not seem to be one.

IX. Ministry Reports

- A. Property – Coleman Carle
- B. Fellowship – Dee Erickson
She reported that it is going well with the volunteers who signed up to provide soup and bread for Thursday evening Lenten Services.
- C. Outreach – Kristine Finazzo
Kristine reported that the Outreach Committee meeting after Coffee hour on March 16th went well and that she was delighted to hear several passionate ideas. Will continue to have meetings.
- D. Stewardship – No report.

- E. Youth & Family – Chris has been unable to meet with Sunday school teachers, yet will meet with Pastor Val this week.
- F. Worship – Diane Hanson
Diane has been working on updating the Welcome and Endowment church brochures. The Worship Committee met March 25 and is busy preparing for Psalm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

X. Pastor's Report – Pastor Val Metropolitous

PASTOR'S REPORT - March 2014

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

5 Sunday worship services

Chose hymns

Plan and implement mid-week worship for Lent

Sermon – study, reading, writing; text study meeting

Prepare bulletins with secretary

Prepare prayers for worship weekly

Prayer

Liturgical Arts Team – plan Lent, Pentecost and other worship

Planning Good Friday ecumenical service with Pr. Doug and Pr. David

Funeral – plan, prepare and lead

Planned & presided at Community Lent Worship

ADMINISTRATION Staff meeting – weekly
 Council meeting monthly – plan and prepare
 Newsletter - help secretary with content and design
 Meet with Ministry Team leaders as needed
 Plan and implement Council retreat
 Book Study – Central Things: Worship in Word and Sacrament – plan and lead study
 Prayer Chain organization and implementation
 Insurance assessment with Church Mutual representative
 Treasurer – assess paperwork; move to appropriate files in church office

PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING Homebound and assisted living visits
 Organize Prayer Chain
 End-of-life pastoral care of family w/ Lutheran background at hospital
 Trader family – caring for them in last weeks of Carey's life

OUTREACH/VISITATION Under the Bridge Ministry with Sarah Monroe, deacon at St. Andrew's Youth Center needs
 Planned and host Pastor's Group meeting for mainline denomination pastors in Greys Harbor County
 Helped with addressing needs of displaced residents of Emerson Manor along with many other groups; made and delivered meals with helpers
 Coffee Ministry – meet people to chat about life and faith as often as possible
 Facebook page – outreach through social media.

Baptism preparation – weekly with Hiedi Seelke/ Donohue baptism preparation

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE Program thermostats in sanctuary and parish hall as needed
Preparation and clean-up of Parish Hall for mid-week service; council retreat

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Meet w/ Sarah Tevliet Channel about Youth group – as needed.
Plan and lead faith + life (youth group) every other Sunday (when youth come)
Plan and lead Confirmation every other Sunday for 1 1/2 hours
Research possibilities for Sunday School and cross generational faith development

OFFICIAL ACTS (Baptisms, funerals, weddings) 1 baptism – Catherine Madison Donohue
1 welcome to baptism – Hiedi Seelke
1 funeral – Carey Trader

VACATION 0 days of vacation in March

CONTINUING EDUCATION: No formal continuing education in March

XI. Task Assignments –

Mark – email out an updated list of projects for the property committee (see attached)
Pastor – Church Mutual DVD about Church Policies to Gene and Arlene
Mike – write an article for the May newsletter on the “simply giving “ program.
Coleman – will schedule the fire extinguisher inspections with Fireguard.
Mark/Pastor – talk with Cathy about steam cleaning the carpet
Mark – will investigate options for a laptop for Pastor
Check signers- will need to go to Anchor Bank to provide signature.

XII. The meeting was adjourned with closing prayer, which included the Prayer Tasks assigned at the beginning of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Green, Secretary

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*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