The Spirit

December 2020



Seeds grow in the dark. Hope's born in the dark. Dreams start in the dark so don't give up.

It's time to dream fierce dreams like Mary did. Brave dreams, like Joseph did. New dreams like Jesus did. Cause those who dream change everything.



Those Who Dream Change Everything

There's so much sorrow here, so much shame and hurt and fear.

And there's grief.

Feels like the ache is never ending. The night is long. Can't find sleep. Where has peace gone.

It's so hard to breathe.

It's time to dream fierce dreams, like Mary did.

Brave dreams, like Joseph did. New dreams like Jesus did. Cause those who dream change everything.

Our Advent theme, Those Who Dream, is full of possibility but also full of challenge. How do we dream without losing touch with reality, without succumbing to the temptation to escape into those dreams rather than face the hard realities we're living in?

The theme was inspired by Psalm 126 which was most likely written by the Israelites who had returned from captivity in Babylon. When they first returned, "they we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy."

But soon enough the hard reality of rebuilding the city and the temple turned their dreams into nightmare. In the face of backbreaking work with no end in sight they began to lose hope and so the Psalmist cries out to God in later verses, "Restore our fortunes, O LORD... May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy."

In so many ways, those could be our words. We had plans. We had things we were doing and planning to do. Even at the beginning of the pandemic we hoped that if we all just buckled down and stayed apart it would all be back to normal soon. But, weeks drug on to months and now, even with a vaccine in sight the reality is that normal is still months away. Besides that so much has been revealed to teach us that normal wasn't all that great for many, many people.

Throughout history, every time a pandemic has happened they have revealed disorder and caused major shifts in society. While we stay safe and care for each other as best we can, we also dream of a better future; a better way of being community, a better way of being church together.

So much is unknown about the future. But, this much we know: God's Spirit is with us, guiding us, causing a restlessness within us with the way things were that caused death and despair for so many people. Trusting in God, allowing ourselves to dream and listening to the dreams of others, we will find our way into a better future together.

BLESSING

As you go,

May you have the strength to dream

wild dreams of justice, and peace, and joy that overflows.

May you have the humanity to listen

to the dreams of others.

May you have the confidence to trust

that the God who heard the cries of the Israelites in Egypt hears your dreams as well.

And may you have the conviction to return

to this space, for our best dreams are those we dream together.

In the name of God the original dreamer,

Jesus the dream come true.

and the Holy Spirit who enables us to be those who dream,

go in peace, go in love. Amen.

Upcoming events:

- Advent Evening Prayer 7pm Wed. 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 on Facebook Live
- Christmas Eve Worship 12/24 7pm on Facebook Live
- Christmas Day Worship 12/25 10am on Facebook Live



BLESSED ARE THE PEACEKEEPERS

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

I am writing this letter on November 5, two days after the elections. Some election results are known and some are still pending. My purpose in writing is not to mourn or celebrate any of the results. Rather, I would like to think out loud with you about what God is calling us to do as Lutheran Christians from November 5 onward.

I ask that question because I anticipate that there will continue to be bitter arguments and verbal attacks for weeks and even months after the election, possibly even physical violence. I pray that this will not be so. Yet, I feel that our country is sharply divided and our unity is being tested more than it has ever been since the Civil War.

For that reason, I am certain that Christ is calling us to begin working as peacemakers, in the same way that he called his first followers in the Sermon on the Mount. God envisions us to be a community where all people treat one another with re-

spect and dignity, even in the midst of disagreements and conflicts. Part of our calling, therefore, is to work with Christ to heal broken relationships and restore *shalom*, peace, to our hearts, families and society.

Being a peacemaker does not mean that we become neutral on every issue, giving up or silencing our own viewpoints or political positions. One key part of our calling as Christians is to provide food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, protection for children, and justice for the oppressed, just as Jesus did. Therefore, it is necessary for us to passionately denounce what is wrong in our society and actively work to make things right.

At the same time, however, we are also called to be peacemakers. A peacemaker not only cares about achieving a just end, but also cares about the process in which people arrive at that end. Specifically, a peacemaker models, teaches and helps people to work through their conflicts and disagreements in a manner that is respectful of others and to

work towards outcomes that are fair, just, and unifying for all.

As we witness or find ourselves involved in conflicts in the weeks ahead, here are some specific things we can do as peacemakers.

- •Model what you want. If you want to be listened to by another person, listen to them first. If you don't want to be verbally attacked or insulted by another person, don't attack or insult others.
- •In every conversation, spend 50% of your time (or more) listening to people with whom you disagree, rather than talking at them. When someone says something you disagree with, rather than immediately jumping in with a counter-argument, say, "Please say more about this. I see things differently, so I'd like to understand your thinking and how you came to this conclusion." This will also help them to listen to you.
- •If you witness someone being verbally attacked or insulted, go and stand at their side and say to the person being insulted, "This is a really difficult moment. I want you to be respected and safe." Say to the one speaking insults, "My experience is that insults always make things worse. What is it about this matter that makes you feel so strongly?" That gets them out of their reactivity to talk about the issue itself.
- •Don't get drawn into bitter or insulting exchanges on social media. Don't try to address or resolve conflicts by email. It is so easy for us to misinterpret the meaning or tone of what someone has typed out to us when we are conflicted about something. Use emails for exchanging information about dates and activities, but the minute that some tension or disagreement appears, say to the other person, "Let's talk about this on the phone (or in person, or on Zoom.)"
- •Reach out to a local mosque, synagogue, or Historic Black congregation to get acquainted and offer support. No matter who wins the election, violence and verbal attacks against non-Christians and people of color are going to increase in the months ahead. Peacemakers give special care to those who are at highest risk and make sure that they have a voice at the table.

- •Hopefully this will not happen, but think through what you will do if a person comes to your church openly carrying weapons. Acquaint yourself with what the local laws are about openly bearing arms in public places. Introduce yourself to your local police department, both to establish a good relationship and learn from them about relevant ordinances and what to do in such situations.
- •Being a peacemaker is both satisfying and stressful, both deepening and exhausting. Therefore, don't try to do all this on your own. Find others in your congregation who will support one another as a peace team. Learn and get support from community organizations such as Braver Angels who are active as peacemakers, helping people in the United States to address conflicts and restore our unity as a nation. (See www.braverangels.org)

Martin Luther called upon government leaders to govern fairly and called upon citizens to work together to build communities where every person receives the respect, support, and care that God wants for them. Today, the Spirit of Christ is stirring and calling us to break out of our constant, heated divisions and learn again to talk, deliberate, and live together in a way that is fair for all.

Jesus once said, "Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back?...I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind." Luke 6: 31, 35-36 from The Message Bible

Christ not only frees and teaches us how to live, but

also empowers us through the Holy Spirit to live in a new way. May Christ give a double measure of that Spirit to our nation in this crucial time. May we open ourselves to the Spirit, so that we work coura-

geously as peacemakers.



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: Tiffany Powell, Fred Thurman, Curtis Steinhauer, Karen Barkstrom, Joseph, Carl & June Bender, Madonna Posey, Jean & Ray Hodge, Lynn, Cindy & Harley, Isaac & his mother, Annie, Jeff & Bob, Nancy, Courtney, Adrienne, Bud, Holly Henderson, Carter, Susie Kallendar, Ginny Clark, Phil-

ip, Matthew Green and his family, David Shaw, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean, David Hanson. We pray for family and friends of Cathy Kallio who died Tues., night 11/10. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for family and friends of Prof. Fretheim who died Monday, 11/16. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

You hold them and love them even more than we do. Your healing has restored so many that we have prayed for. 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 resurrection 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.**



December BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

Paula Elder, December 4 Loyd Gill, December 10 Jeannette Green, December 10 Gloria Bilderback, December 11 James Green, December 14 Karen Barkstrom, December 17 Dorothy Stephens, December 18 Karen Anderson, December 24 Hans Stegemoeller, December 24 Stephanie Kaufman, December 27 Molly Rabung, December 30

ANNIVERSARIES:

Brenda Grant & Liz Ellis, December 1



Everyone who continues to donate to the food bank. Union Gospel Mission for those of you who provide meals.

Ken Mitchell for the beautiful art work for the bulletin covers.

Everyone who serves with the worship leadership.

Mike Hubbard for fall the repairs and projects he takes on to keep our building functioning well.

Everyone who contributed canned milk for the Thanksgiving Baskets.

Kathy Wehage for making communion bread.

Amy Ostwald for doing a great job organizing the silent auction items on the church's website.

Everyone who provided pies and items to the Silent/Pie Auction. And those that participat-

ed in buying items for both auctions.

Prayer Chain who faithfully holds the needs of people in prayer.

Church Council for adapting and continuing the work of leading the congregation.

Task Force for so carefully assessing the virus situation so that safety is maintained.

Keith Lile for hours of work to set up audio/video system so that we can livestream worship. The hours of research, set up and training will make our worship accessible to so many.



CHAPLAINS DINNER NEWS

Many thanks to the group that cooked for and supplied food for the November 15 Chaplains Dinner - Carmon Shaw, Lynette Lile, Darci Jewitt, Pastor Val, Joan Rabung, Diane Hanson & Kathy Wehage.

Thanks also to some of our regulars that have cooked in the past -- Dee Erickson, Karen & Mike Barkstrom, Joni and Mike Hildreth and Cynthia & Greg Johnstone. Apologies to anyone I have forgotten!

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- Union Gospel Mission thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$63.79
- Pacific Lutheran University thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$43.49
- Habitat for Humanity thanks amazing Grace for a donation of \$43.49
- Dear Amazing Grace Church,

Thank you for your generous donation (\$100) to the Living Stones Congregation. Your gift helps bring comfort and encouragement to some of the most vulnerable and isolated members of the body of Christ. You are deeply appreciated.

In Christ,

K. Heisleman -Living Stones Congregation

• Thank you,

For sending "the Spirit" for all these months. I enjoyed reading it and still miss you. Ardith Savoy

THE WINNERS OF THE 2020 PRISON RAFFLE

Bishop Rick Jaech drew the winning tickets at the synod office on Nov. 17.

Grand prize (\$2,020) - Carol Swoyer, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA

2nd prize (\$202) - George Shanafelt, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Olympia, WA 3rd prize (handmade quilt) - Verna Westman, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Centralia, WA 4th prize (handmade child-size quilt) - Judy Miller, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA 5th prize (handmade Seahawks apron) - Holly Cattin, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

December 1

Judi Hubbard, Leader

Mike & Karen Barkstrom, Pastor Val, Trish Safstrom, Sarah Channel, Darci Jewitt, Sub: Kala

Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw 360-532-

2940

Kitchen manager, Doug, would like to have food there at **3pm** if possible.

When you deliver, drive into the back alley, then call the Union Gospel office at 360-533-1064 and they will come out to the





CHRISTMAS FOOD BANK BASKETS

The Food Bank will distribute 125 baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas to families who are experiencing food insecurity this year. Amazing Grace has been asked to provide one can of evaporated milk for each basket. We need 45 more

cans of evaporated milk ready for boxing by December 19 for Distribution on Dec. 21st. These can be dropped off outside the office during office hours Mon., Tues., Wed., and Fri. from 8-1. Thank you for your generosity!



FEED THE HUNGRY CHRISTMAS STOCKING COMMITTEE

We are collecting men's gloves for this effort. Gently used or new gloves can be left at the church office. If you'd rather make a donation send it to: Feed the Hungry PO Box 1734 Aberdeen, WA 9852 Contact: Jeannine Bramstead 360-533-4641 Cher Keller– Program Coordinator: cell 360-500-7629 or office 360-637-8563



GIVING TREE

We're gathering gift cards, or donations to be used to purchase them. They'll be given to families identified by our teachers who know the families who are struggling this year. Cards or donations may be mailed: 111 E. 4th St. or dropped at the office or you can donate on the website: amazinggraceaberdeen.org. We ask that the gift cards be Walmart or Visa gift cards for greatest flexibility for families. A

\$100 gift card would sponsor a whole family. Any amount is appreciated and will be added up to equal our goal of \$100 per family. In addition, we'll make a small gift bag with holiday goodies which we will add the gift cards to. Feel free to donate small containers of nuts, holiday cookies, candy, etc. for the gift bag. Thanks in advance for your generosity. Other organizations have cut back on the families they are serving this year, so the need is greater than ever.



CHAPLAINS DINNERS

Dates have been set for providing food for future Chaplains Dinners in 2021:

Jan. 17, 2021

March 21, 2021

May 16, 2021

July 18, 2021 September 19, 2021 November 2, 2021



If you are interested in cooking, providing some of the food or donating to one of these meals, get in touch with Amy O. at aaostwald@gmail.com or simply send a donation to the church office marked for Chaplains Dinner.

COMPOST

Please take note that until further notice, there will be no compost drop offs at Amazing Grace. Please compost at home if you can. Liz Ellis

2021 CALENDARS

John has again produced a photo calendar using some of his best shots from last year. Your calendar can be picked up from Vickie during her office hours or from the Fellowship Hall. We are asking a \$20 donation each. John has requested 100% of the proceeds go to the Building and Maintenance Fund.



FOOD BANK

Food bank is especially in need of baby wipes, peanut butter, mac & cheese and diapers sizes 2,4,5, & 6. Please leave donations when the office is open Tues., Wed., Thurs. or Friday between 8-1 in the box outside the office. If it's raining or at oth-

er times, please leave them in the parish hall. If you prefer to send a monetary donation that may be sent to: P.O. Box 444 Aberdeen, WA 98520



TASK FORCE for resuming in-person worship has recommended that we SUSPEND in-person worship for awhile since Covid cases in the county and the state are increasing. The Task Force will reassess

the situation weekly. If you feel you need to be in worship IN-PERSON, please contact Pastor Val.

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?



OFFICE HOURS

Church office is open: **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 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 box. If you need help, talk to Vicky through the door or call her: 360.532.8250.

Pastor Val is staying home and stay safe as we all are. You can usually reach me most any time. If I can't answer, please leave a message and I'll get back to you asap.

Please call, text, or email if you want to pray together or talk. Let me know what you need. I pray for you all constantly, but I miss you! I would love to connect in some way with each of you!

CHEWY MOLASSES COOKIES- from Cynthia Johnstone

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour

1 tsp. ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. ground ginger

1/2 tsp. ground cloves

1/4 tsp. baking powder

1/4 tsp. salt

6 tbsp. butter, softened

8 tbsp. sugar, divided

1/4 cup dark brown sugar

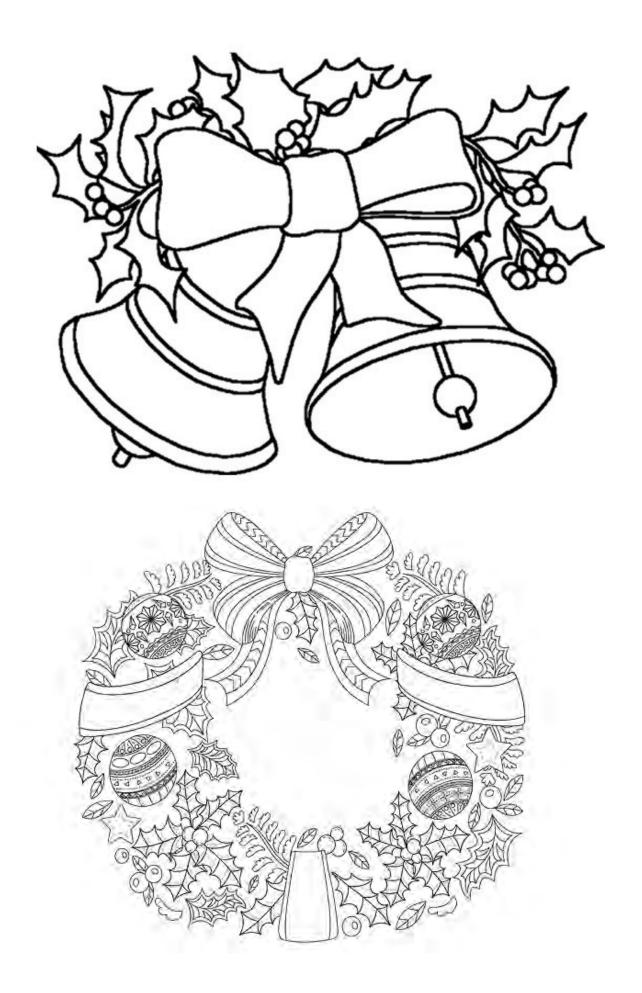
1 large egg

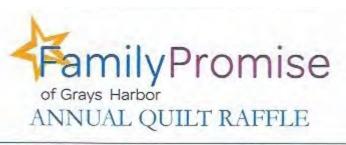
1/4 cup molasses

Combine flour and the next 6 ingredients (through salt) in a bowl, stirring with a whisk.

Place butter, 5 tablespoons sugar, and brown sugar in a large bowl; beat with a mixer at medium speed 5 minutes or until fluffy. Add egg, beat 30 seconds. Add molasses; beat just until combined. Add flour mixture to butter mixture, beat at low speed or just until combined. Cover and chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 deg. Shape dough into 24 balls, about 1 1/2 tablespoons each. Roll balls in remaining 3 tbsp. sugar; place 2 inches apart on baking sheets covered with parchment paper. Bake at 350 for 12 minutes or just until set. Cool 3 minutes on pan; remove to wire rack.







It's time for our Annual Holiday Quilt Raffle! Tickets for this beautiful handiwork are \$2 each and the winner will be drawn on December 11, 2020.

To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact Family Promise at 360-986-3948 or fpghcasemanager@gmail.com or drop by the Day Center Monday through Friday between 10 am and 2 pm.

Above: Contact Arlene Torgerson for tickets if those hours don't work for you.

Kathy Wehage cooking casseroles for the Chaplains Dinner on Sunday, November 15th.





Annika Natwick at her Confirmation October 25, 2020.

With Annika are Pastor Val, Annika, her parents Steve and Anneliese, brother Jacob, grandmother Naomi Kraiger, mentor Kathy Wehage, and friend Diane Hanson.

The beautiful quilt was made by Eileen Schermer.

Pictures provided by Diane Hanson



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 commu-

- nication 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.

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. It is most appropriate to contact the council member that your question addresses outside of council meeting. They 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 October 27, 2020

Vision: A welcoming place where grace happens.

Mission: To Experience and share God's love through worship, education, and community.

<u>Values:</u> 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, Dee Erickson, Amy Ostwald, Pastor Val, Mike Barkstrom, Theresa Kaufman, Carrie Erwin, Phil Stegemoeller

- I. Call to Order by Pres. Joelle Buckman 6:19
- II. Prayer / Highs & Lows
- III. Establish Quorum

(I - III: 15 min)

- IV. Review & approve minutes of last two meetings for 9/22 & 10/13 M/S/P
- V. Review and Approve Agenda

(IV - V: 5 min)

-Added under Business Items (c) Expenses for Church

VI. Financial Reports - 30 minutes

(30 min)

- A. Treasurer's Report Theresa Kaufman
 - -Bills to be Paid M/S/P
 - 1. Updated costs for health insurance
 - -A discussion was had about health insurance for Pastor. New cost for gold level per month for 2020 is \$2,426.93 for whole benefit package.
 - -Motion to continue same benefit gold package for health insurance M/S/P
- B. Financial Secretary's Report Phil Stegemoeller
 - 1. New Program for financial secretary
 - -Will discuss at next meeting.

VII. Business items

(10 min)

- A. <u>Funding Audio/Video updates</u> Endowment committee
 - -As soon as the links are received, Pastor Val will order them.
- B. Budget meeting
 - -Will meet in the next couple weeks. Phil is working on the budget.
 - -Continuing to work on the water issues around the church. Water needs to be rerouted coming off the Parish Hall and church roofs. Cost is \$960 and he would like to combine it with the other job Lupo is doing.

Task Assignments

- -Theresa will attach Phil's report to hers when she sends out reports for council.
- -Theresa will provide Mike with a breakdown of Maintenance and Family Promise Expenses.
- -Theresa and Phil will get together to go over checks
- -Theresa will submit insurance decision to Portico.
- -Phil will contact some people about offerings
- -Joelle and Phil will discuss the new program for the Financial Secretary and set up a budget meeting Adjournment and closing prayer 6:48

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Mission Council Meeting Minutes Oct. 13th, 2020

Vision: A welcoming place where grace happens.

Mission: To Experience and share God's love through worship, education, and community.

<u>Values:</u> 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, Amy Ostwald, Pastor Val, Mike Barkstrom, Carrie Erwin

- I. Prayers
- II. Call to Order by Pres. Joelle Buckman and 6:07
- III. Establish Quorum (I III: 15 min)
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda
- (IV: 2 min)
- V. **Business items** (these are generally items that are beyond any one ministry or don't fit under any ministry, special requests from the community) (10min)
 - A. Mutual Ministry Update Joelle
 - -Will meet next week.
 - B. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative Pastor Val/Curtis
 - -Meets again next week with new leader, replacing Pastor Melanie.
 - C. Bel-Aire Property Love Realty
 - -Pastor Val will send the offer from Love Realty to Mike O'Connor.
 - D. <u>Dec. Council meeting date</u>
 - -Both Mission and Administrative Meetings will be held on 12/8. There will not be a meeting on 12/22.
 - E. Budget Meeting date
 - -Will be announced next week. Joelle and Phil are meeting on 11/18.

VI. Ministry Reports

(25 min)

- A. Worship –Pastor Val
 - 1. Resuming in-person worship Task Force
 - -Task force continues to recommend allowing a few people to attend in-person worship.
 - 2. Report on audio/video updates
 - -Pastor Val has started ordering the equipment needed. Some delays because items are sold out. Pastor expects to have all the parts in within 1-2 weeks.
- B. Outreach Amy Ostwald
 - 1. Family Promise- the 1 family in residence has gotten a job and housing & has graduated.
 - 2. Chaplains dinner
 - -Amazing Grace is cooking on 11/15. Amy is working on getting us set up on a schedule of providing the food once every 2 months.
 - 3. Giving Tree- planning is in progress.
- C. Youth & Family Pastor Val
 - 1. Sunday School
 - -Received surveys back from 5 families. All were interested in a mix of paper packets and on-line (possible Zoom) classes.
 - 2. Confirmation No change.
 - 3. Adult group study No change.
- D. Fellowship Carrie Erwin

Pie Auction – Details will be sent out from Pastor Val on both the silent auction and the live (via Facebook) auction. Brenda Grant provided a lot of knit items for the auction.

- E. <u>Property</u> Mike Barkstrom
- -Mike Hubbard and Roger Shaw are continuing to work on the maintenance tool bench in the basement
- -Lupo has not yet started on the repairs previously approved.

Pastor's Report

Task Assignments

- -Pastor Val to send out Pie Auction details
- -Pastor Val to send Love Realty offer to Mike O'Connor

Adjournment and closing prayer 6:35



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

WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP Sunday worship – Plan and lead

Plan adult education

Plan seasonal and special worship services Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing

Prayer

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 Affordable housing Synod meeting

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 Confirmation – Annika Kraiger

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Spiritual Direction Supervision Group

OTHER ACTIVITIES in October

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE: Task Force for resuming in person worship

PASTORAL CARE: 40 Days of Prayer as Our Nation Prepares for an Election – prayers to congregation

and on facebook

Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed

WORSHIP: Planning for in-person worship, Advent and Christmas

Purchasing A/V equipment

Weekly text study with synod pastors

YOUTH/FAMILY/Education: Confirmation

OUTREACH: Synod Affordable Housing Initiative meeting

Family Promise

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Collective Healing Trauma Summit – 5 Day webinar

VACATION: None

UPCOMING: Pie Auction 11/22

Advent begins 11/29 Christmas Eve 12/24



OCTOBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Tot	al
Checking		\$	27,499.99
-PSALM		\$	100.00
-Caring Cupboard -Pastor's Sabbatical Re-		\$	433.51
serve		\$	2,620.00
-Music		\$	(13.54)
-Bells		\$	465.95
-Friends in Need		\$	380.27
-Reformation Fund		\$	1,071.20
-Outreach Funds		\$	500.00
-Altar Restore		\$	386.83
-Altar Guild		\$	367.00
-Noisy Offering		\$	-
-Family Promise Mainte- nance Holding		\$	2,100.00
-Chaplain's Dinner		\$	320.00
-Grace Fund		\$	340.00
	TOTAL	\$	36,571.21
Fundraising Checking		\$	-
Maintenance Checking		\$	16,764.69
-Roof		\$	-
Youth Checking		\$	295.75
Memorial Savings		\$	2,306.36
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$	1,907.82



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	deekaye1@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	vmetropoulos 001@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

amazinggraceaberdeen.org amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977 vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle,

Curtis Steinhauer, Charles Scamman **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



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 Grays Harbor

111 E. 4th Street Aberdeen, WA 98520

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360.532.8250







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