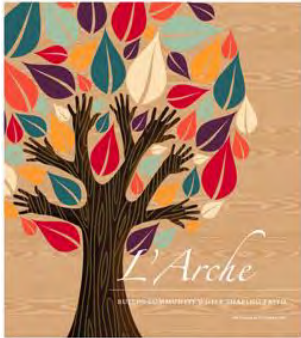


# JULY 2014

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
111 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street - Aberdeen, WA 98520  
360-532-8250  
[amazinggraceaberndeen.org](http://amazinggraceaberndeen.org)  
[amazing111@comcast.net](mailto:amazing111@comcast.net)



## SUMMER POINT The Spirit OF VIEW

The L'Arche Community was founded in France and now

has homes around the world. In L'Arche communities people with developmental disabilities and those who assist them live and work together to create homes. The L'Arche Charter says, "In a divided world, L'Arche wants to be a sign of hope. Its communities, founded on covenant relationships between people of differing intellectual capacity, social origin, religion and culture, seek to be signs of unity, faithfulness and reconciliation."

The following story was told by Henri Nouwen recalling an event that happened between L'Arche community residents in France:

"Claude has the most illogical mind that I have ever encountered so this may be the first and last time that he is ever quoted in a book. He may ask such questions as 'What time is orange?' or 'How was tomorrow?' But still he does have a wisdom all his own... Well, one day Claude was at the beach with Jean-Pierre and several others of the community. The ocean was at low tide so there was an immense stretch of flat, sandy beach. They began making designs in the sand. Claude drew a big circle with a couple of marks inside that could have been facial features. 'What's that?' asked Jean-Pierre. With a big smile Claude replied: 'It's Madame Sun.' 'That's good' Jean-Pierre said, 'Now let's see you draw joy.' Claude took a look around him at the wide beach that stretched out in both directions as far as they eye could see, then he turned to Jean-Pierre and said with a huge smile but in all seriousness: **'There's not enough room!'**"

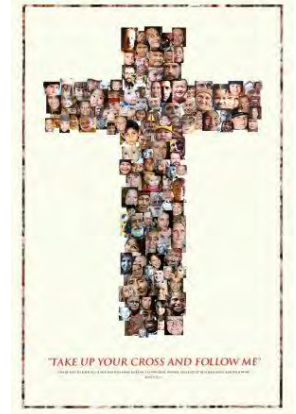
May your summer be marked with knowledge of God-with-you in all you do, our call to reach out to the world as Jesus, and with a joy so vast it cannot be contained within this beautiful harbor we call home.  
Pastor Val

## Cry and Die

"To call a local church into the mission of Jesus is to call its members into two behaviors. First we cry. Then we die. We let our hearts be broken with the things that break the heart of God.

Then we die to the comfortable patterns of life that insulate us emotionally and geographically from those for whom Christ died."

*Ben Campbell Johnson and Glenn McDonald in Imagining a Church in the Spirit*



As of July 1<sup>st</sup> we're at the midway point in our 6 weeks of prayer and discernment. The Outreach ministry asked us to pray for God's guidance and wisdom so that the mission God is calling us to as a congregation would become clear.

The people of Amazing Grace are involved in God's work of redeeming the world in many ways already: as volunteers in the community, through activities in the congregation, and in our work life and relationships. We trust that God is always at work, bringing hope into desperate situations, good out of evil and passion out of complacency. We trust that **God always goes ahead of us** into every situation, every neighborhood, and every relationship, no matter how hopeless or unredeemable they may appear. Our prayer is that God will stir us to see with new eyes and open hearts what God is already doing here in Aberdeen, in Grays Harbor, Washington, the USA and around the world so that **we can be a part of that work of bringing hope to this weary world.**

There is always the danger as well-intentioned people with a world full of need in our face that we will just jump in, anxious to "do something." That understandable attitude leads us to ask God to bless **our plans** rather than waiting on God's time and

consenting to our hearts being shaped by prayer and study and discernment as a community of believers. Prayer, study and community discernment attune us to learn to hear the tune that God's invites us to sing along with and to give up the tired, discordant tunes that have proven so destructive in the past.

The Outreach ministry has asked us to be in prayer for six weeks, knowing that that may be only the beginning. The way forward may still not be clear at that time. But, we are committed as people who follow the one who told us not to "Get 'er done" but to "Take up your cross and follow me" or as The Message version of the Bible says it, **"Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?"** *Matthew 16:24-26*

Sacrifice and self-denial are not popular tunes in our world today. In fact, they have never been popular. But for those of us who follow Jesus of the cross it is the only way.

Please join the outreach ministry team in prayer for the next three weeks and maybe beyond. Open your heart to see and hear and feel what God may be nudging us to see and hear and feel **in our neighborhood and throughout the world**. Write down your thoughts so that you can share them when we come together to talk about this. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ here at Amazing Grace humbly asking for God's guidance so that we can faithfully be the face and hands of Jesus in this place at this time.

Pastor Val



## MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JAECH

**Southwestern Washington Synod, Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America.**

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2*

We enjoyed a wonderful Synod Assembly in late May, reflecting on the theme of Hospitality and practicing hospitality with one another. Both our Assembly planning committee, chaired by Pastor Ron Kempe, and the entire congregation and staff of Trinity Lutheran Church, who hosted us, deserve our deep thanks for the constant hospitality they offered.

How do we practice hospitality in our life and ministry as congregations? Here's a brief summary of what we considered at the Assembly.

In the New Testament Gospels, we see two important types of hospitality being offered. When Martha and Mary welcome Jesus into their home in Bethany, they are giving a wonderful example of Home Hospitality. **Home Hospitality** is when we open our hearts, homes and congregations to all who enter, providing them a place to be welcomed and nourished by the Spirit of God through Word, Sacrament and Holy Community. Home Hospitality is essential to our work as the community of Christ's people.

Jesus also demonstrates another kind of hospitality, which can be called **Road Hospitality**. In his parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus describes three ways that we treat each other when we meet on the highways of life. We do Road Rage, like the robbers who beat up the man who was on his way to Jericho. We do Road Avoidance, like the priest and Levite who "passed on the other side" in order to avoid getting

involved with the wounded man lying on the ground.

Or say Jesus, we can do **Road hospitality, like the Samaritan**, who went to extraordinary lengths to care for the injured man.

**Both Home Hospitality and Road Hospitality** are necessary parts of our ministry as Lutheran congregations in the Southwestern Washington Synod. First, they are the natural outgrowth of God's grace and love stirring in our lives. We are all travelers through life and God continually meets us on the road, wherever we are, and heals us, welcomes us home, and nourishes us as dear and beloved children.

**Second, Home and Road Hospitality** are crucial for our future existence as a church. Not as many people are coming through our doors on Sunday morning as they used to. Therefore, we need to go out these doors to find people wherever they are hurting and minister to them in Christ's name. We would do that in any case because it's the Way that Jesus leads us. We also do Road Hospitality because it's a key way to meet new people and form trusting relationships. It will lead people to say, "Who are these Lutherans who seem to care so much about us, our cities, and creation itself? Maybe I might like being part of their community?"

God bless you as you gather each week in your church homes to be fed, filled and renewed by God. God bless you as you go out on the roads each week to bring God's love to your neighbors. Through that interwoven pattern of Home and Road Hospitality, the Holy Spirit keeps us alive.

## JULY 2014 CALENDAR

3 THURSDAY 6:30 p.m. AA  
4 FRIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED  
FOURTH OF JULY

6	9:45 a.m.	HYMN FEST
	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP & SENDING OF COMMUNION
	11:00 a.m.	FELLOWSHIP

8 TUESDAY 6:30 p.m. CHURCH COUNCIL  
9 THURSDAY 6:30 p.m. AA  
11 FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED  
12 SATURDAY 4 p.m. Hayley Erickson/Adam Sykes Wedding

13	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP
	11:00 a.m.	FELLOWSHIP

17 THURSDAY 6:30 p.m. AA  
18 FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED

20	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP
	11:00 a.m.	FELLOWSHIP

24 THURSDAY 6:30 p.m. AA  
25 FRIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED

27	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP
	11:00 a.m.	FELLOWSHIP

31 THURSDAY 6:30 p.m. AA

## HYMN FESTS

The first Sunday of each month, we'll gather at 9:45 to sing some of your favorite hymns. Kris Burns will provide the music. You can request your favorite hymns .... and we will sing them! **The Hymn Fest happens the first Sunday of each month.** (July 6<sup>th</sup>) *"Singing hymns are prayers to God's ear."* **PLEASE JOIN US**

## JULY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

1 Stella Southern  
5 Shelbie Dickson  
6 Mike Kupka  
7 Evelyn Ellingsen  
8 Calvin Evanson  
9 Al Carlberg  
11 Donna Morrisette  
12 David Richards  
19 Nicole Evanson  
22 Suzan Stegemoeller  
23 Amanda Kaufman  
26 Cath Hagen  
29 Pete Majar  
31 Molly Johnson, Joan Rabung

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Ingrid & Suzan Stegemoeller
- 2 Inez & Charles Coulter
- 23 Keith & Lynnette Lile
- 24 Mike & Judi Hubbard
- 25 John & Doris Tieder
- 26 Coleman & Laura Carle
- 27 Tim & Pam Alstrom
- 29 Anneliese Kraiger & Stephen Natwick



## **PRAYING FOR.....**

*Eleanor Knapp, Nicole Claussen, Pam Thorson, Julie, Al Carlberg, BJ Bastin, Richard Kraiger, Doug George, Gwen, Karuna Johnson, Shelbie Offrink, Don Stubb, Kay, Nicole, Aileen Long, Ginger Cameron, Peyton Willis, Cassidy Anderson, Melvin Thompson, Melissa Smiley, Kenny Broussard, Claudia & Karen Johnson. We pray for the young people and workers at the youth center; for those who are homeless, especially Ed, and Lavonne and for long-term caregivers Jack Bastin & Carol Stubb.*

## **JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**SUNDAY, JULY 6**

**Pastor:** Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant/Acolyte:** Susan Bylund ; **Reader:** Geri Stubb; **Ushers/Greeters:** Paula Elder & Maurita White; **Depositors:** Ray & Jean Hodge; **Fellowship Hosts:** Tim & Pam Alstrom, John & Doris Tieder, Bob & Mary Ellen Salmon, Gene & Eileen Schermer

**SUNDAY, JULY 13**

**Pastor:** Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant:** Judi Hubbard ; **Communion Assistant/Acolyte:** Kristine Finazzo; **Reader:** Trish Safstrom; **Ushers/Greeters:** Darrell & Elaine Lokken;

**Depositors:** Eileen & Gene Schermer; **Fellowship Hosts:** Jill Waite, Carmon & Roger Shaw, James & Jeannette Green

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

**Pastor:** Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant:** Laura Carle; **Communion Assistant/Acolyte:** Madi Green; **Reader:** Mark Smalley; **Ushers/Greeters:** Jeannette Green & Carmon Shaw; **Depositors:** Mike & Judi Hubbard; **Fellowship Hosts:** Diane Hanson, Kathy Wehage & Ray & Jean Hodge

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**

**Pastor:** Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant:** Gary Morean; **Communion Assistant/Acolyte:** Theresa Kaufman; **Reader:** Arlene Torgerson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Dennis & Donna Morissette; **Depositors:** Karen & Mike Barkstrom; **Fellowship Hosts:** Harold & Molly Johnson, Donna Spere, Joan & William Rabung & girls

## **ELCA Ministries**

### **Shout-out for Team ELCA**

*A call to all for greater, deeper and unapologetic participation in this church.*

By ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

We are in the middle of synod assembly season. All synods will meet, vote, discuss, worship and sing. I will be at five of these and can assure you that, though there are delightful regional flavors, they will be remarkably similar. If we were to take a voting member from the Pacifica Synod meeting in Hawaii this year and plunk her down in the hills of Pennsylvania at the Allegheny Synod Assembly, she would recognize what was going on.

Each year from April to June a remarkable thing happens across this church. We come together. Members of synods participate together in the work of the ELCA and like it! Congregations see the work we do together as the ELCA all across this country and around the world and have a sense that they are part



of something greater than themselves and are proud of it. For a few shining days we believe and live the words of Paul: “So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).

And then we go home.

In the Dr. Seuss story *Horton Hears a Who!* there is an entire civilization existing on a speck of dust. The moral of this story is that, though it might not be part of our experience, we shouldn’t discount the experience of another. After all, “a person’s a person no matter how small.” But I think there is another less perky lesson to be drawn, and that is, until they got into trouble the citizens of Whoville were quite content to believe their speck of dust was the whole world.

We’re not so different. Congregations can, and often do, fall into the trap of believing that they are the church, the whole church, all by themselves. Coupled with some of the most frequently asked questions usually raised around budget time—“What do we get from the synod?” and “What does the synod do for us?”—this understanding of church becomes what I call “Transactional Whoville Ecclesiology.”

Transactional because the motivation for participating in a relationship is what can be gotten out of it. Whoville because the individual or the congregation or the synod or the region or the churchwide organization believes it is entirely the church.

I’m not sure which part of Transactional Whoville Ecclesiology is most distressing. This ecclesiology arises from a transactional understanding of our relationship with God. If I go to church, if I keep the commandments, if I follow Jesus, then God will do something for me. The gift of resurrection itself becomes a transaction. It’s like someone saying to his or her spouse, “I love you honey, but I’m only in this marriage to get your pension when you die.” It’s the opposite of “We love because [God] first loved us” (1 John 4:19). It’s “we love so God *will* love us.” This is a grace-less ecclesiology.

The question should not be “What does the synod do for us?” or “What do we get from the synod?” Rather, transformed by the love of God in the death and resurrection of Christ, the question should be “What are we able to do together as synod?” or “What do we

get to do as synod or as the ELCA?”

Whoville ecclesiology is isolating. It’s also really American. We celebrate the concept of the rugged individual. We value self-determination. Autonomy is prized. We are suspicious of claims on us by a greater whole. The concept of church as the body of Christ and that we are members one of another, then, is very countercultural.

But the baptized aren’t just a collection of individuals in the church for what they can get out of it. We have been claimed by Christ. Paul reminds us, “You are not your own” (1 Corinthians 6:19). The Marine Corps has billboards that proclaim: “Serving something greater than themselves.” How is it that they are better at articulating what it means to be church together than we are?

This isn’t a plug for institutional survival or mindless loyalty. It’s a call to each of us and all of us to greater, deeper and unapologetic participation in the part of the church known as the ELCA. We can have a little pride in who we are without irony. I believe I’ve established my theological heft so I am allowed a little hokeyness. Here it is: We are Team ELCA.

*This column originally appeared in the June 2014 issue of The Lutheran. Reprinted with permission.*

## BAPTISM

**June 29: JAXSON MOON GRAMS**, daughter of Lisa & Christopher Grams, granddaughter of Moonbeam & Mike Kupka.



## WEDDING

**July 12: Hayley Erickson & Adam Sykes**

(Hayley is the daughter of Dee & Mike Erickson)



Amazing Grace **PRAYER CHAIN** is busy praying for the needs of our community. Please let Susan or Pastor Val know if you would like to join as a pray-er. If you have a prayer request, contact Susan at the office 360.532.8250. After hours, you can contact Susan with emergency prayer requests @ 589-8750 or Pastor Val at 360.580.8977.

All requests are confidential. Information is only shared with the prayer chain and we will continue to pray for your need until you tell us to stop. If you have permission to pray for the person in the bulletin and/or newsletter, please let us know. Please let us know how your prayers are answered.

If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, please let Susan or Pastor Val know!



Thank you to **Madi Green & Jeni Kaufman** for sewing and preparing the special blankets for each of our 2014 Graduates. Each blanket was designed with colors and activities that portrayed each students activities and interests.

Thank you to **Theresa Kaufman** for filling in for Susan while she was on medical leave. Theresa did a wonderful, efficient job running the office.

Thank you to **Kristine Finazzo** for a Father's Day event where we have collected men's underwear & socks needed by the Union Gospel Mission. Thank you to the people for the donations of underwear and socks to the Mission.

People are reminded to be prayerful about Outreach as we all pray about our passions.



## GOING TO COLLEGE?

Apply for a scholarship from the Amazing Grace  
Lutheran Church

### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Scholarship are available to members of Amazing Grace who are attending college or are planning on starting college this year.

The Endowment Committee has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to members of our church during the past several years.

To apply, get a scholarship application from the church secretary, Susan Bylund or Pastor Val.

If you have any questions, contact Keith Lile.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 15, 2014**

## Attention Safeway Shoppers!

Amazing Grace remains partnered with **eScrip**, a proven fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners (Safeway, locally here on the Harbor) contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards to the participating organization of your choice.

Here's how it works: Your Safeway club card is registered through the Amazing Grace group login on the eScrip website. Safeway makes quarterly contributions to your group of 3% of your total shopping dollars spent, based on purchases made by you, just by using the card you have registered! Please see Theresa Kaufman to sign up or to confirm whether or not your current account is still active or needs to be renewed.

# NOTE FROM GRAYS HARBOR YOUTH CENTER

\*Here's the link to our updated Amazon Wish List with our new needs for the season the change. Remember you can either use the convenience of Amazon and order directly through the on-line program or just use the wish list as a guide.

Everything on the Amazon Wish List can be purchased elsewhere. You may also feel free to just donate an Amazon gift card to GHYC as well, thank you to each and every one of you for your constant support!

<http://amzn.com/w/3JUHI5MAZNQQK>

## QUILTING NEWS

Although school has just closed for the year, you will find that the big box stores in our area will be advertising specials for school supplies soon after July 4<sup>th</sup>. The quilter's have been busy sewing the backpacks needed to ship the school kits to Lutheran World Relief with our October shipment.

The flowing items are needed for each kit. You may purchase all of the items and put them in the backpacks which will be available in the parish hall in early July or just purchase individual items and place them in the basket which will be available with the display. We hope to continue our tradition of sending around 150 kits each fall to children around the world who have been displaced from their homes. We will also accept donations and do the shopping for you!! Thanks in advance for your support!

- *Four 70-sheet notebooks (280-300 sheets total) of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8"x10-1/2"; NO LOOSE LEAF PAPER*
- *One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (Wooden is best)*
- *One pencil sharpener*
- *One pair of blunt scissors*
- *Five black or blue ballpoint pens (NO GELL INK); secure together with a rubber band*
- *One box of 16 or 24 crayons (CRAYOLA brand is the best)*
- *One 2-1/2" eraser*

*P.S. We can also use clean, flat sheets for the backing of our quilts*



© Can Stock Photo - csp0028680

## Got pocket change? Want to do something special with it?

*(The colorful red can sitting on the counter in the parish hall is for this purpose)*

Grays Harbor Youth Center of Catholic Community Services can put your pocket change to good use! Our biggest need is bus tokens as it takes a youth token worth 50 cents to go one way to appointments, job interviews, school, visits with family members and independent errand running. All of these trips via the bus leads them to independence, stability, family reunification and successful futures. So bring us your pocket change or take it to Grays Harbor Transit office to purchase student tokens for us, either way our youth will benefit from your pocket change!

## JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Week of July 6:** Zechariah 9:9-12,  
Psalm 145:8-14, Romans 7:15-25a,  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**Week of July 13:** Isaiah 55:10-13,  
Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13, Romans 8:1-11,  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Week of July 20:** Isaiah 44:6-8,  
Psalm 86: 11-17, Romans 8:12-25,  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**Week of July 27:** 1 Kings 3:5-12,  
Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39,  
Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52



## THANK YOU FROM OUR FRIENDS

**Dear Friends,** We appreciate your recent generous donation of \$97. We are continually striving to improve the services offer to those whom we assist. The support of our local communities is of vital importance as we continue in our mission of helping your neighbors in need. Sincerely, Linda Karjala, Board Secretary, COASTAL HARVEST

**Dear Amazing Grace Confirmation Class,** Thank you so much for the custom made blanket. It is the only handmade gift that I have received for graduation. I will cherish it as long as I can. Thank you again. Jordan Weiberg

Dear Val,  
Commencement is over and more than 700 undergraduates and graduate degrees were handed out! Thanks to you and the people of Amazing Grace for continuing to be committed to students at PLU. It is really quiet on campus now as students have scattered for the summer.  
God's Peace and Easter Joy, Lee Kluth

Dear Amazing Grace, Thank you so much for allowing us to use your wonderful Parish Hall. We were so fortunate to have our Renaissance banquet here. It was perfect space for us! Sincerely, Cari Krick  
**Richard Kraiger** thanks everyone who has been praying for him these past months and asks that they continue to pray for him as he enters a new stage in his cancer therapy on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Dear Brothers & Sisters,** Thank you from the Outside Prison Board for your 6/12/14 gift given in support of **Living Stones Prison Congregation**. Your financial gifts support Living Stones in proclaiming the gospel

through weekly Bible Study and the words of faith and forgiveness known in relationship with Pastor Norm Arnold who engages in the day-to-day life of the Washington State Correctional Facility in Shelton.  
Signed, Jim Shanafelt

## Synod Assembly News

The SW Washington Synod Assembly was held May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, near PLU. Trish and I were the delegates from Amazing Grace.

The Assembly was busy with the business of the Synod, time for inspirational speakers, workshops, worship, and fellowship. The theme for this year's assembly was "Hospitality: All are welcome".

There were no major items voted on beyond filling the synod committees and approving the 2015 budget. After a low point in 2011, Mission Support has risen the last two years.

Bishop Richard Jaech outlined his priorities for the Synod: Strengthening Congregations; Strengthening Leaders, both rostered and lay leaders. His vision is training workshops for Pastors, Congregational Council members, including developing a **"school" for lay leader training**.

Workshops that we attended included: **"Generosity that sticks", Seven principles learned from the Macedonians; Welcoming Social Justice ministries to your congregation; "Social Media and Ministry"; and Welcome Committee: What is it and how do we start one.**

We have posted some the handouts from the assembly and the workshops on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We have also shared information with Amazing Grace committees. If you have questions about Synod Assembly, please talk with Trish or myself.

If you have never attended Synod Assembly, I would strongly urge to consider going. It is an inspirational, spirit filled event, with a lot of positive energy. It is exciting to hear about all the mission activities that various congregations are involved in. We will be nominating next year's delegates at our annual meeting in January, so please talk to anyone on Council about your interest.

Mark Smalley  
[marktrish86@gmail.com](mailto:marktrish86@gmail.com)  
360-249-1955



# Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting Minutes

### June 10, 2014

- I. The Amazing Grace Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Mark Smalley.
- II. Opening devotions were led by Dee.
- III. Prayer tasks were assigned as follows: Thanksgiving/Dee, Intercession/Pastor Val, Petition/Jeanette, Praise/Kristine.
- IV. Chris agreed to act as Time Keeper and Kristine as opinion collector for the meeting.
- V. Mark noted that a quorum was established for the meeting, as all council members were present.
- VI. The Agenda was reviewed and m/s/a.
- VII. The minutes from the last meeting, May 6, 2014, were m/s/a.
- VIII. Financial Reports:
  - Treasurer's Report – Chrissie Kincaid  
Bills were As of May 31, 2014 the checking account balance is \$11,382.02 and the paint/maintenance fund is \$2016.10 after the invoice from Lupo.
  - Financial Secretary's Report – Mike Kupka.  
Mike submitted the May 2014 Record of Giving which was \$13,122. Total contributions from January 2014 to end of May totals \$74,645.43. Mike is currently working on a report on E giving and reviewing the procedure for depositors.
- IX. Business items:
  - A. Stewardship Committee Members – Diane and Mark enthusiastically reported that Mike Barkstrom accepted the position as head of stewardship. This is not a council position.
  - B. Synod Assembly report – Mark reported that he and Trish attended the Synod Assembly. They have posted lots of information they gathered on the back wall in the fellowship hall. He said the priority of the Synod is to strengthen congregations. They each attended workshops and recommended that to each council member to go in the future if given the opportunity. An attorney from the Synod offered to review the Church's constitutions.
  - C. Council Minutes – Council minutes will continue to be reviewed via e-mail, each person responds to all with comments and/or "it looks fine". After everyone has responded draft will be sent to Susan for the Spirit and then after council meeting the following month and the minutes are approved, they will have to be re-sent to Susan.
  - D. Review of Church Constitution – Synod attorney will review our constitution. It will be ready by our next annual meeting.
  - E. Secretary for Memorials – Theresa Kaufman has volunteered to take over this task from Donna Spere.
  - F. July/August Council Meeting Schedule – It was decided there would be a quorum for both summer months and to keep the meeting schedule as is.
  - G. Mutual Ministry – This would consist of Pastor, a President, Vice President, and two congregation members. Pastor will put something the bulletin to talk about what a healthy Mutual Ministry looks like.
- IX. Ministry Reports
  - A. Property – Coleman Carle  
Working on completing the organ room – painting, lights.  
Work party on Bel Aire property – There will be a request at church to join this group.  
Work party for finishing second story room in Sanctuary –  
Completed breezeway roof repairs – The exterior part is complete.

Carpet cleaning quotes – Coleman

Fire Extinguisher Inspection – Completed

Endowment fund for property project –

Fireside room (upstairs nursery) – make into ½ meeting space ½ nursery space

B. Fellowship – Dee Erickson

Dee has been working with her niece Larissa to have an AED available at AG. She has been looking into funding/grant options to purchase the unit. Dee will keep us posted.

C. Outreach – Kristine Finazzo

Kristine reported the Mother's day donations were distributed to the Friendship House and they were very well received and much appreciated. Undies Sunday will still be happening on Father's Day and there will be a collection taken of new and gently used underwear and socks for men. For the rest of our outreach mission we will be in prayer mode for the next six weeks for discernment.

D. Youth & Family – Pastor shared the church's participating are: Presbyterian Church, St. Andrews, and us. Chris volunteered to help with registration since he speaks Spanish. VBS will be Mon. June 23-26<sup>th</sup>. Still working on signing up helpers, all are welcome.

E. Worship – Diane Hanson

Diane reported the Liturgical Arts Team (LAT) is having fun. They have been making changes in the sanctuary and Krister Lile has come and given suggestions to make our space welcoming. The Worship Committee Kris, Hank, Val, and Diane will meet to try and plan a year's worth of music and how it relates to our values. If you would like to help or be on one of these amazing teams please talk with Diane, Pastor, Lynette L., Kathy W., Donna M. Maurita W., or Hank B.

X. Pastor's Report – Pastor Val Metropolous

**PASTOR'S REPORT - May 2014**

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

4 Sunday worship services

Chose hymns and liturgy

Sermon – prayer, study, reading, writing; text study meeting

Prepare bulletins with secretary for worship Sundays and funerals

Prepare prayers for worship weekly

Prayer

Liturgical Arts Team – plan Pentecost and other worship

Plan and lead funeral services

Plan worship seasonally

**ADMINISTRATION**

Staff meeting – weekly

Council meeting monthly – plan and prepare

Newsletter - help secretary with content and design

Meet with Ministry Team leaders as needed

Book Study – Central Things:Worship in Word and Sacrament– plan and lead

Plan future study for congregation – Prayer; Faith 101 study of Surprised by Hope.

**PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING**

Homebound and assisted living visits

Meet with families; bring communion to people who are dying

**OUTREACH/VISITATION**

Plan with Outreach ministry leader

Under the Bridge Ministry – every other Wednesday

Meeting with people concerned with needs of the homeless to coordinate efforts.

Host Pastor's Group meeting monthly

Coffee Ministry – meet people to chat about life and faith as often as possible

Facebook page – outreach through social media.

## **BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE**

### **YOUTH AND FAMILY**

- Plan for VBS with Presbyterians and A.G. VBS leaders
- Research mission emphasis for VBS
- Plan and lead Confirmation every other Sunday for 1 1/2 hours
- Research possibilities for Youth and Adult faith development

**OFFICIAL ACTS** (Baptisms, funerals, weddings): 0 official acts in May

**VACATION** 8 days of vacation in May

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Reading – Dangerous Worship; Giving Blood; Creation: God’s Future

### **XI – Task Assignments –**

- Mike will continue his work on the E-giving and review procedures for depositors.
- Pastor will write report on mutual ministry for bulletin.
- Dee will keep us updated on AED and also training/class on AED operation.
- Kristine will keep looking for underwear ☺ and socks to help serve our needy community.
- Pastor and Chris will continue efforts for VBS success.
- Mike has devotions for July.

Without any further business our meeting ended in prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Green, Secretary

## **HARMONY HILL CANCER PROGRAM**

There is a cancer program located on 7362 East State Rte. 106 in Union, WA. The program at Harmony Hill Retreat Center is offered at no cost to those who attend. For those coming to a three-day extended retreat, this includes lodging at Harmony Hill, seven delicious whole foods meals and all workshop components. Participants are offered opportunities for relaxation and renewal in a tranquil retreat environment of gardens, nature trails and spectacular mountain and water views.

Harmony Hill’s mission is to transform the lives of those affected by cancer and to inspire healthy living for all. Those dealing with cancer, cancer survivors, and the people who love them are encouraged to attend. For those interested, email: [Programs@HarmonyHill.org](mailto:Programs@HarmonyHill.org) or call 360.898.2363. Or contact the church office.



## **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO LEAD BIBLE STUDY?**

Is there a woman interested in leading a Bible Study next year? There will be training and an introduction to the new ELCA Women’s Bible Study coming up on August 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tacoma WA. Contact: Janean Moriarty at (360) 620-5368



**LOVED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION  
OF THE WORLD** John 17:24

## Holden Village 2014

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

Just before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus utters this prayer for his disciples. Pondering his words, we may be confused: *loved before the foundation of the world?* Yet we are reassured: loved before the foundation of the world. And we celebrate: **LOVED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD!**

As Holden Village moves through this time of mine remediation, we can endure, even embrace the confusion because we are continually reassured of God's grace and promise as demonstrated for more than 50 years in this ministry. We celebrate this opportunity to find the Holy Spirit, always our foundation, moving in new and unusual ways through the life of the Village. This summer, we seek the Spirit's presence in the renewal of village infrastructure and facilities, in the gathering of Villagers across the nation with Holden On The Road, and in our steadfast witness to hundreds of workers who are on-site for the mine clean-up.

We are grateful that you are a part of the greater Holden community. The strength of this community is especially important when so few of us can be physically present in the Village. We continue to ask for your support through your prayers and through your presence at events in your area.

Twice a year—during the season of Pentecost and later in the fall—we ask directly for financial support of the Village's on-going ministry. Villagers' donations represent a third or more of our annual operating budget. If you can contribute to Holden's ministry at this time, we invite you to mail a donation to: **Holden Village, HC0Box2, Chelan, WA 98816** OR go to our secure website, [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org) for an on-line donation. With your involvement, the foundations of the Holden ministry remains secure. Thank you.

In Christ,

Chuck & Stephanie Carpenter, Exec. Directors

PS You are probably aware that we have also

launched a capital campaign – REFRESH, RENEW, REJOICE!—seeking larger pledges over a three-year period to underwrite the cost of village renewal as we upgrade our 75-year old facilities and infrastructure.



# AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

111-1/2 East 4th Street

360-532-8250

[amazing111@comcast.net](mailto:amazing111@comcast.net)

[www.amazinggraceaberdean.org](http://www.amazinggraceaberdean.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

