

AUGUST 2014

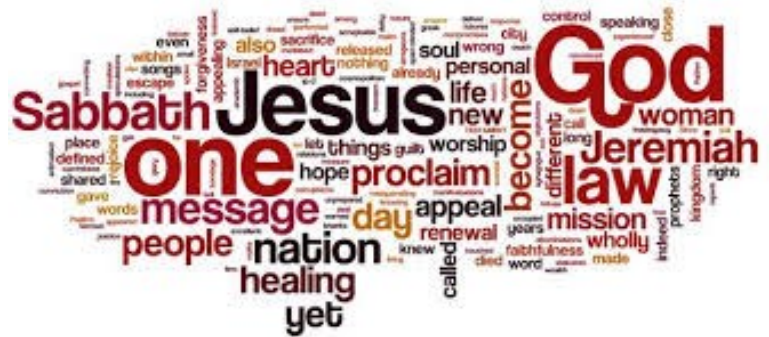
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
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How many of us have the **BMB Syndrome (Behold Me Busy)**? Also known as the **White Rabbit hurry sickness**: “I’m late, I’m late, for a very important date. No time to say hello—goodbye—I’m late! I’m late! I’m late!”

Your leaders are using some of their precious summer time to think and plan and pray so that this fall our life together as God's people at Amazing Grace will hold opportunities for us to grow more and more into our **baptismal identity** as God's beloved children, called to join in God's mission of loving and serving all people, beginning right here in our corner of the world.



Please continue to join their prayer that **God would guide us as we seek to discern what God is calling us to be and do for the sake of God's mission.** As we pray and while we savor every moment of summer beauty, it is good for us to remember one of God's fundamental life principles:

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to GOD, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days GOD made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore GOD blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day. Exodus 20: 8-11 from the Message translation of the Bible.

This principle is so important to life lived in harmony with God's will that it is given not as suggestion or helpful advice but as commandment. Whether our Sabbath rest comes on Sunday or some other day of the week; whether we are able to take a full 24 hours all at once for Sabbath or we have to break it up into smaller chunks of rest time, it is wise for us admit to ourselves that Sabbath is important. This sacred rest can **make all the difference**, not just for us but for our relationships, our health, our faith and even for the sake of our communities and our world. People who are too preoccupied with all that seeks to ravenously devour our days to know that our lives have limits are people who have lost sight of what is important; people in danger of letting the beauty and goodness and purpose of life slip between their fingers.

The following bits of wisdom are offered for the sake of encouraging you to commit this day to growing closer to God by honoring God's command to keep Sabbath; to rest in God's peace today and every day.

You are loved and precious in God's eyes and in mine!
Pastor Val

“The trouble is you think you have plenty of time.” (Inaccurately attributed to the Buddha)

Be Still, Take Time

“When we breathe, we do not stop inhaling because we have taken in all the oxygen we will ever need, but because we *have all the oxygen we need for this breath*. Then we exhale, release carbon dioxide, and make room for more oxygen.

Sabbath, like the breath, allows us to imagine we have done enough work *for this day*. Do not be anxious about tomorrow, Jesus said again and again. Let the work of this day be sufficient....

The world seduces us with an artificial urgency that requires us to respond without listening to what is most deeply true. **In Sabbath time, we cultivate a sense of eternity** where we truly rest, and feel how all things can wait, and turn them gently in the hand until we feel their shape, and know the truth of them.

The **theology of progress forces us to act before we are ready**. We speak before we know what to say. We respond before we feel the truth of what we know. In the process, we inadvertently create suffering, heaping imprecision upon inaccuracy, until we are buried under a mountain of misperception.

But Sabbath says, Be still. Stop. There is no rush to get to the end, because we are never finished. Take time to rest, and eat, and drink, and be refreshed. And in the gentle rhythm of that refreshment, **listen to the sound the heart makes as it speaks the quiet** truth of what is needed.”

Wayne Muller in Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives

“Genesis tells us that after six days of creating, God rested. So **God is not obsessive-compulsive (surely some of the plants could have stood some trimming!), nor is God manic. God is not desperate, not worried, not a handwringer.** God gives creation extraordinary freedom, which is soon squandered, and still God rests. Nowhere is there a suggestion that God had second thoughts about that day off – *If only I hadn’t rested, maybe Adam and Eve...*

In fact, God later called Israel to mirror this priority. The Lord commanded them to rest (Deuteronomy 5:12-15). Every seven days they were to rest. God’s call for Israel to practice Sabbath living was given so they would never be more than six days away from laying down the implements and practices of their own productivity in order to acknowledge that **human life was set within a limited boundary of time, place and responsibility**. This Sabbath practice was meant to be an exercise in human freedom and liberty.

Acknowledging these boundaries sets us free to be human. The message is this: prepare for the Sabbath; go to sleep and wake up knowing that **your life and the world do not belong to you or depend on you**; worship God, and remember with his people the One who made you and the world, and called you his own; don’t work; don’t rely on your provision; then live this out today and every other day of the week including doing justice.

Mark Labberton in The Dangerous Act of Worship

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS



**What do you want your relationship with your child to look like in 15 years?
How are you going to make that happen? Do you have a plan?
This church has a plan! Will you join me in making it happen?**

He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents. Malachi 4:6

“Imagine raising a daughter who wouldn’t think of going to bed without talking to you about her highs and lows every night, even though she’s 16.

Imagine raising a son who won’t turn out the lights without asking you about your day, praying for your highs and lows, and blessing you

Imagine growing up in a home where everyone feels loved, valued and heard every night; a family that seeks God’s wisdom, will and Word at the center of their lives; an intimate community where every night is an experience of caring, sharing, comfort and peace.

Does this sound like an impossible dream?

It isn’t.

Does it sound like an improbable dream?

Maybe.

One thing for sure. This dream is not going to magically materialize without intention, commitment and a workable plan on your part to make it happen. Having a close and caring family is a beautiful dream, but a dream without a plan isn’t worth a nickel. However, a dream with a workable plan may be worth a million bucks.”

From Holding Your Family Together by Rich Melheim

If you want to be a part of creating that possibility in your family, for the young people we all love, send me a quick email, give me a call, or drop me a note right now. I’ll include you in the first group planning to make this possible! Pastor Val

3 COMMON TRAITS OF YOUTH WHO DON’T LEAVE THE CHURCH

“What do we do about our kids?” The group of parents sat together in my office, wiping their eyes. I’m a high school pastor, but for once, they weren’t talking about 16-year-olds drinking and partying. Each had a story to tell about a “good Christian” child, raised in their home and in our church, who had walked away from the faith during the college years. These children had come through our church’s youth program, gone on short-term mission trips, and served in several different ministries during their teenage years. Now they didn’t want anything to do with it anymore. And, somehow, these mothers’ ideas for our church to send college students “care packages” during their freshman year to help them feel connected to the church didn’t strike me as a solution with quite enough depth. The daunting statistics about church-going youth keep rolling in. Panic ensues. What are we doing wrong in our churches? In our youth ministries?

It’s hard to sort through the various reports and find the real story. And there is no one easy solution for bringing all of those “lost” kids back into the church, other than continuing to pray for them and speaking the gospel into their lives. However, we can all look at the 20-somethings in our churches who *are* engaged and involved in ministry. What is it that sets apart the kids who *stay* in the church? Here are just a few observations I have made about such kids, with a few applications for those of us serving in youth ministry.

1. They are converted.

The Apostle Paul, interestingly enough, doesn't use phrases like "nominal Christian" or "pretty good kid." The Bible doesn't seem to mess around with platitudes like: "Yeah, it's a shame he did that, but he's got a good heart." When we listen to the witness of Scripture, particularly on the topic of conversion, we find that there is very little wiggle room. Listen to these words: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." ([2 Cor. 5:17](#)) We youth pastors need to get back to understanding salvation as what it really is: a miracle that comes from the glorious power of God through the working of the Holy Spirit.

We need to stop talking about "good kids." We need to stop being pleased with attendance at youth group and fun retreats. We need to start getting on our knees and praying that the Holy Spirit will do miraculous saving work in the hearts of our students as the Word of God speaks to them. In short, we need to get back to a focus on conversion. How many of us are preaching to "unconverted evangelicals"? Youth pastors, we need to preach, teach, and talk—all the while praying fervently for the miraculous work of regeneration to occur in the hearts and souls of our students by the power of the Holy Spirit! When that happens—when the "old goes" and the "new comes"—it will not be iffy. We will not be dealing with a group of "nominal Christians." We will be ready to teach, disciple, and equip a generation of future church leaders—"new creations"—who are hungry to know and speak God's Word. It is converted students who go on to love Jesus and serve the church.

2. They have been equipped, not entertained.

Recently, we had "man day" with some of the guys in our youth group. We began with an hour of basketball at the local park, moved to an intense game of 16" ("Chicago Style") softball, and finished the afternoon by gorging ourselves on meaty pizzas and 2-liters of soda. I am not against fun (or gross, depending on your opinion of the afternoon I just described) things in youth ministry. But youth pastors especially need to keep repeating the words of Ephesians 4:11-12 to themselves: "[Christ] gave...the teachers to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Christ gives us—teachers—to the church, not for entertainment, encouragement, examples, or even friendship primarily. He gives us to the church to "equip" the saints to do gospel ministry in order that the church of Christ may be built up.

If I have not equipped the students in my ministry to share the gospel, disciple a younger believer, and lead a Bible study, then I have not fulfilled my calling to them, no matter how good my sermons have been. We pray for conversion; that is all we can do, for it is entirely a gracious gift of God. But after conversion, it is our Christ-given duty to help fan into flame a faith that serves, leads, teaches, and grows. If our students leave high school without Bible-reading habits, Bible-study skills, and strong examples of discipleship and prayer, we have lost them. We have entertained, not equipped them...and it may indeed be time to panic!

Forget your youth programs for a second. Are we sending out from our ministries the kind of students who will show up to college in a different state, join a church, and begin doing the work of gospel ministry there without ever being asked? Are we equipping them to that end, or are we merely giving them a good time while they're with us? We don't need youth group junkies; we need to be growing churchmen and churchwomen who are equipped to teach, lead, and serve. Put your youth ministry strategies aside as you look at that 16-year-old young man and ask: "How can I spend four years with this kid, helping him become the best church deacon and sixth-grade Sunday school class teacher he can be, ten years down the road?"

3. Their parents preached the gospel to them.

As a youth pastor, I can't do all this. All this equipping that I'm talking about is utterly beyond my limited capabilities. It is impossible for me to bring conversion, of course, but it is also impossible for me to have an equipping ministry that sends out vibrant churchmen and churchwomen if my ministry is not being reinforced tenfold in the students' homes. The common thread that binds together almost every ministry-minded 20-something that I know is abundantly clear: a home where the gospel was not peripheral but absolutely central. The 20-somethings who are serving, leading, and driving the ministries at our church were kids whose parents made them go to church. They are kids whose parents punished them and held them accountable when they were rebellious. They are kids whose parents read the Bible around the dinner table every night. And they are kids whose parents were tough but who ultimately operated from a framework of grace that held up the cross of Jesus as the basis for peace with God and forgiveness toward one another.

This is not a formula! Kids from wonderful gospel-centered homes leave the church; people from messed-up family

backgrounds find eternal life in Jesus and have beautiful marriages and families. But it's also not a crapshoot. In general, children who are led in their faith during their growing-up years by parents who love Jesus vibrantly, serve their church actively, and saturate their home with the gospel completely, grow up to love Jesus and the church. The words of Proverbs 22:6 do not constitute a formula that is true 100 percent of the time, but they do provide us with a principle that comes from the gracious plan of God, the God who delights to see his gracious Word passed from generation to generation: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Youth pastors, pray with all your might for true conversion; that is God's work. Equip the saints for the work of the ministry; that is your work. Parents, preach the gospel and live the gospel for your children; our work depends on you

Jon Nielson is the college pastor at College Church in Wheaton, Illinois.



AUGUST 2014 CALENDAR

- 1** **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 3** **10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / FELLOWSHIP**
- 7** **THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
- 8** **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 10** **10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / FELLOWSHIP**
BAPTISM OF EIDLH CHANNEL / Pray-ers meet
- 14** **THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
- 15** **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 17** **10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / FELLOWSHIP / Youth and Family meeting**
- 18-29** **SUSAN'S VACATION**
- 19** **TUESDAY, 6:30 P.M. , THRIVENT MTG.**
- 21** **THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
- 22** **FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED**
- 24** **10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / FELLOWSHIP**
- 28** **THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
- 29** **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 31** **10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / FELLOWSHIP**

HYMN FESTS

The first Sunday of each month, we gather at 9:45 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 the first Sunday of each month. (August 3rd) "Singing hymns are prayers to God's ear." **PLEASE JOIN US**

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dan Fackrell
- 5 Ken Paul
- 10 Ray Hodge, Rich Vroman
- 17 Erin Burns
- 18 Emily Penttila
- 21 Stephani Bloomfield
- 22 Lisa Bloomfield
- 23 Maggi Kupka, Gary Morean
- 26 Anna Matisons
- 29 Lynette Lile



ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Harold & Molly Johnson
- 5 Hank & Gloria Bilderback
- 6 Ken & Louise Paul
- 8 Martha & Francis Beeman
- 11 Pastor Val Metropoulos & Steve Swanson
- 12 Darrell & Elaine Lokken
- 14 Mike & Moonbeam Kupka
- 16 Kristine & Rob Burns
- 17 David & Mary Richards
- 18 Ken & Vicki Mitchell
- 20 Tom & Shawn Dickson
- 27 Heather & Eric Mitby



PRAYING FOR.....

Eleanor Knapp, Claudia, Nicole Claussen, Pam Thorson, Julie, Al Carlberg, BJ Bastin, Richard Kraiger, Doug George, Gwen, Karuna Johnson, Shelbie Offrink, Don Stubb, Nicole, Aileen Long, Ginger Cameron, Peyton Willis, Cassidy Anderson, Melvin Thompson, Melissa Smiley, Dan Kristom, Kenny Broussard, Karen Johnson, Maxine Cogburn, for those who are homeless, especially **Dylan**, and for long-term caregivers **Carol Stubb & Jack Bastin**. Prayers of comfort to **Carol Plummer**, former interim at OSL, in the loss of her husband, Rod Backus who died on July 4th. Congratulation prayers to **Hayley (Erickson) & Adam Sykes** who were recently married in the church. Hayley is the daughter of Mike & Dee Erickson. We pray for the young people and workers at the youth center; we also pray for the center as they seek federal grants to help with their street outreach funding.



Worship Assistants

AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant:** Steve Swanson ;
Reader: Vicki Mitchell; **Ushers/Greeters:** Bob & Mary Ellen Salmon; **Depositors:** Ray & Jean Hodge; **Fellowship Hosts:** Pete & Mary Ann Majar, Keith & Lynnette Lile, Joan & William Ra-

bung

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant/Acolyte:** Judi Hubbard ; **Communion Assistant:** Josie Weiberg; **Reader:** Geri Stubb; **Ushers/Greeters:** Jim & Michelle Weiberg; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Pete Majar; **Fellowship Hosts:** Darrell & Elaine Lokken, Lynn & Leif Tangvald, Mitzi Ludwig

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Acolyte:** Laura Carle; **Communion Assistant:** Dee Erickson; **Reader:** Mike Barkstrom; **Ushers/Greeters:** Keith & Lynette Lile; **Depositors:** Gene & Eileen Schermer; **Fellowship Hosts:** Louise Paul, Maurita White, Paula Elder, Dorothy Stephens

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Acolyte:** Jill Waite; **Communion Assistant:** Cathy Kallio; **Reader:** Chris Seelke; **Ushers/Greeters:** Amy & Mark Ostwald; **Depositors:** Karen & Mike Barkstrom; **Fellowship Hosts:** Laura & Coleman Carle, Arlene Torgerson, Mark & Trish Smalley-Safstrom

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant/Acolyte:** Kristine Finazzo; **Communion Assistant:** Theresa Kaufman; **Reader:** Walter Ebel; **Ushers/Greeters:** Tim & Pam Alstrom; **Depositors:** Maurita White & Paula Elder; **Fellowship Hosts:** Jim & Michelle Weiberg, Phil & Julie Braaten, Sarah & Jesse Channel, Molly & Tim Leithold

Worship assistants are now the acolytes too.



THANK YOU TO.....

Each person who shows 'radical hospitality' to guests in worship and in fellowship. Those small acts of welcome and inclusion make all the difference for those people.

Mark and Luke Ostwald for the great work they did clearing a path into our Bel Aire property. Their hard work will make access much easier.

Trish & Neal Smalley-Safstrom for helping move items for the Youth Center. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

Wednesday morning men's group for EVERYTHING—big and small that you do and often goes unnoticed. This month we especially appreciate the heater installed in the nursery.

Mike Kupka for coming to the rescue when the belt broke on the church's vacuum cleaner.

Diane Hanson for putting together children's work bags which will be used by our youngsters during worship. Diane also updated our sign outside and continues to do many things to refresh and beautify our church.

Cathy Kallio for cleaning up after the recent wedding. Cathy came in on Saturday evening to be sure the church was ready for us on Sunday morning.

Mark Smalley & Keith Lile for their work on the upper sanctuary room.

To **Eileen Schermer & all her Quilting Gang** for preparing the school bags that will be used for the next shipment to Lutheran World Relief. Take a look at the display in the Parish Hall.....take a bag home & fill it up and help those in need in second world countries.

Thank you to the men for power washing the entrance to the back door. It will be painted at a later date. Special thanks to **Gene Schermer & Roger Shaw**.

Thank you to **Arlene Torgerson** for doing some much needed weeding near the stairs in the back of the church. Donned with her straw hat, Arlene pulled & pulled. She says she will be back.

QUILTING & SCHOOL KITS



SCHOOL BAGS ARE READY FOR YOU TO FILL!!!! 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 4th. The quilter's have been busy sewing the backpacks needed to ship the school kits to Lutheran World Relief with our October shipment.

The following items are needed for each kit. You may purchase all of the items and put them in the backpacks which **ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH HALL** 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!

Items needed:

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!

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2014

The Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Mark Smalley.

Opening devotions were led by Mark.

Prayer tasks were assigned as follows: Thanksgiving/Mark, Intercession/Diane, Petition/Chris, Praise/Jeanette.

Chrissie agreed to act as Time Keeper and Chris as opinion collector for the meeting.

Mark noted that a quorum was established for the meeting, as 5 council members were present.

The Agenda was reviewed and m/s/a.

The minutes from the last meeting, June 10, 2014, were m/s/a.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Chrissie Kincaid

It was M/S/A to pay the June bills as

presented. Chrissie presented the

treasurer's report showing a balance as of June 30, 2014 was \$21,425.77.

Financial Secretary's Report – Mike Kupka / Absent

Mike submitted via e-mail - Record of

giving for June was: \$12,834.57.

Business items:

- A. Stewardship Committee – Diane and Mark met with Mike Barkstrom about the stewardship opportunity. He is excited and will be looking to ask a few members to join him.
- B. Synod's Sabbatical Seed Grant – Mark reported that there is a Synod Sabbatical Seed Grant. This is an opportunity to apply for a grant that will provide \$2000 to cover pastoral care when a pastor is out on sabbatical. In addition the grant will provide \$1000 to the rostered leader. Synod guidelines say that pastors are eligible for a 3 month sabbatical in their fifth year of service at that site. We discussed it would be worth it to have a budget line item adding a small amount to a sabbatical account so that when our pastor has the opportunity to apply for a sabbatical the congregation is not left scrambling to cover associated costs of the absence.
- C. D.A. Edwards Account signatures- Council members signed appropriate document for account.
- D. Executive Committee meeting – Custodian Job Description – Mark and Diane met with our custodian and reviewed job description of what needs to be updated to make communication more clear.

IX. Ministry Reports

Property – Coleman Carle

- i. Finishing work for Organ room – ongoing
- ii. Work party for Bel Aire property – Ostwalds cleared a path, yet the terrain is very rough. Not many of our members would be able to make it to the property so Amy offered to take pictures for those unable to visit.
- iii. Work party for finishing second story room in Sanctuary – Mark and Coleman are working on this.
- iv. Carpet cleaning quotes – We received one bid of \$400 for parish hall and another \$420 for the main church. These amounts were based on both areas being done at two different times. Coleman will try to find out what the cost would be for both areas to be completed at once.
- v. Endowment fund for property project – There may be an additional \$2000 for projects.
- vi. Paint the nursery – Coleman would like to have input on a color for the nursery.

Fellowship – Dee Erickson / Absent

Outreach – Kristine Finazzo / Absent

Kristine e-mailed that Rachel from Thrivent will be available to meet with folks above Top Foods on Thursday July 10th at 11:30 a.m. A head count is needed by Wednesday the 9th.

Youth & Family – Chris shared that he understood all of VBS was a success.

Worship – Diane Hanson

Diane reported that she and the committee are busy working on putting together bags for current and visiting children on Sundays. The bags will stay at church, yet contain items such as Christian color books and crosswords that children can work on during service.

The committee is also working on updating the signage on the outside corner.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Val Metropolous

PASTOR'S REPORT - June 2014

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP 5 Sunday worship services
2 Funeral services
Chose hymns and liturgy
Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing; text study meeting
Prepare prayers for worship weekly
Prayer
Liturgical Arts Team meeting
Plan and lead funeral services
Plan blessing service for graduates
Plan music and liturgy for fall with Kris Burns and Diane Hanson
Bake communion bread
Baptism preparation with family

ADMINISTRATION Council meeting monthly – plan and prepare
Newsletter - help secretary with content and design
Prepare bulletins with secretary for worship 5 Sundays and 2 funerals
Meet with Ministry Team leaders as needed
Plan study for congregation – Prayer; Faith 101 study of Surprised by Hope.
PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING Homebound and assisted living visits
Meet to plan funerals with families

OUTREACH/VISITATION Plan with Outreach ministry leader
Under the Bridge Ministry – every Wednesday
Meeting with Homeless Coalition -people concerned with needs of the homeless.
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 Property visit and tour to plan for use
Help with installation of Pentecost worship aids
VBS set up

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Plan with Presbyterian and Episcopalian VBS leaders
Plan, prepare and teach mission for VBS week
Met with Corby Varness and Amy Ostwald about Sunday School program
Planning for Faith 101 class to be based on *Surprised by Hope* beginning in July.
Planning for Prayer workshop

STEWARDSHIP Preliminary planning meeting
OFFICIAL ACTS 1 baptism – Jaxson Moon Gram
2 funerals – Barbara Williams
Cherie Vromen
VACATION 0 days of vacation in June
CONTINUING EDUCATION:
Narrative Lectionary – 5 hours online
Reading – Giving Blood; Surprised by Hope

XI – Task Assignments –
Mike will continue his work on the E-giving and review procedures for depositors.
Mike / Signature for DA Edwards
Coleman will work with Kathy on carpet bids.
Mark will call staff about time cards and payroll policy and procedures.
Chrissie will look in her files for copies of staff contracts.
Without any further business our meeting ended in prayer at 8:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Green, Secretary

THANKS WE HAVE RECEIVED



Dear Pastor Val, Madi & Jenny,

Thank you for the amazingly warm blanket that you guys made for me. I use it daily and it will be a nice addition to wherever I move to in the future. Thanks again.
BRADY GREEN

Dear Friends,

Water is life's essential element. Without it nothing can thrive — not plants, not humans, not life in any form.

That's why your gift of \$285.14 in support of LWR's water programs is so important. With it, you provide water that improves lives. And with your help, LWR reaches out to communities in need of water and helps them find solutions to grow food and take care of their families. With your support, we also respond in communities affected by disasters and emergencies, where access to clean water can literally be the difference between life and death.

Your gifts make that possible and I want to say thank you! I look forward to sending you updates on the work you're helping to make possible. Don't forget to check out our website (lwr.org) and especially our blog (blog.lwr.org) for stories and photos of the work you support. And if you have any questions, please contact us at 800.597.5972 or lwr@lwr.org.

On behalf of the entire global staff of LWR, our partners and those we serve together, please accept my heartfelt thanks once more. God bless you!

Many Blessings,

Jeff Whisenant, Interim President & CEO
Lutheran World Relief



Dear Friends,

July is most commonly known for Independence Day. July 4th, a celebration of independence.

When our forefathers were fighting for the independence of our country they were fighting for our freedom from the king of another nation. Today we see people coming to the Mission and Friendship House fighting for their freedom from drugs, alcohol, abusive relationships and the king of their souls, Satan. May have fought a valiant fight, they have won some battles and lost others, but they are still fighting. We have seen victories in many lives and with your support we will continue the fight and see many more.

I would like to thank you for your investment in the lives of these hurting lives as they fight for their Independence. I also want to wish you a great time this 4th of July as you celebrate with your family and friends.

Thanks,

Gary T. Rowell, Executive Director, Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor.

From Pacific Lutheran University, Office of Development

Thank you for your gift to PLU! Summer is here and PLU students are enjoying vacation or beginning new adventures as graduates. With your help, these students accomplished many things during the 2013-14 school year; almost 50% of them studied away; the Lute ROTC earned its second MacArthur Award in three years; and PLU earned a place on the Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its students' commitment to engaging the world.

While most of our students are home for the summer, we are striving to make this year even better than the last. Your gifts are already hard at work doing so, strengthening PLU's academic and co-curricular offerings so that we can start 2014-15 strong.

Thanks again for helping to build and maintain the tradition of Lute's excellence.

Dear Brothers & Sisters, Thank you so much for your gift given in support of **Living Stones Prison Congregation**. Your financial gift supports 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. More than any other congregation in the SWWashington Synod, Living Stones relies solely on the generous contributions of congregations and individuals. Your generosity makes it possible for Living Stones to support a pastor who is an ever present resource for prison inmates, employees, and visitors. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

Jim Shanafelt, Outside Prison Board



HOW CAN WE HELP OUR NEIGHBORS?

Friends,

As you know Eastern WA, Idaho, Oregon and perhaps other NW states have been devastated by wildfire. While we have a temporary respite because of some light rain, most expect that the fires will return with vengeance and destructive power.

After consultation with Lutheran Disaster Response our synod has opened a restricted account at Region I where folks and congregations can send checks to support those who have been devastated.

Individuals and congregations can send gifts to be deposited to "Funds Held--NW Fires" The "giving code" for those sending in money with their regular mission support is "456-NW Fires." Please mail checks to

**ELCA Region I
PO Box 94432
Seattle, WA 98124-6732**

As funds come in we will be in touch with the local congregation/local contact where they know the agencies working for relief and the local needs. We will also partner up with Catholic Charities, Red Cross, and the Salvation Army.

Michael Stadie from Lutheran Disaster Relief has confirmed that there may be some undesignated national funds available.

Please share this opportunity with your pastors and congregations through Sunday bulletins and synod/congregational websites.

Thanks very much.

Bp Martin Wells

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod of the ELCA



NEEDS FOR YOUTH CENTER:

Toothbrushes, paper plates,
deodorant, socks (both men's and women's sizes), bottled water and juice boxes,
granola bars, peanut butter or cheese crackers,
and fruit snacks.

There are a lot of hungry boys in the shelter this summer and they love to eat sandwiches so they also need **BREAD!**

SUSAN'S VACATION

Susan will be on vacation from August 18—to September 1. Theresa Kaufman will fill in at the office in Susan's absence. Office hours will vary during this time. Please leave a message and we'll return your call as soon as possible.



A story offered by a member:

Regarding finding heaven on earth this week.
Well, I have been looking, and each day am enthralled with the beauty of nature along my way. But something interesting happened to me yesterday. We always stop at a certain restaurant ... and for some reason I had to

run into town yesterday morning, and among other errands, stop at Safeway and pick up some roses for the owner of the restaurant. We have fallen in love with her, and she always serves up God's love with her food. But this summer she is looking drawn and has said before that visiting customers are no longer nice. So I gave her the roses, and she cried. She said, if you only knew what has been happening, God asked you to send me these today, right? I was thankful that I listened to that little voice inside me that said bring her roses yesterday.
And as I look for heaven around me, am I more at peace, or is it just my imagination?



The Mystery

Beads of pearl strings
Webs of silk
Moonlight drops of Spider's milk
Hidden 'neath the
Shallow sea
God's still hand
In mystery
Under every shell and stone
On the surface, deep in bone
Every tidal gallery
Art awaits
In mystery
From the cosmos
Spinning bright
From the atom's inner night
Ears can hear and eyes can see
God's still hand in mystery

Not in voice and not in word
But in wonder God is heard
Only those who stop shall see
God's still hand
Artist's hand
Weaving still
And still, and still
Weaving still
The Mystery
By Rich Melheim