

The Spirit

SEPTEMBER 2014

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Happy New Year!

For all intents and purposes, Labor Day signals the beginning of a new year for us, whether we are headed back to school ourselves or not. New beginnings at school, the beginning of football season, the new season of television programs; church activities suspended for the summer begin again: quilting, confirmation, Sunday school, choir and hand bells; even the quality of the sunlight changes. The days get noticeably shorter and the evening temperature begins to drop.

It's a time of **new beginnings and new possibilities** and so a time to reflect on what must be released in order to make room for the new. Release is not without pain. Anticipating an unknown future is not without fear. As a rule, we prefer the known and the predictable. Which may be why God ordered creation and our lives in the form they have. **Much as we resist change it is inevitable. Our only choice is in how we experience that change.**

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it." Alan Kay

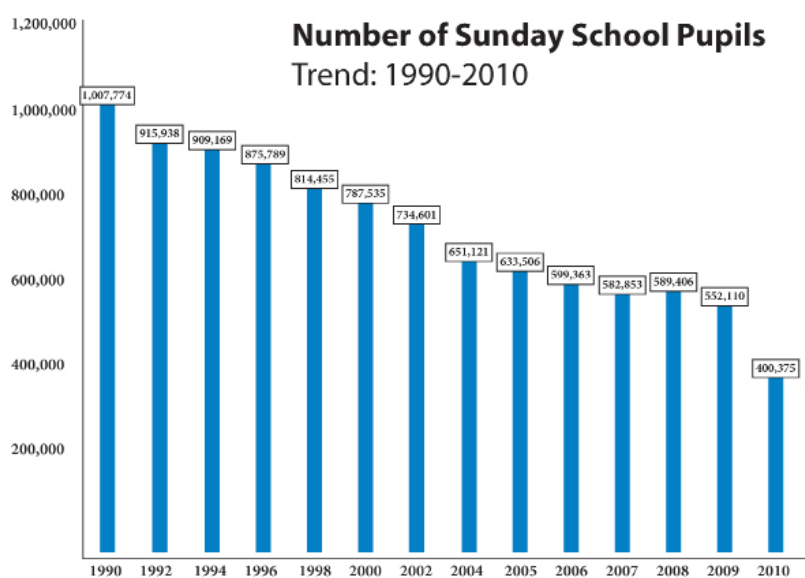
Believing that Alan Kay's saying has at least a grain of truth in it and acknowledging the landslide of evidence that points to a very different reality in which church now lives, your Youth and Family Ministry people have been thinking, praying and researching ways that we can **all grow in mature faith and ways of passing on the faith to our children and to new believers.** So many people now consider themselves people with no religious affiliation that the largest mission field is now right here in our own community.



We have considered all that has worked in the past and the ways in which changes in families, lives and the relationship families have with church has changed.

The chart below gives just one part of the stark picture of the reality in which we live.

Rather than mourning a past that cannot be recreated, we choose to work together with God to find a faithful way to be church, to grow into ever-more mature faith and to share that faith with new generations and new believers.



Source: Annual Congregational Reports, ELCA. Prepared by Research and Evaluation, ELCA, 2013

This is an exciting time to be the church. **It is an exciting time to be a part of Amazing Grace.** It is an exciting time to be a part of God's story of transforming love and grace. We have everything we need to bring that story to people here in our community who need to hear it. We just need to mobilize those resources to meet the challenge.

Those resources are among us as we **join with our brothers and sisters at Amazing Grace:**

in prayer that we would have **wisdom and humility to follow God's lead and rely not on our own understanding.*

*pitching in to do **whatever we can** to make God's "new thing" a reality here among us, whether that is attending worship regularly, attending one of our Faith 101 classes this fall, helping to make our Sunday School program a success or just encouraging families in the hard work of raising children in our world today. **The possibilities are limited only by YOUR imagination.**

*creating an atmosphere of **welcome and grace** NOT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ALREADY KNOW THEY ARE WELCOME AND LOVED BUT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET EXPERIENCED THAT **FROM YOU!** You could make a habit of sitting with people you DON'T know in worship and at coffee fellowship. You could invite friends neighbors and family to participate in worship and ALL of the ways we gather to worship and serve. You could think about what others need in order to know God's love among us. Again the possibilities are almost limitless.

God is with us in this time and always!

Remember that and remember that we are held in God's tender care for the sake of our sharing that care with others!

Pastor Val



Sunday, September 7
After worship!



We are kicking off a year of *intentional faith development* (one of our deeply held values at Amazing Grace) for all ages on Sunday, September 7th. We are planning a big celebration after worship with the Presbyterians: **A FALL FIESTA & PIE BAKE-OFF!** Taco bar and beverages will be provided.

Please bring a **side dish or dessert** to share and dust off your favorite pie recipes. We'll all enjoy taste-testing them!

The festivities will be on the Broadway Street side of First Presbyterian on the grass. Bring your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join us this year to share in God's transformative love and grace.



UNDER THE BRIDGE

Food Needs

Please bring bread, lunchmeat, makings for sandwiches, to the church by September 14. We will be preparing sandwiches for the Under the Bridge ministry. We will be serving sandwiches on Wednesday, September 17.

SEPTEMBER 2014

CALENDAR

- 1 MONDAY, LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED**
- 3 QUILTING & MEN'S MAINTENANCE**
- 4 THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
- 5 FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 7 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / FELLOWSHIP**
'KICK-OFF SUNDAY' Fall Fiesta & Pie Bake-Off' (w/First Presbyterian)
- 9 TUESDAY, 6:30 P.M. CHURCH COUNCIL**
- 10 6:00/7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, CHOIR/ HANDBELLS**
- 11 THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
- 12 FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 14 10:00 A.M. PROPERTY / WORSHIP @ BEL AIRE PROPERTY / FELLOWSHIP**
- 17 WEDNESDAY, UNDER THE BRIDGE**
9:00 a.m. QUILTING & MAINTENANCE
6:00/7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, CHOIR/ HANDBELLS
- 18 THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
- 19 FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED**
- 21 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / FELLOWSHIP**
SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS
- 24 6:00/7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, CHOIR/ HANDBELLS**
- 25 THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
- 26 FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 27 SATURDAY, 9 A.M.-3 P.M. COUNCIL RETREAT**
- 28 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / SUNDAY SCHOOL / FELLOWSHIP**
5:00 P.M. KABOB DINNER
"FOOD, FUN, 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. (September 7th) *"Singing hymns are prayers to God's ear."* **PLEASE JOIN US**



SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 John Stephens
- 5 Juli Kupka
- 7 Michael Erickson, Harold Johnson, Annika Natwick
- 8 Kathy Wehage
- 11 Dominic Finazzo
- 12 Vicki Mitchell
- 16 Andrea Ostwald
- 18 Martha Beeman
- 19 Coleman Carle, Louise Paul
- 20 Linda Ebel
- 21 Bret Kaufman
- 25 Suzy Laird

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Dee & Michael Erickson
- 15 John & Dorothy Stephens
- 18 Craig & Jane Teveliet
- 21 Erik & Juli Kupka
- 24 Sarah & Jesse Channel



PRAYING FOR.....

Eleanor Knapp, Claudia, Nicole Claussen, Pam Thorson, Al Carlberg, BJ Bastin, Richard Kraiger, Doug George, Gwen, Karuna Johnson, Shelbie Offrink, Don Stubb, Nicole, Aileen Long, Ginger Cameron, Richard, Peyton Willis, Melvin

Thompson, Melissa Smiley, Dan Kristom, Kenny Broussard, Donna Spere, Dana, Nancy Miller, Larry Freeman, for those who are unhoused, and for long-term caregivers **Carol Stubb & Jack Bastin**. We pray for the young people and workers at the youth center, we also pray for the Youth Center as they seek federal grants to help with their street outreach.



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos;
Liturgist: Hank Bilderback;
Worship Assistant/Acolyte: Arlene Torgerson ; **Reader:** Trish

Safstrom; **Ushers/Greeters:** Ray & Jean Hodge; **Depositors:** Gene & Eileen Schermer; **Fellowship Hosts:** **RALLY DAY CELEBRATION (bring side dish or dessert)**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback;
Worship Assistant/Acolyte: Mark Smalley ; **Communion Assistant:** Kylie Weiberg; **Reader:** Susan Bylund;
Ushers/Greeters: Maurita Whie & Paula Elder;
Depositors: Ray & Jean Hodge; **Fellowship Hosts:** Theresa Kaufman & girls, Karen & Mike Barkstrom
(worship @ the Bel Aire property)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile;
Worship Assistant: Arlene Torgerson; **Communion Assistant/Acolyte:** Kathy Wehage; **Ushers/Greeters:** Darrell & Elaine Lokken; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Pete Majar; **Fellowship Hosts:** Betty Schlaht, Maxine Cogburn, Monika Revel & Vicki Trader, Krissy & Travis Bartholomew

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle;
Worship Assistant/Acolyte: Jeannette Green;
Communion Assistant/Acolyte: Madi Green; **Ushers/Greeters:** Joan & William Rabung; **Depositors:** Karen & Mike Barkstrom; **Fellowship Hosts:** Mark & Amy Ostwald, Dee & Morgan Erickson, Jann Fleming, Hiedi & Chris Seelke

THANK YOU TO.....

Gene Schermer, Mike Hubbard, Mike Barkstrom, John Tieder, Roger Shaw, Bob Salmon for their painting skills on the back porch and in the nursery room. Their work has brighten our church home!

Amy Ostwald and Trish Safstrom for their work on our recent church directory. It will be published very soon and you all will see "the hard work of their labors!"

Eileen Schermer & the Amazing Quilters' for sewing school bags, collecting supplies and putting together many school kits. These kits will eventually be packed and sent (with our quilts) to Lutheran World Relief in October.

Jim and Jordan Weiberg, Steve Swanson, Coleman Carle, Mark Smalley, Diane Hanson and Kathy Wehage, John Kincaid for moving all of the sanctuary furniture twice so that the carpet could be cleaned.

Theresa Kaufman for willingness to do whatever is asked whenever it is needed, especially filling in in the office in Susan's absence.

Jim Weiberg & Arlene Torgerson for keeping our grounds looking so neat and tidy during the whole summer.

Amy Ostwald, Anneliese Kraiger, Laura Carle, Michelle Weiberg & Hiedi Seelke for praying, imagining and working to bring our Sunday School to life for another year of passing on and growing in the faith.

"OUT OF DARKNESS"



SARON LUTHERAN ADVENT ART & WRITING EXHIBITION

Below you will find information regarding Saron's upcoming art & writing exhibition that will take place during Advent this year. We wanted to send out information early enough so that you could develop work to fit the theme, if you're interested in participating.

Also, feel free to share this with other creative sorts within our community. Affiliation with a Christian church is not a requirement; we see this project as a form of outreach.

Do consider applying! And encourage the young folks you know to take part too. If you find any aspect of this process intimidating or confusing, don't hesitate to ask questions. We're happy to assist.

Additionally, if you'd like to help with aspects of the show itself--from hanging the work to hosting the opening--please let me or Pastor Linda know.

Open to residents of Grays Harbor & Pacific Counties 18 years of age and older. Open to all writing genres—poetry, essay, fiction, nonfiction, experimental, etc.

Due to exhibit space limitations, text must be no longer than (3) single spaced pages.

There is no entry fee for this exhibition.

The layout of your work may be modified in order to display it in a manner that allows for ease of readability and cohesion with the visual art also on display.

All work must remain in place for the duration of the show. Readings will be scheduled for the opening reception but you are not required to participate in this aspect.

Questions?

Please contact Pastor Linda Milks at 360.532.4621 / revliesel@hotmail.com or Carrie Larson at 360.533.2799 / clarson3@comcast.net

Mail your completed entry to Saron Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 517, Hoquiam, WA 98550

If you would prefer to drop off your entry, the church is located at the corner of 8th & M Streets in Hoquiam.

A mail slot is near the church office door, on the 8th Street side behind the fountain.

ENTRY FORMS & INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE AMAZING GRACE CHURCH OFFICE.

Submission Deadline Entries must be received by Friday, October 10, 2014

Notification no later than Saturday, November 1

Exhibition Dates November 22 – December 21

Opening Reception November 22, 4pm – 7pm

Text Pick Up December 22, 2pm – 6pm



As we begin a new year of **Growing in Faith Together** we need to surround our efforts, our learning, and especially each other with prayer. One way to do this is to form **Prayer Partners**. We also need ways to establish and strengthen relationships between young people and adults. (Young people need **many adults** caring for them and praying for them as they navigate the rough waters of growing up in our world today!) Addressing both of those needs your Prayer Team (*currently just Carmon Shaw and Pastor Val, but let us know if you want to join us in bringing prayer front and center in our life together*) is asking you to sign up to be a prayer partner with someone who will be randomly assigned to you.

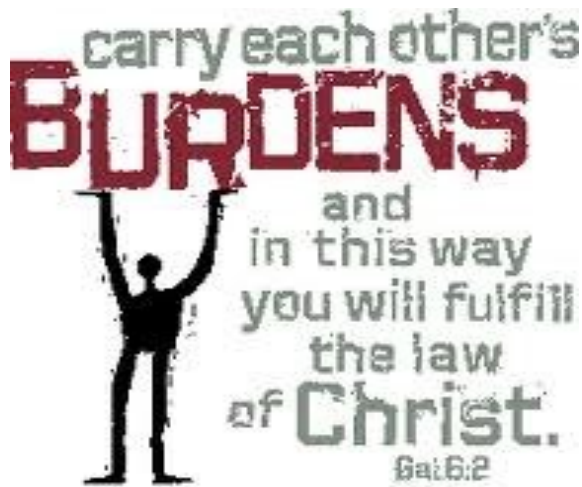
This is not ONE MORE CHORE. This is simply prayer. That's all. You pray for your partner. Your partner prays for you. Pray about this request. We'll begin sign ups on Sept. 21. After that we will **randomly assign adult and youth partners**. We'll let you know who your partner is and you can begin praying for each other. **THAT'S IT! THAT'S ALL THAT IS NEEDED! Parents please consider signing your children up for this.** Your task will be to help them begin praying, possibly answering their questions or referring them to someone else to answer. You don't have to have all the answers. You just have to want your child to be prayed FOR and want your child to grow in relationship with God who calls us to pray for each other.

Watch for sign ups on the 21st of Sept. and talk to Pastor Val or Carmon if you have questions.

Prayer is our first language as Christians. We may have questions about prayer. We may feel awkward praying out loud. But, prayer is a natural human response to life. And it is how we stay in relationship with God just as human relationships rely on conversation to maintain vitality and grow in depth. Like conversation in human relationships, honesty is required. We grow in relationship with God as we honestly voice our joy, our sorrow, our anger, our disappointment, even our doubts. We grow in relationship with God by sitting in silence letting God speak to us.

A fundamental aspect of Christian prayer is praying for one another (intercessory prayer), following Jesus' model of praying for others. Jesus was an intercessor while He was here on earth. He prayed for those who were sick. He prayed for His disciples. He even prayed for you and me when He interceded for all those who would trust in Him. Jesus continued His ministry of intercession after His death and resurrection when He returned to God. He now serves as our intercessor in Heaven.

¹⁴ We have a great high priest, who has gone into heaven, and he is Jesus the Son of God. That is why we must hold on to what we have said about him. ¹⁵ Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin! ¹⁶ So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help." Hebrews 4:14-16



Here are some suggestions as you pray for others.

+++Prepare your mind and heart by examining yourself and making repentance and confession of sin to God. Seek to humble yourself and open your heart to the Holy Spirit.

+++Take a couple of deep breaths and pray (silently or aloud) as you breathe in, "Come, Holy Spirit."

+++ Take time to listen to God's leading. What is God bringing to mind as you open yourself to pray? Fight the tendency to fall into rote speech or praying in a way you "think you ought to." Pray from your heart to God who knows you better than you know yourself.

+++As you begin to pray, thank God for the person(s) you are praying for; pray for the specific request(s); ask God to bless the person(s) you are praying for as well as the person(s) who requested the prayer (if different); finally, close the prayer "...in Jesus name. Amen."

+++Keep in mind that no matter what the request, we are God's instruments of prayer. We are not to judge the request but simply pray. Jesus modeled a heart of compassion (Latin: com = "together"; passé = "suffer") when He ministered to others. God will work out the request.

+++Remember, there is no "right" way to pray. Simply open your heart to God and to the individual(s) for whom you are praying.

Thanks to St. James Lutheran Church in Barrington, R.I. for the suggestions for prayer.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2014

In Attendance: Mark Smalley, Coleman Carle, Chrissie Kincaid, Pastor Val Metropoulos, Diane Hansen, Dee Erickson, Kristine Finazzo, Mike Kupka, Chris Seelke

Call to Order – The August Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President, Mark Smalley.

Opening Devotions – led by Pastor Val. Council members paired up to Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless (see attached)

Prayer tasks (Thanksgiving, Intercession, Petition, Praise) were assigned by Mark.

Time Keeper and Opinion Collector tasks were assigned by Mark.

A Quorum was established.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved.

The July 8, 2014 Council minutes were reviewed, corrected and approved.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Chrissie Kincaid.

Questions answered, bills approved, see attached reports.

It was agreed that we need a written policy regarding the Memorial Fund. Questioned whether Teresa Kaufmann ever deposits money or does it all go through Mike (Financial Secretary)? Chrissie will check on this. Chrissie was asked to note "Memorial Fund" and "Mikkel Thompson Concert Fund" on future Treasurer's reports. She will also add a line for "fund transfers".

Each February all bank paperwork needs to be updated.

Pastor Val questioned whether we should have a "cheat sheet" that outlines all quarterly, monthly and occasional payments to help us better understand the bills.

2013 audit is not yet complete. The Annual Report designates who will be the auditors. Pastor Val offered to figure this out and make arrangements with Chrissie and Mark for the annual audit.

Financial Secretary's Report – Mike Kupka

Questions answered regarding Record of Giving (see attached). Nothing done yet with depositor training or newsletter article.

Mike will send his report to Chrissie to reconcile before sending it out to the Council for review.

Mike noted that fundraising is currently done "off book" ie., the fundraising dinner event sponsors deposit their funds, and then the Treasurer will complete an expense report and cut a check for expenses. There was discussion regarding how this could be done to better utilize best accounting practices. Kristine will get a form for deposits from Mike and a form for expenses from Chrissie to use for these expense refunds in the future.

The depositors' procedures were discussed. Mike will contact Mike Barkstrom for ideas on how these procedures may be streamlined.

Business Items:

- Approval of Custodian Job Description/Hours – Chrissie discussed the need to have time sheets approved by the first of the month, in anticipation of checks going out by the seventh of the month. It was agreed that Mark and Coleman will meet the last Sunday of the month to go over time sheets to approve. A form is available and needs to be used. Mark and Coleman will add time sheets to the Custodian job description. The Council will vote on this at our September meeting.
- Service Sunday with the Presbyterians - originally scheduled for August 31st has been cancelled.
- Bel-Aire Property – Ostwald family has cleared brush and a central area. Pastor Val's thoughts are to have a Worship Service at the property in September; she will come up with a date. We will bring chairs and a table, go into the property and provide a blessing to re-center us in God's mission. As decided in January council meeting, a small group will be appointed to research all viable ideas for the property, then narrow it to three. This group will be open and transparent to the congregation.
- Mutual Ministry Committee – Mark, Diane and Pastor Val are working on a Mutual Ministry Committee which will be a sounding board for, and to provide feedback for Pastor Val. This is a work in progress.
- Mission Planning Retreat – Retreat at Amazing Grace scheduled for Saturday, September 27th. Council members should read "Living Lutheran" prior to the retreat. Mark and Pastor Val will work on an Agenda.
- Kairos Prison Ministry – Pastor Val discussed what Kairos is all about and reported that a group of men who are involved in the Kairos Prison Ministry need a place to stay for a few nights, November 7th and 8th and possibly a meal or two. She will get further details and report back to the Council.

Ministry Reports:

- Property, Coleman Carle – Working on getting a combined quote for cleaning the fellowship hall and sanctuary carpeting. After discussion, it was approved to get the sanctuary carpet cleaned first and then fellowship hall carpeting cleaned later. Coleman will facilitate. A discussion about painting and re-purposing the upstairs Nursery for Sunday School was held. Chrissie noted that her company has some room dividers that they are not using that we could possibly use. She will look for them.
- Fellowship, Dee Erickson. Discussed obtaining an AED (automated external defibrillator) and setting up training with a local Paramedic in October or November. Dee and Kristine discussed the possibility of the proceeds from one of the 4F dinners going towards purchasing the AED or money from the annual Pie Auction. Kristine also questioned whether Thrivent money would be available. She will talk to Judy Hubbard about the dinner and Thrivent and will investigate how the decision is made as to where the Pie Auction money goes. Information about the PLU Christmas concert will be gathered and distributed to the congregation soon.
- Outreach, Kristine Finazzo – Kristine discussed how to go about setting up a time and place to discuss Outreach with the congregation. It was agreed that coffee hour would be a good time to reach the majority of the congregation.
- Youth & Family, Chris Seelke – Chris reported that a meeting to discuss Sunday School, Youth Group and Adult Education will be held on August 17th, after Church. Also, Rally Sunday will be held on September 7th this year in a joint venture with the Presbyterian Church. Potluck, BBQ and lawn games will be included.
- Worship, Diane Hanson – Diane reported that we haven't heard back yet from the Synod about sending out our green hymnals. Also, the blue hymnals are not being used during worship so they will be removed from the pews. Diane showed Council some purple bags full of "goodies" (crayons, coloring books, etc.) that can be used by the children during church. A big thank you to Diane's cousin, Stephanie and our church member Kathy Wehage for helping with the cost of filling these bags. A new multi-instrument liturgy will be rolled out in October.

Pastor's Report – See attached

Task assignments:

Chrissie will check if Theresa Kaufman has deposited checks directly into the Bank Account.

Next Month vote on the Memorial Process.

Mike – starting next month, send “Record of Contributions Report” to Chrissie for reconciliation before sending the report out to the whole council.

Mike will contact that Barkstroms about ideas for how the depositors’ procedures could be changed.

Kristine will get the 4F group depositor forms and will explain to the group about getting a refund for expenses through the church treasurer.

Mark and Chrissie will look for audit committee member.

Mark and Coleman to develop a timesheet for employees.

Pastor and Mark – Agenda for Council retreat. Pastor will order the books for the retreat.

Coleman will get the sanctuary carpet cleaned.

Chrissie will look to see if her company has surplus room dividers that could be used in the fellowship hall.

Kristine will investigate how the decision was made about where the money from the pie auction was used.

Mike has devotions for September

The meeting was closed at 8:40 pm with prayer, including the Prayer Tasks assigned at the beginning of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dee Erickson

Dee Erickson, Acting Secretary



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

THANKS WE HAVE RECEIVED

July 20, 2014

Dear Pastor Val,

The PLU Office of Congregation Relations thanks you and your congregation for your gift to PLU’s Annual Fund on July 23rd! As a student who receives scholarship money, I can attest to how grateful students at PLU are for your help in our education.

Sincerely, Clara Eickhoff, Student Intern

Message from Bishop Jaech

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

Hebrews 13:2

Dear Friends,

I think of summer as a time for carefree refreshment and rest, but the last six weeks have been continually interrupted by tragic and discouraging events. First, Malaysia Flight 17 is shot down in the Ukraine and the victims' bodies are left desecrated on the ground while brutal war keeps raging around them. Then, fighting erupts in Gaza and Israel as both Israeli and Palestinian teenagers are kidnapped and killed, thousands of rockets are fired by Hamas and Israel, and hundreds of innocent adults and children are killed.

As I watched the news each night, my heart grew increasingly heavy, both because of the immediate suffering of people and also because these are ingrained conflicts that have gone on for hundreds of years. How will they ever end?

Meanwhile, there are the tragedies that are closer by: homes and animals destroyed by forest fires in our state, friends we know who struggle with poor health and unemployment, painful relationships in our families and church communities. Despite the gloriously sunny weather that has been nurturing in so many ways, I have found myself frequently pained and worried about our world's future.

I remember talking to a Lutheran pastor from Zaire a number of years ago who was a speaker at a Byberg Preaching Workshop. She had been the first female Lutheran pastor ordained in her country and was now working as the regional Lutheran World Federation coordinator for relief and development projects.

Someone in our group asked her, "Do you feel optimistic about the future of central Africa?" She answered, "I do not use the word 'optimistic'. Given the huge struggles with poverty, hunger and illness, it seems too shallow to speak of optimism. The way I express it is that I am insistently hopeful. I cling to God's promise of blessing and healing for us. I insist on hoping that God will follow through on that promise and I commit myself to being a part of God's healing, life-giving work."

Martin Luther frequently said, "God is with us and for us." Even when we feel alone and abandoned...even

when we struggle with self-judgment and despair, ...even in the midst of a summer when fires and warfare rage, God is working within us and among us, continually bringing forth new life.

May God bring healing, rest and strength to you, especially in these complicated times. May God deeply bless your ministry, as God works through you to bring new life to others. May we all dare to insistently hope and hold on to God, and so open ourselves to the power and vision of the Spirit.

ELCA presiding bishop urges prayer, peace amid outrage over shooting death

CHICAGO (ELCA) – In response to the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., which has triggered outrage among some area residents and others across the country, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has called for prayer and peace.

"Throughout the gospels, Jesus reached out to the 'others,' those whom society deemed utterly foreign. We are at greatest risk when we divide into 'us' and 'them.' Then, we are unable to see each other's humanity," said Eaton. "In Christ, there is no 'them,' not Michael Brown, not the community, not the police. All are one. All are 'us' and all are Christ's."

"We pray that peace will come to Ferguson and the Brown family – peace is founded on the knowledge that in Christ, there is no 'other,' only brothers and sisters," she said.

In an effort to bring the community together, the Rev. Rick Brenton, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Ferguson, said thousands of local residents gathered for a peace march Aug. 14.

"Last night we came together to march and reclaim the streets," said Brenton. "Somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 people marched. Clergy from all over the city, from every denomination, creed and origin, came together along with youth and others to peacefully protest. We had also delivered food and toiletries items to residents of the Canfield Green Apartment complex [where police opened fire Aug. 9]. People there are afraid to leave their homes. God's people deserve better than what has been happening."

According to Brenton, the march and outreach to residents "was a collaborative effort. We came together and made a difference. It's an amazing example of God's love for us. That in Christ, God walks beside us and before us, crossing the boundaries of our lives, exercising the demons of racism, sexism, classism and ageism to bring hope, healing and new life to our community."



AMAZING GRACE CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS / 2014-2015

President	Mark Smalley	(360) 249-1955	marktrish86@gmail.com
Vice President / Worship	Diane Hanson	(360) 533-0601	djh431@hotmail.com
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Treasurer	Chrissy Kincaid	(360) 470-1147	ckincaid@paneltechintl.com
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Fellowship	Dee Erickson	(360) 533-7948	deekaye1@comcast.net
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Endowment	Keith Lile	(360) 580-1511	ole.canoe.guy@gmail.com
Pastor	Val Metropoulos	(360) 580-8977	vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu
Administrative Assistant	Susan Bylund	(360) 532-8250	amazing111@comcast.net

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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"The Church where Grace Happens!"

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



VISION: A welcoming place
where grace happens!

MISSION: To experience
and share God's love through
worship,
education and community.

VALUES:

Radical Hospitality

Passionate worship

**Intentional faith develop-
ment**

**Risk-taking mission and ser-
vice**

Extravagant generosity



Ministers: The People of Amazing
Grace

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Secretary: Susan Bylund

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile

&

Laura Carle

Musicians: Kristine Burns, Geri Stubb