

The Spirit

OCTOBER 2014

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church



Tired of Speaking Sweetly

Love wants to reach out and manhandle us,
Break all our teacup talk of God.

If you had the courage and
Could give the Beloved His choice, some nights,
He would just drag you around the room
By your hair,
Ripping from your grip all those toys in the world
That bring you no joy.

Love sometimes gets tired of speaking sweetly
And wants to rip to shreds
All your erroneous notions of truth

That make you fight within yourself, dear one,
And with others,

Causing the world to weep
On too many fine days.

God wants to manhandle us,
Lock us inside of a tiny room with Himself
And practice His dropkick.

The Beloved sometimes wants
To do us a great favor:

Hold us upside down
And shake all the nonsense out.

But when we hear
He is in such a "playful drunken mood"
Most everyone I know
Quickly packs their bags and hightails it
Out of town.

—Hafiz

Our Faith 101 classes have mostly begun. Our Thursday group had to delay our first meeting because so many people signed up that more books had to be ordered. (Great problem to have!) The purpose of this class is, as it is for most study within the church, to help us to continue to grow in mature faith.

The author of the book we're studying, N.T. Wright, ends the preface of his book with this thought:

"All language about the future as any economist or politician will tell you, is simply a set of signposts pointing into a fog. We see through a glass darkly, says St. Paul as he peers toward what lies ahead. All our language about future states of the world and of ourselves consists of complex pictures that may or may not correspond very well to the ultimate reality. But that doesn't mean it's anybody's guess or that every opinion is as good as every other one. And – supposing someone came forward out of the fog to meet us. That, of course, is the central though often ignored Christian belief."

That 'someone' who came forward, Jesus, meets us as we study scripture, which is why we're using the narrative lectionary; to make clear that the whole story of God from Old Testament to New is OUR story. It's all gospel, all good news! That's why we study the teaching of the church, those beliefs that have been tested in the crucible of time and experience and found to be life-giving. We do that in our study of N.T. Wright's book, *Surprised by Hope*.

That 'someone', Jesus, meets us in wine/blood and bread/body at the table of grace which centers our worship together, sustains us for another week of joyful service as Jesus calls us to serve, loving even our enemies.

That 'someone', Jesus, meets us in prayer, alone or together, praying for ourselves and our concerns and in our prayer for the needs of the world.

But, even all of those ways of meeting Jesus do not exhaust how God wants to be known. The poetry of Hafiz challenges us to embrace the truth that God will surprise us with hope and possibility beyond our imagining when we our hearts are open to God's work in us and in the world.

My prayer is that we are all bold to embrace the hope and the possibility!

Pastor Val

WHY ARE WE HEARING SO MUCH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IN WORSHIP THESE DAYS?

The short answer is because we're using a new set of readings (which is what a lectionary is.) We're using the Narrative Lectionary now, which is a four year cycle of scripture readings.

On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. The intention is to help us understand some of the arc of scripture beginning with the Old Testament and flowing into the Gospels in December.

In broad brush strokes the Old Testament follows this chronology:

Creation, Abraham and Sarah, and Joseph in Egypt (Genesis);

Slavery in Egypt, the escape, wilderness wanderings (Exodus);

Life in the land of Canaan (Joshua);

Land conquered and people stumbling (Judges);

King Saul, David's rise and fall (1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings);

First Temple is built; prophets speak of power and its neglect of the powerless and the impending exile (Isaiah, Elijah, Hosea, Jeremiah);

Exile, what it means to live as a God's people in a foreign land (Esther, Daniel);

Prophets in exile (Jeremiah and Ezekiel);

Return to Jerusalem from exile, (Nehemiah, Ezra)
and then the second temple built by Herod the Great
many years later.

In extremely broad strokes, this is the story of the Old
Testament – a people, a temple and a God who is known
by steadfast love (hesed) and the guiding Torah

relationship and covenant). These principles shape the
people of Israel and shape the person of Jesus, the savior
of this world.

My hope is that each worship service gives you a better
handle on God's story that is not just about folks thou-
sands of years ago, but about you and me. This is a story
that is principally about the God of Israel whose steadfast
love abides and is living, a God who redeems the world
through Jesus life and death and resurrection and who
makes lives in the human heart.

It is a story about God who calls out a church, to be a
newly created people, transformed into the image of
Christ to be, live, and work as the body of Christ for the
sake of all. It is a beautiful story; it is the good news of
Jesus and the story of God. And as followers of Jesus, it is
our story as well!

OCTOBER 2014 CALENDAR

- 1 **WEDNESDAY, 9:00 a.m. QUILTING & MEN'S MAINTENANCE**
12:15 a.m. FAITH 101
6:00-7:00 p.m. CHOIR & HANDBELLS
- 2 **THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
7-8:00 p.m. NO FAITH 101
- 3 **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 5 **9:45 a.m. HYMN FEST**
10:00 a.m. **WORSHIP W/CHOIR**
11:00 a.m. **FELLOWSHIP; S.S. and SUNDAY TIMES for middle & high school**
12:00 p.m. NO FAITH 101
6:00 p.m. **YOUTH GROUP@1st PRES**
- 7 **TUESDAY, 7:00 p.m. UNION GOSPEL**
- 8 12:15 a.m. FAITH 101
6:00-7:00 p.m. CHOIR & HANDBELLS
- 9 **THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
7-8:00 p.m. FAITH 101
- 10 **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**

- 12 **SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**
11:00 a.m. **FELLOWSHIP & SUN SCH**
12:00 p.m. FAITH 101
6:00 p.m. **YOUTH GROUP@1ST PRES**
- 14 **TUESDAY, 10-12 p.m. PASTOR'S GROUP**
6:30 p.m. **CHURCH COUNCIL**
- 15 **WEDNESDAY, 9:00 a.m. QUILTING & MAINTENANCE**
11:00 a.m. **UNDER THE BRIDGE**
12:15 a.m. FAITH 101
6:00/7:00 P.M. CHOIR/HANDBELLS
- 17 **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 19 **10:00 A.M. WORSHIP / HANDBELLS**
11:00 a.m. **FELLOWSHIP & SUN SCH**
12:00 a.m. FAITH 101
6:00 p.m. **YOUTH GROUP@1st PRES**
- 22 **WEDNESDAY, 12:15 a.m. FAITH 101**
6:00-7:00 p.m. CHOIR & HANDBELLS
- 23 **THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
7-8:00 p.m. FAITH 101
- 24 **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
- 25 **WEDDING - Christopher Robin & Edward Lapanawan**
- 26 **SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP / QUILT SUNDAY**
11:00 a.m. **FELLOWSHIP & SUN SCH**
12:00 p.m. FAITH 101
- 28 **TUESDAY, 11:00-1:00 p.m. SYNOD MEETING IN PARISH HALL**
- 29 **WEDNESDAY, 9:00 a.m. QUILTING & MEN'S MAINTENANCE (Pack quilts)**
12:15 a.m. FAITH 101
6:00-7:00 p.m. CHOIR & HANDBELLS
- 30 **THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. AA**
7-8:00 p.m. FAITH 101
- 31 **FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED**
HAPPY HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Leader: Diane Hanson;

Liturgist: Hank Bilderback;

Worship Assistant/Acolyte: Cathy

Kallio ; Reader: Darci Jewitt; Ush-

ers/Greeters: Paula Elder & Maurita

White; Depositors: Mike & Judi Hubbard; Fellowship

Hosts: Anneliese Kraiger & family, Mike & Moonbeam

Kupka



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Acolyte:** Jill Waite; **Communion Assistant:** Laura Carle; **Reader:** Walt Ebel; **Ushers/Greeters:** Keith & Lynette Lile; **Depositors:** Gene & Eileen Schermer; **Fellowship Hosts:** Susan Bylund, Cathy Kallio, Stella Southern, Hank Bilderback

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant:** Gary Morean; **Communion Assistant/Acolyte:** Mari Rabung; **Reader:** Chris Seelke; **Ushers:** Bob & Mary Ellen Salmon; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Pete Majar; **Fellowship Hosts:** Bob & Mary Ellen Salmon, Coleman & Laura Carle, Tim & Pam Alstrom

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant/Acolyte:** Sarah Channel; **Reader:** William Rabung; **Communion Assistant:** Jenifer Kaufman; **Ushers/Greeters:** Darrel & Elaine Lokken; **Depositors:** Ray & Jean Hodge; **Fellowship Hosts:** Kristine Finazzo, Nicole Evanson, Evelyn Ellingsen, Judi & Mike Hubbard

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. (October 5th) "Singing hymns are prayers to God's ear." **PLEASE JOIN US**



UNDER THE BRIDGE

Food Needs

Please bring bread, lunchmeat, makings for sandwiches, to the church by October 12th. We will be preparing sandwiches for the Under the Bridge ministry. We will be serving sandwiches on Wednesday, OCTOBER 15TH.



OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

2	Samantha Laird
3	Eileen Schermer
4	Ingrid Fackrell, Keith Lile
5	Jann Fleming
6	Michael Chillman
12	Dane Bloomfield, Michelle Weiberg
15	Dee Erickson
19	Peggy Erickson
26	John Tieder
28	Cole Edwards
29	Jack Bastin
30	Arlene Torgerson
31	Susan Bylund

ANNIVERSARIES

10	Linda & Walt Ebel
21	Bret & Theresa Kaufman



PRAYING FOR.....

Eleanor Knapp, 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, Kari Maynard Baretich, Trish Safstrom-Smalley, for those who are unhoused, and for long-term caregivers Carol Stubb & Jack Bastin; the young people and workers at the youth center,

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

September 9, 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 Mike Kupka.

Prayer tasks were assigned as follows: Thanksgiving/Chris, Intercession/Kristine, Petition/Jeanette, Praise/Mike. Diane agreed to act as Time Keeper and Chrissie as opinion collector for the meeting.

Mark noted that a quorum was established for the meeting, as 8 council members were present.

The Agenda was reviewed and m/s/a.

The minutes from the August meeting were m/s/a.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Chrissie Kincaid

It was M/S/A to pay the August bills as presented. Chrissie presented the treasurer's report and reported the budget and income vs. expense breakdown. There were a couple questions noted/changed.

Financial Secretary's Report – Mike Kupka

Mike submitted Record of giving for August was: \$14,645.80.

Mike and Theresa have been working on how to handle the memorial fund record keeping.

Mike has been working on an outline for depositor training and on an article on electronic giving.

Business items:

Approval of Custodian Job Description and time sheet – Mark and Coleman

It was M/S/A to accept the Custodian position description with a couple of changes. Add note to include wood floors under pews.

Worship Service at the BelAire Property

Council will help with chairs and tables, be ushers and transporters of members, as well as fellowship hosts. Pastor has arranged for a Port-a-potty to be on site. The service will be no more than an hour and then clean up.

Mutual Ministry Committee – Mark & Pastor Val

Mark reported that he, Val, Keith, and Diane have been working on it.

Youth Center Renovations- Pastor shared the youth center had applied for a grant to fund a position that would manage outreach for clients.

Mission Planning – Planning Retreat Schedule September 27 – Mark

At AGLC

9-3

Potluck Lunch

F. Council Positions – Mark asked everyone to pray about upcoming vacancies within the next year.

IX. Ministry Reports

Worship – Diane Hanson

The worship team has been working on new music new liturgy. Positive feedback on the activity bags for children.

Fellowship – Dee Erickson / Absent

Outreach – Kristine Finazzo

Kristine shared that on Sunday the 28th after fellowship there will be a meeting.

Youth & Family – Chris shared information he had learned about background checks on individuals who want to be involved with youth at the church. A little more research will be done as to what information is pulled from the different background checks.

Property – Coleman Carle

Coleman will replace lights in the shelter and be available to help at the service on Sunday.

PASTOR'S REPORT - August 2014

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP 5 Sunday worship services - Chose hymns and liturgy
Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing

Prepare prayers for worship weekly

Prayer

Study to prepare for Narrative Lectionary 2014/2015

Plan music and liturgy for fall with Kris, Hank and Diane

Bake communion bread

ADMINISTRATION Council meeting monthly – plan and prepare
Newsletter - help secretary with content and design
Prepare bulletins with secretary for worship 5 Sundays
Supervise volunteer assistant
Meet with Ministry Team leaders as needed
Plan study for congregation – Prayer; Faith 101 study of *Surprised by Hope*.
Meet w/ Youth Center director monthly
Met w/ Pray-ers and Communion Visitation people to update programs.

PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING Homebound and assisted living visits
Baptism – family and sponsors meeting

OUTREACH/VISITATION

Jesuit Volunteer support

Under the Bridge Ministry – 3 Wednesdays

Sunday afternoon – Bible Study and meal w/ community

Housing Coalition meeting monthly

Pastor's group – meets monthly to plan and coordinate ministry

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

Facebook page – outreach through social media.

City Council meeting

Pride Parade in Hoquiam

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Assisted with carpet cleaning logistics

Planning for use of space with worship people; Sunday school people; office.

Coordinated logistics for Kick-off Sunday

Troubleshooting, repair of wireless network system (6 hours at least)

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Plan for Sunday School and Confirmation – 4 meetings

Plan Kick-off Sunday with Presbyterians

STEWARDSHIP

OFFICIAL ACTS (Baptisms, funerals, weddings): 1 baptism – Eilidh Channel

VACATION 0 days of vacation in August

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

National Association for Adult Catechumenate training (Adult discipleship formation) – 4 days in Vancouver, B.C.

Online Course (5 hours) for Narrative Lectionary

Reading: Old Testament Theology; Dangerous Worship

Upcoming dates: Oct. 3-5 Centering Prayer Retreat at Priory Spirituality Center
Without any further business our meeting ended in prayer at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jeannette Green, Secretary



THANK YOU TO.....

Ray Hodge, Mike Barkstrom, Gene Schermer, Roger Shaw & John Tieder for helping with the recent maintenance & plumbing in the Parish Hall.

Mike Barkstrom, Roger Shaw, John Tieder and Gene Schermer for the beautiful paint job in the new Sunday School room. The love and care evident in your work surrounds the children's prayer and learning every week. That is a gift!

Amy Ostwald for leading the Sunday School children in Godly Play, our new Sunday School curriculum and getting us organized this year. The children are delighted.

Jim Weiberg and Arlene Torgerson for their work cleaning up and maintaining our landscape. We appreciate the beauty you create!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School started on **Sept. 21st** right after worship. Each week we'll all be in worship (so that we can all experience the holiness of worship together and young people can learn how to worship.) Then we head up to the Parish Hall where we'll move to the new Sunday School room.

We know that faith is taught best in the home and that children learn best from parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles. Amazing Grace understands its role as one of supporting families in teaching and living the faith in our whole lives, not just Sunday morning. That means **YOU ARE ALL INVITED** to stay with your child, learning together. **EVERYONE IS INVITED INTO THIS TIME AS WE LEARN TOGETHER, THE YOUNG BRINGING THEIR FRESH VISION AND SENSE OF WONDER; THE MATURE BRINGING THEIR EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM.**

We'll hear the Bible stories in a new way in Sunday School and then learn more deeply what they mean for our lives through activities and arts, song and sign language.

Watch for future events and other ways that Amazing Grace hopes to support you and your family in growing in faith together.

Sunday Times

Sunday Times for Jr and Sr High Youth will **start on Sunday, Oct. 5th. We will meet after church from 11:15 to 11:45.**

Help yourself to refreshments from coffee hour and join us in the Youth Room downstairs to start the year off, make some decisions and receive what blessings God has in store for us this year.

"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 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 ARE 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

TIME TO CELEBRATE w/ JACK BASTIN

Jack and the Bastin family wish to invite you to Jack's 90th Birthday Party.



Sunday, October 26, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Aberdeen Elks Club, 1712 S. Boone Street, Aberdeen, WA
The Elks 593 Singers will be performing for your musical and dancing pleasure. No gifts please! Your presence is our pleasure.



The Outreach ministry of Amazing Grace

provides services to populations outside the congregation who might not otherwise have access to those services. Our outreach is in response to God's transforming love freely given to us and so we participate in outreach with hearts overflowing with gratitude as a way to begin to fulfill Jesus' command to meet the needs of those around us.

Matt. 25:37-40 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And [Jesus] will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

It usually means us going to a location rather than those in need coming to us.

There are many ways our congregation provides outreach now. These are examples of our outreach done through the congregation. Many members of Amazing Grace share the love of God through their many volunteer activities and in their work lives.

- ✦ Prayer for the needs of people near and far.
- ✦ Quilts, made and donated to Lutheran World Relief, the Clothing Bank, Friendship House, Salvation Army and our newly Confirmed.
- ✦ School kits and health kits, also made by the Quilters.
- ✦ Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes filled with gifts for children.
- ✦ Union Gospel Mission- teams prepare meals once a month. The teams have been newly revised.
- ✦ Sandwiches made and given "under the bridge" to all who are hungry
- ✦ Special requests for clothing, food, school supplies, etc. – when the need is made known, it is met through the generosity of the people of A.G.
- ✦ Salvation Army Kettle Klash
- ✦ Youth Center- supplies that are needed are donated.
- ✦ Food Bank donations.
- ✦ Mikkel Thompson music events in our community
- Lenten services with community

- ✦ Vacation Bible School
- ✦ Cold weather shelter for those without housing
- ✦ A.A. and other groups receive free use of our building for meetings
- ✦ Caroling to the homebound, assisted living and in nursing homes

Benevolence funds given as 'first fruits', a percentage of our undesignated offerings given to a wide variety of agencies fulfilling the mandate of Micah 6:8 *"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

We have been involved with prayerful discernment for some weeks now. We probably aren't ready for big decisions but are ready to talk about next steps. **Please continue to pray that God will prepare us to join in God's mission here and that God can use us to bring hope to the hopeless and bring God's transforming love to this hurting world. Watch for information about our next conversation and ways you can participate. Talk to Kristine Finazzo if you would like to be involved in any way.**



THRIVENT FINANCIAL is sponsoring two events for Lutherans this October:

- ◆ "The Thrivent Story: Connecting Faith & Finances for Good," John D. Aakre, Olympia

The event will be held at the Polson Museum, Hoquiam, on Friday, 6:30 p.m., October 17

The chapter will be providing refreshments and folks can wander in the museum.

- ◆ "A Disaster Benefit Concert: Appalachian & Southern Gospel Music," Greg Blake,

Conifer, CO. This event will be held at the Raymond Theater, 323-1/2 Third Street in Raymond, Saturday, 2:00 p.m., October 25.

These events are open to clerical and lay people alike. Our Thrivent chapter is sponsoring these events to mark Thrivent's larger aims on the Twin Harbors. Aakre will speak to a vote taken this last year to open Thrivent Services to other Christian denominations, and Greg Blake, a Baptist minister and musician, is donating all proceeds to Washington State Lutheran Disaster Relief. We hope you will find the events appealing.

THANKS WE HAVE RECEIVED

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Thank you so much for your 9/2/14 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.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

Jim Shanafelt, Outside Prison Board

Dear Friends,

Fall is almost upon us and with it all the wet cold weather that comes with this time of year. We know it is a beautiful time, but the beauty can be deceiving. The nights get much colder so more and more people will be coming in to the Union Gospel Mission and Friendship House. Not just to sleep, but to get a warm meal, dry clothes, a hot shower, and much more. It is for these reasons that make you as a donor so important. Thank you for helping us to keep our doors open to all those in need.

Thank you for your gift.

Thanks, Gary T. Rowell, Executive Director

The PLU Experience is made possible only with the financial support of donors like you. Every gift helps us further our mission to challenge and support students as they achieve success in college, in their chosen careers and in a lifetime of service to others. Please accept our sincere thanks and gratitude for your generosity and for your commitment to Pacific Lutheran University. Thank you!

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be in the Southwestern Synod, November 1 @ PLU (Karen Hille Phelps Performing Arts Center). There will be coffee hour beginning @ 9:00 a.m. and then she will be speaking for 90 minutes (including Q&A) from 10-11:30 a.m. on "Who is Leading Us & Where are We Going?"

The event is free and OPEN TO ALL!

COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE

Sift together 3 times:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup white flour
- 1-1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1-1/4 tsp. salt

Stir in 4 tsp. oil. Set aside



Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

- 3/4 cup & 2 TBS very hot water
- 3 TBS honey
- 3 TBS molasses

Add wet to dry ingredients and mix well. Should be slightly sticky. Do not knead.

Divide into 4 balls; flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk. Score each

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove, brush top with oil. Bake another 5-8 minutes.

(We invite anyone to sign up for making this bread. We would like each person to make two Sunday's worth)



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA members advocate for action on climate change

9/23/2014 1:00:00 PM

CHICAGO (ELCA) – Hundreds of members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) were among the more than 400,000 participants in the People's Climate March in New York City on Sept. 21. The Lutheran delegation joined the People's Climate Interfaith Contingent, one of the largest groups in the march.

"As a Lutheran, I feel that I was given the responsibility to hold domain over nature, that is to protect it and nurture it," said Kristin Heinemeier, a member of Lutheran Church of the Incarnation in Davis, Calif., who traveled from home with her 14-year-old son to participate in the march.

"Nature is God's gift to us and it's beautiful. This is clearly an issue of interest to the faith community, and

I'm proud to be representing my congregation and church body in this march," she said.

Heinemeier's son, Peter Holderbein, said he participated in the march to "protect my future and the future of my children.

"God trusted us to protect the planet," said Holderbein. "As a teenager, young people have a lot more voice than we think and we should be more involved in decision-making."

The People's Climate March kicked off a week of events in New York City, including the United Nations Climate Summit on Sept. 23, where President Obama and other global leaders will meet to discuss climate change.

"This summit begins a two-year period of global attention to the issue of climate change," said Mary Minette, ELCA director for environmental education and advocacy, who also attended the march. "In December, world leaders will convene in Lima, Peru, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to discuss a new global agreement on climate change, with the hope that a final agreement will emerge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Paris in December of 2015."

The ELCA advocacy office, based in Washington, D.C., and the ELCA New York Metropolitan Area Synod office worked to help Lutherans from around the country attend the march by providing information on housing and transportation.

"We prioritized this event because our global partnerships give us a unique understanding of the impact that climate change is already having on the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable people and communities around the world," said Minette. "We know that climate change is already impacting our church's work to alleviate and eliminate hunger and threatens the future well-being of all. We believe that we are called to be stewards of God's good creation and to care for our neighbors, whoever and wherever they may be."

Heinemeier said she was "very proud to be marching with Lutherans, because of the strong commitment many Lutherans have made. The energy of the group was very positive and life affirming, she said.

"Being surrounded by a large number of Lutherans among a throng of thousands singing 'We are marching to the light of God,' a song we sing often in our church, gave me a strong sense of community," she said. "I think the march illustrated all the different communities that care about the planet, from faith groups to unions to farmers to scientists."



Other events during the week include an inter-faith conference on climate change sponsored by the World Council of Churches. Minette will attend the conference, along with a delegation from The Lutheran World Federation, a global communion of 144 churches representing more than 72 million Christians in 79 countries. The ELCA is the communion's only member church from the United States.



Ebola Outbreak: "The Church Has to Help" From Lutheran Disaster Response

The 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa is the largest and longest-lasting Ebola outbreak in recorded history. To further understand the scale of this disease, the Ebola outbreak is actually the first Ebola epidemic the world has experienced, as the virus has spread to multiple countries, including Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. More than 2,400 people have died from Ebola during this epidemic.

The spread of Ebola presents several more complications than just battling and containing the virus itself. People in infected areas have been quarantined to their homes as towns shut down to try to limit the disease from spreading further. As a result, people are not able to work, harvest fields or purchase food. Other countries that ship food to the region are afraid to dock their ships to deliver food for fear of contracting the virus. The lack of food has been a growing concern as people are now dealing with food security issues that have been exacerbated by the spread of Ebola.

"We need food," says the Rev. D. Jensen Seyenkuilo, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Liberia. "Our workers from all across the country are being asked to take off work during the crisis. The quarantined communities and stranded travelers are crying for food and water. The treatment centers need food. There is a saying around now that goes like this: 'If we do not die of Ebola, we will die of starvation.'"

In August, Lutheran Disaster Response committed \$10,000 to assist Global Health Ministries in the shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Liberia. Lutheran Disaster Response is now committing \$90,000 to assist with food distributions in Liberia and Sierra Leone and with Ebola sensitization and prevention in Liberia, the country that currently has experienced the highest number of Ebola cases.

Food Distributions in Liberia and Sierra Leone

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its predecessor church have walked with the people of Liberia for more than 150 years. Our long-standing relationship with our companions in Liberia and Sierra Leone provides a strong foundation to respond holistically to the needs of those who are suffering and living with the threat of Ebola.

We will work with our companion church, the Lutheran Church in Liberia, to activate food distributions in six targeted areas of Liberia that will assist 999 households with a month's supply of oil, rice and fish.

In Sierra Leone, we will work with our companion church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra Leone, to provide food assistance also consisting of oil, rice and fish to 3000 individuals.

"With no way to buy food, the church has to help," says the Rev. Thomas Barnett, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra Leone.

Ebola Sensitization and Prevention in Liberia

Liberia has seen the highest number of Ebola cases since the outbreak reached the country in March. Since the disease presents a 90 percent fatality rate, raising awareness about symptoms and prevention is vital. With our partner, ACT Alliance, we will work with Lutheran Development Services and the Lutheran Church in Liberia to provide Ebola sensitization and prevention training to 4,500 individuals in Lofa and Bong counties.

In addition to the training program, we will work with our companions and partners to construct an isolation unit at Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing. This unit will provide significant contributions toward the containment of the disease and the ability to provide life-saving care.

Please join us as we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Liberia, Sierra Leone and the rest of the West Africa region who are daily battling with the risks of Ebola and the many impacts that come with it.

If you would like to support Lutheran Disaster Response's work in the fight against Ebola, please visit the Lutheran Disaster Response – Ebola Outbreak giving page



We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

Prayer Partners

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.

Please sign up in the Parish hall or by letting Pastor Val or Carmon know that you're interested.

The Rapture

Action movies can be fun and entertaining. But when an action movie disguises itself as being Biblically based, clarification is in order. This weekend the new movie "Left Behind" based on the books of the same name, premieres. Pastor Tim Krick of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Combined Locks, WI says this about the movie and the ideas on which it's based:

"The premise of the books and movie is simple. The rapture has occurred. Meaning, God has taken up to heaven all the true believers and left the rest of us behind to face 7 years of trials and tribulations in which the anti-Christ will rise to power. The world is catapulted into war, poverty, suffering and endless turmoil as the people left figure out what happened and how do they survive.

Let me put this simply. The movie is not biblical nor is the concept of the rapture what we believe as Christians and not just ELCA Christians, but the majority of Christians in the world. The idea of the rapture, people being snatched up to heaven is actually a very recent idea that came to prominence in the 1800's by a man named John Nelson Darby. It promotes a theology, a way of thinking about God that is very unhelpful and perhaps even dangerous."

Our new book and Bible study based on *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright is meant to shed light on just this sort of misuse of scripture. This is what happens when we don't read the Bible for ourselves and in the company of others who can help us discern truth from propaganda. This is what happens when we don't know church history.

Pastor Krick also provides some helpful links that do a great job of explaining the faults of rapture theology. If you take a few minutes to read or watch one or two of the videos you'll see why we don't believe in rapture theology and will help explain what we do believe.

[Why the Rapture isn't Biblical](#) - article

[Resources for where to Start to Debunk Left Behind](#) - links to many resources and articles. Includes a great 5 minute video at the bottom of the page by Pastor Greg Boyd

[New Testament Scholar NT Wright on the rapture](#) - 5 min. video

[Beginning in the Beginning](#) - 55 min. video

If you have an hour to spare, this video titled "Beginning in the beginning" by Rob Bell is well worth your time for helping understand our place in the Biblical story.

I, like Pastor Krick, plan to see a movie in the near future and it may be an action movie. But it won't be "Left Behind."

Pastor Val





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ST. PLACID PRIORY

St. Placid Priory is a women's Benedictine monastic community. It is located in Lacey, Washington. They offer various programs throughout the year for women. Below you will find the schedule & topics for the month of October. If you are interested in attending one of these, please contact Pastor Val for information.

Saturday,	October 11	Yoga & QiGong as Prayer**	Register by October 10th.	\$50.00
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.				
Saturday,	October 18	Appreciative Living	Register by October 17th.	\$50.00
9:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m.				
Saturday,	October 25	The Two Theresas: Teresa of Avila & Therese of Lisieux	Register by October 24th	\$50.00
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.				

All programs ask that you bring a sack lunch. **The yoga class asks you to also bring a yoga mat, meditation cushion, comfortable clothing, prayer shawl, and journal.

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"The Church where Grace Happens!"

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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



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Musicians: Kristine Burns, Geri Stubb &

Sandy Lloyd.

