

The Spirit

June/July 2021



How is your spirit?

Years ago, when I served a remote Montana congregation, I would, on occasion, meet a local pastor for coffee and conversation. Pastor Dan, who served a Nazarene congregation, always began our conversation by asking, “How’s your spirit, Val?”

The first time he asked, it caught me off guard. In all my years in congregational life, all my seminary training and theological conversations, no one had ever asked me, “How’s your Spirit?” I had no answer, really. I think I mumbled something like, “Fine. Good. That’s not really a question Lutherans ask.”

He understood the differences in our traditions and graciously laughed with me. But, every time we met, Pastor Dan continued to ask and carefully listened to whatever answer I offered. I did learn to ask him the question as well and discovered that he meant something we might interpret as, “How is your faith walk? Or How is your life with God, your Spiritual life right now?”

Anyway, his question stuck with me. Occasionally, seemingly out of nowhere, I hear Dan’s voice asking, “How’s your spirit, Val?” Sometimes the answer is an anguished, “I’m clinging to God for dear life.”

And at other times, my spontaneous answer is, “Thankful! My spirit is thankful for God’s presence, God’s mercy, God’s faithfulness to me.”

Recently, this question cropped up and the answer surprised me. My honest answer was, “My spirit, my life with God feels unsettled.” Coming after a year that broke all precedents, at least in our lifetimes, feeling unsettled, uncertain, may be understandable, even in our relationship with God.

When I think of life a year ago, how uncertain the future seemed, how fragile life felt, how our only option was to walk forward with God, one step at a time, not knowing what would lie ahead, I’m surprised at all we’ve done. I’m surprised and thankful at all the ways God was faithful, leading us in each step, each decision, each change. It wasn’t easy and it’s far from over. But, the Spirit of God has been with us reminding us through it all of our central purpose: Loving our neighbors as the primary testament to our love for God.

We did what we could trusting that God was in the process and would use our efforts to make God’s love known in our world. We were doing our best to LOVE.

This is a pivotal moment between pandemic life and whatever life will look like after the pandemic is finally over. In this time our Gospel reading for Holy Trinity Sunday, the pivot between Easter and the season of Pentecost included John 3:16. "God so loved the world that he gave His only son."

Jesus gave us what he called a new commandment, to love one another. ³⁴ **I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.** ³⁵ **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**" But the commandment to love is deeply embedded in the oldest Hebrew scriptures (the Old Testament.) Professor Amy-Jill Levine says the commandment to love was not new. What was new was that Jesus said, 'love one another, as I have loved you.' **"What is new is to love as Jesus loves, to love as God loves."** After

telling the disciples to love as God loves, Jesus knelt and washed the feet of every one of the disciples, even the one who would soon betray him. **Jesus loved as God loves, who gave his only son.**

That is the love we are nurtured in, supported in and held in. That is the love that can console our unsettled, uncertain or even discouraged spirits. We don't have to figure out every step of the way into the future. We need only remember to, **in all things, love as God loved us first: sacrificially, putting the needs of the other before our own needs.**

May God's sacrificial love sustain you today and always as we walk into this unknown future together, dear siblings in Christ!

Pastor Val

MUSIC IS PERSONAL AND UNIVERSAL



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

I had a friend in high school who said, "Wouldn't it be great if our lives had a soundtrack and we could hear it?" That way we would always know what was coming at us. Suspenseful music, ominous music, joyful music, sorrowful music, heroic music—all would alert us to what is just around the corner and would accompany us on our way. There is something intriguing about the idea. And it could work if your soundtrack were the only one and everyone and everything else were just the supporting cast in your musical.

But God didn't create us that way. We aren't solitary lives played out on an isolated stage. **God created us by love and for love.** We were meant to be together. The Trinity is relationship and God welcomes us into that holy company.

Like God's love, music is at the same time deeply personal, sounding deep within an individual's soul, and universal, ringing out to an entire community. Like God's love, music sings to us in all of our marvelous diversity. **Just as the beauty of creation is apparent not in monochrome but in Technicolor, so also must music be polyphonic.** This is why we have a variety of worship resources that include a variety of musical styles from many cultures and in

many languages.

One of the great harms done by Western missionaries was to equate proper, acceptable and God-pleasing worship with Western music, dress and even instrumentation. The problem wasn't the introduction of their music. The problem was the replacement of Indigenous expression with Western music and the labeling of Indigenous music, language, dance and dress as pagan and worse.

One of my greatest honors in this call was being asked to preach on Easter Sunday at a Lutheran church in Yunnan Province, China. The Chinese characters that convey "Lutheran" actually mean "Justification Church." On that Easter morning, high up in the mountains, we sang our praise and thanks to God for the victory of the Resurrection. These were Lisu people. They are an ethnic minority pushed out of the fertile valleys by the Han people.

Then the missionaries came. **As the Justification Church, we believe and teach that the gospel is the message of redemption, reconciliation and liberation for all people.** Instead, the Western missionaries took away the Lisu people's music and culture. An elder of the community explained to us that this

service would be the first time in a century that the Lisu people worshiped God with their own music, their own instruments, with their own dance, in their own traditional clothing.

I didn't understand the language (sermons could take three times as long—I preached in English, which a second person translated into Mandarin and then a third person translated into Lisu) and the music didn't resonate with me at first, but I recognized the song. It was the song of Resurrection. The style was unique to the Lisu people, but the music was universal.

Martin Luther, a musician and hymn writer, wanted his people to hear the universal message of the gospel in their own language. We Lutherans take a great deal of pride in Luther's translation of the Bible into the vernacular. How is it that we are

not so ready to hear the gospel in the musical vernacular of the thousand tongues that sing our great Redeemer's praise? Music, in all its many forms, sings for us even when we can't find the words. **I like to think that, when the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words, the Spirit is singing and, in that distant melody, just beyond our comprehension, our longing and God's love meet.**

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? ([ELW. 763](#)).



WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

How great you are, O God our God,
and how foolish are we to call you ours!
Your power cannot be measured,
your holiness cannot be contained.
Without you, we are entirely hopeless ...
with you, we are completely unsettled.

How to choose:
between your Consuming Fire
and the embers of complacency?
between your Dance of New Life
and the brittle familiarity of these bones?
between your Righteous Justification
and this world's systems of injustice?

In the power of your glory,
save us and grant us courage
to draw near to your ferocious grace.
Give us strength to bear down
through the labor pains
of reparation & restoration.
Fill us with visions beyond our wildest dreams,

and as we dream,
we will sing your highest praises
if you will hold our deepest sorrows;
we will remember your promises of life
if you will hold our stories of death;
we will say your name often & loosely as though drunk
if you will hold our names intentionally in your hand.

Be fierce, O Holy God —
the world needs you to be fierce,
and the world needs us to be fiercely convicted
by your power and grace.
We dare to say
that we are ready to be
changed by your Spirit; we are ready. **Amen.**
Rachel Hackenburg

God's people join in prayer for:
Betty Mitchell, Marti Debandt, Gary Buckman,
Tom, Cheron and Tanner Stanley, Tanya Anderson-Bowers, Nick Wehage, Monica Wilson, Melanie Roffler, Bob Parker, Aaron Larsen, Tiffany Powell, Fred Thurman, Joseph, Madonna Posey, Ray, Jean & Kevin Hodge, Cindy & Harley, Isaac & his mother, Courtney, Adrienne, Carl and June Bender, Ginny Clark, Philip, Matthew Green and his family, David Shaw, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean and family and friends mourning the death of Mitzi Ludwig. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

for those unemployed or underemployed; those ill or dying; those displaced from their homes around the world, especially those seeking asylum, fleeing violence, poverty, and despair in Central and South America.

for those who have served in the military in the past and for those in active military service: especially Caleb Berken, Steven Kincaid and John Kupka.

for missionaries around the world: especially Sta-

cie Evensen's Myanmar Mission.

for those who live on the margins in our own community: those who live outside, in cars, or in unstable housing; those who live with food insecurity; those who are unemployed or under-employed.

for those who work for the care of the vulnerable in our community in: Cold Weather Shelter,

Health care, especially those who may be exposed to Covid-19, Food Banks, Family Promise, Salvation Army and Union Gospel Mission.

(We periodically update the prayer list. Please contact the office 532-8250 to let us know if we should continue praying for the person whose name you submitted.) Contact Brenda Grant with prayer requests at: brenda_k_grant@hotmail.com



June/July BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

Tim Alstrom, June 1
Chrissie Kincaid, June 1
Stephanie Gundersen, June 3
Shelby Kincaid, June 7
Andrew Penttila, June 9
Diane Hanson, June 17
Gene Schermer, June 21
Val Metropoulos, June 27
Lauri Paulsen, June 29
Mike Kupka, July 6
Evelyn Ellingsen, July 7
Donna Morrisette, July 11

Nicole Evanson, July 19
Suzan Stegemoeller, July 22
Amanda Kaufman, July 23
Arlene O'Connor, July 23
Joan Rabung, July 31

ANNIVERSARIES:

Tim & Molly Leithold, June 21
Hayley & Adam Sykes, July 12
Keith & Lynette Lile, July 23
Mike & Judi Hubbard, July 24
John & Doris Tieder, July 25
Coleman & Laura Carle, July 26
Tim & Pam Alstrom, July 27
Stephen Natwick & Anneliese Kraiger, July 29



Judi Hubbard and Kristine Finazzo for hand delivering May newsletters and for doing weekly depositing.

Pastor Val for picking up mailing newsletters and weekly bulletins.

Everyone who contributes to the Food Bank.

Mike Barkstrom for filling in as Usher on 5/23.

Joe Fernandez for helping to lead Sunday Service.

Handbell participants: for the beautiful music on Pentecost.

Keith Lile & Joelle Buckman for representing A.G. at the Synod assembly on May 14 & 15th.

Mike and Roger for continued work. They have refinished the butcher block in the kitchen and repainted the kitchen walls and are working on other projects.

Liturgical Arts Team for keeping our sanctuary fresh and welcoming.

Everyone who serves and prays without notice!

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$143.74
- **The members of Altrusa Intl. of Central Grays Harbor**

Thank you for your donation to our service projects. The pandemic has altered some activities but we are expected to start up again. Thank you for your support.

Joan Julius, President– Altrusa of C.G.H.

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

LITURGISTS

Curtis Steinhauer, 6/6
Laura Carle, 6/13
Hank Bilderback, 6/20
Keith Lile, 6/27

Laura Carle, 7/4
Curtis Steinhauer, 7/11
Hank Bilderback, 7/18
Keith Lile, 7/25

STREAM TEAM

Steve, 6/6
Amy, 6/13
Keith, 6/20
Hiedi, 6/27

Curtis, 7/4
Joe, 7/11
Steve, 7/18
Amy, 7/25

USHERS

Michelle & Jim, 6/6
Phil & Suzan, 6/13
Dee, 6/20
Joelle, 6/27

Dee, 7/4
Phil & Susan, 7/11
Michelle & Jim, 7/18
Joelle, 7/25

Sunday School Teachers

Amy, 6/6
Shayna, 6/13



UNION GOSPEL MISSION

July 6

Maurita White, Leader
Vicki Mitchell, Paula Elder, Dorothy Stephens, Pam Alstrom, Rich & Cindy Thompson
Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw 360-532-2940

Kitchen manager, Doug, would like to have food there at **3pm** if possible.
When you deliver, drive into the back alley, then call the Union Gospel office at 360-533-1064 and they will come out to the back alley to carry the food in for you.



CHAPLAINS DINNERS

Dates have been set for providing food for future Chaplains Dinners in 2021:
July 18, 2021
September 19, 2021
November 2, 2021

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

The Handbells blessed us with several songs on Pentecost Sunday. It was wonderful to have them back using their talents to bless us!

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



TASK FORCE UPDATE

We welcome you **ALL** to worship. Masks and social distancing are required. You will be seated and

excused to minimize crowding at the door. Visiting after worship will be outside with distancing required.



THE FOOD BANK WORKING HARD!

The new address is 2120 Commerce St. in Aberdeen. Drop off day is Tuesday from 8:30 – 3. You may drop off donations at the new address Tuesdays from 8:30-3 or at the church.

Amy Ostwald and Mike and Joni Hildreth transport donations left at the church. If you'd

like to help with that, please let Amy or Pastor Val know. Food bank is especially in need of baby wipes, peanut butter, mac & cheese and diapers sizes 4,5, & 6. If you prefer to send a monetary donation, it may be sent to: P.O. Box 444 Aberdeen, WA 98520

GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

4-F PICK UP DINNER

The dinner will be on Saturday, June 26th and pick-up will be after 5pm. The cost is \$20. Choose between pork loin or chicken with all the fixings.

Again, we are asking that you pay in advance, so we do not have to handle any money that day. Contact the office or send an email to [jhub-](mailto:jhub-bard1952@comcast.com)

bard1952@comcast.com. You can pay on the Amazing Grace giving portal at amazinggraceaberndeen.org (Click on 'Giving' and choose 4F dinner to direct your contribution. Checks may be mailed to the church: 111 E. 4th St. or dropped in the mail slot at the office with a note designating it for the 4F dinner). Your 4-F team.



NAMIBIAN PARTNERS IN FAITH

Dear Pastor Val and the people of Amazing Grace,
Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the synod's church partners in Namibia. You have given us much encouragement. ELCA partners with Namibia are in touch with our church friends at least four times a year by phone or by Zoom, studying the Bible, planning and once again discovering the Great Well of commonality has have in Jesus Christ. For an update, Bishop Ernest, who visited Amazing Grace, now is retired.

As for COVID, only 2 percent of the 2 million people in Namibia have been vaccinated. Much of this is due to unavailability of vaccines. But much also is due to a widespread distrust of COVID vaccines, according to the Rev. Philip Knutson, ELCA representative in the area. Namibia is in the lowest level of lockdown and there have been 700 deaths in the

nation. Drought continues to plague Namibia, and a third of the country's inhabitants are not food-secure.

I'll keep you updated on our work. Thank you again for your encouragement.

Rachel Pritchett, Namibia Task Force, Southwestern Washington Synod

Elaine Lokken, with some of the boxes (hygiene & school kits) being sent to Lutheran World Relief.



UNDERGROUND MINISTRIES ON THE COAST

Living Stones ministry at the prison in Shelton is partnering with Underground Ministries on a project they call, "One Parish, One Prisoner" While Living Stones focuses especially on the "tomb" part of incarceration, UM (and OPOP) focuses on the resurrection of reentry! Over the past year or so, our organizations have come to realize the advantages to working more closely together to ensure that those who have experienced incarceration can be given the supportive and transformative opportu-

nities they need, both inside and outside the walls. OPOP is dedicated to forming, training, and stewarding groups of people who can walk with and support recently released individuals as they reenter society.

An individual is preparing to return to the Aberdeen/Hoquiam area, and so Amazing Grace is being asked to consider getting involved in this person's successful return.

You'll hear more about this later. Please contact Pastor Val if you're interested in this opportunity!

MITCHELLS' PICTURES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Ken and Vicki Mitchell have donated some beautiful pictures.

You can see them in the newly painted hallway in the parish hall.

If you are interested in purchasing one, the price is on the back of painting.

They have asked the proceeds go to the stained-glass windows repair fund.

Thank You Ken and Vicki

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Quilters: 6/2, 6/16, 6/30 Time: 9-12

Thursdays Master Quilters: 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/23 Time: 9-3

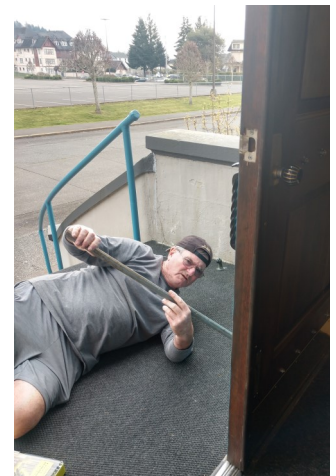
Graduation celebration for Kylie Weiberg on June 6th during worship.

Bishop Jaech will join us for worship and afterward present information about the Synod Affordable Housing initiative June 13th

Sunday School meets at NOON Sunday 6/6– Amy will be teaching lesson 4 and 6/13– Shayna will be teaching lesson 7 on Zoom. Watch for an email from the church for more information. Zoom link: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88917941088?pwd=TnRTa05WQ3ZReVhFakprNHJzdk9JZz09>

4-F pick-up Dinner. June 26th, cost is \$20, pick-up after 5pm. Sign up by calling the office.

Mike Hubbard hard at work



OFFICE HOURS

Church office is open: **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-1 & sometimes Friday 11-4.** If you visit the office wear a mask when Vicky is there. AGLC Office 360.532.8250 Amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val will be mostly working from home. You can usually reach me but leave a message and I'll get back to you asap. **Please call, text, or email if you want to pray together or talk. Let me know what you need. I pray for you all constantly, but I miss you! I would love to connect in some way with each of you!**

Pastor Val 360.580.8977 vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

HEALTHY COMMUNICATION IN TOUGH TIMES

Healthy communication is important in the best of times. Throw in a pandemic and political turmoil and things can get messy. In the church we are especially careful to express our love for each other and for all our neighbors by practicing healthy communication skills. Some basics that are helpful in all relationships include the following.

- Everyone speaks for themselves. Each of us needs to take responsibility for expressing our own feelings or concerns.
- When there is a concern, we go directly to the person involved. Honest, direct, loving com-

munication is the basis of all healthy relationships.

- If the concern is not resolved after direct communication, we ask a neutral person to join us in that conversation for the sake of understanding and healing.
- We avoid triangulation. Triangulation occurs when one person does not communicate directly with another person, instead using a third person to relay communication to the second. Triangulation distorts relationships and makes clear communication difficult.
- We pray for each other trusting that God loves us all and in prayer can heal our hurts and restore relationships.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Dear Congregation,

Unfortunately we have decided to slow down the discernment process around our recent efforts to convert the Bel Aire property into an Affordable Housing development. The construction market is currently experiencing extreme increases in materials costs. In one project that I have been working on locally for the past year, the cost of constructing modular units has doubled since September of 2020.

It is clearly problematic and probably foolish to ask the congregation to weigh a cost-benefit tradeoff when we cannot accurately predict the costs or the benefits. Even developments where construction is underway are pausing their projects to let the market shakeout. The best thing to do at this point is wait and see if this is a viable project once prices are more stable.

Affordable Housing development is a long term practice that requires flexibility and patience. The best way to approach these kinds of projects is to only move forward when we have clear information we can all trust. We need to be on the same page, rowing

in the same direction. The current price volatility of construction materials means that the projections for the cost of this project change too quickly for us to ensure everyone stays on the same page, with the same understanding of the risks and possible rewards of pursuing this project.

As a member of the congregation who oversees projects like this for a living, it is my commitment to you all to be honest and transparent about the risks of pursuing these projects. We should move slowly, pursue partnerships and financial structures that are sustainable, and ensure that when we extend ourselves to serve the most vulnerable members of our community that we do it in a way that ensures we can continue to serve them indefinitely.

I appreciate everyone's willingness to engage in this conversation. This delay could be a great opportunity to step back, take a breath, and make sure we have every detail right before making our decision about this project.

Curtis Steinhauer

Joe Fernandez, PSALM program graduate, assists Pastor Val on Pentecost Sunday. Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

BISHOP JAECH JOINS US FOR WORSHIP June 13th

He'll talk about the Synod Affordable Housing initiative and how we can be involved.

This is the alternate use of the proceeds from the Bel-Aire Property that we have been discussing. This will be a live and livestreamed event.



**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2021**

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.

As Church Council, we 1. Ensure that the mission of the church is fulfilled (Love God and Love Neighbor) and 2. Manage the property and finances of the congregation so that purpose #1 can be fulfilled.

Attendance: Joelle Buckman, Mike Barkstrom, Amy Ostwald, Phil Stegemoeller, Theresa Kaufman, Pastor Val

- I. Call to order by Pres. Joelle Buckman 6:04
- II. Review & approve minutes of last meeting – Feb. 23 & March 9 & 23 **M/S/P**
- III. **Financial Reports** - 30 minutes (30 min)
 - a. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman
 1. Approve February Bills Paid **M/S/P**
 2. Approve March Bills Paid **M/S/P**
 - b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller
 1. New Program for financial secretary
-May have something to report by next month.
- IV. **Business items** (30 min)
 - a. Chaplains on the Harbor-Bonnie Campbell
-Motion to approve public health distributing vaccines at the Sunday Chaplains on the Harbor meal. **M/S/P**
 - b. ELCA Grant
-A grant specifically to help out congregations who have been connecting with new people or connecting in new ways with people during Covid. Pastor Val applied for the grant proposing that we upgrade our in-person technical capabilities so that both on-line and in-person attendants can view the same thing.
- V. **Task Assignments**
 - Theresa will update \$ amount on PSALM account for March reports
 - Theresa will included utilities for Family Promise in next month's Treasure report and will include the percentages on the Budget Analysis report.
 - Theresa will provide Pastor Val with a digital copy of the letter stating we have 501C3 status.
 - Phil and Joelle will meet
- VI. Adjournment and closing prayer 6:32

**Steve Swanson at the live streaming and sound booth. Other STREAM TEAM members include: Joe Fernandez, Curtis Steinhauer, Heidi Seelke, Keith Lile and Amy Ostwald
Thanks to this team we can view worship online!
Photo submitted by Diane Hanson**



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Mission Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

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.

Attendance: Joelle Buckman, Pastor Val, Curtis Steinhauer, Mike Barkstrom, Dee Erickson, Carrie Erwin, Amy Ostwald, Theresa Kaufman

- I. Prayer & Highs and Lows
- II. Call to Order by Pres. Joelle Buckman 6:05
- III. Establish Quorum (I – III: 15 min)
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda (IV: 2 min)
-Added C. Jim Erickson-Estate
- V. **Business items** (these are generally items that are beyond any one ministry or don't fit under any ministry, special requests from the community) (20min)
 - A. Mutual Ministry Update – Joelle
-Will meet next week and go over the last chapter in the 5 Practices book. Good discussions about current state of things.
 - B. Information on property sale and proposed use of funds; congregational meetings – schedule vote?
-There have been a couple of information meetings but have not moved forward. Holding off until there can be an in-person meeting.
The Bishop is scheduled to come speak to the congregation on June 13, followed by an information meeting right after for any questions.
 - C. Jim Erickson-Estate
-Jim Erickson made a bequest to Amazing Grace and to the A.G. Endowment Fund. A committee will be formed to develop a policy for receiving bequests. The Endowment Fund has been notified.
- VI. **Ministry Reports** (25 min)
 - A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val
 1. Resuming in-person worship Task Force – report
-Accepting 40 people for in-person worship but have not reached that number.
 2. L.A.T -Added the white décor in the Sanctuary before Easter. Will meet soon.
 3. Report on audio/video status
-Pastor Val has not heard back on the Grant from ELCA. Joe and Keith are working on more information for recommendations on moving forward.
 - B. Outreach – Amy Ostwald
 1. Family Promise- Family that was there moved to a place that better suited their needs.
 2. Chaplain's dinner- will be on Sunday May 16th. At previous Chaplains Dinner the county vaccinated 13 people.
 3. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative – Pastor Val/Curtis
-Synod group continues to meet
- Cost of building materials is slowing building for now. We'll proceed with informing congregation.
 - C. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer
 1. Sunday School- Sunday school meetings will be May 16th and 23rd.
 2. Confirmation
 3. Adult group study
 - D. Fellowship – Carrie Erwin



-Carrie suggested that once people are back in church, we have a celebration of the milestones that we missed.

E. Property – Mike Barkstrom

-Mike and Roger continue to work, they have refinished the butcher block in the kitchen and repainted the kitchen walls and are working on other projects.

1. 4-F Dinner

-Scheduled for June 26th.

VI. Pastor's Report

-Keith and Joelle will be the representatives for the Synod assembly this Friday and Saturday.

VII. Task Assignments

-Pastor Val will put an announcement into the newsletter about the property. Curtis will send her information.

-Joelle will send completed paperwork to Thrivent for the Erickson bequest.

-Form committee to make Gift policy.

VII. Adjournment and closing prayer 6:36



PASTOR'S REPORT April 2021 - regular activities during pandemic; most meetings on Zoom
WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday worship – Plan and lead

Plan adult education

Plan seasonal and special worship services

Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing

Prayer

Meet with ministry leader as needed

Liturgical Arts team

ADMINISTRATION

Reports: congregational; synod; ELCA

Conference Pastors meet with Bishop weekly

Conference deans – meet bi-annually & as needed

Recordkeeping: updates to documents; church ledger

Work with office administrator: bulletins, newsletter, etc.

Council meeting & Exec. Comm. meeting monthly

Newsletter - writing, editing

Meet with treasurer as needed

Mutual Ministry meeting monthly

Endowment Committee advisor

FELLOWSHIP/PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING PSALM – mentor; spiritual direction

Prayer Chain – coordinate w/ Brenda Grant

Grace notes weekly or as needed

Pastoral care as needed

Visits at homes or parks during good weather

Coordinate with ministry leader as needed

OUTREACH

Affordable housing Synod meeting

Facebook page – outreach through social media.

Coordinate with others to support homeless and marginalized people

Meet w/ ministry leader as needed

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE Meet w/ ministry leader as needed

YOUTH AND FAMILY Adult study: plan and participate

Confirmation: plan and lead

Sunday School: coordinate with ministry leader

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM Study and integrate into sermons

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Spiritual Direction Supervision Group

Reading: The Body Keeps the Score by van der Kolk

OTHER ACTIVITIES in April

OFFICIAL ACTS: None in April

ADMINISTRATIVE: Task Force for resuming in person worship
Planning informational meetings for property proceeds meetings and vote

PASTORAL CARE: Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed

WORSHIP: Planning for in-person worship
Planning for Pentecost season

YOUTH/FAMILY/Education: Organized S.S. materials with Amy
Sunday School – send lessons to families; coordinate with teachers
Confirmation

OUTREACH: Food Bank meetings
Synod Affordable Housing Initiative meeting
Plan informational meetings for congregation on use of proceeds from sale of Bel Aire property

VACATION: None

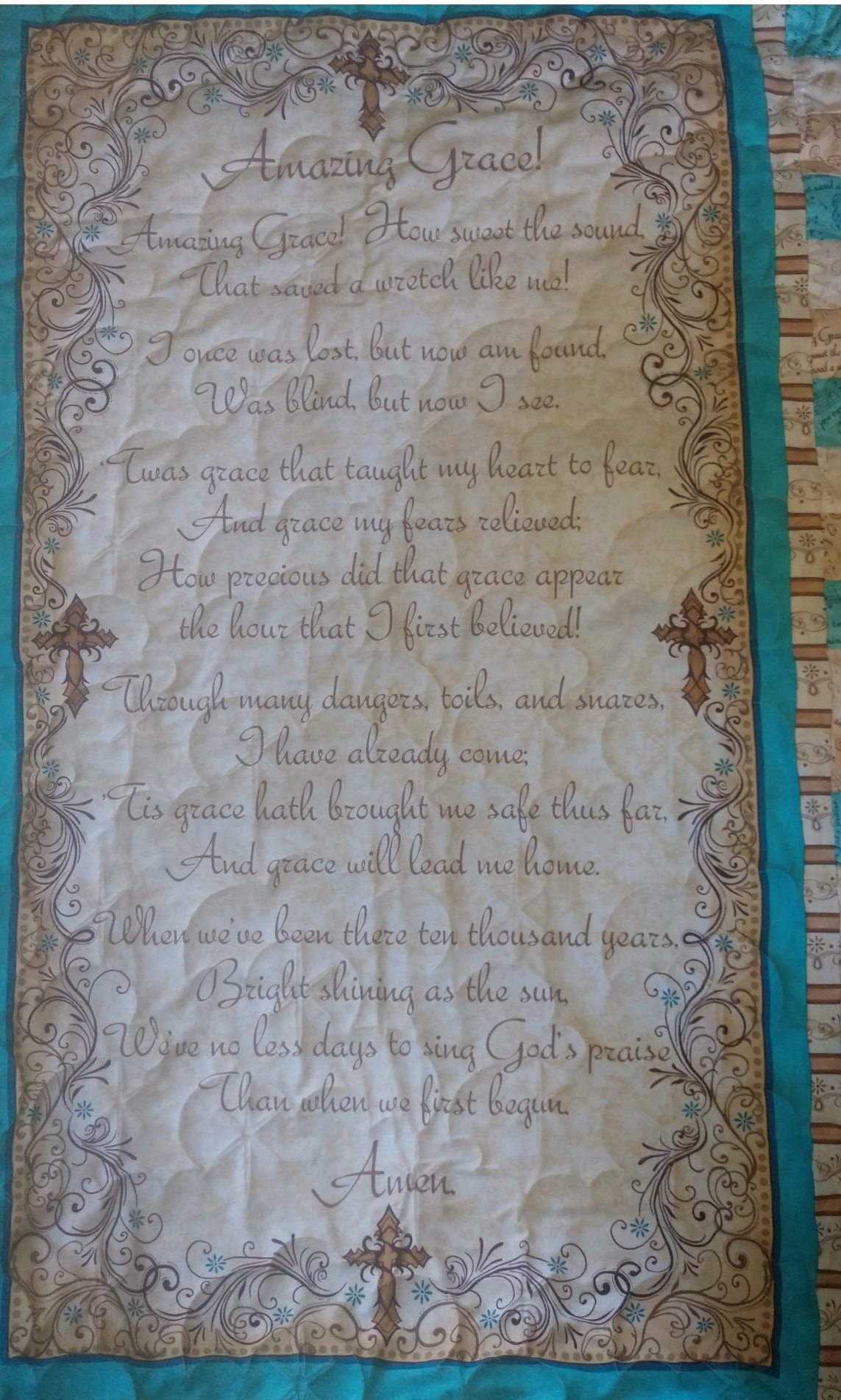
UPCOMING: Informational meeting with Bishop Jaech June 13
Synod Assembly May 14-15 - ZOOM
Festival of Homiletics – 3 day webinar May 17-19
Vacation days: May 20-23

Continuing education: PLU Pastoral Theology Series: *Ministry in a Secular Age: Sharing in the Experience of the Ministering God after a Pandemic.* May 25, June 1, June 8
Graduation celebration for Kylie Weiberg June 6th

Kristine and Madison helping with dessert boxes for the 4-F dinner.



Right side: Beate Wahl made this lovely quilted wall hanging in gratitude for the "Generosity of Spirit" she and Ron have found at Amazing Grace. Beate says, "From weekly "check-in" phone calls during the difficult past year (thank you Vicki), to prayers during difficult times, inclusion at services and gatherings, participating in the quilting group and soon once again in-person Sunday services, we feel welcome and included... Thank you Pastor Val, along with all the wonderful people we have met at Amazing Grace."



Amazing Grace!

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour that I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Amen.



Two members of the Liturgical Arts team: Dee Erickson and Steve Swanson are busy changing the colors in the sanctuary for Pentecost.



President	Joelle Buckman	(360) 589-6111	Joelle_buckman@email.com
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Property	Mike Barkstrom	(360)532-3319	mkbarks1@gmail.com
Pastor	Val Metropoulos	(360) 580-8977	vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu
Church Secretary	Vicky Kolb	(360) 532-8250	amazing111@comcast.net
Endowment committee:	Darrell Lokken	(360) 532-0615	delokken@comcast.net

BUILDING REPAIRS/MAINTANCE

Please notify Mike Barkstrom or send a message to the church office if there are any repairs needed at the church. Sometimes members or visitors notice things that need to be fixed that the committee is not aware of. Your input is helpful in these matters.

Mike Barkstrom: mkbarks1@gmail.com - (360) 589-1393

Ministers: The People of Amazing Grace

111 E. 4th Street, (360) 532-8250

amazinggraceaberdeen.org

amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor: Val Metropoulos (360) 580-8977

vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle,
Curtis Steinhauer

Musicians: Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke



APRIL BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name		Date	Total
Checking			\$ 22,362.32
-PSALM			\$ 100.00
-Technology			\$ (64.55)
-Caring Cupboard			\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve			\$ 2,620.00
-Music			\$ (393.54)
-Bells			\$ 965.95
-Friends in Need			\$ 995.29
-Reformation Fund			\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild			\$ 367.00
-Noisy Offering			\$ -
-Family Promise Maintenance Holding			\$ 2,044.57
-Chaplain's Dinner			\$ 199.54
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 31,928.12
			\$ -
Maintenance Checking			\$ 14,587.92
-Windows			\$ 11,488.06
Youth Checking			\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 13,848.93
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,908.53



Please join us for worship
Sundays at 10am in person or on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Amazing-Grace-Lutheran-Church-114570725233786/>

Or anytime at: amazinggraceaberdeen.org
AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Grays Harbor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

VISION

A welcoming place where grace happens!

MISSION

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

VALUES

Radical Hospitality
Passionate worship
Intentional faith development
Risk-taking mission and service
Extravagant generosity



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of
Grays Harbor

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE