

# *THE SPIRIT*

## *September 2021*



**THANK YOU** everyone for your prayers and for rejoicing with Steve and I as we welcome Harriet Marilyn Swanson Garney to the world and to our family. She was born 4:55 on Wed., 9/1 weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz and very healthy. Mom, Dad, and baby are all doing great! Thanks be to God for this miracle! We are so blessed and thankful!

The PSALM group and I are reading *Barking to the Choir* by Fr. Greg Boyle as part of our JustFaith study. In the book, Fr. Greg talks about the 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic Dame Julian of Norwich who thought “the truest and most authentic spiritual life was one that produced awe, humility, and love.” Fr. Boyle goes on to say, “But awe gets lost in that triad. We are at our healthiest when we are most situated in awe, and at our least healthy when we engage in judgment. Judgment creates the distance that moves us away from each other. Judgment keeps us in the competitive game and is always self-aggrandizing. Standing at the margins with the broken reminds us not of our own superiority but of our own brokenness. Awe is the great leveler. The embrace of **our own** suffering helps us to land on a spiritual intimacy with ourselves and others. For if we don’t welcome our own woundedness, we will be tempted to despise the wounded.”<sup>1</sup>



As the pandemic stretches on and on our patience grows thin, our compassion grows weary and it’s natural for us to look for someone to blame or to jump to judgments, even without realizing that’s what we’re doing. So, in this time, relying on a few simple spiritual practices can help us live as our best selves. Mindfulness is talked about everywhere right now. But it has been a Christian spiritual practice at least since the time of Saint Benedict in the fifth century who taught the monks to **pay attention to every moment as sacred, every action as worship, every guest as Christ himself.**

In that light, I offer the following practice as a simple way into mindfulness. Since mindfulness really just means being awake and paying attention in every moment, we can use the closest thing we have to remind us to pay attention – our breath. The yoga tradition formalized this, but it can be used by everyone who HAS breath whether you’re a yogi or not!

You can begin with a Breath Prayer, like this: **Breathe in: The light of Christ. Breathe out: Shine through me.** As you breathe in, think to yourself, “The light of Christ” and as you breathe out think, “Shine through me.” (other prayers might be: Breathe in: God of peace, Breathe out: Calm my spirit. Or Breathe in: Creator of all that is, Breathe out: Fill my heart with your love.

What you think or say is not important. What is important is the intention to be present to God in this moment. It physically **calms your body even more if your out-breath is longer than your in-breath.** So, you could simply begin by counting your in-breath for a count of 4 and your out-breath for a count of 6. When you’re comfortable with that, move to the prayer with words.

Mindfulness can be the pattern of our lives: our eating, our walking and talking, how we clean the house or walk the dog, everything. It is simply noticing (and giving thanks) for every single thing in every single moment. Then, letting go of that moment and moving on to the next.

**Mindfulness is so powerful because it forces us to live in the present without grieving the past or worrying**

**about the future, simply giving thanks for THIS moment, whatever it holds.** When we are present in the moment, we can make room for our own woundedness and that of everyone else. We can see all people through the light of Christ's love. It helps us to be present with the people around us and to truly listen to them with an open heart. When we can do that we are much more likely to "stand in awe of what they carry rather than to stand in judgment of their actions."<sup>1</sup>

**Prayer:** God of our past, our present and our future, we give thanks for this moment and for the people of Amazing Grace and those we long to share your love with in our community. Guide us in your wisdom, in your patience, and in your courage. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Pastor Val

<sup>1</sup>Barking to the Choir. Fr. Greg Boyle

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Amazing Grace has been blessed by the faithful stewardship of its members and supporters that has kept the congregation stable during an unprecedented pandemic. In addition to that, the congregation received two substantial amounts of money, one from the sale of the Bel Aire property and one from the estate of Jim Erickson, long time member and friend who died last winter. In order for everyone to be informed of the process by which those monies were received and distributed we have an update from Mark Smalley, chair of the committee tasked by council to oversee the sale of the property and from Joelle Buckman, council president.

The Bel Aire property which sat unused and for sale for years, finally sold and despite the complicated history of that property, it is good to have that sale finalized. We give great thanks for the faithful, diligent work of Mike O'Connor who served as realtor and advisor through the process. Now, we can put that part of our history behind us and look to the future. The tithe from the sale of that property will make a difference for years to come through the work of the agencies that received it.



## BEL AIRE PROPERTY REPORT

### Update from Committee Chair, Mark Smalley

The Bel Aire Property Committee met March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom. The Committee was composed of Mike and Karen Barkstrom, Mike O'Conner, Mark and Amy Ostwald, Gene Schermer, Curtis Steinhauer, Phil Stegemoeller, Kristine Finazzo, Liz Ellis, and Pastor Val.

The March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting started with Prayer and focus on Amazing Grace's Mission and Values.

Mark Smalley explained the purpose of the committee as directed by the Church Council was:

1. Review the offer that was recently presented to the church council. Is the price and

In order to keep everyone informed about the sale of the Bel Aire property and the process that led to it, we've held several after worship meetings in person and on zoom. The committee that council tasked with deciding what to do with the proceeds from the sale reported on their work after they were finished. Following in this newsletter is a recap so that everyone can read the official summary again. For the sake of clear communication which supports the health of the congregation, please contact committee members or council members if you have any questions.

Council has been waiting on the legal process surrounding the Erickson estate to unfold, before deciding how best to disburse the money which was designated by Jim to be given to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. Council directed Pastor Val to form a committee to develop a Gift Policy to be added to the congregation's bylaws. It will be presented to the congregation when finalized and voted upon at the next annual meeting. The committee has consulted ELCA Foundation advisors for help in developing that policy.

See Joelle's letter following this for more information.  
Pastor Val

structure of the offer reasonable to forward to the congregation for approval?

2. Look at the recent efforts of the SW WA Synod Affordable Housing Initiative and how this initiative could impact a decision on proceeding with the sale of the Bel Aire Property.

3. Look at the local affordable housing work that is being proposed and determine if this could impact a decision on proceeding with the sale of the Bel Aire Property.

4. In viewing the mission of our church, what is the most appropriate way to move forward with this property?

Gene gave a description of the source of the money that originally purchased the property being from the

sale of the Trinity Lutheran building for \$255,000 at the merger of the two congregations and the Bel Aire property was purchased for \$231,000, with the excess going to the Endowment fund. We reviewed the 2015 congregational vote to sell the property and place the money into the endowment fund.

Mike O’Conner then outlined the current offer on \$70,000 on the property that would be paid over time. There is no fee, as Mike O’Conner is donating his services, and the church pays the closing costs. Mike went over the history of how long the property had been on the market and how few offers had been made and how various offers that we have had that did not work out. Mike also reviewed comparable sales.

After much discussion a motion to suspend the decision to accept or reject the offer until the next meeting of this committee on March 7<sup>th</sup> was **MSP**.

Curtis Steinhauer outlined the SW WA Synod Affordable Housing Initiative and how that ties in with the local Affordable Housing work. The Bel Aire property was analyzed by an affordable housing construction Company, Blockable, and determined that it was not a good property for this initiative and suggested a property swap for a more appropriate piece of property.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The **March 7th** meeting started with Prayer

Mike O’Conner had a revised offer of cash for \$70,000. The closing cost were estimated to be

## WHAT THE CHURCH COUNCIL HAS BEEN UP TO DURING COVID

Our main goal has been to keep our congregation safe from Covid. We’ve also worked hard to keep the business side of the church running as smoothly as possible, this has been helped greatly by the continued support of the entire congregation, through both financial giving and giving of their time as safety protocols allowed. During this time of limited contact with everyone, we have tried to be as transparent and open as our limited communications have allowed.

In addition to keeping the church running, the council members have been dealing with the effects of

\$2691, with a closing date of March 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Motion to accept the offer was MSP.**

Curtis explained that there a range of participation levels for the congregation from just purchasing the property that the county would build housing on and would manage, up to a possibility where the congregation could have more interactions with the people that would be housed. The target group for the housing would not be the homeless, but would be those who are working, but are having trouble finding housing. The housing supply in Grays Harbor is so low, that all housing constructed will free up other housing for rentals.

Motion to recommend to the church council, the property be sold, with a strong recommendation that the proceeds from that sale go into a savings account until the congregation has had to opportunity to evaluate what to do with those funds. **M/S/P Motion Carries**

The committee recommended that the council to appoint a committee to prepare information for the congregation about the affordable housing options. Information is to be available to the congregation by March 28<sup>th</sup> with an informational meeting for the congregation scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> to be held on zoom and in person as far as possible, safely. A congregation meeting to vote on use of the proceeds of the Bel Aire property will be scheduled for as soon as is practical considering Covid restrictions.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Submitted by Mark Smalley, committee chair



Covid on their personal lives as well. The isolation and fears that all of you have been experiencing have also been affecting all of the council members, in addition to other personal stressors occurring at the same time. One of the changes we made was to split our council meetings into 2 meetings each month and hold them via Zoom. This allowed us to keep our meetings limited to one hour. We are hoping to be back to in person meetings soon, and switching back to once a month.

Some of the major issues that have come up during the pandemic involve large sums of money. The first being the sale of the Bel Aire Property. Mark Smalley has provided some more specific details on how that process worked out. 90% of the money

from the sale has been transferred to the Endowment Fund and the remaining 10% has been tithed to the organizations we normally tithe to. The other money that we have received has come from the estate of Jim Erickson. We have received funds from his life insurance annuities and are waiting on the final disposition of his estate. The funds that have been received (\$313,465) are being transferred to the En-

dowment Fund. It will be up to all of us, as a congregation, to best decide what to do with these funds.

If you have any questions at all about what has been going on "behind the scenes", please contact myself, Pastor Val, or any council member. I can be reached at [joelle\\_buckman@email.com](mailto:joelle_buckman@email.com) or 360-589-6111.

Joelle Buckman, Council President

## WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me; all day long foes oppress me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many fight against me. O Most High, when I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me? – Psalm 56:1-4*

It is true, O God, I am afraid. I have a hard time admitting that to anyone, even myself, but the fear and anxiety are real. Real and nearly overwhelming. There is so much trauma and tragedy in the world today. I look out my window, gazing at everything and nothing, tears welling up in my eyes, a lump growing in my throat, uncertain of what is to come, reminding myself that you are God Most High, persuading my tear-filled eyes that they see your work in the world, assuring my aching heart that it can trust in you, coaxing my worry-worn soul to sense your comforting presence.

We need your presence and comfort, Creating God, as news of natural disasters reaches us from around the world: wildfires in **Israel** which are now under control, but burned more than 4,200 acres, a water shortage on the Colorado River impacting around 40 million people in the **United States** and **Mexico**, fatal flooding in **Ethiopia's** capital, Addis Ababa, wildfires in **France** that consumed over 14,000 acres and injured dozens, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake in **Haiti**, which has claimed nearly 2,000 lives so far, where heavy rains brought by Tropical Storm Grace have hampered the search for survivors, where almost 10,000 people have been injured, and hospitals are overwhelmed, where the UN says about 500,000 children now have limited or no access to shelter, safe water, and food...

We desperately need your healing, Loving God, as the world continues to battle COVID-19: leaders in New South Wales, **Australia**, are tightening rules in response to a surge in cases, authorities in Wuhan, **China**, are testing the entire population after a handful of new cases were reported, the World Health

Organization has seized counterfeit vaccines in **India** and **Africa** even as WHO leaders are urging a pause in vaccine boosters to allow low-income countries to vaccinate their residents...

We long for your peace that passes all understanding, Faithful God, as we anxiously watch the news from **Afghanistan**, as countries take in refugees fleeing the country after Taliban militants took power, as countries evacuate their diplomats, as countries withdraw their military forces...

Yet, even as overwhelming as the news can be, if we are looking for the spark of hope, we can find it: couples who struggled with infertility are celebrating the birth of their children, partners are celebrating weddings and anniversaries, students and teachers are beginning a new school year in parts of the world, there are new and exciting job opportunities, adventures, homes, and relationships...

Faith, hope, and love are around us. Remind us, Redeeming God, of your care for all people. Open our eyes, our hearts, our minds, we pray. Transform us that we might share your love with the world. Send your Spirit upon us, we pray. Amen.

*Prayers from Worldinprayer.org*

### God's people join in prayer for:

Paul Hanson and family, Jennifer, Kim, Vicki Mitchell, Liz Massey, Leslie Prasch, Bob Parker, Barb Stensgard, Jordan, Betty Mitchell, Tom, Cheron and Tanner Stanley, Tanya Anderson-Bowers, Monica Wilson, Tiffany Powell, Fred Thurman, Joseph, Ray & Jean Hodge, Courtney, Adrienne, Carl and June Bender, Ginny Clark, Philip, Matthew Green and his family, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean and for family and friends mourning the death of Dominic. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

We pray for comfort for those mourning the death of loved ones: Kevin Hodge and Francis Beeman. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.





## September BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS:

John Stephens, September 3  
Juli Kupka, September 5  
Michael Erickson, September 7  
Annika Natwick, September 7  
Kathy Wehage, September 8  
Vicki Mitchell, September 12  
Mike O'Connor, September 15  
Andrea Ostwald, September 16  
Martha Beeman, September 18

Coleman Carle, September 19  
Linda Ebel, September 20  
Bret Kaufman, September 21  
Hannah Erwin, September 25

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Dee & Michael Erickson, September 12  
John & Dorothy Stephens, September 15  
Craig & Jane Teveliet, September 18  
Erik & Juli Kupka, September 21



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

**Everyone** who contributes to the Food Bank.

**Everyone** who continues to serve at Sunday services.

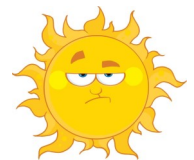
**Hank Bilderback, Joe Fernandez, Diane Hanson and Joelle Buckman** for leading Sunday Worship when Pastor was on vacation.

**Everyone** providing supplies for the school kits.

**Kayla Winter and Madison** for filling in for Judi on janitorial duties.

## THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for donations of \$47.66 & \$298.70
- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$47.66



### FUNERAL HELP THANK YOUS

Thanks to everyone who helped make the reception for Kevin Hodges' funeral meaningful:

Eileen Schermer, Elaine Lokken, Arlene O'Connor,

Naomi Kraiger, Dee Erickson, Ruth Ann Carlson, Carmon Shaw, Roger Shaw and Amy Ostwald.

We express our love through our acts of generosity. Thank you for being God's hands and feet for the Hodge family.

## SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

### UNION GOSPEL MISSION

September 7

Dee Erickson, Leader  
Jill Waite, Marge Kelling, Carmon Shaw, Sandra Windell, Amy Ostwald and Joni Hildreth

Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw 360-532-2940

**The director of UGM says that we can expect to serve about 35-45 people. They need food delivered before 6pm so that they know what is coming. The September team only needs to drop off the food, NO SERVING will be involved. Call 360-533-1064 and they will come and pick up the food at the back alley. New information for future teams will be in bulletins**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF is Sunday, **September 12<sup>th</sup>**! This year, Sunday School will be an OUTDOOR adventure the **second Sunday** of EVERY month (come rain or shine so we'll dress for whatever comes along!) meeting at Sam Benn

## GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

We'll have our 'God's Work, Our Hands' on Sunday, September 19th. Projects have not been decided yet, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for additional information.

**The Kraiger-Natwick team serve up coffee and smiles during fellowship on Sunday August 15th.**

*Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.*

park at 11:15. Shayna and Curtis Steinhauer are our leaders. They invite parents to come along on the adventure. Fourth Sunday each month we'll meet on Zoom. Watch for more information to come.



## CHAPLAINS DINNERS

**Our next meal prep day for Chaplains Dinner is Sunday, September 19th.**

Would you like to cook, donate food or money to feed hungry people in Aberdeen?

If you are interested in helping prepare or buy food, get in touch with Amy O.

at [aaostwald@gmail.com](mailto:aaostwald@gmail.com) 360-482-2306 or simply send a donation to the church office marked for Chaplains Dinner.

## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE ELCA- Haiti Earthquake

*"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words" (Psalm 17:6).*

Friends,

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Saturday morning. Over 1,400 people were killed, and that number is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies to hospitals, which are overwhelmed with more than 6,900 injured people.

At least 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, but the full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti is also suffering through a political crisis and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night, which caused severe flooding in communities already dam-

We'll need the following:

- casserole - 4 cooks (making 2 pans each)
- 120 rolls
- vegetables to serve 120
- dessert — cookies or brownies, etc. for 120 (store-bought or homemade)

Chaplains Dinner is a mission of 'Chaplains on the Harbor' and feeds anyone that is hungry (housed or unhoused) each Sunday afternoon out of our church kitchen. Currently all meals are 'to-go.' Following the September meal our next date to provide food is November 21.

aged by the earthquake.

For over two decades, the ELCA has maintained a presence in southern Haiti through support for agricultural and sustainable development work. To continue our engagement with those communities, Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter.

In the future, other areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock. We also stand with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti as it assesses damage and impacts on churches and church life.

**Your gifts will support earthquake survivors in Haiti. Gifts to "Haiti Crisis" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquake.**

Together, as church, we can be there for our neighbors in Haiti.

### **Additional Ways to Give**

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response**

**P.O. Box 1809**

**Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Write "Haiti Crisis" on your check memo line.

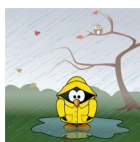
Give by phone at **800-638-3522** or [online](#).



### **ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild needs some help! As you know, we are having communion at or near the altar again, so we need people to volunteer for communion setup/cleanup. It's a very simple task (I'll train you!) that takes less than 20 minutes each Sunday.

My goal is to have two people scheduled for each Sunday of the month. It really only takes one person, but it's nice to have two people scheduled for flexibility. If you are willing to volunteer, please let me know if you have a preference for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Sunday of the month. We also occasionally have a 5th Sunday so if you can only volunteer a *little* bit, then we can put you on the 5th Sunday!



### **OUR AFGHAN ALLIES NEED YOUR HELP**

By now, you've likely seen the distressing headlines and images coming out of Kabul. At LIRS, we are devastated by the fall of Afghanistan's elected government and our hearts break for our Afghan allies, their families, and all those in grave danger of Taliban retaliation. Our prayers are with our imperiled Afghan neighbors and we stand in solidarity with all those who are living in fear.

At this time, the immediate evacuation of American citizens, our Afghan allies, and other vulnerable groups is our central focus. We remain hopeful that the U.S. military will be able to secure the airport in Kabul and restore order. Our priority is ensuring that a safe channel is established for evacuation.



### **FAMILY PROMISE**

In spite of the changes Covid-19 has brought to our world, Family Promise is alive and thriving. Though there have been many adjustments to the program, we have continued to assist and support unhoused children and their families and low-income families

We also need communion bread bakers. It works really well to have one person responsible for a month at a time to bake communion bread (the recipe is on the church's website). We use two round loaves of bread each week, so you'll be responsible for baking and stocking the freezer with 8-10 loaves per month, depending on how many Sundays are in your assigned month. The recipe is very simple, and one batch makes 4 loaves.

If you are interested in volunteering for either (or both!) of these Altar Guild tasks, please let me know. You can reach me by email at [deekayel@comcast.net](mailto:deekayel@comcast.net), by cell at 360-590-3246 or on my home phone at 360-533-7948. Thanks so much for your service! - Dee Erickson

LIRS is doing everything we can to save as many lives as possible and serve those who have already arrived in the United States—but we need your help.

LIRS is a direct partner with Lutheran Community Services NW (LCSNW).

Resettlement is actively happening in the Puget Sound. We are asked "Please DO NOT call LCSNW," they do not have the staff to answer all the phone calls, instead for Afghan resettlement specifically please email [SIV@LCSNW.org](mailto:SIV@LCSNW.org) or visit the website [LCSNW.org](http://LCSNW.org)

achieve sustainable independence through a community based response. One major change we have implemented is serving one family at a time instead of up to three concurrently. This has allowed us to ensure health and safety protocols and social distancing are followed to protect our families, staff, and volun-

teers. Guest families residing in our program still have a safe place to sleep, home cooked meals, hospitality, and support services to aid in the search for affordable housing and employment. We have also worked with many families to prevent loss of housing and provide the same support services offered to our guest families. Thank you to Amazing Grace

Lutheran Church for continuing to allow us to utilize the Day Center as a static shelter!

Darci Jewitt, Case Manager  
*Family Promise of Grays Harbor*  
Phone: 360-986-3948  
Email: [fpghcasemanager@gmail.com](mailto:fpghcasemanager@gmail.com)



### TASK FORCE UPDATE

**COVID 19 TASK FORCE UPDATE** - We welcome everyone to worship. Following the guidance of the state and the CDC, **MASKS ARE REQUIRED and WE ARE SUSPENDING**

**FELLOWSHIP FOR NOW.** The task force will **monitor the situation and keep everyone informed as the situation changes.** Please get vaccinated as soon as possible!



### 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

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### FLOWERS IN WORSHIP

**Flowers bring the beauty of God's creation into our worship space.** If you have some to share,

please sign up in the skybridge There are vases in the back room of the fellowship hall.



### MITCHELL GALLERY/CARDS

The Mitchell's have generously donated the paintings you see in the hallway to the parish hall. If you would like to purchase one of these paintings, proceeds will benefit the stained-glass repair effort. The suggested price is located on the back of each painting. Checks can be made to Amazing Grace with memo "window fund". **New pictures have been put up.**

Ken and Vicki have been sorting through things,

and have found cards and matted cards without envelopes. (Envelopes are available at Staples). Various cards available from the Mitchell's are:

- 12 various flowers
- 9 churches and other scenes from Harpers Ferry
- 12 sunflower cards
- 7 matted flower cards

Contact Vicki, if you are interested in some cards at [kvmseagalley@gmail.com](mailto:kvmseagalley@gmail.com)



### OFFICE HOURS

Church office is open: **Tuesday & Thursday 8-2, Wednesday 8-1 & Friday 8-11.** AGLC Office 360.532.8250 [Amazing111@comcast.net](mailto:Amazing111@comcast.net)

Pastor Val is working from home to minimize possible exposure to Covid until after her granddaughter is born. . **Please call, text, or email if you want to set up a different time to get together**

Pastor Val 360.580.8977 [ymetropoulos001@luthersem.edu](mailto:ymetropoulos001@luthersem.edu)



## WE NEED HEALTHY COMMUNICATION MORE THAN EVER!!!

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 communication 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.



### Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Administrative Council Meeting Minutes July 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, Carrie Erwin, Phil Stegemoeller, Pastor Val, Theresa Kaufman

- I. Call to order by Pres. Joelle Buckman. 6:07
- II. Prayer
- III. Review & approve minutes of last meeting – June 8, 22 M/S/P
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda
  - Under Business Items added: A. Jim Erickson estate & microphone purchase
- V. **Financial Reports - 30 minutes** (30 min)
  - A. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman
    1. Approve June Bills Paid M/S/P
  - B. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller
    - Erickson deposits will go under miscellaneous as pending for the Audit file.
    - 1. New Program for financial secretary -No news
- VI. **Business items** (30 min)
  - A. Jim Erickson Estate
    - Council discussed the Erickson bequest. The Gift Policy Committee will be meeting next week to develop a policy. Amended motion to table the discussion of Erickson gift until next in-person meeting in August M/S/P
  - B. Microphone Purchase
    - Pastor Val needs to buy a new microphone since the oldest one no longer works. Council approved.
- VII. **Task Assignments**
  - Joelle will include Jim Erickson Estate discussion on the agenda for the August 24th council meeting.
  - Phil will amend his reports for the Audit file.
  - Phil and Joelle will set up a meeting to discuss new program for financial secretary and Treasurer.
  - Council will think about a new Property ministry leader
- VIII. **Adjournment and closing prayer 6:52**

## **PASTOR'S REPORT July 2021**

### **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 Very Good Gospel, Harper; The Little Book of Biblical Justice, Marshall; Barking to the Choir, Boyle

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES in July**

### **OFFICIAL ACTS:**

Mitzi Ludwig funeral

### **ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Gift policy committee  
Task Force for resuming in person worship

### **PASTORAL CARE:**

Visits to dying and grieving  
Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed

### **WORSHIP:**

Weekly meeting with worship leaders to prepare for leading music  
Worked with Psalm students to lead worship and preach in my absence  
Planning for in-person worship and streaming worship

### **YOUTH/FAMILY/Education:**

JustFaith facilitator training on-line  
Confirmation Camp planning

### **OUTREACH:**

Food Bank meetings  
Synod Affordable Housing Initiative meeting

### **VACATION:**

August 5-11

### **UPCOMING:**

Sept. 5 & 18 (approximately) Worship will be led by PSALM graduates while I am with my daughter. I will take some vacation time but the dates are tentative until she gives birth.



PSALM students and JustFaith: A Biblical Perspective, a 8 week study, Aug. 12-Sept 30  
 God's Work. Our Hands September 19  
 Sunday School Kick-off September 12 led by Shayna and Curtis  
 Steinhauer



President	Joelle Buckman	(360) 589-6111	Joelle_buckman@email.com
Treasurer	Theresa Kaufman	(360) 537-1190	Theresamarie4739.3@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Phil Stegemoeller	(360) 580-9310	phil@willisent.com
Youth & Family	Curtis Steinhauer	(360) 580-2301	turtis21@gmail.com
Outreach	Amy Ostwald	(360)-482-2306	aaostwald@gmail.com
Worship	Dee Erickson	(360) 533-7948	deekaye1@comcast.net
Fellowship	Carrie Erwin	360-500-3767	mcerwin@comcast.net
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

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

### September 5

Liturgist:	Hank Bilderback
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Gene Schermer
Communion Assistant:	Joe Fernandez & Diane Hanson
Ushers/Greeters:	Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller
Depositors:	Mike Barkstrom & Joelle Buckman
Stream Team:	Curtis

### September 12

Liturgist:	Keith Lile
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Carmon Shaw
Communion Assistant:	Mark Smalley & Sarah Channel
Ushers/Greeters:	Marge Kelling & Naomi Kraiger
Depositors:	Karen Barkstrom & Mark Ostwald
Stream Team:	Hiedi

### September 19

Liturgist:	Laura Carle
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Michelle Weiberg
Communion Assistant:	Brenda Grant
Ushers/Greeters:	Mike & Arlene O'Connor
Depositors:	Carmon Shaw & Greg Johnstone
Stream Team:	Keith

### September 26

Liturgist:	Curtis Steinhauer
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Theresa Kaufman
Communion Assistant:	Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller
Ushers/Greeters:	Tim & Pam Alstrom
Depositors:	Mike Barkstrom & Joelle Buckman
Stream Team:	Amy

## 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](http://amazinggraceaberdeen.org)

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

**Pastor:** Val Metropoulos (360) 580-8977

[vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu](mailto:vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu)

**Office Administrator:** Vicky Kolb

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

**Musicians:** Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke

## JULY BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name		Date	Total
Checking			\$ 24,642.03
-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			\$ 1,967.35
-Reformation Fund			\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild			\$ 367.00
-Noisy Offering			\$ -
-Family Promise Maintenance Holding			\$ 2,244.57
-Chaplain's Dinner			\$ 215.54
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 35,395.89
			\$ -
Maintenance Checking			\$ 13,968.31
-Windows			\$ 12,948.59
Youth Checking			\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 13,950.31
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,927.53



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 QUILTING 9-12 WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM	2 QUILTERS 9-3 JUSTFAITH 5:30-7:30	3 SCRAPBOOK 6PM-10PM	4 AA 7PM-8:30PM
5 10 AM WORSHIP	6	7	8 WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM	9 QUILTERS 9-3 JUSTFAITH 5:30-7:30	10	11 AA 7PM-8:30PM
12 10 AM WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF 11:15@ Sam Benn Park	13	14 HANDSEWERS 9-3	15 QUILTING 9-12 WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM	16 QUILTERS 9-3 JUSTFAITH 5:30-7:30	17 SCRAPBOOK 6PM-10PM	18 AA 7PM-8:30PM
19 10 AM WORSHIP GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. CHAPLAINS' DINNER	20	21	22 WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM	23 QUILTERS 9-3 JUSTFAITH 5:30-7:30	24	25 AA 7PM-8:30PM LOYD GILL BIRTH- DAY PARTY
26 10 AM WORSHIP	27	28 COUNCIL 6PM HANDSEWERS 9-3	29 QUILTING 9-12 WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM	30 QUILTERS 9-3 JUSTFAITH 5:30-7:30		
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS:</b> Sunday School KICK-OFF Sept. 12th 11:15 at Sam Benn Park God's Work. Our Hands Sept 19th Bible Study—Just Faith—new groups forming in October						

**SEPTEMBER**



**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: [amazinggraceaberdeem.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeem.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



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE