

# THE SPIRIT

## October 2021



The founder of Just Faith Ministry, Jack Jezreel says, “One of the most fundamental insights of the Gospel, reinforced by the experience of human beings all over the planet, is that the fully human, fully alive person is someone who loves wide. To be whole, says Jesus, is to care not only about the most immediate relationships—family and friends, for example—but to love beyond those with the same last name, same zip code, same flag, or same skin color. Wisdom and holiness, says our faith tradition, is discovered in an active love that embraces all, especially those who have been exploited, impoverished, and abandoned. God’s love and God’s world were meant to be shared by all!”

We know that. We hear that every week in the Gospel and then we walk out of the doors of the sanctuary and we see the need all around us. It is so easy to become overwhelmed and even complacent. It seems so difficult to answer Jesus’ call to love our neighbors suffering poverty, homelessness, or addiction!

How can we live more fully into the wholeness and fully aliveness that Jesus promises as abundant life with him? That is the question that Just Faith program seeks to answer. We begin by grappling with what is meant by “justice” in the Bible and how it relates to our world today. We begin by becoming vulnerable, looking at ourselves and our culture and asking hard questions of ourselves about our relationship with the culture. We begin by becoming vulnerable to God through prayer, journaling, and sharing our experiences with others.

Jezreel says, “In many ways, JFM is an **invitation to wrestle with Matthew 25** (“Whatever you do to the least, you do to me”), surrounded by fellow travelers, a commitment to prayer, compelling learning tools, and opportunities to form relationships with sisters and brothers whose lives have known struggle and suffering.” As we explore the gospel together and what it means in OUR world, we grow closer to one another and to the people we are called to consider our family, the poor, vulnerable and wounded. As we follow Jesus, we are filled with hope and new possibilities and this compassion changes the world. “Those who need food are fed. Those who need community find friends. Those who need homes are housed. Those who need inspiration are renewed. Those who have been self-preoccupied are freed. Those who have walked in darkness find light.”

**In the next few days, set aside some time to pray about where God is calling YOU NOW!** If you feel that God is calling you to deepen your trust in God, to grow and to love more widely, please join a group exploring what it means to be a Jesus follower with your siblings at Amazing Grace. A new JustFaith group will meet Wednesday nights in person (distanced, and masked in our well-ventilated fellowship hall) from 5:30-7:30 beginning October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting for 8 weeks (taking a break for Thanksgiving) ending Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Another group will meet on Zoom from 5:30-7:30 on Wednesday nights beginning October 20<sup>th</sup> and meeting for 8 weeks (taking a break for Thanksgiving) ending Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Other groups can be formed to meet at other times if there is interest. Please contact Pastor Val if you’d like to join a group at another time or if you have any questions. [vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu](mailto:vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu) 360.580.8977.

Sign up for either of these groups by calling 360.532.8250 or emailing [amazing111@comcast.net](mailto:amazing111@comcast.net) the office. Be sure to let us know which group you’re signing up for. **We need a commitment by October 12<sup>th</sup>** so that we can order books for all participants. There is no cost for the program. If you can help defray the \$25. cost of the books, that is appreciated. No one should hesitate to participate because of the cost of the books.

I’m excited to see where God calls us in this time that is full of challenge and possibility! Pastor Val



Members of the PSALM team (Joelle Buckman, Hank Bilderback, Joe Fernandez, and Diane Hanson) completed the 8 week class, Faith & Poverty: A Biblical Response.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

# Stay Awake: The Days are Surely Coming

## YOUR INVITATION TO HELP CREATE THE Amazing Grace Advent 2021 Devotional

<sup>31</sup> *The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31: 31, 34*



**Stay Awake: The Days are Surely Coming** when God's hope, justice, love, and joy (in other words, God's kin-dom) will be ours, now and into eternity.

In the season of Advent and into the Christmas season until the day of the Epiphany of our Lord, we are invited to "Stay Awake", to pay attention to the ways that God is calling us, giving us hope, strengthening our resolve, empowering us for the work of radical kin-ship in our broken world. **Unlike the rest of the culture, the church takes a whole season**, Advent through the day of Epiphany to be immersed in the truth that GOD IS WITH US – EMMANUEL creating that kin-dom that will one day be perfected!

To help us see glimpses of that promise more clearly, we are going to reflect on the readings for the season **together!** You are invited to **choose one day's reading (or more) to consider and share that with your family at Amazing Grace**. You may choose to focus on one verse, or a phrase or the whole passage. It can be something the passage makes you think of, or feel, or imagine. Your reflection could even be a question the reading Praises for you. Be yourself! Be REAL! We are ALL theologians (those who think about God and our relationship with God) so we all have something to share. Your perspective may be just the touch someone else needs to feel God's presence in a new way!

**You can work with someone else if you want to and of course, children are invited to contribute! Use your imagination! You may want to include a short prayer, picture, or poem if they add to the message you want to convey or that might be the whole devotion.**

The readings can be found in your own Bible, or you may borrow a Bible from church, or you can find them online at Biblegateway.com (Enter the passage name, book, and chapter, then use the dropdown triangle at the right to choose the version you want to read. The one we usually use in worship is NRSV, New Revised Standard Version.)

Your reflection, along with the date and verse you've chosen, and your name are due into the church office by **November 15<sup>th</sup>** so that we'll have time to assemble the reflections and make them available to everyone well before the first day of Advent, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. **You will find the calendar of readings on page 8** in this newsletter and we'll attach the to Grace Notes and make them available on the website: [amazinggraceaberdeens.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeens.org)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**There was once a time when two distinct peoples were trying to comprehend how they could be one people.** One was a millennia-old people who had persevered through enslavement, oppression and ex-

ile. And they still preserved their identity and trust in God. They believed that God had blessed them to be a blessing to all humanity even when the rest of humanity reacted violently against them. They believed

that God had made an everlasting covenant with them and had given them a sign of that promise.

The other people were hostile, polytheistic, the majority and suspicious of the other. They rejected any claims by the other group that a life lived by covenant obligations could possibly be a good one. This wasn't just a lack of understanding, but antagonism and contempt.

**Then, something happened. Through the cross these two peoples became one people.** This is the story of the first-century church. "But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:13-14).

I think it's difficult for 21st-century Christians to comprehend the seismic shift that had occurred. The very first Christians were Jews. They didn't see themselves apart from the covenant God had made with God's people. The Torah wasn't an arbitrary collection of burdensome requirements. It was the living voice of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in their midst and throughout their lives. The circumcision of males was a sign of that covenant, a sign instituted by God and communicated to the people by Moses. Jesus was circumcised. Paul was circumcised. The male disciples were circumcised.

But what to do about the uncircumcised gentiles? How could they possibly be considered part of the covenant? **They were "other," literally beyond the pale.** "So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision' ... remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and with-

out God in the world" (Ephesians 2:11-12).

**This was a critical moment for the early church.** Paul and others had witnessed the Spirit at work among the gentiles, who weren't circumcised and, therefore, weren't considered to be heirs of the covenant. The dispute between the two groups was heated. It went to the very core of what it meant to be part of the church. Peter and Paul weren't of one mind. **Could these competing understandings of God's work in the community be reconciled?**

This was brought to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. They took counsel from Scripture, tradition and the report of the outpouring of the Spirit. They then sent this decision to the gentiles: "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well" (Acts 15:28-29). They were "no longer strangers and aliens," but "citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19).

They were one body. We are one body. We are the body of Christ. We are members one of another and knit together by and in Christ. Yes, we have significant disagreement about very important issues, but our cultural and political differences cannot dissolve this bond.

**We can take heart from the example of the early church. If, by the Spirit's power, they could set aside their differences—which were far greater than any of ours—then we, too, by the power of the Spirit, can live into the unity that already exists in Christ.**

Bishop Eaton



## WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Holy One, Paul once wrote that your divine love is the kind of love that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Let us hold fast to this piece of Good News. May it be our beacon of light as we find our way through life.

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

Trace Erwin and all students and teachers during pandemic, Paula Shimek, 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, Joseph, Ray & Jean Hodge, Courtney, Adrienne, Carl and June Bender, Ginny Clark, Philip, Matthew Green and his family and Don Rabung and family and friends mourning the death of Fred Thurman. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.





## October BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS:

Eileen Schermer, October 3  
Keith Lile, October 4  
Doug Schermer, October 9  
Michelle Weiberg, October 12  
Dee Erickson, October 15  
Philip Stegemoeller, October 20

John Tieder, October 26  
Arlene Torgerson, October 30

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Walt & Linda Ebel, October 10  
Bret & Theresa Kaufman, October 21



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

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

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

**Task Force** for keeping everyone up-to-date on Covid condition concerning Sunday worship or any other safety rules that may come up.

**Mike Hubbard & Roger Shaw** for replacing the sink in the bathroom of the church office and in the men's restroom of the Parish Hall.

**Everyone** who generously supported the quilter's project of school kits for Lutheran World Relief. You helped them reach their goal of sending 150 kits with their November shipment of quilts.

**Those who worked** on God's Work Our Hands day and those who brought food for the food bank.

**Mike Barkstrom** for all the work you do to maintain and improve our facility.

## THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$298.70
- **Habitat for Humanity** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$298.70
- **Lutheran World Relief** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$53.58
- **God's Work, Our Hands,**

My sincere thanks to the crew who came and pruned and trimmed in my front yard. What a big improvement! God bless you Pastor Val & Steve, Amy & Mark Ostwald & Coleman Carle.

-Many Thanks, Joyce Smith

Wanted to let you all know Sunday school kick off was great! We only had Sarah and Aylee show up but our niece and nephew came as well. We painted some beehouses and did a prayer walk, the kids were very into it, and the arts and crafts flowed very naturally into playing in the park. We are excited to do it again! Thanks for helping us get things together.

*Photo submitted by Curtis & Shayna Steinhauer*



## CHAPLAINS DINNER THANKS!

Thank you to those that cooked or provided food for the September 19th Chaplains Dinner. 100+ people were fed. Thank you to our cooks: Kathy Wehage, Diane Hanson, Dee Erickson, Carmon Shaw & Amy Ostwald. Thanks to those that donated food: Pastor Val and Mike and Karen Barkstrom.

And thanks to all that donated money to purchase food.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in (Mathew 25: 35)

Our next day to cook for Chaplains Dinner will be November 21st.

## GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS, THANKS!

Thank you to all those that showed up to help with God's Work, Our Hands. We accomplished some yard work for one of our members and brought in

additional items for the food bank. Yard work crew: Pastor Val, Steve, Mark, Amy, and Coleman. Food Bank crew: Joelle ... and those that donated food. Thank you!

## SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

### UNION GOSPEL MISSION

October 5

Mary Ellen Salmon, Leader  
Elaine Lokken, 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. SERVING FOOD BACK ON SCHEDULE. If the food is cooked, deliver by 6pm. If the food is not cooked, deliver before 3pm. If you are serving or delivering you have to wear a mask and keep 6 feet distance. If you deliver to the back alley, call 360-533-1064 and they will come and pick up the food.**

## LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY ANNUAL RAFFLE

Thank you for supporting the Living Stones prison ministry through your prayers. We are excited to announce our 2021 raffle.

This year there are multiple prizes: the grand prize of \$2,021 in cash and the second is a \$221 cash prize. Additional prizes are handmade items by the men of living Stones: paintings, drawings, quilts, tote bags and crocheted articles.

Tickets will be \$5 each or 6 for \$25. To buy tickets you may send a check to the church office. We'll get the ticket stubs to you. Or contact Joe Fernandez: [joseph.m.fernandez@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.m.fernandez@gmail.com)

Ticket are on sale until Sunday, October 31. The drawing will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021.



## FAMILY PROMISE

Dear Friends of Family Promise,  
Our annual quilt raffle is coming up. Tickets are available at the day center for \$2 a piece, Monday through Friday, from 10 AM to 2 PM. The drawing will be held on December 10, 2021.

This year we will be auctioning off not one, but three quilts! This is a testament to the generosity of our community and the enthusiasm surrounding our efforts. Thank YOU for being a part of that. In addition to selling tickets at the office, individuals

may request to pick up tickets to sell on behalf of Family Promise.

Church offices, business offices, organizations, partner agencies... all are welcome to join the cause. If any group or individual would like to display one or all of these quilts for a short time, that can be arranged.

For each quilt there will be a respective ticket color. I believe the colors are red, white, and green. So if

someone wants to purchase tickets for the Noah's Ark quilt, they would buy the ticket color associated with that quilt.

This information will be posted on our Facebook site and on our soon to come, brand new website. Stay tuned for more!

Charles Scamman, Family Promise of Grays Harbor Director. 360-986-3944



### WEDNESDAY QUILTER NEWS

After a recess of one year due to the Covid -19 pandemic we were able to begin meeting in the middle of March. A smaller shipment was made to Lutheran World Relief in May. It included 100 quilts, 99 school kits, 153 personal (health) kits and 8 baby kits.

Needless to say, LWR was happy receiving the smaller shipment as they found their east coast warehouse shelves empty when the need was greater than ever. We extended our meetings in June and are now starting up safely following all guidelines. We would love to see you on any first, third and sometimes fifth Wednesday from 9 to 12 as we make more quilts and also prepare our school kits for shipping in early November.

### 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.  
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

### BLESSING ANIMALS

**Sunday, Oct. 3rd, Blessing of the Animals will take place immediately following worship in the church parking lot. We'll stay well spread out**

**and you can wear a mask if you'd feel safer doing so. Bring your pet to receive a blessing as part of God's beautiful, very good creation!**

## PLU LUTHERAN STUDIES FORUM

Everyone is invited to participate in this **FREE** forum online. The topic this year is **Living with Mortality: Illness, Trauma, Joy and Hope** with **Dr. Deanna Thompson**. It will focus on finding hope and love in the wake of the pandemic and will address the various forms of trauma and loss we continue to face. We will look at how we carry both joy and brokenness as individuals and also what it means for our vocations of caregiving for one another and our community. The conference will include: **An Adult Forum book discussion for Congregations on October 3rd at 9:00am. NOTE: THIS DATE PRECEDES THE FORUM.**

This conversation will be facilitated by Dr. Marit Trelstad, PLU Chair of Lutheran Studies. Please read **Dr. Thompson's book**, "Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma and Ministry"! **with us in preparation for the discussion and conference events. This book is available on Amazon at: [https://](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=glimpsing+resurrection&crd=3JYYCZVE1TRNH&sprefix=glimpsing+resurr%2Cstripbooks%2C270&ref=nb_sb_ss_fb_1_16_ts-doa-p)**

[www.amazon.com/s?](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=glimpsing+resurrection&crd=3JYYCZVE1TRNH&sprefix=glimpsing+resurr%2Cstripbooks%2C270&ref=nb_sb_ss_fb_1_16_ts-doa-p)

[k=glimpsing+resurrection&crd=3JYYCZVE1TRNH&sprefix=glimpsing+resurr%2Cstripbooks%2C270&ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_fb\\_1\\_16\\_ts-doa-p](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=glimpsing+resurrection&crd=3JYYCZVE1TRNH&sprefix=glimpsing+resurr%2Cstripbooks%2C270&ref=nb_sb_ss_fb_1_16_ts-doa-p)

**Registration for all events is required. Please join us!** Visit the website provided for more details.

<https://www.plu.edu/lutheran-studies-conference/>

1. **Interactive Online Conference on October 5th at 12:00pm.** The afternoon sessions will include "At the Bedside of Covid: An Interfaith & Intercultural Panel", as well as "Embracing Mortality: Resources and Conversations on Approaching Death and Grief with Intentionality" via Zoom Breakout rooms.

2. **Keynote Address on October 5th at 7:00pm.** Dr. Deanna Thompson will be speaking on themes from her book *Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma and Ministry* (2018). This webinar will be held virtually via Zoom. You will receive a link when you register.

## JUSTFAITH Bible Study

New groups will be forming in October for this study. Consider joining a group to learn what the Bible says about justice and how we can follow God's call to create a more just world.



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## ENDOWMENT FUND JIM ERICKSON ESTATE

Our congregation recently received a large gift of money for the Endowment Fund of Amazing Grace from Jim Erickson's estate. Jim's gift comes from Jim and Peggy Erickson and the

Harbor Foods family. Harbor Foods owns both Harbor Wholesale and Harbor Food Service and is run by Mike and Justin Erickson. We wish to extend a huge thank you to Bob Erickson (the executor) and the entire Erickson family for their efforts in this matter.

-Darrell Lokken

## 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)

## MARTIN LUTHER, WRITING DURING THE BUBONIC PLAQUE OF THE 1500'S:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I will fumigate, purify the air, administer medicine, and take medicine. I shall avoid places and person where my presence is not needed in order to not become contaminated, and thus perchance inflict and pollute other, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.

If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me. But, I have done what he has expected of me,

and so I am not responsible for with my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely. This is a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy, and does not tempt God." Martin Luther.

Provided by Diane Hanson



## Where do you see glimpses of God's kingdom breaking into our world? This is YOUR invitation to help create the Amazing Grace ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON DEVOTIONAL for 2021!

Please choose one or more days to reflect on and let the office know which dates you chose. All reflections are due into the church office by NOVEMBER 15TH in order to prepare it to be in everyone's hands before Nov. 28th, the first day of Advent.

### ADVENT WEEK ONE

Nov. 28 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Worship in person or online with Amazing Grace

Nov. 29 Monday: Psalm 90: 11-17

Nov. 30 Tuesday: Revelation 22: 12-16

Dec. 1 Wednesday: Luke 11: 29-32

Dec. 2 Thursday: Luke 1: 68-79

Dec. 3 Friday: Philippians 1: 18b-26

Dec. 4 Saturday: Luke 9: 1-6





## **ADVENT WEEK TWO**

**Dec. 5 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Worship in person or online with Amazing Grace**

Dec. 6 Monday: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Dec. 7 Tuesday: Psalm 126

Dec. 8 Wednesday: Luke 7: 18-30

Dec. 9 Thursday: Amos 6: 4-8

Dec. 10 Friday: Amos 8: 4-12

Dec. 11 Saturday: Isaiah 12:2-6

## **ADVENT WEEK THREE**

**Dec. 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Worship in person or online with Amazing Grace**

Dec. 13 Monday: Isaiah 11: 1-9

Dec. 14 Tuesday: Acts 28: 23-31

Dec. 15 Wednesday: Luke 7: 31-35

Dec. 16 Thursday: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Dec. 17 Friday: Psalm 80: 1-7

Dec. 18 Saturday: Luke 10: 31-35

## **ADVENT WEEK FOUR**

**Dec. 19 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Worship in person or online with Amazing Grace**

Dec. 20 Monday: Colossians 1: 15-20

Dec. 21 Tuesday: Romans 8: 18-30

Dec. 22 Wednesday: Luke 1: 46b-55

Dec. 23 Thursday: 2 Peter 1: 16-21

**Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship in person or online with Amazing Grace**

Dec. 25 Christmas Day Luke 2: 8-20

## **WEEK FIVE - CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**Dec. 26 First Sunday of Christmas Worship in person or online with Amazing Grace**

Dec. 27 Monday: Psalm 148

Dec. 28 Tuesday: Revelation 21: 1-7

Dec. 29 Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 28: 1-10

Dec. 30 Thursday: Mark 13: 32-37

Dec. 31 Friday: John 8: 12-19

Jan. 1 Saturday: James 3: 13-18

## **WEEK SIX – CHRISTMAS SEASON**

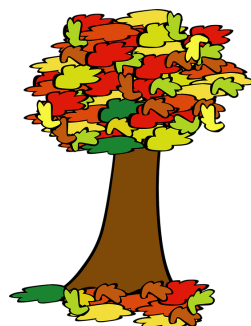
**Jan. 2 Second Sunday of Christmas Worship in person or online with Amazing Grace**

Jan. 3 Monday: Luke 8: 16-21

Jan. 4 Tuesday: Isaiah 6: 1-5

Jan. 5 Wednesday: John 1: 10-18

**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Jan. 6 Thursday: Matthew 2: 1-12**



## 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 [vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu](mailto:vmetropoulos001@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 Council Meeting Minutes August 24, 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.

President: Joelle Buckman; VP: 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. Amy, 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. Dee; 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. Carrie; 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. Phil

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

- I. **Devotions** (15 min)
- II. **Call to Order** 6:10
- III. **Establish Quorum**
- IV. **Review and Approve Agenda**
  - Moved Financial Reports after Business items
- V. **Approve minutes from meetings:** July 13 & 27 M/S/ P (II-V: 5 min)
- VI. **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
    - Mutual Ministry continues to meet and monitors the life of the congregation.
  - B. Gift Policy committee
    - Next meeting will be on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

C. Erickson Estate

-Joelle sent out a summarized email to council about Erickson estate. The discussion at tonight's meeting is whether to move the money into the Endowment Fund or keep it in the General Account, until the estate is finalized.

-Motion that the money from the Jim Erickson estate be put into the Endowment Fund. **M/S/P**

-Motion that a committee be appointed from council and other members be appointed to rework the bylaws of the Endowment Fund in order to bring it in line with guidance from the ELCA. **M/S/P**

**VII. Financial Reports:** (30 min)

A. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

1. Approve June bills be paid **M/S/P**

B. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

i. New Program for financial secretary

**VIII. Ministry team reports:** (30 min)

A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val

i. Task Force report- The Task Force will meet on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Discussion about worship and fellowship in light of rising Covid numbers

ii. Audio/video – waiting on cost estimate.

B. Outreach – Amy Ostwald

iii. Family Promise

-The family has moved on, no other news.

iv. Chaplain's dinner

-The next Chaplains dinner we are preparing food for is on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

v. Union Gospel Mission

-The Union Gospel Mission team leader for January & July has stepped down, so Amy is looking for a new leader as well as additional team members.

vi. God's Work, Our Hands

-Will be on September 19<sup>th</sup>, announcement will be in newsletter, no projects right now.

vii. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative – Pastor Val/Curtis

-Committee continues to meet but not as often and the bishop is on sabbatical.

C. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer

i. Sunday School

-Sunday school will start on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Shayna and Curtis will be leading. Parents and kids will be meeting at Sam Benn Park at 11:15 for an outdoor adventure the second Sunday of each month. The fourth Sunday the kids and parents will be on zoom, using curriculum from *Illustrated Ministry*. The regular Sunday school teachers will be back.

ii. Confirmation – Confirmation Camp Aug. 17

-Pastor Val and Madison did a full day of learning and working on Madison's capstone project. Madison will be confirmed on October 31<sup>st</sup> at reformation Sunday.

iii. Adult group study- PSALM group studying Just Faith

D. Fellowship – Carrie Erwin – Care team providing meals for Hodges

-Waiting to hear back from Task Force about what to do with Fellowship.

E. Property – Mike Barkstrom

-Changed the lightings and repaired some pews. Mike Hubbard and Roger Shaw will be replacing the sink in the bathroom in the church office.

**IX. Pastor's Report** (IX – XI 10 min)

**X. Task Assignments**

-Council will decide who will be on the committee that will be bringing Endowment Fund bylaws into compliance with ELCA guidance.

-Theresa will resend the Budget Analysis for May, June and July.

-Theresa will be working on Financial Reports for the Audit file.

-Joelle asked council members to suggest people for the Audit committee.

-Theresa and Phil will meet and looking at ELCA guidelines for Auditing.

- Council will be meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month and will decide whether to meet on zoom or in person as the date gets closer.

**XI. Adjournment** and closing prayer 7:08





## **PASTOR'S REPORT August 2021**

### **WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHP**

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:**

Webinar: Hybrid Ministry in a Post-Pandemic Church – 3 sessions over 3 weeks  
Reading: The Very Good Gospel, Harper; The Little Book of Biblical Justice, Marshall; Barking to the Choir, Boyle  
Spiritual Direction Supervision Group  
Host for Clergy Women Sunday Check-In on Facebook

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES in August**

#### **OFFICIAL ACTS:**

Funeral - Kevin Hodge

#### **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:** Sunday School Adventures – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday every month – help w/ ideas

Zoom – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday every month

StoryTime – Curriculum from Illustrated Ministry for this and Zoom

Confirmation Camp – Capstone project with Madison

#### **OUTREACH:**

Synod Affordable Housing Initiative meeting

#### **VACATION:**

August 5-11

#### **UPCOMING:**

Blessing the Animals – October 4<sup>th</sup> after worship



PLU Lutheran Studies Event: Living with Mortality: Illness, Trauma, Joy & Hope  
 Sun. 10/3 9am Congregational Book Discussion on Zoom  
 Wed. 10/5 Noon & 7PM Forum on Zoom  
 JustFaith: A Biblical Perspective – beginning new groups in October

## OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

### October 3

**Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Mark Ostwald; **Communion Assistant:** William Rabung & Steve Swanson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Naomi Kraiger & Amy Ostwald; **Depositors:** Greg Johnstone & Joelle Buckman; **Communion set-up:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Joe

### October 10

**Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Greg Johnstone; **Communion Assistant:** Arlene Torgerson & Joelle Buckman; **Ushers/Greeters:** Theresa Kaufman & Dee Erickson; **Depositors:** Karen Barkstrom & Mark Ostwald; **Communion set-up:** Laura Carle; **Stream Team:** Steve

### October 17

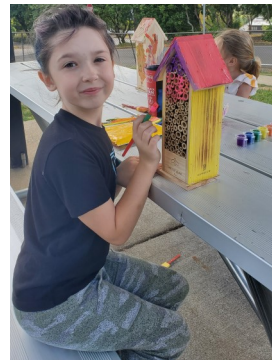
**Liturgist:** Curtis Steinhauer; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Darci Jewitt; **Communion Assistant:** Joan Rabung; **Ushers/Greeters:** Weiberg, Jim & Michelle & Family; **Depositors:** Mike Barkstrom & Greg Johnstone; **Communion set-up:** Carmon Shaw; **Stream Team:** Hiedi

### October 24

**Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Joe Fernandez; **Communion Assistant:** Theresa Kaufman & Diane Hanson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Roger & Carmon Shaw; **Depositors:** Karen Barkstrom & Mark Ostwald; **Communion set-up:** Tara Main; **Stream Team:** Keith

### October 31

**Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Suzan Stegemoeller; **Communion Assistant:** Kristine Finazzo & Cynthia Johnstone; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mark & Amy Ostwald; **Depositors:** Carmon Shaw & Greg Johnstone; **Communion set-up:** Dee Erickson; **Stream Team:** Curtis



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	deekayel@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

## 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



## AUGUST BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name		Date	Total
Checking			\$ 15,288.34
-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			\$ 2,068.52
-Reformation Fund			\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild			\$ 367.00
-Noisy Offering			\$ -
-Family Promise Maintenance Holding			\$ 2,144.57
-Chaplain's Dinner			\$ 215.54
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 26,043.37
			\$ -
Maintenance Checking			\$ 13,827.87
-Windows			\$ 12,551.56
Youth Checking			\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 13,850.31
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,927.53



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
					1 SCRAPBOOK 6PM-10PM	2 AA 7PM-8:30PM		
3 10 AM WORSHIP	4	5	6 QUILTING 9AM-12PM WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM	7	8	9 AA 7PM-8:30PM		
10 10 AM WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:15@ Sam Benn Park	11 Sign up for JustFaith classes by TODAY.	12 HANDSEWERS 9AM-3PM	13 WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM	14	15 SCRAPBOOK 6PM-10PM	16 AA 7PM-8:30PM		
17 10 AM WORSHIP	18	19	20 QUILTING 9AM-12PM JUST FAITH 5:30-7:30 WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM	21	22	23 AA 7PM-8:30PM		
24 10 AM WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM	25	26 HANDSEWERS 9AM-3PM COUNCIL MEETING 6PM	27 WORSHIP LEADERS 6PM JUST FAITH 5:30-7:30	28	29	30 AA 7PM-8:30PM		
31 10 AM REFOR- MATION/ CONFIRMATION- WORSHIP				OCTOBER				
UPCOMING EVENTS			ADVENT DEVOTIONAL WRITING DUE INTO THE OFFICE— November 15					
SUNDAY SCHOOL ON NOVEMBER 14— Meet at Sam Benn Park at 11:15			SUNDAY SCHOOL ON NOVEMBER 28-Meet on Zoom. Zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82174053923">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82174053923</a>					
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIMES ENDS— November 7								
ADVENT BEGINS – November 28								



**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](http://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



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE