

# THE SPIRIT

## November 2021



*On All Saints Sunday, Nov. 7th bring food, bring coats, sleeping bags, socks, gloves, whatever holds your sadness at what has been lost and can be a sign of hope for someone else now.*

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It's autumn, even here in our green world with leaves changing, rainy days more often than not, a chill in the air. So much is dying and yet so much is beautiful. There is change. **There is a hint of decay and yet the illusive glimpse of something shimmering, beckons around the corner.**

This is life in this holy creation. This is the gospel good news. While there is death, there is, hand-in-hand promise of resurrection. There is loss and there is promise of hope. There is sadness and there is promise of joy.

**The proper stance in this creation is one of thanks but only after lament.** There is much for which to give God thanks and there is much to lament. Both are faithful. Both are appropriate. True and profound thankfulness follows an honest naming of all that has been lost, the pain suffered, the hope diminished. Honestly naming our pain and loss, leaving the burden of that at the cross and in the care of our gracious and mighty God, **frees us to receive what is good and beautiful and true and to give thanks** for all that remains and all that is promised.

As we ease into November, we begin with **All Saints Sunday, Nov. 7th.** During our All Saints service this year we will not only name our loved ones who have died, those we carry in our hearts. **We will also name the other losses we've experienced** during Covid: time with friends, anticipated events, the image of who we thought we were (individually and as a nation) that has been stripped away by this pandemic, by the racial reckoning

the glory is fallen out of  
the sky the last immortal  
leaf  
is

dead and the gold  
year  
a formal spasm  
in the

dust  
this is the passing of all shining things  
therefore we also  
blandly

into receptive  
earth, O let  
us  
descend

take  
shimmering wind  
these fragile splendors from  
us crumple them hide

them in thy breath drive  
them in nothingness  
for we  
would sleep

this is the passing of all shining things  
no lingering no backward-  
wondering be unto  
us O

soul, but straight  
glad feet fearruining  
and glorygirded  
faces

lead us  
into the  
serious  
steep

darkness

+ e e cummings

we're experiencing, by the glaring reality of inequality of all kinds.

**Lament is not unfaithful.** It is not pessimism. It is not hopelessness. It is facing the reality of what it means to be mortal in a finite world. It is the beginning of real hope based in the reality of being a part of God's beautiful creation. When we deny our losses our joy is diminished. Only those who know all that they have lost are thankful for every moment.

**We often console those we love by sending them flowers or planting a tree in memory of their dear one.** As a way to move our lament into hope for us all, let us offer gifts to those who have so little that hope is hard to muster. Bring whatever you think

would be **a gift of hope** for those living in desperation: those without a home, those without a job, those living on the brink. We'll distribute your gifts in the following week through the Chehalis Mutual Aid Network, the Aberdeen Food Bank, or other groups if your gift is more appropriately distributed in another way. So, **on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 7th bring food, bring coats, sleeping bags, socks, gloves, whatever holds your sadness at what has been lost and can be a sign of hope for someone else now.**

You are held in God's love and light!

Pastor Val

## Stay Awake: The Days are Surely Coming

YOUR INVITATION TO HELP CREATE THE  
Amazing Grace Advent 2021 Devotional

### Stay Awake: The Days are Surely Coming

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.



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 raises 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.**

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 pages 8-9** in this newsletter, attached to Grace Notes and on the website: [amazinggraceaberndeen.org](http://amazinggraceaberndeen.org)



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

**There are very few times in my life when I experience silence.** There is the ever-present ambient noise of the city or the office: traffic, planes, power mowers, power tools, the intrusive

alerts from computers signaling new emails or texts, ringtones. I find myself obsessively plugged in to the news, Twitter and YouTube—all available all the time, portable and near at hand on my cell-

**WE ARE INVITED  
INTO SILENCE**

phone.

And then there is the **noise in my head**: racing thoughts, internal conversations, grocery lists, music. Even—or perhaps especially—when the world around me is mostly still, I notice that I am not.

I'm not sure what drives this acoustic and mental busyness, but I know I'm not the only one who so seldom experiences silence. Maybe we are just trying to get more stuff done. Maybe it's FOMO—fear of missing out. Maybe it's habit.

I do know that this constant noise and stimulation can be exhausting and stressful. The more noise, the louder we become in order to be heard, which leads to more noise.

**In recent weeks we have been overwhelmed by disasters, natural and human-made.** The West Coast is burning, and the Gulf Coast and East Coast are drowning. The elected Afghan government has fallen, and that 20-year war has come to an end. We are still stuck in this pandemic. We worry about our children who are too young to get vaccinated. We worry about our elders with comorbidities. We worry about ourselves.

In an effort to make sense of all this, we seek to gather more information and more data, which we hope will give us answers or show us a way out. There is no shortage of voices. We are bombarded with experts and pundits analyzing everything, talking and talking and talking. **STOP.**

The prophet Elijah had a profound experience of silence. He was fleeing for his life from the wrath of Jezebel. I imagine the stress was generating a lot of internal noise. But the word of the Lord came to Elijah and said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by” (1 Kings 19:11).

And then we read: “Now there was a great wind, so

strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence” (11-12).

Wind and earthquakes and fire all seem reasonable when God makes an entrance. There are many instances in Scripture when God is announced in sound and pyrotechnics. But this story from 1 Kings has always caught my attention. The phrase in verse 12 is often translated as the sound of “a still, small voice.” Yet it wasn't the sound of a voice that indicated that God was present. **It was the sound of sheer silence.** “When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and stood at the entrance of the cave” (13).

### Silence.

**Spending time in silence is a spiritual discipline.** My spiritual director urges me to spend 20 minutes in silence every day. I can do about five. Silence is not a technique but a way of being in God's presence. **It's pretty simple, but it's not easy. Sheer silence silences us—all of our defenses and self-justifications.** It can be terrifying because in silence there is nothing between the soul and its source of being. No wonder that Elijah, when he heard the sound of sheer silence, wrapped his face in his mantle. He was in the presence of the Holy.

**We are invited into silence.** In the words of the hymn: “Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 490).

Bishop Eaton



## WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

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

Suzan Stegemoeller, Jon Metropoulos, Trace Erwin and all students, teachers and children going through

a difficult time and dealing with the pandemic, Paula Shimek, Paul Hanson and family, Jennifer, Kim, Vicki Mitchell, Liz Massey, Leslie Prasch, Bob



Parker, BarbStensgard, 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

Lord, in your mercy...



### **BIRTHDAYS:**

Rachel Schermer, November 1  
Heather Colwell, November 2  
Jane Schermer, November 9  
Jill Waite, November 12  
Ken Mitchell, November 13  
Theresa Kaufman, November 22  
Gregory Johnstone, November 23  
Lawrence Murray, November 23

Judi Hubbard, November 26  
Sarah Gardiner, November 27  
Roger Shaw, November 27  
Jace Winter, November 28  
Jennifer Kaufman, November 29  
Naomi Kraiger, November 30

## **November BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Mark & Amy Ostwald, November 27



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

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

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

**Diane Hanson** for providing pictures and other photos for the newsletters.

**Kristine and Judi** for continuing to deliver newsletters every month.

**Mike Hubbard and Roger Shaw** for putting in a new towel rack, replacing the toilet seat in the church office restroom and for putting in a brighter light in Pastor's office.

**Judi Hubbard** for the work and great job she does as custodian.

**Quilters** for the beautiful quilt they made for Madison Winter's confirmation.

**Ray Hodge** for donating several cardboard boxes to the quilters.

**Curtis and Shayna and Carmon and Amy** for leading Sunday school class.

**Joe Fernandez, Joelle Buckman, Diane Hanson and Hank Bilderback** for teaching the JustFaith classes.

**Joelle, Amy, Joni** for delivering food to the Food Bank.



**Sunday, October 24th, Stacie Evensen** shares her expanding vision for her work in Myanmar.

*Photo Submitted by Diane Hanson.*

# SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

## UNION GOSPEL MISSION

November 2

Kristine Finazzo, Leader

Liz Ellis, Molly Leithold, Michelle Weiberg, Lynette

Like and Marti Debandt

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. 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.**

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 11/7 is our annual remembrance of those who died in the last year or so. This year we'll incorporate lament for all the losses we've experienced during Covid. Please **send the office the names of those you would like to have**

**named aloud during the service.** There will be time for lighting candles for them and for all losses during the service.



## THANKSGIVING FOOD BANK BASKETS

The Food Bank will be distributing 125 baskets for Thanksgiving to families who are experiencing food insecurity this year. Amazing Grace has been asked to provide 125 cans of cranberries for the baskets by

**Nov. 14.** These can be dropped off during office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8-2, Wednesday 8-1 & Friday 8-11. Thank you for your generosity!

We'll collect another 125 cans of cranberries for Christmas baskets, due at the church by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

## FAMILY PROMISE

Dear Friends of Family Promise,  
Our annual quilt raffle under way. Tickets are available at the day center for \$2 a piece, Monday– Friday, 10 AM to 2 PM. Tickets may also be purchased through Amazing Grace office by calling or emailing. The drawing will be 12/10.

This year we are auctioning 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.

If any group or individual would like to display one or all of these quilts for a short time, that can be arranged.

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

## WEDNESDAY QUILTER NEWS

The quilter's continue to meet the first, third, and sometimes 5th Wednesdays from 9-12 to make quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief and give locally.



**Maddy Winter (confirmation student) assists Pastor Val during the Blessing of the Animals. Photo submitted by Diane Hanson**

In our early November shipment we included 150 school kits along with the quilts, 3 baby kits and 3 sewing kits. We would love to have you join us!

## TASK FORCE UPDATE

We welcome everyone to worship. Following the guidance of the state and the CDC, **MASKS ARE REQUIRED** and **FELLOWSHIP** is suspended for now. The task force will monitor the situation

and keep everyone informed as the situation changes. Please get Vaccinated and boosters as soon as possible



## FOOD BANK FEEDS HUNGRY FAMILIES!

The Grays Harbor Food Bank continues to feed people in need in our community. Please bring your donations of food to the fellowship hall. They will be delivered to the food bank weekly. The Food bank

always needs **baby wipes, peanut butter, mac & cheese and diapers sizes 4,5, & 6**. If you prefer to help with a financial contribution, it may be sent to: Grays Harbor Food Bank P.O. Box 444 Aberdeen, WA 98520

## THRIVENT MEMBERS

It is time to allocate your choice dollars. Please check your account. Thank you, Judi Hubbard



## YOUTH WITH A MISSION-STACIE EVENSEN

Monthly Support	Ideal Monthly Support	Current Monthly Support	Monthly Support Needed
	\$2,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$600.00
Vehicle Purchase	Cost	Amount Raised	Amount Needed
	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
Community Center			
	Total Estimated Cost	Amount Raised	Amount Needed
Property	\$40,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$17,500.00
Building Funds	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00

### How to Give:

**PayPal:** stacie.evensen@gmail.com  
paypal.me/stacieevensen

**CashApp:** stacie.evensen@gmail.com  
\$StacieEvensen

**Checks:** Make checks payable to Stacie Evensen

**For future giving make checks payable** to Stacie Evensen and send checks to: Marie Evensen 7085 Battle Creek Rd. SE Salem, OR 97317

**For tax deductible online giving** go to: [www.lifeattheriver.com](http://www.lifeattheriver.com) Give under Missions and be sure to add a note for Stacie Evensen.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like to allocate which fund your donations should go into (monthly support, vehicle, or community center). stacie.evensen@gmail.com 208-271-1475

Dear Family and Friends,

I would like to increase my monthly support by \$600 per month. My goal before I left for Myanmar in September 2019 was \$1,500 per month. Thanks to so many of you who faithfully gave every month I had an average of \$1,400 in support each and every month! I also had some surprise gifts that really

helped along the way! I am so thankful for God's provision through your partnership in ministry!!

There are a number of reasons I am increasing my monthly support.

1) There have been increases in the cost of living in Myanmar and increases in the cost of travel worldwide.



2) I will need to rent my own living space when I return to Myanmar instead of living in the YWAM (Youth With a Mission) dorm.

3) I feel I need to spend more on food when I return. I typically lose 10 to 20 pounds when I'm in Myanmar because of diet. I can survive without more expensive foreign goodies like cheese, butter, milk, etc...but after so many years of eating only local food (rice 3 times a day with a meat dish and fried vegetables) I know that I cannot thrive on a 100% Myanmar diet. I tried...but I need goodies like dairy products to keep a healthy weight.

4) I have also chosen to use \$200 of my monthly support to help support local staff. I work with many locals who live on less than \$80 a month. After giving \$8 for tithes and spending around \$50 on food for the month it leaves them with only \$22 to get them through the month to buy toiletries, ride the bus, pay phone bills, etc. Helping the staff I work with to thrive in ministry is something God has put on my heart to do.

The third thing I am preparing for when I return to Myanmar is to purchase a vehicle. When I return to Myanmar I will be joining a team in a city called Mawlamyine. This city does not have a bus system or taxis, which is how I have been able to live 16 years in Yangon without my own vehicle. There are motorcycle taxis in Mawlamyine and I actually don't mind using them. However, using motorcycles for carrying things when shopping or during rainy season is not practical. It also isn't very safe to be riding motorcycles with strangers without a

helmet on a regular basis.

The main reason I have not had a vehicle for so long is because of the high cost. A used vehicle, 10 years old or older, will easily cost \$30,000. This is because of the high import taxes that the Myanmar government charges. I would like to get a vehicle that is reliable to drive so I'm hoping to get something around 10 years old. Praise God, I already have \$10,000 of the \$30,000 that I am raising.

I am looking at getting a Toyota pickup because of its versatility for hauling things or seating a lot of people. In Myanmar they put bench seats in the back and a canopy on top so a pickup can easily seat 15 or more people. I plan to make this vehicle available for the team in Mawlamyine to use for ministry purposes and so seating a lot of people or hauling supplies is important. Toyota, by far, is the most practical in Myanmar because it is the most common and easy to get worked on anywhere throughout the country instead of being limited to getting serviced at showrooms in Yangon for other less common types of cars.

As I close, I would like to encourage you to **pray and see if God shows you a way that He may want to use you to help provide for these needs.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for being a part of what God is doing in my life and ministry through your prayers and support!

Blessings to you!  
Stacie

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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,

## 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,

## LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY ANNUAL RAFFLE

The drawing will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. It will now be live streamed. Stay tuned for

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

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)

more details about how you can watch online!

**4-F DINNER—SAVE THE DATE** for January 8, 2022, for a Carry-out pot roast dinner. More details to follow –Judi Hubbard



## **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY DEVOTIONAL READINGS**

**Please choose one or more days 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: **Dee Erickson**

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

Dec. 4 Saturday: **Mark Smalley**

### **ADVENT WEEK TWO**

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

Dec. 6 Monday: **Diane Hanson**

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: **Mark Smalley**

Dec. 17 Friday: Psalm 80: 1-7

Dec. 18 Saturday: **Diane Hanson**

### **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**

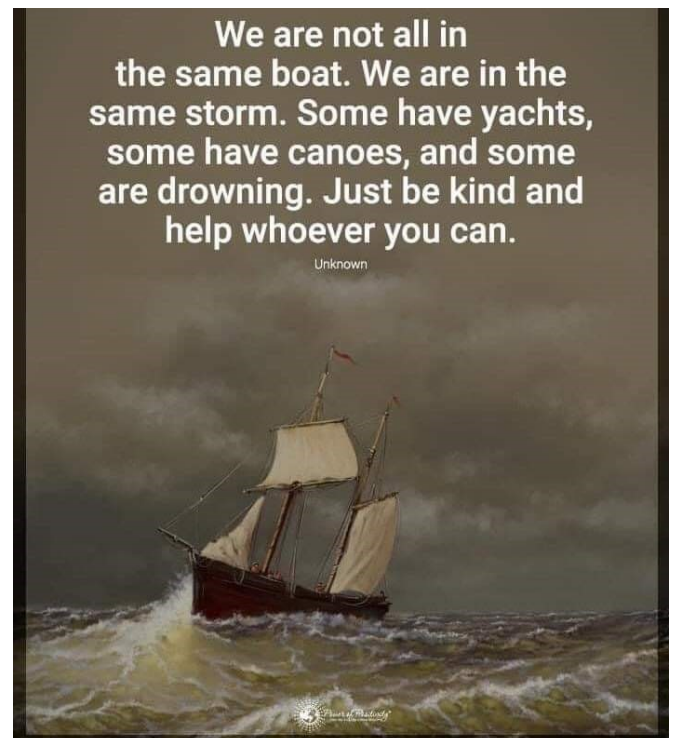
**Dec. 26 First Sunday of Christmas Worship in person or online with Amazing Grace**

Dec. 27 Monday: Psalm 148

Dec. 28 Tuesday: **Kathy Wehage**

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

Dec. 30 Thursday: Mark 13: 32-37



**We are not all in  
the same boat. We are in the  
same storm. Some have yachts,  
some have canoes, and some  
are drowning. Just be kind and  
help whoever you can.**

Unknown

Paints of History



Dec. 31 Friday: John 8: 12-19  
Jan. 1 Saturday: **Kathy Wehage**

## **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



**Dogs, cats and a bird...oh my! Pastor Val opens with prayer for Animal Blessing Sunday. Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.**

## **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: I'm mostly working from home to minimize Covid exposure but I'd love to safely get together.** Please call, text, or email so we can set up a time to do that! Pastor Val: 360-580-8977 [vmetropou-los001@luthersem.edu](mailto:vmetropou-los001@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 commu-

nication 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 rela-

- tionships.
- **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 September 28, 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, Dee Erickson, Phil Stegemoeller, Pastor Val, Mike Barkstrom, Amy Ostwald, Carrie Erwin, Theresa Kaufman

- I. **Devotions** (15 min)
- II. **Call to Order** by Pres. Joelle Buckman 6:20
- III. **Establish Quorum**
- IV. **Review and Approve Agenda**
- V. **Approve minutes from meetings:** August 24 (II-V: 5 min) **M/S/P**
- 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  
-Continuing to meet and talking about issues affecting the congregation.
  - B. Memorial guidelines – policy  
-The group met a month ago and made revisions that were put into a final form and sent to the ELCA representative, Beth Adams. When Pastor receives recommendations from Beth, it will be sent to the committee and to our Synod attorney to be sure we're abiding by all legal requirements.
  - C. Endowment Fund Committee  
-Joelle will form a committee.
- VII. **Ministry team reports:** (30 min)
  - A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val  
-Worship committee met two Sundays ago in person, and discussed questions from the congregation.
    - i. Task Force report  
-Pray for the Task Force. Making decisions for Sunday Worship that keeps everyone safe and healthy is challenging.
    - ii. Audio/video – update  
-A representative from a company in Olympia will come out and look at our audio/video set up and make recommendation to make it more reliable as well as making recommendations for the future. Keith, Joe, and Pastor Val will be meeting with this person. When a recommendation has been made it will be brought to council.
  - B. Outreach – Amy Ostwald
    - i. Family Promise- No family in residence but are continu-





ing to look for a family to help. Family promise is holding a raffle for 3 different quilts, which Amazing Grace is helping with, information may be found in the newsletter and bulletins.

- ii. Chaplain's dinner- Went well. We serve again in November.
- iii. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative – Pastor Val/Curtis  
-No updates.
- iv. God's Work. Our Hands- Several people helped work on Joyce Smith's yard.

C. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer

- i. Sunday School – Outdoor S.S. Sept. 12 was a great experience. No families attended the Zoom meeting Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Curriculum is mailed and emailed to families.
- ii. Confirmation- Madison will be confirmed October 31<sup>st</sup> on Reformation Sunday.
- iii. Adult group study- PSALM group studying Just Faith  
-Study group will be finishing Just Faith materials this Thursday and will be forming new classes mid-October. There will be at least 1 in-person class with safety guidelines followed and 1 zoom class.

D. Fellowship – Carrie Erwin – Stephen Ministry Training

-This is training that trains the trainer then teaches and supports congregation members in caring for each other and those outside the congregation. The class is now available on zoom which makes it more accessible and costs less. Carrie and Pastor Val will explore possibilities and bring a recommendation to council.

E. Property – Mike Barkstrom –

- i. Sinks/backstop updates  
-Two sinks have been replaced, one in the church office and the other in the men's restroom of the parish hall. Brighter lighting downstairs was installed and a backstop installed on Vicky's desk to protect the blinds.
- ii. Stained Glass windows  
-A representative from a company in Minnesota visited, spending 3 hours examining the windows. Mike will receive a proposal in a week to ten days. Another company's representative, Martin Faith will visit to do a consultation and prepare a bid. If his firm receives the contract, he will make a presentation to council and congregation. Motion to approve expenditure of \$1875 from the window fund to bring Martin Faith for a consultation. **M/S/P**

**VIII. Financial Reports:**

(30 min)

A. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

-Theresa will amend maintenance report for payments made in September to Roger and Mike and resend to council.

- 1. Approve August Bills Paid **M/S/P**

B. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

New Program for financial secretary – Finalize

-Joelle recommends a program that will combine all different financial and management practices into one program and will eliminate all double entries. Training and set-up should be ready by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

-Motion that Joelle speak to local users of the program and proceed with purchase if reports are favorable. **M/S/P**

**IX. Pastor's Report**

(IX – XI 10 min)

**X. Task Assignments**

- Joelle will contact Jim about serving on the Endowment Fund Committee.
- Pastor Val will follow up with Synod Affordable Housing Initiative meeting and work with Theresa on upcoming health Insurance recommendations.
- Theresa will amend maintenance reports.
- Theresa and Phil will use the new program to see how it works for them.
- Carrie will catch up on Stephen Ministry materials
- Joelle will contact churches about new financial program.

**XI. Adjournment and closing prayer 7:06**





## PASTOR'S REPORT September 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

### OUTREACH

Visits at homes or parks during good weather  
Coordinate with ministry leader as needed  
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:

Bible Study with Shane Claiborne and Perkins Foundation on Zoom  
Reading: *Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma and Ministry* by Dr. Deanna Thompson  
Spiritual Direction Supervision Group

### OTHER ACTIVITIES in September

#### OFFICIAL ACTS:

None

#### ADMINISTRATIVE:

Gift policy work w/ committee and ELCA advisor  
Synod meetings: All pastor's Zoom; Conference Deans Zoom  
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  
Planning for in-person worship and streaming worship

#### YOUTH/FAMILY/EDUCATION:

StoryTime in Worship – the story for all ages, targeting children who cannot be vaccinated and so are not in person in worship  
Confirmation planning with Madison

#### OUTREACH:

God's Work Our Hands  
Synod Affordable Housing Initiative meeting

#### FELLOWSHIP:

Stephen's Ministry materials – located and sent to team leader  
Advent through Epiphany Devotional planned and distributed

#### VACATION:

Sept 2 through Sept 14

#### UPCOMING:

JustFaith: A Biblical Perspective – New groups beginning in October  
Reformation and Affirmation of Baptism for Madison Winter – Oct. 31st



# NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

## November 7

**Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Steve Swanson; **Communion Assistant:** Suzan Stegemoeller & Darci Jewitt; **Ushers/Greeters:** Marge Kelling & Carrie Erwin; **Depositors:** Joelle Buckman & Mark Ostwald; **Communion set-up:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Amy

## November 14

**Liturgist:** Curtis Steinhauer; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Dee Erickson; **Communion Assistant:** Mark Smalley & Phil Stegemoeller; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mike & Arlene O'Connor; **Depositors:** Carmon Shaw & Greg Johnstone; **Communion set-up:** Laura Carle; **Stream Team:** Joe

## November 21

**Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Arlene Torgerson; **Communion Assistant:** Cynthia Johnstone & Joe Fernandez; **Ushers/Greeters:** Joan and William Rabung; **Depositors:** Karen Barkstrom & Joelle Buckman; **Communion set-up:** Carmon Shaw; **Stream Team:** Steve

## November 28

**Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Joelle Buckman; **Communion Assistant:** Carrie Erwin & Darci Jewitt; **Ushers/Greeters:** Tim and Pam Alstrom; **Depositors:** Greg Johnstone & Mark Ostwald; **Communion set-up:** Tara Main; **Stream Team:** Hiedi

**Darci and Maizie Jane Jewitt and Eilidh Channel express joy after having their precious dog blessed!**

*Photo submitted by Diane Hanson*



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



## SEPTEMBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Checking			\$ 10,258.85
-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			\$ 2,244.57
-Chaplain's Dinner			\$ 215.54
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 21,113.88
			\$ -
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 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 QUILTING 9AM-12PM JUST FAITH 5:30PM-7:30PM	4	5 SCRAPBOOK 6PM-10PM	6 AA 7PM-8:30PM
7 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 10 AM WORSHIP DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 HANDSEWERS 9AM-3PM	10 JUST FAITH 5:30PM-7:30PM	11 VETERANS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	12	13 AA 7PM-8:30PM
14 CRANBERRIES DUE FOR THANKSGIVING BASKETS 10 AM WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:15 @ Sam Beem Park	15 OFFICE CLOSED DEVOTIONAL WRITING DUE INTO OFFICE	16	17 QUILTING 9AM-12PM JUST FAITH 5:30PM-7:30PM	18	19 SCRAPBOOK 6PM-10PM	20 AA 7PM-8:30PM
21 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 10 AM WORSHIP PIE AUCTION	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 HANDSEWERS 9AM-3PM COUNCIL MEETING 6PM	24	25 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED 	27 AA 7PM-8:30PM
28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30			<b>NOVEMBER</b>	

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL DECEMBER 14— Meet at Sam Benn Park at 11: 15

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—December 21st in worship

CHRISTMAS BASKETS- 125 cans of cranberries due at the church by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.



**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