

# ***THE SPIRIT***

## ***MARCH 2016***



HE IS  
**Risen**

**“All are welcome”** It’s a common tag line in Christian churches. It’s on signs, letterhead, newspaper ads. It’s everywhere. But, what does it mean? Everyone means everyone right? John 3:16 certainly does not sound as if God has qualifiers in mind: “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son.” (Message version) God loves THE WORLD. The **whole** world, not even only humanity, but **the world**. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Jesus’ ministry certainly did not appear to be only for certain people. He kept annoying and confusing his disciples by eating with the wrong people, staying in the homes of THOSE people, touching the untouchable! Jesus searched out the most miserable, the most despised and he spent time with them, eating, listening, teaching, living.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Holy week serves as a microcosm of life and faith and gives a glimpse into who ALL includes. It begins with hopeful possibilities. Palm Sunday is all hosannas, and cheers, and openness to Jesus’ possibilities. But, by **Thursday** things get a little more REAL. Jesus washes the feet of the disciples; ALL the disciples, including Judas who will betray him, preparing the way for **Good Friday’s** brutality. Confrontation, abuse, lies and death: death to Jesus and to those gathered in the sweep of criminals; death to the hope of Palm Sunday; death to the disciple’s dreams of new possibility. Good Friday is the hard truth we’d all rather ignore and very often do, until we can no longer avoid it. Death is real. Our time here is fleeting. There is an end to all things.

**Saturday** is silence; dreaded silence even though that’s where Elijah found God (1 Kings 19:11-13).



## ***AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH of Grays Harbor***

### **VISION**

A welcoming place  
where grace happens!

### **MISSION**

To experience and  
share God’s love  
through worship, edu-  
cation and community

### **VALUES**

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

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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Finally **Easter**, RESURRECTION. Hope is born out of the tomb. God's love will not be bound by time or space or flesh. Love, not power, is the ultimate truth of the universe! And this love is for ALL PEOPLE! NO QUALIFICATIONS. NO DISTINCTIONS: betrayers, crucifiers, sinners! All means ALL. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

The latest Lutheran Magazine's lead article states that, *"People are looking for three things in a church. One, a warm community that loves and follows Jesus; two, a place where they can learn something; and three, a church that is doing something to transform the world."* Pastor Craig Mueller is quoted in the article saying, "What I'm finding these days in organized religion is **that the welcome is the main thing connecting people**. All churches say, 'You are welcome,' but *part of that welcome is whoever you love or marry is welcome, too and whatever you may think of church or organized religion, you are welcome.*" He says that "young adults today want to feel that they can come and go on their own terms and they'll be given their space. They need to know that they won't be asked to be on a committee." That can be scary for people whose greatest concern is maintaining the programs and keeping the doors open. Mueller goes on to say, "We've forgotten what we're called to do – we're not here to keep the clubhouse open. *We're called to bring God's word and we must do it in new and different ways.*"

As we gather for these last few weeks of Lent and then for the mystery and beauty of Holy Week, I hope you will feel the profound welcome God extends to you through every aspect of worship and life at Amazing Grace. But, also, let your attention be guided to see not only how YOU are welcomed by the community of Amazing Grace but how our words, our actions, our building, our music, our EVERYTHING is welcoming and IS NOT welcoming certain groups of people. **God erects NO barriers or boundaries around God's love and God's welcome extended to all people for the healing and salvation of the world. We are called to extend that welcome and to change anything that may prevent that welcome from being known by everyone!**

I give thanks for you, every one of you, dear church!

Pastor Val



### **HYMNFEST!**

**9:45 a.m.**

**March 6th**

*Come to sing some of your favorite hymns.*

Kris Burns will provide the music. You can request your favorite hymns .... and we will sing them! The Hymn Fest happens the first Sunday of each month.



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

# Holy Saturday

## A SPACE BETWEEN GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER

We don't pay a lot of attention to Holy Saturday other than as our day of preparation for Easter Sunday. The youth group needs to get ready for the Easter breakfast. The altar guild is busy arranging lilies and preparing the altar. Grocery stores are filled. Eggs are dyed. We are occupied with busy anticipation. We have moved on from Good Friday. Even the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night looks forward to and heralds the resurrection.

We, of course, live after the first Easter. We do know how the story turns out, and it would be contrived to be in Holy Saturday as if we didn't know about the resurrection. But we are given this one holy day to pause. We are given this holy space to grieve, to be empty, to realize that life, as we know it, is over.

This is deeply uncomfortable in our culture. We see this on the news when people start to speak about closure immediately after a tragedy. This could be a well-meaning attempt to relieve the pain, but it doesn't heal. There is danger in moving too quickly from grief. It is important to resist the urge to usher the afflicted to "closure."

Grief from Sandy Hook, Mother Emmanuel, Katrina, San Bernardino and other tragedies cannot be rushed. None of the Good Fridays in our lives can. The resurrection came after an actual death. The crucifixion was not a metaphor. A heart stopped beating. He breathed his last. A son died. Mothers in Syria and El Salvador and the South Side of Chicago stand at the cross.

But Holy Saturday is more than the necessary and holy space to face death without denial and to grieve without the dulling anesthetic of sentimentality. There is something much deeper going on. It is an invitation to accept that life, as we know it, is over. All of our plans, all of our willfulness and all of our good intentions are over.



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4	Francis Beeman
5	Jim Erickson
6	Lana Lile
7	Tom Dickson
	Hayley Erickson
9	William Rabung
10	Connie Chillman
	Steven Kincaid
11	Scott Laird
15	Laura Carle
20	Mary Ann Majar
22	John Kincaid
	Craig Teveliet
24	Tim Leithold
	Josie Weiberg
26	Moonbeam Kupka
27	Jordan Weiberg
28	Michael Pellessier

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

11	Dennis and Donna Morrisette
15	Mark Smalley and Trish Safstrom
20	Bob and Mary Ellen Salmon



*{PLEASE LET THE CHURCH  
OFFICE KNOW IF WE NEED TO  
ADD OR DELETE NAMES.  
THANKS SO MUCH!}*

On Holy Saturday we are invited to shed our life and enter the tomb. Our effort and righteousness as much as our sin bind us. Our effort to save our lives binds us. This is true as much for the church as it is for each member.

I'm grateful for the faithful innovation and hard work of our people and congregations. I'm not so far removed from parish ministry that I don't remember its struggles as well as its joys. There is something noble and dear about saints who come week after week, year after year to hear and receive the gospel and, as a response to grace, participate in God's reconciling work in the world. But there comes a time to take to heart Jesus' teaching: "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

The day between Good Friday and Easter can be seen as empty, a void, something to be resisted at all costs, something to be filled. It is the same reaction that many in our culture have to silence. It's as if sound and activity prove that we still exist. But I think the space between crucifixion and resurrection — truly terrifying and truly compassionate — beckons us from our life to life in Christ. After all, it wasn't all the noise and fireworks that got Elijah's attention, but the sound of sheer silence (1 Kings 19:11-13).

When we shed our lives and enter the tomb, when silence is all around, then we see that Jesus is already there ahead of us, anticipating us, welcoming us to be still and to die in him and find our life in him. Rest, dear church.

Bishop Eaton



**PRAYING FOR...** Lauren, Val Sullivan, William Burns, Tracy Miner, Kay Frogen and family, Wayne Herron, Harold and Molly Johnson, Dianne Rabung, Geri Stubb, Richard Kraiger, Melvin Thompson, Gene, those experiencing homelessness and addiction; the young people and workers at the Youth Center, those who are incarcerated, our brothers and sisters in Christ in our companion synod in Namibia.

*(We periodically edit the prayer list, since we often don't get updates on the people we're praying for.. Please contact the office at 832-8250 or by email [amazing111@comcast.net](mailto:amazing111@comcast.net) to let us know of prayers you want added or deleted. And thank you for letting us know how prayers have been answered.)*



# Thanks We Have Received

## ***Dear Friends from AGLC:***

Thank you for your generosity and gift of \$740.41 to Heifer International. The end of extreme poverty is within our grasp, and your help matters. Your commitment to helping others gives hope to families who once struggled with hunger and poverty and provides the foundation for strong farming families.

Families in rural villages in places like Peru, India, and Ghana have more secure futures to look forward to as well, because of your generosity. Best of all, through Heifer's tradition of Passing on the Gift, your gift will be multiplied for many seasons to come.

Thank you for investing in Heifer International to help make a better world—one family at a time.

**Sincerely,  
Pierre U. Ferrari, President and CEO**

- Dear Friends at Amazing Grace Lutheran—Thank you for your gift amounts of 55.46 and 38.81 for the month of February in support of this ministry. Each of you who support this ministry play a vital part in each one of these lives. You make it possible to keep the doors open and obtain the supplies needed to help these men accomplish.

Sincerely,  
Gary R. Rowell, Executive Director  
Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor

- Thank you so much for your February 3, 2016 gift of \$55.46, given in support of Living Stones Prison Ministry. Thank you for participating in God's work at Living Stones Prison Congregation with your visit to join our men in worship on Saturday. Your leadership has been instrumental in developing support in this ministry.
- Thank you for your February 16, 2016 gift of \$55.46 to the PLU Fund.  
Pacific Lutheran University

*Thank You*



- Quilter's—What a wonderful soup luncheon. Thank you for all your service that you do year-round!
- To all of you who contributed to the Valentines for college students—Thank you for the goodies. I imagine the students appreciated a special treat in the mail. A special thank you to everyone who helped package and mail out the Valentines too!
- Thank you Arlene, Hiedi, Steve, and Val, for visiting Living Stones Prison Ministry and sharing God's love through your presence.

- Your participation is really appreciated in welcoming our friends from the Islamic Center during their visit. The fellowship service was excellent and conversation was so interesting and meaningful. Thank you to all that joined in the gathering—and to Carmon for taking photos and having them printed.
- Thank you again for all the help with the meals while I was on bed rest.

***Chrissie Kincaid***

*Also, I am working on plans for when baby Shelby Marie Kincaid arrives and am planning on canning some baby food for her over the summer. I was wondering if any of you had small canning jars that are not in use any more and wanting to get rid of. If you do, I would be glad to take them off your hands. Chrissie*

- Thanks to Roger Shaw for the beautiful music cabinet. We can finally organize our music and instruments! Stop by to see it by the organ on your way to fellowship next week!
- Special thanks to all of you who help make our coffee hour and fellowship time enjoyable with your service in preparing refreshments and treats year-around!
- Thanks to the maintenance crew for projects completed that are ALMOST too numerous to name! (But I'll try :) ) Power washing the front steps and the parking lot; Re-keying the building (Special thanks to Ray Hodge for several trips to get keys made!!); painting the office bathroom springy yellow; fixing the door to the scary attic; removing old baseboard heaters and painting the walls; fixing the wall behind Pastor Val's desk.
- Thanks to the Amazing Women who went on retreat in February, making the time fun and faith—growing.
- Thanks to Mark Smalley for leading council in a great retreat, preparing us for another year of faithfully serving the congregation and God.



## **Syrian Refugee Update**

Lutheran World Relief (LWR), with your help, has provided School Kits for classrooms in Damascus, Syria; Quilts & Kits for families in refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan. Now LWR is providing Quilts & Kits to refugees who have reached Serbia. Since Oct 2012, LWR has shipped more than \$7 million in quilts and kits to Syrian refugees. And the needs keep growing. LWR also supports the ACT Alliance, a coalition of more than 140 churches and faith-based organizations providing aid to refugees in Greece, Hungary, and Serbia. Please continue your wonderful support of both Quilts and Kits.

### **Faith in Action — Quilts and Kits Ramp Up Refugee Crisis Response**

By Nate King, LWR's Program Assistant for Constituent Engagement

IN PAST ISSUES, WE HAVE SHARED STORIES ABOUT LWR'S WORK IN ASSISTING SYRIANS SUFFERING FROM VIOLENCE AND DISCORD IN THEIR HOMELAND. We've told you about the gift of School Kits for children in classrooms in Damascus, Syria. We've shared about the impact of Quilts and Kits for children and families in refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan. Now, as many refugees have fled into Europe, we're excited to tell you that your Quilts and Kits are reaching Serbia.

For families finally arriving in Europe, their arrival means the end of a months-long journey with very few personal belongings. Your gifts of Quilts, Personal Care Kits, School Kits and Baby Care Kits are making their way into the hands of Syrian refugee families in Serbia. The need is incredible. Over the first seven months of 2015, the number of migrants and refugees applying for asylum in Serbia was nearly 250 percent greater than the number of people seeking asylum over the same period in 2014. About 15 percent of these and migrants are preschool and school-age children. For a child arriving in a refugee camp, an LWR School Kit can mean the opportunity to attend school for the first time in many months.

LWR's Carrie Taneyhill manages the process for sending shipments of Mission Quilts and Kits overseas, and she emphasizes the importance of these materials in the response to the crisis.

"Since winter is coming, these Quilts will provide much needed warmth to refugees who have arrived with no possessions," says Carrie Taneyhill. "LWR Kits provide refugees with items that are greatly needed but are unable to be purchased due to their cost."

Since October 2012, LWR has shipped more than \$7 million in Quilts and Kits to Syrian refugees. Your dedication and time make these efforts possible, as you graciously craft and assemble gift after gift for a person you will never meet.

## UNION GOSPEL MISSION

**Reminder:** Jill Waite's Team— serves **Tuesday, March 1st**

Jill Waite, Leader      Doris Tieder      Suzan Stegemoeller      Dee Erickson  
Shawn Dickson      Jeannette Green      The director of UGM says that we can expect to serve about **50 people**.

They need food delivered before 7PM so that they know what is coming



## HELPING GRAYS HARBOR'S AT-RISK YOUTH

The 1st Sunday of each month we highlight the needs of the at-risk youth in our community. Our Caring Cupboard is a one-stop donation site for the Gravity Center, Youth Center and other entities that serve Grays Harbor Youth.

**Youth Center** needs include:

pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars

snack size bags of chips or pretzels

Peanut butter or cheese crackers

individually packed bags of veggies and/or ranch

Lunch meat

### **G.R.A.V.I.T.Y. Program**

Typical Gravity Center kids are experiencing poverty and neglect.

The kids are always hungry and can always use:

Cup of Noodles, Instant cocoa packets

Bread, peanut butter and jelly, Canned tuna, Cookies and fruit



In addition the **teen parents** need:

Diapers Size 1 or larger, baby wipes

soaps or lotions, clothes, bottles

Children's Tylenol, diaper rash creams.

These items may be left in the basket in the Parish Hall  
for pick up and delivery by Vicki Mitchell.

## UNDER THE BRIDGE MINISTRY

**The sandwiches served under the bridge are a tangible expression of love of God for people that our community has in many ways given up on.** You can help by bringing sandwich making materials: bread, lunchmeat, and condiments to the church by March 13, or you could offer Paula Elder some help by making sandwiches once a month. Please contact the office or talk with her about how you can help. Sandwiches will be served on March 16 . Thank you!





## ST PATRICK'S DAY CORNED BEEF DINNER

The food-fundraising-fellowship-fun committee is kicking off the year with our annual St Patrick's Day dinner with all the trimmings, **Sunday, March 13th at 5:00 pm** in the Parish Hall. Please e-mail the office Judi Hubbard at [jhubbard1952@comcast.net](mailto:jhubbard1952@comcast.net) to let us know you will be attending. As always---all the fixins will be enjoyed by chefs Mike and Karen Barkstrom. IF you prefer a chicken dinner--please let us know ahead of time. The cost will be \$20 for adults \$5 for children under age 10 Adult beverages will be available for donation. We ( or you ) will be singing through the dinner. Raffle tickets will be available for a basket provided by Donna Morrisette.



If you are willing to help Eileen Schermer with some soda bread--PLEASE let her know.

This is always a fun evening--please invite your friends

## LIVING STONES PRISON CONGREGATION FUNDRAISER

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016 from 2-4pm for the Living Stones Prison Ministry second annual fundraising event "Our Father's Day".** We are heading south this year to St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 5607 NE Gher Rd, Vancouver, Washington 98662. We thank our friends at St. Andrew for agreeing to host. Help us celebrate ALL fathers by donating a new or gently used item for the silent auction. Contact contact Pam Deacon-Joyner at [pamdj27@gmail.com](mailto:pamdj27@gmail.com) or 253-590-8068 with your donation information. If you plan to donate a baked item please contact Verna Westman at [Verna.westman@gmail.com](mailto:Verna.westman@gmail.com) or 360-273-0595.



Caring for someone with memory loss? Do you need information and support?

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month 1:00-2:30pm at

First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen—420 N. Broadway St

Contact Group Facilitator: Helen Morning Star 360.533.2277



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2016 6:15 pm



In attendance: Mark Smalley, Theresa Kaufman, Kristine Finazzo, Chris Seelke, Val Metropoulos, Diane Hanson, Mike Kupka, Amy Ostwald, Mike Barkstrom, Susan Troy

*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.*

Call to Order

Faith Five based on next week's reading – Pastor (Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless)

Assign Prayer Task -Thanksgiving & Praise - Chris- Intercession & Petition - Diane

Assign Time Keeper and Opinion Collector Tasks - Kristine

Establish Quorum

Review and Approve Agenda – **MSP**

Review, correct and approve minutes of last meeting, January 12, 2016 - **MSP**

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

She will follow up with City of Aberdeen for water bill being so high.

Confirmed that Noisy Offering's should be recorded as a pass-through liability as each offering/collection does indeed have a single specific purpose.

January's missed Pastor Sabbatical entry will be made in February.

On the Income vs. Expense spreadsheet, Endowment entry duplication will be corrected. Fund Raising amount will be corrected also.

Mike would like income vs expense page 2 to be included in minutes and SPIRIT.

Transactions by Account - **MSP**

New Signature cards –Mike B. has agreed to be a signer for checks along with Theresa

**MSP** – Taking off Chrissie and Jeannette and adding Theresa and Mike B

**MSP** – Office Credit Card to be in Council President's name

Financial Secretary's Report – Mike Kupka

Mike K shall be gone the month of April and Jim Weiberg has volunteered to fulfill the duties during his absence.

Business items

- ◇ Scheduling the Vice President position- sign up for three months at a time – Mark  
Diane agreed to cover for January, February, March -- Chris will cover April, May and June.
- ◇ Review the annual meeting – Mark  
**MSP** – Approval of annual meeting minutes with changes noted.  
Diane added that people really enjoyed the potluck and décor for the event. Mike B shared some of the questions about the budget and recommended simplifying the report to make it easier to understand for the congregation.
- ◇ Installation of Council – February 14<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ Chairs for the fellowship hall – Kristine -- She will be purchasing them from Costco.  
Goal is to have chairs by March 17.
- ◇ Youth Center, Basketball – Pastor Val— **MSP**- Approved to put hoop in AG parking lot for youth
- ◇ Keyboard given to Edward – Pastor Val

- ◇ Hearing assistance box and charging station – Kristine  
Batteries do need to get recharged. Kristine will discuss the humming problem with the sound crew.
- ◇ Council Retreat on February 27th – Mark & Pastor -- Breakfast will be at 9am.  
Mark requested volunteers for food service.  
Val - *Life Cycle of a Church* and *Asset Mapping*
- ◇ Pastor's Housing Allowance – Mark-- Housing allowance for Pastor - ELCA guidelines met
- ◇ Guidelines: Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan -- **MSP** – Approve guidelines as written
- ◇ Reformation 500 year Anniversary – 2017 – Pastor  
Different Coordinators for different parts of the preparation are being recruited. Vicki M would like to be involved.. The altar cleaning project is fully funded.

## Ministry Reports

### Fellowship – Chris Seelke

Easter is March 27 and he will be looking for volunteers for Easter breakfast (Gene, Ray, Jim) Kristine suggested 'Pew Pals' as an activity. Chris will be adding an article into the SPIRIT. He would like to move forward again on a 'Hospitality Team' to welcome new visitors with a small token of kindness. Kristine mentioned bringing back welcome packets. Chris added that *blessing of the animals* was well-received and would like to see this happen again – outdoors.

Worship – Diane Hanson-- Looking forward to LENT services and the focus of prayer. Altar painting has been postponed until after Easter.

### Property – Mike Barkstrom

Will get together with maintenance crew and create a priority list; goal to fix any water leaks in the building. Roof work will be costly. Expressed thanks for trusting him in his council position.

### Outreach – Kristine Finazzo

70+ dinner - Feedback was positive from those who attended and had good attendance. Valentine packages were put together and sent to the students.

### Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald

Sunday school going well and moving through the narrative lectionary curriculum successfully with help from all teachers. Val - Youth group is also going well with involvement from partner churches. Mission Trip this summer still being researched and will be presented to youth and families soon.

Pastor's Report was shared with council members.

Continuing Studies – "Understanding our Muslim Neighbor"

Prepare to host visit on February 21<sup>st</sup> – Gather in Parish Hall after worship

Lenten study – Ash Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>

Inserts in bulletins with calendar of events during LENT

## Task Assignments:

- ◇ Kristine and Amy will discuss chairs
- ◇ Bob and Keith organize hearing impaired equipment
- ◇ Mark to talk with Hank about budget
- ◇ Bringing food to council retreat
- ◇ Add financial report into SPIRIT – Theresa

## PASTOR'S REPORT – JANUARY 2016

**WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP** 4 Sunday worship services; Chose hymns and liturgy for Epiphany and began Lent worship planning  
Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing  
Prayer  
Bible Study based on upcoming weekly readings weekly  
Meet with ministry leader as needed  
Meet and plan with Choir director  
Plan with clergy group for community Lent services – 3X  
Plan with new drama leader for worship  
Lead Islam study

**ADMINISTRATION** Annual report: writing, editing, formatting; statistical report  
Work with office administrator: bulletins, newsletter; annual report  
Council meeting monthly; Exec. Comm. Meeting  
Newsletter - writing, proofing, editing  
Mutual Ministry committee  
Meet with treasurer as needed

**FELLOWSHIP/PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING** Women's Retreat 2/5-2/7  
Pastoral care as needed  
Rivercity support  
Coordinate with ministry leader as needed  
Meet with quilters 2 times a month

**OUTREACH/VISITATION** Coordinated outreach to Islamic Center in Olympia  
Hospital visits  
Coordinate help for homeless family  
Facebook page – outreach through social media.  
Meet with homeless individuals, CCS support staff and pastors to plan  
Coordinate with Youth Center supervisor  
Homebound & assisted living visits  
Local pastors meeting – monthly, hosted at A.G. looking for ways to partner and support ministry  
Outreach ministry meeting of all interested

**BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE** Set up for Bible study

**YOUTH AND FAMILY** Message for young people weekly  
Planning/leading Youth Group with 1<sup>st</sup> Presb and alone

**STEWARDSHIP** Study and integrate into sermons

**OFFICIAL ACTS** (Baptisms, funerals, weddings) 2 baptisms in January: 1 adult, 1 child

**VACATION** 1 day in January

**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**

**Reading:** *Learning to Pray Again* by Rinehart; *Jesus Freak* by Miles; *Help Thanks Wow* by LaMott; *A Spirituality of Living* by Nouwen

**SYNOD EVENTS:** Prayer Retreat and Bishop's convocation; Islamic Center Visit 1/29

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Study of Islam 2/14 and hosting delegation from Olympia Islamic Center 2/21  
Living Stones Prison worship at Shelton prison 2/13



## BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Notes	Balance
Checking	1/31/2016		\$51,213.95
Fund Raising account	1/31/2016		\$99.49
Maintenance Fund	1/31/2016		\$5,404.72
Memorial Savings	1/31/2016		\$4,476.84
The Mikkel Thompson Concert	1/31/2016		\$1,648.93
Caring Cupboard	1/31/2016		\$318.62
endowment	1/31/2016		\$5,974.85
Youth account	1/31/2016		\$1,821.3
Bells	1/31/2016		\$508.95
Chairs	1/31/2016		\$1,000
Reformation Fund	1/31/2016		\$3,282.75
Outreach funds	1/31/2016		\$500
CCS-quilts	1/31/2016		\$119.51
Alter restore	1/31/2016		\$2,475

### **No one beyond God's reach**

I was reminded that "no one is beyond God's reach" on our recent visit to the Shelton prison for its Saturday evening church service. While I've been to several prisons over the years as part of an educational activity, I had never gone to church in a prison.

We were welcomed by Pastor Norm Arnold who directed us through the security process. You might remember that Pastor Norm has preached at our church a few times. He told us that the men enjoy the presence of "regular" people and that they appreciate the opportunity to engage with folks in a more positive way than they experience most of the time. Our presence also sends a message that they are not forgotten human beings.

The area for the service was a large and inviting space with about 75 chairs. A group of musicians arrived early to practice the songs for the evening. It was clear that these were songs they had selected and in some case written. This group of men play a key role in the worship experience. After a while, another 30 or so men arrived. Most shook our hands and thanked us for coming. They were very respectful and pleasant.

While Pastor Norm is Lutheran, it wasn't a typical Lutheran church service. Liturgy and order of service as we know it was modified a bit but it was clear that it was a comfortable and meaningful format for the men who were there. A couple of times, Pastor Norm even asked if he could have an "Amen!" after he shared something about the powerful love that Jesus has for them. Have yet to hear that request at any other Lutheran church I've attended! It was fun!

The message made it clear that "no one is beyond God's reach". All are valuable and can have a relationship with Christ and know His love and salvation.

I found the experience of prayer and worship with these men to be positive and humbling. The Holy Spirit was present in that room and was touching us all.

If the opportunity arises in the future for you to visit, I encourage you to go. It is a powerful reminder of how Christ works not only in these men's lives but ours. *Blessings, Arlene Torgerson*



# CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Mark Smalley	(360) 249-1955	<a href="mailto:marktrish86@gmail.com">marktrish86@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Theresa Kaufman	(360) 537-1190	<a href="mailto:theresamarie4739.2@gmail.com">theresamarie4739.2@gmail.com</a>
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Endowment	Keith Lile	(360) 580-1511	<a href="mailto:ole.canoe.guy@gmail.com">ole.canoe.guy@gmail.com</a>
Pastor	Val Metropoulos	(360) 580-8977	<a href="mailto:vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu">vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu</a>
Office Administrator	Susan Troy	(360) 532-8250	<a href="mailto:amazing111@comcast.net">amazing111@comcast.net</a>



# MARCH 2016 Worship Assistants

## **March 6**

Liturgist:	Charles Scamman
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Molly Leithold
Communion Assistant:	Communion at the Rail
Ushers/Greeters:	Jeannette and Madi Green
Depositors:	Ray Hodge & Heidi Seelke
Fellowship:	Schlaht, Cogburn, Revel, Trader, Bartholomew

## **March 13**

Liturgist:	Keith Lile
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Kristine Finazzo
Communion Assistant:	Amanda Kaufman
Ushers/Greeters:	Theresa Kaufman and Family
Depositors:	Eileen Schermer, Carmon Shaw
Fellowship:	Finazzo, Evanson, Ellingsen, Hubbard, Waite, Winters

## **March 20 – Palm Sunday**

Liturgist:	Hank Bilderback
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Michelle Weiberg
Communion Assistant:	Keith Lile
Ushers/Greeters:	Mike & Judi Hubbard
Depositors:	Karen Barkstrom & Mike Hubbard
Fellowship:	Roger & Carmon Shaw, Keith & Lynette Lile



## **March 24 –Maundy Thursday**

Reader	Jill Waite
Communion Assistant	Joan Rabung

## **March 25- Good Friday**

Reader	Steve Swanson
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## **March 27 - Easter Sunday**

Liturgist:	Jeannette Green
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Richard Kraiger
Communion Assistant:	Laura Carle
Ushers/Greeters:	Richard & Naomi Kraiger
Depositors:	Pete Majar, Mark Ostwald
Fellowship:	No Fellowship – Men Cook Breakfast





## LENT – 40 DAYS OF RENEWAL

- 3/2 5:30-7    **Amazing Grace (soup-5:30; study-6)**
- 3/9 5:30-7    **COMMUNITY LENT GATHERING Aber Methodist**  
**(soup-5:30; study-6)**
- 3/16 5:30-7    **Amazing Grace (soup-5:30; study-6)**
- 3/23 5:30-7    **COMMUNITY LENT GATHERING @ United Christian**  
**Church                      (soup-5:30; study-6)**
- 3/24 7 pm    **Amazing Grace MAUNDY — THURSDAY WORSHIP**
- 3/25 7pm    **Amazing Grace GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP**
- 3/26 7:45 pm **Easter Vigil w/ St. Andrews Episcopal Church**
- 3/27 10am    **EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP**

*Amazing  
Grace*





**AMAZING GRACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF GRAYS HARBOR**



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

**Ministers:** The People of Amazing Grace  
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Pastor Val Metropoulos

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

**Office Administrator:** Susan Troy

**Liturgists:** Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile,  
Laura Carle, Jeannette Green, and Charles Scammen

**Musicians:** Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke,  
Geri Stubb, Jeni Kaufman

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