

THE SPIRIT

October 2022

Amazing
Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF GRAYS HARBOR



“The Spirit leads us downward. To the bottom, to the place of humility, to the position and posture of service . . . Brian McLaren

In last month’s newsletter I offered some of Brian McLaren’s thoughts on what it means to be the church together, specifically his ideas about how the Holy Spirit leads us when we have the humility to stop and listen and are willing to follow wherever the Spirit leads us.

In the last two months of the season of discipleship before Advent begins and we dive deep into what it means that God was born among us, as one of us, we should not miss the opportunity to do just that: **stop and listen and receive the Holy Spirit’s guidance with humility.**

We do this individually as we prepare our hearts through prayer. I commend to you the practice of Centering Prayer which has the power to radically reshape you, ready or not, if you let it. It is a deceptively simple yet life-changing form of prayer that requires only that you simply **SHOW UP** and let God be God for you. Sounds simple. There is nothing harder. We sit day after day as beginners welcoming God to form us, ex-

pecting nothing, asking only to be open to the presence of God. (See the basics of Centering Prayer on the next page.)

We do this as communally as we gather weekly, returning again and again to the prayers and songs, scripture and meal that have the power to shape us, mature us, and sustain us through all of life’s changes.

Diana Butler Bass suggests that our lives as Christians are shaped as Jesus’ life was shaped by the repeating cycle of: **TABLE - trial - cross - tomb – TABLE**. We gather at the table where Christ is host and meal. We are sent out into the world (together) to face the trials and bear the crosses that life hands us, to face the tombs that we inevitably encounter at points in our lives. And then we return again to the table (together!)

There is no other group that gathers in this way, no social group that will tell you the truth about who you are and love you and celebrate you and promise to walk with you through whatever life hands you!

Everything we do as a church is for this purpose – to live together as disciples of Jesus for the sake of our witness in word and action to the limitless love, grace and mercy of God. May we sustain one another on this journey, dear siblings in Christ! *Pastor Val*



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

He was a young man. In his early 20s. He had cancer. His mother and stepfather cared for him to the point of weariness. The family was unchurched, but a friend was a member of our parish and asked if I could visit them. That's how I came to walk with them in the last months.

There were hospitalizations and finally palliative care. The young man endured with stoic courage. His mother and stepfather never wavered in their care. Friends supported the family by bringing meals and sometimes just sitting in silence with them. At last, the call I knew was coming came. The young man had died.

I drove to the farmhouse past the cemetery where he would be buried. When I arrived the stepfather opened the door and motioned me to the living room. The young man had died in his mother's arms. He had stopped shaving some weeks before, so his beard had grown in. Mother cradling the body of her dead son. **It was a modern-day pietà.**

In my time with the family, I found out that the stepfather was not baptized. I'll call him Jim. We had many talks sitting at the wooden kitchen table—some profound, some less so.

And Jim had questions: not so much why this had happened to his stepson, but where was God? Where was hope? He knew his wife and son had been baptized. Jim wanted to know what that meant, what difference it made.

I answered **that God was with Jim's stepson in his pain. I explained that baptism was the gift of life that brought forgiveness, that baptism made us part of the body of Christ, the church, and that**

CENTERING PRAYER

1. Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.
2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly, and silently introduce the sacred word.
3. When you become aware of thoughts, return ever-so-gently to the sacred word.
4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence for a couple of minutes.

WE ARE WOVEN TOGETHER

baptism made those who had been strangers from God and each other part of the same family. I told him that baptism was an unbreakable relationship between God and God's people because God loves us and doesn't want to lose a single one of us, that not even death can separate us from God's love.

Jim asked to be baptized. He came to the realization that, as it has been said, water really is thicker than blood. **Baptism doesn't guarantee a life without struggle or hardship, but it makes us part of the one who suffered, died and was buried—and who, through that suffering and death, defeated death.** So, at that wooden kitchen table with a stainless steel mixing bowl filled with water, Jim was baptized into Christ.

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:3-5).

We have been through a difficult season in our country and our church. I'm not sure if we will ever completely understand the effects of the pandemic's stress on all of us. The pandemic laid bare racial inequities and disparities in access to medical care, housing, employment and law enforcement. Civic discourse has become coarse and mean. Life is seen as a zero-sum game—if your side gets something then mine loses out.

This is also played out in the church. Of course

there is room for debate and disagreement, there is room to call out one part of the church when it has hurt another. There is even room for justified anger. But **there is no room to dissolve the bond of baptism. It isn't even possible. In Christ we are individually members one of another.** Sometimes

we might feel like we are stuck with each other. This is the great mystery and beauty of the wounded body of Christ—we are woven together. Praise the One who makes us one. *Bishop Eaton*

WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality everything and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.
God's people join in prayer for Mackenzie

Murray, Becky Murray, Todd Gwinn, Michael Silver, Molly Rabung, Kris Burns, Laura Carle, Helen Velling, Loretta, Jessica, Mike Barkstrom, Kathy, Vicki Mitchell, David Shaw, Yvette Koerner, Susie Jacobson, Sherry McAllister, Ray and Jean Hodge, Don Mackey, Cher, Linda, Mackenzie Murray, Loyd Gill, Jennifer, Leslie Prash, Jordan, Tom, Tanya Anderson-Bowers, Monica Wilson, Tiffany Powell, Joseph, Courtney, Adrienne, Carl Bender, Philip, Matthew Green and his family and we pray for family and friends mourning the death of Eric Snell. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. And we pray for family and friends mourning the death of Mary. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.



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

October BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Arlene Torgerson, October 30

ANNIVERSARIES:

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



Prayer Chain members who hold our needs, thanks and concerns faithfully before our compassionate God.

Joelle Buckman delivering food to the Food Bank.

Suzan Stegemoeller for organizing a successful and fun God's Work Our Hands and to everyone who served that day!

Carrie Erwin for organizing the potluck for God's Work Our Hands! It was fun!

Diane Hanson for providing photos this month.

Hank Bilderback and other liturgists for leading us so well while Kris was recovering from surgery.

Everyone who contributed to the school kits.

Liz Ellis for cleaning up the landscape and repainting the handicapped sign and stripes.

Joe Fernandez and Keith Lile for so thoroughly researching the A/V needs for the sanctuary and making the information known to the congregation.

Joelle Buckman for her faithful service as council member and president through some very difficult times!

Carmon Shaw for faithfully visiting homebound members bringing them smiles and love.

Tara Main for tackling the work of treasurer

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for donations of \$168 & \$159.96
- **Habitat for Humanity** thanks Amazing Grace for donations of \$43.73 & 159.96
- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$43.73

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH God's Work Our Hands

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Friendship House

*Organized supply room

*Organized clothes in clothing bank area

Steve Swanson
Hank Bilderback
Pastor Val
Debby Colangelo
Suzan Stegemoeller

Total Hours – 11 hours

School Kit Organizing

*Organized supplies for Lutheran World Relief
back to school kits sponsored by Quilters Group

Arlene Torgerson
Marti Debandt
Doris Tieder
Maurita White
Dorothy Stephens
Naomi Kraiger
Annelise Kraiger
Judi Hubbard
Tara Main
Diane Hanson
Kathy Wehage
Darci Jewitt
Maizie Jane Jewitt
Joey Hagedorn

Total Hours - 22



CHAPLAINS DINNER THANK YOU

Thanks to all those that helped with the September 18 Chaplains Dinner. Especially our Amazing Grace cooks, and those that donated food or money: Kathy

Wehage, Joni Hildreth, Tobi Buckman, Mike & Karen Barkstrom, Michele Weiberg, Anneliese Kraiger, Lynette Lile, Pastor Val, Dorothy Stephens, Liz Ellis and Suzan Stegemoeller.

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

BLUE JEAN SUNDAY

October 2

You are invited to join us for 1 hour of weeding following fellowship. Bring gloves and a weeding tool

if you have one. We will focus on tidying up the garden areas around the church to get them ready for fall. Contact Liz Ellis for questions at 206-898-5194



UNION GOSPEL MISSION

October 4 Elaine Lokken, Leader

Marge Kelling, Carmon Shaw, Joni Hildreth, Amy Ostwald,, Debbie Colangelo
Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw: 360-532-2940

Doug from UGM says to plan on 35-45 dinner

guests and to have food there between 3-3:30.

Masks and distancing are no longer required. You may deliver food to the back door in the back alley. Ring the bell by the door and they will come and get the food.

CHAPLAINS DINNER

The next Chaplains Dinner that we provide food for is November 20.

We will need:

- 120 cookies or brownies (buy or bake)
- 120 rolls
- vegetables to feed 120
- 3 cooks to make 2 casseroles each. Recipe, foil pans

& the ingredients are provided to the cooks.

Food will need to be delivered to our church kitchen on Sunday, November 20 around noon. Let Amy Ostwald (or the church office) know if you can help. Amy: aaostwald@gmail.com or 360-482-2306. You may also donate. Send \$ to church office or put in the offering marked for Chaplains Dinner.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER

The organizers of the cold weather shelter are asking for our help! As they send folks out each morning they try to send them with the things they need to stay warm (and ALIVE!) for another day. They need: **socks, gloves and hygiene supplies like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, wet wipes, combs, etc.**



REFUGEE RESPONSE

**Lutheran Community Services
Northwest**

Here are some ways you can help Afghan and Ukrainian refugees **right now**.

Financial assistance

- Supports ongoing case management
- Supports rent and food costs while refugees seek employment
- Assists with legal fees on their path to citizenship

In-kind donations

You can find current needs here: copy & paste links into web browser

Tacoma/Seattle

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/YFFYWACFKJHO?ref_=wl_share

Welcome kits

<https://drive.google.com/file/>

[d/18OYIwalmwO4oaDNtz456445kL9qQIRAB/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18OYIwalmwO4oaDNtz456445kL9qQIRAB/view)

- Beds and mattresses
- Dining room sets
- Gently used couches

Volunteer Support

- Drivers to and from appointments
- English practice partners
- Cultural competency support (i.e. how to navigate a grocery store)
- Highly committed people to interview and prepare for interviews (to gain status of parolee)

We are so thankful for your engagement, support, and generosity as we continue to welcome and serve humans seeking safety in our community.

LCS Northwest Advancement Team

GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

NEW MEMBER CLASS

October 16th & 23rd— If you are interested in becoming a member of Amazing Grace with privileges to vote in elections and serve in leadership on council, please plan to attend class with Pastor Val. **Everyone is welcome to join these classes! This is a great refresher course for**

what it means to be a Lutheran Christian at Amazing Grace!

Please let the office or Pastor Val know if you plan to attend so we can have plenty of materials.

The reception of new members will be at our Reformation celebration 11/30/22.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

20th Anniversary Celebration in early 2023 – A committee is forming to plan this important celebration. It's been 20 years since Our Savior's and Trinity were gathered to become Amazing Grace! We'd love a wide cross section of people to be involved so that there is something for everyone in this celebration. If you would like to be a part of the planning, please let Carrie Erwin know. You can talk to her at Church, email her at mcerwin@comcast.net, or call her at (360) 500-3767.



Marty Debandt (background), Dorothy Stephen's, Doris Tieder, and Maurita White sort and organize school supplies during God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes August 30, 2022

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: 1st Qtr.: Dee; 2nd Qtr.: Joe Fernandez; 3rd Qtr. Suzan, 4th Qtr. Phil

Attendance: In person: Joelle Buckman, Pastor Val, Suzan Stegemoeller, Curtis Steinhauer, Tara Main.

Zoom: Joe Fernandez, Phil Stegemoeller

- I. Review of vision, mission, values and council purpose; Discuss Healthy Congregations(30 min)**
- II. Call to Order** by Pres. Joelle B. 6:04
- III. Establish Quorum**
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda**
 - Under Property iii. Stained glass windows project and delay on windows from Mike Barkstrom
 - Under VIII. 1. Health Insurance
- V. Approve minutes from meetings:** July 26 (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 – Reading Healthy Congregations
 - B. Gift Policy- Endowment Committee is reviewing but council received no feedback. The Gift Policy will be in the January meeting agenda. It will be in the November newsletter.
 - C. Endowment Fund Committee-

- i. By-laws revision-
- ii. Proposed Endowment Spending
- iii. Audit report
- D. Council Meeting Schedule- schedule will be finalized by email
September 20

VII. Ministry team reports: (30 min)

- A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val
 - i. Kris gone for 3 weeks; 1 week covered, other weeks may need alternate format
-Motion to cover the cost of services for the next three Sundays, even though Kris will be absent. **M/S/P**
 - ii. Indigenous People Sunday in fall - 9/25 - coordinate w/ fellowship
-Phil will get in contact with Quinault to purchase Salmon and planning for 60 people. A freewill offering will be taken to help cover the cost.
- B. Outreach – Suzan Stegemoeller
 - Suzan has come up with a rough draft of a kitchen regulation sheet and a facility use contract. Both will be posted in the kitchen. Mission project ideas welcomed.
 - i. Family Promise- Darci Jewitt is the new director.
 - ii. Chaplain's dinner – status of request to serve inside
-Suzan will discuss with the new director.
 - iii. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative – Pastor Val/Curtis
 - iv. God's Work Our Hands Sunday – 9/11
-Two projects are on schedule. Organizing storage room at the Friendship house and sorting the school supply kits with Arlene in charge.
 - v. Tithe Project
- C. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer
 - i. Sunday School- Will start September 18. Shayna or Curtis will teach Sunday School. Amy, Carmon, and Laura are on schedule to fill in if Shayna and Curtis are gone. Worship boxes are being updated.
 - ii. Adult group study- No group
 - iii. Confirmation Class- Will start mid-October with three students
- D. Fellowship – Carrie Erwin
 - i. 20th Anniversary celebration? – a time to celebrate the past and commit to the future (Dedicate new windows?) Feb or March?
 - ii. Stephen Ministry Training – need to identify 2 leaders willing to be trained
- E. Property – Joe Fernandez
 - Report from ELCA Churchwide assembly - ELCA has elected a new vice-president. May be updating the constitution.
 - i. Thank you, Steve for installing the cross
 - ii. Kitchen repairs - completed
 - iii. Bid for A/V system – Funding??
-Discussed where payment is coming from and if congregation vote is needed.
Motion to commission Phil to take a proposal to the Endowment Committee.
M/S/P
 - iv. Stained glass windows project and delay on windows.
Caleb from Cathedral crafts contacted Mike B. about a delay on the windows that may not be installed in December. The longer they have the windows means more time to focus on the critical details of the relead restoration and want to guarantee they last 120 plus years.

VIII. Financial Reports: (30 min)

- A. Treasurer's Report –Tara Main
 - Tara will work on year-to-date information for the Budget analysis. Benevolences will start being paid monthly instead of quarterly.
 - i. Approve July bills paid **M/S/P**
 - ii. Maintenance Visa



- iv. New signers
- v. Status of transition/Job Description
- B. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller
 - i. New Program for financial secretary – Joelle
Joelle, Phil and Tara will be working on getting things finalized and then will help Vicky get information into program.
 - ii. Audit of congregation's finances
 - iii. 2023 Budget
 - 1. Health Insurance- Discussion on options for health insurance. Joelle will email Council the 2023 Health insurance numbers to look over before deciding a health insurance plan for Pastor Val and Steve. Council needs to choose plan by October and then Pastor will make her choice.
 - iv. New Depositor Training

IX. Pastor's Report

(IX – XI 10 min)

X. Task Assignments

XI. Adjournment and closing prayer 7:48



Tara Main, Naomi Kraiger, and Anneliese Kraiger work on school backpacks during God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. (Diane's mom, Jean is on the side! Welcome Jean!) Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

OTHER ACTIVITIES in August

OFFICIAL ACTS:

Funeral – Ed Ross @ Fern Hill Chapel

PASTORAL CARE:

Visits to home bound, dying and grieving

Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed

WORSHIP:

Planning for fall; new member class; Advent

YOUTH/FAMILY/EDUCATION:

Young People's message

Sunday School – consult; find curriculum

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH:

Reading: Healthy Congregations w/ Council & Mutual Ministry

VACATION:

None

UPCOMING:

Indigenous Peoples Sunday Sept. 25th

New Members Class Oct. 16th and 23rd.

Reformation Sunday – Reception of new members Oct. 30

To be scheduled: 20th Anniversary celebration – Feb. or March; committee forming

Worship in Work Clothes – November?

Pastor will be on vacation Sept. 28th – Oct. 14th

Hank preaches Oct. 2nd; Liz Ellis will preach Oct. 9th



**Joe and Ashlynn Fernandez's
Wedding**



Acting President,	Phil Stegemoeller	(360)580-1577	phil@willisent.com
Treasurer	Tara Main	(360) 580-1577	taramain@comcast.net
Financial Secretary	Phil Stegemoeller	(360) 580-9310	phil@willisent.com
Youth & Family	Curtis Steinhauer	(360) 580-2301	turtis21@gmail.com
Outreach	Suzan Stegemoeller	(360)249-6986	suzansteg@hotmail.com
Worship	Dee Erickson	(360) 533-7948	deekayel@comcast.net
Fellowship	Carrie Erwin	360-500-3767	mcerwin@comcast.net
Property	Joe Fernandez	(206) 372-7901	Joseph.m.fernandez@gmail.com
Pastor	Val Metropoulos	(360) 580-8977	vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Church office is open: **Tuesday & Thursday 8-2, Wednesday 8-1 & Friday 8-11.** AGLC Office
360.532.8250 amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val's Sabbath is Mondays. Her office hours change so please call or email to arrange a time we can get together. 360-580-8977 vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu.



Kathy Wehage, Tara Main, and Naomi Kraiger add to the mountain of school supply backpacks behind them. Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2

Liturgist: Greg; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Dee Erickson; **Communion Assistants:** Darci Jewitt; **Ushers/Greeters:** Jim & Michelle Weiberg; **Depositors:** Carmon Shaw & Mark Ostwald; **Fellowship Hosts:** Finazzo, Evanson, Hubbard, Waite, Winter; **Communion setup:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Curtis

OCTOBER 9

Liturgist: Keith; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Theresa Kaufman; **Communion Assistant:** Theresa Kaufman; **Ushers/Greeters:** Naomi Kraiger & Dee Erickson; **Depositors:** Ruth Ann Carlson & Hiedi Seelke; **Fellowship Hosts:** Barkstrom, Hildreth, Buckman; **Communion set-up:** Laura Carle; **Stream Team:** Amy

OCTOBER 16

Liturgist: Curtis; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Vicki Mitchell; **Communion Assistant:** Theresa Kaufman; **Ushers/Greeters:** Roger & Carmon Shaw; **Depositors:** Joelle Buckman & Greg Johnstone; **Fellowship Hosts:** Beeman, N. Kraiger/A. Kraiger, Debandt; **Communion set-up:** Carmon Shaw; **Stream Team:** Steve

OCTOBER 23

Liturgist: Laura; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Joe Fernandez; **Communion Assistant:** Mark Smalley & Arlene Torgerson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Carmon Shaw; **Fellowship Hosts:** Weiberg, Leithold, Channel, Teveliet, Jewitt, Steinhauer; **Communion set-up:** Tara Main; **Stream Team:** Keith

OCTOBER 30 REFORMATION SUNDAY

Liturgist: Hank; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Gene Schermer; **Communion Assistant:** Joelle Buckman & Carmon Shaw; **Ushers/Greeters:** Joan & William Rabung; **Depositors:** Ruth Ann Carlson & Liz Ellis; **Fellowship Hosts:** Elder, Schermer, Rabung; **Communion set-up:** Dee Erickson; **Stream Team:** Joe



BUILDING REPAIRS/MAINTANCE

Please notify Joe Fernandez 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.

Joe Fernandez: Joseph.m.fernandez@gmail.com- (206) 372-7901

Ministers: The People of Amazing Grace

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

amazinggraceaberdeen.org

amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor: Val Metropoulos (360) 580-8977

vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback,

Keith Lile, Laura Carle,

Curtis Steinhauer, Greg Johnstone

Musicians: Kristine Burns and Hiedi Seelke



DON'T GO TO CHURCH FOR YOURSELF!

Jesus: "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

Gathering for church is a strange kind of event. On some levels it has the outward appearance of a concert venue. Those arriving enter, receive a bulletin, then sit down like an audience.

At a concert the **expectations of the audience are pretty minimal....** "You don't spill your beer on anyone. Besides that the bar is rather low. Everyone is there to see the band and listen to the music. Expectations are set for the performance, not the audience. This is the definition of a crowd.

Church, at least theoretically, is not like that at all. When the church gathers it is because **something is expected of those who arrive.** The church is the gathered community of Jesus, the one who taught repeat-

edly to focus on "the least of these" and "love your neighbor...."

"I'm going to repeat something here I repeat often in many contexts. ***You really shouldn't go to church for yourself.*** Now, what exactly do I mean by this?

Consider: if you go to church for yourself then you prioritize your own preferences. You place at the top of your agenda the style of music, how much you will get out of the sermons, whether you like the seats, whether you can network at the church to build business connections, etc.

But, if you go to church for others: then you hope the music **meets the needs of some small children** dancing near you. You scan the gathered congregation and look to see **who is alone** who may need a friend. You wonder **what spiritual gifts you can bring to**

the community to strengthen it. You **ask yourself whether committing to that church will further social justice** in your community.

When you go to church for others, you live into the eschatological parable Jesus teaches in Matthew 25. **You go trusting that “if you are there for someone, as unimportant as they seem, you are there for Jesus.”**

I know it’s wild, but Jesus really teaches that when

you go to church, **you will encounter Christ in your neighbor**. It’s like that other line in Scripture about entertaining angels unawares (Hebrews 13), when you gather in Christian community you find yourself face-to-face with Jesus/angels/God.


No wonder some of us are tempted to go to church for ourselves: it’s a lot more risky and scary to anticipate we may be meeting God....”

From the blog, Lutheran Confessions by Clint Schnekloth



AUGUST BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Checking			\$ 3,771.08
-PSALM			\$ 100.00
-Caring Cupboard			\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve			\$ 2,620.00
-Music			\$ (393.54)
-Bells			\$ 865.95
-Friends in Need			\$ 636.21
-Reformation Fund			\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 360.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 286.83
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 52,705.00
			\$ -
*Maintenance Checking			\$ 6,286.45
-*Stained Glass Windows			\$ 36,686.84
Youth Checking			\$ 195.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 3,855.34
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,909.54

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP CHAPLAINS DINNER 1-6	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4	5 QUILTING 9-12 AA 5:30-6:30 BELLS 6-7:30	6 QUILTERS 9-3	7 SCRAPBOOK 6-10	8
9 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP CHAPLAINS DINNER 1-6	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 HANDSEWERS 9-3	12 AA 5:30-6:30	13 QUILTERS 9-3	14	15
16 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP & NEW MEMBER CLASS CHAPLAINS DINNER 1-6	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18	19 QUILTING 9-12 AA 5:30-6:30 BELLS 6-7:30	20 QUILTERS 9-3	21 SCRAPBOOK 6-10	22
23 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP & NEW MEMBER CLASS CHAPLAINS DINNER 1-6	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 HANDSEWERS 9-3 COUNCIL 6-8	26 AA 5:30-6:60	27 QUILTERS 9-3	28	29
30 10 WORSHIP REFORMATION DAY 11 FELLOWSHIP CHAPLAINS DINNER 1-6	31 OFFICE CLOSED					
Upcoming events: Daylight Saving Time Ends– November 6 Veterans Day– November 11						
Pie Auction - November 29 Thanksgiving Day– November 24 First Day of Advent– November 27						



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

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

VISION

A welcoming place where grace happens!

MISSION

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

VALUES

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



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