

THE SPIRIT

November 2022

Amazing
Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF GRAYS HARBOR

And then all that has divided us will
merge
And then compassion will be wedded to
power
And then softness will come to a world
that is harsh and unkind
And then both men and women will be
gentle
And then both women and men will be
strong
And then no person will be subject to
another's will
And then all will be rich and free and
varied
And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many
And then all will share equally in the Earth's abundance
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old
And then all will nourish the young
And then all will cherish life's creatures
And then all will live in harmony with each other and the Earth
And then everywhere will be called Eden once again.
+ Judy Chicago



In this autumn time, as we in the northern hemisphere move into more hours of darkness, I am grateful that it is also a time of turning our hearts and minds to giving thanks! For people who follow Jesus, giving thanks always leads to a longing to live more generously!

We give thanks for the bounty of the earth and we long for its healing and to be better stewards of all with which we have been entrusted by God. We long for those who grow our food, harvest it, prepare it, haul it to markets and sell it to all be compensated fairly and find satisfaction in their labor. We give thanks for health and family, for friends and neighbors and we long for everyone to know those blessings of wellness, belonging, companionship and a sense of safety that come from being at home in the world. We give thanks for our freedoms and autonomy and long for everyone to experience them. We give thanks for the ways we are deeply interconnected with those given to us to be our siblings in Christ, our friends and family, coworkers and acquaintances. We long for everyone to know how deeply beloved they are by God and we long for our every word and action to be an expression of that love. We give thanks for the opportunity to participate in our system of governance at all levels and long for everyone to have an equal voice in that system. We long for respect and civility to be the rule as we strive for an ever more perfect union together. We give thanks for the love of God made known to us in Christ Jesus and long for everyone to know that love as the center and guiding light of their lives.

We will not know the world that Judy Chicago's poem describes until God is all in all, until God's dream for creation is fully realized. But as we live into the reality of that dream, day by day, together, we live eyes wide open giving thanks for each moment of this good life!

Pastor Val

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *1 Thessalonian 5: 16-18*

A COMMON WITNESS

One of the distinct privileges of this call as presiding bishop is seeing the church at work at home and around the world. **The Lutheran movement is alive and well, speaking the gospel in a distinctive voice.** Sunday after Sunday the good news is proclaimed in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. In hundreds of languages and dialects, God's promise of grace, reconciliation and freedom is received and celebrated in places Martin Luther never knew existed. We are part of a world-wide family.

In many ways, and in the most important ways, we are alike. **The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. A clear understanding of human brokenness and our inability to save ourselves sets us apart from societal and even some theological pressures that would try to draw us away from the source of our life and freedom.** A world built on works and individualism promises salvation based on our own effort and denies salvation if we fail. The Lutheran movement points to another way. This is our common witness.

There are also glorious expressions particular to regions, countries and history: governance; organization; the role of laity, deacons, pastors and bishops; and the age for first communion, to name a few. And that's just the ELCA! Around the world the expression of Lutheranism takes on many different flavors—literally and figuratively.

In the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, porridge is a staple at all meals, so they pray, "Give us today our daily porridge." Spiritual healers are an important part of the life and ministry in the Lutheran church in Madagascar. Lutherans in Mexico celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which falls just a day away from the Swedish celebration of Santa Lucia. **Lutherans around the world hold fast to the core and adapt to make the gospel accessible.**

Part of Luther's genius was to make Scripture, preaching and worship available in the language of the people. In fact, this year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the publication of his translation of the New Testament from the ancient Greek into the German language, known as the "September Testament." This publication paved the way for other

translations of the Bible, making it accessible for people both at church and in their homes. All these variations make the Lutheran movement richer, especially when we share across borders and cultures.

It's good to remember the events of the 16th century, but we shouldn't get stuck there. **We need to ask what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century.** What it means for the Lutheran World Federation's 149 member churches, representing over 77 million members in 99 countries, that are exploring Lutheran identity. For some member churches with a state church tradition—Sweden, for example—Lutheran identity is a novel concept. The Lutheran church was "The Church," and there was no need to think about identity. **Now many churches in Africa and Asia are forging an indigenous expression of what it means to be Lutheran.** Yes, they still sing hymns set to German, Swedish and American hymn tunes, but they are also developing music and worship using traditional instruments and styles.

What will our Lutheran identity be in the ELCA? We still treasure our immigrant roots—and we should. But if our ethnic identities become synonymous with Lutheran identity, we are missing the mark. The gospel, and Luther's clear exposition of it, transcends human boundaries. When a single culture's vernacular becomes the established language of the people, we hinder the gospel's free course in the world. We can become an alternative face of Christianity in the culture—one that moves across divisions, is meant for all, and that is a free and liberating gift.

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 every thing 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 Jim Nearing, Mackenzie Murray, Todd Gwinn, Michael Silver, Molly

Rabung, Helen Velling, Jessica, Mike Barkstrom, Kathy, Yvette Koerner, Susie Jacobson, Sherry McAllister, Don Mackey, Cher, Linda, 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 Mary. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for the family and friends mourning the death of Becky Murray. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for the friends and family mourning the death of Jennifer Lile. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for the family and friends mourning the death of Ray Hodge. May he rest in peace in rise in glory

November BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Sarah Gardiner, November 27

Roger Shaw, November 27

Jace Winter, November 28

Jenifer Kaufman, November 29

Naomi Kraiger, November 30

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mark & Amy Ostwald, November 27

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

Judi Hubbard, November 26



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

Joelle Buckman for delivering food to the Food Bank.

Naomi and Carmon for helping Vicky assemble the bulletins and newsletters.

Judi and Mike for janitorial work.

Phil Stegemoeller for being available for any issues with the church while Pastor Val was on vacation.

Hank, Liz and Diane for leading Sunday services while Pastor Val was on vacation.

Linda Smith for preaching on Sunday September 25, for Indigenous Peoples Sunday.

To those of you who have been added to the depositing list.



We are grateful for the bounty of salmon donated to AGL for Indigenous Peoples Sunday.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- Thank you and the congregation for such a warm welcome. The potluck and salmon were delicious. Again, such a wonderful congregation. It was a joy to be with you.

-Linda Smith

- **Pacific Lutheran University thanks** Amazing Grace for a donation of \$43.73

Indigenous Peoples Sunday was celebrated on September 25th. Pastor Val pictured with our guest speaker, Pastor Linda Smith.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.



BLUE JEAN SUNDAY SUCCESS! THANK YOU

There was a good crew on hand Sunday, October 2nd to catch up on some of the exuberant growth in our church landscape. Many thanks to Michelle and Jim Weiberg for trimming the hedges and to the crew of Joni, Cindi, Elaine, Darci and Joey, and Liz who reclaimed much of the rhododendron and Japanese maple bed at the west end of the parking area. Thank you to Eileen and Gene Schermer for the new planting of pansies to greet folks heading for the fellowship hall!

There are still weeds to pull and things to do to be ready for winter, but we're making good headway!

Volunteers:

Joni Hildreth
Cindi Woodhams
Elaine Lokken
Darci Jewitt and Joey Hagedorn
Liz Ellis

Liz estimate 11 total volunteer hours.

Liz and Brenda paid for the dumping. A contribution of \$13.61 was received

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

November 1 Kristine Finazzo, Leader

Molly Leithold, Michelle Weiberg, Lynette Lile,
Marti Debandt

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.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, 11/6 is our annual remembrance of those who died in the last year or so. Please **send the office the names of those you would like to have named aloud during the service. During the**

service there will be time for lighting candles for them and for all our losses.

THANKSGIVING FOOD 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 one can of fruit cocktail for each basket.

We need our 125+ cans at the church by Nov. 13. 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 fruit cocktail for Christmas baskets, due at the church by Dec. 18th.

AMAZING GRACE PIE AUCTION

The pie auction will be November 20th. Please start thinking about what you will be able to donate to the auction. Remember, it does not have to be a

pie or even a food item. This is a big fundraiser for our outreach. I know several families who were able to have a great Christmas because of the support they received from this fundraiser. Carrie Erwin

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TEAM MAY/NOVEMBER HELP NEEDED!!!!

The May/November Union Gospel Mission Team is in need of one member. It requires one to prepare part of a UGM meal two times a year. A.G. teams

serve on the first Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Please contact: Kristine Finazzo, Team Leader (360) 532-6053 or Suzan Stegemoeller, Out Reach Chair (360) 240-6986 for any questions.



Elaine Lokken and Cindi Woodhams

Photo submitted by Liz Ellis

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

We currently have 2 Guest families and a total of 7 people in our Shelter Program, a mom and her 1-year-old son and a family of five, mom, dad, and three daughters ages 10, 12, and 15 years.

We ask that volunteers provide meals that can be warmed up or cooked by the families at their discretion to meet the needs of both families' busy schedules.

The delivery times are:

Mondays –Fridays 10AM - 5PM

Groceries and gift cards are also very much appreciated.

Four of our guests are gluten and dairy-intolerant. One person has a life-threatening, airborne allergy to crustaceans, mollusks, and squid. Please do not bring meals that contain any of the following: crab, lobster, crayfish, shrimp, prawns, squid, snails, clams, oysters, or scallops. The allergy is severe enough to cause anaphylaxis if these items are brought into the building.

Meal Train Link:

<https://mealtrain.com/k09ew0>

ANNUAL HOLIDAY QUILT RAFFLE!

This year we are featuring your choice of two beautiful quilts! Tickets for these art handiworks are \$2 each and the winners will be drawn on Friday, December 9, 2022.



Made by Jessie Lee Wassel

112" x 97"



Made by Sheena Wilson

102" x 87"

Sheena grew up and attended undergraduate education in the Amish region of Pennsylvania where she developed a love of quilts. She has been quilting since 2005 and has made over 100 quilts. She is currently a member of the Grays Harbor 4-H Quilting and Clothing Advisory Group. This allows her to both enjoy the company of other quilters and more importantly, to share her love of quilting with youth. She attends Chehalis Valley Community Church.

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

YFFYWACFKJHO?ref_=wl_share

Welcome kits

<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

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 Amaz-

ing 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 mcwin@comcast.net, or call her at (360) 500-3767.

AMAZING GRACE

The Amazing Grace Advent—Epiphany Devotional is ready for you!

Please join in this project of giving voice to our own deep longing and hope for Christ's coming, as a baby again at Christmas and Christ's coming to fulfill all things.

Please choose a reading, or two or three to pray about, reflect upon and then write your devotional to be shared with the Amazing Grace community. You may want to write a couple of sentences of paragraphs, a poem or picture of your own or one that is meaningful to you. It's helpful to read the passage

several times and jot down a few ideas or images that come to mind. You do not need to explain the passage, just reflect on what it means to you or what feelings or insights it draws out of you. Have fun with it!

Please let the office know which day's readings you have chosen by Nov. 18th so we have time to put it all together and distribute it before the Advent readings begin on Thursday, Nov. 24th.



This is the crew in Seattle that reloads LWR boxes for shipment

From Joy Smith



NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

We need your participation to put together a new photo directory for Amazing Grace. We will need a photo and new or updated contact info for you or your family.

Photo:

a) you may submit a hi-res photo (jpg) via email to Amy Ostwald: aaostwald@gmail.com (or send it to the church office). Or you may text the photo to Amy at 360-480-4213. Be sure you are large within the photo — focused on you/your family, not a scene with your incidental inclusion.

b) we will take casual photos after church on some Sunday mornings during the Fall.

Contact info:

**Delivered Hanks printed sermon and treats to Lloyd.
We all know how Lloyd loves his treats!!!**

Photo submitted by Judi Hubbard

Send your street address, phone number and email address to Amy's email above (or the church office). Send whatever info you are willing to have in the directory, distributed to members and friends of Amazing Grace. If your info has not changed from the last directory, let us know that as well.

You don't need to be a member to be in the directory.

Help wanted! If you would like to help gather the contact info for everyone, let Amy know. Photos: if you would like to assist with photos, contact Amy. The plan is to just use a phone camera and it would be helpful to have more than one photographer.



A.G. GIFT POLICY—PROPOSED VERSION
(Please let church council know if you have questions or suggestions regarding this policy. The congregation will vote on approving this policy at the annual meeting in January.)

I. PURPOSE

This policy governs the acceptance of gifts by [Amazing Grace Lutheran Church](#) (AGLC). The Policy provides guidance to prospective donors and their advisors when making gifts to this Church, where all are invited to support our mission and ministry. The provisions of this policy apply to all gifts to [AGLC](#) over and above regular giving, offering, or pledges, or specific campaign or initiative contributions.

Gifts will be accepted when they support the mission, purpose, and procedures of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. Donors are encouraged to bless this Church with gifts free of restrictions. All gifts will be considered based on the type of asset, gift transfer costs, donor restrictions, potential liabilities, mission, current needs, and other applicable factors. AGLC shall accept only such gifts as are legal and consistent with the AGLC Gift Policy, and applicable Bylaws and Constitution. While [AGLC](#) does not provide tax advice, every effort will be made to assist donors in complying with the intents and purposes of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for allowing charitable tax benefits.

II. COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The Church Council is charged with the responsibility of reviewing gifts offered to the Church and shall make decisions and/or form recommendations regarding gift acceptance and use according to this *Gift Policy Section III & IV*. Gift acceptance and use decisions and recommendations will be forwarded to the Council or a committee appointed by Council for acknowledgement and/or approval in a timely fashion. Gift decisions shall be duly noted in confidential minutes.

A. AGLC will accept unrestricted gifts and donor restricted gifts for specified programs and pur-

poses, provided that such gifts are consistent with the stated mission, vision, policies and priorities of this Church. AGLC will not accept gifts that would result in losing its status as a US Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; are deemed by the Committee too difficult or too expensive to administer; or be a liability, in relation to the gift value; would result in unacceptable consequences; or are for purposes outside the mission of this Church.

- B. AGLC, as a general rule, will convert all unrestricted gifts to cash.
- C. Records of gift acceptance or decline and of gift use shall be audited within this Church's standard audit procedures.
- D. The Church Council shall complete a **Gift Worksheet** (see Exhibit A) to record the gift acceptance and use decisions for any gifts greater than \$15,000.
- E. The Church Council shall offer appreciation for every donor's generosity, regardless of the decision to accept or decline the gift. For gifts over \$15,000, that appreciation will often begin with a verbal conversation with the donor or donor's estate but will be formalized through written notice sent by US Mail, or email with read receipt requested, and signed by a current President and Vice-President or their designee.
- F. Recognition of the donor should not be a condition of the gift. The decision to provide acknowledgement and recognition for the gift will be the decision of the Church Council taking into consideration the desire of the donor and keeping with the standards and culture for the practice of appropriate gratitude for this congregation.
- G. If there are questions or concerns regarding any gift including the offer, acceptance, or use thereof, whether defined in this policy or not, the donor and/or the Church Council members are always encouraged to consult with the ELCA Foundation's Regional Gift Planner and Foundation staff or other related professional.

III. USE OF UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

An unrestricted gift is given without any stipulation for its use and is accepted to support the mission and ministry of AGLC. This Gift Policy defines two categories of unrestricted gifts and offers related protocols for each in an effort to honor the time and expertise held by the Church Council:

- a. Unrestricted gifts with a value less than fifteen-thousand dollars (\$15,000) shall have the acceptance and use decisions managed by the Church Council. This Church shall promptly offer an outside gift of ten percent (10%) of the total gift, often referred to as a tithe. This tithe will be split in the same way as the monthly first fruits giving is split as approved in the yearly budget at the annual meeting.
- b. Unrestricted gifts with value equal to or greater than fifteen-thousand dollars (\$15,000) shall have the acceptance and use decisions approved by the Council in accordance with this policy:
 - Step 1: Tithe.** This Church shall promptly offer an outside gift of ten percent (10%) of the total gift, often referred to as a tithe. This tithe will be split in the same way as the monthly first fruits giving is split as approved in the yearly budget at the annual meeting.
 - Step 2: Endowment Fund.** This Church shall promptly offer a contribution of ten percent (10%) of the total gift to the Endowment Fund.
 - Step 3: Designated Spending.** This Church shall promptly offer a contribution of eighty (80%) percent of the total gift to the following designated fund categories, guided by the mission, vision and values of this congregation as outlined in Appendix A:
 - 1. Ministry needs within our organization:
 - a. Buildings/maintenance issues Fund
 - b. Mission/Outreach Fund
 - c. Where Needed Most

IV. USE OF RESTRICTED GIFTS AND GUIDELINES

A restricted gift is given with specific stipulations for its use and is accepted to support the mission and

ministry of this congregation through the donor's defined restrictions. Gifts with specific donor defined restrictions will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the understanding that the funds are to be used as requested by the donor.

NOTE: Donors may not direct the way a gift is invested or utilized by this congregation. In accordance with the Internal Revenue Service, donors cannot claim tax favor or retain control over gifts to charity.

- A. Donors should be aware that programs offered by this congregation may be discontinued, modified, or incorporated into other programs, therefore a donor who makes a restricted gift, whether in the form of a current gift or through an estate plan, is strongly encouraged to complete the **Restriction and Release Form** (see Exhibit B). The Church Council shall make the *Restriction and Release Form* readily available in the office and through the website of this congregation.
- B. Restricted gifts established prior to the approval of this policy or received without the accompaniment of a *Restriction and Release Form* shall be reviewed by the Church Council and potentially this congregation to determine if the gift shall be accepted. This congregation may also consult legal counsel and this state's Attorney General to determine the requirements to lift a donor restriction if necessary.
- C. Donor Restricted Gifts to the AGLC Endowment Fund: If a donor wishes to establish a new AGLC Endowment Fund, the gift shall meet the following requirements:



- a. Must be valued at Twenty-Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) or greater.
- b. Can accept contributions from other donors.
- C. Become an asset of this congregation.

Step 1: The Church shall apply the full proceeds of the gift to the restriction defined by the donor.

Step 2: In the rare event the gift is unable to be used as intended by the donor due to a lack of program, need, or funding; and after a review period of at least twelve (12) months; and in alignment with the restriction release requirements of this congregation and this state, the gift may become unrestricted and the balance of the gift (including any accumulated interest) may be utilized as an unrestricted gift as described in the *Gift Policy Section III*.

V. MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

Memorial and honorary gifts include gifts given in memory or honor of loved ones, friends, or others and may be unrestricted or [restricted](#).

Memorial – Threshold. Memorial and honorary gifts of more than \$15,000 are subject to the guidelines for gift acceptance, appreciation, and valuation as defined in *Gift Policy Sections IV*. Unrestricted memorial and honorary gifts with a value less than \$15,000 shall support the annual operating budget of the Church, including the tithe as outlined previously. The gift use guidelines defined in *Gift Policy Section III* shall apply to all unrestricted memorial or honorary gifts with a value of \$15,000 or greater.

Memorial – Gift Policy. Memorial and honorary gifts are subject to the same guidelines for gift acceptance, appreciation, valuation, and use as defined in the *Gift Policy Sections III, IV, VI and VII*.

NOTE: Notification shall be provided to the individual, family, or the individual's estate, listing the donors who contributed a memorial or honorary gift.

VI. TYPES OF GIFTS CONSIDERED

The following examples are intended to facilitate donation and acceptance of gifts offered, albeit not intended to represent an exclusive list of potential gifts nor review criteria.

- A. **Potential Gifts.** A variety of gifts can be shared with this Church and donors are encouraged to inform the Church Council and/or this Church's ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner of such gift plans whenever possible. Some gifts will be accepted outright, and other gifts will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis according to the documents of this Church. The Church Council may seek advice from attorneys, accountants, and other professionals in evaluating potential

gifts. General categories of gifts include, but are not limited to:

- a. **Cash.** Gifts of cash will be accepted and are welcomed.
- b. **Beneficiary Designations.** Gifts of assets that transfer through beneficiary designation will be accepted. Types of beneficiary designation assets include, but are not limited to:

- i. Bank and credit union accounts
- ii. Bank accounts and investments of qualified or non-qualified status, including, but not limited to, annuities, mutual funds, and securities
- iii. Charitable Gift Annuities
- iv. Charitable Remainder Trusts
- v. Charitable Lead Trusts
- vi. Distribution Agreements
- vii. Donor Advised Funds
- viii. Endowments
- ix. Life insurance policies



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NOTE: Sample beneficiary designation language... “Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, a nonprofit organization located at 111 E. 4th St. Aberdeen, WA, Federal Tax ID #743041531, for general use and purpose.”

- c. **Marketable Securities.** Gifts of marketable securities will be accepted when transferred electronically to a Church-owned brokerage account; or delivered physically with the transferor’s endorsement or signed stock power (with appropriate signature guarantees) attached; or transferred through an approved entity. All marketable securities will be sold promptly upon receipt unless otherwise directed. In some cases, marketable securities may be restricted by applicable securities laws, the terms of the proposed gift, or other stipulations. Types of publicly and non-publicly traded marketable securities include, but are not limited to:

- i. Bonds
- ii. Master Limited Partnerships (MLP)
- iii. Mutual Funds
- iv. Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT)
- v. Stocks

NOTE: Sample language when securities are transferred through the ELCA Foundation... “For Benefit Of: Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, a nonprofit organization located at 111 E. 4th St. Aberdeen, WA, Federal Tax ID #743041531.

- d. **Life Insurance.** Gifts of life insurance will be accepted when this AGLC is designated as the sole owner of the insurance policy and an agreement is reached regarding the responsibility for payment of current and future premiums due. If the premium payments are not paid, the Church, as policy owner, reserves the right to surrender the policy in exchange for the cash value to avoid loan balance accruals.

NOTE: Sample life insurance transfer of ownership language... “I transfer sole ownership of life insurance contract (contract #) to: Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, a nonprofit organization located at 111 E. 4th St. Aberdeen, WA, Federal Tax ID #743041531.”

- e. **Bequests.** Gifts in the form of a bequest will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Types of bequests include, but are not limited to:

- i. Charitable Lead Trusts (CLT) or Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT)
- ii. Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts (ILIT)
- iii. Living or Revocable Trusts
- iv. Testamentary Trusts or ‘trust under will’
- v. Wills

NOTE: Sample bequest language... “I hereby give, devise and bequeath ten percent (10 %) of my total estate, to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, a nonprofit organiza-

tion located at 111 E. 4th St. Aberdeen, WA, Federal Tax ID #743041531, for general use and purpose.”

- f. **Real Estate.** Gifts of real estate will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The donor shall be required to present an appraisal to AGLC no more than 60 days prior to the real estate transfer (Ref. IRS Publication 561, under “Qualified Appraisal”). Prior to acceptance of any gift of real estate, this Church may require an initial environmental review. In the event that the environmental review warrants additional investigation, this Church may retain a qualified firm to conduct a comprehensive environmental audit. The donor shall be responsible for the costs of the appraisal and/or any environmental studies required as a result of the environmental review and/or audit. Types of real estate include, but are not limited to:

- i. Agricultural
- ii. Commercial
- iii. Residential
- iv. Undeveloped real estate

- g. **Remainder Interests in Property.** Gifts of a remainder interest in a personal residence, farm/ranch, or vacation property (excluding time share interests) will be considered on a case-by-case basis and shall be subject to the real estate provisions in this *Gift Policy Section VI.f*. The donor or other occupants may continue to occupy the real property for the duration of their stated life or lives. Upon termination of the life interest, [Amazing Grace L.C.](#) may use the property or reduce it to cash. Where this Church receives a gift of a remainder interest, expenses for maintenance, real estate taxes, and any property indebtedness are to be paid by the donor or life tenant(s). Types of remainder interests include, but are not limited to:

- i. Beneficiary Deeds
- ii. Enhanced Life Estate Deeds (aka Lady Bird deeds)
- iii. Life Estate Deeds
- iv. Transfer on Death Deeds

NOTE: Availability and types of remainder interests in property are defined by current state law.

- h. **Closely held business interests.** Gifts of closely held business interests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and shall be subject to the real estate provisions in this *Gift Policy Section VI.f*. Types of closely held business interests include, but are not limited to:

- i. Limited Liability type organizations (LLC, LLP, etc.)
- ii. Partnerships
- iii. S-Corporations or shares
- iv. C-Corporations or shares
- v. Business options/warrants

- i. **Oil, Gas, and Mineral Interests and Royalties.** Gifts of oil, gas, or mineral interests and/or royalties will be considered on a case-by-case basis and shall be subject to the real estate provisions in this *Gift Policy Section VI.f*.

NOTE: A working interest shall not be accepted.

- j. **Agricultural Commodities.** Gifts of commodities from cash basis farmers (excluding crop share landlords), including gifts of grain (e.g. soybeans, corn, wheat, et al.), will be considered on a case-by-case basis and shall be subject to the real estate provisions in this *Gift Policy Section VI.f*, provided the gift is from unsold crop inventory with no sale commitment made prior to the gift. The donor must give up “dominion and control” of the commodity and cannot sell the grain and order the proceeds to be sent to Amazing Grace L.C.. This Church assumes risk after the transfer to include storage, transportation, and marketing costs as well as price risk. The transaction must be well documented to show Amazing Grace L.C. as the owner (i.e., commodity is delivered and a warehouse receipt is executed to the Church, or a notarized letter of transfer for crops stored on the farm).

- k. **Intellectual Property.** Gifts of intellectual property will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



of

The donor and this Church are encouraged to consult with an estate attorney/legal counsel before offering and/or accepting this gift. Types of intellectual property include, but are not limited to:

- i. Copyrights
- ii. Patents
- iii. Trademarks

- l. Tangible Personal Property.** Gifts of tangible personal property will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- m. In-Kind Donations.** Gifts of in-kind goods or services given by a business or business owner, or a donor willing to pay for such goods or services on behalf of Amazing Grace L.C., will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In-Kind donations will be acknowledged in writing by this Church, but as per Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Guidelines, will not be valued by, nor provided a receipt for charitable contribution by this Church.

B. Gift Review Criteria

- Does the gift further the mission or help fulfill the purpose of this Church? (See appendix A for the Mission, Vision and Values of AGLC)
- Is the gift easy to convert to cash, readily marketable, or are there restrictions on the use, display, or sale of the gift?
- Are there covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, encumbrance, or other limitations associated with the gift?
- Are there any carrying costs (e.g. insurance, property or other taxes, mortgages, or notes), or maintenance expenses that outweigh the benefit of the gift?
- Does the environmental review or audit reflect that the property warrants additional investigation or otherwise requires remediation?
- Does the property have liabilities or other considerations that make receipt of the gift inappropriate?
- Any other criteria determined to be applicable by the Church Council.

VII. GIFT VALUATION

Gift Valuation. Gifts of real estate and personal property, acquiring an independent assessment or appraisal shall be the responsibility of the donor or donor's estate. This may be facilitated by the Church Council to determine the comprehensive evaluation and impact of the gift. Appraisal of all non-cash gifts must take place within 60 days (Ref. IRS Publication 561 under "Qualified Appraisal").

NOTE: The ELCA Foundation can be a resource to help determine the necessary appraisal information.

VIII. GIFT POLICY REVIEW

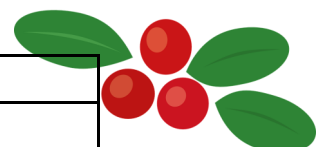
This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years by the Church Council at the March meeting. The initial review will commence in the year two thousand and twenty four (2024).

IX. RESOURCES

The **ELCA Foundation**, through Regional Gift Planners and support staff, offer gift planning services at no charge to this Church and its donors. Visit www.elcafoundation.org or call **800-638-3522** to connect with the ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner that supports this Church. Current Gift Planner – Beth Adams beth.adams@elca.org 360.953.4401

Donors are also encouraged to consult with their personal tax advisor, estate attorney and/or financial advisor for specific tax, legal, and investment information. [AGLC](#) does not provide any tax, legal, or investment advice.

Date Approved:		Approved by:		
Date Reviewed:		Reviewed by:		Approved by:





Tara Main and Suzan Stegemoeller look over the special dishes at the salmon potluck on Indigenous Peoples Sunday.

Photo submitted by Diane Hanson.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes September 20, 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: Phil Stegemoeller, Dee Erickson, Joe Fernandez, Pastor Val, Carrie Erwin, Tara Main, Curtis Steinhauer

I. Review of vision, mission, values and council purpose; Discuss Healthy Congregations (30 min)

II. Call to Order by Acting President Phil S. 6:00

III. Establish Quorum

IV. Review and Approve Agenda M/S/P

-Added under Business Items. A. Council President resignation

V. Approve minutes from meetings: August 30 (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. Council President Resignation- Joelle has resigned for personal reasons as Council President. Since Phil is vice-president for Oct. – Dec. he will serve as acting president. Council discussed who is on the nominating committee, what positions need to be filled on council at annual meeting and new check signers. Thank you, Joelle for your hard work as council president.

-Motion to accept Joelle's resignation. **M/S/P**

B. Mutual Ministry

C. Gift Policy

D. Endowment Fund Committee – 6:30PM to explain why tithe approved by congregational vote at Annual Meeting has not been submitted.

- There was discussion about endowment fund bylaws, questions about how the congregation was notified of the vote, and the process of the endowment fund decision to approve using principal funds. Options were discussed for resolving the problem of a congregational vote being ignored.

i. By-laws revision

ii. Proposed endowment spending

iii. Audit report

E. Council Meeting Schedule for December- discuss at next month's council meeting

VII. Ministry team reports: (30 min)

A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val

-Past month of special services have gone well.

i. Indigenous People Sunday - 9/25

-Linda Smith will be preaching. Mark Ostwald, Steve, and others will be grilling the fish and Phil has acquired the fish from the Quinaults.

B. Outreach – Suzan Stegemoeller

i. Family Promise

- ii. Chaplain's dinner – COH representative will attend Oct. council meeting
- iii. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative – Pastor Val/Curtis
- iv. God's Work Our Hands Sunday – 9/11 – 19 people served for a total of 33 hours
- v. Tithe Project – suggestions from council?
-Will discuss on October council meeting.
- C. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer
 - i. Sunday School – 9/18 Kick-off
-First Sunday for in-person Sunday school went great and received positive feedback
 - ii. Adult group study- No class
 - iii. Confirmation Class- Starting in October.
 - iv. Sunday school Christmas program/Christmas caroling- plans beginning
- D. Fellowship – Carrie Erwin
 - i. Pie auction is coming up.
 - ii. 20th Anniversary celebration and dedication of windows – committee forming
-Carrie is looking for people to join the committee, talk with her if you're interested.
- E. Property – Joe Fernandez
 - i. Bid for A/V system – Results of Cong. Vote to use endowment funds.
-It was a good vote for A/V system. Keith and Amy will receive training. Curtis will donate a Mac computer.
 - ii. Stained glass windows project updates

VIII. Financial Reports: (30 min)

- A. Treasurer's Report – Tara Main
-Benevolences will be paid monthly. F.P. payments account will be made available to congregation.
i. Approve August bills paid **M/S/P**
ii. Maintenance Visa – check out through office - system in place
iii New signers
iv Status of transition/Job Description - Working on it
v. Status of Family Promise finances related to A.G. and Maintenance budget- a guideline on what money is used for.
- B. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller
 - i. New Program for financial secretary – Joelle
 - ii. Audit of congregation's finances
 - iii. 2023 Budget: Next month's agenda
-Pastor's Compensation Package – Insurance choice
Council approved the Gold Plan for Pastor's insurance. **M/S/P**
 - Iv. New Depositor Training- New depositors will be matched up with experienced depositors

IX. Pastor's Report (IX – XI 10 min)

XI. Adjournment and closing prayer 8:35

OTHER ACTIVITIES in September– Pastor Report

OFFICIAL ACTS:	Wedding of Joe Fernandez and Ashley Bowen
PASTORAL CARE:	Visits to home bound, dying and grieving Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed
ADMINISTRATIVE:	Annual review of office administrator Planning for change in council president
OUTREACH:	Planning for God's Work Our Hands
WORSHIP:	Planning for Kris's absence; Wedding; Indigenous Peoples Sunday; Advent Preparing Advent Calendar for congregation to contribute to
YOUTH/FAMILY/EDUCATION:	Young People's message Sunday School – consult; find curriculum; plan Kick-Off Planning for Confirmation
PROFESSIONAL GROWTH:	Storytelling Workshop on Zoom Reading: Armchair Mystic by Thibodeaux; Everyone Belongs to God by

Blumhardt; Healthy Congregations w/ Council & Mutual Ministry

VACATION: September 28 – October 11

UPCOMING: Reformation Sunday & Reception of new members Oct. 30

Pie Auction November 20th

PLU Christmas Concert December 4th or 11th

Christmas Caroling December 11 (?)

Sunday School Christmas Program December 18th

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services 12/24 and 12/25

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

Worship in Work Clothes – Spring before Easter?



NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

November 6

Liturgist: Laura; **Worship Assistant/Reader** Steve Swanson; **Communion Assistants:** Joan & William Rabung; **Ushers/Greeters:** Joelle Buckman & Naomi Kraiger; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Annelise Kraiger; **Fellowship Hosts:** Alstrom, Tieder, Johnstone; **Communion setup:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Curtis

November 13

Liturgist: Hank; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Michelle Weiberg; **Communion Assistant:** Sarah Channel & Dee Erickson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Tim & Pam Alstrom; **Depositors:** Ruth Ann Carlson & Liz Ellis; **Fellowship Hosts:** Kaufman, T. Buckman, Colangelo; **Communion set-up:** Laura Carle; **Stream Team:** Amy

November 20

Liturgist: Greg; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Arlene Torgerson; **Communion Assistant:** Joe Fernandez & Darci Jewitt; **Ushers/Greeters:** Jim & Michelle Weiberg; **Depositors:** Joelle Buckman & Kathy Wehage; **Fellowship Hosts:** Ostwald, Gundersen, Stegemoeller; **Communion set-up:** Dee Erickson; **Stream Team:** Steve

November 27

Liturgist: Curtis; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Dee; **Communion Assistant:** Mark Smalley & Theresa Kaufman; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mark & Amy Ostwald; **Depositors:** Debby Colangelo & Greg Johnstone; **Fellowship Hosts:** Lile, D. Erickson, Bilderback, Burns, Ellis; **Communion set-up:** Tara Main; **Stream Team:** Joe



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	deekaye1@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

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



Jim Weiberg working hard to keep our landscape beautiful.

Photo submitted by Liz Ellis

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.



SEPTEMBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Checking			\$ 9,564.44
-PSALM			\$ 100.00
-Caring Cupboard			\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve			\$ 2,620.00
-Music /Bells			\$ 472.41
-Friends in Need			\$ 580.07
-Reformation Fund			\$ 771.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 290.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 286.83
-Grace Fund			\$ 340.00
		TOTAL	\$ 39, 863.93
			\$ -
*Maintenance Checking			\$ 6,286.45
-*Stained Glass Windows			\$ 28,356.84
Youth Checking			\$ 195.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 3,855.34
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,909.54

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 QUILTING 9-12 AA 5:30-6:30 BELLS 6-7:30	3 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	4 SCRAPBOOK 6-10	5
6 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 HANDSEWERS 9-3	9 AA 5:30-6:30	10 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	11 VETERANS DAY- OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15	16 QUILTING 9-12 AA 5:30-6:30 BELLS 6-7:30	17 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3	18 SCRAPBOOK 6-10 DEVOTIONS DUE INTO OFFICE	19
20 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP PIE AUCTION	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 HANDSEWERS 9-3 COUNCIL MEETING 6	23 AA 5:30-6:30	24 MASTER QUILTERS 9-3 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP FIRST DAY OF ADVENT	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29	30 QUILTING 9-12 AA 5:30-6:30			
PLU CHRISTMAS CONCERT—DECEMBER 4TH 2PM						
CHRISTMAS CAROLING—DECEMBER 11TH						
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—DECEMBER 18TH						



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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PLEASE
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