

THE SPIRIT

December 2022



Advent is a gift, slowing us down so that we don't rush into Christmas unprepared. Something as profound as the incarnation of God, can't be received with a busy heart or distracted mind. So, every year, throughout our whole lives we pause at this time, hoping to be prepared so that we can glimpse even a moment of the truth of the holiest of holies taking up residence in a fragile, messy body.

Even though fewer people than ever are attending church or even claim to have faith of any kind, the culture has sensed the quality of wonder and awe that this time can evoke and they want in on it and so they carry on the traditions, sing the songs, even attend Christmas eve candlelight service in an effort to claim some measure of the wonder, the hope and peace that God incarnate is meant to bring us.

For people who follow Jesus, no matter how timidly, this season of hope and wonder is more than a pause on the way to the party. **This is our trinitarian life: remembering the promise, living the love, and longing for the fulfillment.** We better have good guides for a life as complicated as that!

Isaiah has always been one such reliable guide. Isaiah 25: 6-10 is God's dream for us and for all creation. We keep that close in our hearts and minds so that we know what is true, and real, and worth our attention and our time. It orients us to what it is that we're struggling for, it gives flesh to the longing we feel. THIS is God's dream for us:

Isaiah 25: 6-10

*On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained
clear.*

*7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;*

8 he will swallow up death forever.

*Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth,*

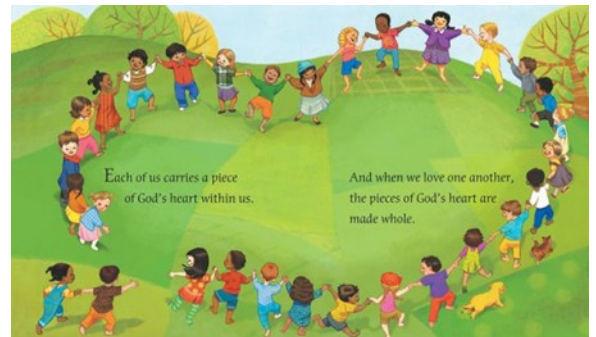
for the LORD has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,

"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

*This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."*

10 For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.



We remember Jesus' life, his love and his promise to be with us always. We love the way Jesus showed us to love, though imperfectly, always erring on the side of compassion for all people. We long for the dream of Isaiah to be our reality here among us more and more each day.

Hold Isaiah's words in your heart for this season. Reflect on it. Long for it. Count on it. **Whenever you encounter something that doesn't match that dream, say to yourself, "There's work to be done to get this to where God wants it."** Isaiah's images are meant to stir us to hope-filled action. If we don't have that vision before us, our hope that that future is possible can fade when we're faced with the realities of the world.

If we're serious about preparing for Christ in our lives, we've got to know that world that God longs for, the one that Jesus came to show us, the one Jesus died and was raised to bring into reality. We have to learn from this dream to love what Christ loves.

Jesus came to set the feast for us. Every day we can choose to be a part of setting the table for it or we can

settle for an ordinary meal. Come, Lord Jesus, prepare our hearts to welcome you in every moment. Give us courage to do the work that needs to be done so that all may flourish. Amen.

Pastor Val



COURAGE TO ASK THE QUESTION

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation recently featured this piece by Brian McLaren, an American pastor, author, speaker, and leading figure in the emerging church movement.

Our question that brings us together today is the question of the future of Christianity. This is a question that I have lived with really my whole adult life. I sensed it was part of my calling or vocation to live with and wrestle with this question.

And I think we should realize there are some people who would find it dangerous that we are even asking this question, because to raise the question of the future of Christianity suggests that the future might be different than the past or the present. And there are a lot of people who are very, very invested in making sure the future is exactly the same as the past or the present. And I think the question is also dangerous within each of us, depending on how we answer it. If we were to look at some positive trends and say, "Oh, the future of Christianity is bright! The future of Christianity is wonderful," there's a certain way that that kind of positive and even wishful thinking could then give us, inside of the privacy of our own minds, permission to say, "Everything's going to be fine. I can return to my previously scheduled apathy and complacency."

There's another way of answering the question that says, "The future of Christianity is [bleak] and terrible and hopeless." And we could succumb to a kind of despair or a cynicism that would allow us to say, "Nothing I can do about it. It will be what it will be.



It's out of my hands." And that would allow us to return to our previously scheduled apathy and complacency.

But there's another way of asking this question and engaging it with an open heart, an open imagination, an open mind. And that's a way that leads to a sense of empowerment for us to be open to the ways that the future of Christianity could be influenced by what we know our story begins with: one person impacting twelve people who impacted several hundred more [and so on].

For centuries, Christianity has presented itself as an "organized religion"—a change-averse institution . . . that protects and promotes a timeless system of beliefs that were handed down fully formed in the past. Yet Christianity's actual history is a story of change and adaptation. We Christians have repeatedly adapted our message, methods, and mission to the contours of our time. What might happen if we understand the core Christian ethos as creative, constructive, and forward-leaning—as an "organizing religion" that challenges all institutions (including its own) to learn, grow, and mature toward a deepening, enduring vision of reconciliation with God, self, neighbor, enemy, and creation? [1]

[1] Brian D. McLaren, *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian* (New York: Convergent, 2016), 3.



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 Tim Garney, Joyce

Clark, Michael Silver, Helen Velling, Jessica, Mike Barkstrom, Kathy, Yvette Koerner, Susie Jacobson, Sherry McAllister, Don Mackey, Cher, Linda, Leslie Prasch, Tom, Monica Wilson, Tiffany Powell, Joseph, Courtney, Adrienne, Carl Bender, Philip, Matthew Green and his family. We pray for the Debandt family and friends mourning the death of Christopher. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for family and friends mourning the death of Pastor Sandra Kreis. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. And we pray for family and friends mourning the death of Ray Hodge. May he rest in peace in rise in glory



BIRTHDAYS:

Paula Elder, December 4
Loyd Gill, December 10
Jeannette Green, December 10
Gloria Bilderback, December 11
James Green, December 14
Karen Barkstrom, December 17
Dorothy Stephens, December 18



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.

Everyone who contributed to the Advent Devotionals.

Everyone who contributed items for the Pie Auction and everyone who purchased them!

Amy Ostwald. Feeling elfish

Photo submitted by Joni Hildreth

December BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Karen Anderson, December 24
Hans Stegemoeller, December 24
Stephanie Kaufman, December 27
Molly Rabung, December 30

ANNIVERSARIES:

Brenda Grant & Liz Ellis, December 1



WHAT IS THE GIFT POLICY AND WHY DOES AMAZING GRACE NEED ONE? –

Mark Smalley

In June of 2021, the church Council directed Pastor Val to pull together a committee to generate a Gift Policy. Gene Schermer, Arlene Torgerson, Phil Stegemoeller, Jim Weiberg, Pastor Val, and I were on the committee.

Fortunately for us, the Synod already had a Gift Policy template generated by the Synod lawyer. We met with Beth Adams, ELCA regional gift planner, who shared the template with us and walked us through what could be changed and what was legal boilerplate that was required due to IRS rules.

Two of the main purposes of the gift policy are:

- To give guidance to church leadership, so they know how to manage such gifts.
- To joyfully share the policy to encourage future giving, so that the givers can have confidence in how their gift will be managed.

Here are some of the terms in the policy that you may not be familiar with:

- Restricted Gifts – those gifts given for a specific program or purpose
- Unrestricted Gifts – those gifts given without a specification of which program they would benefit.
- First Fruits giving – giving the first part of your harvest to God, because everything we have, was given to us by God. Sometimes we are tempted to give our offering after we have paid all of our bills, but first fruits guides us to give our offering to God first. Our Church Council at Amazing Grace has set the example for us, by following this practice for years. When we do our budget we set a percentage tithe for the year and that money comes out first every month before any bills are paid. Over the years, the council raised the giving % each year, until it reached the Bible based 10%. This tithe is split (as decided by council and approved in the budget) between the SW WA Synod, Union Gospel mission, Namibian Lutheran Church, Friends in Need, PLU, Grays Harbor Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Living Stones Ministry, and Family promise.

Questions we were asked by congregation members:

- Does this change how our current endowment fund works? No the current endowment fund has its own bylaws.
- What does the Note on Page 3 mean that “Donors may not direct the way a gift is invested or utilized”? This may seem contradictory for a restricted gift, but it relates to IRS rules. For example, you could designate a gift for scholarships, but you cannot designate who gets the scholarships.
- Why is there an option to create a different endowment fund? Our current endowment fund’s giving is very clearly spelled out in its bylaws. If someone wants to have an endowment that is for a different purpose and they are willing to plant it with at least \$25,000, we want a policy to line out how to do that.

An important part of the policy are Exhibit A – the Gift Worksheet, and Exhibit B- the Restriction and Release Form. One issue that all church councils have is turn over and loss of institutional memory. These forms should help solve some of those issues by clearly spelling out what the gift is to be spent on. The release of the restriction is also important to spell out how designated funds are to be released from their designation. If a donor gives us \$30,000 for a specific purpose, but it only costs us \$27,000, the church cannot use the \$3000 for any other purpose without going to the donor to get a release. This form will clean up that process, so everyone will know how it will work.

The committee met with those who had questions after service on November 20th. We will do another session in early January, so we are ready to vote on the Gift Policy at the Annual Meeting.

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor** thanks Amazing Grace for donation of \$62.47
- **Habitat for Humanity** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$62.47



RAY HODGE RECEPTION THANK YOU

Thank you everyone that helped to make the reception after the funeral special.

The special events team, quilters, the three amigos (Darrell, Roger and Mike) for

doing dishes, Lynette for the beautiful flowers and Doris for taking the linens home to wash and church family members that also provided food.

I appreciate all your help whenever I ask.

Sincerely, Judi



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

SCHOOL KITS AND QUILTS – THANK YOU

We would like to thank the congregation for their tremendous response both with items for the school kits and monetary help that allowed us to send a record number of kits...206!! That means that over 200 children will be able to attend school because they have the supplies they need.

In addition 84 quilts and five baby care kits were sent to Lutheran World Relief. Locally we gave 15 to the Friendship House and 3 to the clothing bank. A grant from the Endowment Fund allows us to send the total amount need for shipping around the world!

This is all accomplished with the support of you, our congregational members. You are a blessing!

Eileen Schermer & Arlene Torgerson

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

December 6

Judi Hubbard, Leader

Mike & Karen Barkstrom, Pastor Val, Trish Safstrom, Sarah Channel, Darci Jewitt
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.



PIE AUCTION THANKS AND ELF

(ELF—Elevate Local Families)

Thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction, live and silent and to everyone who purchased those items. Word is that we raised over \$4000 that will go immediately into the community to support local, struggling people.

In addition to Pie Auction money, if you would like to contribute a gift card, those will get used as well.

Families can then have the joy of shopping for their own family or use it to pay for necessary expenses. Additional donations are welcome. Please bring gift cards (or a donation) to the church office (or put in offering plate marked for ELF). We ask that the gift cards be Walmart or Visa gift cards. A \$100 gift card would sponsor an average family. Any amount is appreciated and will be pooled with other donations to reach the desired amount per family. Our teachers and social worker connections help us find

families in need.

In addition we'll make a small gift bag with holiday goodies and we'll include gift cards. We will need donations of small containers of nuts, holiday cookies, candy, etc. for the gift bags. Thanks in advance for your generosity. Bring these donations to the

parish hall or church office by **Sunday December 11**. Contact Amy aaostwald@gmail.com or 360-482-2306

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SPIRITS THAT EXPRESS THE LOVE OF GOD IN OUR COMMUNITY!

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

The Food Bank will be distributing 125 baskets for Christmas 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 December 18. These can be dropped off during office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8-2, Wednesday 8-1 & Friday 8-11. Thank you for your generosity!



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, Outreach Chair (360) 240-6986 for any questions.



COLD WEATHER SHELTER

We're collecting items to help at the Cold Weather Shelter this year. They need: gloves and hygiene supplies like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant,

wet wipes, combs, etc. **Most needed right now are Large and X-Large sweat pants or pajama bottoms in neutral colors, beanies and socks.**



FAMILY PROMISE

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>

FAMILY PROMISE COORDINATOR

We need someone to help organize a meal for the families once a week. The coordinator will seek

volunteers so that no one will provide a meal very often. Please talk to Suzan or Darci for more details.

GIFT POLICY

The gift policy was the result of the long work of a representative committee of the congregation. Your questions and suggestions are welcome, as always, as we work together to fulfill Amazing Grace's mission in this place. Please direct questions and sug-

gestions to a member of the committee as soon as possible so that adaptation to the policy can be made far in advance of the annual meeting (1/29/23) where it will be voted upon. The committee members are: Gene Schermer, Arlene Torgerson, Phil Stegemoeller, Jim Weiberg, Gary

GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On 12/11 4pm. We're so happy to be able to go caroling again! We have a van for those who want to ride it. Others can take their own cars. We're visiting local assisted living facilities and then come back for

chili and fellowship! Please join in this fun tradition. Sign up in the Parish Hall or call the office to let us know you're coming so we have enough chili! (But, come whether you signed up or not. Anyone who can bring cornbread or cookies, that would be appreciated!)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Families with children, please plan on being part of this great tradition. Invite friends and family for the Sunday school program on December 18th.



POINSETTIAS

If you'd like to share poinsettias, drop them off anytime. If you would like to

honor a loved one in this way, let Vicky know the name that should be printed in the bulletin.



VICKI and KEN MITCHELL'S SENIOR ART GROUP

This new art group will meet at the A.G. church every Tuesday at 9am. Anyone is welcome to join.

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.

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

- 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 parole)

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

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:

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.



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 25, 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.

Attendance: In-Person. Pastor Val, Phil Stegemoeller, Tara Main, Dee Erickson, Carrie Erwin. Zoom: Joe Fernandez, Suzan Stegemoeller

- I. Review of vision, mission, values and council purpose**
- II. Call to Order by acting Pres. Phil Stegemoeller 6**
- III. Establish Quorum**
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda M/S/P**
- V. Approve minutes from meetings:** September 20 (II-V: 5 min)
- VI. Business items** (these are generally items that are beyond any one ministry or don't fit under any ministry, special requests from the community) (30 min)
 - A. Mutual Ministry
 - Continuing to meet
 - B. Gift Policy – In newsletters seeking input from congregation
 - Will be available for review in the November and December newsletters.
 - C. Endowment Fund Committee – appoint new member – Kristine Finazzo
 - Move to appoint Kristine Finazzo to the Endowment Committee **M/S/P**
 - D. Sabbatical – Suzan
 - Motion to work with Pastor Val on her sabbatical for 2023. Approved 2 weeks a quarter but to keep it flexible for more time if needed. **M/S/P**
 - E. Consultation to Clergy resource – Pr. Val
 - Council discussed working with Lorin Vance from Consultation to the Clergy to help with communication within the congregation. Council members and Mutual Ministry will meet with him November 18.
 - F. Accounts simplification – Phil – A.G. books are unnecessarily complicated; looking for ways to simplify them
 - i. End the Mikkil Thompson Fund –
 - Accept no more donations into the fund; use the balance until its depleted. Pay for 2022 PLU Concert tickets for everyone who wants to attend up to the amount in the M.T. fund **M/S/P**
 - G. Mission Fund – Phil
 - Discussion of using donation to start a new Mission Fund account.
 - Pastor Val directed to speak with Beth Adams at the ELCA Foundation about possibility of setting up this fund. **M/S/P**
 - H. Council leaders – 2023

VII. Ministry team reports: (30 min)

- A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val
 - Thank you to those helping with Communion set-up
 - i. Indigenous People Sunday- Went great
 - ii. Advent and Christmas- Christmas day service will be at 10
- B. Outreach – Suzan Stegemoeller
 - Thanksgiving Basket announcement will be in Grace Notes, Newsletter and Bulletins
 - i. Family Promise – Grants – Curtis
 - Curtis is investigating grants for Family Promise
 - ii. Chaplain's dinner – regrouping so no Sunday meal until further notice
 - iii. Kitchen and Parish Hall guidelines
 - Suzan developed guidelines and will make a check list for special events.
- C. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer- Not in attendance
 - i. Sunday School
 - a. Christmas Program – 12/18
 - ii. Adult group study
 - a. Advent Devotional by congregation-
 - Readings for people to sign up for will be going out this week
 - b. Advent study led by Pastor Val
 - iii. Confirmation-No schedule is set.
- D. Fellowship – Carrie Erwin
 - i. 20th Anniversary celebration and dedication of windows – committee forming
 - More members are welcome to join. The celebration is anticipated to be somewhere around the 1st quarter of 2023
 - ii. The annual pie auction will be held November 20th. Carrie will contact Gary Morean and Nicole Evanson to handle the auction.
 - iii. PLU Christmas concert will be December 4th at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$40 and will be fully subsidized by the Mikkel Thompson Memorial Fund. Transportation will be provided by the 5 Star Community van.
 - iv. Caroling will be December 11. Dee will contact 5 Star to see if the Community Van is available.
- E. Property – Joe Fernandez
 - i. A/V system – AV equipment has been updated. Training to follow and being coordinated through Keith and the company.
 - ii. Blue Jean Sunday. Thanks to Liz Ellis for organizing. Thanks to Liz also for her work in the garden. Thanks to Jim Weiberg for his work doing lawn care.
 - iv. Discussion was held concerning supervision of employees and working with them to update the job description. Joe has scheduled a maintenance meeting after church on October 30. Suzan will attend as a representative of the council.
 - v. Steve is working on a product list to replace steps on stairs from the parking lot.
 - vi. Joe is working on building a list of willing members to respond to facility emergencies at the church.

VIII. Financial Reports:

- A. Treasurer's report – Val moved and Carrie seconded the motion to pay the September bills.
- B. Financial Secretary report - As the time was late, several items were tabled until the next meeting including discussion of the new program for treasurer and financial secretary, auditing of the congregation's finances, 2023 budget/finances overview and audit of the church and endowment funds.

Pastor noted that Synod guidelines were given to Tara in order to match up with Portico's compensation information to make sure that it has been done correctly.

Phil and Tara will meet in the near future to review the calendar year activities to make sure transfers, deposits, etc. have been placed in the correct accounts.

At 8:40 pm, the meeting was adjourned. Pastor closed in prayer.

IX. Pastor's Report

(IX – XI 5 min)

XXI. Adjournment and closing prayer



OTHER ACTIVITIES in October– Pastor Report

OFFICIAL ACTS: Ray Hodge funeral

PASTORAL CARE: Visits to home bound, dying and grieving
Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed

ADMINISTRATIVE: Dean's meeting with Bishop
Council planning
Gift policy
Budget

OUTREACH: Planning with team leader

WORSHIP: Reformation and receiving new members
Preparing for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

YOUTH/FAMILY/EDUCATION: Planning Advent study
Young People's message
Sunday School – consult; find curriculum; plan Kick-Off
Planning for Confirmation

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Healthy Congregations w/ Council & Mutual Ministry
Meeting with Pastor's Group

VACATION: September 28 – October 11

UPCOMING: Advent begins Nov. 27th

Pie Auction November 20th

PLU Christmas Concert December 4th

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

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

December 4

Liturgist: Curtis; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Hank Bilderback; **Communion Assistants:** Arlene Torgerson & Joni Hildreth; **Ushers/Greeters:** Theresa Kaufman & Dee Erickson; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Annelise Kraiger; **Fellowship Hosts:** Carle, Torgerson, Smalley/Safstrom; **Communion setup:** Cynthia Johnstone; **Stream Team:** Joe

December 11

Liturgist: Keith; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Mark Smalley; **Communion Assistants:** Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller; **Ushers/Greeters:** Jim & Michelle Weiberg; **Depositors:** Ruth Ann Carlson & Joelle Buckman; **Fellowship Hosts:** Shaw, Green, O'Conner, Lokken, Fernandez; **Communion setup:** Laura Carle; **Stream Team:** Amy

December 18

Liturgist: Greg; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Gene Schermer; **Communion Assistants:** Joan & William Rabung; **Ushers/Greeters:** Naomi Kraiger & Arlene Torgerson; **Depositors:** Kathy Wehage & Carmon Shaw; **Fellowship Hosts:** Hanson, Erwin, Seelke; **Communion setup:** Carmon Shaw; **Stream Team:** Keith

December 24 Christmas Eve

Liturgist: Laura; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Greg Johnstone; **Communion Assistants:** Sarah Channel & Mark Smalley; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mark & Amy Ostwald; **Stream Team:** Curtis



December 25 Christmas Day

Liturgist: Hank; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Darci Jewitt; **Communion Assistants:** Diane Hanson & Theresa Kaufman; **Depositors:** Greg Johnstone & Debby Colangelo; **Communion setup:** Tara Main; **Stream Team:** Steve



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

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.

OCTOBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Church Account Balances

Month Ending Oct. 31, 2022

Bank Accounts

General Fund	\$ 9,164.44
Youth Fund	\$ 295.75
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,260.59
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,855.73
M Thompson Fund	\$ 1,018.34
 Total	 \$ 15,594.85

Designated Funds

PSALM	\$ 100.00
Care Cupboard	\$ 433.51
Pastoral Sabbatical Reserve	\$ 2,620.00
Bells/Music	\$ 409.18
Friends in Need	\$ 580.07
Reformation Fund	\$ 771.20
Outreach Funds	\$ 81.38
Alter Restoration	\$ 286.83
Grace Fund	\$ 340.00
Stain Glass Windows	\$ 13,506.84
M Thompson Fund	\$ 1,018.34
 Total	 \$ 20,147.35
 Available Funds	 \$ (4,552.50)

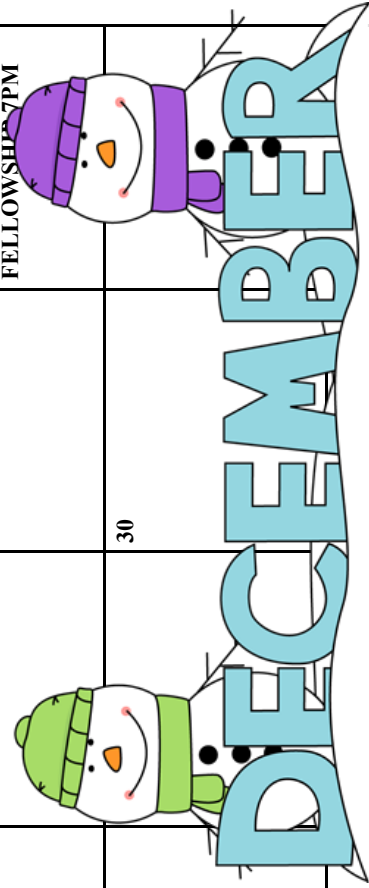


NEW ADDRESS:
Jean Hodge
1626 Ticonderoga CT.
Titusville, FL. 32796

photo submitted by Diane Hanson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 SCRAPBOOK 6-10	3
4 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP PLU CONCERT- LEAVE PARKING LOT AT 12:00	5	6 HANDSEWERS 9-3 SENIOR ART GROUP 9AM	7 QUILTING 9-12 BELLS 6PM AA 5:30-6:30	8	9	10
11 10 WORSHIP 11 FELLOWSHIP 4 CAROLING	12	13 SENIOR ART GROUP 9AM F.P. BOARD MTG 6:30PM	14 BELLS 6PM AA 5:30-6:30	15	16 SCRAPBOOK 6-10	17
18 10 WORSHIP— CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 11 FELLOWSHIP	19	20 COUNCIL MEETING 6PM SENIOR ART GROUP 9AM	21 BELLS 6PM AA 5:30-6:30	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 6PM FELLOWSHIP 7PM
25 10 WORSHIP NO FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27 HANDSEWERS 9-3 SENIOR ART GROUP 9AM	28 BELLS 6PM AA 5:30-6:30	30		



Upcoming Events 1/9 REPORTS DUE FOR ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND LEADERS
Annual Meeting-January 29



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



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of
Grays Harbor

111 E. 4th Street

Aberdeen, WA 98520

360.532.8250

amazing111@comcast.net

www.amazinggraceaberdeen.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE