

Pilgrimage: a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance. Typically, it is a journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith, although sometimes it can be a metaphorical journey into someone's own beliefs.



You are invited to join me on a pilgrimage this summer during the months of July, August and September. While I'm on sabbatical you can go on your own "search of moral or spiritual significance." I'll be using the passage known as "the woman at the well" in the gospel of John to focus my search. You may find it helpful as well.

The whole story is John 4: 4-42 but this is the heart of it for me in this time:

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

It's that life-giving water that I long to be renewed by. Jesus promises this life-giving water to **anyone** who wants to receive it. But, sometimes we're so busy and focused on the tasks before us or weighed down by responsibilities that we lose sight of what it is that we truly want or truly need. Jesus offers relationship with God that is freedom and generosity in the midst of our tasks and responsibilities but we may be often too tired to realize that that relationship is the relief we long for.

Sabbatical is really just extended Sabbath: time for rest and time away from pressing responsibilities making it possible to intentionally focus on what we truly want and need; the things our hearts truly desire. Every one of us needs these regular times of rest and renewal and I'm no different. The idea of receiving living water from Jesus, that springs up within me into eternal life sounds like an invitation to spaciousness and generosity and that is what my heart longs for, while **I long for that same spaciousness and generosity for each of you as well.**

A pilgrimage can take many forms but it's never passive. It may be metaphorical but it is not without effort and a tangible moving beyond what is known and comfortable. The purpose is to stretch ourselves in ways that are life-giving and meaningful; putting ourselves in new places physically and/or emotionally so that we can receive whatever it is that we need in order to grow, whether we realize we need it or want it or not.

While I'm on my pilgrimage you are invited to journey, to stretch yourself in ways life-giving and meaningful to you. You will have opportunities to do this within the life of the congregation participating in worship leadership by signing up for SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP or OTHER MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP.

Pilgrimage is a deep and rich metaphor so you may want to explore it for yourself. There are a couple of books that you may find helpful. As you read them, thoughtfully, consider trying out some of the suggested practices as you go. The first is *Sabbath: Finding rest, renewal, and delight in our busy lives* by Wayne Muller. (A book group in the congregation and council are currently reading this one.) Another one focuses on the image of pilgrimage, *Camino Divina: Walking the Divine Way: A book of moving meditations with likely & unlikely saints* by Gina Marie Mammano. **A couple of each of these books will be in the fellowship hall. If you'd like me to order more, sign up on the sheet next to the books.** They're both available on Amazon. Both books offer simple, tangible ways you can experience Sabbath and/or a pilgrimage close to home or wherever you find yourself this summer.

I found two stories especially inspirational as I have planned how I would organize my sabbatical time seeking the living water that Jesus offers. The first is the story of Hildegard of Bingen, an 11th century mystic who wrote that she longed to be “**a feather on the breath of God.**” She so longed to follow God's desire for her that she tried to be totally free and open to that call so that she would float as a feather wherever God's breath blew her.

The second story is the story of ancient pilgrims who would travel with nothing more than the clothes on their back and sometimes a bowl for food. They trusted that whatever was deposited in the bowl by those they met along the way, would be sufficient. They trusted that whatever they received was provided by God.

As I travel and rest and pray and stretch myself in the spacious gift of time which you have so generously given me, my prayer is that I will be a feather on the breath of God holding my begging bowl lightly, open to receiving gratefully whatever God may drop in it



I invite you to join me in this prayer for the journey, “Lord, let me be a feather on your breath; going where you would have me go, landing where you would have me land, inviting others to join in this pilgrimage on the currents of your breath. Teach us to trust that you hold us through all that life brings. Trusting that Jesus is with us, Amen.

Below you will find two charts and descriptions of tasks in which you are invited to participate that will offer you a chance to grow and stretch within the life of the congregation. You can sign up for these in the fellowship hall where they are posted or by calling the office (532-8250). While I'm away, I will be keeping a journal of my experiences and will be especially attentive to **the places I encounter the living water Jesus offers** as I pay attention to where God's Spirit sends me and what I receive in my begging bowl. I hope you will do the same so that at the end of this time we can share our experiences of being led by God's Spirit and the gifts we received.

Pastor Val

Sabbatical Leave

There are Four Things on why Sabbatical is important:

3) It is a practical thing. The Lutheran church is having issues recruiting and retaining pastors. Fewer people are going to seminary and many burn out. This is part of the push behind “New Roots, New Life”, to help pay for part of the cost of seminary, which will hopefully encourage new seminary students by removing the potential stumbling block of graduating seminary with a large student loan debt. Having Pastor Val take a sabbatical now is not only important for her, but also for the Pastors that comes after her, it set a precedent. Future Pastors will know that Amazing Grace is a place where “Pastors flourish in a nutrient-rich environment of genuine care, mutual support, and Christian encouragement.”

Join with the Church Council in making the time of sabbatical a time of growth and renewal for you personally also. Pastor Val has done a very thorough job of outlining opportunities for all of us to grow in service and mission during this time. Please prayerfully consider where you are called to serve. It is a time to stretch our comfort zones and try new things.

3

AMAZING GRACE SABBATICAL PLAN

July, August, September 2018

**SIGN UP FOR #1 - #4 ON THE SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP CHART IN THE
PARISH HALL OR CALL THE OFFICE 532-8250**

1. Message – 1 person each Sunday

Bring the good news on Sunday in worship. It can be a story from your faith life or a more traditional message. (Pastor Val will work with anyone interested in sharing in this task.)

2. Young people's message – 1 person or a team each Sunday

Bring the good news in way that is accessible to children. (Pastor Val will work with those interested in this task.)

3. Prayers of the people – 1 person or a team splitting months or weeks' prayers. Prepares prayers for Sunday morning worship based on model prayers. (Pastor Val will work with those interested in this.)

4. Choose Songs – 1 person or a team – weekly songs for worship

Choose songs based on the Scripture reading, what the congregation knows, and resources available in the congregation.

AMAZING GRACE SABBATICAL PLAN

July, August, September 2018

**SIGN UP FOR #5 - #10 ON THE OTHER MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP CHART IN THE
PARISH HALL OR CALL THE OFFICE 532-8250**

5. Prayer chain coordinator – 1 person or a team to split the task over 3 months. Receive prayer requests via phone or email; send requests to the prayer chain via email; pray for prayer needs; maintain double confidentiality.

6. Visitation – Anyone who is interested. Visit homebound people and those in assisted living

7. Facebook page – 1 person or 1 person each month or several to share task

Update weekly or more often

8. Newsletter – 1 person or 1 each month for each task

1. Write cover article to be distributed before the first of each month (1 each month: August, Sept, Oct.) – Can offer a perspective on faith or a poem or something else.

2. Proofread and help Vicky with the newsletter for Vicky (1-2 hours)

3. Assemble newsletters; attach labels, stamps in office (last day of month – 2 hours)

4. Deliver newsletter to Post Office **after first Sunday** of month so people have chance to pick up in church.

9. Bulletins – 1 person or share task - weekly

1. Proofread bulletins (need to have Publisher program on computer; 1 hour each week)

2. Assemble bulletins in office – 1 hour

10. Grace Notes – 1 person or share task - weekly

Proofread office version; coordinate with upcoming week's calendar – 10-20 minutes weekly to be emailed on Fridays

PSALM

The Southwestern Washington Synod's **Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry (PSALM)** is accepting applicants for its inaugural class for the PSALM, which will start with a retreat on October 19, 2018.

This is an opportunity for people to discern their gifts for leadership in ministry. It's not a program to train rostered professionals but aims to be an in-depth vocational growth opportunity. Persons who participate will need to be flexible, curious, self-motivated, mission-minded, and willing to live with openness and change. Admittance into the program will be discerned by the congregation, the pastor, and the prospective lay minister. **SPEAK WITH PASTOR VAL ASAP IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THIS OPPORTUNITY.** An application will need to be submitted in June.

SERVANT TRIP

(For all Middle School and High School age youth)

We're going to IDAHO! We'll serve while we have fun and adventures at Idaho Mission Program based out of Rathdrum, ID July 29—Aug 4th. If you are at all interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Val asap as we are submitting our registration very soon! **We need one or two adult leaders to drive the youth to Idaho and serve with them there. The kids are great. It will be a blast!!!**

WALKING TOUR

Save the date! On August 26 we will do a historical walking tour of Aberdeen homes. We will set off from the Aberdeen mansion and hear about the timber barons and other historical homes. Al Waters will lead the group.

If you are unable to make the walk, you can meet us at the Aberdeen Mansion for tea and cookies! More to follow. Contact Judi Hubbard for any questions 360-580-8024

A DAY AT LAKE SYLVIA STATE PARK

Come recreate with us! On Sunday June 10th there will be an after-church gathering at Lake Sylvia State Park. We'll grill some burgers and hot dogs, then those who wish can hike the trail loops (potentially led by an actual Park Ranger!) or wander along the river. It's a free day at State Parks, so no Discover Pass is required! Please sign up in the fellowship hall so we know how many are coming and sign up if you need a ride or can provide a ride. **Bring a potluck dish to share if you can.** Talk to Joe Fernandez or Steve Swanson for more details.

Help Family Promise when you shop on Amazon!

If you shop on Amazon, a half a percent of your purchase can be applied to Family Promise of Grays Harbor. Here's how you do that:

Log into your Amazon account. Then type in smile.amazon.com in the top white http address bar. Hit enter and it takes you to the charity page.

Where it says select a charity on the right, go to the bottom option of pick "your own" and type in Family Promise of Grays Harbor. Select Search. The next page will appear and you press "select".

Then hit "yes" you agree to start your shopping with smile.amazon.com to get the benefit.

You're done...*Start Shopping!*

LISTENING SEASON

The LISTENING SEASON is a time to build relationships with each other, God and our Amazing Grace community. You will be contacted sometime this spring by a **LISTENER** and given an opportunity to share how you came to be a member of AGLC, parts of your faith journey, and your vision for the future of our congregation. A question to ponder; what Bible verse or story exemplifies your current picture and or experience of our church?

5 Perk up your ears and listen...one of the following **LISTENERS** wants to listen to you.

Suzan Stegemoeller – coordinator, Liz Ellis, Diane Hanson, Arlene Torgerson, Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman, Carmon Shaw, Amy Ostwald, Carrie Erwin.

WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

FOR AMAZING GRACE: that all we do in fellowship and service would be done, humbly following the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Timmy, Nick and Judy Claussen, Nancy Neisinger, Penny Holbrook, Sammy, Terry Warwick, Doreen Boettcher, Melvin Thompson, Richard O'Neil and his family, Susie Kellendar, Kathleen Hollingsworth, Matthew Green, Penny Rae Johnson, Danicka, Jeff Lacey, David Shaw, Sarah, Jeff Miller, Amy, Mary Alice Walton, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean, Kaitlyn Brown, Sherry McAllister, Laura & Jacob, Bob and Jean David Hanson

We periodically update the prayer list, since we often don't hear about the needs of the people we're praying for. Please contact the office 360-532-8250 to update any prayer requests you may want to have included or deleted. Thank you.)

FOR THE WORLD: for those in active military service and those who have served in the past: especially Caleb Berken and Steven Kincaid

For those who live on the margins in our own community: Those who live outside, in cars, or in unstable housing; those who live with food insecurity; those who are unemployed or under-employment, for those who receive services at the Youth Center.

For those who work for the care of the vulnerable in our community. Organizers of Family Promise, workers at the Youth Center, Salvation Army and Union Gospel Mission.

We give thanks for signs of hope in our world:

Lord of all hopefulness, as people suffer from natural and human caused disasters and violence we trust that you are working through people in every situation, every day to make this world better. Lord, sustain us in our efforts to be your hands and feet. Teach us humility so that we see each person as your beloved child. Open our hearts and minds, and fill our lives with the fruit of the Holy Spirit: Help us love everyone the way you love us.

God of love, hear our prayer. Amen.

from Worldinprayer.org

Serving at Amazing Grace

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

6 Reminder: Judi Hubbard's team serves Tuesday, June 5

Judi Hubbard, Leader Mike & Karen Barkstrom Pastor Val Trish Safstrom Sarah Channel
Darci Jewitt

Reminder: Maurita White's team **services Tuesday, July 3**

Maurita White, Leader Vicki Mitchell & Virginia Clark Joyce Smith
Paula Elder Dorothy Stephens Pam Alstrom



The director of UGM says that we can expect to serve about 50 people. They need food delivered before 5PM so that they know what is coming. Thank you!!!

HELPING GRAYS HARBOR'S AT-RISK YOUTH



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

Youth Center—needs include: pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars, snack size bags of chips or pretzels, peanut butter or cheese crackers, individually packed bags of veggies and/or ranch, lunch meat

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

Typical Gravity Center kids are experiencing poverty and neglect. The kids are always hungry and can always use: Cup of Noodles, Instant cocoa packets, Bread, peanut butter and jelly, canned tuna, cookies and fruit. In addition the **teen parents** need: Diapers Size 1 or larger, baby wipes, soaps or lotions, clothes, bottles, Children's Tylenol, diaper rash creams. These items may be left in the basket in the Parish Hall for pickup and delivery by Viki Mitch

We're going "Rolling on the River"

for Family Style VBS this year

June 25th - June 28th

We need you to come along for the ride and help with ...

- **Decorators:** Camping/outdoors theme - DVD available with lots of ideas
- **Dinner Organizer:** Plan, prepare, and serve dinner on Monday, June 25th
- **Registration Helpers:** Monday, June 25th and Tuesday, June 26th
- **Adult Mentors:** Attend 1 evening or all 4 –Interact with children and families as we teach other families the Faith 5
- **Music Leader:** Sing along with the music and help energize the group!

7 Contact Michelle Weiberg, Amy Ostwald, or Pastor Val for opportunities to sign up!



**Family Style/All Ages
Vacation Bible School–
Parents/grandparents/guardians are encouraged
to attend with their child(ren).**

Who: All ages - from age 1 to 101 are welcome to attend!
When: Monday, June 25th to Thursday, June 28th
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Where: Begins with dinner at Amazing Grace Church

It is Family VBS because we are implementing a Cross-Gen format to help teach parents how to nurture and pass on their faith. Parents are encourage, but not required, to attend with their kids. The meals, openings/closing will be at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

We will need many helpers:

- Opening/closing session leaders
- Registration assistance
- Guides and mentors (teen and adults)
- Assist with Faith 5 format mentoring
- Meal prep/serving/clean up (Monday night)
- Advise other churches on nights as they use our kitchen
- Assist with story
- Decorations, Games/activities

CHURCHES INVOLVED IN THIS EVENT WILL BE:

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

First Presbyterian Church

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

(This year Amazing Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting)



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



God loves

During a recent chapel service at the Lutheran Center, Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director for Global Mission, shared his favorite Bible verse with us: “Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end” (John 13:1).

Jesus was in Jerusalem in the upper room praying with his disciples, modeling selfless service as he washed their feet, and preparing them for his glorification that would take place on the cross.

“He loved them to the end.” To his bitter end on the cross, but to the end of so much more—to the end of the deadly grip of sin, to the end of everything that would try to mar the image of God borne by every human being, to the end of death.

And Jesus loved them, 12 flesh and blood human beings who carried all the “stuff” people carry—passion and humor and courage, fear and doubt, the need to be seen and affirmed, great faith and quaking uncertainty. Jesus did not love the concept of disciples or the theory of people— Jesus loved them, Jesus loves us.

Jesus loved. How does one describe that? At my cousin’s wedding, the priest noted in his sermon that human language is too small for God. All the poetry in the world can’t express the love for one’s beloved or for a new baby or for family. All of the hymns ever written or sung can’t convey the love we have for God. Neither can words convey how much God loves us. It’s almost incomprehensible how much we are loved by God. It is too much to take in. But it is true.

This is the message that the Lutheran movement still has to speak to the rest of the world. God loves us. God means well for us and for the world. God’s love is deep and constant. And God’s love is not sentimental. The Incarnation was not a whim. Emmanuel, God with us, was a deliberate immersion into human brokenness in order to bring about healing and wholeness. “For while we were still weak ... while we still were sinners ... while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son ...” (Romans 5:6-10)

God loves us. God means well for us and for the world. God’s love is deep and constant. And God’s love is not sentimental.

The Lutheran movement presents an alternative face of Christianity to the world. Too often the image of Christianity seen in popular culture is of a judgmental transactional God demanding perfection from an imperfect people, a people who, in desperation, work harder and harder to save themselves. Rules for purity are erected—pure theology and pure morality. Stark lines are drawn defining who is in and who is out. Faith becomes work. Righteousness is our righteousness achieved by ourselves.

Grace—God’s love freely given—is God’s work. It is not our doing. It is a gift. It is freedom. This is not for a minute to deny the truth of our sinfulness or that God does judge us and finds us falling seriously short. Grace doesn’t give us a free pass, nor does grace gloss over the reality of suffering and evil in the world. This grace, this freedom, makes it possible for us to realize the love of God in Christ in the world and in our own lives. And no human can set bounds on God’s grace.

Jesus loves his own and loves us to the end. Jesus doesn’t expect us to do the same—Jesus makes it possible for us to do the same. Therefore, we have nothing to fear and nothing to lose when we reject the notion of racial supremacy, when we welcome the stranger, when we confess that God alone is first. We can tell that story.

- ♦ Thank you to those who helped set up the fellowship hall for the memorial service for Richard Kraiger and those who donated flowers in his honor.
- ♦ Thank you to Mike Hubbard who continues his hard work on the church building.
- ♦ Thank you to Michelle Weiberg and partners from other participating congregations who will be coordinating VBS this summer.
- ♦ Thank you to Amy Ostwald, Cynthia Johnstone and Linda Ebel who will be working on re-doing the church directory.
- ♦ Thank you Gene Schermer who set up the fellowship hall for the Quilters and the Family Promise meeting.
- ♦ Thank you Beate Wahl and Ron Deaton for your donation to the Youth Center.
- ♦ Thank you Dee and Joelle for volunteering to help Phil with his excel spreadsheet.
- ♦ Thank you Mike Barkstrom for helping Vicky search through the wedding records.



THANKS WE HAVE RECEIVED

Southwestern Washington Synod



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Richard E. Jaech, Bishop

10 May 2008

Dear Pastor Metropoulos and members of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the prayer and financial support you offer as a community of faith in service to the ministries and programs of the Southwestern Washington Synod and the larger church, ELCA. Your hearts are generous and your gifts most welcome as we seek to serve the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the past five years, the Synod staff has helped place nearly 50 new pastors and deacons in service to our nearly 90 congregations. Nineteen of our churches are involved in small group renewal work through the Imagine Project. For the second time, the Synod staff has planned and executed a series of Educational Gatherings to equip and strengthen the ministries of the church through a variety of workshops often led by leaders and members of our own congregations. Gatherings happen on the off-year we hold no Synod Assembly.

A new ministry of the Synod begins this October as the *PSALM* program. It's a two-year set of courses, projects and retreats for members of congregations throughout the Synod. Its focus is evident in its title: **Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry**. Participants will begin with a retreat led by Dr. Patricia Killen on spiritual formation within the religious context of the Pacific Northwest.

As one part of the Synod fundraising campaign *Deep Roots/New Life*, scholarship funds were given to both pastor and deacon in our Candidacy program. Eighteen candidates each received \$2000.00 to put towards their educational expenses. It's the first time in our Synods 30+ years of existence that such funds have been made available.

Your ongoing support is essential for this Gospel work to succeed. Your generosity as churches who walk the path together (as synod) has continued to grow each of the past five years. Your good effort signals a strengthening of support for the work God is calling is to accomplish together.

In his letters to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul encourages each faith community to give support for the sake of the gospel '*as they are able, as they are willing, and as they can give with cheerfulness.*' Our trust as your Synod staff is that your giving truly matches the ability, willingness and joy that Paul raises up as your guide for all benevolent generosity. Again, thanks for your good heart in our common work together in and for Christ Jesus.

Enclosed with this letter is the most recent statement of your congregation's support as well as a thank you certificate for your 2017 mission support. Please contact the Office with any questions. As always, please share our thanks and the certificate with your entire congregation. We are stronger when we work together, our actions built on a deep sense of abundance given from God's generous hand and heart.

GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

If you order from Amazon, consider signing up for Amazon Smile and making Family Promise of Grays Harbor the recipient of your giving. 05% of most purchases goes to Family Promise of Grays Harbor. The following is a list of things Family Promise needs in order to open. Please donate only gently used or new items. They may need to be replaced later, but they'll help us start up. If you have any questions please contact **Linda**

Anderson <liloander@comcast.net>

OFFICE

File cabinets that will lock

Desks, Desk chairs

Chairs, (Misc)

Computers,

Printers

Copier

Book shelves

Dry Erase Boards

Bulletin Boards

Wastebaskets

First Aid Kit

Desk Lamps, Standing Lamps

Staplers

Printing Paper (Cases)

Paper Clips (boxes), Tape & Dispenser

11 Push Pins (box)

Pencils (12 packs)

Pens (8 or 12 packs)

Binder Clips (200 pack), Clip Boards

Note Pads (8x11)

Note Pads (5x8)

FAMILY USE

Couches
End Tables
Coffee Table
Tables for Work area (folding)
Book Shelves
Toys (pre school)
Portable cribs
Changing Station
High chairs
Booster chairs
TV(for DVDs)
DVD/Bluray player
Family friendly movies
Kid DVDs
Children's Books
Waste baskets
Plastic tubs (for family items)
Laundry Bags
Drying Rack
Childproofing materials
Pantry/Cupboard (for food items)
Car seats (no expired or accident history)
Microwave, Coffee Pot

RECURRING NEEDS

Paper towels
Toilet Paper
Diapers
Feminine Hygiene
Trash Bags
Laundry Detergent pods
Bleach
Disposable Handler Gloves
All Purpose Cleaner
Hand Soap Dispenser
Liquid Hand Soap
Dish Detergent
Bathroom Cleaner
Bandages
Shampoo
Conditioner

Lotion
Lysol (type) Wipes
Hand Sanitizer(pump bottles)
Razors

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Vacuum
Mop & bucket
12 Rags, broom & Dust Pan

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Tim Alstrom
1 Chrissie Kincaid
3 Stephanie Gundersen
3 Ardith Savoy
7 Shelby Kincaid
9 Andrew Penttila
17 Diane Hanson
21 Gene Schermer
25 Betty Schlaht
26 Inez Coulter
27 Val Metropoulos
29 Lauri Paulsen

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

10 Peter & Mary Ann Majar
12 Molly & Tim Leithold

JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 Mike Kupka
7 Evelyn Ellingsen
8 Calvin Evanson
11 Donna Morrisette
19 Nicole Evanson
22 Suzan Stegemoeller
23 Amanda Kaufman
23 Arlene O'Connor
29 Peter Majar
31 Joan Rabung

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

12 Hayley & Adam Sykes
23 Lynette & Keith Lile
24 Mike & Judi Hubbard
25 John & Doris Tieder
26 Laura & Coleman Carle
27 Tim & Pam Alstrom
29 Anneliese Kraiger & Stephen Natwick

FaithConneX

We are 8 months into our 1 year commitment to a monthly FaithConneX service. Along with our weekly Bible messages we have seen skits about Martin Luther's life (in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation)!

FaithConneX is more like the early worship model where

Jesus' followers met in small groups. We don't know what the future holds for churches in our rapidly changing world. Turning to early worship styles, or trying new things may be keys to connecting with one another in faith and spreading God's word. Healthy congregations are willing to try new things. Amazing Grace has been really great about doing that.

We are actively assessing whether FaithConneX is fulfilling our goals: Connect generations • Strengthen relationships • Try new ways to worship that might connect with people in our changing world • Reach people with different learning styles • Help parents with faith

development tools to use at home (Faith 5 method) • Get more comfortable praying out loud. We have gained positive ground toward these goals and attendance has been within weekly averages.

We are also making changes as we listen to you and see what works and what does not. The biggest change was moving the service back to the sanctuary. We are also staying in the pews longer, so more of the service is familiar. We strive to welcome newcomers and those that don't want to be in a group. Participation is optional. If you wish, you can remain in your pew and do the FaithConneX worship activities by yourself or with your spouse or family.

You may also keep your family together in the groupings, either ask, or just do it! Our framework is

FLEXIBLE!!

If you haven't been to FaithConneX in a while, give it a try again. It is new and improved! I think you will be blessed by the experience.

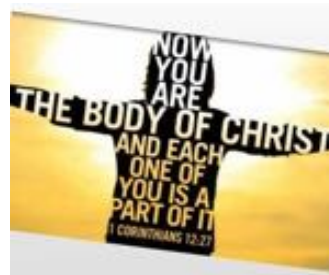
— from your FaithConneX Committee



APRIL BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 49,043.33
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 251.92
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,870.00
-Bells		\$ 812.14
-Friends in Need		\$ 228.70
-Reformation Fund		\$ 2,874.75
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Grace Fund		\$ 220.00
		TOTAL \$ 57,546.82
Fundraising Checking		\$ 220.90
Maintenance Checking		\$ 5,746.13
Youth Checking		\$ 1,283.62
Memorial Savings		\$ 2,597.43
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 817.63

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2018 6:15 pm**



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.

Attendance: Mike Barkstrom, Pastor Val, Phil Stegemoeller, Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman, Mark Smalley, Judi Hubbard, Amy Ostwald and Vicky Kolb

Call to Order: Mark Smalley 6:15

Devotions – Pastor- Sabbath-keeping as the foundation of stewardship

- Spiritual Gifts were discussed and it was noted that they are part of our lives at home, work, church and in the community.

Establish Quorum

Review and Approve Agenda- **M/S/P**

Review, correct and Final approval of minutes for last meeting, April 10, 2018 **M/S/P**

Financial Reports

a Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

-March report has been amended. April report was fine.

-Approve checks M/S/P

i. New Signer update

-Joelle, Judi, Mark and Mike Barkstrom have all signed.

b Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

-There were a few problems with the deposits, but the problems have been solved.

i. Vanco – ability to give \$ thru website

-Phil received the information he needs about people being able to donate online with either debit cards or credit cards.

Business items (these are generally items that are beyond any one ministry or don't fit under any ministry, special requests from the community)

a. Council Meeting Date Changes to accommodate Financial reports

- discuss changing to the 3rd Tuesday-Mark

-Motion to move the Council Meetings from the second to the third Tuesday of each month. **M/S/P**

b. New Constitution Vote – May 6th - Mark

-The voting members at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church approved the amended Constitution on May 6th.

c. Next steps to help the Homeless – Amy & Joelle

-Amy and Joelle will get together to talk in more detail about homelessness.

d. Sabbatical Tasks – Pastor Val/ Mark

-Pastor Val will be sending out tasks mid-May that people will be invited to participate in during sabbatical.

Last day in office: 6/28; Last Sunday: 7/1; First day in office: 10/2; First Sunday 10/7.

e. Church Facility Use – Judi

-Review rules for church facility use. Rooted in our values. Does not require that a member of AGLC be present

f. PSALM support (Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry) – Pastor Val

-The PSALM program is new two year program through the Synod to equip lay members for ministries within its congregations. Students will take part in study in core Lutheran courses, weekend retreats, small group meetings and service-oriented projects. Three people have expressed interest. Pastor Val will be applying to the endowment fund for part of the payment. Those interested should contact Pastor Val

g. Regional Gathering – last one in Vancouver, May 19th – council participation is encouraged.

- Joelle and Amy both attended different workshops; learned new things and expressed that it was a good experience.

h. Bible Class

-Amy suggested we offer an adult study about how ELCA interprets the Bible and what is different about the Lutheran faith. This is why we believe, what we believe.

Ministry Reports

a. Outreach – Joelle

-Joelle handed out a handout for outreach ministry with the different ways you can volunteer your time. Any questions, please contact Joelle.

-Friendship House is always grateful for any donation made, but don't forget to donate little kids clothes too.

b. Fellowship – Judi

-Judi reported that one person has asked to sign up for the house walk on August 26th already.

c. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald

VBS – June 25-28

-Michelle Weiberg is coordinating VBS which Amazing Grace is hosting. It will from 5:30-7:30pm.

The planning is in full swing with Michelle and partners from other participating congregations.

Servant Trip – July 29-Aug. 4th Idaho Mission Project in Rathdrum, ID

-Adults who volunteer for this trip will need to stay onsite to serve with the youth and transport them between sites. Pastor Val will be on sabbatical and one or more adults will be needed for the youth trip.

-Last day of Sunday school will be June 10th

Graduate recognition w/ blankets from confirmation kids in worship June 3rd.

-Vicky will need to let the fellowship hosts know that a cake will be provided.

-Amy will be working with Cynthia Johnstone and Linda Ebel on re-doing the church directory. Three items they will work on:

-Update individuals/families included, photos, and contact info

d. Worship – Dee Erickson

-There was a discussion about patriotic songs being included on the Sundays nearest July 4th and Memorial Day. Pastor expressed that secular holidays are always remembered in prayers

May 20th Missionary speaker in worship

-Stacie Evensen will come and speak about what she's been doing in her missionary work in Myanmar.

e. Property – Mike Barkstrom

-Mike would like to say thank you to Mike Hubbard who has been doing a fantastic job with getting things done around the church.

-LED lights will be put into the fellowship hall. Right now Mike is doing a cost analysis.

-Judi will be picking out a new vacuum cleaner.

-Mike has not heard back from Trace about Eagle Scout project.

-Still working with John Lupo Construction to find a way to make necessary repairs to the roof and gutters on the north side of the church.

i. Review of priorities

Task Assignments

-Dee and Joelle will get together with Phil to work on excel spread sheets.

-Vicky will get together with Phil to go over email about the donating option on website from Vanco

-Put AA meeting dates in newsletter calendar from now on

-Amy will work on church directory along with Cynthia Johnstone and Linda Ebel

Adjournment and closing prayer 8:30pm

PASTOR'S REPORT - REGULAR ACTIVITIES - April 2018

(BOLD are items congregation will be asked to participate in while I'm on sabbatical.)

WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHP

Sunday worship - Plan and lead

15

Plan and implement themes with Liturgical Arts Team

Plan & participate in adult education

Plan seasonal and special worship services

Sermons -prayer, study, reading, writing

Prayer

Meet with ministry leader as needed

ADMINISTRATION Reports: congregational; synod; ELCA
Coordinate Imagine Process w/ Synod D.E.M.
Conference Pastors meeting monthly
Conference deans - meet bi-annually & as needed
Recordkeeping: updates to documents; church ledger
Work with office administrator: bulletins, newsletter, etc.
Council meeting & Exec. Comm. meeting monthly
Newsletter - writing, editing
Meet with treasurer as needed
Mutual Ministry meeting
Endowment Committee advisor

FELLOWSHIP/PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING **Prayer Chain - coordinate**
Healing monthly
Grace notes weekly or as needed
Pastoral care as needed
Hospital visits; homebound & assisted living visits
Coordinate with ministry leader as needed

OUTREACH Food Bank reorganizing meetings
County housing meetings
Monthly Local Pastor's group
Facebook page - outreach through social media.
Coordinate with others to support homeless and fragile people
Coordinate with Youth Center supervisor
Meet w/ ministry leader as needed

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE Meet w/ ministry leader as needed

YOUTH AND FAMILY Youth Group coordinate activities monthly and summer trip; VBS; S.S.
Adult Ed. - plan; book group
Message for young people weekly
Meet w/ ministry leader as needed

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM Study and integrate into sermons

OFFICIAL ACTS- None

VACATION - April 30 - May 4

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Listening with the Spirit - class for spiritual direction
Spiritual Direction monthly
Reading: Spiritual direction articles; Day the Revolution Began - Wright;

OTHER ACTIVITIES in April

WORSHIP: Plan Richard Kraiger funeral; May/June/Summer season worship plan

PASTORAL CARE: Richard Kraiger and his family

RENEWAL: Faith ConneX worship - evaluation and planning;

ADMINISTRATION: Conference Deans meeting with Bishop
Sabbatical plan - tasks while I'm gone
Admin. Assist. - training
Weekly bulletins; monthly newsletter
PSALM - Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry - distribute information; talk with interested people

YOUTH AND FAMILY: Youth Group; Confirmation; VBS planning
Plan Servant Trip - Idaho Mission Project - Rathdrum, ID 7/29-8/5
Book Group weekly meeting

OUTREACH: Food Bank work to find new site

UPCOMING: Faith ConneX - cross-generational worship continues
Regional Synod Educational Gatherings: May 19th
PSALM-

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Mark Smalley	(360) 249-1955	marktrish86@gmail.com
Treasurer	Theresa Kaufman	(360) 537-1190	theresamarie4739.2@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Phil Stegemoeller	(360) 580-9310	Phil.qlc@comcast.net
Youth & Family	Amy Ostwald	(360) 482-2306	Ostwald@olynet.com
Outreach	Joelle Buckman	(360) 589-6111	Joelle_buckman@email.com
Worship	Dee Erickson	(360) 533-7948	deekaye1@comcast.net
Fellowship	Judi Hubbard	(360) 532-8577	jhubbard1952@comcast.net
Property	Mike Barkstrom	(360) 532-3319	barkie1@earthlink.net
Endowment	Dennis Morrisette	(360) 533-1012	dcmorrisette@msn.com
Pastor	Val Metropoulos	(360) 580-8977	vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu
Office Administrator	Vicky Kolb	(360) 532-8250	amazing111@comcast.net

BUILDING REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE

Please notify Mike Barkstrom or send a message to the church office if there are any repairs needed at the church. Sometimes members or visitors notice things that need to be fixed that the committee is not aware of. Your input is helpful in these matters.
Mike Barkstrom: mkbarks1@gmail.com - (360) 589-1393

Ministers: The People of Amazing
Grace 111 E. 4th Street, 360) 532-8250

amazinggraceaberdeen.org

amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-
8977 vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle, Jeannette

Green **Musicians:** Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke, Jeni Kaufman

JUNE 2018 Worship Assistants



June 3

Liturgist:	Hank Bilderback
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Carmon Shaw
Communion Assistant:	Carmon Shaw
Ushers/Greeters:	Maurita White & Judi Hubbard
Depositors:	Carmon Shaw & Darrell Lokken
Fellowship:	ALSTROM, TIEDER, SCHERMER, JOHNSTONE

June 10


Liturgist:	Jeannette Green
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Steve Swanson
Communion Assistant:	Steve Swanson & Joelle Buckman
Ushers/Greeters:	Arlene Torgerson & Naomi Kraiger
Depositors:	Pete Majar & Mark Ostwald
Fellowship:	MITCHELL, CLARK, KAUFMAN, BIORNSTAD

June 17

Liturgist:	Laura Carle
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Kristine Finazzo
Communion Assistant:	William & Joan Rabung
Ushers/Greeters:	Eileen & Gene Schermer
Depositors:	Hiedi Seelke & Ray Hodge
Fellowship:	OSTWALD, RABUNG, GUNDERSEN

June 24

Liturgist:	Keith Lile
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Michelle Weiberg
Communion Assistant:	Darci Jewitt & Joni Hildreth
Ushers/Greeters:	
Depositors:	Joe Fernandez & Karen Barkstrom
Fellowship:	MAJAR, LILE, MORRISETTE, D. ERICKSON

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
19					6 PM SCRAPBOOK- ING & CRAFTING	7 PM AA
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/ GODLY PLAY S.S. 5PM BACCALAUREATE	OFFICE CLOSED		9AM QUILTING & MAINTENANCE 5:30 PM AA	7 PM BOOK GROUP	AHS GRADUATION	7 PM AA
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/LAKE SYLVIA GATHERING AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION			5:30 PM AA	7 PM LAST BOOK GROUP	6 PM SCRAPBOOK- ING & CRAFTING	7 PM AA
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 AM WORSHIP/HEALING 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP Father's Day		6:15 PM COUN- CIL MEETING 7 PM FAMILY PROMISE	5:30 PM AA			7 PM AA
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP	VBS 5:30-7:30 PM	VBS 5:30-7:30 PM	VBS 5:30-7:30 PM	VBS 5:30-7:30 PM		

JULY 2018 Worship Assistants



July 1

Liturgist:	Keith Lile
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Kristine Finazzo
Communion Assistant:	Kristine Finazzo
Ushers/Greeters:	Tim & Pam Alstrom
Depositors:	Judi Hubbard & Gene Schermer
Fellowship:	CARLE, TORGERSON, SMALLEY/SAFSTROM, ELLIS

July 8

Liturgist:	Jeannette Green
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Molly Leithold
Communion Assistant:	Mark Smalley & Dee Erickson
Ushers/Greeters:	Paula Elder & Dorothy Stephens
Depositors:	Carmon Shaw & Hiedi Seelke
Fellowship:	SHAW, GREEN, O'CONNOR, LOKKEN, FERNANDEZ

July 15


Liturgist:	Laura Carle
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Vicky Roberts
Communion Assistant:	Joan & William Rabung
Ushers/Greeters:	Dennis & Donna Morrisette
Depositors:	Darrell Lokken & Ray Hodge
Fellowship:	FINAZZO, EVANSON, ELLINGSEN, HUBBARD, WAITE, WINTER

July 22

Liturgist:	Hank Bilderback
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Liz Ellis
Communion Assistant:	Theresa & Jenifer Kaufman
Ushers/Greeters:	Mark & Amy Ostwald
Depositors:	Carmon Shaw & Joe Fernandez
Fellowship:	HANSON, ERWIN, HODGE, SEELKE,

July 29

Liturgist:	Keith Lile
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Arlene Torgerson
Communion Assistant:	Darci Jewitt & Diane Hanson
Ushers/Greeters:	Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller
Depositors:	Gene Schermer & Maurita White
Fellowship:	BARKSTROM, HILDRETH, BUCKMAN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP			OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 PM AA INDEPENDENCE DAY		6 PM SCRAPBOOK & CRAFTING	7 PM AA
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP			5:30 PM AA			7 PM AA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10 AM WORSHIP/HEALING 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP		6:15 PM COUNCIL MEETING 7 PM FAMILY PROMISE	5:30 PM AA		6 PM SCRAPBOOK & CRAFTING	7 PM AA
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP			5:30 PM AA			7 PM AA
29	30	31				
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP YOUTH GROUP SERVANT TRIP 7/29- 8/4						



**Please join us for worship
Sundays at 10am with coffee and fellowship
afterward.**

***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.amazinggraceaberndeen.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE