

# ***THE SPIRIT — AUGUST 2018***

## ***Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of Grays Harbor***



A Summer Season to Listen

Liz Ellis, guest disciple

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

Pastor Val is off on a sabbatical. She encouraged each of us to take time from our busy-ness to take our own mini sabbatical and to be open to hearing God's guidance in new ways. Some of us may schedule vacation time that is dedicated to pursuing a passion, travel, and adventure or we may be planning a staycation at home. Whether staying or going, be deliberate about setting aside time to rest your body, mind, and soul. Not only will you feel energized and renewed, but you will also be more receptive to God's nudges in your life.

Meditation comes in many forms and can be done while sitting, walking, gardening, or fishing. Fifteen to Forty minutes of meditation helps us to quiet the chatter in our heads. Be comfortable and focus your consciousness on your breathing. Take a deep breath in through the nose, exhale through the mouth. Repeat. Notice sounds, thoughts of concerns or worry and let them go. Focus on your breathing. Breathe in, breathe out.

Underlaying the lists of to-do's, concerns, and media memes you will find a place of calm and a God's voice guiding your heart. You will know it is God because you will feel loved.

### **For the Traveler**

John Donohue

Every time you leave home,  
Another road takes you  
Into a world you were never in.

New strangers on other paths await.  
New places that have never seen you  
Will startle at your entry.  
Old places that know you well  
Will pretend nothing  
Changed since your last visit.

When you travel, you find yourself  
Alone in a different way,  
More attentive now

To the self you bring along,  
Your more subtle eye watching  
You abroad; and how that meets you  
Touches that part of the heart  
That lies low at home.

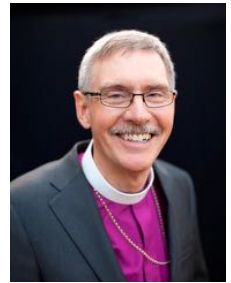
How you unexpectedly attune  
To the timbre in some voice,  
Opening in conversation  
You want to take in  
To where your longing  
Has pressed hard enough  
Inward, on some unsaid dark,  
To create a crystal of insight  
You could not have known  
You needed  
To illuminate  
Your way.

When you travel,  
A new silence  
Goes with you,  
And if you listen,  
You will hear  
What your heart would  
Love to say.

A journey can become a sacred thing:  
Make sure, before you go,  
To take time  
To bless your going forth,  
To free your heart of ballast  
So that the compass of your soul  
Might direct you toward  
The territories of spirit  
Where you discover  
More of your hidden life,  
And the urgencies  
That deserve to claim you.

May you travel in an awakened way,  
Gathered wisely into your inner ground;  
That you may not waste the invitations  
Which wait along the way to transform you.

May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,  
And live your time away to its fullest;  
Return home more enriched, and free  
To balance the gift of days which call you.



Dear Southwestern Washington Synod leaders,

On May 6, six days before Mother's Day, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions ordered Border Agents to forcibly separate children from their mothers if they are caught seeking refuge in the United States without proper documents. The children, who are fleeing murder and violence in their home countries, are to be taken to one detention facility where they may stay for months, while their mothers and fathers are taken to another.

I was revolted when I heard this news. The last time I saw such a thing happen was when I viewed WWII film clips of Nazi German soldiers forcibly pulling children from their parents as they were taken to the camps. I do not make that comparison lightly or without taking seriously what I am implying. While Hitler's actions were even more unspeakably horrible because he was sending Jewish families to death camps, it is fundamentally horrible and inhumane to separate young children from their parents in any circumstance. It furthermore endangers the very soul of our nation to act in such a cruel fashion.

I recognize that there are major challenges and problems we must address regarding the movement of refugees and immigrants coming to our country. We need borders that are safe and regulated, while at the same time we need to assist neighboring countries to become more stable so that families are not forced to flee for their lives.

However, no matter what the crisis, it is absolutely against the way of Jesus to separate five-year-old children from their mothers for months at a time as a tactic to stop refugee migration.

In WWII Germany, Lutherans were largely silent when the Nazis acted so inhumanely. We Lutherans cannot be silent again when children are being abused. I urge you to exercise your rights and responsibilities as citizens and contact your US representatives and senators, asking them to oppose the separation of children from parents. If you would like more background on the children that are seeking refuge, I recommend that you go to our national ELCA web page that tells about the AMMPARO program, which ministers to migrant children. <https://www.elca.org/ammparo>

Finally, I welcome your response to these words, including if you disagree with me. I know that there are many deeply felt opinions on the immigration issue and I respect that. However, I also feel it is better to talk openly and honestly than remain silent when children's lives and the deepest values of our nation are at stake. May God continue to bring us wisdom and courage.

Bishop Rick Jaech

## **WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER**



**FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:** Tom Plumlee, Vince Huddard, Sam Spryznatyck, Sarah Robbins, Larry Murray, Nick and Judy Claussen, Nancy Neisinger, Mary Ann Majar, Penny Holbrook, Sammy, Terry Warwick, Melvin Thompson, Richard O'Neil and his family, Susie Kellendar, Kathleen Hollingsworth, Matthew Green, Penny Rae Johnson, Betty Schlaht, Maxine Cogburn, Jeff Lacey, David Shaw, Jeff Miller, Amy, Mary Alice Walton, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean, Kaitlyn Brown, Sherry McAllister, Laura & Jacob and Jean and David Hansen

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

**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-employed, 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 and those reorganizing the Aberdeen Food Bank.

### **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*

*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.*

**Contact Brenda Grant for any prayer needs at: [brenda\\_k\\_grant@hotmail.com](mailto:brenda_k_grant@hotmail.com)**



- ◆ Thank you to the confirmation class who made the quilts for the graduating seniors: Tessa Buckman, Hannah Erwin and Madi Green. Thank you also to Pastor Val, Carmon Shaw and Naomi Kraiger who helped.
- ◆ Thank you to the fellowship members from team 1 (Tim & Pam Alstrom, John & Doris Tieder, Eileen & Gene Schermer and Cynthia & Greg Johnstone) who provided the cake for graduation
- ◆ Thank you Roger Shaw for all the work you do even at a moment's notice!
- ◆ Thank you Mike Barkstrom for keeping our facility in tip top shape so that we are well prepared for a long and faithful ministry in the future!
- ◆ Thank you Mike and Joni Hildreth for donating books to Family Promise!
- ◆ Thank you Alan Rammer for donating a computer to Family Promise
- ◆ Thank you Mike Hubbard for fixing the lock on the door to the fellowship hall
- ◆ Thank you Kala for filling in for Judy while she was away.
- ◆ Thank you to Michelle Weiberg for an ABSOLUTELY AMAZING VBS this year! Your organizational skills made all that ministry and caring possible! Thanks too for diving into the DIRTY work. That was above and beyond!!!
- ◆ Thank you to Amy Ostwald for bringing your vast creativity and energy to VBS, making God's love known even better in our community!
- ◆ Thank you Pastor Val and Amy Ostwald for attending numerous planning meetings to design and create our action packed week of VBS.
- ◆ Thank you Pastor Val for leading opening and closing each evening and the story of Zacheuss.
- ◆ Thank you Suzan Stegemoeller, Joan Rabung, and Carmon Shaw for jumping to help with wherever needed during the Faith 5.
- ◆ Thank you Carmon Shaw, Molly Rabung, Aliss Barre, Hannah Erwin, and Madi Green for leading the "Rafters" and "Campers" groups through the Rolling River Rampage Sing-a-longs during the opening and closing each evening.
- ◆ Thank you Josie and Kylie Weiberg, and AJ Seguin for running the sound and visual equipment during the opening and closing; and for jumping in and helping with wherever during each evening of VBS.
- ◆ Thank you Kylie Weiberg for creating large signs welcoming everyone to "Rolling River Rampage."
- ◆ Thank you Jared and Trace Erwin for being our police officers in the alley so our groups could safely move from church to church; being Zacheuss in the Syncamore tree; and jumping in wherever needed during the week.
- ◆ Thank you Suzan Stegemoeller and Joelle Buckman for helping register families and kiddos on Monday and Tuesday of VBS.
- ◆ Thank you Joelle Buckman and Dee Erickson for creating our beautiful Rolling River Rampage in the sanctuary complete with a waterfall, tent and raft.
- ◆ Thank you Ken and Vicki Mitchell for providing stuffed animal bears to camp in our sanctuary river scene, adding finishing touches to the sanctuary scene **and creating our 'Welcome to VBS' sign for the sanctuary.**
- ◆ Thank you William and Molly Rabung for shopping, preparing and serving a delicious home-made macaroni and cheese dinner.
- ◆ Thank you to Carmon for your fabulous recruiting skills for VBS as well as the love you showed every person in attendance. Thank you for shopping for paper products to be used for our nightly dinners and thank you too for your enthusiastic, all-smiles dancing, leading singing. It was joyful to

sing and dance with you!

- ♦ Thank you Naomi Kraiger for applying for a Thrivent action card to help us with VBS expenses and donating several cases of bottled water.
- ♦ Thank you to the Endowment Committee for their generous donation to help with VBS expenses.
- ♦ Thank you to many others for their generous \$ donations to assist with financing Vacation Bible School.
- ♦ Thank you Rev. Sam Altis, Carmon Shaw, Brenda Grant, Amy Ostwald, Liz Ellis, Hank Bilderback, Kris Burns and Joelle Buckman for doing Sunday Morning Worship for the month of July.
- ♦ Thank you Vicki Mitchell and Cynthia Johnstone for proofreading the Bulletins for the month of July.
- ♦ Thank you Carmon Shaw for helping to assemble bulletins for the month of July.
- ♦ Thank you Amy Ostwald for helping with the Grace Notes for the month of July.
- ♦ Thank you Liz Ellis for proofreading and doing the cover article for the August newsletter.
- ♦ Thank you Mike Barkstrom and Amy Ostwald for volunteering to go on the youth trip.
- ♦ Thanks to William Rabung for a perfect first meal of VBS and Joan for your help every night. You loved those children well!
- ♦ Thank you to the 1st Presbyterian, St. Andrews and United Methodist churches for their help and support in planning and implementing a fun filled week of activities. As the host church this year, our congregation worked hard to organize and make this event so wonderful for all who participated.
- ♦ Thanks to EVERYONE who supported our every-three-year VBS effort. It makes a difference in the community!

### THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS

- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for three benevolence gifts given over three months: \$48.28; \$47.28 and \$61.66.
- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$437.71

• Dear Pastor Val and Amazing Grace Church,  
Thank you so much for the blessing and honor to share with you about what God has been doing in Myanmar. It was so fun to see so many familiar faces from my childhood as well as meet some new brothers and sisters in Christ. I'm encouraged to see your love for the community and the warm welcome for me to share about the other side of the world.

Blessings to you all!

-Stacie Evensen, Missionary in Myanmar

• Dear Council and members,  
You helped make a big impact in our community.  
The members of the Family Promise group are so thankful for the use of the Parish Hall for our recent fund raising dinner. We raised over \$5,600 toward giving homeless families in our area a chance to getting a job and into housing.

Thank you for your generosity!

-Eileen Schermer, Family Promise





## LIVING STONES MINISTRY

Our Living Stones Prison visit is on Saturday August 4th. We need to be at the prison by 5:30 pm and will likely depart by 8:30 pm. We plan to carpool from the church. The men are looking forward to worshipping with us, and we look forward to worshipping with them.

It is now time to submit the needed information for the background checks on our group. Please sign up today, as this information is due to the prison. We need your full name, date of birth, last 4 digits of SSN, and email (if available). Talk to Carmon, Joe, or others who have visited the prison congregation if you have any questions.

## WALKING TOUR

**Save the date !** 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

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

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

## GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

### 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?

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.

### BOOK GROUP

Thursday night book group continues to meet throughout the summer at 7pm in the fellowship hall. If you're interested let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the group or just show up. We will be reading, *Falling Upward: a spirituality for the two halves of life* by Fr.

## **PILGRIMAGE**

**Pastor Val will be co-leading a Women Only pilgrimage to the Holy Land next May 2019. Other leaders are Rev. Heather Doss, founder of Progressive Pilgrimage and Rev. Katherine Willis Pershey. This will be a time of great learning and fun. Please consider signing up soon as the group is limited to 24 women and is open to people worldwide.**

For more information and to register, visit: <https://progressivepilgrimage.com/yogaretreat2019/>

During this nine-day pilgrimage for women only, you will experience the highlights of the Holy Land including the Temple Mount, Sea of Galilee, River Jordan, and more. Daily yoga and centering prayer meditation create space for pilgrims to reflect deeply on their experiences. Watch the Scriptures come to life as you walk in the wilderness and pray in Gethsemane. Experience modern religious and cultural traditions as we celebrate Shabbat with Jewish Israelies and learn to cook with Palestinian women. All-abilities yoga will be led by Rev. Katherine Willis Pershey, Associate Minister at First Congregational Church in Western Springs, IL. Katherine is currently completing her 200-hour yoga certification and teaches a yoga class in her congregation. Centering prayer meditation will be led by Rev. Valyn Metropoulos of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, WA. Valyn has been practicing and leading centering prayer for many years and is currently completing a certificate in spiritual direction.

## **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](mailto:liloander@comcast.net)>

### **OPENING NEEDS LIST**

#### **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)  
Note Pads (5x8), Note Pads (8x11)  
Tape and Dispenser, Binder Clips (200 pack)  
Clip Boards  
Push Pins (box), Pens (8 or 12 Packs)

#### **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  
Rags  
Broom & Dust Pan



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

**2 Annette Biornstad**  
**5 Ken Paul**  
**10 Nathan Gundersen**  
**10 Ray Hodge**  
**13 Jeff Gundersen**  
**17 Erin Burns**  
**18 Emily Penttila**  
**23 Maggi Kupka**  
**23 Gary Morean**  
**27 Heather Mitby**  
**29 Lynette Lie**  
**31 Charles Scamman**

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

**3 Annette & Gary Biornstad**  
**5 Hank & Gloria Bilderback**  
**6 Ken & Louise Paul**  
**8 Martha & Francis Beeman**  
**11 Val Metropoulos & Steve Swanson**  
**12 Darrell & Elaine Lokken**  
**14 Mike & Moonbeam Kupka**  
**16 Kristine & Rob Burns**  
**18 Ken & Vicki Mitchell**  
**23 Gene & Eileen Schermer**  
**24 Arlen & Mike O'Connor**  
**31 James & Vicky Roberts**

# SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

## UNION GOSPEL MISSION



**Reminder:** Carmon Shaw's team serves **Tuesday, August 7**

Carmon Shaw, Leader   Brenda Grant   Chrissie Kincaid   Amy Ostwald  
Theresa Kaufman   Eileen Schermer   Joni Hildreth   Arlene O'Connor  
Cynthia Johnstone

**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, lunch meat and individually packed bags of veggies and ranch dressing.

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

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

## QUILTERS

The quilters have prepared a display in the parish hall for their next project to send with quilts to Lutheran World Relief in November. Now is the best time to buy the school supplies that are needed in the school kit as our big box stores are having good sales every week. Below you will find a list of items needed for one school kit. If you wish you may give any quilter a donation and we will do the shopping for you! Thanks in advance for supporting this project.

Include the following items in each school kit:

Four 70 sheet notebooks (280-300 sheets total) of wide or college-ruled paper ( NO LOOSE LEAF PAPER)

One 30 centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

One Pencil Sharpener

One pair of blunt scissors

Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (NO GEL INK) secure together with a rubber band

One box of 16 or 24 crayons (Crayola is best)

One 2 1/2" eraser

## GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

**Save the date! "God's work. Our hands." Sunday** will be Sunday, September 9, 2018. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: That all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2018!

### FOR THE SABBATH

From the Daily Devotions 'God Pause' produced by Luther Seminary

#### Psalm 92:1-4,12-15

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
2. to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,
3. to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.
4. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy...
12. The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
13. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.
14. In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,
15. showing that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him

This psalm's heading "For the Sabbath" makes sense. It talks about giving thanks; singing praises; declaring God's love; and making music. All things we do in worship. Yet, sometimes I worry that we might think of worship as a play. The worshipers are the audience. The clergy is the emcee.

The musicians are the entertainment, and God is the prompter in the wings. Shouldn't it be the other way around? The worshipers are the performers; the clergy and musicians are the prompters; and God is the only audience.

Has worship become a place where we expect to be entertained? How can we move from observing to bursting forth with passion and praise? If we truly believed in the attributes and characteristics of God, we couldn't help but join in with our passion and praise. "Did I get anything out of worship?" is the wrong question. Rather we could ask: "Did my worship make God smile?"

*Holy Lord, correct us when we make worship about us--when we let our tastes and preferences override glorifying you. You alone are worthy of our praise. Amen.*

by Laurie Neill, '12

Discipleship Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

Note: These 'God Pause' Daily Devotions are on our website and change daily.

www.[amazinggraceaberdeen.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeen.org) or you can sign up to have them sent to you daily by email.

The sign up is here: <http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/default.aspx>

**HYMNFEST! 9:45 a.m. — August 5th Come to sing some of your favorite hymns.**

**Kris Burns provides the music. The Hymn Fest happens the first Sunday of each month.**

*"One who sings, prays twice."*

**PLEASE JOIN US!**



## VBS REPORT

VBS took place last week of June. We had great joint participation from our other neighborhood churches: 1st Presbyterian, Methodist and St. Andrew's Episcopal. Each of the pastors from those churches (including Pastor Val) led the Bible story of the day. Each church prepared a meal. We had approximately 80 people per day Monday thru Thursday (includes kids and adults). After the meal and opening session the time was split between Amazing Grace (more story & Faith 5) and 1st Pres (craft). We used Faith Five woven into the format of the VBS curriculum and using that format went amazingly well. Way better than we could have hoped. It truly felt like the spirit was working among us. We had some Bible story drama and convinced Father Evan from St. Andrew's to play Jesus and Jared & Trace Erwin each played Zaccheus ... among other actors and roles. It was heartening to see plenty of families participating together, and especially wonderful to have so many from AG there helping. The young adult song leaders Madi Green, Molly and Mari Rabung, Hannah Erwin and Carmon Shaw (Carmon is a young adult!) were awesome. Michele Weiberg did a stellar job organizing the week (it's worse than herding cats -- she is to be commended)! Other helpers included Joan and William Rabung (great food!), Josie & Kylie Weiberg, A.J. Seguin, Amy Ostwald, Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman and Ken & Vicky Mitchell (decorating & sign making!) And others helped as well! Many hands make light work and a successful event. Thanks to all.







**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 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, Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman, Pastor Val, Amy Ostwald, Mark Smalley, Phil Stegemoeller, Theresa Kaufman and Vicky Kolb

Call to Order 6:15

Devotions – Pastor- Sabbath-keeping as the foundation of stewardship. Read pages 123 through 153 in Sabbath Book.

Establish Quorum

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

Review, correct and Final approval of minutes for last meeting, May 8, 2018 **M/SP**

**Financial Reports**

a. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

- Amend \$256 for quilters
- There is \$4100 available to maintenance
- Amend page 1 for Myanmar money for Stacie Evensen
- Pay for vacuum out of the insurance fund **M/S/P**
  - i. New Signer update
- All signers have paper work done.

b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

- Phil will need to look at every cash/check donation carefully so money that the church receives as donations goes to the right place.
  - i. Vanco – ability to give \$ thru website

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

- Joelle and Amy have put together a poster board about "how we can help the homeless in Grays Harbor." The following list are ways you can either volunteer or donate materials: Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor, Sunday Evening Meal, Dream Big Team, Under the Bridge Ministry and Donations for the Youth Center: GRAVITY, Homeless and needy. If you have any questions, please contact Joelle Buckman or Amy Ostwald.

b. Sabbatical Tasks – Pastor Val/ Mark

- If I need more office hours then I need to let council members know or if I need help or I'm having trouble with anything let them know right away. (Note from Vicky)
- While Pastor Val is on sabbatical council members need to keep things on track and have no big changes.  
Sign up progress/gaps

1. Still working in filling in the gaps

ii. Who is filling in the gaps

14-Many people have agreed to bring the good news to worship.

-Hank Bilderback and Kris Burns will choose the songs for Sunday worship if no one else signs up.



- Joelle Buckman has volunteered to write the cover article for the September newsletter and Mark will write an article for the October Newsletter.
- Joelle will do the prayers every week.
- Carmon Shaw has volunteered to fill in wherever she is needed
- Hank Bilderback will preside every Sunday unless he is not needed.
- Gordon Schnee and others have to fill in.
- iii. Pastor Val's last day in office: 6/28; Last Sunday: July 1st; First day in office: 10/2; First Sunday Oct. 7th.
- c. Parking Lot use request – August 4th – Aberdeen All Class Reunion. **M/S/P**
- d. PSALM financial support (Program for strengthening Active Lay Ministry) – Pastor Val
  - 5 people have signed up for the PSALM class so far. This class cost \$1000 a year but Pastor Val will be asking for some of the budget from the endowment committee. These five people are making a big commitment for 1 year and we will keep praying and supporting them. This class enables them to do things under the guidance of an ordained pastor.
- e. Regional Gathering feedback
  - Pastor Val went to the last one heard some great ideas about ministering to the homeless. She also learned that a church working together and not as individuals has a better chance at succeeding. There was also a program to support dementia and how to include everyone with issues and not have them feel left out.
- f. Machine to rent to strip floor- Judi will report to Mike
- g. Bel Aire Property 6 months renewal contract with Windermere Realty. Council has decided to extend the contract.

## Ministry Reports

- a. Worship – Dee Erickson
  - Dee has met with Pastor Val and went over what her responsibilities will be while Pastor Val is on sabbatical. Dee also talked about having a class for Ushers/Greeters and communion assistants that will teach them what to do. This class will not be put into motion until Pastor Val gets back from her sabbatical in October.
- b. Outreach – Joelle
  - Phil Stegemoeller has volunteered to do the “Good news” on August 26th and October 7th.
  - God's Work, Our Hands-Joelle is leading this
  - Joelle will be working on the Caring cupboard.
- c. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald
  - Kick-off Sunday potluck for Sunday school is on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - June 10th was last day of Sunday school
- VBS – June 25-28
  - Are still interested in people who would like to volunteer with VBS
- Servant Trip – July 29-Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> Idaho Mission Project in Rathdrum, ID
  - Still looking for an adult to volunteer to go with the youth on their mission trip.
  - Book group will still be meeting on Thursdays at 7pm during the summer, unless they decide not to meet on a certain day.
- d. Fellowship – Judi
  - The day at Lake Sylvia was held on June 10<sup>th</sup> and fun was had by all in attendance. We'll hope for better weather and turnout next year.
- e. Property – Mike Barkstrom-
  - 3 things to keep an eye on are the roof, down spout, gutters.
  - The maintenance crew will not be meeting as much during the summer. If anyone sees anything that needs to be done, please let someone from the maintenance crew know about it.
  - The crossway has a leaking problem so when the wind blows rain comes in because the window was not sealed correctly. The cost to fix this is around \$2500.
  - The roof of the fellowship hall needs to be replaced, it's estimated to last 5 more years. The roof on the church is in good condition and should have another 15-20 years of it.

remaining damage is in the basement that's not used except for storage and therefore we will forego any additional repairs to the basement.

### **PASTORS REPORT-**

-The Aberdeen Food Bank is still looking for a permanent site. Until one is found, First Presbyterian will serve as temporary distribution site.

#### **i. Review of priorities**

### **Task Assignments**

-Vicky needs to forward Vanco email to Theresa Kaufman.

-Vicky needs to remove Mike Barkstrom from newsletter mailing list.

-Vicky will email bulletins and newsletters helpers on what days that they would like to come in and assemble them.

-Amy Ostwald will help with grace Notes. If she is not able to do it then Mark Smalley will fill in.

-Vicky will email Sabbatical volunteer sign up forms to council members.

-Joelle will talk with Kristine about God's Work Our Hands.

-Vicky will put the thank you card from Family Promise in the newsletter.

-Mike Barkstrom will talk with realtor.

-Mark Smalley will do devotions in July and then recruit others for the following months.

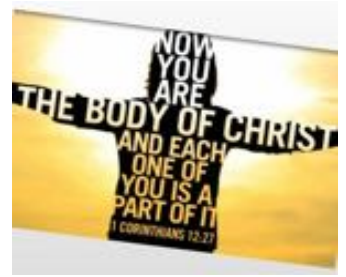
-Vicky will let Becky know she can pick up the parking lot request form for the All High School Reunion.

-Pastor Val will get Mark contact information for Pulpit Supply. This is a great growth opportunity for members of the congregation.

Adjournment and closing prayer 8:41



**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 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: Mark Smalley, Amy Ostwald, Dee Erickson, Judi Hubbard, Mike Barkstrom, Theresa Kaufman and Vicky Kolb.

Call to Order 6:15

Devotions – Mark

-Where do you need to be to experience Jesus' compassion in your life?

Establish Quorum

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

Review, correct and Final approval of minutes for last meeting, June 19, 2018 **M/S/P**

-Amended the property section: deleted a paragraph. Added a paragraph

-If anyone makes corrections to someone else section let that person know

### **Financial Reports**

a. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

- \$3010 left in the sabbatical budget. Theresa has volunteered to help with anything I need.

- Will credit \$300 to page 6 and resend.

- Theresa will make an extra sheet just for projects.

- Bank of the Pacific- call for minimum balance

- VBS childcare \$381.56

- Credit maintenance for vacuum

i. Vanco – ability to give \$ thru website

- Theresa needs to follow up with Vanco

b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

- Budget for this year needs to be changed.

i. Mid Year giving statements

**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. Sabbatical Tasks – Mark

- There are still have things that people need to sign up for. Judi Hubbard has volunteered to fill in for anyone who can't make it.

i. Opening the church and the office – need for more keys?

- If someone needs to get into the church office let Mike Barkstrom, Darrell Lokken, Judi Hubbard or Mark Smalley know in advance so they know to unlock the door.

- When you are unlocking the door to the fellowship hall with the screw be careful to not turn it too hard.

- Judi Hubbard will think of another solution for the door with lock for next month.

b. Church Secretary's time sheet sign off - Mark

- Mike Barkstrom will sign my time sheet.

c. Council Devotions for August, September

- Dee Erickson will do devotions in August.

- Judi Hubbard will do devotions in September.

d. Eagle Scout Project - Mark

-Mark has not heard back from Trace Erwin about this Eagle Scout project. Mark will contact Trace to see if he wants to send plans through email. If Trace contacts Judi or Mark there is an opportunity for him to earn \$250 dollars for this project. Judi Hubbard will see about getting funding from the Thrivent.

### **Ministry Reports**

a. Worship – Dee Erickson-

-Dee and Pastor Val met to discuss worship needs during her sabbatical.

b. Outreach – Joelle

-Joelle wants to know if anyone has any Ideas about any projects that could be done as a project for “Gods work our hands” on September 9th. Is there anyone in the congregation that would like any help with any projects that they have going. Are there community projects that need help?

c. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald

VBS – June 25-28

-VBS took place during the last week of June Monday through Thursday with great participation from 1st Presbyterian, Methodist and St. Andrew's Episcopal. Approximately 80 people were in attendance and great food was served and a lot of help was had by many volunteers.

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

- Amy Ostwald will do the first half of the week and Mike Barkstrom has volunteered to do the 2nd half of the week of the Servant trip. Amy will get in contact with Carrie Erwin about the plan.

d. Fellowship – Judi

-On August 26th, there will be a tour of the timber baron homes of Aberdeen, led by Al Waters. Everyone is invited and there will be cookies and tea after the tour. Let people know that they don't have to walk. People are always welcomed to make donations to the mansion. Contact Judi Hubbard or Jeanette Green with any questions you may have.

e. Property – Mike Barkstrom

-All is going well. The maintenance crew is taking the summer off. Any repairs or other problems will be addressed.

### **Review of priorities**

#### **Task Assignments**

-Dee Erickson will do devotions in August

-Judi Hubbard will do devotions in September

-Mark Smalley will talk Trace about his Eagle Scout Project

-Amy will talk to Carrie about youth trip.

-Amy will email Theresa about contact info for Stacie E.

-Theresa will bring laptop next month

-Theresa will email Mike a report for maintenance for the past year

Adjournment and closing prayer 7:56

### **PASTOR’S REPORT – REGULAR ACTIVITIES – June 2018**

#### **WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP**

Sunday worship – Plan and lead

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**

Vigil for Housing  
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** VBS – 6/25 – 6/28

Baccalaureate 6/3  
Youth Group - 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

**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH:** Spiritual Direction monthly; Reading: Canoeing the Mountains; The Misunderstood Jew by Amy Jill Levine; Kingdom, Judgment and Grace by Robert Farrar Capon

**OTHER ACTIVITIES in June**

**WORSHIP:** Planning all aspects of worship and life I'm usually involved in for July, Aug., Sept

**OUTREACH:** Opened the fellowship hall to welcome firefighters working on the CCAP building during the fire.

**PASTORAL CARE:** As needed

**RENEWAL:** Faith ConneX worship – evaluation and planning

**ADMINISTRATION:** Sabbatical - planning and implementing activities  
Admin. Assist. – training on changes during sabbatical  
Weekly bulletins; monthly newsletter  
PSALM – Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry – distribute information; talk with interested people; write recommendations

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

**OUTREACH:** Food Bank work to reorganize and find new site

**VACATION:** June 4-8 (no Sunday)

**UPCOMING:** Faith ConneX – cross-generational worship continues through Sept.  
I'll lead worship but not preach Oct. 7.

## MAY BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 31,112.68
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 251.92
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,940.00
-Bells		\$ 812.14
-Friends in Need		\$ 275.98
-Reformation Fund		\$ 2,874.75
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Grace Fund		\$ 220.00
	TOTAL	\$ 39,374.30
Fundraising Checking		\$ 220.90
*Maintenance Checking		\$ 4,077.14
Youth Checking		\$ 983.62
Memorial Savings		\$ 2,932.43
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 817.63

\*Included in this total is the unspent balance of \$1,286.68 for the insurance reimbursement check \$3,106.67 for damage in youth shelter.

## JUNE BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 23,071.62
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 251.92
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 3,010.00
-Bells		\$ 812.14
-Friends in Need		\$ 275.98
-Reformation Fund		\$ 2,874.75
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Grace Fund		\$ 220.00
	TOTAL	\$ 31,403.24
Fundraising Checking		\$ 220.90
*Maintenance Checking		\$ 1,750.45
Youth Checking		\$ 983.62
Memorial Savings		\$ 2,933.17
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 1,736.06

\*Included in this total is the unspent balance of \$1,286.68 for the insurance reimbursement check \$3,106.67 for damage in youth shelter. For June, \$1819.99 was reimbursed to General for Servicemaster invoice, \$2,000 was paid to John Lupo as a partial payment for roof repair, and \$326.69 was transferred back to the General account for the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner.



## CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Mark Smalley	(360) 249-1955	marktrish86@gmail.com
Treasurer	Theresa Kaufman	(360) 537-1190	theresamarie4739.3@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Phil Stegemoeller	(360) 580-9310	phil@willisent.com
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](mailto:mkbarks1@gmail.com) - (360) 589-1393

**Ministers:** The People of Amazing Grace

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

[amazinggraceaberdeens.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeens.org)

[amazing111@comcast.net](mailto:amazing111@comcast.net)

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

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

**Office Administrator:** Vicky Kolb

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

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

# AUGUST 2018 Worship Assistants



## August 5

Liturgist:	Jeannette Green
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Carmon Shaw
Communion Assistant:	Carmon Shaw
Ushers/Greeters:	Dee Erickson & Maurita White
Depositors:	Mike Barkstrom & Ray Hodge
Fellowship:	BEEMANS, KRAIGER, KUPKA

## August 12

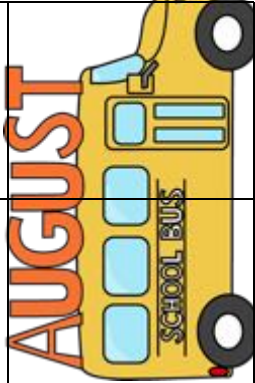
Liturgist:	Laura Carle
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Mark Smalley
Communion Assistant:	Joni Hildreth & Darci Jewitt
Ushers/Greeters:	Judi Hubbard & Naomi Kraiger
Depositors:	Kristine Finazzo
Fellowship:	WEIBERG, LEITHOLD, CHANNEL, TEVELIET, JEWITT

## August 19

Liturgist:	Keith Lile
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Judi Hubbard
Communion Assistant:	William & Joan Rabung
Ushers/Greeters:	Tim & Pam Alstrom
Depositors:	Karen Barkstrom & Hiedi Seelke
Fellowship:	WHITE, ELDER, STEPHENS, J. ERICKSON

## August 26

Liturgist:	Jeannette Green
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Elaine Lokken
Communion Assistant:	Joelle Buckman & Steve Swanson
Ushers/Greeters:	Karen & Mike Barkstrom
Depositors:	Judi Hubbard & Gene Schermer
Fellowship:	ALSTROM, TIEDER, SCHERMER, JOHNSTONE

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



**Please join us for worship  
Sundays at 10am and for Fellowship group  
Thursdays at 7pm**

***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