

THE SPIRIT — NOVEMBER 2018

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of Grays Harbor



I've traveled so many miles, literal and emotional since last I wrote for the newsletter, dear family at Amazing Grace. It was a life-changing three months full of adventure, laughter and moments I'll never forget along with a few tears and many blisters.

My intention had been to join Hildegard of Bingen as "a feather on the breath of God" trusting that God would provide and that whatever I found in my beggar's bowl was God's provision: plenty and fit for a feast. Sometimes I achieved that... maybe half the time.

Another 45% of the time my sabbatical was guided by a more plodding, "one foot in front of the other" while praying the Jesus prayer: Lord, Jesus Christ, son of God have mercy on me, a sinner. I needed that rhythm to free my mind and truly be in the moment.

But, I have to admit that about 5% of the time I was no feather on the breath of God, but a soggy, waterlogged feather, stuck in the mud of messy relationships and the perils of life and travel. The worst was after making a dash across the length of Norway for 5 hours when my traveling partner Mary Jo and I discovered our navigation system was taking us through the heart of Oslo, which would cost a bundle in time and tolls. I have to admit that I didn't thank God for that particular gift in my beggar's bowl. I was tired and ready to be done with the drive and on to the next adventure. Instead, after we decided to back track a bit and take winding country roads for the rest of the distance, which could have been an opportunity to enjoy the more leisurely route, I was sullen and silent, retreating into my own darkness. Poor Mary Jo didn't know what to make of me. Not my finest moment.

But, despite my moments of soggy sullenness, this gift you gave me was holy time of rest, rejuvenation, prayer and relationships that I will never forget and that has given me a fresh perspective not only on my ministry but on my life in Christ.

Phil Cosineau in his book, "The Art of Pilgrimage" says "the challenge now is to use the insights gathered on the road to see your everyday life as a pilgrimage... The challenge is to learn how to carry over the quality of the journey into your **everyday life**.

The art of pilgrimage is the craft of **taking time seriously, elegantly**...the way we spend each day of our travel...**is the way we spend our lives**.

Inspired by our journey, perhaps we can learn the "true life" we were searching for is here, where our travels and our home life overlap."

We're on this pilgrimage of life together as siblings in Christ encouraging each other to take this precious "time seriously, elegantly." My heart is full and my spirit light. I return to the work of ministry with new eyes and hope, and renewed love for each of you and for our family at Amazing Grace. I pray that each of you receives a gift as meaningful as this was for me.

May the stars light your way
and may you find the interior road.

Forward!

Traditional Irish farewell



Pastor Val on Cnoc na dTdobar pilgrimage trail



Jeremiah 31:15

A Voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children
Jeremiah 31:15

Once again we are horrified and in anguish following a mass killing in a house of worship. Last Saturday morning an intruder burst into the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA, killing eleven worshippers and wounding six others, including four police officers. The killer made his motives very clear. “I just want to kill Jews!” This was the deadliest act of violence against Jewish people within the United States in our nation’s history. It is not, however, an isolated event. Violence and abuse against Jewish citizens rose 57% last year and continues to rise again this year. This is accompanied by a rising level of assault and violence against US Muslims and all people of color.

The killer also targeted Tree of Life Synagogue because the congregation members actively support the work of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). HIAS does the same ministry as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, helping hundreds of deserving Jewish and non-Jewish immigrants enter the country. The killer believes that any effort to bring in immigrants endangered the “purity” of America and so he decided to kill the people who did so.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Southwestern Washington, we must condemn this racist, religious violence and give our support to the Jewish community and all those who are in danger. An attack on one portion of God’s family is an attack on all of us. As Lutherans, we must offer this support in a spirit of humility and repentance, remembering our own past sins: the violent verbal attacks made by Martin Luther against the Jewish people in his day and the failure of the German Lutheran Church to protect their Jewish neighbors in Nazi Germany. Recognizing our own past failures, we Lutherans are doubly committed to supporting and defending the Jewish community and all victims of violent and hate.

Therefore, I encourage you to speak and act in behalf of those who suffer and to actively seek the social healing that God desires for us. Here are some specific ways you can do that:

1. Pray for the Tree of Life victims and their families, asking God to bring them comfort and healing.
2. Make contact with Jewish neighbors and synagogues in your community and express your condolence and support. Ask them how you might help. If you have never made contact with them before, this would be an excellent time to reach out.
3. Call upon your political representatives and leaders and demand that they end the abusive and violent verbal attacks against others that we are hearing so much of in this campaign season. Such violent and demeaning words clearly prompt other people to commit physical violence.
4. **VOTE! Study the issues! Pick good leaders! VOTE!** Martin Luther clearly said that being an active, responsible citizen is one of the vocations to which God calls us. In his tract on Temporal Authority, Martin Luther said, “[The ruler] should picture Christ to himself, and say, ‘Behold, Christ, the supreme ruler, came to serve me... Therefore, I will use my office to serve and protect others, listen to their problems and defend them, and govern to the sole end that they, not I, may benefit from my rule.’” In the United States we are blessed to live in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Therefore, we are all finally the rulers and decision-makers of how we will live together in our communities. To fail to vote is a rejection of the gift and responsibility that God has given us as citizens. Therefore, I want to emphasize this again, by midnight on November 6, **VOTE.**

As Martin Luther would say, our lives and our world are in the hands of a God who is “with us and for us.” In a shattered world, God hears Rachel weeping for her slain children and comes both to heal us and to catalyze us to live more fully in God’s grace, love and justice. In these days of anguish, may God bring us the peace that passes understanding and powerfully engage us to be peace-makers. 2

In Christ, Bishop Rick Jaech

WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER



FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING: Tracy Rigsby, Laura Carle, Hank and Gloria Bilderback, Jaimie Matisons, Bob Murray, Flora Schroeder, Conchita Murray, Linda Ebel, Phil Leithner, Tom Plumlee, Vince Huddard, Mary Ann Majar, Sarah Robbins, Nick and Judy Claussen, Nancy Neisinger, Penny Holbrook, Sammy, Terry Warwick, Melvin Thompson, Susie Kellendar, 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, 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: Console us, Redeemer God, when we are dismayed by the news of the world. Headlines of strife fan the flame of fear. News of tragedies triggers grief unresolved, and unbidden. However, those headlines don't tell the whole story, they don't capture the humanity of the people involved, they often don't tell of the countless joys, focusing instead on the multitude of sorrows. Though we may not know their names, though we may never hear their stories, we pray for the billions of people who call this planet their home. We pray that each person will sense your presence, marvel at the world around them, draw close to others who love and care for them. Help me, help us all, to have clean hands and a pure heart; so we might draw closer to you and receive your many blessings. **Amen**

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 WORK FOR THE CARE OF THE VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY: Organizers of Family Promise, workers at the Salvation Army and Union Gospel Mission and those reorganizing the Aberdeen Food Bank.

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



- ♦ Thank you Phil Stegemoeller, Mike Hildreth, Caroline Leitner, Hiedi Seelke, & Brenda Grant for bringing the message while Pastor Val was on sabbatical.
- ♦ Thanks to EVERYONE who stepped up to serve so that Amazing Grace continued to function smoothly during Pastor's sabbatical time.
- ♦ Thank you Gene Schermer for setting up the tables for the quilters.
- ♦ Thank you Mike Hubbard for fixing the wall clock in the fellowship hall.
- ♦ Thank you Mike Barkstrom for throwing away the auto folder that has been sitting in the church office.
- ♦ Thank you Carmon Shaw & Naomi Kraiger for volunteering to be on the April & October Union Gospel Mission team.

- ♦ Thank you all to those who organized the potluck, Dee Erickson for making the banner & Phil Stegemoeller for the welcome back speech .
- ♦ Thank you council members for speaking about Stewardship Leadership during Sunday services
- ♦ Thank you Pastor Val for providing your time and guidance to the PSALM class.
- ♦ Thank you Amazing Grace for making kitchen space available to Mike Barkstrom for the Family Promise dinner that was held at the Lions Club.
- ♦ Thank you Mike Barkstrom for testing the smoke detectors in the Parish Hall. It's great to know they are operational.
- ♦ Thank you Liz Ellis for washing and returning the crocheted table cloth.

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS

- ♦ **Thank you to the members of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church** for the donation of diapers to the Grays harbor Community Clothing Bank. Many mothers come to our facility asking for diapers, and we are not always able to satisfy their needs. Thanks for supporting our program.

Sincerely,
Mary Keinath



- ♦ **Dear Pastor Val & the people of Amazing Grace,**

Just a thank you for your being who you are, warm, accepting and generous, on the subject of Namiba. We visit many congregations, but as for me, Amazing Grace is the one I look forward to visiting the most.

God's Blessing,
Rachel Pritchatt, Namiba Task Force

- ♦ **Amazing Grace Scholarship Committee,**

I wanted to say thank you for your support in awarding me this scholarship, but I also want to say thank you for your support these last 4 years, not only in the form of scholarships but in the way you all support me just as my family would.

Love,
John E. Pellessier

- ♦ **From July: Greetings Amazing Folks!**

They say gargoyles were put on cathedrals to scare people so much that they'd go to church! Guess that didn't work so well in Europe where almost no one goes. I'm glad to be a part of a group that chooses love over fear!

4

Blessings!
Pastor Val

Amazing Grace

Children

Aiden Shelley made him Jack

River Grace 2005 Molly Note

Thank you for another
a wonderful time
this past 3 months
when I gave the
Children's Message.
I am hoping you
learned something
about the Gospel -
all the Old message
that is the beginning
of our faith and

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we are the Christians
to right now!

Thank you for
helping me celebrate
Our Boulders or
Special Rocks -
they were so happy
with their Rocks
and I asked them
to pray for all of
the Children attending
Amazing Grace.

I hope you will
remember those people
as you pass the Peace
(over) +

Lone to each of you
and I can't wait
til Dec 1st when
Roger + I will be
back.

Pray for us as we
travel and visit family
Tender Thoughts
and friends.

God Bless
each of you
Carmen
Shaw



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are Updating our Church Directory! We want YOU to be included!

Our church directory was last printed in October 2014. We are overdue for a revised edition! If you are new to our congregation, have changed your address or any contact information, please email or call the church office: amazing111@comcast.net or 360-532-8250 with your contact information. Last time we included name, mailing address, email and telephone number. Photo Options:

- 1) we can re-use your existing photo from the last directory
- 2) send a jpg to Amy O.: aaostwald@gmail.com — Send a close-up photo of you/family (head & shoulders are preferred - but we can crop if needed).
- 3) Amy O. can take a snapshot of you at church in the sanctuary or outside (there won't be formal photo sessions)

As soon as we have all this complete we will get a copy to each of you! Thanks for your participation. Any questions, please contact Amy, Linda or Cynthia.

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

FOOD BANK THANKSGIVING BASKETS—Dinner rolls!

The Food Bank is up and running out of the Presbyterian Church next door while we make progress finding a permanent location. Amazing Grace has been asked to provide 100 packages of dinner rolls. They should be delivered to Amazing Grace **no later than Sunday, Nov. 11th**. Baskets will be distributed Nov. 15th. They can be dropped off in the fellowship hall or the office.

LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY—

Our Living Stones Prison visit is on Saturday December 8th. We need to be at the prison by 5:30pm and will likely depart by 8:30pm. 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 in the fellowship hall as soon as possible so we can get the necessary information to the prison. We need your full name, date of birth, last 4 digits of SSN, and email (if available), we need this information by November 26. Talk to Carmon, Joe, or others who have visited the prison congregation if you have any questions.

UNION GOSPEL MISSION SUBSTITUTES

If you are interested in being available as a substitute on a Union Gospel team first Tuesday of the month, especially for the months of April and October, please contact Vicky at the church office. You may call 360-532-8250 or email at amazing111@comcast.net.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

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 to get the benefit. You're done....*Start Shopping!*

UNION GOSPEL MISSION November 6

Kristine Finazzo, Leader Liz Ellis, Molly Leithold, Michelle Weiberg, Lynette Lile,
Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw 360-532-2940



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 and other entities that serve Grays Harbor Youth.



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.

GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

BOOK GROUP

Thursday night book group is starting up again! We’ll be reading *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* by Kathleen Norris. This book was recommended by many people including our dear friend Richard Kraiger. Books are on order so sign up for one in the fellowship hall and plan to attend Thursday nights at 7pm beginning Nov. 15th in the fellowship hall.

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 fall 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, Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman, Carmon Shaw, Amy Ostwald, Carrie



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rachael Schermer
- 2 Heather Mitby
- 7 Lynn Tangvald
- 9 Jane Schermer
- 12 Jill Waite
- 13 Ken Mitchell
- 14 Leif Tangvald
- 22 Theresa Kaufman
- 23 Gregory Johnstone
- 23 Lawrence Murray
- 26 Judi Hubbard
- 27 Sarah Gardiner
- 27 Roger Shaw
- 28 Jace Winter
- 29 Jenifer Kaufman
- 30 Naomi Kraiger

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 27 Mark & Amy Ostwald

FAITH FORMATION TAKES A VILLAGE - that's all of us!

Confirmation has begun again for Jacob and Annika Natwick and Erin Burns. They meet as often as their busy schedules allow on Thursdays from 5:15—6:45 with Pastor Val, parents and mentors.

We're using the curriculum, Chosen Together which invites congregational involvement with the following summary:

In this congregation, we are eager and hopeful that you will regularly be available for those in confirmation to observe, ask questions, and engage in conversation about Christian faith and life. We believe you are among the best examples of Christian faith and life available to our growing young people!

Throughout **Chosen Together** confirmation, you may have confirmands approach you with questions or reflections they are considering in class. We invite you to respond in the following ways:

Introduce yourself. Some activities ask confirmands to approach a church member they have not met before

Answer questions from your own perspective. Some activities have confirmands asking questions about your own faith experiences or about life in the church. There is no specific right or wrong answer to the questions confirmands may ask. Instead, the questions are to help with faith exploration and community building. You are already fully equipped and qualified for any conversation a confirmand may bring your way.

Be honest. If you do not wish to have a conversation with a confirmand (for example, you have an appointment elsewhere or are not able to share your answer), simply offer your appreciation that the confirmand approached you and ask that they find someone else to speak with that day

Confirmation is a “team sport,” meaning that confirmation is only ever as strong as the surrounding community. By being a member at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church you are committed by baptism to engage others in Christian faith and life through words and actions.

Thank you for your present and ongoing support of our confirmands!

On each person's baptism day, God's people gather to add their “yes!” to God's “yes!” This means that if you are a baptized Christian and part of a congregation, you have promised to receive other baptized people as wanted, loved, forgiven, and chosen people. Furthermore, you have made promises to be in relationship together with God's people as they develop in Christian faith and life.

These (or similar) are among the promises of baptism made by parents, sponsors, and the congregation:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: ...to live with them among God's faithful people

This is your call to be at worship and to participate in education, fellowship, and service with your church. Young people need to see how a great diversity of people engage the world around them in faith, and you are part of that plan.

...to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,

All baptized people need to regularly hear God's Word (see the Third Commandment!) and receive God's promises in Holy Communion. It is both for you and so that those you are with can see what God's gifts means for you.

...teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer,

These are the tools of the church that help us put our faith into context and action.

...so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed,

God calls us to talk about faith and why it matters using both our words and actions. By speaking about and acting on your faith, you help others learn how they can do likewise.

...care for others and the world God made,

You serve God at home with the people you call family, at work with your colleagues, at school with your peers, while having fun with friends, and beyond. By wondering aloud about and sharing examples of the way you seek to serve others because of faith in Jesus Christ, you give others a broader imagination about ways they can care for God's people.

...and work for justice and peace.

Sometimes striving for justice and peace is as simple as offering words of comfort or a meal. Other times it is developing a larger project and action plan. No matter what, you are called to show up and thereby help others recognize their part in bringing God's justice and peace to bear right in your own community.

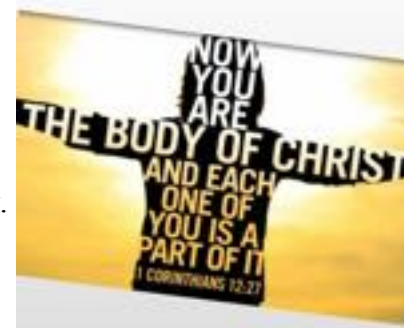
**HYMNFEST! 9:45 a.m. — November 4th Come to sing some of your favorite hymns.
Kris Burns provides the music. The Hymn Fest
happens the first Sunday of each month.**

“One who sings, prays twice.”

PLEASE JOIN US!



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 16, 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: Pastor Val, Phil Stegemoeller, Amy Ostwald, Judi Hubbard, Joelle Buckman, Dee Erickson, Mike Barkstrom, Mark Smalley, Theresa Kaufman and Vicky Kolb

Call to Order Mark Smalley 6:15

Devotions

Establish Quorum

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

-Added Aberdeen Food Bank to Business item, letter K

Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting, September 18, 2018 and special council meeting on September 4th, 2018. **M/S/P**

Financial Reports

a. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

-Theresa will amend her reports from 7% to 8% and re-send to council members

-Approve transactions by account- **M/S/P**

i. Vanco – ability to give \$ thru website

-Theresa will get in touch with her contact at Vanco and will try to get answers to the questions the council members had.

b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

-Phil will amend his report and resend.

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 Review

i. What worked

-People were willing to step up and do the work. Vicky was able to call on people to fill and they were more than happy to do it. What also worked for Vicky was getting the bulletins done ahead of time. The volunteers who did the messages were able to do it from their perspective. Another thing that worked was the way that Carmon Shaw involved the children and encouraged them to participate during the young people's message. Another way it worked was the familiarity of the services that were led by Hank Bilderback.

ii. What did not work

-Pastor should not have to do all of the organization and finding of preachers.

iii. How did we grow

-The way that people were willing to step up for someone else and making sure that things were running smoothly.

b. Stewardship next steps– Mark/Pastor Val-

-A discussion was had about how at last months' council meeting, it was discussed that council members would talk about Stewardship during Sunday service. Pastor Val suggested that maybe the council members should read a book together about stewardship. The council members decided to study the book "Holy Currencies" and use it for devotions at future council meetings. Pastor Val will talk about Stewardship on Nov. 11th.

c. Family Promise facility use - Mike B.

i. Review final % of utilities accepted by FP

-Mike went over how much the Family Promise will be required to be responsible for. For example the we would only charge 20% of yearly bill for insurance. The heat bill would be another item; we would only charge what they use because the building they are using has their own furnace. There would also be \$100 a month out of maintenance out of the \$1000 to be used for repairs, but this won't be covered if it's damaged caused by them.

-There was also a discussion about what would be a great use for the basement, it could be used a place

for kids to play or it could be used as a storage place, if it's used as storage they need to know that it needs to be at least 18 inches of the ground in case it floods.

- d. Pastor's Health Plan options – Mark- stay with current middle of the road plan- **M/S/P**
- e. Council Vice President for November, December, January
 - i. Phil will serve as VP for November, December, January
- f. Council meeting schedule for November and December – Mark
 - Council members decided that they will meet on November 20th and December 18th as scheduled.
- g. Schedule Budget meeting after November council meeting, before December meeting. – Mark
 - Budget meeting will be on December 4th at 6.
- i. Treasurer, Financial Secretary, President, Vice President to attend
- h. Membership list review – Mark
 - The membership list review has been postponed until next month's council meeting.
- i. Altar Guild – Dee- dee will talk about in worship
 - Part of the job that the worship person has includes the altar guild, setting up communion, lighting the candles and changing the banner, this is still a work in progress.
- j. Fellowship Hall security during service - Mark
 - There was a discussion about what to do about the door being left unlocked to the fellowship hall from the alley entrance during church service. It has been left unlocked in the past but there has been an issue with people coming in during church which is unsafe. They could be locked during the services but some believe that would not be very welcoming. One idea was to leave a note on the door that welcomed them to join in on the services and afterward they would be welcome to join in the fellowship hall for refreshments. If anyone has any idea what could be done about this, please speak to one of the council members.
- k. Aberdeen Food Bank
 - There is a building that is being looked at to host the new Aberdeen food bank. The Presbyterian Church is hosting the food bank right now on Tuesday from 3-5.
 - The Churches are getting ready for gathering food to package in boxes for November and December to distribute. Each church will be responsible for own item of food. Amazing Grace is responsible for providing 100 rolls for November and December. The rolls will need to be collected by November 11th, so they are ready to be packaged by November 20. Pastor Val will make sure they are in a safe place and out of the way.
 - Gathering and assembling food for thanksgiving and Christmas.

Ministry Reports

- a. Worship – Dee Erickson
 - Dee met with Pastor Val and talked about how she can be more pro-active and more verbal as a worship committee representative. A sign-up sheet for donating flowers will now be available to the congregation, if you have any questions about this please contact Maurita White.
- b. Outreach – Joelle
 - Joelle and Pastor Val will meet and discuss the Gods Work Our Hands project.
- c. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald
 - Sunday School began for the school year in mid-September.
 - A survey will be going out soon for families with children to find out how we can best meet the Christian Education needs of their kids and scheduling for the family.
- d. Fellowship – Judi
 - The date for Caroling and Chili has been changed to December 9th.
 - The pie auction is set for November 18th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Judi will be getting a Thrivent card for the main meal and use the rest of the card for the chili on Dec. 9th.
- e. Property – Mike Barkstrom
 - Mike has put together a form that will let people sign up to help out members of Amazing Grace Lutheran church family. This form will be added as an insert to the bulletins so you may fill it out. You may put it in the collection plate or on the table in the fellowship hall or you can leave it in the church office.
 - Mike also went over the Amazing Grace Lutheran Church/Family Promise Agreement, which after some discussion there needed to be some corrections made, Mike will make those and will resend.

- i. Review of priorities
- ii. Fire Alarm for parish hall.
-Mike Barkstrom tested the fire detectors in the parish hall and we found out they are working just fine.

Task Assignments

- Mike Barkstrom will amend the Amazing Grace Lutheran Church/Family Promise Agreement and resend to council members
- Theresa will amend report from 7% to 8% and resend to council members.
- Phil will amend report and send to council members
- Mike will make corrections to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church/Family Promise Agreement and to You Can Help Us Form and re-send to council members.
- Mark needs to add church directory and Pastors Report on the agenda for next month
- Judi will talk to Mike about roof funds
- Judi will meet with Eileen to talk about fellowship after funerals responsibilities and come up with a plan.

Adjournment and closing prayer 9:37

PASTOR'S REPORT – July, Aug., Sept. 2018

WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP – I worshipped with brothers and sisters in Christ at a tiny country church in Jostedal Norway, where we had to travel an hour to find a service that was attended by 8 other people. In Trondheim Norway we attended worship several times at Nidaros Cathedral during the St. Olav festival where pilgrims who had walked miles were welcomed to their destination. In Croatia I worshipped at Our Lady of Good Health in Split on a Thursday night. It's a large church and was full of people of all ages. People kept arriving throughout the service but with no room in the pews they knelt in the aisles and in back for the remainder of the service. In Ireland we attended Evensong at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin and at St. Mary's in Dingle. Evensong was beautiful but lightly attended. It appeared to be a tourist highlight. Saturday night service in Dingle was packed with people of all ages. I also worshipped with my mother in Helena, MT, a holy time as she slid back into the practices she's known since childhood, no longer needing to rely on her slippery memory. My discipleship practices included walking pilgrim paths in Norway and Ireland along with my pilgrim practice walking each day with the Jesus Prayer on my lips: "Lord, Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me a sinner" trusting that God was with me.

FELLOWSHIP/PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING I had opportunities to talk with people in Norway and Ireland about church and faith. Most people in both places ridiculed or belittled Christianity, comparing the faith to belief in trolls that live underground or superstition that science has long ago displaced. I listened and offered the experience I have of faith and the church in America.

OUTREACH - I watched for signs of need wherever I went, hoping to learn how followers of Jesus in other countries answered the gospel mandate to care for the poor and outcast. Since I spent a lot of time in touristy areas, I saw little sign of poverty or homelessness. I did see several people outside churches with signs asking for money. The people I had opportunity to talk with in Norway about poverty describe those experiencing it as victims of their own bad choices, similar to what we often hear in Aberdeen.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE – Many places of worship in Norway are stave churches that are mostly museum pieces, seldom used for worship. The memory of the faith keeps them standing but the faith itself is not widely held. The church in Norway is Lutheran mostly with a few 'Bible belt' Pentecostal Churches south of Oslo. Croatian churches are almost all Catholic, many being rebuilt or extensively repaired after the Croatian war of independence in the 1990s. Bullet holes can still be seen in many buildings. The faith is strong in Croatia. While the Church of Ireland (Anglican) is the predominant church there 1/3 fewer people belong now than 50 years ago. The clergy sex abuse scandals are widely blamed for that. Many places of spiritual importance in Ireland are pre-Christian testifying to humanity's innate longing for God. Sites of early Christian activity are all over the countryside, too numerous to visit them all, from high crosses to round towers, ancient monasteries to holy wells and pilgrimage walks. I will share many experiences in the coming months and years. One of the most

memorable was on Skellig Michael which was built in the 6th century by monks on a tiny piece of rock jutting out of the Atlantic 8 miles off the coast of Ireland. I climbed the 600 steps to the beehive huts, one of which is an ancient oratory (chapel) in which I proclaimed the words of John 4:4-26, my sabbatical verses. I can't know for certain, of course, but I think I'm probably one of very few women, if there are any others, who have ever proclaimed the good news in that place.

YOUTH AND FAMILY - I was looking for children and families involved in worship or other faith practices. I saw none in Norway but many families of all descriptions in Croatia and Ireland.

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM – Practicing gratitude for all that God provides

OFFICIAL ACTS – None

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH – Experiencing whatever God dropped into my beggar's bowl, good and bad and giving thanks for it.

VACATION: None

UPCOMING: New member classes Oct. 14 and 21 with reception of new members at Reformation Celebration Oct. 28th.

Confirmation begins Oct. 18th with 3 students: Jacob and Annika Natwick and Erin Burns.

PSALM retreat – Oct. 20th and Spiritual Direction with each of the participants

Nov. 18th Pie Auction

Dec. 2nd PLU Christmas Concert

Advent begins December 2nd

Christmas Eve Monday, December 24th

OCTOBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 32,722.79
-PSALM		\$ 2,500.00
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 322.38
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,720.00
-Bells		\$ 812.14
-Friends in Need		\$ 387.95
-Reformation Fund		\$ 1,588.68
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Grace Fund		\$ 220.00
		TOTAL \$ 44,934.14
Fundraising Checking		\$ 215.90
Maintenance Checking		\$ 2,606.47
Youth Checking		\$ 195.75
Memorial Savings		\$ 3,073.54
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 1,736.28

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Special Council Meeting Minutes
September 4, 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- Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman, Amy Ostwald, Mark Smalley, Mike Barkstrom, Phil Stegemoeller, and Judi Hubbard.

- I. Call to Order Mark Smalley 6:20
- II. Establish Quorum
- III. Presentation to Council about Family Promise Day Center Proposal – Gene Schermer
- IV. Discussion of proposal – Motion –recommend that the congregation approve the use of ground floor of the fellowship hall by Family Promise for a Day Center, provided that the financial costs are successfully negotiated. The congregational vote is to take place on October 14th. **M/S/P - Unanimously**
- V. Financial Costs include the utilities. AGLC and Family Promise would be to come up with an agreed upon percentage of the actual total utilities that would be from Family Promise's use of the day center. The church treasurer take each month's utility bills, apply the percentage for Family Promise and send a bill to Family Promise.
- VI. Adjournment 7:30

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 - (360) 589-1393

Ministers: The People of Amazing Grace

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

amazinggraceaberdeens.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

NOVEMBER 2018 Worship Assistants



November 4

Liturgist:	Laura Carle
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Mark Ostwald
Communion Assistant:	Diane Hanson & Dee Erickson
Ushers/Greeters:	Ray & Jean Hodge
Depositors:	Maurita White & Judi Hubbard
Fellowship:	HILDRETH, BUCKMAN

November 11

Liturgist:	Hank Bilderback
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Liz Ellis
Communion Assistant:	Mark Smalley & Laura Carle
Ushers/Greeters:	Elaine & Darrell Lokken
Depositors:	Darrell Lokken & Joe Fernandez
Fellowship:	BEEMANS, KRAIGER FAMILIES, KUPKA

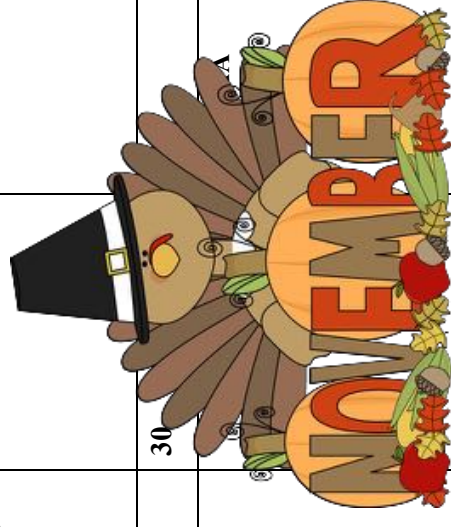
November 18

Liturgist:	Keith Lile
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Molly Leithold
Communion Assistant:	Carrie Erwin & Sara Channel
Ushers/Greeters:	Dee Erickson & Joan Rabung
Depositors:	Mike Barkstrom & Ray Hodge
Fellowship:	PIE AUCTION & POTLUCK

November 25

Liturgist	Jeannette Green
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Steve Swanson
Communion Assistant:	Judi Hubbard & Diane Hanson
Ushers/Greeters:	Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller
Depositors:	Joelle Buckman & Hiedi Seelke
Fellowship:	WEIBERG, LEITHOLD, CHANNEL, TEVELIET, JEWITT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					6 PM SCRAPBOOK	7 PM AA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S.	4:30 PM GIRL SCOUT TROOP		9 AM QUILTING & MAINTENANCE 5:30 PM AA			7 PM AA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S.			5:30 PM AA	7 pm BOOK GROUP	6 PM SCRAPBOOK	7 PM AA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 AM WORSHIP/HEALING 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S. PIE AUCTION & POTLUCK	4:30 PM GIRL SCOUT TROOP	6:15 PM COUNCIL MEETING	9 AM QUILTING & MAINTENANCE 5:30 PM AA	THANKSGIVING		7 PM AA
25	26	27	28	29	30	
10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S.			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

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE