

To those who were hurt by my words at during worship on Nov. 11th, I want to apologize. I heard from several people, many of whom are veterans, that what I said hurt them deeply. That was not my intention. I would never hurt you intentionally. If I had thought my words would hurt anyone, I would not have said them. I am truly sorry for hurting you! I am a flawed human being. I make mistakes. That does not condone my choice of words. I hope you will be able to forgive me. If I have hurt you, let's get together so that I can listen and learn from you and get to know you better. Please call or email or stop by the office. My hours each week are published in the bulletin.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Val



ADVENT PRESENCE

God gave us the perfect present, the gift of Jesus. In the Bible stories we see that Jesus gave few ‘things’ to people. What he gave most was himself: his time, attention and love, gifts that were “treasures of the heart: belief in self, inner healing, peace of mind, compassion, forgiveness, dignity, and justice. This loving presence lives on in us and is the inspiration for our Christmas gift-giving.”

Sharing the gift of personal presence means that we understand that **we** are a gift with the ability to hold and reveal the goodness of Jesus who is Emmanuel, God-with-us. Like Jesus, we can give of ourselves, gifts from the heart. Moments

lovingly spent with another through prayer or through our presence carry more beauty and last longer than anything physical we can give. What greater gift can we share than the one that reflects the immense Love we know in the person of Jesus: our care and concern, our hope, our joy, our understanding and forgiveness, our kindness, our patience?

Advent is a good season to be more deliberate in sharing the present of our presence every day. It may be through a phone call, a letter, a visit, or through the connection of prayer as we entrust to God those who need what God can best give them. We give this gift because we have already received the perfect gift of God's love in Jesus which frees us from want and need and empowers us to share God's love with everyone!

The following suggestions offer this gift of presence, whether it is physical or through prayer, one for each of the 25 days before Christmas. You may think of other ways to share your presence in order to be more deliberate about "being" over "doing."

May you be aware of the power of Emmanuel's presence within you and aware of your ability to bring light to the lives of others because of this gift of love.

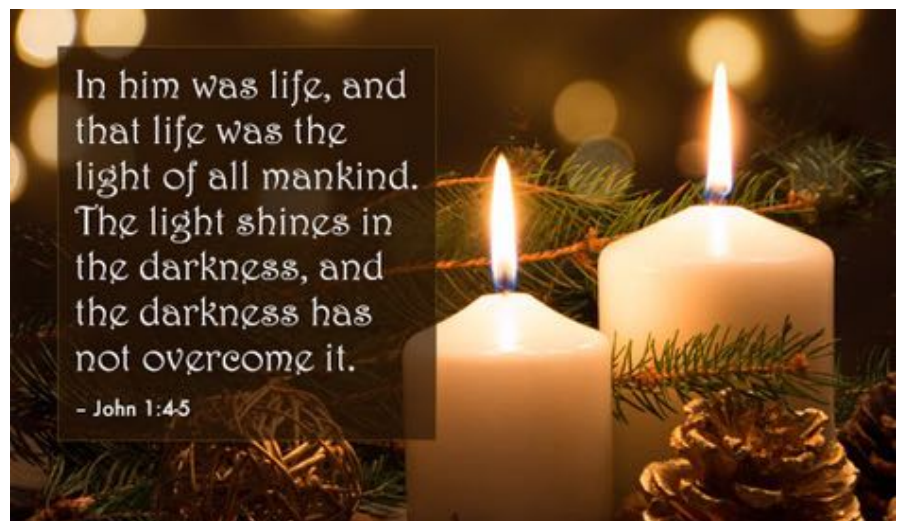
May you know that you are deeply loved!

Pastor Val

Suggesting for Giving the Gift of Presence

Be with someone who needs you.
Be with a person who gives you hope.
Be with those who live in terror and fear.
Be with an older person.
Be with someone who has helped you grow.
Be with one who is in pain.
Be with a war-torn country.
Be with yourself.
Be with someone who give you hope.
Be with a child.
Be with a refugee who is fleeing from harm.
Be with an enemy or someone you find it difficult to like.
Be with a farmer losing his or her land.
Be with someone who has terminal illness.
Be with those who are experiencing homelessness.
Be with those who suffer from substance abuse.
Be with hungry children.
Be with a coworker.
Be with those who struggle to have hope.
Be with world leaders.
Be with someone in your family.
Be with men and women in prison.
Be with someone working for justice.
Be with those who are abused and neglected.
Be with your loved ones.

Inspired by Joyce Rupp





IN THE WILDERNESS

In the Hebrew Bible the book of Numbers is called “In the Wilderness.” It starts with great hope. God delivered God’s people from Egypt, from bitter slavery, grinding toil and infanticide. What a delivery! The entire people—ancients, infants and everyone in between—escaped from one of the world’s superpowers, walked dry-shod through the sea and went on a 40-year journey to the land the Lord had promised them.

Beginnings are filled with expectation. There is excitement and a sense that everything is possible. Think about the first day of school, a vacation, new job, one’s honeymoon or the first day of a child’s life. It was no different for the Israelites. The first chapters recount the enumeration of the tribes of Israel—hence the title, Numbers. This description is of the mustering of the people as they strode into the future. This was the beginning of an adventure! This part ends with God commanding Moses to make two silver trumpets. The entire journey would be heralded by the clear ringing of silver trumpets.

In the beginning it was possible to disregard the fact that they were setting off into the wilderness. But it caught up to them. We know how that goes—halfway through the road trip, the school year, the job, the marriage or life with a baby and the traits that were at first endearingly quirky just become annoying. On epic family cross-country vacations, the landscape becomes monotonous. The food is no longer novel but noxious. Life before, at least in memories that have become trip-jaded, was bliss.

It was no different for the pilgrims in the wilderness. By [Chapter 11](#) things have started to go downhill. In band camp we called this “Whiney Wednesday.” The people were sick of manna. In their defense, there are probably a limited number of manna recipes. They remembered the “cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions and the garlic” (Numbers 11:5). They remembered the fish they used to eat in Egypt “for nothing.” For nothing? Bondage and oppression were nothing? The people began to protest. They clamored for meat. They stood at the doors of their tents and wailed.

Moses had enough. “Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ... Where am I to get meat for all this people? ... I am not able to carry this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once” (Numbers 11:11-15). Wow, and I thought I had bad days at work. To all this God answers: “Is the Lord’s power limited? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not” (Numbers 11:23).

Sometimes, when things are the most difficult, or the way forward is thwarted, or hearing someone blithely remind us that God is faithful, it seems like the equivalent of offering “thoughts and prayers” to those living through a devastating tragedy. But for those who live because this promise is not trite but true, for whom it is water in a dry land, a rock in sinking sand, this is the solid promise of life in God.

From being people of the promise until that promise is realized is hard work. In the moment, or the day, or the decade, it is difficult to see that God is moving us. Some give up. Remarkably, some who are most ground down by the journey hang on.

This year we elected six new bishops—all of them women, one Latina and the first two [African Americans](#). Guided by the Spirit, the people of the [Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod](#) elected Patricia Davenport and the [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin](#) elected Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld. It took 31 years—not quite 40. What didn’t seem possible a generation ago is reality in our church. We are becoming a generation not quite arrived at the promised land but seeing God declaring, “Now you will see if my word will come true for you or not.”

In Christ, Bishop Eaton

WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER



FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING: Johnny Russell, Bob Fenton, Tracy Rigsby, Gloria Bilderback, Jaimie Matisons, Bob Murray, Flora Schroeder, Conchita Murray, Phil Leithner, Tom Plumlee, Vince Huddard, Mary Ann Majar, Sarah Robbins, Nick and Judy Claussen, 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 INACTIVE 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 to the Quilters group for letting us borrow boxes to collect the dinner rolls for the Thanksgiving baskets.
- ♦ Thank you to those who donated the rolls for the Thanksgiving baskets.
- ♦ Thank you Cher Keller, Bev Weaver, Larry Weaver, Dick Bramstedt, Oscar, Bramstedt, Kay Bramstedt, Nancy Olsen & Pastor Val Metropoulos for putting together the Thanksgiving baskets and handing them out and Coastal Harvest and to the following churches: the First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, United Christian Church, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, and the St. Andrews Episcopal church for gathering food to go into the Thanksgiving baskets.
- ♦ Thank you Mike Hubbard for your continuing hard work on the church.
- ♦ Thank you Naomi Kraiger for helping Vicky assemble bulletins and the newsletter in November.
- ♦ Thank you to those who participated in the pie auction whether you brought food or items to sell on November 18th and thank you to Gary Morean for being our in house auctioneer, to those who helped out in the kitchen; to Nicole for being our record keeper and money collector, the hot dish that was provided by a Thrivent Action Card, and to Molly, Mari and Madison for being our Vana's.
- ♦ Thank you to those who participated in the Salvation Army's Kettle Klash, Joelle Buckman for leading, the O'Brien's Catering for the lasagna luncheon, and Dorothy Stephens for selling tickets and collecting the donations.
- ♦ Thank you to the maintenance crew for setting up the tree sanctuary and for stringing the lights and putting on decorations.
- ♦ Thank you to Pastor Val and others for putting on the interfaith community vigil.
- ♦ Thank you to Amy for working to make Sunday School even better at supporting families at passing on the faith.

THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS

- ♦ **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$45.10
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity of Grays Harbor** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$45.10

Birthdays & Anniversaries

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Paula Elder
10	Loyd Gill
10	Jeannette Green
11	Gloria Bilderback
14	James Green
14	Ann Hodge
17	Karen Barkstrom
18	Dorothy Stephens
20	Mitzi Ludwig
24	Karen Anderson
24	Hans Stegemoeller
27	Stephanie Kaufman
30	Molly Rabung

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Brenda Grant & Liz Ellis
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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.

POINSETTIAS

We are again decorating for Advent and Christmas with poinsettias that can be given in memory of loved ones. You may leave them in the parish hall at any time and take them home after Christmas Eve worship. Please let the office know if you are giving the plants in honor of a loved one so we can include them in a list of memorials.



BOOK GROUP

Thursday night book group is meeting again! We are reading *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* by Kathleen Norris which is available in the fellowship hall. We meet at 7pm in the fellowship hall. EVERYONE is welcome whether you've read the chapters or not. Please join in this time of fellowship and laughter.

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

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. Talk to Carmon, Joe, or others who have visited the prison congregation if you have any questions.

CAROLING AND CHILI—DECEMBER 9

Our annual all-ages Caroling and Chili fun is December 9th. **Meet at the church at 3:45pm** so we can be on our way by 4pm. Everyone is welcome so invite your friends, but please sign up in the parish hall so we have enough chili. This is a great opportunity to bring some cheer to some that may not have visitors during the Holidays. Chili will be served after caroling by our wonderful chefs. If you would like to bring some cookies to share - great!!!

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 by Dec. 19th. Baskets will be distributed Dec. 20th.** They can be dropped off in the fellowship hall or the office.

Another successful pie auction!!

Thanks to all of you- we raised \$3710.00!! There are still a few funds coming in after the John Tieder calendars and knitted items by Brenda. We will tithe %10. 2/3 to Lutheran Disaster, 1/3 to LWR, the remaining—%70 to the maintenance account and %30 to our roof replacement fund for the parish hall. Thank you to all that helped with set up and clean up. If you missed the event— mark your calendars for next year— we always have our pie auction the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

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@comast.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 December 4

Judi Hubbard, Leader Mike & Karen Barkstrom, Pastor Val, Trish Safstrom, Sarah Channel & Darci Jewitt
Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw 360-532-294



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.

GIVING TREE

For this year's Giving Tree, we will be helping some of the residents of Grays Harbor Health and Rehab. They have many residents who have no family or who have loved ones struggling to get by and cannot afford to buy gifts. There are 10 envelopes on the Giving Tree in the Parish Hall that contain information about the residents. If you feel called to help one of these residents, please take an envelope and provide one gift for that person. Please wrap the gift and label it with the number on the top right of the information page. Gifts need to be returned to the church on December 16th. Thanks for helping these residents have a bright Christmas.

GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

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.

AMAZING GRACE HELPING HANDS

I CAN HELP: NAME AND CONTACT INFO

We are putting together a list of folks who are willing to help out members of our Amazing Grace church family and others. Please check off the chores you would be willing to help out with and when we get a request for assistance, we will contact you to see if you are available.

☐ inside painting ☐ outside painting ☐ carpentry work
☐ plumbing issues ☐ minor electrical work ☐ general "handy-man" chores
☐ lawn mowing ☐ weeding ☐ general yard work
☐ housekeeping chores ☐ provide meals ☐ provide local transportation
☐ provide longer distance transportation -- Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle
☐ do a garbage run to LeMay's
☐ visiting or phoning people at home, nursing home, assisted living center, etc.

What days would you be available to work? MON ☐ Tues ☐ Wed ☐ Thurs ☐ Fri ☐
Sat ☐

List any other skill you have that you're willing to share and we forgot to ask _____

WE WANT TO HELP YOU

If you need some help around your place, let us know. Give us a brief description of what we can do to help. How do we contact you?

WE WANT TO HELP OTHERS

If you know of someone who could use some help and probably hasn't contacted us, let us know so we can reach out to them and offer our help.

Your name

Best way to contact you (provide your phone # or email address)

You may put this request in the collection plate or on the table in the basket on the table in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions or suggestions, call me at 360-589-1393 or email mkbarks1@gmail.com

Mike Barkstrom, Amazing Grace Helping Hands.

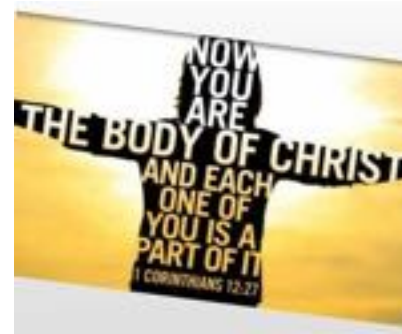
MEMORIAL NEWS

Helen is no longer with us, but we will feel her generosity for years to come. Her financial faithfulness is evident she loved her church and her Lord. Her love of music and her choir will receive a gift. The endowment investment funds, Mikkell Thompson fund, beds and blankets for the Family Promise program will all receive financial support. Helen will be missed by all of us. The above donations are an example of faithful giving.



Pictures above are of Bill, Phil, Sue, and Liz playing at the Community Vigil at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church.

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
November 20, 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, Mark Smalley, Judi Hubbard, Dee Erickson, Theresa Kaufman, Amy Ostwald, Mike Barkstrom and Vicky Kolb.

Call to Order Mark Smalley 6:15

Devotions – Stewardship – Holy Currencies – Read Chapters 1 & 2 - Mark

-Remember a time when money became a blessing to you.

Establish Quorum

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

- Added Memorial Money to Business item, letter G

Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting, October 16, 2018 **M/S/P**

Financial Reports

a. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

i. Vanco – ability to give \$ thru website

-The 5 original people won't be affected with whatever plan the church decides to go with. There will be a \$10 monthly fee. The plan is easy to use. When there are special events happening and you aren't able to make it, you can just go onto the church website and log on and donate. There will be people that would need to be trained to use the card reader, whether it's a debit or credit card.

-\$45 card reader and revisit in 6 months **M/S/P**

-Theresa will move money from general to maintenance and will reopen a sub-account called "roofing".

-Transactions by Accounts-**M/S/P**

ii. Transfer Vanco contact from Mike K. to Phil S.

b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

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

c. Review Healthy Communication Styles/Veteran's Day - Mark

- Council reviewed Healthy Communication Habits:

- Speak directly to the person or committee that the issue concerns.
- Refuse to carry a message from one person or group to another.
- Refuse to take nonspecific or anonymous feedback seriously.
- Council will encourage these communication habits in the congregation to help develop good relationships with open discussion of issues. Council discussed the Veterans Day message. Pastor will speak directly to the congregation this coming Sunday; include a note in the bulletin and in the newsletter.

b. Stewardship next time-Mark/Pastor Val- Postpone until next month's Council meeting

i. Personal Stories to share- sign up for Nov/Dec

c. Family Promise Update - Mike

- Mike will discuss at next month's council meeting and the vote will be in January

d. Budget meeting December 4th – 6 pm.

Treasurer, Financial Secretary, President, Vice President, Pastor

ii. Review Narrative Budget – Mark

– Budget meeting will be attended by Mark Smalley, Pastor Val, Phil Stegemoeller and Theresa Kaufman.

Council members will need to estimate the number of hours that members of the congregation spend in their ministry area by next council meeting.

- iii. Treasurer and Financial Secretary need to have November numbers completed by meeting date.
- e. Voting Membership list review – Mark
 - Judi and Phil will be reviewing the list and will discuss at next month's council meeting.
- f. Paid Family and Medical Leave program -Mark
 - Theresa will get more information about paid family and medical leave and council will discuss and decide what to do.
- g. Memorial money
 - Judi and Phil will go over the memorial checks together.
- h. Community interfaith Vigil at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
 - Members of the local Synagogue showed up for this vigil and were grateful to the church for having this event.

Ministry Reports

- d. Worship – Dee Erickson
 - The Altar Guild is having a meeting this Sunday, 11/25/18. Dee will write a blurb to put into the bulletin so members of the congregation know what it is. The liturgical arts team will be meeting on December 1st at 10 am. The worship team will also start meeting regularly.
 - i. Christmas Eve – 7pm
- e. Outreach – Joelle
- f. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald
 - A survey has been created for the families with children to provide feedback on what they are providing for education, and ways to improve with scheduling, methods, or content.
 - i. Sunday School Christmas program-
 - The Christmas program will be on December 16th and are still looking for someone to lead this event. Advent event scheduled for November 25 during fellowship.
 - ii. Parent Outreach
- g. Fellowship – Judi
 - Pie auction money that was raised has been distributed to the following: %10 tithe, 2/3 Lutheran disaster relief, 1/3 to LWR, %70 to the maintenance account and %30 to roof fund.
 - i. Caroling and Chili
 - 1 van has been reserved; a Thrivent card will pay for the chili. A sign up list will help us know how many people to cook for. Pastor Val is organizing caroling sites.
 - ii. Christmas Concert-
 - 2 vans have been reserved for the PLU concert.
- h. Property – Mike Barkstrom
 - i. Review of priorities
 - Mike Hubbard continues to work hard for us. The fire door downstairs is broken and will cost around \$1200 to fix. The roof will cost around \$25000.
 - ii. Carpet cleaning estimate – Judi
 - Judi will call Service Master for estimate to clean carpets in fellowship hall and sanctuary. The cost for this job will come out of the maintenance fund.

Joelle Buckman's Outreach Report- Submitted after Council meeting on November 20, 2018

-There are many ways to help out during this season, below are items that Joelle will be focusing on: The possibility of the Revival of the Cold Weather Shelter which Joelle will need to discuss with Revival and Pastor Val; bell ringing which you may sign-up for in the parish hall, Grays Harbor health and Rehab will be doing adopt a grandparent, Joelle will have the names by Friday and the Giving Tree will be put up in the parish hall by Joni on 12/1/18. Amazing Grace will be collecting 100 packages of rolls for the Christmas baskets, Joelle will check with Feed the Hungry and see if they need any helpers on Xmas day and have a sign-up sheet available in the parish hall.

The Caring Cupboard is now sending food home with kids so they can take a bigger variety of donations, Joelle will follow up with the Aberdeen School District in January about donations to Harbor High and see if there is interest in a weekend backpack program. There is a dinner at St. Andrew's on Sunday evenings; Joelle will see if there is any interest from the congregation. The Kettle Klash luncheon will be held on 11/29/18.

Pastor's Report

Task Assignments

- Theresa will get website agreement tomorrow from Vanco
 - Pastor Val will call Allison from the Synod to get an invoice for PSALM class and then will call John to write a check.
 - Mike will look into how we got reimbursed for the dish washer parts so he'll get in contact with the Hobart Company.
 - Theresa and Phil will get together about memorial checks.
 - Pastor Val will send narrative list packet to all Council members
 - Theresa will get more information about paid family and medical leave
 - Judi and Phil will discuss voting list at next month's council meeting
 - Dee will write a blurb about Altar Guild.
 - Put property on the list on the Hour Calculations for Narrative Budget.
 - Vicky will make sure that Mike Barkstroms email is correct
- Adjournment and closing prayer 9:19

PASTOR'S REPORT – REGULAR ACTIVITIES – October 2018

WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP Sunday worship – Plan and lead
Plan 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 w/ Brenda Grant
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
Monthly local Pastor's group
Facebook page – outreach through social media.
Coordinate with others to support homeless and fragile people
Meet w/ ministry leader as needed

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE Meet w/ ministry leader as needed
Met w/ Eagle Scout project coordinator about landscape progress

YOUTH AND FAMILY Adult study: plan and participate
Confirmation: plan and lead
Sunday School: coordinate with ministry leader

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM Study and integrate into sermons
Researched materials for council's use

OFFICIAL ACTS – Funeral: Helen Eklund

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Spiritual Direction program year two; Spiritual Direction monthly; Reading: Canoeing the Mountains; Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Ministry

OTHER ACTIVITIES in October

ADMINISTRATION: With administrative assistant: evaluated sabbatical; plan for fall; covered while she was on vacation

OUTREACH: With ministry leader: planned for fall; evaluated sabbatical time
 Christmas giving tree planning
 Food Bank work to reorganize and find new site
 Food Bank Thanksgiving Basket contribution coordinated

PASTORAL CARE: Helen Eklund and her family
 Group spiritual direction for PSALM participants; advise and coordinate their process

RENEWAL: None

WORSHIP: With ministry leader and Hank: Planning for fall; evaluated sabbatical time
 Plan funeral
 Planning special services - Reformation
 Advent planning

YOUTH AND FAMILY: Planning for Advent and adult programs; evaluating sabbatical time
 New member class 2 Sundays – 4 people received as new members
 PSALM participants – commissioned
 Attended retreat to learn about mentoring them
 Planning Confirmation; coordinating with parents

VACATION: One day in Nov. (no Sundays)

December 26- January 1
UPCOMING: Pastor Chris Ode preaches 11/25 (new Living Stones pastor)
 Advent Event: Sunday, 11/25 after worship
 PLU Christmas Concert 12/2
 Caroling and Chili 12/9
 Christmas Program 12/16
 Christmas Eve worship 12/24 7pm(?)
 12/30 Lessons and Carols led by Hank

NOVEMBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNT

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 37,877.00
-PSALM		\$ (500.00)
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 322.38
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,620.00
-Bells		\$ 812.14
-Friends in Need		\$ 447.07
-Reformation Fund		\$ 1,452.93
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Grace Fund		\$ 220.00
	TOTAL	\$ 44,138.35
Fundraising Checking		\$ 215.90
Maintenance Checking		\$ 2,606.47
Youth Checking		\$ 195.75
Memorial Savings		\$ 3,343.54
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 1,736.28

Balance will adjust in November for purchase of tickets and offset of non-subsidized portion of ticket price.

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	mkbarks1@gmail.com
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

DECEMBER 2018 Worship Assistants



December 2

Liturgist:	Keith Lile
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Sarah Channel
Communion Assistant:	Jeannette Green & Hank Bilderback
Ushers/Greeters:	Roger & Carmon Shaw
Depositors:	Judi Hubbard & Gene Schermer
Fellowship:	WHITE, ELDER, STEPHENS, J. ERICKSON

December 9

Liturgist	Hank Bilderback
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Dee Erickson
Communion Assistant:	Joni Hildreth & Darci Jewitt
Ushers/Greeters:	Weiberg, Jim, Michelle, Jordan, Josie & Kylie
Depositors:	Mark Ostwald & Pete Majar
Fellowship:	ALSTROM, TIEDER, SCHERMER, JOHNSTONE

December 16

Liturgist	Laura Carle
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Kristine Finazzo
Communion Assistant:	Joelle Buckman & Steve Swanson
Ushers/Greeters:	Judi Hubbard & Naomi Kraiger
Depositors:	Joe Fernandez & Carmon Shaw
Fellowship:	MITCHELL, CLARK, KAUFMAN, BIORNSTAD

December 23


Liturgist	Jeannette Green
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Gene Schermer
Communion Assistant:	Carrie Erwin & Sarah channel
Ushers/Greeters:	Dee Erickson & Naomi Kraiger
Depositors:	Joelle Buckman & Darrell Lokken
Fellowship:	OSTWALD, RABUNG, GUNDERSEN

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Liturgist	Hank Bilderback
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Greg Johnstone
Communion Assistant:	Mike Barkstrom & Laura Carle
Ushers/Greeters:	Tim & Pam Alstrom
Depositors:	Karen Barkstrom & Hiedi Seelke

December 30

Liturgist	Laura Carle
Worship Assistant/Reader:	Mark Smalley
Ushers/Greeters:	Dee Erickson & Naomi Kraiger
Depositors:	Kristine Finazzo & Eileen Schermer
Fellowship:	MAJAR, LILE, MORRISETTE, D. ERICKSON CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						7 PM AA
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S 1 PM PLU CONCERT 1 PM PSALM LESSON 5 (1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT)	4:30 PM GIRL SCOUTS	6 PM PSALM STUDY GROUP 6 PM BUDGET COMMITTEE	9 AM QUILTING & MAINTENANCE 5:30 PM AA 6 PM BELLS PRACTICE	7 PM BOOK GROUP	6 PM SCRAPBOOK	7 PM AA 3:30 PM LEAVE FOR LIVING STONES WORSHIP
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S 4 PM CAROLING & CHILI (2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT)			5:30 PM AA 6 PM BELLS PRACTICE	7 PM BOOK GROUP		7 PM AA
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP/CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP (3 RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT)	4:30 PM GIRL SCOUTS	6:15 COUNCIL MEETING	5:30 PM AA NO BELLS PRACTICE	7 PM BOOK GROUP	6 PM SCRAPBOOK WINTER BEGINS	7 PM AA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S (4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT)	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 7PM OFFICE CLOSED	CHRISTMAS DAY	5:30 PM AA NO BELLS PRACTICE			7 PM AA
30	31					
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP	NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED				

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
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE