

The Spirit

March 2019

Amazing
Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF GRAYS HARBOR

Despite our culture of self-indulgence, we too are called to walk an alternative path – one of humility, justice, and peace. That is the way of grace. That is the way of Lent.

In a world where everyone knows someone struggling with addiction, where isolation and loneliness are epidemic, in a county that ranks among the highest for “deaths of despair,” **what difference does faith make?** In that reality, what has God to say to us? What can the church offer **this** broken world?



(For a good short refresher on deaths of despair see: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/03/23/521083335/the-forces-driving-middle-aged-white-peoples-deaths-of-despair>)

We've focused on ALLELUIAS during the season of Epiphany, naming even those situations when an Alleluia (from the Hebrew for praise/thank God) comes unexpectedly out of pain or sorrow. But, the reality is that as Leonard Cohen so beautifully told us, ***“Love is not a victory march. It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah”*** even, and maybe especially God's love because it is never superficial or trite, but always real, and honest, and life-giving!

While some people get rich trying to convince us we can buy our way to love or happiness or fulfillment there has never been a time when that was true. That has always been a lie.

The season of Lent is meant for just such a time as this! We're often told that the cure for this deep sickness is all on us. Can't you just heard the stale commands: Pull yourself together! Buck up! Pull yourself up by your bootstraps! Or the unhelpful but loving advice: You just need some fresh air or..... (fill in the blank) exercise; meditation; organic food; vacation, supplements...

But, **we were never meant to live like this:** alone even in a relationship; lonely even in a crowd, because we've been told we can only rely on ourselves; we must maintain the charade pretending to have it all together; things that only reinforce the idea that it's up to us, if only **we** try harder or work smarter..."

Lent offers us six week in which to practice **rejecting that lie, that sin** when we internalize it. That rejection is called repentance from our Old Testament heritage, the heritage that Jesus claimed as his own. “Don't even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven't come to do away with them but to fulfill them.” Matthew 5: 17-20

“But this is not generic repentance for generic sin. I believe, rather the sin addressed concerns for Jews too eager to become Babylonians, too easy to compromise Jewish identity, Jewish faith, Jewish discipline – in order to get along in a Babylonian empire (*or Americans, or French, or Japanese, whatever the culture*) that had faith in other gods with other disciplines. The (Lenten) imperatives are summons to come back to an **original identity, an elemental discipline, a primal faith.**”

That's from *A Way Other Than Our Own* by Walter Brueggemann, our Lenten study this year. In it, Brueggemann offers a short, daily refocus of our situa-

tion in this world here and now seen through the lens of life in the captivity of forces out of our control – which has always been the reality in this world.

I hope you'll consider accepting this invitation to reject the lie that you need to try harder or be more or especially buy more and join in the joyful but challenging work of embracing the gift of community with others longing to be free, to be themselves: beautiful expressions of God's image, God's beloved! **This community is God's gift to us that exposes the lie** that we have to try harder. God has done everything needed for us already. Trying harder does not add to God's gift and in fact often distracts us from what God is doing in our lives. This life of freedom is ours for the taking, one day at a time walking with those God has given us to walk with on this road.

We gather **every Sunday**, of course where we will explore what God is doing in our world today (that's GRACE) and **every Thursday for 6 weeks** beginning March 14th through April 18th for DINNER CHURCH, reclaiming the early church model of joining together around a shared meal where everything we do is liturgy (the work of the people). You're invited to arrive between 5:30 and 6:00. We'll prepare a simple meal together, pray, sing, eat and deepen relationships in all of that. At 7:30 we'll be invited to move into the sanctuary for a brief but beautiful Holden Evening Prayer.

I hope you can open your heart to this gift that will bless not only you but those who receive the gift you offer: your self!

In God's peace,

Pastor Val

Leonard Cohen singing Hallelujah: <https://youtu.be/YrLk4vdY28Q>

FAQ:

When does Lent begin?

Ash Wednesday, March 6th is the beginning of Lent. We'll have a noon service and one at 7pm where the Lord's Supper and ashes will be offered (to help us remember that while time is a gift it is not an unlimited

gift.) This is not a depressing service. It is an invitation and a nudge into the counter cultural season of Lent.

Will there be child care?

There will be supervised activities in the Sunday School room. Children are encouraged to participate in **all of DINNER CHURCH** but while big people have discussion time, you might like them to have this option.

Where can I get the book we're reading, *A Way Other Than Our Own*?

In the parish hall on the table by the west windows. Or you can get the Kindle version.

Do I have to read the whole book?

No, just read one section – 1 ½ to 2 pages each day until Easter. :)

Should I bring some food to DINNER CHURCH?

Not unless you want to. If you want to bring whatever simple thing you'd like to share. Could be lettuce or carrots or cookies or whatever. We'll make some basics each week that can be supplemented with whatever shows up.

Does DINNER CHURCH cost anything?

No, we'll collect an offering each Thursday for a cause that is close to our heart, such as Family Promise or the Food Bank. The offering can be money or canned goods or items that Family Promise needs.

What if I'm late?

Come when you can. Stay as long as you want to.

What if I'm early?

You can join in whenever you get here.

Can I bring a friend?

Please do! There is truly no one who is unwelcome!

PRAYING FOR...

for healing: Coleen Brown, Kelli Wertanen, Nancy Kelly, Ginny Clark, Paula Elder, Kiara, Philip, Tammy Mumaw, Johnny Russell, Bob Fenton, Tracy Rigsby, Gloria Bilderback, Bob Murray, Flora Schroeder, Conchita Murray, Tom Plumlee, Mary Ann Majar, Sarah Robbins, Nick and Judy Claussen, Penny Holbrook, Sammy, Terry Warwick, Melvin Thompson, Susie Kellendar, Matthew Green and family, 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.

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 WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY IN THE PAST AND FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN especially Caleb Berken, Steven Kincaid, Maria Majar, John Kupka and Crystal Rojas

PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD: especially Stacie Evensen's Myanmar Mission.

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 edit the prayer list. Please contact the office 532-8250 to update prayer requests.)

Contact Brenda Grant with prayer requests at: brenda_k_grant@hotmail.com

Why is Easter so Late this Year?

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have said it to myself, and I have heard it said from many other people lately, “Lent and Easter are so late this year! What’s going on?!”

Often Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, arrives by mid-February. This year Ash Wednesday doesn’t come until March 6. Three years ago, we celebrated Easter on March 27. This year Easter will be on April 21. Why is it so early some years and so late this year?

Most Christian festival days are fixed on specific dates, so we know exactly when they are going to happen each year. Christmas is on December 25. Reformation Day is on October 31. There’s no guessing and no surprises (at least not about the date.) Easter, however, changes from year to year. This is because the Christian church, from its earliest years, decided to set the date of Easter according to a lunar calendar, which measures time by the movement of the moon rather than the sun.

When the four Gospels tell us the story of Good Friday and Easter, they describe how Easter happened right after the Jewish festival of Passover. The Christian church decided to continue the calendar relationship between Passover and Easter. However, the traditional Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar and, therefore, the dates of Passover and Easter vary each year according to the phases of the moon.

The rule for setting the date of Easter is this: Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (the first day of Spring.) The vernal equinox, according to astronomers, actually slides between March 20 and March 22. However, in the traditional Christian church calendar, March 21 was picked as the yearly date of the vernal equinox. Therefore, Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21.

That means that March 22 is the absolute earliest possible date for Easter in any year. The latest possible date is April 25. So, our date of Easter this year, April 21, is quite late in this range of possibilities. (It will fall on the very latest date possible, April 25, in 2038.)

Those are all calendar-keeping facts that I find interesting, but are there any spiritual truths that might come to us out of this? As I find myself meditating on our late-blooming, off-in-the-distance Easter this year, here are a few thoughts that come to mind.

- ❖ God’s gift of Easter (new life!) sometimes comes suddenly and sometimes must develop slowly in the hidden corners of our lives.
- ❖ Being forced to wait for a crucial event can help us to receive and open ourselves to it all the more.
- ❖ The full, springtime bloom that will be around us by April 21, will also be a sign of the life that God will help to “flower” in us through Easter.
- ❖ No matter where Easter is on the calendar, it will still surprise and disrupt our normal schedule!
- ❖ Easter is God’s lunar gift to us lunatic people!
- ❖ Thank goodness that, whether early or late, Easter’s resurrection power can never be stopped.

We are racing ahead of ourselves, of course. We are still in the light-filled days of Epiphany. Lent is a number of weeks off. Yet we are given strength for this journeying by trusting that we are headed toward the Easter moment when our lives and our world are turned upside down.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Rick Jaech



March Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

Jared Erwin, March 1
Trace Erwin, March 1
Francis Beeman, March 4
Jim Erickson, March 5
Lana Lile, March 6
Hayley Sykes, March 7
Eileen Audett, March 9
William Rabung, March 9
Thomas Evanson, March 10
Steven Kincaid, March 10

Laura Carle, March 15
Mary Ann Majar, March 20
Jesse Channel, March 21
John Kincaid, March 22
Craig Teveliet, March 22
Tim Leithold, March 24
Josie Weiberg, March 24
Moonbeam Kupka, March 26
Jordan Weiberg, March 27
Michael Pellessier, March 28

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dennis & Donna Morrisette,
March 11
Trish & Mark Smalley, March
15
Gregory & Cynthia Johnstone,
March 20
Bob & Mary Ellen Salmon,
March 20

Thank you to:

To Gene Schermer for setting up the tables for the quilters.

To Mike Barkstrom for fixing the dripping faucet in the church office and for the rock salt on the stairs to keep us safe.

To Lynnette for being in charge of the Valentine care packages that go out to the college students.

Thank you to Trace, and Jared Erwin and Erin Burns for putting the packages together, Amy Ostwald Jacob and Annika Natwick from Sunday school who made the Valentine cards and to the many people who donated money to mail the packages and food to fill them. 13 Valentine care packages were given out to our college age students.

To Hank Bilderback for filling in for Pastor Val while she was on the Holden retreat.

To Joelle Buckman for doing the prayers for Sunday worship.

To Joe Fernandez and Diane Hanson for sharing preaching duties on February 10th.

To Mei Le Smith who played her violin during church service to celebrate the birthday of Joyce Smith.

To Mike O'Conner who spoke to council about the Bel Aire property.

To Carmon Shaw and Charles Scamman who brought council up-to-date on Family Promise.

To Amy Oswald for her continued work on the church directory.

To Kala and Jesse Winter for filling in for Judi Hubbard while she was away.

To Gene Schermer, John Tieder and Roger Shaw who were working in the day center.

To Naomi Kraiger for helping Vicky assemble the newsletters and bulletins.





		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6-10 PM SCRAPBOOK	2 7-8 PM AA 1 PM EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY
3 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S. 11:15 AM NEW MEMBER/BAPTISM CLASS 1:00 LITURGIST TRAINING	4 4:30-6:30 PM GIRL SCOUTS	5	6 9-12 PM QUILTING & MAINTENANCE 5:30-6:30 PM AA 6-7 PM BELLS ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE NOON & 7 PM	7 7-8:30 PM BOOK GROUP	8	9 7-8 PM AA LIVING STONES PRISON WORSHIP
10 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S. 11:15 AM NEW MEMBER/BAPTISM CLASS DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	11	12 6:15-7:30 pm SONS OF ITALY BOARD MEETING	13 5:30-6:30 PM AA 6-7 PM BELLS	14 DINNER CHURCH—arrive between 5:30—6 HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER 7:30	15 6-10 PM SCRAPBOOK	16 5 PM ST. PATTY DINNER
17 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP w/ healing prayer 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S.	18 4:30-6:30 PM GIRL SCOUTS	19 6:15 PM COUNCIL MEETING	20 9-12 PM QUILTING & MAINTENANCE 5:30-6:30 PM AA 6-7 PM BELLS	21 DINNER CHURCH—arrive between 5:30—6 HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER 7:30	22	23 7-8 PM AA
24 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP w/ baptism 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S.	25	26 6 PM MUTUAL MINISTRY	27 5:30-6:30 PM AA 6-7 PM BELLS	28 DINNER CHURCH—arrive between 5:30—6 HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER 7:30	29	30 7-8 PM AA
31 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/GODLY PLAY S.S.						

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, March 3

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile;
Worship Assistant/Reader: Darci Jewitt; **Communion Assistant:** Laura Carle; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mike & Arlene O'Connor; **Depositors:** Mike Barkstrom & Ray Hodge; **Fellowship:** PSALMists

Sunday, March 10

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Laura Carle;
Worship Assistant Reader: Kristine Finazzo & Erin Burns; **Acolyte:** Annika Kraiger; **Communion Assistant:** Elaine Olsen & Arlene Torgerson;
Ushers/Greeters: Molly & Tim Leithold; **Depositors:** Karen Barkstrom & Heidi Seelke; **Fellowship:** Alstrom, Tieder, Schermer, Johnstone

Sunday, March 17

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant Reader:** Michelle Weiberg & Jacob Natwick; **Communion Assistant:** Joni Hildreth & Darci Jewitt; **Ushers/Greeters:** Elaine & Darrell Lokken; **Depositors:** Judi Hubbard & Gene Schermer; **Fellowship:** Mitchell, Clark, Kaufman, Biornstad

Sunday, March 24

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Jeannette Green; **Worship Assistant Reader:** Suzan Stegemoeller; **Communion Assistant:** Kaufman, Theresa, Amanda, Jennifer; **Usher & Acolyte:** Jacob Natwick & Annika & Annelise Kraiger; **Depositors:** Mark Ostwald & Pete Majar; **Fellowship:** Ostwald, Rabung, Gundersen

Sunday, March 31

Pastor: Rev. Val Metropoulos; **Liturgist:** Keith Lile;
Worship Assist/Reader: Carmon Shaw & Jacob Natwick; **Communion Assistant:** Vicki Mitchell & Diane Hanson; **Ushers:** Erin Burns & Carmon Shaw; **Depositors:** Joe Fernandez & Carmon Shaw; **Fellowship:** Majar, Lile, Morrisette, D. Erickson.

Lenten rose in bloom near rhododendron at the foot of the wooden steps from the parking lot to the office.



NEW MEMBER / BAPTISM

If you are interested in being baptized or joining Amazing Grace as an 'official' member, please plan to attend the class held after worship **March 3rd and 10th**. Please speak with Pastor Val if you have any questions about baptism or membership and let her know if you plan to attend so we have plenty of materials. We can arrange another time to meet if those dates are not convenient for you. (Pastor Val's contact information is on the back of every bulletin. Please leave a message if you call.)

ASH WEDNESDAY and LENT

are just around the corner.
We'll celebrate Ash Wednesday
March 6th with 2 services: one at
noon and the second at 7pm.



DINNER CHURCH

Our midweek worship during Lent is on Thursdays. You're invited to experience BEING church in a new way, resembling the very OLD way of the church in the first century, with a 21st century feel. You're invited to arrive between 5:30 and 6:00 when we'll prepare our simple meal. At 6:00 we'll begin the liturgy (the work of the people). If you'd like to bring some food to share, please do.

Please come and bring friends. It's for all ages!

A WAY OTHER THAN OUR OWN

As a way of deepening our experience of the holy season of Lent we'll join in reading a short passage each day from the book, *A Way Other Than Our Own* by Walter Brueggemann. This book is a guiding light showing us the way as we dive deeper into the truth of Lent, that we are so often "curved in on ourselves" (as Luther put it) and cannot even see the ways in which we stray from God's desires for us.

Books are in the parish hall. If you are able to help with their cost, they are \$10 or you can buy the kindle version for \$10.50.

LIVING STONES PRISON CONGREGATION

Amazing Grace is scheduled to visit Living Stones Prison Congregation in Shelton **Saturday March 9th**. A visit to Living Stones is a unique experience and a witness to the grace of

God in action. As you come into their space, the men recognize this offering of yourselves to be a gift. You are sometimes the only people they get to see from the outside walls. Sign up in the Parish Hall. We will need to be at the prison by 5:30. We will leave the church at 4:15pm. We can carpool. Pastor Val or Joe Fernandez can answer any questions. Everyone must bring photo ID.

BOOK GROUP

Please join the Thursday night book group!

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 book or not!

SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM



We are forming a team or several teams of folks who might be interested in helping with funeral receptions and other events that come up in the life of the congregation. This would probably mean providing sandwiches, dessert, veggies etc. There may be other opportunities that we don't even know about yet! If you would like to be a part of this, please let me know. We can figure this out together. (Maybe if we put our heads together we can also think of a better name!)

Please contact Judi Hubbard at Jhubbard1952@comcast.net or let's talk at church.

QUILTERS

The quilter's are in need of FLAT sheets to be used as backing for our quilts. The sheets can be donated at any time, Thank you!
-Eileen Schermer

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Time for Your first quarter choice dollars to be designated!! You may choose whatever charity you choose. Or you can designate Amazing Grace and the funds go to the maintenance account.

We will be having some brainstorming sessions of how to use your Thrivent Action Cards. We all have involvement with in our church family and outside, we can help you use this great opportunity Thrivent offers.

It's Free Money to kick start your projects! If you have any questions, please contact Judi Hubbard at Jhubbard1952@comcast.net.

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: amaz-

ing111@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.

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!*

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

FLOWERS

A 2019 calendar for flowers for the altar each week will be posted in the skywalk. Please sign up to bring flowers. Commemorate a wedding, celebration, anniversary, remembrance or just because you wish to see flowers on the altar that Sunday.

Please remove the flowers after the service on Sunday. Take the flowers to someone who is ill or a shut-in if you wish. The removal of the flowers will help the custodian. The flowers or greens can be from your garden or plants. Any questions call Maurita White 360-532-2985

Thanks We Have Received

Hiedi and Chris Seelke's friend Jim Hall's god daughter Jordon was beyond thrilled and absolutely loved her Valentine care package. Thank you!

-Hiedi Seelke

To the confirmation class: Thank you for bringing us dinner. It was delicious. The women enjoyed it so much. Friendship house— God Bless you

Pacific Lutheran University thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$129.15

Wish List

of the Living Stones Praise Band Musicians

*If you would like to provide the funds to purchase any of these items,
please contact Sandi at LivingStonesAssistant@outlook.com.*

Items may be viewed online at musiciansfriend.com.

Thank you for your support of the gifts of our men!

Quantity	Item	Number	Price
1	Livewire Essential Dual MIDIn Cable 9ft Black	J38981000001001	\$15.99
1	Vic Firth 3-pair American Classic Hickory Drumsticks Nylon 5B	H76494000002006	26.99
1	Vic Firth 3-pair American Classic Hickory Drumsticks Nylon 7A	H76494000002007	29.97
2	Dunlop Nylon Max Grip Guitar Picks 12 Pk 0.60mm	582854000139000	3.89
1	Vic Firth Gen 7 Articulate Timpani Mallets	447622	39.99
2	Tru Universal WR20 (Pair)	J21957	19.99
1	Ernie Ball 2221 Nickel Regular Slinky Electric Guitar Strings	584146	13.99
1	Tama Rhythm Watch RW30	J19669	34.99
1	Promark Hot Rod Sticks	443400	20.99
1	Yamaha FC4A Piano Style Sustain Foot Pedal	J19485	29.95



Union Gospel Mission *of Grays Harbor*

Reaching Hearts & Changing Lives of People in Need

MARCH SERVANTS

Jill Waite, team leader

Doris Tieder

Suzan Stegemoeller

Dee Erickson

Shawn Dickson

Jeannette Green

Annette Biornstadt

March's monthly Union Gospel Mission service is on Tuesday, the 5th.

Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw 360-532-2940

Thank you all for serving this important ministry!

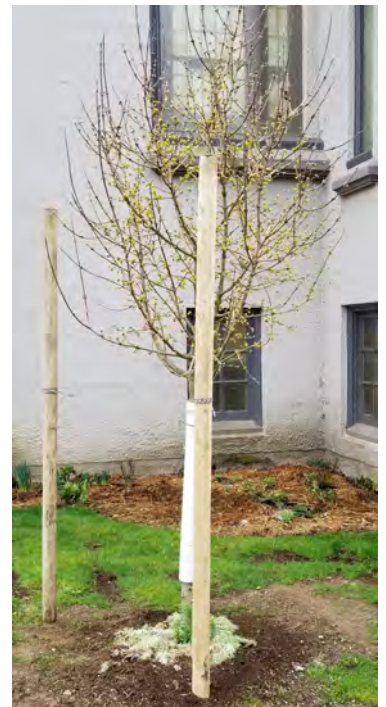
ENDOWMENT FUND

At a recent Endowment Committee meeting a budget of \$8000 was proposed and adopted. Anyone who wishes to make a request to support a group or project set forth in the Bylaws of the Fund needs to complete a request form. Requests and scholarship forms are available in the church office or from Darrell Lokken.

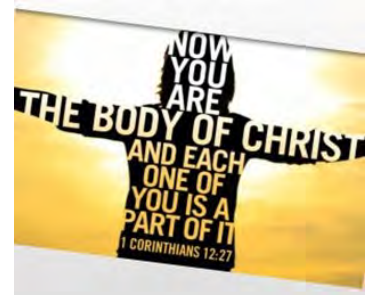
Scholarship forms are due June 1st. There will be more information on this later. All completed forms can be returned to the office or to a committee member.



Cornus mas
'Golden Glory'
in bloom



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

Call to Order 6:20 Mark Smalley

Devotions – Stewardship – Holy Currencies – Finish Chapter 3 and 4 - Mark

-External constructive relationships with nonmembers of the church: Prison ministry, businesses: Lupo Construction, Jays, Actionaire.

Internal Relationships: Pastor, council, psalm, choir/bells, imagine, faith Connex, quilters, depositors, prison ministry, book group, alter guild, greeters. Council members then discussed how they rated the external and internal relationships with the church.

Establish Quorum

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

-Added several items to the Agenda: Financial Reports, iii. Family Promise Bill. Financial Secretary's Reports, ii. Estate Planning. Business items, C. Church Directory and E. Online Giving.

Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting, January 15, 2018 **M/S/P**

Business Items

a. Belair Property Report – Mike O'Conner

-Mike O'Conner talked with council members about the listing that Amazing Grace has with Windermere, for the Bel Aire property, which has expired. Mike talked about comparable other properties that are listed or that have been sold. Council decided to refer the issue to the original committee about the Bel Aire property.

-Reactivate listing on Bel Aire Property **M/S/P**

b. Family Promise Report – Carmon Shaw

Carmon Shaw and Charles Scamman came and talked about Family Promise. Suzan Stegemoeller has volunteered to be the co-coordinator with Carmon.

The volunteers for Family Promise will need to have a one hour training and be offered a list of tasks to choose from.

Across the country there is a 78% success rate for Family Promise.

Financial Reports

a. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

-Theresa will amend the amount shown in the Memorial Savings account by \$11,000 that actually went to Endowment. She will also move money from maintenance to the general account that will pay for the carpet cleaning.

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

i. Paid Family and Medical Leave program –Theresa

-Accounting people have taken care of it.

ii. Comcast Bill

iii. Family promise bill

-Theresa will pay back family promise. The first billing statements from Family Promise won't start until the first of February. Theresa also shared with the council members the format for the Family Promise Utility/Insurance/Maintenance Billing.

b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

- i. New Program for financial secretary
 - Phil will be getting help from Joelle on this new program
- ii. Estate Planning
 - Phil has talked with John Aakre about coming down to talk about Estate planning with the congregation and to answer questions. Phil has given John some dates that would work but he would like one of those dates to be before Easter.

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. Annual Meeting Minutes– January 27th
 - Theresa took the annual meeting minutes so Mark will ask her to send him a copy. Mark will also ask Theresa about the Online giving website.
- b. Council Retreat April 13 – Mark
 - Topics for the Retreat
 - 1. Role and purpose of council- people tend to lose continuity when people move off council. Council members will prepare job descriptions and be prepared to discuss it during the council retreat.
 - 2. Stewardship-Mark will determine which chapters from “Holy Currencies” council members will read for the retreat.
- c. Emergency Shelter Ground Rules- Mark revisit this next meeting.
- d. Church Directory-Amy
 - It's a work in progress and coming along.
- e. Online Giving- Phil will talk to Theresa about it

Ministry Reports

- a. Worship – Dee Erickson
 - Joe Fernandez and Diane Hanson shared preaching duties on February 10th as part of their PSALM program. The congregation enjoyed Joe's story about the 'Jesus bus' and Diana's fish stories.
 - b. Outreach – Joelle
 - Joelle needs to get a replacement basket for the Giving cupboard and will talk to Vicki Mitchell.
 - c. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald
 - Amy has received most of the Christian Education Surveys. The survey portion is complete and she will talk with Pastor Val about the next steps. Pastor Val mentioned that the Youth group has not met this school year. The Confirmation class will be making blankets for the graduating seniors as they've done before.
 - d. Fellowship – Judi on vacation
 - e. PSALM- The class is learning about worship services and what is involved. Every six months they are in charge of doing a project. Joelle's project is writing the intercessory prayers each week; Joe will work with Pastor Val on Lent mid-week service; Hank and Pastor Val will work on an Easter season liturgy and the other two are thinking about what they would like to do. They also work on essays which they send Pastor Val and she gives them feedback. Pastor Val worked with them in January and February on how to do a sermon. The PSALM class will be doing a chili fundraiser during coffee hour.
 - f. Property – Mike Barkstrom
 - Mike Hubbard has volunteered to be the second contact for Family Promise if Mike Barkstrom is not available.
 - A pool table in the Day Center was given away without permission by the FP folks. Mike told them that it was not theirs to give away and that they cannot remove anything that belongs to AGLC without permission from the council. A couch was also removed and taken to storage in Hoquiam it will be brought back and stored in the basement.
- We are at about 65% of our goal of having the funds to put a new roof on the parish hall. Some plumbing changes were necessary in the parish hall-shut off valves were installed. The sky bridge between the church and parish hall has been repaired by Lupo Construction.

Items that are currently being stored in the back of the parish hall will be removed in the near future.

Pastor requested that she be told which items will be removed since she uses some of them.

Mike will talk with Ray Hodge to insure he has no problem with giving away the love seat.

- A love seat and the couch (that is being returned) will be made available to the Aberdeen UMC for use in their church for the FP families. **M/S/P**

Pastor's Report

Aberdeen Food Bank needs a lay person from Amazing Grace to serve on the board

Pastor Val is exploring the possibility of A.G. hosting an intern through an ELCA seminary. She'll bring information to next council meeting.

Mid-week services during Lent will be DINNER CHURCH. Thursdays in the parish hall. People are invited to arrive between 5:30 and 6. Bring food if they want to. Holden Evening Prayer will be Thursday nights at 7:30 in the sanctuary.

Task Assignments

-Council members need to read chapters 4-5 from the "Holy Currencies".

-Vicky will add Marti Debandt to the voting list.

-Vicky needs to put down events that are happening at the church on building calendar.

-Phil will get in contact with John Aakre about scheduling dates to talk about Estate planning with the congregation.

-Mark will email Phil budget numbers.

-Mark will ask Theresa to send him a copy of the Annual Meeting Minutes.

-Phil will talk to Theresa about the Online Giving website.

-Theresa will check the drawer in the church office for the Family Promise check.

-Theresa will amend the Income vs. Expenses report.

-Mark Smalley will talk to the original committee about the Bel Aire property.

-Joelle will talk with Vicki Mitchell about the Outreach.

-Mike will talk with Ray about the items in the back of the fellowship hall.

Adjournment and closing prayer 8:48

PASTOR'S REPORT – REGULAR ACTIVITIES – January 2019

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

PSALM – mentor; spiritual direction

Prayer Chain – coordinate w/ Brenda Grant

Healing monthly

Grace notes weekly or as needed

Pastoral care as needed

Hospital visits; homebound & assisted living visits

OUTREACH

Coordinate with ministry leader as needed
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

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

OFFICIAL ACTS – None in January

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Spiritual Direction program year two; Spiritual Direction monthly; Bishop's Convocation – Leading Congregations in Anxious Times. Reading: Dare to Lead by Brene Brown, A Way Other than Our Own by Walter Brueggemann.

OTHER ACTIVITIES in January

ADMINISTRATION: Write, edit, organize reports for Annual Report
Statistical report for Annual Report

OUTREACH: Food Bank work to reorganize and find new site

PASTORAL CARE: Group spiritual direction for PSALM participants; advise and coordinate their process
Individual spiritual direction

WORSHIP: Faith ConneX Wrap-Up survey developed and distributed
Planning with ministry leader
Planning: Epiphany and Lent

YOUTH/FAMILY/Education: Confirmation class weekly: 3 youth, parents and mentors
PSALM: led spiritual direction
PSALM: taught sermon preparation

IMAGINE RENEWAL: Team meeting with Melanie Wallschaeger, Director of Evangelical Mission for SWWA Synod – evaluating process and plan for ongoing renewal

SYNOD: Bishop's Convocation
Female Clergy issues – conference meeting with Bishop and staff

VACATION: None

UPCOMING: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday 3/6 worship at 7;
Mid-Week events each Thursday 6pm: 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, including a meal and discussion. This is being planned with Joe Fernandez, PSALM participant
Mid-week worship each Thursday (same dates as above) 7:30 worship; plan w/ Hank and Kris
Holy Week: Palm/Passion Sunday 4/ 14, Maundy Thursday 4/18, Good Friday 4/19, Easter 4/21. Being planned with Hank and Kris
Lent Devotional reading: A Way Other Than Our Own by Walter Brueggeman
2 Adult baptisms – March and April

New member reception March or April





JANUARY BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNT

Name		Date	Total
Checking			\$ 39,785.45
-PSALM			\$ (500.00)
-Caring Cupboard			\$ 322.38
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve			\$ 2,620.00
-Bells			\$ 939.73
-Friends in Need			\$ 512.70
-Reformation Fund			\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds			\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore			\$ 386.83
-Grace Fund			\$ 220.00
		TOTAL	\$ 45,858.29
Fundraising Checking			\$ 215.90
Maintenance Checking			\$ 14,836.47
- Roof sub ac-			
count of m aint			\$ 15,650.00
Youth Checking			\$ 195.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 4,089.01
Mikkel Thompson Savings			\$ 1,178.51



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	Darrell Lokken	(360) 532-1615	delokken@comcast.net
Pastor	Val Metropoulos	(360) 580-8977	vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu
Church Secretary	Vicky Kolb	(360) 532-8250	amazing111@comcast.net

BUILDING REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE

Please notify Mike Barkstrom or send a message to the church office if there are any repairs needed at the church. Sometimes members or visitors notice things that need to be fixed that the committee is not aware of. Your input is helpful in these matters.

Mike Barkstrom: mkbarks1@gmail.com - (360) 589-1393

Ministers: The People of Amazing Grace

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

amazinggraceaberdeen.org

amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle, Jeannette Green, Charles Scamman

Musicians: Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke



**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 wor-
shipIntentional faith
development Risk-
taking mission and
service Extravagant
generosity

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE