

# The Spirit

## August 2019



### Time to Be Brave

In the message last Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, I asked you to be brave with me. We heard the story of the rich fool from Luke 12 about a man so wealthy he was contemplating building even bigger barns to hold all his riches. He was talking to himself because he'd spent his life amassing wealth and must have neglected human relationships – he had no one to talk to but himself. In this parable, Jesus says that as the man made these plans, God said to him, 'Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?' and Jesus said, "This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren't rich toward God."

### The key, Jesus is saying is for us to be 'rich toward God.'

I asked you to be brave, because I believe that Jesus is calling us to hear this message, not as a call to give more money to the church or even give more money to the poor. I think that Jesus is asking us to be brave and see that like the rich fool we have been worshipping false gods, idols. We have let other things get in the way of being 'rich toward God,' things that in and of themselves are not evil. But, given our human tendency to be fearful, those 'things' preoccupy our lives, giving us the illusion that they offer protection/safety/security, maybe even wealth of a sort.

But, that's not the way God's good world works. In God's economy, when we are motivated by fear no matter how much we have, no matter how big our portfolio or our retirement package, no matter how important or busy we are, no matter even how healthy or happy we are, when we are not rich toward God, putting God first in all things, then our lives become narrow and small; we cling to what we have, hoarding it against the feared unknown future.

Against that small, diminished life **Jesus offers us God's abundant future**, free to be received for those

who can, even for a moment, now and then open their hands to receive the blessings that God longs to pour out upon us.

Human sinfulness (treating our 'stuff' or our own abilities as idols that can provide for us) encourages us to believe that giving, instead of taking, will lead only to destitution, deprivation, and desperation. The gospel promises that **giving from what we have will open our hearts** and minds to the God of blessing and prepare us to receive the gifts God offers.

In a time when it seems like every day brings new reason to be afraid, being 'rich toward God', looking for God's blessings, promises to **free us to be people of hope and generosity**.

Seeking to put that attitude of hope and generosity into action, look at what our churchwide assembly, currently meeting in Milwaukee, WI has been up to:

They adopted the social statement **"Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action"** with 97% of the vote. You can read short and longer versions here: <https://elca.org/.../Current-Social-Writing.../Women-and-Justice>

They adopted the statement, **"A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment"** with 97.48% voting in favor. This document encourages and nurtures our inter-religious relations as we strive to uphold these commitments in life together with people of other faiths and religions. You can read it here: [http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Inter-Religious\\_Policy\\_Statement.pdf?\\_ga=2.65900070.986142714.1565372039-303647909.1565372039](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Inter-Religious_Policy_Statement.pdf?_ga=2.65900070.986142714.1565372039-303647909.1565372039)

Voting members at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly launched our participation in the **Thursdays in Black Campaign** -- towards a world without rape and violence. The ELCA's commitment to this [World Council](#)



[of Churches](#) campaign is an expression of our commitments through the ELCA social message “Gender-based Violence.”

More than 750 Lutherans, including voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, gathered in Milwaukee for a **prayer vigil in support of migrant children and families**. They walked from the Wisconsin Center to the nearby U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, singing and praying. Then they went back to work and voted to approve a **memorial that declares the ELCA a sanctuary church**. The ELCA is the first North American denomination to declare itself a sanctuary church body. As a sanctuary church the ELCA is committed to serving and supporting migrant children and families in communities across the country.

**A Declaration to People of African Descent** was presented to representatives of the African Descent Lutheran Association. "This apology is a recommitment to the process of right and equitable relations within this church, and the flourishing of Christ's church universal," Bishop Eaton said after the declaration was read. "This recommitment means working toward a deeper understanding of slavery and its legacy, of institutional and structural racism, of white privilege, and of attitudes and foundations of white supremacy. It means praying for the renewal of this church as disciples of the living Christ."

In reply, the Rev. Lamont Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association, said, "We must abandon our lust for oppressive power, wealth and

even our own comfort for the sake of fulfilling God's fulfillment to love others. Throughout history, people have been hurt by this very particular sin. Therefore, we the people of African descent of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America can receive this apology as a divine mark of repentance that serves as a catalyst for change." Eaton said the ELCA will name an annual Day of Repentance for congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. These could be meaningless actions, unless they are embraced by congregations like ours who figure out how to live them, joining them with our prayers as we discern what God is offering us in these blessings to be lived out in our time and place.

Thank you for being brave with me as we discern our future together!

Pastor Val





## LAURA CARLE AND KIDS AT VBS.



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

### Gathering, Word, Meal and Sending

Liturgy is important—not each constituent part—but the basic structure of corporate worship: gathering, word, meal and sending. It's a discipline Lutherans willingly undertake because it helps individuals and the entire community express our connection with other Christians throughout the world and across the ages.

When we gather, it's not simply a group of like-minded individuals. We gather in Jesus' name and we gather as the body of Christ. "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:5).

The African concept of Ubuntu, "I am because we are," captures this. South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu explains it this way: **"I need you in order for me to be me, and you need me in order for you to be you. We are bound together. I need other human beings to be a human being. A person is a person through other persons."**

We gather in the presence of Jesus, God with us, in Whom we all have our ultimate identity.

I've often heard it said that one can worship God in the beauty of nature. I'm glad that people are moved to awe and praise when encountering the majesty of God in the created world. We all should stop and notice the divine presence! But corporate worship is something else. This was made beautifully evident to me when I visited the Community of Sant'Egidio in Rome.

This community of laypeople gathers regularly for Scripture reading, prayer, and to serve the poor and broken in the city around them. Sant'Egidio takes particular care of those who are mostly home-bound during the week. Weekly worship with the rest of the community is a celebration for these people. They are reunited with the rest of the family—all gathered to worship the Lord. Their joy is palpable.

**We gather around the word**—Scripture, preaching, song, prayer and creeds, but especially around the living Word, Jesus Christ. We are not the focus of our worship—God is. Worship is not primarily about "me" or about "us." Worship is not a perfor-



mance for the community, but an offering directed to God. Jesus promised that when we gather in his name, he is in the midst of us. How would our worship change if we understood literally that Christ is present and we are offering Christ our worship and praise?

**We gather for the meal.** Gathered around our tables, we are gathered around the one table. We are fed and forgiven, reconciled and released, crucified and raised. In the words of institution, we hear the Jesus story—the story of Jesus, broken and shed, who gives himself completely for the life of the world. If your congregation uses the prayer that surrounds these words, you also hear the history of salvation. While each individual receives God in the sacraments, no individual receives this grace alone apart from the rest of the community.

**We are sent.** Gathered into one by the Spirit, carrying and bearing the word, never separated from

the love of God in Christ Jesus, we are sent into the world. Some of the most important words spoken in the liturgy are “Go in peace. Serve the Lord.” Out we go, serving this world God so loves. Jesus meets us there—in our struggles, joys, life and death. Then we gather again in worship to be strengthened and restored.

Peasants in France would take a loaf of bread with them into the fields. They would take a bite of bread, throw the loaf down the row, and begin the backbreaking work of hoeing and tending their crops. When they caught up to the bread, they took another bite and threw it down the row again. In this way they could keep on going. So it is with us as we receive the bread of life and serve the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Eaton

## WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

### FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:



Margaret Murray, Darci Jewitt, Ardith Savoy, Jeani Shofner, Ginny Clark, Philip, Matthew Green and family, Betty Schlaht, Maxine Cogburn, David Shaw, Mary Alice Walton, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean, Jean and David Hanson.

**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.

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

**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.

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](mailto:brenda_k_grant@hotmail.com)





Listening to the message with Pastor Doug at VBS day one.  
Enjoying dinner during VBS.



# August Birthdays and Anniversaries



## BIRTHDAYS:

Annette Biornstad, August 2  
Ken Paul, August 5  
Nathan Gundersen, August 10  
Ray Hodge, August 10  
Jeff Gundersen, August 13  
Erin Burns, August 17  
Emily Penttila, August 18  
Maggi Kupka, August 23  
Gary Morean, August 23  
Lynette Lile, August 29  
Charles Scamman, August 31

## ANNIVERSARIES:

Annette & Gary Biornstad, August 3  
Hank & Gloria Bilderback, August 5  
Ken & Louise Paul, August 6  
Martha & Francis Beeman, August 8  
Pastor Val Metropoulos & Steve Swanson, August 11  
Darrell & Elaine Lokken, August 12  
Mike & Moonbeam Kupka, August 14  
Ken & Vicki Mitchell, August 18  
Gene & Eileen Schermer, August 23  
Mike & Arlene O'Connor, August 24

## Thank you to:

To Kris Tillman for the donation of fabric to the quilters.

To Judi and all of those who helped out with the garage sale on July 13th.

To Hank Bilderback for the donations of office supplies for the church office.

To John Aakre for doing a follow up on estate planning.

To the Confirmation students, mentors and parents for making blankets for our high school graduates.

To Doris Tieder for sharing her quilting tools w. L.A.T to make banners.

To Mike Hubbard for fixing the women's toilet in Parish hall.

To Suzan Stegemoeller & Carmon Shaw for coordinating our Family Promise hosting.

To Steve Swanson & William Rabung-grilling at our VBS BBQ/picnic and helping with set up/clean up.

To Mark Ostwald & Mike Hildreth-helping set up/clean up for VBS BBQ/picnic.

To Amy Ostwald -helping organize VBS week, decorating the sanctuary with a festive balloon arch, assisting with registration, jumping in behind the scenes in multiple ways.

To Joan Rabung-assisting with registration, helping the children with crafts and games, setting up for the BBQ/picnic, and pitching in wherever needed.

To Mari Rabung-helping with registration.

To Laura Carle-leading us with fun songs each evening and working behind the scenes in numerous ways.

To Joni Hildreth-helping with registration, helping the children with crafts and games, and working behind the scenes.

To Sophia (Joni & Mike Hildreth's granddaughter)-making us delicious home made lemonade.

To Dee Erickson-making festive name tags for the children.

To Naomi Kraiger-applying for a





Thrivent card so we could purchase the food and other items for VBS and for helping in so many ways.

To Judi Hubbard-helping Naomi apply for the Thrivent Card.

To Kylie Weiberg & Isabell Dyer-helping the children with crafts and games, and being our go to helpers whenever needed.

To all the 1st Presbyterian members who helped with VBS.

Our “spring “ into summer 4-F dinner was enjoyed by 49 members and visitors. After expenses and Thrivent Card, we deposited \$1343!! Thank you to all that attended and supporting our roof replacement fund.

We did our 10% tithe to 1/3 Family Promise 1/3 Lutheran Disaster relief and 1/3 Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you Donna Morrisette for your wonderful raffle basket and items.

To all of those who have helped out during the Sundaes on Wednesday Services in July.

To Vicky-copying registration forms and flyers, vacuuming our crumbs following dinner and having our facility clean and fresh each day of VBS.

To many congregation members who donated funds to help offset our expense for VBS.

To Roger Shaw for building the PERFECT signs for Sundaes on Wednesday worship. We'll use them for many things!

Thank you to our servers Trace, Jared, Hannah, Kayla, and Madison, and to our kitchen crew Kristine, Naomi, Gary, and Mike.

Thank you to the Teveliet ladies Jane, Darci and Sarah for the delicious rolls.

And a big thanks to our chefs Karen and Mike.

If you missed this one, watch for our kick off dinner this fall.

Your 4-F crew

Jill, Kristine, Karen, Mike and Judi

### THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS

- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$108.89
- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$108.88
- **Dear Amazing Grace Lutheran Church,**

Thank you for the very kind donations of \$42.49 & \$66.39. We at Habitat for Humanity are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of donors like yourself who not only make it possible for our organization to exist, but who make our community a better place to live. Your generous contribution allows us to keep working towards our goal of creating a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Thank you for making a difference.

Darlene Triggs-Habitat for Humanity

- **Dear Friends,**

Thank you for supporting the work of Lutheran World Relief with your gift of \$63.67 given through the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA.

Warm Regards, Daniel Speckhard



## **HISTORICAL WALK**

Judi has scheduled a historical walk on August 10th, from 12-2:30. The cost is \$15 a person, only the first 10 that sign-up get to go. If you have any questions, please contact Judi Hubbard

## **EARTHKEEPING**

### **Care of Creation**

Faith based discussion in community to reacquaint ourselves with the earth and all the gifts we have received from our Creator. Join with friends and neighbors to engage in meaningful ways to address our concerns for loving care of creation in 2019. Please sign up or show up on August 11th for an informative, prayerful dialogue about Earthkeeping. See Mike Hildreth or Pastor Val for more information.

## **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!*

## **OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY IS GETTING CLOSER TO COMPLETION!**



Our directory is a great tool to help us learn each others names, become closer as a community of

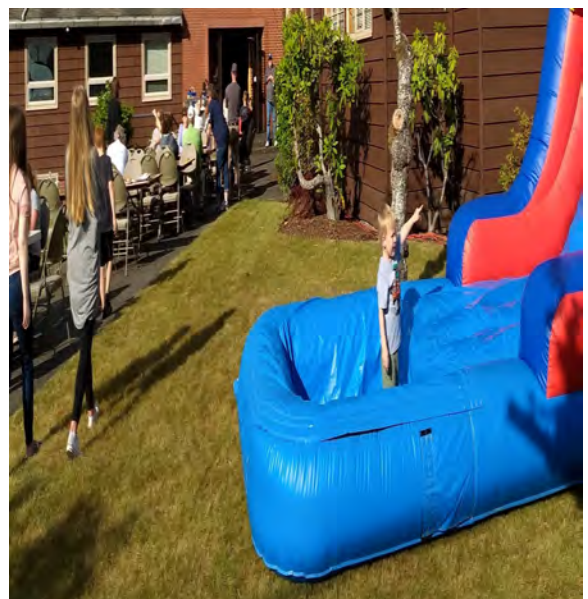
believers and is especially helpful for new people! There are a few of you out there that still need to be added to the directory with a new or updated photo, or updated contact info. You don't have to be a member to be in our directory. Please contact Amy Ostwald at [aaostwald@gmail.com](mailto:aaostwald@gmail.com), 360-482-2306, or at church on Sundays.

## **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](mailto:Jhubbard1952@comcast.net) or let's talk at church.



## **LAST DAY OF VBS! TIME FOR EVERYBODY TO ENJOY SOME BBQ AND GAMES**





# SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

## UNION GOSPEL MISSION August 6

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

## EXPLORATORY INTERNSHIP TEAM

Amazing Grace is an exceptionally nurturing community that could contribute to God's mission in the world by raising up leaders. In addition, the Aberdeen area is ideal for new leaders learning how to bring God's love to hurting people in tangible ways. For these reasons, and following the stirring of the Spirit, an exploratory team is forming to discern whether this ministry, hosting a seminary intern for a year at

Amazing Grace is where God is leading us. If you are interested in being a part of this discernment process, please let Pastor Val know.

## ABERDEEN FOODBANK

Aberdeen Foodbank needs a person willing to serve on the board of directors. The board is made up of 1 clergy and 1 lay person from each congregation. It is a prayerful process, that lasts for 3 years and meets on Tuesday.

## GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

### SUMMER WORSHIP

This summer we're experimenting offering another time for us to gather as disciples of the living God. This does not replace Sunday morning worship, since the gathering of the whole body of Christ here is of central importance. On Wednesdays, August 7th—Aug. 28th, we offer another opportunity for those who could not be in worship on Sunday. The message will be the same as the one from the previous Sunday. This is a great time to invite someone who has not worshipped with us before! Please contact Pastor Val if you'd like to help plan this worship time.



## Will the church miss your giving when you are gone?

By John Aakre, Thrivent Financial



A couple of months ago I met with an elderly client to conduct a review. Let's call her "Ruth" for the purposes of this story. I knew Ruth was an active member of her church and I asked her "will your congregation miss your regular gifts after you are gone?" In other words, did her estate plan include any gifts to the church at her death?

Ruth's answer was "I've already taken care of that- my church is in my will for 10% of my estate."

When I heard that, I realized that she did not understand how her will worked in relation to her investment accounts.

I told her, Ruth, currently all of your investment accounts have beneficiary designations that direct the proceeds to your two sons equally. Since you sold your home and moved into this continuing care community, now the only asset that will pass through your will is your bank account which has about \$4,000 in it. Ten percent of \$4,000 is \$400. That is what will go to the church at your death right now.

Ruth said, "Well, that's not what I want, I thought my will directed 10% of my estate to my church!" It is a common misunderstanding I said. Your will only directs those assets which do not have a beneficiary designation on them. (The exception is where your beneficiary is "my estate".) Right now your beneficiaries are your two sons and the only asset in your estate is your bank account.

It is not a difficult problem to fix, I said, we simply need to change the beneficiary designation on one of your accounts to send 10% of your estate to your church. Ruth asked me, "Does it matter which account is used?" I said yes it does, I suggest we change the beneficiary on an account that would ordinarily have taxable gain at your death. Ruth owned a large annuity with a lot of taxable gain. Ruth signed a new beneficiary form naming her church a primary beneficiary of a portion of that account that equaled 10% of her total estate. Her two sons split the balance remaining. By making the church the beneficiary of most of that account, no tax would be due on that portion of the annuity and the proceeds would pass tax free to the church.

Ruth's plan to leave 10% of her estate to the church was now in place and would now match her wishes.

Sadly, Ruth passed away just a couple of months after we made this change. Rather than leaving \$400 as her will required (10%) - by naming the church as a beneficiary to her annuity account, the church received \$40,000 - exactly as she intended.





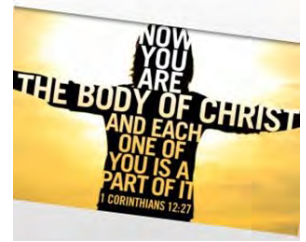


**VBS 2019! LAST DAY OF VBS—KIDS HAVING FUN  
WITH THE BOUNCY HOUSE AND FACE PAINTING.**





**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**June 18, 2019 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, Mark Smalley, Mike Barkstrom Pastor Val, Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman, Vicky Kolb

Call to Order Mark Smalley 6:15

Prayer and Devotions –

-Pray for those traveling and for the church

Prayer – opportunity to name a concern on your heart

Holy Currencies, Chapter 11 review, Internal and External Place Inventory, pg 163 and 165.

-Internal locations- The use of the areas of Amazing Grace. The Fellowship hall is used for coffee hour, AA, Scrapbook, Council Meetings, VBS, 4-F Dinners and many others; the Sunday school room is used for A.A. and Sunday school; the Sanctuary is used for worship, funerals and sometimes the PSALM Class. These activities use our building and develop the following currencies; relationships, trust, truth, blessings and gracious leadership. Our strength is the abundant use of the church. Our weakness is lack of space for private counseling and visibility of the rooms used for Sunday school.

Establish Quorum

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

Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting, May 21, 2019 **M/S/P**

**Financial Reports**

-The two invoices from Elway Plumbing will come out of the maintenance account.

Transactions by Account for April **M/S/P**

Transactions by account for May **M/S/P**

a. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

i. Synod benevolence discrepancies-

Theresa is working with Allison from the Synod about a payment from July that was missed but the money is reflected in the account as being paid. Theresa will provide a line by line guide about where money goes.

b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

-Phil needs to amend \$43 for Thrivent under building maintenance/

i. New Program for financial secretary

ii. Estate Planning-

John Aakre will be coming back to Amazing Grace on July 28th, the last Sunday in July to talk about Estate Planning. John will be meeting with people one-on-one during this visit, so you will need to sign up for it and have your questions ready to go. If you have any questions, please contact 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)

a. Annual Meeting Minutes– January 27th - Theresa

-Theresa will email Annual Meeting Minutes to council members.

b. Directory – Amy

-Amy is getting close to being done.

c. Synod Assembly report –Joelle/Pastor Val

-Joelle reported that it has been encouraging and uplifting and that a lot of good stuff is happening.

d. Vice President - Dee for July, August, and September

e. Grace Fund Management – Automatically say yes – Mark

-If people need money for an event within the congregation they just need to ask once.

f. Office expenses – Pastor's laptop and software for Vicky's computer

-Pastor Val discussed with council members about getting a new laptop, the one she is using is at least 5 years old and causing problems.

-Office expense coming out of Memorial Fund, up to \$2000: new laptop and software **M/S/P**

g. God's Work/Our Hands – Moving date to September 22nd – Pastor Val

God's Work Our Hands will be rescheduled to September 22nd to accommodate schedules and to include more families.

h. Card Reader

-The card reader has arrived and we are looking for someone to be in charge of it. Council members talked about getting a tablet just for the card reader, so no one would be using their own personal devices. Theresa will see about getting a welcome packet for the card reader.

**Ministry Reports**

a. Worship – Dee Erickson

i. Altar Guild-

-The Altar Guild May meeting was postponed due to Memorial Day. The next meeting is Sunday, June 23rd. There was also a request for bigger loaves of communion bread.

ii. Summer Worship-

- Summer mid-week services will be from July 10-August 28th, the services will be based on the previous Sunday. The worship duties will be available for people to pick out what they would like to do. One Wednesday service will be at Lake Quinault where a baptism is being planned. Council expressed support for having a service at the Bel Aire property in August.

-Hank let Dee know that the bell choir has been asked to play with the Grays Harbor Symphony at one concert in the Fall.

-The Liturgical Arts Team has been busy the last couple of weeks. They took down the Easter items and put up the red for Pentecost. They are in the process of putting up green décor but are a little behind.

b. Outreach – Joelle

-Joelle will be making an announcement this Sunday (6/23/19) about GWOH and is thinking about what projects would be appropriate since Outreach to the wider community is the focus of GWOH.

i. Family Promise – AGLC's week – July 21- 27

-Family Promise is doing great; families are graduating and the program is receiving new families. Suzan and Carmon will be looking for volunteers for July. Charles is a good administrator and communicating well with Amazing Grace.

ii. Homeless outreach

-Joelle will be scheduling a meeting with outreach

c. PSALM report - Joelle & Pastor Val

- The PSALM class is going well, currently focusing on the New Testament. Four of the 5 in the PSALM class have completed their projects. Three more people have shown an interest in signing up for the next PSALM class.

d. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald

i. Sunday School- Last day was June 9th

ii. Graduation- Graduation was nice and confirmation class did a good job on the blankets that they gave to the graduating seniors.

iii. Confirmation-The confirmation class will be meeting 4 times in August and they will be doing service type projects. Confirmation class in the fall will be Madi Winter and Annika Kraiger using a similar format.

iv. VBS –

-June 24-26, 2019. It will be from 5-7:30pm. It will be hosted by the 1st Presbyterian Church and Amazing Grace. Wednesday, June 26th will be a family BBQ celebration and everyone is invited

e. Fellowship – Judi

-The Historical Walk of Aberdeen has been scheduled for August 10th from 12-2:30. The cost is \$15 per

person, only the first 10 that sign-up get to go.

- i. Communion Ministry
- ii. Welcome Committee
- iii. Garage Sale, July 13th

–The rummage sale is set for July 13th from 8-3; the items left will be taken to CP Methodist Church.

- iv. Special Events Team

f. Property – Mike Barkstrom

–The fence contractor that Mike met with on 5/22/19 to get a bid on how much it would cost to put in a fence, their price was \$3500 to fence the front basement entryway, Mike will be looking into other options. It needs to be done soon.

- i. New Windows

–All the new windows are in. There was no slider window for Charles’ office and Mike ordered one from Aro Glass at no cost. Mike is hoping to put in slider windows in the fellowship hall next year.

**Pastor’s Report-** Still on the lookout to find a new site for the Food Bank. All buildings looked at require lots of work to get it up to code

**Task Assignments**

- Theresa will email Annual Meeting Minutes to council members.
- Theresa will get in contact with Nancy Deverse
- Theresa will get Mike the March bill for Elway plumbing
- Phil needs to amend \$43 for Thrivent under building mtc
- Mike will discuss with Theresa about an easier way to track accounts for family promise
- Council members will go over the external locations from the “Holy Currencies” next month for those that were gone to have the chance for their input on what was talked about during the June council meeting.

**Adjournment and closing prayer** 8:49

**PASTOR’S REPORT – REGULAR ACTIVITIES – May 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  
Coordinate with ministry leader as needed





**OUTREACH** Food Bank reorganizing meetings  
Monthly local Pastors' 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 –**

**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Books: Sacred Compass**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES in May**

**ADMINISTRATION:** Statistical report to churchwide office.  
Synod Assembly in Vancouver June 7 & 8; representatives: Joelle Buckman and Curtis Steinhauer  
Dean's meeting at SWWA Synod office  
Grant letter written for Family Promise

**OUTREACH:** Food Bank work to reorganize and find new site  
Met with Family Promise director weekly

**PASTORAL CARE:** Visits, Calls, Texts, messaging as needed  
Coulter family support before Inez's death.

**WORSHIP:** Work with PSALMist – Mike on his project – developing a Care of Creation presentation  
Plan season of Pentecost worship  
Plan mid-week summer worship; same content as previous Sunday; less formal; followed by ice cream sundaes. Dinner church style – all who show up will share the work  
Reception of new members – 5 Pam Paulin, Curtis Steinhauer, Shayna Steinhauer, and Arvid Iverson

**YOUTH/FAMILY/Education:** Plan 2019/2020 Sunday School  
Plan VBS

**VACATION:** Vacation May 27 – June 2 (1 Sunday – Mike H. preach; Hank preside)

**UPCOMING:** I'll be in Montana Wed. 6/18 – Sat. 6/22 to care for my mother  
VBS – June 24-26 – 2 Days of VBS; All neighborhood BBQ on Wed. 7/26  
Summer Worship – Sundaes on Wednesdays 7pm July 10 through Aug. 28  
Kris will be gone June 20 & July 7; substitute will be Jan Reynvan



**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 16, 2019 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: Judi Hubbard, Mark Smalley, Pastor Val, Joelle Buckman, Theresa Kaufman, Mike Barkstrom, Dee Erickson, Amy Ostwald & Vicky Kolb

Call to Order Mark Smalley 6:15

Prayer and Devotions –

Prayer – opportunity to name a joy/concern on your heart

b. Holy Currencies, Chapter 11 review, Internal and External Place Inventory, pg 163 and 165.

-External places: Union Gospel Mission, Food Bank, member's homes-Bible study, Bells at Harbor City, Mission trips, Bloom Team, PLU concert. The currencies that these activities outside the church and into the community provide are relationships, wellness, time, truth and gracious leadership just to name a few. Our strength for external activities is that we do a lot of relationship building and people in the community are aware of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and what we stand for.

Establish Quorum

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

Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting, June 18, 2019 **M/S/P**

### **Financial Reports**

-Theresa will amend \$160 from miscellaneous account and move it to Grace Fund account. She will also move \$55 out of memorial account and move the money into the music account. She will also update and clean up QuickBooks program and have ready by next council meeting.

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

-Council members discussed the process used to determine recipients of the tithe on the money raised by 4-F dinners. It was decided that council should approve proposals made by the 4-F team yearly.

- 1/3 of tithe of 4-F dinner including last one in June will go to Family Promise and not Caring Cup board for the rest of the year. **M/S/P**

a. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman

i. Synod benevolence discrepancies-

- Fiscal year benevolences for the Synod are February-January. Theresa worked with Allison and went line by line and got everything in order. Theresa will have a line by line detail at next month's council meeting.

b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller

i. New Program for financial secretary

ii. Estate Planning– Mark will email Phil to ask if anyone has signed up and if Saron was informed.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> - Theresa emailed to Council for review.

b. Directory – Amy

-The church directory is very close to being done. Amy will be sending the church directory to the council members to review. Pastor Val asked council members about their thoughts about content for the statement page. A copy will be available to church members. Please review to be sure all information is correct. If there are any changes, let Amy know.

c. Office expenses – Pastor's laptop and software for Vicky's computer

-Pastor Val will get the laptop and software from Costco. The laptop will get updated first and the office computer will be at a later date.

d. Vacation – Office administrator – July 22-26

### **Ministry Reports**

a. Worship – Dee Erickson

i. Altar Guild

-The Altar Guild is a small but lively bunch and they met on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was talk about bigger loaves of communion bread and help to set up communion during the mid-week services. The next Altar Guild meeting is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>.

ii. Summer Worship-

-The Summer mid-week services have been well attended. The mid-week service on August 21 service will be at Lake Quinault. Shayna will be baptized that day. Dee will look into reserving a van.

-The Liturgical Arts Team took down the red and put up the green décor.

iii. Bel Aire Worship – Aug. 18?

-Pastor Val has it on her to do list but has not talked to the city yet.



- b. Outreach – Joelle-Caring cupboard needs to be updated and revisited at a later date.
- i. Family Promise – AGLC's week – July 21- 27  
-Amazing Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting Family Promise from July 21-27 and Suzan and Carmon will be handling the arrangements. Joelle and pastor Val will meet this week for GWOH.
  - ii. Homeless outreach-
  - iii. God's Work. Our Hands.  
-Joelle is thinking of ideas to do as a project for GWOH. An announcement about GWOH will go into the bulletin and grace notes.
- c. PSALM report – Joelle & Pastor Val  
-The PSALM class will be going on retreat August 3rd- 4th at the Presbyterian Church in Hoquiam. Three people have shown an interest in joining the PSALM class but have not heard back from anyone yet. If you know anyone with leadership or pastoral skills, let them know about this program.
- d. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald  
-VBS was on June 24-26 and was hosted by Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and the First Presbyterian Church. The number of kids that attended was a little low but it was a success. Pastor Val and Pastor Doug each did a message and Laura Carle was in charge of the music. The last day was a day of fun with BBQ and a bouncy house. Thank you to both churches and the many volunteers that helped out. The Presbyterian Church will be in charge of doing VBS next year.
- i. Sunday School  
- The Sunday school teachers met in the spring and talked about the possibilities for next year. The teachers plus Pastor Val will meet again soon to forge a plan for the Fall.
  - ii. Confirmation  
-3 kids and mentors are meeting July 29, 30, 31 and August 1st. The new confirmation class will start in October.
  - iii. Youth Group  
- Pastor Val and Pastor Doug will be meeting in August about ways to get more youths involved in youth group.
  - iv. Adult group study  
-The group study has not met recently, due to schedules. We hope to restart this group in the Fall.
- e. Fellowship – Judi -
- i. Communion Ministry
  - ii. Welcome Committee
  - iii. Garage Sale, July 13<sup>th</sup>  
-The garage sale went ok. Once Judi has a final count on the proceeds she will distribute them between the Altar Guild and the Quilters.
  - iv. Silver in kitchen cupboard  
Judi informed council about the silver coffee servers and asked the council if she could have someone appraise them. Mike will speak with Sue Larson to appraise the silver.  
-Any money sold from silver coffee servers will go to Endowment Fund **M/S/P**

#### Special Events Team

#### f. Property – Mike Barkstrom

-The window for Charles' office is on order. Mike has not heard back from the other fence contractors he left messages with. The maintenance crew is taking a break during the summer. The next project will be to put in slider windows in the fellowship hall, which will cost around \$6000.

#### **Pastor's Report-**

##### Task Assignments

- Dee will talk with Pastor Val about book study.
- Vicky needs to put a list of altar guilds members doing communion in the bulletin
- Theresa and Pastor Val will get together and go over giving statements from the Synod.
- Theresa will check with Michelle about any reimbursements for VBS



- Theresa will talk to Phil about the \$50 payment to endowment
- Mark will email Phil about estate planning.
- Amy will email council members the church directory.
- Dee will see about reserving a van for the mid-week service at Lake Quinault on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Pastor Val needs to talk with city about having a Bel Aire worship service.

Adjournment and closing prayer 8:17

## **PASTOR'S REPORT – REGULAR ACTIVITIES – June 2019**

**WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHP** 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  
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 Monthly local Pastor's group  
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 Coordinate with others to support homeless and fragile people  
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**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 June

**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Books:** *Learning to Walk in the Dark* - Taylor

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES in June**

**ADMINISTRATION:** Synod Assembly w/ Joelle Buckman and Curtis & Shayna Steinhauer

**OUTREACH:** Family Promise – met w/ pastors of host churches  
 Food Bank work to reorganize and find new site  
 Facebook presence maintenance; events created

**PASTORAL CARE:** Pre-marital counseling – Sara Alstrom  
 Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed

**WORSHIP:** Work with PSALMist – Mike on his project – developing a Care of Crea-



tion presentation

Plan mid-week summer worship; same content as previous Sunday; less formal; followed by ice cream sundaes. Dinner church style – all who show up will share the work

**YOUTH/FAMILY/Education:** Graduates honored w/ blankets made by Confirmation class  
VBS

**VACATION:** Vacation June 2 (1 Sunday – Mike H. preached; Hank presided)

**UPCOMING:** Summer Worship – Sundaes on Wednesdays 7pm July 10 through Aug. 28



**Love God. Love your neighbor—such a BIG idea for little ones!**



**Time for Singing and Dancing with friends**



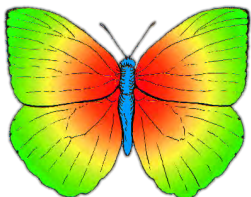
## MAY BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 35,628.05
-PSALM		\$ (116.00)
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 388.75
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,620.00
-Bells		\$ 547.09
-Friends in Need		\$ 667.86
-Reformation Fund		\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Grace Fund		\$ 220.00
		<b>TOTAL</b> \$ 41,913.78
Fundraising Checking		\$ 215.90
Maintenance Checking		\$ 5,268.88
- Roof sub account of m aint		\$ 16,853.30
Youth Checking		\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings		\$ 4,659.68
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 1,906.75



## JUNE BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 35,648.27
-PSALM		\$ (116.00)
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,620.00
-Bells		\$ 547.09
-Friends in Need		\$ 737.40
-Reformation Fund		\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Grace Fund		\$ 220.00
		<b>TOTAL</b> \$ 42,048.30
Fundraising Checking		\$ 215.90
Maintenance Checking		\$ 5,268.88
- Roof sub account of m aint		\$ 16,853.30
Youth Checking		\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings		\$ 4,714.68
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 1,906.75





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	Vmetropou- los001@luthersem.edu
Church Secretary	Vicky Kolb	(360) 532-8250	amazing111@comcast.net

## BUILDING REPAIRS/MAINTANCE

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](http://amazinggraceaberdeen.org)

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

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

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

**Office Administrator:** Vicky Kolb

**Liturgists:** Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle, Charles Scamman, Greg Johnstone

**Musicians:** Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke





## AUGUST 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### August 4

**Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Steve Swanson; **Communion Assistant:** Judi Hubbard; **Ushers/Greeters:** Elaine & Darrell Lokken; **Depositors:** Eileen Schermer & Hiedi Seelke; **Fellowship:** Barkstrom, Hildreth, Buckman

### August 11

**Liturgist:** Greg Johnstone; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Liz Ellis; **Communion Assistant:** Carmon Shaw & Kathy Wehage; **Ushers/Greeters:** Molly & Tim Leithold; **Depositors:** Kristine Finazzo & Mark Ostwald; **Fellowship:** Beemans, Kraiger, Debandt, Kupka

### August 18

**Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Theresa Kaufman; **Communion Assistant:** Mark Smalley & Elaine Olsen; **Ushers/Greeters:** Ray & Jean Hodge; **Depositors:** Joe Fernandez & Carmon Shaw; **Fellowship:** Weiberg, Leithold, Channel, Teveliet, Jewitt

### August 25

**Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Michelle Weiberg; **Communion Assistant:** Joan & William Rabung; **Ushers/Greeters:** Erwin, Carrie, Trace & Jared; **Depositors:** Karen Barkstrom & Hiedi Seelke ; **Fellowship:**

## FUN AND LEARNING DURING VBS!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>AUGUST</b>				1	2 6-10 PM SCRAPBOOK	3 7 PM AA
4 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP	5	6 6:30-8 PM FAMILY PROMISE BOARD	7 5:30-6:30 PM AA 7 PM SUNDAES ON WED. SUMMER WOR- SHIP	8	9	10 7 PM AA
11 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP	12	13	14 5:30-6:30 PM AA 7 PM SUNDAES ON WED. SUMMER WOR- SHIP	15	16 6-10 PM SCRAPBOOK	17 7 PM AA
18 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP	19 4:30-6:30 GIRL SCOUTS- 1ST DAY BACK	20 6:15 PM COUNCIL MEETING	21 5:30-6:30 PM AA 7 PM SUNDAES ON WED. SUMMER WOR- SHIP	22	23	24 7 PM AA
25 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP	26	27	28 5:30-6:30 PM AA 7 PM SUNDAES ON WED. SUMMER WOR- SHIP	29	30	31

**Please join us for worship**  
**Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays 7pm July 10—Aug. 28.**  
**Fellowship group is Thursdays at 7pm**

***AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH***  
***of Grays Harbor***



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

**VISION**

A welcoming place where grace happens!

**MISSION**

To experience and share God's love through worship,  
education and community

**VALUES**

Radical Hospitality  
Passionate worship  
Intentional faith development  
Risk-taking mission and service  
Extravagant generosity



Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of  
Grays Harbor

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE