# The Spirit

# December 2019

And He who sits on the throne said,



"Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream..."

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son."

"...behold, wise men from the east came following a star."

Behold, God has come so near that God has taken on our humanity; the curtain separating secular and sacred is torn apart; the holy has infused the mundane.

making all things
ular and sacred
orn apart; the
y has infused
mundane.

And He said, "Write,
for these words are
laithful and bue."

Revelations 21:5, NASB

Iam

This year, our Advent waiting is focused to BEHOLD,

to grasp with deep understanding (from the old English word, "bihalden, from the words bi"thoroughly" + haldan "to hold.) We "behold" with
the eyes of faith not only what is on the surface but
what is deep in the fabric of reality – the reality that
God is creating God's peace and justice for all people here among us now. We wait in the slow
patience of Advent paying attention to what God is
doing in our world to make God's dream for creation
a reality.

This patient waiting is a spiritual discipline that attunes our eyes to see, our ears to hear, our hearts to notice the beauty but also the pain that is woven into our world. If we ignore the pain we miss the injustice suffered by much of the world's population and minimize the violence done to God's dream for creation. Ignoring the beauty discounts the truth of God's deep love and desire for justice for the world, but especially for those for whom the world holds so little hope.

Waiting patiently, even purposefully is foreign to most of us despite that it is a fact of our lives. So we have to learn to wait in this way that shifts waiting from a thing to be endured and ended as soon as possible to the waiting of pregnancy, generating new possibilities. "The word for "wait" in Hebrew is the very same as the word for "hope." In the Hebraic understanding, there is no way to wait without hoping. For us, that shifts waiting from a passive posture to something active and participatory, something that involves the whole of God's goodness and the Story that we're a

part of. There are so many places in our lives we are waiting: for a new job, for a new treatment, for a relationship to be restored, for a child. Then there are the smaller waits: for our hair to grow out, for the plane to land, for the vacation to arrive, for the light to turn. And, in some ways, there are the bigger waits, waits that don't have an

end anywhere in sight: for the chronic illness to be fully healed, for the loved one who died to be restored to you, for the divorce to not hurt any more, for the injustices of the world to be made right."

We are people of HOPE because we know the one for whom we wait is the one who is with us NOW knitting us together into one body, nurturing us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Learning to wait takes intention but it need not feel like punishment. We can look for ways to wait creatively like that encouraged by collaborative art making projects. "Collaborative art making involves waiting with anticipation for what the other person or people involved will add to the art being created. This is deep work, because it involves trust and attention, as well as a surrendering of control. In fact, a lot of this kind of art-making involves a sense of playfulness and openness that we don't associate very often with the idea of waiting." I

How does changing the word "wait" to the word "hope" shift things for you in the season of Advent? In this season of your life?

What might you create collaboratively today? Check out this YouTube video for some ideas: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qZKnPmqD84

This one is fun, too: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIHnGvbiWU8)

What does patient waiting/hoping look like for you? Can you infuse that waiting/hoping with the playfulness that comes from knowing God adores you and anxiously awaits your coming fully alive in that adoration?

May the hope-filled Advent waiting bring you deeper into the heart of God!

Pastor Val

1Anam Cara Ministries



Confirmation Day: Pastor Val, Diane Hanson, Jacob & Erin



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

On Christmas Eve, there always comes a time when everything is finally still. Once all the preparations and decorations, extra choir rehearsals and Christmas pageants, shopping and holiday parties have been completed, peace descends.

For me, that time always came after the 11 p.m. candlelight service. After the congregation went home, after I turned off the lights and locked the doors, as my daughters and I drove home through the dark and quiet streets, I would then settle into silence. Once home and after my husband and children went to bed, I could continue in that Christmas Eve stillness and reflect on the mystery of Advent and Christmas.

# MIDNIGHT STILLNESS

Advent—a season of expectation. God is up to something. We are urged to watch and wait. "Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'" (Isaiah 40:9). "At midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him" (Matthew 25:6).

There are Advent calendars, with each opened window drawing one closer to Christmas. Advent wreaths light the way. In Cleveland in the late '50s and early '60s, every child would rush home from school to catch Mr. Jingeling on TV. (Trust me,

every Clevelander of a certain age can sing the Mr. Jingeling song.)

Advent is our time and is filled with longing—for peace, for a just world, for restored relationships, for God. The Advent lessons from the prophet Isaiah are filled with the sorrow of exile and the persistent hope that God still cares for God's people and will bring about their return to Israel. We sing, "Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 254).

And come Jesus does, into our world and into our lives. For a brief time, generosity and goodwill break out. We wish strangers a "Merry Christmas." We even practice a little patience in traffic and with relatives. Life is filled with possibility.

I think about all these things in the midnight stillness of Christmas Eve. I consider the miracle of the incarnation—that God is ever faithful; that God is not far off but is Emmanuel, God with us; that in Jesus the Divine set aside all glory in order to take on our nature and be truly glorified on the cross. A helpless baby in a wooden manger, a broken man on a cross—these are the gifts of Christmas.

The Christmas carol declares that the angels' announcement to the shepherds "came upon the midnight clear" (*ELW*, 282). All of creation became the land of the midnight Son. The good earth and all its creatures, sun and moon, and stars and planets orbit in harmony around this center of love.

In the stillness, I think of another midnight—the Easter Vigil. It is the first celebration of the resurrection. In the vigil these words of the Exsultet (Easter proclamation) are sung: "This is the night when Christ, the Life, rose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of a new creation breaks forth out of night." All Advent expectations and longings are met and exceeded. The ephemeral peace and hope we may feel at Christmas take substance and permanence. God's promise has been fulfilled.

There is a lot for the Christ child to do before the work on earth is done. Jesus will grow into adulthood. He will teach and feed and heal. Jesus will suffer the betrayal of his friends and will die that we might live. I think about this on Christmas Eve and pray, "Rest now, dear midnight Son."

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

#### FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:



Nick Wehage, Andrea, Ray & Jean Hodge, Kaitlyn Flaherty, Holly Henderson, Cody Walls, Doreen Boettcher, Carter, Kenny McCoy, Susie Kallendar, Sarah Robbins, Kevin, Tom Plumlee, Lana Wilke, Ginny Clark, Philip, Matthew Green and his family, Betty Schlaht, Maxine Cogburn, David Shaw, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean, 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. Stir your people to act and speak for justice and mercy throughout 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 underemployed.

#### 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



## PRAYER LIST

We are committed to praying for the needs of the people. Our prayer list has not been updated in a long time. If you have updates on any of the people we have been praying for, please let the office know. If any names that we removed should be added back on to the list, let us know.

# **December Birthdays and Anniversaries**

#### **BIRTHDAYS**:

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

# **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Brenda Grant & Liz Ellis, December 12

# Thank you:

Eileen & Gene Schermer for setting up tables for the quilters.

To all council team members (Worship, Outreach, Youth & Family, Fellowship, & Property) for presenting information their teams in October and November.

Joelle Buckman for donating tablet for card reader device.

Diane Hanson for serving as worship assistant in October & Mike Hildreth for serving in November.

To all of those that helped out with God's Work. Our Hands project both internally (church) and at Amy's neighbors home.

Naomi Kraiger and Carmon Shaw for helping Vicky assemble the bulletins.

Thank you to all of those in the community who helped with making the cold weather shelter happen for those cold nights. To those who donated items, time or money to the cold weather shelter.

Roger Shaw and Mike Hubbard

for putting up the new exit signs in the fellowship hall and down in the basement.

To those that helped with setting up and assembling the Thanksgiving Boxes on November 19-20: Nancy Olsen, Dick Bramstedt, Bev Weaver, Cher Keller, Jeremy, Oscar Bramstedt, K Bramstedt

and Timothy Keith.

To Brenda Grant and Arvid Iverson for providing the items for the auction.

To those who provided items for the pie auction.



# THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS

- The kettle Klash was a huge success. With your help, we raised \$35,079.25! I give thanks for each of you.
  - -Nancy Neisinger and G.H. Salvation Army Advisory Board
- Amazing Grace and all Family Promise Volunteers

Thank your for supporting Family Promise. Our families are very appreciative of all we do with them and for them.

-God Bless and Thank you Carmon and Suzan

• Union Gospel Mission thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$58.54

Nov. 25, 2019

Dear people of Amazing Grace,

Blessings to you on behalf of the Namibia Task Force of the Southwestern Washington Synod.

As supporters of our synod's companion relationship with the three Lutheran church bodies in Namibia, we thank you again.

We ask for renewed prayer as we plan to send a group to the 2020 Southern Africa Consultation this coming May in Johannesburg, South Africa. We will meet not only with Lutheran leaders from Namibia, but also with those from eight other southern Africa counties with ELCA companion relationships. With the theme of "A Journey of Reconciliation," we will approach our individual companion relationships from a new, regional perspective.

From the consultation, the ELCA Global Mission Office will lead some of us into Namibia, where we will greet our companions, worship with them, and journey together in Christ.

If you are interested in more, please contact me. This is a very unique and historic time for our companion relationship, and we want to make sure you know you're invited.

Along with prayer, we ask that your congregation consider repeating your gift of \$340.67 which you gave last year. Your gifts will be sent on to our Namibian companion churches at Christmas. In the north, they will be used for a hospital, rehabilitation center and school. In the south, they will be used to support children's hostels. Please make your checks out to the Southwestern Washington Synod, and mail them to the synod office at 420 121st St. S, Tacoma, WA 98444. Please put "Namibia" in the memo line.

As always, we are available to conduct an adult-education time or temple talk at your congregation. Please invite us.

### SHARING HOPE AT CHRISTMAS

At Amazing Grace we find many ways to share the hope we know in the birth of Christ:

### **BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS & MARY**

We'll gather items needed for babies and mothers under our Christmas tree to be donated to Friendship House and others who serve families in need. Suggestions: diapers of all sizes, formula, baby clothing, sanitary pads and tampons

# CAROLING AND CHILI DECEMBER 14

Our annual all-ages Caroling and Chili fun is December 14. Meet at the church at 3:45pm so we can depart around 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!!!

# **FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS BASKETS-Cranberry sauce!**

Each congregation is invited to gather one food item to be added to baskets for those in need for Thanksgiving. Amazing Grace has been asked to contribute 100 cans of cranberry sauce for the baskets. **Baskets will be assembled Dec. 18th** for distribution on 12/19. They can be left in the fellowship hall. Thank you for sharing the bounty God has provided!

## **POINSETTIAS**

We are again decorating 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 the name of a loved one so we can include them in a list of memorials.

# THE GIVING TREE & NOISY OFFERING

THE GIVING TREE graces our fellowship room ~again~and gives all of us an opportunity to participate in our value of extravagant generosity. There are cards on the tree with specific requests from a local family and also cards from the ELCA World Hunger GOOD GIFTS annual drive. You can learn more about God's Global Barnyard at:ELCA.org/goodgifts

You are welcome to fill out an order form with your selected gift and a check to ELCA (in the envelope provided) or use a credit card at 800-638-3522 With one gift you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

This year's noisy offering will support the good gifts project.

THANK YOU

### **RECYCLE OPTION!**

To keep in line with our recycling mission, please bring your newspapers in a bag to church! There will be a container in the room by the caring cupboard sections. It says "newspaper only". The Lions members from our congregation will take it away.

# SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

#### UNION GOSPEL MISSION December 3

Judi Hubbard, Leader Mike & Karen Barkstrom, Pastor Val, Trish Safstrom, Sarah Channel, Darci Jewitt

Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw 360-532

\_ -2940

The director of UGM says that Union Gospel Mission we can expect to serve about 50 of Grasus Harbor

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.



# FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HELPING FAMILY PROMISE OF GRAYS HARBOR

"Since opening our doors in March of 2019, we have seen families transition from sleeping in vehicles into stable housing. We have witnessed transformations that have led families in need to a place where they are now giving back to the community."

Family Promise Director

# Four families are off the streets!

The little girl in this picture has no idea she is living in a shelter program. She is safe, loved, and protected. Her mother is working and saving funds for their very own place. Your gifts of time, money, and other resources are helping make their dream of becoming stably housed a reality.



# Hope Begins with You:

•	Family Angel
•	Family Champion
•	Family Advocate
•	Family Guardian

Family FriendGeneral Donation

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$25 \$\_\_\_\_

\$1,000

# **Director's Minute**

On January 2nd of this year I began my journey as the inaugural director for Family Promise of Grays Harbor. It was definitely a leap of faith, but the need for the program in our community was very apparent. It took quite a bit of research, planning, networking, praying, and fundraising to get things started, but here we are. Since opening our doors in March, four families that were experiencing homelessness are now independently sustaining themselves. This is a testament to the good will, endurance, and courage of so many in the community who stepped up to the plate to bring Family Promise to Grays Harbor.



Thank you for a great first year.
I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the future
Charles Scamman
Hoquiam, WA

# **Host Congregations**

Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church- Hoquiam
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church- Aberdeen
United Christian Church- Aberdeen
First United Methodist Church- Aberdeen
First Presbyterian Church- Aberdeen
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church- Aberdeen
Four Square Church- Central Park
Presbyterian Church- Montesano
Montesano Church of God

# **Support Congregations**

Saron Lutheran
First Presbyterian Church- Hoquiam
United Methodist Church- Hoquiam
Temple Beth Israel
Immanuel Baptist Church
Elma LDS Church
Aberdeen LDS Church

# **Impact of Your Generosity**



Above Left: Cabinets built by inmates at Stafford Creek. Installed by volunteers in our day center's kitchen.



Above Right: 15 passenger van donated by Immanuel Baptist Church.



Below Left: Donated washer and dryer in our day center.



Below Right: Day room of our day center.
Designed and decorated by our day center committee.



# Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes November 19, 2019 6:15 pm

Vision: A welcoming place where grace happens.

Mission: To Experience and share God's love through worship, education, and community.

<u>Values:</u> Radical Hospitality; Passionate worship; Intentional faith development; Risk-taking mission and service; Extravagant Generosity.

Attendance: Judi Hubbard, Pastor Val, Phil Stegemoeller, Dee Erickson, Joelle Buckman, Amy Ostwald, Mike Barkstrom & Vicky Kolb

Call to Order Joelle Buckman 6:15

Prayer and Devotions –

Devotions/Prayer – Joelle Buckman filled in for Mark Smalley

-God created everything. How does it reflect on your life? God owns everything. We are merely barrowing what we have until we move on. When someone passes away, we feel the loss, but the world keeps on going. How are we bringing God's glory to the church?

Establish Quorum

Review and Approve Agenda M/S/P

-Under Business Items: i. new laptop for treasurer & Under Ministry Reports: vii. Parish Hall heat/ Fence update

Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting, October 15, 2019 M/S/P

-Correction: The Portico Benefit elections "Gold" option that was passed last month, there is a \$90 monthly increase to continue with the gold option.

## **Financial Reports**

- i. Treasurer's Report Theresa Kaufman: unable to attend the council meeting because laptop broke down.
- ii. Portico Benefits Issues- Pastor Val's retirement fund for the past 6 years has been underfunded. Mark is looking into what Pastor Val was paid and what the raise increase was. They will need to have an exact dollar amount and a proposal about what needs to be done.
- b. <u>Financial Secretary's Report</u> Phil Stegemoeller
- There are minor corrections on report and Phil will add the \$3 from Thrivent. Couple of donations coming in.
  - i. New Program for financial secretary-
- Phil and Theresa have both contacted Allision from the Synod about the new program for the Financial Secretary but have received no response from her. Phil received an email, but it was not what he expected. Pastor Val mentioned to Phil that she will get Phil a list of software that people recommended or like.
  - ii. Card Reader update (Ready for pie auction) Darci Jewitt was unable to attend meeting.
  - iii. Online giving- Once the card reader is set up, Amy will also set it up on the church website. Theresa needs to get in contact with Vanco about the card reader so it can be used.

**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. <u>Budget Meeting Date</u> Mark: The Budget Meeting date has not been set. Council decided to wait until Mark can be involved.
- 1. Review benevolences for 2020- There was a discussion about the AGLC monthly Benevolences. Should they continue giving to the same groups or maybe pick some new ones? Should a group be dropped so one can added? The groups we give to are: ELCA, Union Gospel Mission, Nambia, Friends in Need, Living Stone, GH Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity and PLU. Pastor Val has tried to get a spokesperson from these groups to talk about their organizations. It was suggested that we look at the history of the groups that we support and that's it's worth revisiting in the future. Family Promise has been added to Benevolences and no group was dropped.
  - -Increase by 1% and add Family Promise to benevolences M/S/P
- b. <u>Women's retreat</u> Holden Village A small group will be going to the Women's retreat this year. Joelle will make announcement on Sunday.
  - c. Open Council Position for 2020- Youth and Family– Mark

-Joelle has expressed an interest in being the new council president.

- d. PLU concert Dee: Not many tickets left.
- e. <u>Ministry Fair evaluations, how to do it better next year?</u> Mark
- --There was some feedback for fellowship. Mike Barkstrom who's in charge of Property had one person (Arvid Iverson) sign up and he'll be joining the maintenance crew on Wednesdays. Amy had 4 women sign up to be the 2nd adult present for Sunday school.
  - f. Next steps with Holy Currencies and stewardship: This will be talked about during devotions
    - i. Devotion sign up tied to stewardship
- g. <u>4F dinner tithe option Altrusa Judy: local group, Judi would like to include the Altrusa in tithe.</u> Judi hopes to have a First of New Year "retro" pot roast dinner on January 11th.
- h. <u>Office copier recommendations</u> Printer broke down this month. Council discussed options about new printer. Council voted on the new printer that Tim recommended, and they will also decide which account will pay for it when the bill comes.
  - -New refurbished printer purchase: Sharp MX M7533N Digital Copier/Printer M/S/P
- i. <u>New computer for treasurer</u>- There was a discussion among council members about what to do with about Theresa's computer. One option was for her to use the church office computer. It was finally decided that they'll table this discussion until they hear back from Theresa.

## **Ministry Reports**

- a. <u>Worship Dee Erickson- Practice</u> for the Christmas program will be on December 14th.
  - i. Altar Guild- Still looking for more communion set up/clean up people.
- ii. LAT- The time to donate Poinsettias in honor/memory of loved ones is coming up, so look for announcement in bulletins. Dee has volunteered to care for the poinsettias donated during the month of December. LAT will decorate for Advent on Sunday, November 24th.
  - iii. Worship Committee
  - iv. Central things book study
  - b. Outreach Joelle
    - i. Family Promise AGLC's weeks -November 24 30:
- -Thanksgiving dinner set up by Carmon and Suzan is in progress. Alta will be paying for Thanksgiving dinner.
  - ii. Homeless outreach Joelle is still working on this.
  - iii. Cold Weather Shelter Pastor Val
- -Pastor Val met with many people in the community to make the Cold Weather Shelter happen. CCAP will be writing up a proposal. The Wednesday cold weather shelter will be held at the Polish Club.
- c. <u>PSALM report</u> Joelle & Pastor Val: Pastor Val and Joelle had a meeting on Saturday. Joelle reports that it's an amazing growing/learning experience for all five of them. PSALM participants from Amazing Grace will be meeting at Pastor Val's house for Spiritual Learn and how to write sermons. There will be more to follow as the program progresses.
  - d. Youth & Family Amy Ostwald
- -Ministry fair produced a few volunteers to be our 2nd adult in Sunday school classes. Joan Rabung volunteered to take Jr. High/HS youth to Holden Village in May 2020 for their youth weekend. Hank Bilderback & Kristine Burns are working with the kids for Advent music and presentation on Dec. 15. I plan to pass off Youth & Family leadership, hopefully to one of the parents in January. I would be willing to fill in the future 1-year council vacancy on Outreach.
  - i. Sunday School Manna and Mercy curriculum
- ii. Confirmation Pastor Val. Erin Burns and Jacob Natwick were confirmed on October 27th. Class continues with the new students.
  - iii. Youth Group
  - iv. Adult group study Manna and Mercy
- v. Advent event: Was on November 17th during coffee hour. Created items to celebrate the Advent season. Advent projects will be available again for kids to work on 11/24.
  - e. Fellowship Judi Kettle Klash is scheduled for November 21st.
- -Judi will speak with the two people that signed up for the fellowship committee about making phone calls/cards to those who have not been in church recently.
  - i. Communion Ministry

- ii. Welcome Committee
- iii. Special Events Team
- iv. Guess who is coming to dinner
- v. Caroling- Hank Bilderback and Jeannette Green will oversee caroling this year. Bell ringing has been set for December 7th sign-up sheets will be made available.
  - f. <u>Property</u> Mike Barkstrom
    - -Mike Hubbard and Roger Shaw put in new exit signs in the Parish hall and in the basement.
- -Roof of the parish hall. There is approximately \$18K in the fund now. We are anticipating additional monies from the pie auction and endowment funds that may reach our goals. If so the roof project could go into February if the weather is good.
  - i. Ministry fair report- One person signed up to be part on the maintenance crew.
  - ii. Family Promise Renewal
- Mike had a discussion with Phil MacNealy, board president, concerning the financial arrangement between FP and AGLC. Both are satisfied to date. Mike recommends that the agreement be extended through February 2020. M/S/P
  - iii. Family Promise fundraiser
- -- The Lions Club fund raiser dinner for Family Promise on January 13th. Open to Lions and other invitees. Lions to provide insurance. M/S/P
- iv. Deck carpeting- The carpet for the deck at the church entrance. There are currently three bids for varying grades of exterior carpet approximately \$700, \$775 and \$920, the labor is ½ the cost. Council agreed to go with the mid-range alternative.
  - v. Stain glass repair/protection options
- -We have a bid to repair and refurbish all the stained-glass windows. For all the windows it'll cost around \$100k. Because this is such a big project the plan is to start on the South side and work our way around the church in a counterclockwise direction. This will be more costly but more doable in smaller pieces. This portion will cost some \$30K plus WSST and permits plus any unforeseen. The stained-glass window project will be the next project after the roof is done.
  - vi. Regular windows
- -All the windows have been put in. When Mike Barkstrom realized the safety issue, he asked Mike Hubbard to install locks on the windows of the Parish hall and Sunday school room to prevent windows from being open no more than 4" to prevent any accidents. Other options are being looked at. The locks were installed right away because it was a safety issue.
  - vii. Parish hall heat/fence update: parish hall heat-
- The heat in the Parish hall has been left on while no one is in the building. Council discussed what could be done to solve this issue. For now, the left side of the thermostat has been covered so only use the arrows that are uncovered.

We have applied for a variance for a taller fence to prevent access to the downstairs eastern exterior stars. Code is only four feet (thought it was six) and is now attentively at seven feet. Have gone out for bids again. This project will proceed as soon as approved by the city.

## Pastor's Report:

-Manna & Mercy. The group is going over two chapters a day. Those that have been participating in the book study seem to be enjoying and learning a lot about the Bible.

The Food Bank is alive and well and is still temporarily being hosted by the First Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen. The board is still looking for a building to use and there has been talk about combining with the Salvation Army.

#### **Task Assignments**

- Judi will send anything else from Thrivent to Phil for October.
- Mark is looking into what Pastor Val was paid and what increase was. They will need to have an exact dollar amount and a proposal about what needs to be done.
- Phil will add the \$3 from Thrivent to his report.
- Pastor Val mentioned to Phil that she will get Phil a list of software that people recommended or liked. phil will print out the list that he received from Allision.
- Theresa needs to get in contact with Vanco about the card reader so it can be used.
- Joelle will make announcement on Sunday about the Women's retreat at Holden Village.
- Dee will find out what time the van leaves for the PLU concert.

- -Mike contacted someone in Seattle about the lighting of the painting in the Sanctuary, waiting to hear back.
  - Judi and Pastor Val will talk about the home visitations members of the congregation.
  - -Theresa, bill for slider windows needs to be paid ASAP
  - -Phil will talk with Theresa about invoice
  - -Pastor Val is looking into having a make-up time for those that missed any days.

Adjournment and closing prayer 8:22

# PASTOR'S REPORT – REGULAR ACTIVITIES – October 2019 WORSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP Sunday worship – Plan and lead

Plan adult education

Plan seasonal and special worship services Sermons – prayer, study, reading, writing

Prayer

ADMINISTRATION Meet with ministry leader as needed Reports: congregational; synod; ELCA

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 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

**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**: Meeting on the Margins; The Book of Job by Mitchell; Behold that Star: A Christmas Anthology.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES in October** 

**PASTORAL CARE:** Visits, calls, texts, messaging as needed

Managing group interaction/expectation using A.G. space

**WORSHIP:** New liturgy for November

Plan Christmas program with Hank

PSALM students – work w/ them to be worship assistants

**YOUTH/FAMILY/Education:** Plan Manna and Mercy PSALM retreat – met w/ Bishop and other mentors

Central Things book study

Plan confirmation celebration and new confirmation year study

**OUTREACH:** Food Bank planning retreat



**VACATION: UPCOMING:** 

Manna and Mercy study continues: Thursday 7pm; Wed noon – every other week; Sun-

day noon

Advent begins Dec. 1st Christmas Program – all ages – Dec. 15th Christmas Eve service 7pm

# OCTOBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 39,510.45
-PSALM		\$ (116.00)
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,620.00
-Bells		\$ 547.09
-Friends in Need		\$ 859.54
-Reformation Fund		\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild		\$ 70.00
-Noisy Offering		\$ 93.80
-Grace Fund		\$ 380.00
	TO	OTAL \$ 46,356.42
Fundraising Checking		\$ 1,860.90
Maintenance Checking		\$ 20,407.79
- Roof sub account of m aint		\$ 17,699.39
Youth Checking		\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings		\$ 3,506.44
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 1,907.23







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	vmetropoulos 001@luther sem.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

amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

vmetropoulos 001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

Liturgists: Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Laura Carle, Greg Johnstone

Musicians: Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke



# **DECEMBER 2019 WORSHIPASSISTANTS**

## **December 1**

Liturgist: Hank Bilderback; Worship Assistant/ Reader: Arlene Torgerson; Communion Assistant: Arlene Torgerson; Ushers/Greeters: Ray & Jean Hodge; Depositors: Mark Ostwald & Darrell Lokken; Fellowship: Mitchell, Clark, Kaufman, Biornstad; Altar Guild: Naomi Kraiger & Cynthia Johnstone; Sunday School Teacher: Carmon Shaw

#### **December 8**

Liturgist: Keith Lile; Worship Assistant/Reader: Carmon Shaw; Communion Assistant: Judi Hubbard & Carrie Erwin; Ushers/Greeters: Phil & Suzan Stegemoeller; Depositors: Eileen Schermer & Maurita White; Fellowship: Ostwald, Rabung, Gundersen; Altar Guild: Laura Carle & Dee Erickson; Sunday School Teacher: Amy Ostwald

#### December 15

Liturgist: Greg Johnstone; Worship Assistant/ Reader: Liz Ellis; Communion Assistant: Mark Smalley & Kristine Finazzo; Ushers/Greeters: Elaine & Darrell Lokken; Depositors: Mike Barkstrom & Ray Hodge; Fellowship: Lile, D. Erickson; Altar Guild: Trish Safstrom, Elizabeth Tilly, & Maurita White; Sunday School Teacher: Anneliese Kraiger

## **December 22**

Liturgist: Laura Carle; Worship Assistant/
Reader: Elaine Lokken; Communion Assistant:
Joan & William Rabung; Ushers/Greeters: Tim &
Pam Alstrom; Depositors: Hiedi Seelke & Karen
Barkstrom; Fellowship: Carle, Torgerson, Smalley/
Safstrom, Ellis; Altar Guild: Kathy Wehage & Diane Hanson

# **December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Liturgist: Keith Lile; Worship Assistant/Reader: Elaine Lokken; Communion Assistant: Joan Rabung & Joni Hildreth; Ushers/Greeters: Depositors: Fellowship (Christmas Cookies): Kathy Wehage & Diane Hanson; Altar Guild:

#### December 29

Liturgist: Hank Bilderback; Worship Assistant/
Reader: Judi Hubbard: Ushers/Greeters: Weiberg,
Jim & Michelle & Family; Depositors: Michael
Mendoza & Joelle Buckman; Fellowship
(Christmas Cookies): Shaw, Green, O'Connor,
Lokken, Fernandez; Altar Guild: Theresa Kaufman
& Hiedi Seelke



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	9	7
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/ SUNDAY SCHOOL	4:30-6:63 PM GIRL SCOUTS	6:30-8 PM FAMILY PROMISE BOARD	9 AM QUILTING & MAINTENANCE 5:30-6:30 PM AA	7 PM MANNA & MERCY	6-10 PM SCRAP BOOKING	7-8 AA
NOON MANNA & MERCY			6-7 PM BELLS			
FIRST ADVENT						
~	6	10	11	12	13	14
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/			NOON MANNA & MER- CY	7 PM MANNA & MERCY		7-8 AA
SUNDAY SCHOOL NOON MANNA & MERCY			5:30-6:30 PM AA			
PLU CONCERT			6-7 PM BELLS			
SECOND ADVENT						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/ SUNDAY SCHOOL	4:30-6:63 PM GIRL SCOUTS	6:15 COUNCIL MEETING	NOON MANNA & MERCY	7 PM MANNA & MERCY	6-10 PM SCRAP BOOKING	7-8 AA
NOON MANNA & MERCY			5:30-6:30 PM AA			
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM			6-7 PM BELLS	Food bank distribution		WINTED DECINE
THIRD ADVENT			Food bank- Christmas	1-0-1		WINIER BEGINS
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/ SUNDAY SCHOOL			OFFICE CLOSED			7-8 AA
NOON MANNA & MERCY			Merry			
FOURTH ADVENT		CHRISTMAS EVE	christmus			
29	30	31	Jan 1	UPCOMING EVENTS Annual Meeting JAN 26TH	HI	
9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP/ SUNDAY SCHOOL			Office Closed	4-F dinner January 11		
NOON MANNA & MERCY		NFW VFAR'S FVF				
		NEW LEAN SEVE				

# Please join us for worship Sundays at 10am w/ fellowship and educational opportunities afterward. Fellowship group is Thursdays at 7pm

# AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH of Grays Harbor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

# **VISION**

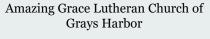
A welcoming place where grace happens!

# **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



111 E. 4th Street Aberdeen, WA 98520

360.532.8250

amazing111@comcast.net www.amazinggraceaberdeen.org







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