

# The Spirit

January 2020

Amazing  
Grace  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF GRAYS HARBOR

## Endings and beginnings.

Can't have one without the other. Death and birth are bound inextricably in the cycles of creation. As one year ends a new one begins so quickly it takes my breath away. There's hardly time to mourn the loss before celebrating the promise of what's to come.

As I write this the drums of war are beating, fires in Australia are burning out of control giving us a foretaste of what climate change may soon hold for the rest of us, and integrity and truth are under assault in many areas of our life together.

As I write this my daughter and 5-month-old granddaughter call to video chat, just because they want to see me and for a few minutes my world and my heart are full of tenderness and hope.

This new year and new decade (depending on how you count that start point) promise to be full of change, upheaval, uncertainty – all those things we humans dearly love (note: extreme sarcasm!)

Many things are out of our control and influence. How we react to those things and to the moments of sublime beauty and joy are within our control. **Even the bitterest moment can be held in gratitude. Even the most profound joy can be soured by resentment.**

It is not a trite sentiment to say that the answer to all things, good and bad, is prayer. As Father Richard Rohr has said, "Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful, and praising God until we ourselves are an act of praise. Mature prayer always breaks into gratitude."

This is not an escape from the world. It is deep immersion in the heart of God that prepares us to engage all that the world throws at us from God's perspective of love.

Brian D. McLaren writes about Christianity becoming "a movement of revolutionary love." He writes, "The most important aspect of Christianity in the future is simple, obvious, and yet radical: it is about love, as Jesus taught and embodied.... In this desira-



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—Richard Rohr

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ble future, every willing Christian congregation makes every competing interest subsidiary to love, which is the fruit of all contemplation and the goal of all action. If we embody this form of Christianity, if we become the seeds of a movement of contemplative activism in the Spirit of Christ, I can imagine hundreds of thousands of congregations, each a locally and globally engaged school of love,

teaching future generations to discover, practice, and live in love: love for our neighbor, love for ourselves, love for all creatures and all creation—all comprising love for God, who is all in all in all."

Perhaps we, as Christ's body at Amazing Grace in Aberdeen, WA in the year 2020 can ask no better question as a way to bring stability and hope to our future than "How can we become more and more a "school of love" for each other, for our local community and for the world?

One form of prayer that prepares us for engagement in the world is the Examen, an ancient spiritual practice still used by many today who seek to draw closer to God's heart. I offer the following form of the Examen as a way to pray our endings and prepare for the new beginnings and opportunities that await us to be students in this "school of love."

We remember where we may have experienced God in the days of the past year and, conversely, where we might have missed God. It is asking for God's eyes and heart in order to see well our journey with Christ. You should take some time with this, at least an hour in a quiet place alone. But, if that's not possible, do what you can. It is enough to place yourself before God with the desire to be led by the Spirit.

**Begin:** Take deep breaths. Let yourself settle and relax. Release any need to perform or feeling of expectation. Know that whatever happens in this time, it is enough. Pray a simple prayer that acknowledges God's presence with you and around you.

**Receive:** Ask God for the ability to move beyond your perspective of yourself and your year. Out beyond your accomplishments and your failings is a

spacious place where God wants to take you. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal what God would have you focus on, whether it is the sweep of the whole year or one or two specific experiences within it.

**Ask:** If you feel led (and only if), use a few questions for guidance: In the past year, where or for what do I find myself the most thankful? An event? An experience I had? The love I received from others? Courageous action that I took?

Spend some time asking for God's light to reveal Godself to me, and for God to reveal myself to me. Where have I felt deep joy (even if fleetingly)? What has been unsettling or upsetting? What has been a struggle or challenge? Where did I experience stopping and resting?

**Review:** Allow the past year to play before you like a movie. Let God control the timing and scenes. What would the Spirit like to show you? Release your agendas, and notice what Christ wants you to pay attention to.

**Pray:** Using the questions or images as the ground of your prayer, come to God in conversation or silence. This may be a particular event or it may be a pattern you have noticed emerging. Spend time with this before God. You may want to journal, or create, or do something else that is a natural ground for

communication with God. If you chose a word for 2019, pray that to God. Does the Spirit have a word for 2019 in retrospect that may be different than the word you chose moving forward? **You will receive a Star Word in worship on Sunday, 1/5. Maybe that is the word that can guide you in 2020.**

**Imagine:** If it feels right, ask God to give you a holy imagining for 2020. Are there blessings or challenges ahead? Relationships, habits, learnings that you are being invited into or out of? Imagine what it might be like to experience those things with God, rather than on your own. Notice what Christ has to say to you about these things. Are there graces God is inviting you to ask for even now?

**Rest:** After you are done, spend some time simply resting in silence with God. Allow your heart to be held by the One who loves you most. Release all you can into God's care, and enjoy God's delight in you, the Beloved.

**Whatever the future holds, we are held in God's love. God is with us, Emmanuel. Because God is not with ME, but us, there is hope - we are in this together through thick and thin, joy and despair. We are not alone because God is with us and we are with each other! Thanks be to God!**

Pastor Val

## LIVING STONES PRISON CONGREGATION

Our Living Stones Prison visit to Washington Corrections Center in Shelton, is on Saturday February 29.



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

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this newsletter, it is mid-December and I am primarily thinking about the approach of Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Christ. However, this is the January newsletter, which also leads me to think about the New Year.

Where are they connected? Christ's birth... Epiphany... New Year. They all seem to be connected to the hope and new life that God stirs up in us.

When our family gathers with friends and

## FAMILY PROMISE

Mark your 2020 calendar!!!

We will be hosting the following weeks:

February 2 – 8

April 12 – 18

June 21 – 27

November 8 – 14

Contact either Suzan or Carmon for more information.

## GOD DREAMS WITH US

relatives at this time of year, we like to ask each other the question, "What are you hoping for in the New Year?" On the one hand, it is a chance to talk about specific plans that have been made, such as an up-coming trip or a project that will be started. Yet, it is also a chance to talk about the deeper dreams and hopes of our hearts. "I hope for an end to violence in our country and the world." "I hope for meaning and satisfaction in my work." "I hope for good health and joy for everyone in my family."

What are *you* hoping for in the New Year?

One of the things that gets in the way of our hopes and the dreams is the fear that change isn't possible. Everything seems to be stuck in such a tragic, repeating cycle. The destructive powers seem unstoppable. There is a voice inside us that says, "Nothing will change. My dreaming is foolish."

Yet God says to us, "Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5). This is God's cosmic promise of a new heaven and a new earth. Yet it is also God's down-to-earth promise of blessings and new possibilities right here and right now.

What are you hoping for in the New Year? God takes our hopes and dreams seriously. God opens up paths for us that we would never expect, beginning with the birth of Christ and continuing with God birthing new life in us.

The writer of Ephesians says, "Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish *abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine*, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations." (Eph. 3:20-21)

So, dream deeply during this season of Christmas and New Year. Dream and pray and act with

courage. God dreams with us and for us and is already at work creating new life.

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
Though dark the winter and cheerless,  
The rising sun shall crown you with light,  
Be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
And love our endless story;  
May God fill every day we share  
And bring us at last into glory.  
(Marty Haugen)*

In Christ,

Presiding Bishop Rick Jaech



## WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

### FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:



Gloria Bilderback, Mykahlah Murray, Jeff Brown, Nick Wehage, Andrea Barkstrom, 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, David Shaw, Don

Rabung, Whitney Morean, David Hanson and we pray for the friends and family mourning the death of Maxine Cogburn. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

**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 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)



## PRAYER LIST

We are committed to praying for the needs of the people. Please let the office know if you have updates on any of the people we have been praying for.



## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS:

Aden Kincaid, January 4  
Madison Green, January 5  
Amy Dodd, January 6  
Dennis Morrisette, January 6  
Jean Hodge, January 7  
Carmon Shaw, January 10  
Dani Buckman, January 12  
Jim Weiberg, January 13  
Marge Kelling, January 17  
Maurita White, January 18

Darrell Lokken, January 19  
Erick Kupka, January 22  
Jacob Natwick, January 22  
Morgan Erickson, January 25  
Steve Swanson, January 26  
Cynthia Johnstone, January 29

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Hiedi & Chris Seelke, January 1  
Suzan & Phil Stegemoeller, January 5  
Roger & Carmon Shaw, January 9  
Mike & Karen Barkstrom, January 23

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### Thank you:

Joni Hildreth and Annette Biornstad for putting up the Giving Tree in the fellowship hall.

Diane Hanson and Kathy Wehage for the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and outside on Christmas eve.

Gene Schermer for putting up the tables for the quilters.

To the maintenance crew for putting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

To Carmon Shaw for helping Vicky assemble the December newsletters.

To Naomi Kraiger for helping Vicky assemble bulletins (plus Christmas Eve Bulletin) and the Newsletter.

Dee Erickson for taking care of the poinsettias during the month of December.

Thank you to the Rabung Family, Jill Waite and Mike and Judi Hubbard for providing us with the

beautiful poinsettias to enjoy during the month of December.

Diane Hanson and Kath Wehage for hosting the special Christmas Eve fellowship time.

To the bells/choir for the beautiful music offered at the Christmas Eve Service.

To all those who donated to the food bank for the Christmas baskets.

To those that helped assemble and distribute the Christmas baskets, we thank: Cher Keller, Dan Schlessler, Dick Bramstedt, Oscar Bramstedt, Kerri Bramstedt, Rev. Doug Basler, Nancy Olsen and Ben Weaver.

Mike Hubbard and Roger Shaw for all the helpful tasks done around the church.

Judi Hubbard for Janitorial work.

To those that contributed items to the Giving Tree & Noisy Offering and for the Baby Shower for Jesus and Mary.

To Dee Erickson and Pastor Val for organizing the PLU concert.

for assisting and for all the kids who participated and anyone else who made this happen.

To Liz Ellis for volunteering to take charge of the card reader.

Thank you to all who participated in the Caroling and chili event.

To Hank Bilderback for organizing the Christmas program this year and to Kris Burns and Laura Carle



### **PIE AUCTION REPORT and Thank Yous**

What a wonderful time we had again at our annual pie auction. Thank you everyone for your baked goods, knitted items and wood work pieces.

Thank you Gary Morean for being our ever energetic auctioneer!! Nicole for organizing the items, Kala and Madison for showing the pieces ( without tasting first )! John Tieder again put together a beautiful calendar. Thanks to your generosity we raised \$7146 !!!!! that Is correct \$7146!!!

These funds were allocated 70% roof and 30% to maintenance . Our 10% tithe was to LWR, Lutheran Disaster and Family Promise.

Thank you for your continued support



## **THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS**

- Thank you for your generous support in keeping flowers on the altar each Sunday in 2019. The 2020 Flower Chart will be on the wall of the skywalk soon.  
Maurita White
- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$90.56



### **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.

### **MINISTRY REPORTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT**

All reports need to be into the office by **January 7th** so that the office can compile them into the booklet for distribution to the congregation on Jan. 12th.

## **SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE**

### **UNION GOSPEL MISSION January 7**

Maurita White, Leader Vicki Mitchell & Virginia Clark, Joyce Smith, Paula Elder, Doro-

thy Stephens, Pam Alstrom  
Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw  
360-532-2940

**The director of UGM says that we can expect to serve about 50 people. They need food delivered before 5PM so that they know what is coming. Thank you!!!**



## HELPING GRAYS HARBOR'S AT-RISK YOUTH

The 1st Sunday of each month we highlight the needs of the at-risk youth in our community. Our Caring Cupboard is a one-stop donation site for



the Gravity Center and other entities that serve Grays Harbor Youth.

### G.R.A.V.I.T.Y. Program

Typical Gravity Center kids are experiencing

poverty and neglect. The kids are always hungry

and can always use: Cup of Noodles, instant cocoa packets, bread, peanut butter and jelly, canned tuna, cookies and fruit. In addition the **teen parents** need: Diapers Size 1 or larger, baby wipes, soaps or lotions, clothes, bottles, Children's Tylenol, diaper rash creams. These items may be left in the basket in the Parish Hall for pick-up and delivery by Vicki Mitchell.

### 4-F DINNER

January 11<sup>th</sup> we will be having our "retro" dinner. Dinner will be served at 5pm, if you would like to come, please RSVP to Judi [Hubbard-jhubbard1952@comcast.net](mailto:jhubbard1952@comcast.net) or the church. Our Grace Fund makes it possible for everyone to participate regardless of ability to pay. Talk to Pastor Val about this option.

### FAMILY PROMISE DINNER

Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> we host a fundraising dinner at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church benefitting Family Promise. We'll gather at 5:30pm and dinner is served at 6pm. The cost is \$20 per person. Our Grace Fund makes it possible for everyone to participate regardless of ability to pay. Talk to Pastor Val about this option.

## GROWING AT AMAZING GRACE

### MANNA AND MERCY BIBLE STUDY

**Manna and Mercy** is our guide from Genesis to Revelation. Everyone is invited to be immersed in "God's unfolding promise to mend the entire universe."

It's not too late to join a group or form a new one. **Groups meet Thursdays at 7pm and almost every other Wed. at noon.**



Sharing the gift of music with friends and neighbors.





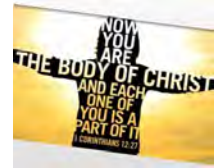
Above: Judi and Madison bell-ringing for Salvation Army



The bell ringers waiting backstage at the Bishop Center. Maurita White, Moonbeam Kupka, Naomi Kraiger, Marti DeBandt, Kris Burns, Hank Bilderback and Theresa Kaufman.

Kris and Hank deserve a HUGE THANK YOU for their patience and love when it comes to us bell players! They truly are a blessing and a gift.

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 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: Mark Smalley, Joelle Buckman, Amy Ostwald, Judi Hubbard, Dee Erickson, Pastor Val, Vicky Kolb, Phil Stegemoeller, Theresa Kaufman and Mike Barkstrom

Call to Order Mark Smalley 6:15

Prayer and Devotions – Mark

-If God is for us, who is against us? Are you someone who see the glass as half empty or full? Having doubt is all part of having faith.

Establish Quorum

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

Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting, November 19, 2019 **M/S/P**

**Financial Reports**

i. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman- Went over October reports

-Theresa will amend October reports.

-Transactions by account for October **M/S/P**

November Financial Reports

-Bells subaccount minus \$135.13

-Theresa will amend reports. She will include two subaccounts: bells/music

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

b. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller –

i. New Program for financial secretary: won't cost church anything. Phil is still looking into different options.

ii. Card Reader update- Theresa will get in contact with Liz Ellis who has volunteered to take charge of the card reader. She will be talking with Liz about how to handle the card reader and what the policies should be.

iii. Online giving- Amy will be speaking with Vanco about adding a link icon on the church's website for online giving once she gets the contact information from Theresa.

**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. 2020 Budget Discussion – Mark

-The budget committee met last week and went over the budget for the last couple of years. We received more than we spent. Our goal has been to give a 10% tithe to our benevolences. In 2020 we will be at 10% in our giving.

-Approve budget **M/S/P**

i. Portico Benefits Issues – Mark: The money that is owed to pastor's retirement account needs to be paid as soon as possible. Council will make sure that this doesn't happen again.

-Money from checking account no less than \$5,000 but not exceed \$6,000 to pay pastor Val as soon as Mark, Pastor Val and Theresa agree on an amount. **M/S/P**

ii. Discuss options for decreasing budget and increasing stewardship - Mark

iii. Review benevolences for 2020, added Family Promise for 2020

iv. "Utility Donations", donations from outside groups – Judi

-Judi brought to councils' attention that churches who provide space for outside groups to use as a meeting space that they sometimes contribute "utility donations", to help with light or heating that they use. Council discussed if that was something that Amazing Grace would be interested in doing. After discussion, it was decided by council to not make any changes to outside organizations using the parish hall.

b. Office copier funding - Mark: memorial fund

c. Treasurer laptop funding - Mark: general budget fund

-Office copier that cost \$1000 will come from memorial fund and Treasure laptop that cost \$1400 will come from the General Budget Fund **M/S/P**





- d. Women's retreat – Holden Village - Joelle: No one has signed up, so it will be taken off the agenda.
- e. Open Position for 2020 - Mark
  - Joelle Buckman has expressed an interest in Council President
  - Amy Ostwald has expressed an interest in Outreach.
    - i. Youth and Family-Curtis and Shayna steinhauer have expressed an interest in Youth and Family leadership. Curtis will serve on council.
    - ii. Endowment Committee- new member. Pastor Val will help Mark with this.
- f. PLU concert – Dee
  - The PLU concert was wonderful. wonderful. Dee needs to collect refunds from a couple more people.
- g. Next steps with Holy Currencies and stewardship
  - i. Devotion sign up – tied to stewardship
    - January- Dee Erickson
    - February- Amy Ostwald
    - March- Judi Hubbard
- h. Annual Reports due date - Mark
  - The annual reports will be due into the office by January 7th so reports can be passed out by January 12th. The annual meeting will be on January 26th.
  - i. Another year on paying property taxes for the Bel Aire property.
  - j. Increase raise for Secretary and Treasurer
    - To raise secretary salary to \$14.50/hr. **M/S/P**
    - To raise Treasure salary to \$14.50/hr. **M/S/P**

#### **Ministry Reports-**

- a. Worship – Dee Erickson:
  - i. Altar Guild- hit it hard in January.
  - ii. LAT- new banners are up. Mike Hubbard made a pole that helps LAT members put up the banners easier.
  - iii. Worship Committee
- b. Outreach – Joelle
  - Bell ringing is set for Dec. 21st, the whole day is covered, and she will be popping in throughout the day to see how things are going.
  - i. Family Promise – AGLC's weeks -November 24 - 30
  - ii. Homeless outreach
  - iii. Cold Weather Shelter – Pastor Val:
    - CCAP has hired two coordinators. They are still looking for a permanent place. Any suggestions about places to use is always appreciated. Thank you to the County and City for helping to make this happen.
- c. PSALM report – Joelle & Pastor Val
  - The 5 PSALM participants will be doing sermons within the next couple of months to learn how to preach. They will also be assisting at Saron Lutheran Church will pastor is on Leave.
- d. Youth & Family – Amy Ostwald:
  - Hank Bilderback wrote and coordinated the service. It was a truly multi-generational and went beautifully. Laura Carle and Kris Burns assisted.
  - i. Sunday School/Confirmation -both progressing
  - ii. Youth Group
  - iii. Adult group study – Manna and Mercy
  - iv. Advent event
- e. Fellowship – Judi – The paper supplies that Kristine buys for the kitchen will be coming out of kitchen supplies account.
  - i. Communion Ministry
  - ii. Welcome Committee
  - iii. Special Events Team
  - iv. Guess who is coming to dinner: This will be a one-time dinner. if groups want to meet for additional times, they are free to do so.
  - v. Caroling
    - Caroling this year was on December 14th and there were 18 people that signed up.



f. Property – Mike Barkstrom

i. Family Promise fundraiser- Amazing Grace will host the Family Promise Fundraising dinner on Monday January 13th. The gathering will begin at 5:30pm and dinner will be served at 6pm. There will be an auction too.

ii. Deck carpeting- The carpeting for the deck has been ordered. Mike asked Arlene Torgerson and Dorothy Stephens to pick out the color. Moore's will do the job approximately \$775.

iii. Stain glass repair/protection options-Any remaining funds from previous project will go towards the churches glass windows. The work will begin on the south side and might add the east side. Breaking the job into parts will cost more but be more manageable from a cost standpoint.

iv. Regular windows -The windows in the parish hall are all in and paid for.

v. Fencing update- we received the Variance letter of Approval from the City. Ladue fencing of Elma will do the project cost approximately \$1350.

We have the money to proceed with the roofing project for the parish hall. Mike to obtain bids from three local contractors and make a recommendation for the project.

Pastor's Report-Manna and Mercy book study group on Sunday's will be discontinued. The Wednesday and Thursday book study group are well attended.

**Task Assignments**

- Theresa and Phil will get together to be sure their reports match.
- Theresa will go over bank statements to compare what bank has and what reports show.
- Theresa will talk with Hank about the two subaccounts about where money should be deposited.
- Theresa will email Liz about the card reader on how to handle it and the policies.
- Amy needs to get the contact information for Vanco from Theresa.
- Theresa will be amending reports so that there is only one general maintenance account
- Amy will talk with Curtis in more detail about Youth and Family
- Vicky needs to put both Phil S. and Dee E. on the annual meeting ballots
- Pastor Val and Judi will meet and talk about "Guess who is coming to dinner".
- Mike will speak with Eileen about the Family Promise Fundraiser
- Council members and others need to have reports in by January 7th

Adjournment and closing prayer 9:12

**PASTOR'S REPORT – REGULAR ACTIVITIES – November 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  
Reports: congregational; synod; ELCA  
Conference Pastors meeting monthly

**ADMINISTRATION**

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  
Food Bank reorganizing meetings  
Monthly local Pastor's group

**OUTREACH**



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** Funeral for Bates Botting

**PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: Reading:** Behold that Star: A Christmas Anthology.  
Advent preaching webinar; Spiritual Direction group.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES in November**

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Portico – worked with them to figure out discrepancy in retirement contributions made by Amazing Grace

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

**WORSHIP:** New liturgy for Advent  
Plan Christmas program with Hank

**YOUTH/FAMILY/Education:** Manna and Mercy – 2 Study times: Thursday 7pm and about every other Wednesday at noon  
PSALM Intensive – hosted at my home; sermon preparation study  
Advent Event – prepare and plan

**OUTREACH:** Planned Giving Tree w/ Joni & Annette; Baby Shower; Noisy Offering  
Food Bank food collection and distribution  
Squaxin Island Tribe site visit to Kennedy Creek salmon run  
Planning with CCAP and County to organize Cold Weather Shelter  
Organized volunteers and supplies for Cold Weather Shelter for 5 days

**VACATION:** None

**UPCOMING:** Manna and Mercy study continues: Thursday 7pm; Wed noon – approx. every other week

Christmas Eve service 7pm

Vacation: Dec. 25 - Jan. 1 - Hank leads Lessons and Carols 12/29

**ANNUAL REPORTS will be due into the office by January 7<sup>th</sup> so that reports can be given to congregation on January 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Annual meeting is January 26<sup>th</sup>.**



Laura and Elaine making a joyful noise!





## NOVEMBER BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name		Date	Total
Checking			\$ 33,580.42
-PSALM			\$ (116.00)
-Caring Cupboard			\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve			\$ 2,620.00
-Bells			\$ 1,047.09
-Friends in Need			\$ 623.56
-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
		TOTAL	\$ 40,690.41
Fundraising Checking			\$ 1,860.90
Maintenance Check- ing			\$ 15,177.16
- Roof sub account of m aint			\$ 22,179.29
Youth Checking			\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings			\$ 3,506.44
Mikkel Thompson Sav- ings			\$ 962.23



Walt as the Prophet Isaiah.



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/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

[amazinggraceaberdeem.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeem.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, Greg Johnstone, Charles Scamman

**Musicians:** Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke



## JANUARY 2020 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### January 5

**Liturgist:** Hank Bilderback; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Joe Fernandez; **Communion Assistant:** Joe Fernandez; **Ushers/Greeters:** Mike & Arlene O'Connor; **Depositors:** Darrell Lokken & Mark Ostwald; **Fellowship:** Hanson, Erwin, Hodge, Seelke, Wehage; **Altar Guild:** Naomi Kraiger & Cynthia Johnstone; **Sunday School Teacher:**

### January 12

**Liturgist:** Keith Lile; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Joe Fernandez; **Communion Assistant:** Hank Bilderback & Joni Hildreth; **Ushers/Greeters:** Eileen & Gene Schermer; **Depositors:** Mike Barkstrom & Ray Hodge; **Fellowship:** Finazzo, Evanson, Hubbard, Waite, Winter, Steinhauer; **Altar Guild:** Laura Carle & Dee Erickson; **Sunday School Teacher:**

### January 19

**Liturgist:** Laura Carle; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Joe Fernandez; **Communion Assistant:** Joni Hildreth & Carmon Shaw; **Ushers/Greeters:** Amy & Mark Ostwald; **Depositors:** Hiedi Seelke & Gene Schermer; **Fellowship:** Barkstrom, Hildreth, Buckman; **Altar Guild:** Trish Safstrom, Elizabeth Tilley & Maurita White; **Sunday School Teacher:**

### January 26

**Liturgist:** Greg Johnstone; **Worship Assistant/Reader:** Joe Fernandez; **Communion Assistant:** Theresa Kaufman & Steve Swanson; **Ushers/Greeters:** Arlene Torgerson & Maurita White; **Depositors:** Karen Barkstrom & Joe Fernandez; **Fellowship:** Beemans, Kraiger, Debandt, Kupka, Mendoza; **Altar Guild:** Kathy Wehage & Diane Hanson; **Sunday School Teacher:**



Picture below: "Gathering to see baby Jesus!"



Pastor Val leading worship.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>JANUARY</b>						
5 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOW-SHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL EPIPHANY celebration	6 4:30-6:30 PM GIRL SCOUTS	7 6:30-8 PM FAMILY PROMISE BOARD	8 NOON MANNA & MERCY 5:30 PM AA 6-7 BELLS	9 7 PM MANNA & MERCY	10 7-8 PM SCRAP BOOKING	11 7-8 PM AA <b>5 PM 4-F DINNER</b>
12 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOW-SHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL	13 <b>5:30 PM FAMILY PROMISE DINNER</b>	14	15 9-12 QUILTERS & MAINTENANCE 5:30 PM AA 6-7 BELLS	16 7 PM MANNA & MERCY	17 7-8 PM SCRAP BOOKING	18 7-8 PM AA
19 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOW-SHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL	20 4:30-6:30 PM GIRL SCOUTS  MARTIN Luther king day	21 6:15 PM COUNCIL MEETING	22 NOON MANNA & MERCY 5:30 PM AA 6-7 BELLS	23 7 PM MANNA & MERCY	24	25 9-4:30 GIRL SCOUTS 7-8 PM AA
26 9 AM CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL <b>ANNUAL MEETING &amp; POTLUCK</b>	27	28	29 9-12 QUILTERS & MAINTENANCE 5:30 PM AA 6-7 BELLS	30 7 PM MANNA & MERCY	31 <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> <b>Lent begins Ash Wednesday February 26th</b>	



**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

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE