

The Spirit

April 2020



HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE

Holy Week is the path from certainty to despair; from devastation to a new hope, a truer, deeper hope. This Holy Week and Easter will be very different than most of us have ever experienced. While God does not cause natural disasters or even a virus to test us or to teach us a lesson or even to get our attention, God has always used the natural order of creation and the events of our lives to offer us another chance to see what is real, what is trustworthy, what is God!

Brennan Manning, says, "Uncompromising trust in the love of God inspires us to thank God for the spiritual darkness that envelops us, for the loss of income, for the nagging arthritis that is so painful, and pray from the heart, 'Abba, into your hands I entrust my body, mind, and spirit and this entire day--morning, afternoon, evening, and night. Whatever you want of me, I want of me, falling into you and trusting you in the midst of my life. Into your heart I entrust my heart, feeble, distracted, insecure, uncertain. Abba, unto you I abandon myself in Jesus our Lord, Amen..."

"The way of trust is a movement into obscurity, into the undefined, into ambiguity, not some predetermined, clearly delineated plan for the future. The next step discloses itself only out of a discernment of **God acting in the desert of the present moment.** The reality of naked trust is the life of a pilgrim who leaves what is nailed down, obvious, and secure, and walks into the unknown without any rational explanation to justify the decision or guarantee the future. Why? Because God has signaled the movement and offered it His presence and promise." Brennan Manning, "Ruthless Trust."

In this present moment, we are offered the chance of a lifetime to let go of the false gods of control, normalcy, comfort and stability. We'd rather not have this chance but since we do, we might embrace it to



find that we have been offered God "in the desert of the present moment." This "naked trust" is terrifying but we may sense that it is more real than the gods who promise things they have never delivered:

control that is an illusion, normalcy and comfort that can't last, stability for some at the expense of others.

We are invited into this time of facing the truth about ourselves and the world, trusting the one God who beckons us to follow into the unknown future, knowing that the One we follow is worthy of that trust and faithful to the end and beyond all ends. We go together.

HOLY WEEK AT AMAZING GRACE

EASTER PARADE (As long as you don't get out of your car – stay safe!) HOPE – Biblical hope is the meaning of Easter. We could all use a little hope right now and some encouragement that this isolation will not last forever; that we are not alone, even when we are lonely. This is not the hope that wishes things were not as they are. But the trust that through everything, God is at work making all things right! **You are invited to make the ancient Biblical sign of hope, a rainbow to display in your window on Easter, a sign that we live by faith and not by sight!** A simple or elaborate rainbow displayed in your window will be a message of hope. On Easter you can drive a route of Amazing Grace member's houses (parading by them according to the directory addresses!) to see the hope on display throughout our area. Pray for each other as you do this and pray for our world!

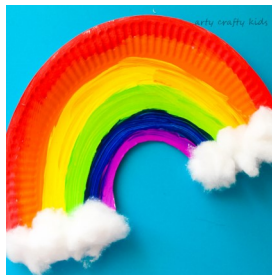
**Maundy Thursday 7pm Facebook live
Prayer Around the Cross**

**Good Friday 2pm Facebook live
Stations of the Cross**

Easter Festival Worship 10am Facebook live.

All at the usual link which is sent out in Friday email.

All services can be found soon after they occur on the Amazing Grace website.



Worship at Home

We in the ELCA believe that the sacrament of Holy Communion is a means of grace that “creates and strengthens faith for our daily work and ministry in the world,” a rite that “draws us to long for the day of God’s justice” and “provides sure and certain hope of the coming resurrection and eternal life” (from the ELCA’s [Use of the Means of Grace](#)). At a time when physical contact is so limited, communing together virtually with our faith communities can affirm the reality that our bodies are engaged in worship even when we’re participating from our living room, that we’re still connected to the other bodies gathered virtually for worship even when we can only see photos of them online, and that Christ comes to us in the gifts of bread and wine even when our pastors’ Words of Institution are mediated by a screen.

Food can remind us of who we are as a church community and can be symbolic of God’s story. This Holy Week you might consider cooking a few things that remind us of the story of this week.

Maundy Thursday, April 9

YOU CAN WATCH THIS SERVICE OF PRAYER AND SONG ANYTIME ON THE Amazing Grace Facebook page or on our website: amazinggraceabern.deen.org. It’s always a good day to hold our world in prayer before our gracious God.

Good Friday, April 10

Stations of the Cross for our Times will be live from Amazing Grace on **Facebook live at 2pm** and available to watch anytime on the Facebook page or the Amazing Grace website.

CELEBRATE WITH FOOD

Did you know that people used to pray with their arms crossed over their chest (kind of like the shape of a pretzel)? To pray in this way is a posture of humility and reverence for God.

Make pretzel prayers for Good Friday as a family:
1. Buy a package of Pillsbury Bread Sticks or make your own.



2. Roll out the dough and then shape it into a pretzel shape.

3. Bake in oven according to directions. While the bread is baking, cross your arms over your chest like a pretzel and pray:

God, thank you for Jesus, who died for us. Thank you for Jesus, who loves us. Thank you for Jesus who forgives us. Amen.

4. Once done baking, brush with melted butter and add salt.

5. Eat your pretzels and watch the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services on Facebook on the Amazing Grace website.

Easter Sunday, April 12

Prepare for Easter worship by baking communion bread together. One recipe is below, but any bread will work.

Worship on Facebook live at 10am will be a celebration so dress in your finest, join your church family in worship and perhaps join in the Easter “parade” driving the route of church families to see the rainbows there—symbols of the hope we have that God will bring good out of this difficult time.

Communion Bread Recipe

Sift dry ingredients together **three times**: (important!)

2 c whole wheat flour

1 c white flour

1 & 1/4 tsp baking powder

1 & 1/4 tsp salt

Stir in 4 tsp oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

3/4 cup + 2 Tbsp very hot water (minimum of 180 degrees F)

3 Tbsp honey

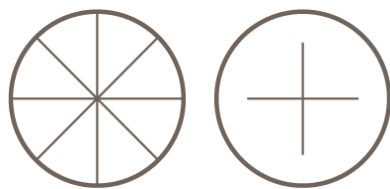
3 Tbsp molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Do not knead. Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk.

With a knife, score the top of each loaf into eight pie-shaped sections, so that the sections can be more



easily broken off while serving. Alternatively, you could score a cross onto the loaf.



Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. Each loaf serves 60-70 people, depending upon the size of the piece given. The loaves freeze well.



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

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 from ELCA presiding bishop

Dear church,

The last couple of weeks have been trying ones for everyone across this church. Our synods, congregations and ministries are facing challenges that they've never faced before. Being church together means more now than ever before.

The churchwide office is launching a comprehensive Covid-19 response across the ELCA beginning today. We have three new approaches designed to provide several levels of support for our most vulnerable congregations and ministries. These three approaches are Daily Bread Grants, Here to Serve, and the Covid-19 Response Appeal.

DAILY BREAD GRANTS

ELCA World Hunger is announcing the immediate launch of Daily Bread Matching Grants. Through these grants, ELCA congregations can raise funds for their feeding ministries using an online fundraising platform and will receive a grant of \$500 from ELCA World Hunger. Up to 100 Daily Bread Matching Grants are available for ELCA congregations on a first-come, first-served basis, with the possibility of more grants becoming available in the future. Apply or donate [here](#).

HERE TO SERVE

The churchwide organization is inherently a resource in support of the members, congregations, synods and partners of the ELCA. During this time, Domestic Mission will pivot to a project-based, ser-

vice-oriented structure so this church knows we are here to serve. By the first week of April, we will launch a chat function on ELCA.org along with an 800 hotline for prayer, support and questions that will be answered by our staff. As soon as these channels are live, we will let you know.

COVID-19 RESPONSE APPEAL

It's more important now than ever to support our church across the country through these difficult times. We will begin to raise funds to support our congregations, ministries and synods. This effort will launch the week of March 30 via email and social media with a special form online to donate.

In addition to our new three-pronged response, our work continues in providing and updating resources on [ELCA.org/publichealth](https://www.elca.org/publichealth). We are also still at work in the world. Our global mission work continues and grows in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are working with our global companions to provide support where we can. Learn more about that [here](#).

I am proud to say that even during challenging times, we continue our service in living out the mission of this church: *Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.*

Peace and be well,
Bishop Eaton





WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Even as we practice social distancing as an act of love for our neighbors, our loved ones and our medical community, we remember that God has created a world in which we are happiest and healthiest when we are caring for others. In light of that we pray, perhaps the most profound action we can take, for the sake of the world.

This letter from Nobel Peace Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (President of Liberia from 2006 to 2018, including during the Ebola crisis) guides us in praying widely and deeply:

Dear fellow citizens of the world,

... It does not mean that we are on our own, every country for themselves. On the contrary, it is the sign of a communal response, that border closures make a difference. Her letter concludes:

I have full faith in the relentless spirit of the individual, a conviction that leaders emerge in times of crisis at every level of society, and that our religious and communal differences pale in comparison to our collective belief in the power of prayer, and our respective faith in God.

As we all hunker down in the next few weeks, I pray for the health and well-being of our global citizens, and I ask that everyone remember that our humanity now relies on the essential truth that a life well-lived is a life in the service to others.

[Note: you can hear her read part of this letter on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w172x1gdf07d89j> from about 05:30 to 09:00. The unedited text (also on the BBC website) includes:]

Lord, all-seeing, always present, you call us to live in community.

In this year when the community of Oberammergau, **Germany** would have celebrated their decision to lock down to stop plague spreading, we give thanks for that understanding of community which is about keeping one another safe. We give thanks for visionaries such as the community of Eyam, **United Kingdom**, the Nobel peace prize winner, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the Governor of Ohio, Mike DeWine.

In our prayers we remember those from whom the eyes of the world have moved:

The people of **Yemen** starving as many air raids strike Sanaa this week,

The displaced and the dispossessed especially those in refugee camps. We give thanks for those refugees, in groups like Help from Refugees in **Switzerland**, who put their much-needed skills at the disposal of their new communities.

The rough sleepers with no safe space to obey the rules of lockdown in Lagos, **Nigeria**, and many cities worldwide.

The migrant workers, especially those in **India** where a lock-down was imposed at 4 hours notice, and **Nepalese** are stuck at the border.



The people who are more persecuted than ever because of the perception that no one will notice; especially the **Palestinian** community of Khirbet Ibziq in the northern Jordan Valley. Their existing community clinic and generator were demolished by the Israeli army and building supplies for an emergency field clinic destroyed or confiscated.

We pray for those who think no one will notice when they pilfer hospital supplies, buy up and hoard goods needed by carers, nurses, doctors, ambulance crews and others. We give thanks that those called to work in all these essential areas still work despite knowing they are unprotected and will probably be taken ill. Remind us that it is not enough to call them heroes but to do what we can to support them. We give thanks for donations of real equipment from film sets, as from the sets of “Casualty” and “Holby City” in England.

We pray for those who are harmed, such as those caught in the shelling in Tripoli, **Libya**, as warring factions seek to hide the lack of a ceasefire while the eyes of the world turn inward.

For farmers and growers, the world is not standing still, for researchers too. As crops are planted with no knowing if there will be hands to harvest we pray for the springtime and the harvest. As news breaks that a blood test is being developed to determine early signs of cancer we give thanks that people still go about the work despite fear, sadness, and anxiety.

Remind us that while the sound of silence, the sound of bird song, and the sound of the wind and the rain, beguile us in the newly revealed quiet; our environment is still not safe. Birds, wildlife, and plants need our continuing protection and care.

*All things praise you, glorious Lord,
great Creator, powerful Word,
omnipresent Spirit, now
at your throne, we humbly bow,
lift our hearts in praise to you:
so we praise you, Lord, anew.*
[George William Condor – 1821-1874]



FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

Pam Paulin, Nancy, Al, Courtney, Adrienne, Jared, Vi Nixon, Ian Weste and his family, Alex Reid, Bud, Molly Rabung and her coworker, Laura Carle, Bud, Ella Swanson, June Bender, Gloria Bilderback, Andrea Barkstrom, Holly Henderson, Cody Walls, Carter, Kenny McCoy, Susie Kallendar, 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 family and friends mourning the death of Francis Beeman. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and for family and friends mourning the death of Justin Schaefer. May he 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.

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

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

Yvette Koerner, April 6

Ginny Clark, April 13

Walt Ebel, April 16

Nicholas Evanson, April 16

Chris Seelke, April 17

Mike Hubbard, April 19

Anneliese Kraiger, April 19

Pam Alstrom, April 20

Sarah Teveliet Channel, April 20

Luke Ostwald, April 22

Mark Ostwald, April 22

Kristine Burns, April 29

Stephen Natwick, April 29

Adam Sykes, April 29

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ray & Jean Hodge, April 20

Thank you:

Roger Shaw and Gene Schermer for fixing the lock on the door of the church office.

Eileen Schermer for re-planting new flowers into the flower pot that's in front of the church office.

Naomi Kraiger for helping Vicky assemble the newsletters and bulletins each month.

To all who supported our Psuperbowl fundraiser. From the PSALM group.

Arvid Iverson and Mike Hubbard for sanitizing pews, hymnals, toys, etc. for two weeks so we stay healthy.

To all those who donated items for the Clunky Offering & T.P./Hand Sani Drive.

Mike Hubbard for all the work we see and so much that we don't around the buildings.

Judi Hubbard for doing spring cleaning in the kitchen

The crew that makes Sunday morning worship possible during this pandemic: Steve Swanson videographer, Kris Burns playing piano, Hiedi playing flute, Pastor Val leading and liturgists: Hank, and Laura.

Council for their loving care of the congregation during this crisis.



THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS

- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$144.95 for month of February

- **ELCA** Good Gifts contribution for Advent Noisy offering was \$575.08
- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$144.95
- **Habitat for Humanity** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$50.99 and \$93.96
- We appreciate your support & generosity in allowing us to use this wonderful space to host our meetings & practice recovery & sobriety.

Thank you,
Sisters in Recovery, AA



- Dear pastor Val
All the best to you and all at Amazing Grace.
Peace and love
Beate & Ron

No in-person gatherings including Sunday morning worship until further notice. Please look for more information in the Friday Grace Notes each week, special emails as they come out and on the Amazing Grace website; amazinggraceabernodeen.org



OFFICE HOURS

Church office is open Tuesday & Thursday 8-1. **No one** should be in the office while Vicky is there. You can drop mail in the mail slot or drop Food Bank donations in the fellowship hall. If you need help, talk to Vicky through the door or call her: 360.532.8250.

Pastor Val will be taking a few days after Easter for rest and renewal and participating in an online retreat. During this time, if you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Joelle Buckman at 360-589-6111.



Please let Pastor Val or a council member know of any concerns or needs that arise for you AND ways you'd like to help others. We are figuring this out together. None of us has ever been the church in a pandemic! **What we know is that we are called to love God and Jesus told us that loving our neighbors (all of them, especially the marginalized) is how God wants us to show that love! So, what does that look like here, today in Aberdeen, WA?**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
111 E. 4th St.
Aberdeen, WA 98520
Amazing111@comcast.net
360.532.8250
www.amazinggraceabernodeen.org



RECYCLE OPTION!

In keeping 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.

ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Our website now has an online giving option using your credit/debit card or bank accounts. Please visit our website: <https://www.amazinggraceaberdean.org/giving>

While you're there check out the daily devotions, the newsletter, photos and lots more information about Amazing Grace.



ANNUAL 4-F ST. PATTY'S DINNER- POSTPONED

Due to the Coronavirus situation on the Harbor, the corned beef dinner was postponed.

We want to ensure everyone's health safety. If you have prepaid and would like your money returned, please let me know or I can keep it until we reschedule.

We hope by rescheduling, some that were unable to attend may be able to join us. Please let me know your preference. Judi



ENDOWMENT FUND

Scholarship applications and endowment fund requests are available in church office or Darrell Lokken. Applications are due June 1st. There will be more information on this later. All completed forms can be returned to the office or to a committee member.

SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

UNION GOSPEL MISSION April 7



Mary Ellen Salmon, Leader Elaine Lokken, Marge Kelling, Carmon Shaw
Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw

360-532-2940

Those of you providing meals for the Union Gospel Mission need to contact Doug Jones (kitchen manager) by 8:30pm the night BEFORE if there are any changes. Contact number is 360-533-1064



LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY ANNUAL RAFFLE

Thank you for supporting the Living Stones prison ministry through your prayers, visits, ingathering of items, and financial gifts. We are excited to announce our 2020 raffle.

There will be not one but four prizes: **The grand prize is \$2,020 cash** and the second is a \$202 cash

prize. The third and fourth prizes are creations from our men - one is a quilt and the other is artwork.

Tickets will be \$5 each or 6 for \$25. To buy tickets contact Joe Fernandez:
joseph.m.fernandez@gmail.com or Carmon Shaw:
Carmon248@gmail.com

Bishop Rick Jaech will draw the winning ticket at the synod office on Tuesday, June 16.



President	Joelle Buckman	(360) 589-6111	Joelle_buckman@email.com
Treasurer	Theresa Kaufman	(360) 537-1190	Theresamarie4739.3@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Phil Stegemoeller	(360) 580-9310	phil@willisent.com
Youth & Family	Curtis Steinhauer	(360) 580-2301	turtis21@gmail.com
Outreach	Amy Ostwald	(360)-482-2306	Ostwald@olynet.com
Worship	Dee Erickson	(360) 533-7948	deekayel@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

amazinggraceaberdeen.org

amazing111@comcast.net

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

vmetropoulos001@luthersem.edu

Office Administrator: Vicky Kolb

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

Musicians: Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke





**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

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of
Grays Harbor

111 E. 4th Street Aber-
deen, WA 98520

360.532.8250

amazing111@comcast.net
www.amazinggraceabern.deen.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE