

# *The Spirit*

August 2020

Amazing  
Grace  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF GRAYS HARBOR



## **The Sun**

Have you ever seen  
anything  
in your life  
more wonderful  
than the way the sun,  
every evening,  
relaxed and easy,  
floats toward the horizon  
and into the clouds or the hills,  
or the rumpled sea,  
and is gone—  
and how it slides again  
out of the blackness,  
every morning,  
on the other side of the world,  
like a red flower  
streaming upward on its heavenly oils,  
say, on a morning in early summer,  
at its perfect imperial distance—

and have you ever felt for anything  
such wild love—  
do you think there is anywhere, in any  
language,  
a word billowing enough  
for the pleasure  
that fills you,  
as the sun  
reaches out,  
as it warms you  
as you stand there,  
empty-handed—  
or have you too  
turned from this world—  
or have you too  
gone crazy  
for power,  
for things?

*Mary Oliver*

Jesus says, “Here is the bottom line: do not worry about your life. Don’t worry about what you will eat or what you will drink. Don’t worry about how you clothe your body. Living is about more than merely eating, and the body is about more than dressing up.

Consider the lilies of the field and how they grow. They do not work or weave or sew, *and yet their garments are stunning.*

<sup>31</sup> So do not consume yourselves with questions: What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear? <sup>32</sup> Outsiders make themselves frantic over such questions; *they don’t realize that* your heavenly Father knows exactly what you need. <sup>33</sup> Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and then all these things will be given to you *too.* <sup>34</sup> So do not worry about tomorrow. Let tomorrow worry about itself. Living faithfully is a large enough task for today.

Matthew 6:25; 28b; 31-34 *The Voice*

Even in times of worry and confusion, there are moments when the world pierces our fog with glimmers of radiant beauty: Mary Oliver’s image of the sun, Jesus’ lilies of the field. The world around us contin-

ues, day by day, summer and winter heedless of pandemic or financial distress. Who among us can end disease or stabilize financial markets? And yet...

And yet, beauty abides. God abides. God walks with us through whatever comes. God prays with us as we give thanks and as we cry out in anger at the state of the world. God consoles us in our losses, and in time picks up the pieces and knits them together in a more beautiful creation than we thought possible.

"... we, the followers of Jesus, find ourselves caught up in the groaning of creation, and we discover that at the same time God the Spirit is groaning within us. **That is our vocation: to be in prayer, perhaps wordless prayer, at the point where the world is in pain.**" *N.T. Wright, God and the Pandemic*

**Wherever we are in these summer days, God is with us. Stop. Pause. Savor what beauty is given here today. This moment will not come again and God is here! Amen.**



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

## WITNESSES TO THE TRANSCENDENT

**An amazing thing happened in March.** Churches were closed but more people came to church. Millions of us were complying with shelter-in-place and physical distancing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local officials to stop the spread of the [coronavirus](#). In a matter of days our lives were completely disrupted. The places where we sheltered became our offices, classrooms, day care centers and recreational facilities. Traffic dissipated—I was tempted to leave my house and drive unimpeded up and down the Kennedy Expressway just because it was possible.

Measures to slow the spread of the disease work against in-person gatherings. Coming together for [worship](#) wasn’t possible. Maintaining 6 feet of distance between people, refraining from touching and wearing face masks aren’t conducive to corporate worship. I was in a CDC briefing that pointed out that singing was right up there with sneezing and

coughing in spreading the virus. Conventional all-together-in-the-building church was out.

So, what did we do? We found new ways of receiving the word and singing praise to God. All across this church, pastors and deacons, musicians and lay leaders created imaginative and fresh ways to worship. Virtual church, recorded church, livestreamed church happened everywhere. In parts of the country without sufficient Wi-Fi, congregations phoned each other, some on landlines. Pastors and deacons kept in contact with the people, and parishioners called each other. Worship resources to be used at home were shared. **We might have been physically distanced, but we were not spiritually or socially isolated.**

Many congregations and worship sites reported that online **attendance was up and, in some cases, exceeded average Sunday in-person participation.** People “attended” several services in a day. And we know that many attending online would never walk

into one of our churches.

***The problem comes when people confuse the sacred space with the Sacred.***

Now, before we get too excited about this new evangelism tool, we need to consider factors that may have contributed to increased attendance—no sports, no Starbucks, limited travel, convenience. This won't last forever. But the restrictions imposed by the pandemic have made it clear that people are searching for hope and meaning and love. The gospel, the good news, the reality of God's unconditional love "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" ([Romans 5:5](#)), is the message that people long to hear. **It is life for the dying, water for the parched, food for the starving, liberty for the oppressed.** God has entrusted this word, this evangelical word, to the church and has commissioned us to tell it.

People wonder what the post-COVID world and the post-COVID church will look like. No one, except God, knows for certain. Our experience with worshiping remotely has taught us at least two things: **the word of God expressed in worship, lament and praise is not irrelevant.** And people who find our congregations—the building and people—intimidating or off-putting also long to be part of a community that witnesses to the life we have in Jesus.

## WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

**Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,**  
you surround us with your compassion and your love.  
For that: **we give thanks!**

Your peace is as close to us as our own folded hands  
and bowed head. For that: **we give thanks!**

You have sustained your people through war, and  
hunger, disease and despair. **For that: we give  
thanks!**

We plead for your intervention in our world today.  
Bring hope and healing to places ravaged by covid-19.  
Sustain those who wait and watch and weep: medical  
personnel, those who are dying, those who are entrusted  
with making decisions that affect the lives of so  
many: teachers, school administrators, those who govern,  
law enforcement officers.

Bring hope through your people's renewed commitment  
to living and serving as you have called us to by

I am praying for the day when we gather again. I miss going to church. Church, including the buildings, are sacred spaces. Human beings are drawn to places where they have experienced the holy. Congregations—buildings and people—are witnesses to the transcendent.

The problem comes when people confuse the sacred space with the Sacred. **We must take care that our congregations don't become idols.** Since we have concrete evidence that people who long to hear about the life, hope and grace that comes to the world through Jesus won't come into our churches, **we need to go to them.** We have done this in creative ways and through online worship during the pandemic. Don't stop. **When we are able to return to our sacred spaces, let's make an honest assessment of the ways that our congregations are witnesses to the transcendent, places where we are nourished for the journey and then sent out to serve. Or have they become barriers to those seeking the love and freedom God has given to all people in Christ?**

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
and signed by the Council of  
Bishops of the ELCA



seeing those that are overlooked, serving those who  
have been forgotten, loving those who are despised.

Bring healing and comfort to those closest to us who  
are in need: Ray Hodge, Hank Bilderback, Alice  
Johnstone, Betty Schlaht, Lynn, Cindy & Harley,  
Isaac & his mother, Nancy, Al, Courtney, Annie,  
Jeff, Bob, Adrienne, Bud, June Bender, Andrea  
Barkstrom, Cody Walls, Carter, Susie Kalendar,  
Ginny Clark, Philip, Matthew Green and his family,  
David Shaw, Don Rabung, Whitney Morean, David  
Hanson.

You hold them and love them even more than we do.  
Your healing has restored Ella Swanson, Mike  
Barkstrom and Chris Seelke. For that: **we give  
thanks!**

When we are tempted to despair, to blame, to lash  
out in anger, remind us of your forgiveness and com-  
passion poured out for us in the death and resurrec-

tion of Jesus our brother. Still our tongues. Calm our spirits.

When we lose heart and slip into despair Your Spirit intercedes with us with sighs too deep for words.  
**For that: we give thanks!**

For all these things and for those people and situations that need healing and hope that only you know we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS:

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

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Gary & Annette Biornstad, August 3  
Hank & Gloria Bilderback, August 5  
Ken & Louise Paul, August 6  
Val Metropoulos & Steve Swanson, August 11  
Darrell & Elaine Lokken, August 12  
Mike & Moonbeam Kupka, August 14  
Rob & Kristine Burns, August 16  
Ken & Vicki Mitchell, August 18  
Gene & Eileen Schermer, August 23  
Mike & Arlene O'Connor, August 24



**Everyone** who continues to donate to the food bank.  
**Kristine Finazzo & Judi Hubbard** for doing the deposit each week.

**Kristine Finazzo & Judi Hubbard** for delivering some of the June-July newsletters.

Liturgists leading us in singing each week: **Hank Bilderback, Keith Lile, Curtis Steinhauer, and Laura Carle.**

**Everyone** who wrote letters to the men at Living Stones Prison during COVID-19.

**COVID-19 Task Force** for doing everything they can to keep us safe while we love our neighbors by staying home.

**Kathy and Diane** for making communion bread to share.

**Pastor Val** for finding a way for Amazing Grace to receive the Lord's Supper as part of their weekly Sunday services on facebook.

**Union Gospel Mission** for those of you who provide meals and for adjusting to any changes they may have in helping people stay healthy.

**Larry Murray** for keeping an eye on things so everyone is safe.

**Ken and Vicky Mitchell** thank everyone who has sent Ginny cards. She very much appreciates them. Vicky says, it helps with the loneliness.

## THANKS WE'VE RECEIVED

- **Pacific Lutheran University** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$134.23
- **Union Gospel Mission** thanks Amazing Grace for a donation of \$61.37
- I want to thank Judi Hubbard and the 4F team for delivering the 4F dinner to us. It had been a hectic, long day for us and it was very nice of her to drop the meal off to us, and we all enjoyed it! Thank you  
-Hiedi Seelke
- Dear Amazing Grace Lutheran Pastor Val & congregation,  
The Aberdeen Food Bank appreciates your monthly monetary donations-they allow us to keep our shelves stocked to serve the clients in need. We especially have, during the CoVid-19 time, been able to use all of the canned vegetables and diapers that you keep collecting. They all go out the day we get them— so you can see the continued need.  
God bless you all and thank you.  
-K Bramstedt

## SERVING AT AMAZING GRACE

### 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 of 2020 raffle.

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

**UNION GOSPEL MISSION** August 4  
Carmon Shaw, Leader Theresa Kaufman, Eileen Schermer, Arlene O'Connor, Cynthia Johnstone, Joe Fernandez, Chrissie Kincaid  
Substitutes: Hiedi Seelke, Carmon Shaw 360-532-2940



They are doing 2 seating's currently to keep the residents separate from the people coming in off the street. Residents eat at 6pm, others at 7pm. The kitchen manager, Doug, would like to have food

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](mailto:joseph.m.fernandez@gmail.com)

**Ticket sales will run from Sept. 20 through Nov. 1 the drawing will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 17.**

there at 3pm. Probably would be a good idea if the team leader calls a day ahead to confirm that your meal is coming, When you deliver, drive in to the back alley, then call the Union Gospel office at 360-533-1064 and they will come out to the back alley to carry the food in for you. (You all don't have to show up at the exact same, just call in when you get there). There will be no volunteers serving inside at this time. Contact Doug Jones (kitchen manger) by 8:30pm the night BEFORE if there are any changes.

**LIVING STONES PRISON MINISTRY**  
**Your involvement is encouraged!** You are invited to write a short (*no more than 350 words, please*) letter. A short paragraph with just a few sentences is fine. Maybe share a Bible verse that gives you hope in these days or tell where you have seen God in this time or write a prayer or reflect about a song you have heard the praise band sing. All contributions are welcome and will be

gratefully received by our men. You can sign your note with your first name or just put "brother/sister in Christ." Feel free to write more than once - since we're doing this on a weekly basis, lots of letters are needed! Please email Sandi your letter(s) as you are able. Your participation will be deeply appreciated. Sandi's email: [LivingStonesAssis-tant@outlook.com](mailto:LivingStonesAssis-tant@outlook.com)

## LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED

The Synod's **Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry** will begin a new cohort with 10 students in mid- August 2020. **Introduction to**

**PSALM (video)** <https://vimeo.com/432040971>

For more information and an application, go to <https://lutheranssw.org/leader-resources/psalm>  
OR Contact Pastor Rebecca Shjerven, Bishop's Associate at [shjervrl@plu.edu](mailto:shjervrl@plu.edu).



### FOOD BANK

continues to distribute food every Tuesday from 3-5 and signs up more families every week. They are in need of canned goods, especially corn (whole kernel) peas and green beans, and boxed macaroni and cheese. They need diapers size 4,5, & 6. If you leave donations in the fellowship hall, we'll get them to the Food Bank on Tuesdays.

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

Our 4-F drive through dinner was a huge success!!!!

Mike and Karen prepared a delicious meal of BBQ pork and fish. Eileen Schermer provided her delicious focaccia bread. Kristine, Jill, and Judi baked bread pudding and chocolate decadent desserts. Mike, Kala and Madison put the salads together. Diane shared a before meal grace.

After packaging up 96 meals, we greeted folks as they drove up.

Kala and Madison delivered meals to Lloyd Gill, Yvette Koerner, Hiedi, Chris Seelke and her Mom.

### FAMILY PROMISE

#### UPDATE:

Family Promise is very much alive and actively formulating plans to reopen. Meticulous attention to safety for staff, guests and volunteers is the top priority. Finances are strong and staff are busy interviewing prospective families.



Fellowship at tuna canning: Gene Schermer, Mike Barkstrom, John Tieder, Mike and Judi Hubbard , Roger Shaw

### FOOD BANK DROP-OFF

In order to help our Food Banks, please drop off food, diapers or other items at the parish hall at Amazing Grace Tuesday or Thursday between 8-1. There's a box outside the office you can put your donations in, unless it's raining, in which case, Vicky can let you into the parish hall.

We raised \$1845!!! That was without a raffle and wine sales. We even had a few tips that went to the grand total!

We thank Thrivent Financial for the Action Card that paid for the food.

Beatte provided one of her beautiful bags as a door prize, Bruce Worth was the lucky winner.

**Our 10% tithe will be equally divided among The Salvation Army Food Bank, Altrusa and Lutheran World Relief.**

We thank all of you for supporting this drive-through event. It was great to see smiles in the eyes above the masks !! Your 4-F team



We will notify you as soon as we have more detailed information.

Please keep this program in your prayers.

Thank you!!

Suzan and Carmon

**No in-person gatherings including Sunday morning worship until further notice. The task force will meet again August 19th to reassess the situation.** We continue to be guided by guidelines from the CDC, The State of WA, The ELCA and the SWWA Synod.

## 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.

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?**

## ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Thank you for your faithful giving for the mission and ministry at and through Amazing Grace! Our website now has an online giving option using your credit/debit card or bank accounts. Please visit our website: <https://www.amazinggraceaberdeem.org/giving> While you're there check out the daily devotions, the newsletter, photos and lots more information about Amazing Grace. As always, you may mail in your tithe or drop it in the mail slot at the office.

## HEALTHY COMMUNICATION IN TOUGH TIMES

Healthy communication is important in the best of times. Throw in a pandemic and political turmoil and things can get messy. In the church we are especially careful to express our love for each other and for all our neighbors by practicing healthy communication skills. Some basics that are helpful in all relationships include the following.

- Everyone speaks for themselves. Each of us needs to take responsibility for expressing our own feelings or concerns.
- When there is a concern, we go directly to the person involved. Honest, direct, loving communication is the basis of all healthy relationships.
- If the concern is not resolved after direct communication, we ask a neutral person to join us in that conversation for the sake of understanding and healing.
- We avoid triangulation. Triangulation occurs when one person does not communicate directly with another person, instead using a third person to relay communication to the second. Triangulation distorts relationships and makes clear communication difficult.
- We pray for each other trusting that God loves us all and in prayer can heal our hurts and restore relationships.



Kala Winter delivering a 4F meal to Loyd Gill.

## COUNCIL MEETING CHANGES

As we continue to adapt to a changing world, your church council has found new ways to meet and continue its' work, concisely stated as: ensuring that **“the purpose of the church is fulfilled (Love God and Love Neighbor) and managing the property and finances of the congregation so that purpose #1 can be fulfilled.”**

We have found Zoom meetings to be useful but exhausting and challenging. So, we divided the work of council into two parts: Mission and Administration. The first council meeting each month, on the second Tuesday we focus on the mission of the church., hearing reports from ministry leaders and addressing mission needs. The second council meeting each month, on the fourth Tuesday focuses on administrative responsibilities, including financial, hearing reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. Each meeting is scheduled to last one hour. We do our best to stay within that hour, honoring the reality of the stress and exhaustion many of us are feeling during this time.

In addition to those changes we do as much of the work ahead of time as possible, communicating via email, submitting reports far in advance so there is time for questions to be answered before we meet.

As has always been the case, congregation members are invited to join council meetings. If you have an agenda item you want included at the meeting or if you would like to sit in on a meeting, send those requests to council president, Joelle Buckman. She can be reached at: joelle\_buckman@email.com or 360.589.6111. Please submit those requests far enough in advance that she can determine at which meeting they would be most appropriate.

Zoom meetings require a link which must be kept secure to avoid being “zoom bombed.” (I know! For every new technology there a new way to make things difficult. Zoom bombing is when unwanted people join the meeting sometimes flooding it with inappropriate or disturbing photos or video.) Joelle will provide you with that link so you can join the meeting. There will be time at the end for you to comment if you wish to do that. Council members are always available to answer questions. Their contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

**Please pray for your church leadership, including Pastor Val.** These times are challenging for all of us. The leadership of the church feels that challenge personally as well as the need to faithfully listen to God’s Spirit leading the church into an unknown future.

### Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Mission Council Meeting Minutes-Zoom June 9, 2020

**Attendance:** Mike Barkstrom, Joelle Buckman, Curtis Steinhauer, Pastor Val, Phil Stegemoeller, Judi Hubbard,

I. Call to Order by Pres. Joelle Buckman 5:37

II. Prayers/Devotions- Pastor Val

III. Establish Quorum

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

-added under property-Dumpster

**V. Business Items** (these are generally items that are beyond any one ministry or don’t fit under any ministry, special request from the community.)

A. Mutual Ministry Update- Joelle

-This group is also working with the 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations.

B. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative- Pastor Val/Curtis

-The Synod is continuing to get more congregations to identify property that they own that and would be willing to have as part of this initiative. They have asked two builder groups (Blockable & Building Changes) to look at each of the properties to see if they are feasible.

**VI. Ministry Reports**

A. Worship-Dee Erickson and Pastor Val

1. Resuming in-person worship Task Force- report

-Task force will be meeting weekly. Val has contacted the Governor and the Synod about what Phase 3 requirements are. Task force proposal and all supporting information will be sent to the congregation. **M/S/P.**



B. Outreach- Amy Ostwald

1. Porta-Potty Ministry-Pastor Val and Curtis

-Pastor Val and Curtis are keeping an eye on the area around the porta potties. Pastor Val has been in contact with Sarah who says it has been a great service to the community. We based the decision to make these available on our values and mission and that continues to guide us.

2. Family Promise

-Charles is currently planning on not opening for regular service until the church has in-person worship. Charles will give Pastor Val a couple of weeks' notice about Family Promise's plans, so Pastor Val can let Sarah know (porta-potties will be removed at this time).

3. Love our Neighbor Fund

-CCAP is overwhelmed right now with work. Waiting for the go ahead from CCAP. Pastor Val and other Pastors are looking at other options.

4. Chaplains dinner

-Great success. It was appreciated. Looking forward to doing it again.

C. PSALM report- Joelle and Pastor Val

-All 5 participants are wrapping up the two years of the program. More to follow with what they have learned and how they will use that in the congregation. No new applications for the next class yet.

D. Youth and Family- Curtis Steinhauer

1. Confirmation- Pastor Val

-Continues to meet ½ hour each week.

2. Adult group study- Manna and Mercy

E. Fellowship- Judi

-91 dinners that the 4-F crew is serving tomorrow.

-Kristine and Judi delivered some newsletters last month; they will continue to do that for as long as need.

F. Property- Mike

1. Sunday School room

-There are 3 colors of paint on the wall to decide which one to use.

What should our next project be after roof is funded?

-Mike has plans to repair the stained-glass windows in the church. The last estimate for a section of the windows was around \$130,000. Can do it in smaller sections. Mike has been in contact with several people for more bids but has not heard back.

Pastor Val proposed that one project could be upgrading audio and video capabilities so that we are well prepared to continue online worship even when we resume in-person worship.

All proposals for the next phase of fundraising is invited to submit a proposal to council.

Let our mission and values be our guide to our property expenditures as they are for everything in the church.

2. Dumpster

-Mike described a problem that has arisen with people getting trash out of our dumpster. There are several options to lock it. It was decided that we would monitor the situation and revisit it later.

3. Property Manager responsibilities

-The property manager needs to inform the council of all new maintenance projects. Normal repairs such as painting after repairs, replacement of in-kind materials, and other standard maintenance/wear and tear projects do not need council approval. However these repairs should be noted and be part of the property managers report.

Council approval is required for all projects that exceed a \$ 750.00 estimate.

Emergency repairs can begin at the discretion of the property manager.

Closing prayer- 7:00pm

**TASKS**

-Pastor Val will get Judi an old version of the book

-Pastor Val will send out the 4 reports with the Grace Notes.

-Judi will look out for ideas in current devotions book about any suggestions on how to help with why people are not coming back for worship

-Council will read chapter 2 in the 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations and talk about it at the Financial meeting on June 23. Each ministry team leader will focus on how it applies to their area of ministry.

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes- Administrative Meeting  
June 23, 2020**

*Vision:* A welcoming place where grace happens.

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

*Values:* Radical Hospitality; Passionate worship; Intentional faith development; Risk-taking mission and service; Extravagant Generosity.

Attendance: Theresa Kaufman, Judi Hubbard, Phil Stegemoeller, Mike Barkstrom, Amy Ostwald, Curtis-Steinhauer, Joelle Buckman, Pastor Val

- I. Call to Order Joelle Buckman 5:43pm
  - II. Prayer and Devotions- 5 Practices will be done at the end of the meeting. Topic of conversation was about radical hospitality.
  - III. Establish Quorum
  - IV. Review and Approve Agenda
  - V. Review, correct and final approval of minutes for last meeting. Will review and approve the June and May financial minutes during next meeting.
  - VI. **Financial Reports**
    - A. Treasurer's Report – Theresa Kaufman
      - Fundraising checking account is still open. Changes will be made by removing Mark and adding Curtis and closing the account. The money will be moved into maintenance checking.
      - Memorial donations that are not designated for any particular project will be deposited into the Memorial Fund.
      - Bills to be paid **M/S/P**
    - B. Financial Secretary's Report – Phil Stegemoeller
      1. New Program for financial secretary
        - A new program for the financial secretary may have been found. Phil will put together a summary and provide a demo and send out to council members.
- 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. Fundraising updates
    - The 4-F dinner that was on June 10<sup>th</sup> raised \$1,845 and served 97 meals.
- other Business –
- Keith Lile is putting together a proposal for audio/video equipment needed to make livestream worship possible when we go back to in-person worship. We will discuss that when completed.
  - Amy will look into replacing the banner that was on the building but has disappeared.

**Tasks**

- Anyone that has questions or input regarding audio/video improvements, should let Pastor Val know.
- Phil will have Vicky send out the annual/monthly summary sheet to council members.
- Theresa will ask council members who is available for check signing.
- Amy and Joelle will number the pages on Theresa's reports.

Adjournment and closing prayer 6:43pm

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church  
Mission Council Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2020**

**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.

**As Church Council, we 1. Ensure that the purpose of the church is fulfilled (Love God and Love Neighbor) and 2. Manage the property and finances of the congregation so that purpose #1 can be fulfilled.**

**Guests:** William Rabung, Keith Lile

**Attendance:** Joelle Buckman, Pastor Val, Mike Barkstrom, Judi Hubbard, Theresa Kaufman, Amy Ostwald,

Dee Erickson

- I. Call to Order Joelle Buckman 5:33
- II. Prayer and Devotions – 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations – Chapter 3 (postponed)  
Council continues to discuss the importance of healthy communication for the health of the congregation. We strive to use Biblical principles for resolving difference, especially in times of high anxiety such as what we are currently experiencing. Those Biblical principles include taking concerns directly to the person involved. If resolution cannot be achieved, a third, neutral person, is asked to join the discussion.  
We do not spread rumors and we do not talk about anyone’s concerns but our own.
- III. Establish Quorum
- IV. Review and Approve Agenda  
-Report from Keith Lile (A) and Request from William Rabung (B) were moved under business items.  
-Letter from Judi will be under fellowship.
- V. **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. Request from William Rabung and school district  
William asked council if children in the school district could use the church’s wi-fi and the use of the fellowship hall to access the internet to do homework.  
-Motion to further explore the possibility of allowing Aberdeen school district students to use our facility after school as long as the criteria of cleanliness and social distancing are met. **M/S/P**  
William will take this motion back to the district and see what details need to be worked out from that point.
  - B. Report from Keith Lile on upgrading audio/video capabilities to enable livestream and in-person worship to happen simultaneously  
-Scope of Proposed project. Installing an effective WiFi system in the Sanctuary and equipment acquired that will enable AGLC to stream our church services live.  
-Motion to move forward with steps 1 (Bringing WiFi into the sanctuary) and 2 (Fabricate or acquire a secure work and storage station for new and existing equipment) and apply for a synod grant. **M/S/P**
  - C. Mutual Ministry Update – Joelle  
-Meeting and reading 5 Practices.
  - D. Synod Affordable Housing Initiative – Pastor Val/Curtis  
-Proceeding along and Blockable is about ready to hand in their report.
- VI. **Ministry Reports**
  - A. Worship – Dee Erickson and Pastor Val
    1. Resuming in-person worship Task Force – report  
-Continues to meet once a week following guidance of CDC, WA state, SWWA Synod and the ELCA. The Task force continues to agree that worship and other activities will not be conducted in person.
    2. Dear Church book study - meets Thursdays at 6 on Zoom; books are available.
  - B. Outreach – Amy Ostwald
    1. .Porta-Potty Ministry - Pastor Val and Curtis  
-Continues to monitor the space and replace signs when taken down.
    2. Family Promise  
-Pastor Val talked with Charles and they don’t have anyone in the program at this point. Charles will let council know when they have a family to host.
    3. Love Our Neighbor Fund – Friend in Need  
-Pastor Val asked council to consider using the Friend in Need fund as a pass through for funds collected for people in need as a result of job loss, or other needs due to Covid-19. Council will discuss at next administrative meeting.
    4. Chaplains dinner-  
-Chaplains on the Harbor is looking for a new location to host their Sunday meals on Sundays from 2-6pm for around 100+ people. This will be discussed by the Task Force and they will make a recommendation to council before the next meeting.
  - C. PSALM report – Joelle & Pastor Val

-5 participants are graduating from the PSALM program. They will have a Zoom celebration in August. Applications for the new cohort of PSALM will be received until mid-August.

D. Youth & Family – Curtis Steinhauer

1. Confirmation – Pastor Val
2. Adult group study – Dear Church Thurs. 6pm
3. Morning Prayer – Thurs 10am

E. Fellowship – Judi Hubbard

-Judi Hubbard resigned, deciding not to fill out the remainder of her term on council. Her work and dedication were acknowledged and appreciation expressed by everyone on council.

F. Property – Mike Barkstrom

-Sunday School room- Mike proposed it be changed to a multi-purpose room. Will talk about at next meeting.

1. Discerning and funding mission and ministry – Stewardship based on AGLC’s mission and values  
-Think about other projects that would enhance the physical property in accordance with the mission of the church.

Pastor’s Report

Task Assignments

- Judi and Mike will work together with William on request from the school district.
  - Pastor Val will apply for the grant for the technology project.
  - Task force will discuss the request from Chaplains to host their Sunday Dinner.
  - Joelle will put Fireside Sunday school room on the Agenda
- Adjournment and closing prayer 7:05

## JUNE BALANCES OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Name	Date	Total
Checking		\$ 16,720.15
-PSALM		\$ 954.00
-Caring Cupboard		\$ 433.51
-Pastor's Sabbatical Reserve		\$ 2,620.00
-Music		\$ (13.54)
-Bells		\$ 465.95
-Friends in Need		\$ 475.04
-Reformation Fund		\$ 1,071.20
-Outreach Funds		\$ 500.00
-Altar Restore		\$ 386.83
-Altar Guild		\$ 367.00
-Noisy Offering		\$ -
-Family Promise Maintenance Holding		\$ 1,700.00
-Grace Fund		\$ 340.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 26,020.14</b>
Fundraising Checking		\$ -
Maintenance Checking		\$ 22,459.58
-Roof		\$ 22,179.29
Youth Checking		\$ 295.75
Memorial Savings		\$ 3,087.78
Mikkel Thompson Savings		\$ 1,907.82



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	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

[amazinggraceaberdeen.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeen.org)

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

Pastor Val Metropoulos-(360) 580-8977

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

**Office Administrator:** Vicky Kolb

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

**Musicians:** Kristine Burns, Heidi Seelke



Judi Hubbard delivers 4F meals.



**Please join us for worship  
Sundays at 10am on our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Amazing-Grace-Lutheran-Church-114570725233786/>**

**Or anytime at: [amazinggraceaberdeen.org](http://amazinggraceaberdeen.org)  
*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

Aberdeen, WA 98520

360.532.8250

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

[www.amazinggraceaberdeen.org](http://www.amazinggraceaberdeen.org)



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE