

GROWING IN

Grace

July 2025

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Thoughts from Pr. Malcolm,

July 2025

Part 1; Part 2 will be in August's Growing in Grace Newsletter

As the weather is getting warmer and I spend time with my grandchildren outdoors, and as they anticipate their summer vacation time, I am reminded that as a child how wonder filled and extraordinary summer always was. This time with them gives me hope and I begin to see their world of wonder and excitement. If you have lost some of this wonder yourself, I invite you in these next months to take a child into the wonders of God's creation. Watch them play and live in God's grace and his unfailing faithfulness that surrounds you from the warmth of the summer sun on your face to the squeals of a summer parade.

The long green season of Pentecost after Holy Trinity Sunday (June 12th), the longest season of the church year, is often called ordinary time and yet in Luke's Gospel, we will hear great, not so ordinary, but extraordinary, stories of Jesus and his teachings. We will hear stories that will remind us of the relationship of Jesus' life in our lives today, life on life, living daily as baptized, forgiven, blessed, gifted, and named as beloved children by God. We will grow and learn and be challenged through the scriptures to become good neighbors and be a blessing to them. No, not so ordinary time indeed!

My dear siblings, **Breathe Deep!** Breathe in the living breath of the living God who has been faithful through the years, continues to be faithful today, and will continue to be faithful tomorrow and forever. Have some Holy play-time and Holy laughter. Trust and believe that God is leading and guiding us to be sign of love, hope, healing, wonder, mercy, and grace.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "**make yourself necessary to someone.**" In a chaotic world, friendship (love) is the most elegant, most lasting way to be useful. We are, each of us, a living testament to our friends; compassion and tolerance, humor and wisdom, patience and grit. Be the person who listens, who has genuine conversation with others. Be the person who loves others with their whole heart, soul, and mind. By truly loving another, you become necessary to them. So go out and love others boldly. In doing so, you will make yourself necessary in their lives.

Friendship, not technology, is the only thing capable of showing us the enormity of the world. May God's abundant grace and love bring you wonder and awe, and may the gift of family and friends bring you love and grace in these summer months!

May you be blessed, find wonder and bliss in our world and in your world, in the midst of your life this summer.

Peace, love, hope and grace,

Pr Malcolm



2025 UNITED IN GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Officers:

Council Chair: Michael Gore - goremw@msn.com
 Council Co-Chair: Ben Ault - bendieseldx@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Valarie Cole - valariejcole@gmail.com
 Secretary: Christine Coco - christinecoco@live.com

Committee Chairpersons:

Finance: Gwen Paietta - gwenpaietta@gmail.com
 Worship: Nancy Franke - nfranke@comcast.net
 Facilities: Perry Cole - perrycole58@gmail.com
 Congregation Life: Jasmine Ray-Symms - jasisymms@outlook.com
 Mission & Outreach: Jay Morgan - j.morgan40@gmail.com
 Staff & Parish Relations: Rebekah Jones- Kirby - Shinediva@gmail.com

Council Meetings are typically held on the second Sunday of the month. Congregation members are welcome to attend any regularly scheduled meeting.

A WEDDING AND MEMORIAL SERVICE AT UIG

Greetings everyone –

July is here already!

Last month we held a memorial service for Sandy Bloor, a long time Methodist member, and a wedding for our custodian Natalya's youngest son Vitaly and his Bride Lettie, in our church. This is something that we do for members of the church and the public, if asked, at United in Grace, just as we did when both Morning Star Lutheran and Monroe Methodist were separate churches. It's always been important for the church to offer these services, and, in fact, is one of the main reasons that those that have a home church, keep coming – so that they have a connection to a church when the need arises for a baptism, wedding or, most importantly to many, a memorial service for themselves or members of their families. It is both a comfort and a connection to all who have considered our church their "home" church, to know that their church and their church family, will be there to volunteer their time, their plates of home-made cookies and their memories and stories, especially at the passing of a loved one.

Now that we are United in Grace, it is time to make a new outline of what the church can offer, and any costs associated with it, so that this information can be given to members or family members, to help in the planning of any kind of special service at UIG. This always starts with a call to Kathi, our Administrative Assistant, and consultation with the pastor, then a meeting with the Service Coordinator for the actual service and everything that will happen in the sanctuary. Right now that's me – if anyone is interested in helping me with this, please let me know 😊), and if there will be a reception downstairs, with Allene Zanger, who is the current Reception Coordinator. All of these written policies, and a list of questions to ask to get needed information, will be updated, to make any special event at UIG, clearly understood, easy for volunteers to carry through with, and ease the stress of those planning the event. This is a sacred task for all who are involved, and a further mission of love and service that your church provides, and I know one that God smiles on. 😊

Look for the new council approved policy to be available in coming months. If you have any comments or suggestions for what might be helpful to be included in the procedures or policies for any wedding or memorial service held in the church, feel free to let me know at nfranke@comcast.net.

See you in church!

Nancy Franke
 Worship Chairperson

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

We have been invited by “Hope for Youth International”, to provide home placement for three international high school students, 16 & 17 years old, one from Liberia, one from Italy and one from Spain. They are on student visas for one school year, arriving in August. They were previously placed but the placements didn’t work out because of host family difficulties. If you have an interest in hosting, or know someone who might, please let me know and I will provide you with all the details.

Jay Morgan
Mission & Outreach

TREASURER REPORT FOR JULY NEWSLETTER

Below are the financials for United in Grace Church for May. The Faith Foundation Cash Reserve Loan fund, in the amount of \$814.64, was transferred to our general checking account. This closed the Cash Reserve Loan Fund. The Faith Foundation Pastoral Housing account had \$3,500.00 taken out, leaving a balance of \$300.48. The balance of this account will be transferred to our general checking account in July, closing the account.

MAY FINANCIALS:

General Fund			
Income			
	General Fund	\$ 12,906.00	
	Hazel's Pantry	\$ 243.00	
	Capital Fund transfer	\$ 4,314.64	
Total Income			\$ 17,463.64
Expenses			
	General Fund	\$ 16,700.00	
	Hazel's Pantry	\$ 455.00	
Total Expenses			\$ 17,155.00
Ahead/Behind			\$ 308.64
Brown Bag Brigade			
	Income	\$ 243.00	
	Expenses	\$ -	
Ahead/Behind			\$ 243.00

Valarie J Cole

Treasurer, United in Grace Church
(206) 817-4799

PICNIC AT FLOWING LAKE - SUNDAY, JULY 27, 11:30



Want a chance to enjoy a beautiful outdoor lake area, eat good food and indulge in summer games? Join us for the first annual picnic from 11:30 to . . . Bring a potluck along with your friends and family (a beautiful new playground has just been built). The covered shelter is close by the bathroom and accessible to anyone with mobility concerns. You may also want to swim or walk on one of the trails.

\$10 covers parking. If you'd like to carpool, contact Susan Slate 206-473-2950 or Allene Zanger 703-298-6825. Flowing lake address: 17900 48th St SE, Snohomish, 98290 about 20 minutes from the church.

Seize the day to visit with your fellow pew mates and friends. Sign up sheet in the entryway.

**UNITED WOMEN IN GRACE SUMMER POTLUCK
SATURDAY JULY 12 - 12PM**

Women of United in Grace! We've taken the summer off for meetings, but we still want to have fun and check in with old friends and new friends. United Women in Grace will be having a potluck at Jasmine Ray-Symms' house Saturday, July 12th at noon. All women are welcome! Address and phone are in the directory.

Questions? Reach out to Jasmine, Christine or Kaitlyn.



Children's Ministry volunteers will be meeting July 20th after church in the Fellowship Hall. If you're interested in ministering to our youngest members, please attend. We will be discussing the requirements for volunteering: background checks, Ministry Safe trainings and CPR trainings. Questions or regrets? See Missy or Peter Maxson.

On **Thursday July 24th**, you are invited to have **Thursday Lunch** with other church members at the Monroe Senior Center. Please meet at the Senior Center located at 276 Sky River Pkwy at 11:45 am. Lunch is only \$5 per person.



If you need transportation, please contact Susan Slate or Allene

SPECIAL SUNDAYS FOR OUR FOOD MINISTRIES

BROWN BAG SUNDAY: JULY 13 - HAZEL'S LITTLE FREE PANTRY SUNDAY: JULY 27

Special emphasis is given and financial offerings are accepted for these important ministries on these days. Specially marked envelopes are found in the backs of the pews and on the Greeters desk on Sunday morning.

GOD IS LOVE

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us.” 1 John 4:10a

The Christian calling to love is the hallmark of a faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes we forget and think God’s love starts with us but really, it’s always about Him. We serve an awesome God. A capable God. He is able to take all our pain, all our confusion and reorients us to a place of love. When we struggle to love ourselves, he loves us. When we struggle to love others, He reminds us that our love for others starts with Him. When we are hurt by the world and want to hide, He reminds us that we are not alone. We are not living alone. We are living with a God who loves us more than we can imagine. He is our source of strength when we want to give up. He loves us so that we can love all His children.



It can be hard to feel God’s love. Life can be hard. The paycheck doesn’t cover all the bills despite our hard work. The loneliness creeps in when we feel disconnected from others. Drug or alcohol abuse robs the family of a child, a spouse, a friend. A medical crisis breeds fear of an unknown future. As we face hit after hit, as we cry out to God over and over. As we are met with what feels like silence, it is so hard to trust that God is with us, loving us, guiding us but we can WE CAN!

It can be hard to love others. We live in divisive times when it’s easy to hate those that hate us and those like us. But God gives love to unite us. We come together to show the love that God offers even when it’s not received.

This is love. God’s love is perfect and it’s not shallow. It doesn’t just exist in the easy times. It’s not getting dressed up for Sunday services. It’s the 2am call from a worried mom. It’s dropping to your knees, begging God to intervene in the painful areas of life. God’s love is deep and HE LOVES US! We don’t earn that love; we receive it. He doesn’t love us because of what we do. He loves us because that’s who HE is. God is LOVE!

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:9-10

Jasmine Ray-Symms

www.jasmineraysymms.com

Photo by [Michael Fenton](#) on [Unsplash](#)

JULY SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

There are a few opportunities to serve this month. Stop by the Volunteer desk in the narthex to sign-up.

	JULY 6 4 TH PENTECOST	JULY 13 5 TH PENTECOST	JULY 20 6 TH PENTECOST	JULY 27 7 TH PENTECOST
Worship Asst.	Christine Coco	Nancy Franke	Missy Maxson	
Greeters	Denny & Diana Coates	Perry & Valarie Cole	Brian & Lori Johnson	
Ushers	Denny & Diana Coates	Perry & Valarie Cole	Susan Slate	Michael Gore
Acolyte	Ric Hart	Ric Hart	Valarie Cole	Ric Hart
Reader	Ric Hart	Jasmine Ray-Symms	Christine Coco	Missy Maxson
Comm. Prep.		Susan Slate	Harriet Barr	
Serve Comm.	Nancy Franke Jasmine Ray-Symms	Joel & JoLynn Garrison	Brian & Lori Johnson	Christine Coco
Coffee Hour	Rebekah Jones-Kirby	Christine Coco	Pamela Gore	Missy Maxson
Altar Flowers	Rebekah Jones-Kirby	JoLynn Garrison	Jill Sumpter	
Soundboard	Kathi Cooley	Rebekah Jones-Kirby	Kathi Cooley	



July and August

From [The Spirit](#) is a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA.

I thank you for calling me to a second term as bishop. I am honored and to be on this journey with you all. Below is a shortened version of the speech I gave during our last Synod Assembly.

Beloveds in Christ, there’s a lot happening in our world. You know this. And it’s easy to get overwhelmed or discouraged. But let me say this clearly: ***There is no better time than now to be the church.*** The world is complex and the work before us might be at times frustrating and messy and hard. And yet, I truly believe that in this complicated moment in time, for the sake of every beloved child of God, we are called to be the church of Jesus Christ.

And Christ is calling us for this moment – not to fear, but to love. Not to look backward, but forward. Not to hide, but to hope. Not to retreat, but to rise. Not to hate, but to love. Now is the time. Rooted in God’s presence and promise through Jesus the risen Christ - now is the time to stand in courage and truth. ***There is no better time than now to be the church.***

Six years ago, when you called me to serve as your bishop, I promised – through the power of the Holy Spirit – that together we would focus on four things:

1. We would walk alongside both traditional congregations and new ministries – honoring sacred practices while also innovating.
2. We would deepen lay leadership across the synod – building richer, more vibrant communities of faith.
3. We would strengthen relationships with our ecumenical and interfaith partners.
4. We would listen to and lift up the diverse voices around us and amongst us – especially those who have long been silenced or marginalized.

In these last six years we have made great strides in all of these four areas. We haven’t always been perfect. We have learned, reflected, and grown. And yet, even through COVID and all the challenges and complexities that have come in these six years, by the Spirit’s breath and power, we are practicing these things together. Thanks be to God!

Now, in these days and as we look ahead to the next six years, I feel the Spirit calling us to something more. Let us be the church that publicly leads in love.

- In a time of rising hate speech, we are called to speak boldly – in love.
- As Christian nationalism distorts our faith, we are called to publicly resist – in love.
- When people are erased or excluded, we are called to uphold every person’s dignity and act for justice - in love.

Above all things, through all things, in everything we do and say, we are called to live and move and breathe in Christ’s love and, in this love, love every person – even those we are tempted to call our enemies. For we hold the promise that no matter what comes, Jesus Christ who died and is risen lives and moves and breathes in

us. And Christ calls us not to fear, not to hate, but to love – to radically love.

I look forward to partnering with you for the next six years. I am grateful to be church together. For truly, we are chosen, forgiven, gathered and sent in Christ’s name and love for the sake of the world. Beloveds in Christ, let us show the world what it means to love in Christ. For there is ***no better time than now to be the church.***

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



IS THE GREAT OUTDOORS ONE OF YOUR HOLY PLACES?

You might want to explore the Wild Church Movement. *Grace in the Wild* centers around about 40 minutes of solo time to connect with God in creation — through wandering or stillness. It’s a form of outdoor worship that invites us to slow down, listen, and experience the sacredness of the earth.

We hope you’ll join us for this time of reflection and connection on **Saturday, July 26**, at **10:00am**, meeting at the north entrance of Lord Hill Park.

Questions? Contact Kathi Cooley or Kathleen Sallee.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries*

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 5 Kathleen Sallee | 20 Bryce Cooley |
| 11 Shannon Burke | 23 Mike & Rebekah Kirby* |
| 15 Leslie Geer | 25 Dorothy Ames |

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE JUNE 2025
 In Person: 36 Online Views: 10

July 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
			12:30pm Refit Class in Fellowship Hall			
6 10 Worship 4TH PENTECOST	7	8 Pr. Malcolm Vacation	9 12:30pm Refit Class in Fellowship Hall Pr. Malcolm Vacation	10 Pr. Malcolm Vacation	11 Pr. Malcolm Vacation	12 UIG Potluck 12pm @ Jasmine Ray -Symms home Pr. Malcolm Vacation
13 <i>Brown Bag Sunday</i> 10 Worship Pr. Kristy Daniels preach and preside 11:15 Council Mtg. 5TH PENTECOST	14 Pr. Malcolm Vacation	15	16 12:30pm Refit Class in Fellowship Hall	17	18	19
20 10 Worship 11:15 Children’s Ministry Meeting 6TH PENTECOST	21	22	23 12:30pm Refit Class in Fellowship Hall	24 11:45 am Senior Lunch @ Monroe Sen. Center	25	26 10am Grace in the Wild @ Lord Hill Park N.
27 <i>Hazel’s Little Free Pantry Sunday</i> 10 Worship 11:30 Potluck Picnic 7TH PENTECOST	28	29 Pr. Malcolm Vacation	30 12:30pm Refit Class in Fellowship Hall Pr. Malcolm Vacation	31 Pr. Malcolm Vacation		



LOOKING AHEAD THIS MONTH:

- * **UWG Potluck**
Saturday, the 12th at 12pm @ Jasmine Ray-Symms' Home
- * **Church Council Meeting**
Sunday the 13th at 11:15am in the office
- * **Senior Lunch**
Thursday the 24th at 11:45am @ the Monroe Senior Center
- * **Grace in the Wild**
Saturday the 26th at 10am @ Lord's Hill Park north entrance
- * **Potluck Picnic**
Sunday the 27th at 11:30am @ Flowing Lake Park

July 6: 4th Pentecost ~ Scripture: Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13: 5th Pentecost ~ Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 20: 6th Pentecost ~ Scripture: Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 27: 7th Pentecost ~ Scripture: Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]; Luke 11:1-13

CONTACT US:

Pastor Malcolm Brown

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Music Director: Jill Sumpter

Livestream Editor: Bryce Cooley

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10:00 SUNDAY MORNINGS IN-PERSON
AND LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE



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