

Amazing Grace

March , 2017

Volume 36, Issue # 03



Our mission to the Inland Empire is to be **heralds of the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ, healers to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and upholders of God's will and Word.**

My Beloved,

March begins with Ash Wednesday. It is March 1st this year! That is the start to Lent, the season where the shadows actually lengthen, for the days grow longer. The shadow cast on my sin is longer as the bright light of Jesus and His gift for me, of His blood and righteousness shines brighter. It always takes light to cast a shadow.

As we reflect upon our sin we see more than just how bad or incomplete, yes, how sinful we are. Every false religion can see that. They know the need but not the cure. They offer band-aides and snake-oil for a cancer unto death. They offer the sleight-of-hand that wants to re-direct from the real need. That is why I love the Lenten Season. Here we focus on our sinfulness, our need. We also see God's answer to our need, we see Jesus! As we see Him our true need grows more clear to us. We can do nothing to save ourselves. Nothing!

Yet in our state of being lost and knowing we are utterly without any human prop or aid, we have the Man of Sorrows, we have the God who would not let our need, our death, our sin to have the last word. As Pastor Daniel joins with me in proclaiming this Jesus there is one truth greater than your need, your sin. That is Jesus! We come to church, yes, because of our need. But in point of fact, we come to Church because of Jesus. Behold what He has done!

NKJ Hebrews 12:2, [Let us be] looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Because of Jesus, Amen – with all my love, **Pastor Eric**

FROM PASTOR DANIEL

Dear Grace,

First and foremost I want to thank everyone for the support, prayers, and gifts you have given me and my family. I also want to specifically thank all of the people that put in hard work through their gifts and talents at my ordination. It was beautiful and I will always remember it. We are continually blown away at the loving kindness this family here at Grace continues to give. I am truly humbled to be a shepherd of a small but mighty people. I look forward with great joy to sharing Word and Sacrament with all of you.

Lent is right around the corner! During Lent many people give up something that they like. A lot of these people exclaim or share what they are giving up. It many times gives

off the vibe “Look what I am doing for the Lord.” Lent does not mean we must give up something. Lent is the time we specifically focus on the fact that “all men begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with concupiscence; and this disease, or vice of origin, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal death upon those born again through Baptism and the Holy Ghost.” (AC II). The fact is we are born in death and there are no redeeming qualities that we possess. “Men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith,” (AC IV). Lent is the time to understand that we bring nothing to the table, our works do not matter, but our complete emptiness has been completely filled by Christ. For example, in our liturgy we say “We lift our hearts to the Lord” this is not an action on our part as if we could actually lift our hearts, but this is the recognition that our salvation is completely dependent on the Good Shepherd because we are bad sheep. Therefore, this Lent if you want to give something up, give it up because you know that the Lord has done everything and accomplished everything for you. The focus during the Lenten season is not our actions, but the fact that our actions lead us to hell, and it is by His action that He has redeemed these stone hearts and made them alive by His Word and Sacraments.

Yours in the Lord, **Pastor Daniel**

FROM RON

Dear Grace Family,

Praise God, Grace Lutheran church is alive and well! Our heavenly Father has this family in His hands. What a joyous occasion we had on Sunday February 12th - Pastor Daniel's ordination! It was a beautiful service of love. I want to thank all involved, for your love / prayers and service, for this blessed event. Over 160 people attended the ceremony and the reception that followed. As we go forward, Pastor's Eric and Daniel, will be working together, to serve this congregation. We are so very thankful for their love and service to us all. I know I speak for all of us, that we will be praying – continually for not only them, but their families.

In Jesus's Name, **Ron**

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

DARING DINERS

The date for the next Daring Diners will be Saturday, March 18th, 5 pm, here at Grace. It will be our Deficit Reduction Daring Diners. The 'daring' part will be that you will dine on the best that the men of Grace have to offer. So far, we will serve Chicken Cordon Bleu, grilled pork chops, grilled top sirloins, baked potatoes and other dishes yet to be determined. We will have a full menu on March 5th along with a suggested donation per meal.

Since only two of the men have stepped up to advise us of their specialties, I am asking the ladies to let me know their favorite dish to prepare so I can post the menu on time. Side dishes, salads, and desserts are acceptable items.

Dining at Grace will be an opportunity to support our church as the proceeds will go towards reducing our budget deficit, rather than have our dollars go to a restaurant that may not offer us a discount or rebate as a fundraiser. This 'dining' will be our first alternative to Daring Diners, and we will resume our regular program next time.

66ers BASEBALL-FAITH-N-FAMILY NIGHT:

The date is Friday, May 19th. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex so please sign up by April 30th. To insure a seat for your group. Indicate how many tickets you will need. Last year close to 30 of us enjoyed the fun-filled evening.

ST. PADDY'S DAY LUNCHEON/POTLUCK...

is cancelled this year due to conflict with Daring Diners so close.

RUN WHATCHA BRUNG RIALTO CAR SHOW:

The car show will be held Friday and Saturday, May 19th and 20th this year. It will be an opportunity for Grace to have a booth at this event to invite those who stop by the booth to come to Grace. Volunteers will be needed to staff the booth as the event runs from 7 pm to 3:30 pm on Saturday. I'll confirm what the booth fee is for a non-profit information booth.

RIALTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

I joined in December on behalf of Grace, they have had only one event, a Christmas gathering of food for a luncheon. Bu nothing since. They should be having a luncheon once each month which I will try to attend.

Joe Guerra, Evangelism

Sunday School

Thank you to Kim Franzen for volunteering to teach Sunday School for February and March. Sign ups for April and May and Summer Sunday School will be in the narthex.

PALM SUNDAY, April 9th

- Resurrection Egg Hunt

EASTER SUNDAY

- April 16th - Traditional egg hunt and Easter Bags/Baskets. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for basket donations.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- Looking at third week in June (19 -23rd) or 4th week in July (24 - 28). Stay tuned for further information see **Kathy Holm**.

STEWARDSHIP -

Pastor Bill Hybels wrote in *Courageous Leadership*, "There is nothing like the local church when it's working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community." Wow! I think he is perfectly describing our Great Little Church and how we support and comfort each other during times of trials and needs, but what about the rest of the time? What about others? He continues, "It builds bridges to seekers and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, and the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed, and offers belonging to the marginalized of this world."

Pastor Hybels also said, "The local church is the hope of the world." We at Grace must convey this hope, starting with the people in the Inland Empire. This takes effort by every one of us; using our God-given talents, whatever they may be. Whether it is community involvement, organizational skills, cooking, gardening, making phone calls, or teaching, Grace needs you and your support to spread this message of hope. Participation is a celebration of God's work and is an investment to bring others to know Christ. (I'm paraphrasing a statement heard while visiting a church up north.)

We glorify Jesus by continuing His work and reflecting His love in us. During this Lenten season, please reflect on how you have been gifted and how you can give so that Grace continues to be that great little local church that leads others to the true Hope of the World....Jesus Christ.

Barbara Dellinger

ELDERS Corner...

THE BOOK OF CONCORD

This month our article is on the two natures of Christ.

The Book of Concord contains many references to this miracle of Grace, with the help of Pastor Eric here are two wonderful confessions.

The two natures of Christ, His humanity and His divinity make the eternal gift of forgiveness ours. In a nut-shell, the Lutheran doctrine of the two natures of Christ is so sweet because God and man in the one man, Jesus, is certainly the Savior and keeper of us who are fallen and otherwise, without any hope. We have and find and cling to the certainty of our salvation in this doctrine that is too large, too sweet, too wonderful for us to fully comprehend. Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone is all the Glory!)

Pastor Eric Kaelberer

Small Catechism, Apostles' Creed, Article II explanation:

2] And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, [3] our Lord; who was conceived [4] by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, [5] and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth [6] on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. He did this not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, so that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Our doctrine, faith, and confession about the person of Christ is not divided...The two natures, together with their properties, are not mixed with each other into one essence...The human nature in the person of Christ is not divided or annihilated. Nor is either nature changed into the other. Christ is and remains to all eternity God and man in one undivided person. Next to the Holy Trinity, this is the highest mystery, upon which our only consolation, life, and salvation depends, as the apostle testifies in 1 Timothy 3:16.

Formula of Concord, Epitome, Article VIII, The Person of Christ, paragraph 18:

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. - 1 Timothy 3:16.

Click <http://bookofconcord.org> to access the Book of Concord online. This is a great site for reference and study.

Also, Concordia Publishing has a great application (smart phones) for daily prayer containing selections from the Book of Concord. You can download this from your phones Application Store. Sincerely, **Randy York**

REMEMBER In our Prayers...

Thank you for remembering our shut-ins Helen and Jane Mathews, Margaret Dickenson. Evelyn Smith, Esther Katt, Pamela Woodcox, Jan Mansell, Bob and Cora Kern, Joyce McFarland, Charlie and Millie Thompson, Kurt and Denise Wampole, Randy and Joyce Waters, and Tony Mantz. For Hannah and Mike Villiasenor and their new born son, Sean. For Heather and Jonathan Hathcock who are expecting a new addition to their family. We pray for all of our troops overseas and their families, for our own young people in uniform - Kurt Wampole, Jr., Nathan Connell, Noah Nery and Jacob Livoni.

Celebrations in MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

- 06 Helen Mathews
- 07 Julia Johnson
Isaac Brian Smith
Millie Thompson
- 08 Carol Draney
- 11 Christopher Mantz
- 12 Katryn Mantz
- 18 Larry Adams
Bette Howard
- 23 Noah Holm
- 24 Pastor Eric
- 30 Dale Teliyzn
- 31 Denise Wampole

ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Doug & Beth Fisher
- 17 Ted & Gail Picado
- 22 Mike & Maletta Miller
- 29 Justin & Tiffany Izzo
- 30 Joe & Patti Guerra

FEBRUARY Offerings (Non-Designated)

\$15,780.00

LENDING A HAND –

All ushers need to try to be at church by 8:30 a.m. Ushers please call the Elder-of-the-Day the night before if you cannot serve. Thank you

- 5 Mike Miller Larry Adams, Scott Klemm, Allan Dellinger
- 12 Brent Rosen Chuck Stringham, Bill Choske
- 19 Richard Franzen Jim Kline, Ron Pickinpaugh
- 26 Kurt Wampole Mike Draney, Brent Rosen

Ash Wednesday March 1: Lenten Services: March 8,15,22,29
Communion Elder: Brent Rosen

ACOLYTES

- 6 Youth
- 13 “
- 20 “
- 27 “



GREETERS

- 5 Jim & Diane Kline
- 12 Grace Family
- 19 Dolores Smith
- 26 Richard & Kim Franzen



LAY READERS

- 5 Jim & Diane Kline
- 12 Richard Franzen
- 19 Randy York
- 26 Kathy Holm



ALTAR CARE Gail Picado, Kim Franzen

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MARCH 20TH

March 2017

COUNTING COMMITTEE

- 5 Katryn Mantz, Dolores Smith
- 12 Denise Wampole, Maletta Miller
- 19 Barbara Dellinger, Brent Rosen
- 26 Chuck & Sandy Stringham

FLOWER CHART

- 5 Richard & Kim Franzen
Pastor & Kawai
- 12 OPEN
- 19 Daniel & Eleanor Holm
Joe & Patti Guerra
- 26 Joe & Patti Guerra
Nancy Telizyn



ORGANIST/PIANIST

- 1 Gail James - Ash Wednesday
- 5 Dolores Smith
- 8 Gail James - Lent
- 12 Gail James
- 15 Gail James - Lent
- 19 Dolores Smith
- 22 Gail James - Lent
- 26 Gail James
- 29 Gail James - Lent

DONUT & COFFEE CLEAN-UP

- 5 Debbie Schwartz
- 12 Jeanne Nelson
- 19 Barbara Dellinger
- 26 Dolores Smith



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2017</h1>			Worship/Com Service every Sunday at 9:00 AM/Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday Bible Study at 10:30 AM			
			1 Quilters 6 pm	2 Bible Study 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 Memorial Service for Dorit Simpson 1:30 pm	6	7 Pastor's Bible Study 7 pm	Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	9 Bible Study 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	Office Closed	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>Time to spring ahead one hour before bed time</i></div>
12 Council Meeting 11:30 am Daylight Saving Time Begins	13	14 Pastor's Bible Study 7 pm	8 Quilters 6 pm Lenten Service 7 pm	16 Bible Study 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	10 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	18 Daring Diners here at Grace 5 pm
19 Elders - 11:30 am	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER</div>	21 Pastor's Bible Study 7 pm	15 Quilters 6 pm Lenten Service 7 pm	23 Bible Study 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	17 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	25
26 Food Offerings	27	28 Pastor's Bible Study 7 pm	22 Quilters 6 pm Lenten Service 7 pm	30 Bible Study 10:30 a B'day Lunch Bunch 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	24 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	
			29 Quilters 6 pm Lenten Service 7 pm	31 Bible Study 10:30 a B'day Lunch Bunch 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	31 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	