

Amazing Grace

April , 2017

Volume 36, Issue # 04

Beloved of the Lord,

He is not here... in the grave! That is the great reality that has changed absolutely everything. We have witnessed several of our dear ones receiving their crowns and being welcomed into the joys of Paradise in these past few weeks. If Easter had not happened, we would have to wonder and yes, to worry. Here is why. There are only two options when it comes to heaven.

Option One: we earn our way into heaven. We must do something to make God look favorably toward us. We need to somehow stand taller, to have a greater faith than others, to somehow be better than others.

Option Two: Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world! Here is how Paul wrote of it:

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 15:14-17**,¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Indeed, Christ is raised from the dead and our faith is not only not "in vain" but is verified, certified, and full of joy. The ones we love who have died in this life are not dead. They died in the Baptismal Gift which God gave to them. They now live forever with Christ!

Option One leaves you with the question mark (?) regarding heaven, while Option Two yields the certainty of the Exclamation Point (!) – you are loved, you are redeemed, heaven is your home!

Yes! For those of us still walking by faith, it is the sure faith in the finished work, the kept promise that Christ not only vanquished death, but that He has given this life its meaning and purpose, its light and its joy! We are blessed with this God who loved us so much that He gave us His only-begotten Son so that we would be adopted, surely, into His eternal family.

As we walk toward Golgotha and the Empty Tomb there are those in your family and in your life who feel the pain of loss, but without the certainty that owns us, that owns you. They need this Christ. Pray about who it is that you will bring to church this Holy Week and Easter.

Thank you for all the love with which you are loving Pastor Daniel and me by loving one another. God has blessed us mightily – let us rejoice. With the sure hope of the resurrection, I remain yours, *Pastor Eric*



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.**

Dear Grace Family,

I would like to update you all, on our financial situation. In the first two months of 2017, our income versus expenses, are positive, for the first time in a while. Praise God! Our income has increased and with our changes in the budget, we have decreased our spending. I know that it has only been a couple of months, but I am confident, that with God's guidance, this Grace family has the fortitude, to weather this "financial" storm through to the end. Please continue to pray for all officers of the church and especially for Pastors Eric and Daniel.

In Jesus Name
Ron

STEWARDSHIP

Well, if you missed that great dinner at church on the 18th, you really MISSED it! Joe Guerra pointed out that, when we visit a restaurant on a Daring Diners outing, we are giving our money for the benefit of that business. So, he suggested that we have an in-house dinner to benefit the church - a Daring Diner Deficit Depletion! We not only enjoyed great food and fellowship, but raised \$1,000 to apply towards the budget deficit!

Let's look at this concept a little further. What more can we do? How much do you spend at Starbucks each week? Or how often do you eat out? How much extra could you give on Sunday by just changing your habits a little and taking your lunch to work? Or, bypass that macchiato occasionally and give what you would have spent at Starbucks to Grace. That extra five dollars each week adds more than \$250 to your annual tithe. Give up dinner out once a month....an extra \$50 monthly increases your annual giving by \$600!

Pray with your family. Talk over what changes you can make. Consider the better investment... McDonald's or our Great Little Church? (Your waistline will thank you also.)

Barbara Dellinger, Stewardship Chair

GRACE CRUSADERS AGAINST CANCER AND SCOUTING FOR A CURE are having their annual all you can eat breakfast on Saturday, May 13 from 8-10 am at Grace! The cost is \$8 per person for sausage, eggs, hash browns and pancakes.

Scout leaders are cooking and scouts are serving, you just need to show up. All tickets sold or purchased by members of the church will be credited to the Grace Crusaders team.

This is Mother's Day weekend, so bring all the wonderful moms you know to breakfast. Purchase tickets from Kathy or Debbie. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society

EVANGELISM

APRIL 16th: Our next event is the Easter morning breakfast by the men at Grace at 8am. We are recruiting men to help with this annual feast of scrambled eggs with diced ham and hot off the griddle pancakes. Bring a friend(s) to this Holiest day of the Christian year.

MAY 19TH: The annual Faith and Family Night 66ers Baseball game at the San Manuel Park in San Bernardino. Tickets are \$8 each and the seats are located behind home plate. Sign-ups are in the Narthex.

MAY 20TH: The annual Rialto Run Whatcha Brung Car Show in downtown Rialto on Riverside Ave. Grace will set up a booth for informational purposes, and, possibly, other activities (yet to be determined). We will be seeking volunteers to staff the booth in 2 hour segments: 9am to 11am; 11am to 1 pm; and 1 pm to 3 pm. A sign-up sheet will be posted in late April.

JUNE 2017: Daring Diners; date and location to be finalized at a later date. But, we will focus on a location that not only will offer great food, but offer a percentage of the sales to Grace.

That's it for now. Thanks, Joe

YOU'RE INVITED TO A TASTING PARTY ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH AT 2:00 PM At Dave weir's place - 47298 Twin Pines Rd, Banning 92220. Dave Weir will be serving lunch - Kim franzen will bring desserts. Sign up on the sheet in the church Narthex by April 15th if you will be attending.

Kim Franzen

REMEMBER In our Prayers...

Remember our Shut-Ins, Health concerns for others, and those in service

Helen and Jane Mathews, Margaret Dickenson., Esther Katt, Pamela Woodcox, Jan Mansell, Bob Kern, Joyce McFarland, Charlie and Millie Thompson, Randy and Joyce Waters, Alma Rich, Kurt and Denise Wampole, Roger and Joann Miller and Tony Mantz.. For **Bill Choske** and his step-mother, **Diane** in the recent death of their loved one, **Willard Choske**. For **Hannah and Mike and their new born son, Sean..** Keep in prayer **Heather and Jonathan Hathcock** who are expecting. 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**

HOLY WEEK

CONFESSIONAL SERVICE	APRIL 12TH 7 PM
MAUNDY THURSDAY	APRIL 13TH 7 PM
GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL 14TH 7 PM
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE	APRIL 16TH 7 AM
EASTER BREAKFAST	APRIL 16TH 8 AM
EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE	APRIL 16TH 9 AM

BIRTHDAYS FOR APRIL

- 02 Tyler Franzen
Cindy Little
- 05 Andrew Dellinger
- 09 Linda Wallis
- 12 Shane Travers, Jr
- 13 Andrew Holm
Leslie Richmond
- 14 Laura Mitchell
- 23 Randy York
Ashley Smith
- 26 Dolores Smith
- 28 Tami Travers
- 30 Doug Fisher

ANNIVERSARIES FOR APRIL

- 08 Andrew & Julia Johnson
- 13 Anthony & Tamara Mahomes

OFFERINGS FOR MARCH

\$17,598.10

From the Augsburg Confession, The Chief Articles of Faith Article I, Of God

Our Churches, with common consent, do teach that the decree of the Council of Nicaea concerning the Unity of the Divine Essence and concerning the Three Persons, is true and to be believed without any doubting; 2] that is to say, there s one Divine Essence which is called and which is God: eternal, without body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness, the Maker and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible; and3] yet there are three Persons, of the same essence and power, who also are coeternal, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. And the term "person" 4] they use as the Fathers have used it, to signify, not a part or quality in another, but that which subsists of itself.

Smalcald Articles - The First Part

Treats of the Sublime Articles Concerning the Divine Majesty, as
I. That Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three distinct persons in

one divine essence and nature, are one God, who has created heaven and earth.

II. That the Father is begotten of no one; the Son of the Father; the Holy Ghost proceeds from Father and Son.

III. That not the Father nor the Holy Ghost but the Son became man.

IV. That the Son became man in this manner, that He was conceived, without the cooperation of man, by the Holy Ghost, and was born of the pure, holy [and always] Virgin Mary. Afterwards He suffered, died, was buried, descended to hell, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, sits at the right hand of God, will come to judge the quick and the dead, etc., as the Creed of the Apostles, as well as that of St. Athanasius, and the Catechism in common use for children, teach.

Brief Statement of the Missouri Synod of 1932,

Article 4, Of God

On the basis of the Holy Scriptures we teach the sublime article of the Holy Trinity; that is, we teach that the one true God, Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4, is the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, three distinct persons, but of one and the same divine essence, equal in power, equal in eternity, equal in majesty, because each person possesses the one divine essence entire, Col. 2:9, Matt. 28:19. We hold that all teachers and communions that deny the doctrine of the Holy Trinity are outside the pale of the Christian Church. The Triune God is the God who is gracious to man, John 3:16-18, 1 Cor. 12:3. Since the Fall, no man can believe in the fatherhood of God except he believe in the eternal Son of God, who became man and reconciled

HYMN of the Month:

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

BY ISAAC WATTS

At the age of 15 Isaac Watts, after sitting through a lengthy period of what he considered to be dull and uninspired congregational singing, he complained to his father, "The singing of God's praise is the part of worship nighest heaven, and its performance among us is the worst on earth!" (At that time, the practice was for the leader of the congregation to read a psalm, line by line. The congregation would then repeat each line in a singsong fashion.)

Responding to young Isaac's complaints his father challenged him to write something better. And so it was that Isaac Watts composed his first hymn. The following week he presented his new hymn to the congregation and it was met with great enthusiasm. Isaac had found a welcome and appreciative audience for his poetry and continued to compose a hymn each week for the next two years. Many of

his hymns used favorite psalms in new poetical settings. Two of these still enjoyed today are: "Jesus Shall Reign" and "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

But the creative mind of Isaac Watts was not content to restate psalms. As he grew older, he ventured into a new area of hymn writing by composing hymns that spoke of personal feelings and emotional responses to the facts and doctrines of the Bible. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," written in 1707, was one of the hymns that became very controversial for this reason. It was as if Watts pictured himself at the foot of the cross with Mary and John, gazing in wonder at the crucified Christ. Public criticism of this type of hymn and the stigma of being branded a "radical churchman" didn't seem to bother Watts, nor did it slow his production of beautiful and meaningful hymns. In all, he composed over 600 hymns and earned himself the title of "The Father of English Hymnody." Hundreds of Christian hymns Watts composed have indeed served the churches around the world and brought joy to many a believer.

MICHELANGELO

Noting the renovation of Michelangelo's famous frescoes in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel, Gina Bridgeman uncovered and passed on the following indignant remarks by Michelangelo (1564) addressed to his fellow painters.:

"Why do you keep filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures of the one ever-reiterated theme of Christ in weakness, of Christ upon the cross, Christ dying, Christ hanging dead? Why do you stop there as if the curtain closed upon that horror? Keep the curtain open, and with the cross in the foreground, let us see beyond it to the Easter dawn with its beams streaming upon the risen Christ, Christ alive, Christ ruling, Christ triumphant.

"For we should be ringing out over the world that Christ has won, that evil is toppling, that the end is sure, and that death is followed by victory. That is the tonic we need to keep us healthy, the trumpet blast to fire our blood and send us crowding in behind our Master, swinging happily upon our way, laughing and singing and recklessly unafraid, because the feel of victory is in the air, and our hearts thrill to it."

CHUCKLES

About 10 am one cold February morning a man was in bed sound asleep. His mother came into the room.

"Son, it's time to get up. You gotta get ready for church," she implored.

"I'm too tired. Leave me alone," he said.

"Son, you gotta get up and get ready for church."

"I'm not going to church. Give me one good reason why I have to go to church," he protested.

"I'll give you two good reasons: one, it's Sunday and two you're the pastor."

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

- 2 Randy York Larry Adams, Scott Klemm, Allan Dellinger
- 9 Richard Franzen Chuck Stringham, Bill Choske
- 16 All Elders Jim Kline, Ron Pickinpaugh
- 23 Brent Rosen Mike Draney, Brent Rosen
- 30 Randy York Larry Adams, Scott Klemm, Allan Dellinger

Communion Elder: Mike Miller

April 13 - Maundy Thursday; April 14-Good Friday

April 9 -Palm Sunday; April 16 -Easter Sunday

ACOLYTES

- 6 Youth
- 13 “
- 20 “
- 27 “



GREETERS

- 2 Jim & Diane Kline
- 9 Dolores Smith
- 16 Grace Family
- 23 Richard & Kim Franzen
- 30 Grace Family



LAY READERS

- 2 Chuck Stringham
- 9 Gail York
- 16 Joe Guerra
- 23 Kathy Holm
- 30 Jim & Diane Kline



ALTAR CARE Kim Pickinpaugh, Maletta Miller

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE APRIL 17th.

April 2017

COUNTING COMMITTEE

- 2 Katryn Mantz, Dolores Smith
- 9 Judi Parker, Anthony Mahomes
- 16 Mike Draney, Katryn Mantz
- 23 Chuck & Sandy Stringham
- 30 Denise Wampole, Maletta Miller

FLOWER CHART

- 2 Richard & Kim Franzen
Dolores Smith
- 9 Ron & Kim Pickinpaugh
Tamara & Anthony Mahomes
- 16 Joe & Patti Guerra
Kathy Holm
- 23 OPEN
- 30 Pastor & Kawai



ORGANIST/PIANIST

- 2 Dolores Smith
- 5 Gail James
- 9 Gail James
- 13 Gail James - Maundy Thursday
- 14 Gail James - Good Friday
- 16 Dolores Smith - Sunrise Service 7:00 am
Gail James - 9:00 service
- 23 Dolores Smith
- 30 Gail James

DONUT & COFFEE CLEAN-UP

- 2 OPEN
- 9 Jeanne Nelson
- 16 OPEN
- 23 Barbara Dellinger
- 30 Dolores Smith



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2017			Worship/Com Service every Sunday at 9:00 AM/Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday Bible Study at 10:30 AM			1
2 Memorial service for Cora 11:15 am Installation of Pastor Stirdivant Yucaipa 3 pm	3	4 Pastor's Bible study 7 pm	5 Quilters 6 pm	6 Bible Study 10:30 a Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	7 PASTOR'S DAY OFF OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 PALM SUNDAY	10	11 No Bible study	12 Quilters 6 pm Confessional Service 7 pm	13 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Bible Study 10:30 a Women's Bible 5:30p Choir 7 pm	14 Good Friday Service 7 pm PASTOR'S DAY OFF OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 7 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 9 AM	17	18 Pastor's Bible study 7 pm	19 Quilters 6 pm	20 Bible Study 10:30 a Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm	21 PASTOR'S DAY OFF OFFICE CLOSED	22 Convocation for Laity -3 rd Article of Creed CCI 8:30 am -3 pm
23	24	25 Pastor's Bible study 7 pm	26 Quilters 6 pm	27 Bible Study 10:30 a B'day Lunch Bunch 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm	28 PASTOR'S DAY OFF OFFICE CLOSED	29 Dinner/dessert 2 pm home of Dave Weir
30 FOOD OFFERING						