

Amazing Grace

November, 2018

Volume 37, Issue # 11

A MESSAGE from Pastor Maggard

Dear Saints of Grace,

The Reformation was a wonderful rediscovery of the Gospel. Dr. Luther did not want to start a new denomination, but rather wanted to reform the church. He would not be excited that we identify ourselves as Lutheran. It is good, though, to call ourselves Lutheran because Dr. Luther was the tool that God used to recover the Gospel in His church. With this Lutheran identity comes several distinctives. Most Christians have heard about solus Christus (Christ Alone) or sola scriptura (Scripture Alone) or sola fide (Faith Alone), but most of Christendom is not familiar with the distinction between Law and Gospel.

The Law, quite simply, is what God demands from us. We aren't bound to the Old Testament political law or ceremonial law, but all people are bound by the moral law as detailed in the Ten Commandments. Paul states that this law is written on our hearts, believer and non-believer alike (Rom. 2:15). There's a problem. "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in [God's] sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20)." In other words, the Law shows us our sin.

The Gospel, again quite simply, is what God does for us. The non-believer knows nothing of the Gospel (Rom. 1:18-20). It must come through the Word of Christ (Rom 10:17). Christ paid for our sins with His bitter sufferings and death on the cross (John 1:29). Christ also gives us His righteousness. We "are justified by His grace as a gift (Rom. 3:24a; See also Isaiah 61:10)." In other words, the Gospel shows us our Savior.

Another way Dr. Luther expresses this is: "The law says, 'do this,' and it is never done. Grace says, 'believe in this,' and everything is already done (Heidelberg Disputation, 1518)." What a wonderful message to share with your neighbor; both believer and unbeliever alike.

In Christ, **Pastor Maggard**

Did You Know??

Pastor Maggard celebrates an informal **Morning Matins** service, Monday through Thursday at **8:00am – 8:20am**. Anyone is welcome to join. (Schedule permitting)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE **November 14**

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.gracelutheranrialto.com



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.**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

November is the Voting Month!

November in the United States always means that we have some sort of election to participate in. As Americans, it is our right to decide whether to vote or not to vote. Based on what's on the ballot and how you will be affected by the outcome often is the deciding factor regarding your participation. It is my right as an American citizen to vote and I consider it my responsibility to be a part of the process. If you don't vote, you have little standing to complain about the result.

As a Christian, I believe I have a duty to vote and cast my ballot for people and issues that not only benefit me as an American but also as a Christian. November is also one of the months we set aside for voting on issues related to our congregation and there will be some Synod issues to consider as well. In November, our annual budget is one of the things we vote on as it affects the upcoming years' funding. All members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - Rialto are encouraged to view their voting rights as a sacred honor and Christian duty to make sure each voice is heard. It is not a man or woman issue, because all members in good standing should have an equal voice. November 18, 2018, is our next Voters' Meeting and I encourage all members in good standing to attend the meeting and exercise your vote.

In His Service, **Chuck Stringham**

EVANGELISM UPDATES

Feast of Lights, Dec 2nd, 4pm - I still have the tickets for this event, which I'll continue to distribute Sundays for those who have ordered them. It's about 6 weeks away.

Clippers Basketball - enough of us have signed up so we meet the criteria for a group rate. Although the Faith and Family Night is in early January, we can attend any game and still get the group rate, and other family activities are available for our participation. I'll gather more information and we can meet as a group to determine what, if any, activities will work best for us. Naturally, additional costs may be involved.

Thanksgiving Meal - We are considering a meal for the congregation sometime before Thanksgiving. We have to work out the details but will inform you as soon as we finalize the plans for this event. Thanks for your patience.

Talent Show and (maybe) Chili Cook off - I think it's about time for another congregational talent show preceded by a pot luck meal, tentatively, set for January. More details will follow.

That's all for now, God's Blessings to all, **Joe**



STEWARDSHIP

Here we are again, facing the ending of another year and anticipating a new year ahead. Boy, what changes we have gone through so far in 2018!

These changes are only that...a metamorphosis...no finality. Our work here at Grace, and in our community, continues and it is dependent on your giving of your time, your talents, your financial support, and your overall commitment. I ask you to pray on this.

You will soon receive the annual pledge letter from me. This is a guideline for establishing a suitable budget for next year. Pray to make the right pledge for your household.

This is also election time for some of the church offices. Pray about how you can take a leadership role in the church.

Pray about serving in other ways to lighten the load for others such as: teaching Sunday School, ushering, Altar Guild, or cleaning up the donuts and coffee.

Pray about being committed in your attendance on Sundays, at Bible studies, at Daring Diners or other outings, and at work parties. **Barbara Dellinger**

ELDERS

Grace Cares

Grace Cares is a program administered by the Elders to help families who find themselves in temporary need of help with food or basic household items. The assistance is given in the form of script from our script program and is available to any member of Grace Lutheran Church. If you or anyone at Grace you know needs a little help with things, please contact any Elder or call or send me an email with the information.

Help us to share Christ's love with our family at Grace by taking care of each other in this small but important way.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another". - John 13:34

Birthdays

- 02 Susan Parker
- 09 Jacob Bryan Wampole
- Jan Mansell
- Michael Nehls
- 19 Joseph Mantz
- 20 Maurine Schaffer
- 23 Amanda Downing
- 29 Brent Rosen

Anniversaries

- 13 Jim & Diane Kline

KEEP IN PRAYER

Thank you for remembering our "shut-ins" **Jane Mathews, Margaret Dickenson, Esther Katt, Pamela Woodcox, Jan Mansell, Evelyn Smith, Charlie and Millie Thompson, Joyce McFarland, and Joyce Waters.**

We keep in prayer **Joann Miller, Kurt and Denise Wampole, the Weir family, and Tony Mantz.** Prayers of thanksgiving for the gift of the newborn baby boy to **John and Leslie Richmond.** Expecting in January **Justin and Tiffany Izzo.**

We pray for all of our troops overseas and their families, and for our own young people in uniform - **Kurt Wampole, Jr., Noah Nery, Summer Connell, and Jacob Livoni.**

YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE LORD'S WORK

Total Offerings 2017	\$ 208,426.08
(2017	Monthly Avg \$ 17,368.84)
	2018
1st Quarter offerings:	\$45,357.81
2nd Quarter offerings:	\$46,369.50
.....	2018 Quarterly Avg. \$45,863.65
.....	2018 Monthly Avg. thru 2nd Qtr. \$15,287.88
July offerings	\$19,787.00
August offerings	\$9,330.00
September offerings	\$22,801.00

Attendance

10/7/18	58
10/14/18	50

In the future the previous weeks attendance will be published in every Sunday bulletin.



LENDING A HAND –

NOVEMBER 2018

USHERS

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

- 4 Richard Franzen Allan Dellinger, Glen James
- 11 Mike Miller Chuck Stringham, Brent Rosen
- 18 Randy York Jim Kline, Ron Pickinpaugh, Dave Nehls
- 25 Greg Nelson Bill Choske, Mike Draney, Larry Adams

Note-Communion Elder: Brent Rosen

ACOLYTES

- 4 Elders or volunteer
- 11 “
- 18 “
- 25 “



GREETERS

- 4 Jim & Diane Kline
- 11 Grace Family
- 18 Grace Family
- 25 Richard & Kim Franzen

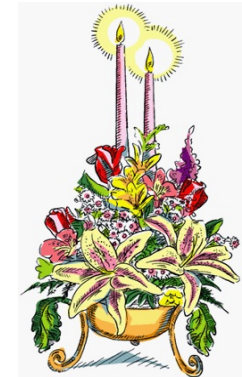


COUNTING COMMITTEE

- 4 Barbara Dellinger, Dolores Smith
- 11 Betty Guinn, Maletta Miller
- 18 Barbara Dellinger, Brent Rosen
- 25 Mike Miller, Ron Pickinpaugh

FLOWER CHART

- 4 Andrew & Kathy Holms
- 11 Allan & Barbara Dellinger
Gail Picado
- 18 Carolyn Secor
- 25 Andrew & Kathy Holm



ORGANIST/PIANIST

- 4 Dolores Smith
- 11 Dolores Smith
- 18 Gail James
- 25 Gail James

DONUT & COFFEE CLEAN-UP

- 4 OPEN
- 11 Jeanne Nelson
- 18 OPEN
- 25 Dolores Smith



ALTAR CARE Jeanne Nelson, Lynda Olson
 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE November 13