

# Amazing Grace

December, 2018

Volume 37, Issue # 12

## A MESSAGE from Pastor Maggard

Dear Saints of Grace,

Is it really Christmas time again? It seems like time becomes quicker the longer we have been around!

The world celebrates Christmas by promoting the god of consumerism. You must have the latest and greatest, right? Black Friday has become almost bigger than Christmas itself, it seems! If you're like me, you received too many gifts from well meaning family growing up and it turned you into a spoiled brat! I would encourage you to spend less this year on fewer gifts. The commercialism has consumed Christmas and caused us to think little about why we give gifts in the first place.

Our Lord humbled Himself and was born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit! What a wonderful gift our Father in heaven gave to us. At Christmas, our Lord was at His most vulnerable. Saint Matthew accounts how Satan used Herod to try and kill our Lord (Matthew 2). Satan now tries to kill you with consumerism. He wants you so obsessed with money and things that you forget your savior. He wants you so consumed with the here and now and your immediate gratifications that you forget your Savior who went from the manger to the cross to pay for your sins.

First, repent of your consumerism. We all suffer from this deadly disease. Second, receive the forgiveness of sins at church so you are washed clean again! Third, enjoy the season with family and friends. As you have opportunity, tell people about why we enjoy Christmas. Tell them of your Lord and Savior who, after having become incarnated in the flesh, lived a perfect life and died in our place so that we, too, might live a sanctified life. In our sanctified life, we have struggles and ups and downs, but we also have the peace which passes understanding. The peace the world so desperately needs.

May God richly bless you as you celebrate His Holy Incarnation with family and friends.

**Pastor Maggard**

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

My dear family at Grace,

As 2018 comes to a close and we celebrate the birth of our Lord, I am reminded of how the Lord cradles us in His nail pieced hands. We are blessed by Him in so many ways. We can give praise to Him for sending us an undershepherd that cares deeply for us and delivers the word in a faithful and truthful manner.

We continue to give generously of our time, talents and



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.**

finances to support our great little church. Each year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord, I am always hopeful for the new year and new beginnings. Sandy and I pray that each of you will have peace and love this Christmas season and that 2019 will be great for all of us.

**In His Service, Chuck Stringham, President**

## EVANGELISM UPDATES

### ADVENT IS UPON US!

Please Join us for a **soup supper** at 6:00 PM each **WEDNESDAY** night for fellowship before the 7:00 PM service. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS – DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 12<sup>TH</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>.**

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

Thank you for the GREAT response with your pledge cards. This tool helped our Treasurer prepare for the budget for 2019, which was approved at the recent Voters' meeting.

**REMEMBER** – to stop by the *Scrip Room* to take care of your Christmas shopping. Look at the list of the available scrip merchants that you can order – not all items are kept in our normal inventory. The income earned through the scrip sales funds special celebrations, unplanned repairs, upgrades, supplies, and many other needs as they arise.

**Barbara Dellinger**

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

2018 is about to come to a close and I want to thank all of you for your help in counting GELC's offerings. A job well done! Now I must look to the New Year (2019). Are you willing to serve for another year? The schedule can change if it doesn't meet your specifications. I am hoping you will be able to help out but will understand if you can't. Please let me know as soon as possible. **Diane Kline**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**DECEMBER 12, 2018**

**CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.gracelutheranrialto.com](http://www.gracelutheranrialto.com)**

## 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*

### 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.**

Also keep in prayer **the firemen, first-responders and those who have lost their homes, their lives, and loved ones in the terrible fires.**

And more prayers for those **who lost their lives at the mass shooting in Thousand Oaks and all affected by this tragedy.**

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 <b>2017</b> .....	\$ 208,426.08
(2017 .....	Monthly Avg \$ 17,368.84)
<b>2018</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter offerings: .....	\$ 45,357.81
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter offerings: .....	\$ 46,369.50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter offerings: .....	\$ 51,918.00
.....	2018 Quarterly Avg. \$ 47,881.77
.....	2018 Monthly Avg. thru 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. \$15,960.59
October offerings .....	\$12,518.00

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS – for Bryan and Marcy Stringham. 1794 Coolcrest Ave., Upland, CA 81784**

## Church Altar Flowers



### FLOWER CHART

Dolores will soon post the new flower calendar on the bulletin board outside her office. Each Sunday on the calendar has space for two families to dedicate a bouquet to their loved ones for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, congratulations, holidays, thanks, or to the **"Glory of God"**.

When your Sunday comes around you put \$15.00 per bouquet in your offering envelop marked **"Flowers"** and after the end of the service you may take your bouquet home. The **altar Guild** really appreciates it when you return the temporary plastic vases to them! **F.Y.I. – When no one signs up, the flower cost comes out of the church's General Fund!**

### Birthdays

03	Eleanor Holm
07	Richard Lowe
10	Travis Franzen
	Emily Torrance
11	Patti Lowe
12	Luis Del Rio
15	Barbara Dellinger
19	Ron Pickinpaugh
24	Joe Guerra
	Kurt Wampole
25	Gloria Reinschmidt
26	Tiffany Izzo
30	Allan Dellinger
	Philip Wallis
	Denise Wallis

### Anniversaries

07	Kevin & Laura Mitchell
23	Don & Judith Belter

*May the Lord's Blessings and Gracious Love, abound with each and everyone of you and yours during this most precious time of year when we celebrate God's life giving gift to us!*

# 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