

# Amazing Grace

April, 2019

Volume 38, Issue # 4



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.**

## A MESSAGE from Pastor Maggard

Dear Saints of Grace,

I am always bringing up books that I read. I thought it might be fun to share with you the top five books I believe every Christian should read. I assume that you are reading your Bible every day. That, of course, takes priority over all other reading!

1) **Luther's Large Catechism** -This is written for all Christians, and especially for heads of household. I believe it is some of Luther's best writing. In fact, this is one of those books that should really be read every year. The entire Book of Concord is wonderful reading, but the Small and Large Catechisms are written specifically for laymen.  
(<http://www.lulu.com/shop/martin-luther/everyones-luther-the-large-catechism/paperback/product-23387180.html>)

2) **Johann Gerhard Meditations on Divine Mercy**, translated by Rev. Matthew Harrison. Christians pray. Great prayers from those who have gone before us teach us how to pray better. This book is a wonderful model of how to pray and will enrich your prayer life. (<https://www.cph.org/p-437-meditations-on-divine-mercy.aspx>)

3) **Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today**, by Dr. John Kleinig. Have you ever heard, "I'm spiritual but not religious?" This book details what Christian spirituality actually looks like. It might sound familiar since it is the basis for our Lenten midweek sermons. (<https://www.cph.org/p-486-grace-upon-grace-spirituality-for-today.aspx>)

4) **Everyone's Luther: Concerning Christian Liberty** This is a wonderful treatise by Dr. Martin Luther. It describes what the Christian life looks like day in and day out. (<http://www.lulu.com/shop/bryan-wolfmueller/everyones-luther-concerning-christian-liberty/paperback/product-23244288.html>)

5) **Has American Christianity Failed?** by Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller. We are surrounded by false doctrine. It has crept into our church, the LCMS. Pastor Wolfmueller expertly shows how the false doctrines of revivalism, pietism, mysticism, and enthusiasm have crept into our church from the greater American church. We will be looking

at this next in our Adult Bible Class on Sundays after we finish Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation. I'll have a sign up to order this book. (<https://www.cph.org/p-29630-has-american-christianity-failed.aspx>)

I pray that you are reading. I pray that you are reading the Bible every day. I pray that you are reading great stuff. May God bless your reading and devotion time.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Maggard**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Christ Is Risen!

April 2019 is a very special month for us as Christians. We have Palm Sunday, Good Friday and of course Easter, the day our Lord rose from the grave to conquer death. I love this time of year because there are so many reminders of just how we are loved and cared for by our God. Happy Easter!

Reminder: The church is still looking for a Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Council Secretary and a new position of cleaning crew. At the end of 2019, Sandy Stringham will be stepping away from helping Diane Kline with cleaning the church.

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



## AN INVITATION TO EASTER VIGIL

Easter Vigil, the Saturday before Easter, is historically a time to baptize new converts. These converts had spent Lent being catechized in the Faith. They were baptized on Easter Vigil so that they could commune on the most holy days of the church, **The Resurrection of Our Lord!** I invite you to participate in the Easter Vigil at Christ the King in Redlands on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. There are no baptisms this year, but I will be preaching a brief homily.

**Blessings,**  
**Pastor Maggard**



## EVANGELISM

“Love thy neighbor”

1 John, chapter 4 is a great chapter to read to prepare for Easter, besides reading John 3:16-17 about God’s great love and sacrifice for us. John teaches us how we can know and see God through love, and He will help us to love others. John shares in 1 John 4:7-8, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” And later in 1 John 4:19, “We love Him because He first loved us.” Then he finishes with verse 21 “And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also”.

It’s an interesting observation that after you buy a new car, you suddenly often notice that same model of car being driven on the road. I’ve experienced something similar with my theme this year of “Love Thy Neighbor”. I see this theme repeated in my daily devotions, Portals of Prayer, Pastor’s sermons, tv shows and movies, newspaper and magazine articles. In the February 14th, Portals of Prayer, the verse from Ephesians 5:2, “Walk in love as Christ loved us.” “Faith alone saves, but faith is never alone. Love is the fruit of faith. Just as a healthy tree bears good fruit, so do the Lord’s Christians—those who believe in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit—always abound in works of **love toward their neighbors.**” In the February 24th, Portals of Prayer, the verse from Luke 6:27, “Love your enemies.” “Jesus loved His enemies to the end. When His enemies nailed Him to the

cross, He prayed for their forgiveness.” “When the Lord Jesus was met with hatred, He met His enemies with love.” “When we consider how God met our hostility with mercy, our evil with good, the Holy Spirit works a change in our minds and hearts. **He renews us in Christ’s image so that we begin to love our enemies, even as Christ loved us.**” Just recently in Sunday’s March 17th Portals of Prayer, from Matthew 5:44, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” “We can learn from Christ and Christians throughout history who have prayed for and embraced their enemies and persecutors, many of whom ended up becoming believers.” “When we are reluctant to forgive, the Holy Spirit reminds us that God doesn’t excuse sin. Rather, He put us sinners to death in Baptism and raised us up as a whole new creation to be His sons and daughters—and He can do the same for our enemies.” You never know—one of your enemies may turn out to be one of the greatest believers and disciples of Jesus Christ. Just look at the conversion of Saul to the Apostle Paul.

There was also a very touching article in the February issue of the Lutheran Witness magazine entitled, “Who is My Neighbor?” about a lonely elderly parishioner living in a nursing home who shared a room with another lonely woman. “Despite spending about 22 hours a day only four feet away from each other, these two supremely lonely women did not even know each other’s names.” After a Pastor’s visit, they discovered they both had grown up Lutheran and probably had attended the same Walther League events as teenagers. They eventually became friends, sisters, and even communed together. “No longer alone, these two were gathered together in Christ’s name and He was there with them, according to His promise (Matthew 18:20). “In their final days, each found a special comfort in the fellow saint in the nearby bed” and neither complained about being alone again.

So, fellow believers, **love on everyone** in Jesus’ name especially your neighbors and your enemies. Reach out to all those who you come in contact with on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit and God’s Word may lead you to a dear and special friendship with someone you least expected. You don’t want to miss out on any of the blessings that our dear Lord can give when you are open to being brought into the Lord’s family and saved by His wonderful grace. (Ephesians 2:8,9)

**Church website:**

[www.gracelutheranrialto.com](http://www.gracelutheranrialto.com)

**Church email:**

[gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com)

# Upcoming Events

**March 30, Saturday 8 to 10 am, Scouting for a Cure's All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast, \$8 donation/person, Grace Lutheran's Scharlemann Fellowship Hall**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup> Evangelism Classes will not take place on these Saturdays.** They will now be taught in Sunday Bible Class. Pastor Maggard will let us know when he will start this class.

**April 27, Saturday, 5 to 8:30pm, Relay for Life Bunco, \$10 donation/person** Grace Lutheran Scharlemann Fellowship Hall, Hot dogs and fixings, fun, fellowship, and baked goods. Sign-up in the narthex.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 7pm, 66ers Baseball Game in San Bernardino, \$14/person** Relay for Life Fundraiser, sign-up in the narthex.

**May 18 and 19th, Saturday, Fontana/Rialto Relay for Life Summit High School, 24 hour event,** Sign up to be on our team/to help work our booth or to walk a lap or two. Help us to "Give Cancer the Boot!"

**Kathy Holm, Evangelism Chair**

## EDUCATION

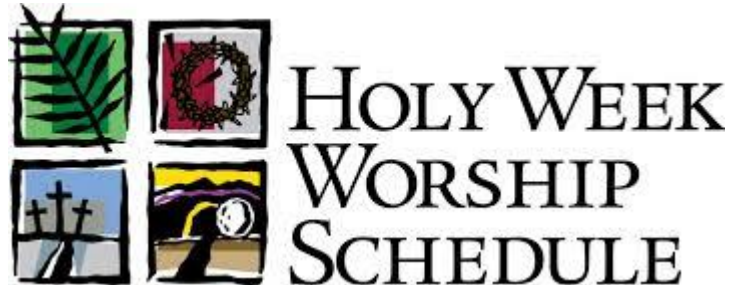


There will be a Resurrection Egg Hunt for the Sunday School children on Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be during the Sunday School hour and Barbara Dellinger will be hiding the eggs in the area of the Sunday School rooms. Resurrection Easter Eggs are plastic eggs with a symbol that represent parts of the Easter story. The kids will find the eggs and help to tell the Easter story. Each child will receive a chocolate cross afterwards.

On Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a traditional Egg Hunt for the kids after the 9:00 am service. Kids will meet Kathy Holm in the church narthex and she will give them instructions for the hunt. Thank you Barbara Dellinger and Kathy Holm for helping me with the Children's Sunday School during the month of April.

THANK YOU TO THE PARENTS FOR BRINGING THEIR CHILDREN TO CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.  
THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION FOR PRAYING AND SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH!

**Kim Franzen, Education Chair**



- † Palm Sunday - 9 am
- † Maundy Thursday - 7 pm
- † Good Friday – Tenebrae Service - 7 pm
- † Easter Sunday
  - Sunrise Service - 7 am
  - Pancake Breakfast - 8 am in the Fellowship Hall
  - Main Service with Choir - 9 am



**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 *Kurt and Denise Wampole, the Weir family, and Tony Mantz.*

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

## OUR DONATIONS FOR THE LORD'S WORK

Total Offerings - 2017 ..... \$ 208,426.08  
Total Offerings - 2018 ..... \$ 193,798.31

February offerings - 2017 ..... \$ 15,780  
February offerings - 2018 ..... \$ 15,160  
February offerings - 2019 ..... \$ 15,414



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2	Tyler	Franzen
5	Andrew	Dellinger
9	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	Jonathan	Torrance

### APRIL BAPTISMS

Maletta Miller  
Dale Telizyn

Please let Kim know the month of your baptism so we can celebrate!

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

12 Anthony and Tamara Mahomes

### Special Olympics Bowl-A-Thon

Joe Guerra is a Kiwanis member and the Inland empire Division is hosting its annual Bowl-a-Thon on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Empire Bowl in Redlands to raise money for Special Olympics. If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile event, please see Joe for details.

*Joe Guerra*

### California Women's Chorus 50th Annual Concert

There is still time to plan to attend this wonderful concert. This year, it is in Orange, CA, at the Doubletree Hotel, 100 The City Drive South, on Sunday, May 5th @ 2:00 pm

Vocal scholarships are awarded to aspiring students. They also perform during the concert, which is a real treat! Please let me know if you would like to attend. The tickets are \$18. I hope that many of you can attend. You will not be disappointed! A fun and inspiring afternoon outing!

*Debbie Schwartz*

### CHURCH RESERVATIONS:

APRIL –

27<sup>th</sup> – Relay for Life Bunco Fundraiser

PLEASE SEE KIM PICKINPAUGH FOR CHURCH RESERVATION FORMS.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH**