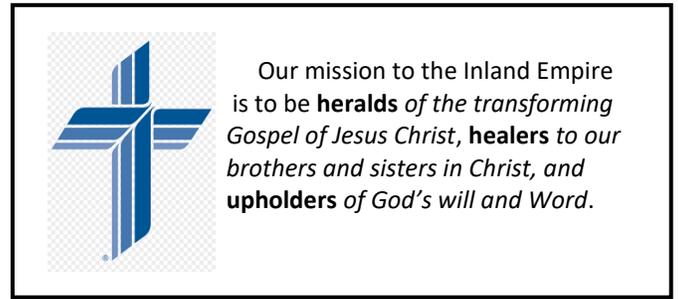


Amazing Grace

June, 2019

Volume 38, Issue # 6



A MESSAGE from Pastor Maggard

Dear Saints of Grace,

Do you ever think about the rituals in your life?

We do have rituals in our life. You might think of what we do at church first. The first definition by Merriam-Webster is "the established form for a ceremony, specifically: the order or words prescribed for a religious ceremony." The form of worship that we do at Grace is called the Western Rite where we gather around Word and Sacrament (Acts 2:42). This has been handed down to us from generation to generation. Divine Service III (page 186) is this Western Rite. When Martin Luther changed the worship service, he made two changes. First, he put the service in German so that everyone could understand it. I love a Latin service, but it does no good if you do not understand it. The second thing he did was to cut out the abuses of the Lord's Supper. The Roman Catholic church had turned the Lord's Supper into a bloodless sacrifice that the priest offered up again for the sins of the people along with their own works. They still do this today. If you look on page 219 in [Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions](#), you can see these corrections that Luther made. He did not change the substance of the service. The service was kept because it promoted teaching of the faith and good order (1 Corinthians 14:40). This service has been tested over a long period of time.

We also have other rituals in our life. Another definition of ritual is "acts regularly repeated in a set precise manner." The most obvious example is from sports. What would baseball be without the seventh inning stretch? What about dinner rituals? These show what we value. Dinner at a house where cell phones are put away as you eat around the dining room table conversing with each other is quite different than where cell phones are always out or you don't even eat at a table. Which one do you think teaches that the people you eat with in your life are important? I'm sure you can think of many examples of rituals and what they convey in your own personal life.

What do we convey in the Divine Service? We call it the Divine Service because we are being served by the Divine. Jesus Christ, by Whom all things were made, comes down from heaven and joins Himself to the common elements of bread and wine and gives us His very own Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins! Even if you have supped with kings and queens, nothing compares to the majesty of our Lord and Savior serving us His very own supper. The Divine Service conveys to us the majesty and awesomeness of this incredible event. It should convey to someone who hasn't seen it before that something awesome is happening here!

How often do we take the majesty of personally encountering our Lord in the participation in His supper for granted? I know I have struggled with this. The answer is not to change things up, but to repent of our boredom and receive our Lord with joy. This event should really be the starting point and center of our week instead of the afterthought that it sometimes feels like. I encourage you to think deeply about the words we say during the Divine Service. I encourage you to sing parts of the liturgy to yourself during the week. I encourage you to live in the freedom that is only found in the forgiveness of sins at the altar where we receive our Lord's precious body and blood for that forgiveness.

May God richly bless you with the knowledge of your right standing before an Awesome God!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Maggard

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please mark your calendars that the Voter's Meeting is rescheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2019.

We are still looking for a replacement for the Church Council Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Secretary. If interested or want more information please contact me.

In His Service,
Chuck Stringham, President

Church Website:

www.gracelutheranrialto.com

Church Email:

gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com

EVANGELISM

"Hearts Wide Open"

2 Corinthians 6:11 "We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open."

Borrowing from Portals of Prayer, May 10th, Throughout Jesus' ministry, the heart of Christ was wide open—he reached out to the undesirables in Jewish society, healed the sick and cast out demons, and never shrank from the demands on Him. "It can be scary to open your heart to those around you. An open heart is vulnerable to all sorts of pain. But only an open heart can receive the love that Christ lavishes on us, love that overflows to a hurting and broken world. That love will not only guard our hearts but will also heal the places (and the people) to which it flows."

Prayer: "Open our hearts, Lord, to Your Word, Your Will, and Your Call to witness, that we may live lives of love and care for those around us. Amen.

"Thank you to the following people for giving generously with your time and donations: Carolyn and Ron Secor; Bill and Judi Parker-Choske; Joe and Patti Guerra; Allan and Barb Dellinger; Debbie and Larry Schwartz; Chuck and Sandy Stringham; Mike and Carol Draney; Jim and Diane Kline; Ron and Kim Pickinpaugh; Paul and Cherry Gouailhardou and Linda Wallace. **At this time Grace Crusader Against Cancer raised \$5,579 for Relay. We made it to the Gold Level again.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2nd at 2:00 pm, **DARING DINERS** – located at Bono's Italian Restaurant on Route 66:

15395 Foothill Blvd, Fontana, 92335

See You There! Please sign up at the bulletin board in the narthex.

June 7th/8th – **Run Whatcha Brung**

June 7th, Friday, 4 – 9 pm

Cruise Night on Foothill Blvd

June 8th, Saturday, 7 – 10am \$5

Pancake Breakfast at

Woman's Club of Rialto

7 am – 3 pm Car Show at Downtown Rialto on Riverside

Kathy Holm, Evangelism Chair



To all the choir members for a wonderful and blessed year! Choir members include: Carla Del Rio, Kathy Holm, Diane Kline, Julie Kratz, Tamara Mahomes, Kim Pickinpaugh, Judi Parker-Choske, Patti Guerra, Nancy Telizyn, Carolyn Secor, Joe Guerra, Ron Pickinpaugh, Allan Dellinger, Bill Choske, John Scharlemann, Don Belter, Pastor Maggard, and Chuck Stringham.

For all the special music from Don, Chuck, John, Diane, Allan, and Randy.

Thank you to our Gail, who is so faithful and hung in there with us the whole year, (again!)

Thanks, Joe, for writing up our Christmas cantata this year and to the Sunday School children who sang with us.

We are winding up our season a bit early this year with the last choir singing on May 26th. Have a great summer and we will hopefully see you all in September. God be with you all in your journeys!

Love in Christ,
Debbie Schwartz, Worship Chair

EDUCATION

There will be NO Children's Sunday School or VBS this summer.

Kim Franzen, Education Chair

STEWARDSHIP

How do you feel when approached for money? Do you get irritated? Make excuses? Or give gladly? I'm sure it depends on the circumstances, on who is asking, or if you really want that candy bar the kid is selling.

When solicited, do you feel uncomfortable or do you respond begrudgingly as a duty? Do you give to others with a loving heart or just to make yourself look good?

Before you react to a request consider your Creator, the true owner of all. Humans are tasked to care for all God has made and since we are made in His image, we must reflect His will. We are stewards of His creation and must keep this in mind and heart when giving of both money and time. After all, everything belongs to Him. We are called as stewards to manage God-given blessings. Generosity because of faithfulness to our Lord is liberating when we give with a grateful heart.

Barbara Dellinger, Stewardship Chair



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 & Denise Wampole* 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

April offerings - 2017 \$ 19,106.00
April offerings - 2018 \$ 17,579.70
April offerings - 2019 \$ 18,452.00



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Glen James
4	Larry Maudlin
9	Ross Stringham
10	Virginia Robbins
11	Kaitlin Murdick
12	Kristen Nehls
16	Robert Klemm
20	Andrew Herrera
	Brian Kelmar
	Betty Guinn
21	Caitlyn Del Rio
24	Sandy Stringham
25	Jim Kline
26	Judi Parker-Choske
28	Ruth Wells
30	Sherrie Smith
	Evan Guerra

JUNE BAPTISMS

Do you know when you were baptized? Just send a quick email to the church office at:

gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

10	Charles and Desiree	Dellinger
19	Allan and Barbara	Dellinger
	Shane and Tami	Travers
23	Jon and Heather	Hathcock
25	Richard and Patti	Lowe



Watch for the **Annual Report 2018** to be arriving soon!