

Amazing Grace

February , 2020

Volume 39, Issue # 2



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,

"By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."
(1 John 3:16–18, ESV)

With these words, Saint John is encouraging us to love one another. February might be considered the month of "love". It seems Valentine's Day has taken over the whole month and you are encouraged to lavish gifts upon the romantic object of your affections. It has become quite the commercial success. The National Retail Federation (nrf.com) estimates that Americans spend \$20.7 billion for Valentine's day! Retailers, just like at Christmas and Easter, are going to encourage you to spend, spend, spend! How does John tell us to love?

First, we love because we are loved. Christ laid down His life for our sins so that we might walk in newness of life. God gives us a new heart that starts to love God and neighbor. The Lord's Prayer sometimes goes like this, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." I really like that. Sin is like a debt. A debt we can't pay. God pays if for us with His own bitter suffering and death. God delivers that payment in Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. Since we are free of any debt, we are free to love one another.

Second, love is driven by need. Any of us who have been around children know this. Babies cannot take care of themselves. They must be cared for by their parents and other loved ones. There are times in our life when we ourselves or someone in our life are in a time of need. This shouldn't surprise us since we know better than we should our real-life enemies of our flesh, the world, and Satan. This causes problems in our lives. God provides for these needs with other people. Since our needs have been cared for, we happily share our resources with others who are in need.

Third, love is messy. St. John tells us to love in deed and in truth. Love is an action word. It is also truthful. Have you ever had to confront a loved one with the truth? It's not easy, but we press through because we want our loved one to be well. Again, love is an action!

Enjoy Valentine's Day with your loved one or loved ones. Take a few minutes to reflect on how Christ has loved you! God will give you ample opportunity to reflect that love to your neighbor!

Blessings,

Pastor

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, February 11th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Come In, We Are Closed - Part 4

The author of the book, Rev. Bramwell, uses parables to teach the doctrine of closed communion. The Second parable is "The Ten Virgins" Matthew 25, 1-13.

The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish took their lamps but no oil, and the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. The bridegroom was delayed so they slept. At midnight, someone said here is the bridegroom! Come out and meet him. All the virgins rose and gathered their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, give us some of your oil because ours are going out. The wise said there is not enough oil for us and you so, go to the dealers and buy for yourselves. When the foolish virgins were gone, the bridegroom came by and the wise virgins went with Him to the marriage feast and the door was shut. The foolish virgins came and asked to enter the feast and the Lord said I do not know you. Watch therefore for you know neither the day nor the hour of His coming.

In the parable, the virgins are baptized, Bible-believing Christians. You and me. They've heard the Gospel and believe. The lamps represent their baptized faith. All the virgins had their baptism lamps. The foolish virgins did not have oil for their baptism lamps. They had lamps but overtime, while the bridegroom was delayed, the oil inside – their faith – evaporated. The wise virgins brought enough oil – their faith – to sustain them during the wait. The wise virgins told the fools to go to the sellers – the church – where Gods pastors distribute the goods we need to live. Christians need to have their faith fed. If your faith is not fed and cared for, it'll weaken and run out. Your faith is fed at communion.

Christians have a place to go and buy what they need to have eternal life, only the buying is done without money because God is gracious and giving. He freely gives the lamps and oil – faith –

so that there is no reason the virgins should be shut out of the wedding hall. The foolish virgins weren't prepared, but they could've been, if only they would've continued going to church.

When we are in church on a regular basis, our lamp oil is filled. Communion, which is the center of the Church worship, is where we're made wise and prepared for the coming bridegroom. We practice closed communion because we don't want anyone to be shut out on the last day. Until next time.

In His Service,

Chuck Stringham, President

EVANGELISM

Welcome to February—the love month!

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 2:4-7

"In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:37-39

February is a special month this year. Of course, there is the usual Valentine's Day, but since it is Leap Year, February has 29 days, instead of its normal 28. It is also special because Ash Wednesday is on February 26th, which starts the season of Lent. The season that leads us to the crux of our faith—the death and resurrection of

our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. While most people celebrate February as the month of love, as Christians, we know about the greatest love of all--God's unfathomable love for the whole world—that He sent His only Son to die for our sins, to conquer death, and to rise from the dead! What a glorious gift that is! Through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we have been given hope—the hope of salvation and eternal life!

We love, because God first loved us. We are firsthand witnesses of God's great love and grace. We can share God's Word with others and share what we know to be true. A group of us just finished the study "Every One His Witness". It was an excellent guide based on Scripture to help us share God's love and grace with others using the acronym, LASSIE (Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, Encourage). We are now studying the Augsburg Confession to better understand what Lutherans believe as true which will help us to better share our faith with others. Please join our very stimulating and informative study with Pastor after church.

The Women's Bible Study of Colossians, "The Mighty and Mysterious", is another excellent study which digs deep into the heart of the Scriptures to discover how mighty and how mysterious God truly is. We are learning to see God's plan for us, and what life together in Christ looks like. We meet every Thursday at 5:30 to 6:45pm at the church. We have extra books and we welcome you to join us.

Thanks to Mike and Carol Draney who have volunteered to organize the Daring Diner Events. They are doing a terrific job! I need some other volunteers to chair the Bereavement Committee and volunteers to organize our Relay for Life team. Please let me know if you are interested.

Kathy Holm, Evangelism Chair



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Services and Soup Suppers—Pastor Holm and family have volunteered to provide the soup supper for *Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26th*. Look for more information in the narthex and in the church bulletins.

Daring Diners, *Saturday, February 22nd* at **Haus Bistro**. Please see article in this newsletter.

Convocation at Grace Lutheran, *Saturday, April 26, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm*. Please see article in this newsletter.

Faith and Family Night, *May 8th* at Inland Empire 66ers.

Relay for Life Fontana/Rialto – May 30th



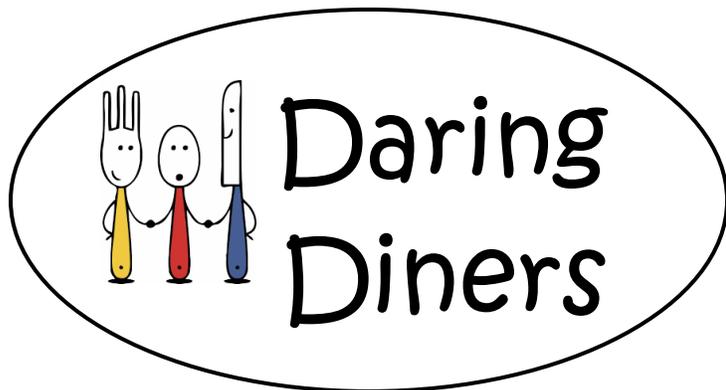
STEWARDSHIP

Thank you everyone for your support of GLC this past year. Your generosity has allowed us to operate worry-free and to plan for needed repairs/projects. This, coupled with keeping a close watch on expenses, has given us some "breathing room" as we close out 2019.

Look for an end-of-year financial report in the Annual Report which will be coming out in the next couple of months. As you peruse this report, prepared by your council members, you will see where your offerings have been put to use....we are blessed.

In Christ,

Barbara Dellinger, Stewardship Chair



Daring Diners

Daring Diners will meet on *Saturday, February 22, 2:00 p.m.* We are planning on going to **Haus Bistro**, 534 Myrtlewood Dr, Calimesa. Their menu includes appetizers, salads, grilled flatbread and entrees, to name a few, including Ossobuco Malinese, Jaeger Schnitzel, Parmesan Roughy and Hunter Chicken. See the full menu online for additional menu details. The website is thehausbistro.com

Watch for sign up sheet in narthex February 9th. *Last day to sign up will be February 16th*, as we will need to make reservations that week. If you have any questions, please contact Mike or Carol Draney - 951-845-8718, or cjdraney@hotmail.com



2020 Pacific Southwest District Catechism Convocation

The annual "Servants of the Word" Catechism Convocation is coming and we are hosting!
This is our chance to gather around the Word with our brothers and sisters in Christ and to show them our wonderful hospitality.

When: Saturday, April 25th starting at 9:30 A.M. with a concluding Divine Service at 2:15 P.M.

Where: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church!

What: The theme of the day is baptism.

Who: Many congregations in the Southern California area who are confessionally minded like we are.

Teachers: Rev. Matthew Payne
(Trinity Lutheran - San Dimas)
AND
Rev. Kevin Kolander
(First Lutheran - Lake Elsinore)

We will be providing lunch and snacks. Please plan to attend and help. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

OUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

DECEMBER	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
1 ST	\$ 4,974.00	41
8 TH	\$ 5,245.00	45
15 TH	\$ 9,007.00	?
22 ND	\$ 1,960.00	?
29 TH	\$ 3,499.00	48

email – gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com

phone – 909-875-3163

website: www.gracelutheranrialto.com



Thank you for remembering our "shut-ins" *Margaret Dickenson, Bette Howard, Jan Mansell, Jane Mathews, Joyce McFarland, Dick & Margie Nelson, Evelyn Smith, Charlie Thompson and Joyce Waters*

This month's added prayers – Ron Pickinpaugh's co-worker's son; Dale, Nancy and Trisha Telizyn; Carla del Rio's mom – Darlene; The Holm families and Andy's father - Albert Holm; Miriam Holdaway and her family; Pamela Woodcox's family, Jeanne Nelson's nephews – Sunny Rosales; Jeanne Nelson's in-laws'

caretaker – Carlos’ family (Noel, Caesar and Caesar Jr.); Gary Mansell; Tammy Mahomes’ coworker’s family; Joe and Patti Guerra; Emily Dellinger’s grandma – Rosie; Barbara Dellinger’s niece’s boys – Mitchell and Wyatt; Geraldine and Barkley at Larry Maudlin’s location; Mick Mathews and Jane Mathews.

We keep in prayer - Tony Mantz, Larry Maudlin and Dave Nehls

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.*



Large Print Bulletins and hymns are now available. If you would like them for the Divine Service, please, talk to Kim Pickinpaugh, the church secretary.

February BIRTHDAYS

1	A.J. Deacy
	Tristan Travers
2	Jacob Del Rio
	Sean Villasenor
5	Jonathan Will
6	Kenny Franzen
8	Stephanie Brewer
9	Judith Belter
	Jessica Wampole
11	Oliver Mahomes
17	Bryan Stringham
22	Shane Travers
25	Judy Adams
25	JoAnn Miller
29	Kevin Mitchell

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Do you know when you were baptized? Just send a quick email to the church office at: gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14	Roger and Linda Darnold
15	Mike and Hannah Villasenor



FUNNY CORNER

