

# Amazing Grace

JULY, 2020

Volume 39, Issue 7



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,

Can there be such a thing as racism when there is no such thing as race in God's eyes?

There are two things you share in common with every other person.

First, you are a descendent of Noah. Pastor Wolfmueller ([wolfmueller.co](http://wolfmueller.co)) has humorously pointed out that when you run into people who are not your immediate family, you should think of having a Noah family reunion. The flood was a worldwide event. If you were not on Noah's ark, you died. Noah did not have any children after the flood, so all of us are descended from Noah's three sons. (Genesis 6:9-10:32) This means we are all one race! We already know this because God created us man and woman. (Genesis 2) Every human being is a creation of God bearing His image, even though it is corrupted by Original Sin.

Second, you are a sinner. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) The next verse continues though with the Good News: "[All] are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24) We call this the Universal Atonement. The blood of Jesus covers every sin known to man. Jesus died for every person you see. The difference between the believer and unbeliever is just that: belief: "Whoever believes and is baptized

will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

I hope this changes how you think about other people. The concept of "race" was propagated by people who were into eugenics. Eugenics is the horrendous idea that you can control breeding so that so-called undesirable characteristics no longer exist in the human race. The Nazis under Hitler engaged in this to try to get rid of Jews and gypsies and the handicapped. Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood is a well known eugenicist. Sadly, dark skin was considered undesirable by both the Nazis and Margaret Sanger. Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Martin Luther King Jr., has documented well how planned parenthood targets black communities. Eugenics is still an evil alive in our day.

Eugenics is an example of racism. Before God, there is only one race, but there are differences in cultures and countries. Part of what makes the Olympics fun is that you get to see the amazing similarities and differences between cultures. When you hate someone and sin against them because of culture or country, this is racism. Our country has been described as a melting pot. We have citizens from all over the world. When you hate someone and sin against them because of a difference in culture, this is racism. Racism can exist even though race is not something that actually exists before God. And racism is evil. As Christians who care about justice, we want racism abolished. We want injustice abolished.

Some who are protesting now want you to believe that systematic racism is happening today in the United States. Systematic racism is when laws or institutions exist that treat people unfairly based on culture. The Jim Crow laws that enforced segregation between whites and blacks is an ugly example of laws that treated a certain group of people unfairly. The Tuskegee Airmen are an example of how the institution of the military treated a group of people unfairly. The brave men of the Tuskegee Airmen fought in World War II even though they were treated unfairly. Thanks be to God for their selfless sacrifice! Today, I see no evidence today of systematic racism, but I could be wrong. As Christians, when we see laws or institutions that are racist, we should and must fight against them. I have seen ugly examples of racism by people throughout my entire life. Racism by individuals still exists and it is ugly and a horrible sin.

Slavery is a shameful part of our history. Thanks be to God, it no longer exists. No matter how bad you feel about slavery though, you cannot atone for it. One of the curious things that has arisen during this time of protest and rioting is people trying to atone for slavery. We each have enough of our own sin to apologize and attempt to make amends for. It is impossible for you to apologize and amend for sins others have committed. What can you do?

- You can repent of your own sin. Christian Tony Dungy, a former NFL coach, says that sin like racism can only be changed with individual heart changes. He is absolutely right.
- You can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those whom God puts in your life. The message of reconciliation with God through the atoning work of Christ is the only thing that changes hearts.
- You can pray for the victims of racism.
- You can pray for justice when evil actions are done by individuals.

- You can pray for repentance and faith for those who perpetrate evils such as racism or looting.
- You can offer prayers of thanksgiving for emergency workers, especially police officers, during this exceedingly difficult time.
- You can pray for police officers and their families who are facing uncertain times and a lack of support from the government.
- You can attempt to stop racism when you see it in your life.
- You can pray for clarity on the issue of racism in our public square (news, politics, and social media).
- You can attempt to vote people into public office who care about justice for all people.

These are very uncertain times. The devil will attempt to sow hatred, discord, and strife during these uncertain times. Do not succumb to the wiles of the devil. Lean on Christ. He is the only certain thing in this life or the next. He has already defeated the devil. He gives that victory to you in your Baptism. Cling to Christ and He will give you peace during this difficult time.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Jesus is with me; His rod and staff comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4, slightly amended)

In Christ,

*Pastor Maggard*

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Tuesday, JULY 14<sup>th</sup>!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

As we strive to re-open the church for Sunday services, it is extremely important that we all pay strict attention to the requirements that allows us to stay open. All attendees at church must wear a mask that protects each other from the potential of getting infected. We must also maintain effective social distancing that helps to keep us safe. There are members of Grace that don't feel comfortable attending church services for whatever reason and the decision to stay at home is respected by everyone. We all want to be together, but it is not worth it if even one of us gets sick from an accidental exposure. Please be mindful of activities you choose to partake in away from church and understand that you may come into contact with an infected person. If that happens, please stay at home and if you get symptoms, see your doctor. Remember there are asymptomatic people out there that do not show any signs of infection. Be careful, stay aware and be smart.

In His Service,  
*Chuck Stringham*, President

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## EVANGELISM

Dear Fellow Christians and Neighbors!

It is good to be back at church after our long quarantine and to be able to participate in the service of communion! Gathering again will not be quite the same until, with God's help, we get this pandemic under control. Thanks to Allan Dellinger, Diane Kline, and Elders for cleaning and setting up the church so we can all worship safely together. It has been a blessing to be together again! Praise God!

This year has begun with a rocky start with the spread of the coronavirus and has only worsened with the brutal murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna

Taylor, and George Floyd. Our country is in dire need of prayer and love. As Christians, we need to react and respond as Jesus Christ would want us to do. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Following state guidelines by wearing a mask and adhering to social distancing is showing love for your neighbor. Being compassionate, understanding, and listening to others is showing love for your neighbor. Avoiding hateful, negative, and judgmental posts on social media is showing love for your neighbor.

There are two prayers my sister and I pray often in the current Portals of Prayer which I feel are very appropriate for this time:

**For Our Enemies:** Lord God, guard and keep us against our enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Remind us that in Jesus, the victory has been won! Remind us that You love **ALL** people. When we are tempted to hate others, help us to see them as You see them: beloved people for whom You died. Help us to battle against our true enemy, Satan, by working toward peace and **love** with **all** people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**For the Peace of Christ:** Heavenly Father, You have instructed us to be anxious for nothing; yet we are so often anxious about everything. As we turn to You in prayer, we ask that You would hear our requests about things that have kept us from Your peace. Help us to keep our minds on **Christ**, trusting Him in all things, so that we may know His perfect peace even in the most difficult trials of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I will close with Colossians 3:12-14

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues **put on love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

*Kathy Holm*, Chairperson

## YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

| MAY              | OFFERING    | ATTENDANCE |
|------------------|-------------|------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | \$ 1,915.00 | n/a        |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | \$ 4,949.96 | n/a        |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | \$ 6,100.00 | n/a        |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | \$ 3,175.00 | n/a        |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | \$ 1,780.00 | n/a        |

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### Thank you for remembering our “shut-ins”

Margaret Dickenson, Bette Howard, Jan Mansell, Joyce McFarland, Larry Maudlin, Dick & Margie Nelson, Evelyn Smith, Ruth Spies, Charlie Thompson and Joyce Waters.

**This month's added:** Alma Rich's son-in-law's brother – Dave; Erin Maggard's Brother – Scott McDaniel; Alma Rich's son – John and daughter-in-law, Jane; Don and Susan Sidoti. Tom Sidoti's family; Allan and Barbara Dellinger's friend – David; Jonathan Torrance and family; Dolores Smith's daughter-in-law – Kathy's son, Aaron.

**We keep in prayer** - Tony Mantz and family; Dave Nehls and family; - Richard Lowe and family; Nancy Telizyn's friend – Hilary and her mom – Helen; Marcy and Bryan Stringham; Brian Smith and family; Debbie Schwartz's niece – Arla; Alma Rich's niece – Ginger; Pastor Maggard's mom – Lyn Sperling.



## TO THOSE BORN IN JULY!

|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 1  | Lynda Olson      |
| 2  | Chuck Stringham  |
| 12 | Diana Klemm      |
| 17 | Rebecca Mantz    |
| 19 | Erin Maggard     |
| 20 | Kim Franzen      |
| 21 | Nancy Telizyn    |
|    | Ryan Franzen     |
| 22 | Dave Nehls       |
| 27 | Pastor Maggard   |
| 28 | Sherry Herrera   |
|    | Scott Klemm      |
|    | Kim Pickinpaugh  |
| 30 | Gail James       |
| 31 | Charlie Thompson |

## JULY BAPTISMS

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

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

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

|    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1  | Bill and Judi Parker-Choske |
| 17 | Larry and Debbie Schwartz   |
| 24 | Pastor Maggard's Ordination |
| 29 | Daniel and Eleanor Holm     |

## **Funny Corner**

What did the firecracker eat at the movie theater??  
Pop-corn!!

