

# AMAZING GRACE

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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,

Last January you gave me the opportunity to go to Symposia at the Fort Wayne Seminary. The teaching was excellent, but what I enjoyed most was seeing people I had not seen in a long time from my old home church in Casper, Wyoming. One of the people I was able to spend time with was my previous pastor's eldest son, Andrew. He just completed his first year at seminary. During our conversation he expressed extreme gratitude for his parents and the classical Lutheran school he attended.

His gratitude was about having the Small Catechism deeply embedded and the hymns of the day memorized. They also were on the one-year historic lectionary which has a standard hymn of the day. So, he has at least 60 hymns memorized. His parents and the school would regularly test him on the Small Catechism. He will never forget the Small Catechism even if he, God forbid, gets dementia. His parents started each week teaching all the kids the hymn of the day for that week. They would start with one stanza and when that was memorized move onto the next. When you combine these things with the prodigious amount of Scripture he has memorized, you realize that he has a wealth of material memorized upon which to meditate and think clearly about Christ who is

revealed in Scripture, Catechism, and the hymns. If you are ever stuck in a Russian gulag without access to the Bible, may God forbid it, you want someone like Andrew to be near you so that you can receive the comfort of the Gospel!

What if you are like me and have come to the realization later in your life that you need to work on your memorization? I know that no matter how hard or how long I strive, I will never approach the depth of material Andrew has in his brain! But if I start today, and every day, memorizing what I can, I can build a small library in my mind to meditate upon and receive the comfort of the Gospel. I do not believe any of us are in danger of being thrown into a Russian gulag, but we sure are distracted by a ton of electronic media. The more we have in our head, the more we can meditate upon God's Word while at line in the grocery or waiting for the movie to start or while on commercial break.

First, we should strive to memorize Luther's Small Catechism. This will give you a wonderful foundation and framework for everything else. Second, we should strive to memorize solid, old, great Lutheran hymns. "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" (LSB 594) is a great example of a theologically solid hymn that provides great teaching and comfort. Third, we should start memorizing parts of Scripture. Psalms and key

verses are always a great blessing to us when we have them readily at hand in our mind.

Even to have a little memorized is better than having nothing memorized. Do not compare your progress to someone else's progress. There will always be people better than you and worse than you in whatever metric you choose. I leave you with a wonderful portion of Psalm 119:

<sup>41</sup> Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,  
your salvation according to your promise;

<sup>42</sup> then shall I have an answer for him who  
taunts me, for I trust in your word.

<sup>43</sup> And take not the word of truth utterly out of my  
mouth, for my hope is in your rules.

<sup>44</sup> I will keep your law continually,  
forever and ever,

<sup>45</sup> and I shall walk in a wide place,  
for I have sought your precepts.

<sup>46</sup> I will also speak of your testimonies before  
kings and shall not be put to shame,

<sup>47</sup> for I find my delight in your commandments,  
which I love.

<sup>48</sup> I will lift up my hands toward your  
commandments, which I love,  
and I will meditate on your statutes. (vv. 41-48)

In Christ,

*Pastor Maggard*

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**→ Tuesday ←  
AUGUST 18th**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Grace Family,

We continue to operate our families, businesses, and social activities under the thumb of the COVID-19 conditions. Our lives have been held hostage by the segment of society that don't quite understand how important it is to practice proper hygiene, wear a mask and practice social distancing. The increase in COVID cases comes directly from two sources, increased testing, which reveals that more people are infected and from that segment of society that ignored the warnings that large unprotected gatherings were risky and unsafe.

My reminder to all of you is to keep focused on maintaining those strategies that keep you and others safe. Wear a mask when in public, stay home if you are sick and maintain proper social distancing when out in the community. God is still in control!

In His Service

*Chuck Stringham, President*

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## **EVANGELISM**

Dear Fellow Christians and Neighbors!

I was distraught and disheartened to read in the July 11th edition of the LA Times newspaper about an incident that happened in front of a Hollywood Lutheran Church and School. A black woman had stopped to rest in the shade of the front lawn of the church when church volunteers told her that she needed to leave as they posted a "No Trespassing" sign to a tree. They told her they had a lot of problems with people here (homeless people) and people from the park vandalizing. They told her if she didn't comply, they would call the police. They never said, "Hello" or "How are you?" or "Can I help you?" The woman recorded the situation on her phone and posted it on social media. Since the

incident, the church has offered apologies and the volunteers have resigned from their assignments. Later, the school's principal invited the woman into the sanctuary to talk and to attend church services on July 12th. The young woman did attend and received a much warmer welcome from the church. A follow-up article was published on Saturday, July 18th recounting the apologies and the attempts to make amends, but the woman, church, and its members still feel traumatized. We need to pray for this church and the woman.

Similarly, our church has had problems with vandals and homeless people abusing our church property. How would we respond or react to this young lady if she had chosen to sit in the shade at the front of our church? I'm hoping we would respond in a Christian loving manner offering grace, especially since that is implied in our name Grace Lutheran Church, rather than with confrontation and rejection.

I was also disappointed to read a response in Letters to the Editor from a Lutheran pastor of an Evangelical Lutheran Church insinuating that the particular church in question was from a conservative synod—"Not known for their liberality"—as if this is a question of liberal vs. conservative. It is not! I was disappointed that the pastor never mentioned Jesus Christ or His commandment to "love your neighbor" in his letter.

The bottom line is that we need to love God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind and we need to love our neighbors as ourselves as Jesus commanded (Matthew 22:37-39). As church members, Christians, and followers of Christ, we need to reflect and respond with Christ's love and grace. This is hard to do as sinful beings, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, and Christ's love and forgiveness, we can do it!

If we really want to reflect Christ's presence, wisdom, power, and glory, we need to become more intimate with our God—get up close and personal to Jesus. How can we do this? First, by spending time reading and meditating on

Scripture; second, by daily going to God in prayer; and third, by actively listening to God—training our ears to hear Him so we can have the Lord's direction, wisdom, and power. The sinful world is hurting with lies and hate. As Christians, we need to always be ready to offer the truth and love that we have in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Kathy Holm, Chairperson*

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## WORSHIP

While I have been in isolation and not being able to join my fellow choir members at church and with my local women's singing group I am still singing. Sometimes with the radio, just getting out my hymnal or with an accompaniment CD. It's a great way of praising God. Please read the following benefits. While singing in the privacy of your own home, it won't matter if you're on key or not. Keep singing, everyone! It's healthy!!! Be well and may the Lord keep you safe!

*Debbie Schwartz*

### Physical Benefits of Singing

#### ▪ **Singing strengthens the immune system**

According to research conducted at the University of Frankfurt, singing boosts the immune system. The study included testing professional choir members' blood before and after an hour-long rehearsal singing Mozart's "Requiem". The researchers noticed that in most cases, the amount of proteins in the immune system that function as antibodies, known as Immunoglobulin A, were significantly higher immediately after the rehearsal. The same increases were not observed after the choir members passively listened to music.

#### ▪ **Singing is a workout**

For the elderly, disabled, and injured, singing can be an excellent form of exercise. Even if you're healthy, your lungs will get a workout as you

employ proper singing techniques and vocal projections. Other related health benefits of singing include a stronger diaphragm and stimulated overall circulation. Since you pull in a greater amount of oxygen while singing than when doing many other types of exercise, some even believe that singing can increase your aerobic capacity and stamina.

▪ **Singing improves your posture**

Standing up straight is part of correct technique as you're singing, so with time, good posture will become a habit! As your chest cavity expands and your shoulders and back align, you're improving your posture overall.

▪ **Singing helps with sleep**

According to a health article in Daily Mail Online, experts believe singing can help strengthen throat and palate muscles, which helps stop snoring and sleep apnea. If you're familiar with these ailments, you know how difficult it can be to get a good night's sleep!



**We have an opening in the Altar Guild!**

If you are looking for a way to help at church this is for you!!

The months of service are January, April, July and October. Please contact Maletta Miller if you are interested in helping. Thank you!!



**Thank you for remembering our "shut-ins":**

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

***This month's added prayers:***

Kurt Wampole's cousin's daughter – Davida Lanston's family; Richard and Patty Lowe for the passing of Charlie Thompson; Anthony and Tamara Mahomes; Allan Dellinger's 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin – Doug Klein; Bill and Judi Parker-Choske; Tamara Mahomes' friend – Barbara's family; Marcy and Bryan Stringham; Ross and Bree Ann Stringham; Chuck and Sandy Stringham; Caitlyn Del Rio's best friend's sister; Patti Guerra's friend – Hudson; Gail Picado; The Del Rio family; Robin-Ocheltree-Anderson; Erin Maggard's brother – Scott McDaniel; Larry Maudlin; Allan Dellinger's cousin Penny and her husband – Tim and daughter – Beth; Glen and Gail's daughter's friend – Vivian and family; Bill Choske's friend – Tim and his wife – Erin.

**We keep in prayer:**

Tony Mantz and family; Dave Nehls and family; Richard and Patty Lowe; Jonathan Torrance and family; Lyn Sperling.

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# AUGUST



## BIRTHDAYS

3	Anthony	Mahomes
4	Jacob	Petrovick
8	Alexis	Smith
8	Matthew	Nehls
13	Margaret	Dickenson
13	Grace	Nelson
19	Amy	Belter
26	Patti	Guerra
27	Bill	Choske
30	Diane	Kline

Due to a computer issue I have lost some files. One of the files included your baptism dates. Would you take a quick minute to send your baptism date/month to me at [gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com).

Thank you for your help!

*Kim Pickinpaugh*

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### To All In August!

4	Luis and Carla	Del Rio
6	John and Sandra	Scharlemann
7	Andrew and Kathy	Holm
7	Josh and Emily	Torrance Sr
8	Mike and Carol	Draney
20	Scott and Diana	Klemm
25	Ken and Amy	Franzen
31	Brian and Ashley	Smith



### FUNNY CORNER

Why can't a bicycle stand up by itself?



→ Because it is two-tired!