

Amazing Grace

September, 2020

Volume 39, Issue 9



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,

In the August edition of "The Lutheran Witness," Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann offers a great synopsis of our duty to vote:

Voting is an activity of the temporal realm, one of the many ways that we strive to uphold God's justice and live in right relationships with other creatures. As citizens of a democratic republic, we participate in government in ways unimaginable to our fathers in the faith. When we vote, we are the government. Voting, then, is not mere right or privilege; it is a holy obligation, a responsibility, a small but significant vocation given by God to each Christian citizen. You need to vote.

So, how does God want you to vote? Actually, that is not a trick question; it has an easy answer: God wants you to vote for the people, principles and platforms that will uphold and advance His justice in the world. (LW, August 2020, pp. 10-11)

While the answer is easy on who to vote for in one way, determining which candidates and platforms will "advance God's justice in the world" is not easy. I wish I could tell you that to vote for President Trump or Candidate Biden is the "right" vote. This is where our sanctified reason plays a part. For example, I have mostly been a one-issue voter on the issue of right to life. I think there are good reasons for this. I also think there are good arguments on being a "platform" voter over being a "one-issue" voter but I do not find them compelling enough to change how I vote. You need to use your sanctified reason and compelling arguments to determine how you vote in a way that best serves your neighbor. Some Christians will vote for President Trump and remain Christians. Other Christians will vote for Candidate Biden and remain Christians.

However, there are two things that should inform your voting as a Christian. Both the family and Christianity are under attack. The family has always been under attack, but it has intensified since the Sexual Revolution. Candidates and platforms that attack the family and try to replace the functions of the family with dependence upon government institutions must be voted against. Christianity, likewise, has always been under attack, and the flagrant attack against Christianity has also intensified since the Sexual Revolution. Any candidates or platforms that hinder the free expression of the Gospel must be voted against.

God does not tell you who to vote for in any kind of divine revelation. To delve into any of God's hidden counsel is foolish, at best. He gives you His Word which teaches us what justice looks like. And He gives you the gift of reason to make sound judgments. Use these gifts well as you serve your neighbor in love in the voter's booth this November.

In Christ,
Pastor Maggard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

As we continue to face the difficulties stemming from the COVID 19 pandemic, just remember that God is in control. I want to thank everyone that makes our building a safe to place to worship and thank each of you for staying safe as well.

As of November 1, 2020, Jim and Diane Kline will be stepping down from housekeeping/cleaning responsibilities at the church. If you know of anyone that might be interested in a paid position at the church, please let me know as soon as possible.

In His Blessing,
Chuck Stringham, President

STEWARDSHIP

Wow! Who would have thought that our lives could have been turned so topsy-turvy and that this rollercoaster ride would last for months? From week to week we don't know if and when we can get a haircut, eat inside a restaurant, or worship in our church as we always have. Many things in our lives have changed, but rest assured that the love and grace of our Lord remains...He is our constant.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our church during this time. Our attendance is lower

than normal, as some do not feel comfortable or safe to attend, but you have not forgotten your financial commitment. Your support is a blessing.

Until we return to normal; until we can freely worship again, rest assured... "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3). He is and always will be there for you. Turn your cares and concerns over to Him and feel His peace.

Barbara Dellinger, Stewardship Chair

A green rectangular box with a white border containing the text "NEWSLETTER DEADLINE" in orange, underlined, and "Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 15TH" in orange below it.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 15TH

EVANGELISM

"From Fear to Faith" and "Faith Over Fear"

The above were topics of recent devotions in Portals of Prayer and Jesus, Our Perfect Hope by Charles Stanley. Dr. Stanley stated, "What makes the difference between a timid, fretful life and one that's strong, fruitful, and rewarding is **faith** in the presence of the living God." Moses understood this, which is why he asked the Lord to be with him and the Israelites. He knew that nothing would be impossible if God provided for them and protected them. (Exodus 33:12-19) This pandemic has created stress, anxiety, and fearfulness of the unknown similar to what Moses and the Israelites faced. Being quarantined and alone, apart from loved ones, can magnify our fears.

In the Gospel of Mark's account of Jesus calming the storm, Jesus asks "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" Mark 4:40 "He equates so

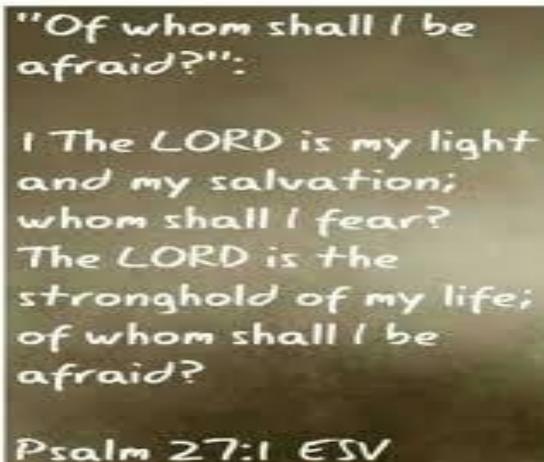
WORSHIP

much fear with a lack of faith.” What should be our faith response in times of uncertainty and overwhelming circumstances in our lives? “What do we know about Jesus that helps us measure our adversity against His ability? He overcame death so that our worst fear is behind us. His death on the cross proves how much He loves us. He is God, so nothing is too difficult for Him. He took on human flesh so we can know He sympathizes with our daily struggles. He has a plan for our lives and no storm (or pandemic) can overturn it.”

“Once you embrace the truth that God is indeed in control of your circumstances, has equipped you for every challenge (Holy Scriptures), and will give you the victory as you obey Him, your outlook will change. You won’t see life as a continuous series of trials, but as an ongoing adventure with your Creator” and Savior.

One way we can serve others and allay their fears is by sharing God’s Word and the hope that we have in Jesus, our Savior. We can send cards, make phone calls, or drop off care packages for our church members, family, friends, and especially to those who are unchurched. We need to assure ourselves and others that God is with us! He will protect and provide for us! Dear Lord, help us to be **faithful** and not fearful!

Kathy Holm, Chairperson



"Of whom shall I be afraid?":
I The LORD is my light
and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the
stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be
afraid?
Psalm 27:1 ESV

This is Part II. Very good information, especially as we navigate through the pandemic. We need all the help we can get to keep our bodies and minds in good health. So, along with our daily prayers and devotions, singing is important. And like Pastor Maggard has stated, “Of course, we’re going to sing, we’re Lutherans.”

Psychological and Emotional Benefits of Singing

Singing is a natural anti-depressant

Singing is known to release endorphins, the feel-good brain chemical that makes you feel uplifted and happy. In addition, scientists have identified a tiny organ in the ear called the sacculus, which responds to the frequencies created by singing. The response creates an immediate sense of pleasure, regardless of what the singing sounds like. Not only that, but singing can simply take your mind off the day’s troubles to boost your mood.

Singing lowers stress levels

Making music in any form is relaxing. Singing releases stored muscle tension and decreases the levels of a stress hormone called cortisol in your blood stream.

Singing improves mental alertness

Improved blood circulation and an oxygenated blood stream allow more oxygen to reach the brain. This improves mental alertness, concentration, and memory. The Alzheimer’s Society has even established a “Singing for the Brain” service to help people with dementia and Alzheimer’s maintain their memories.

Debbie Schwartz





As of November 1, 2020, the Church housekeeping/cleaning position will be open to fill. This one of the few paid positions at Grace and it is important to get the right person to fill the position.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the position, please contact me by replying to me (not reply all). If you know of someone outside the church family that might be interested, please give them my email - cbstringham@hotmail.com

Thank you,
Chuck Stringham, President

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

JUNE	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
7 th	\$ 8,360.00	24
14 th	\$ 3,385.00	29
21 st	\$ 4,365.00	30
28 th	\$ 2,505.00	-

JULY	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
5 th	\$ 3,135.00	23
12 th	\$ 7,294.00	28
19 th	\$ 3,240.00	28
26 th	\$ 2,690.00	25

September Baptisms

Diane Kline

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

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.

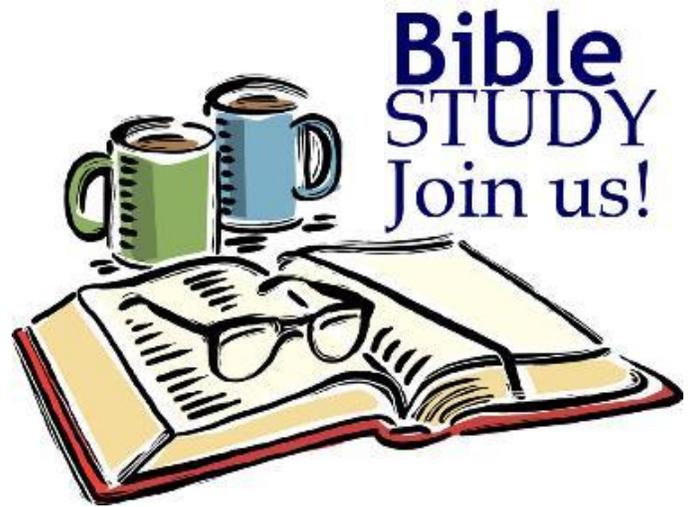
This past month's added prayers: Gail Picado; Dolores Smith's cousin – Sheila and her mother; Apple fire victims and responders; Riley's family – the Regalados and Garcias; Hudson and family; John and Sandra Scharlemann; Maletta Miller's friend – Heather; Dolores Smith's sister- Margie and daughter-in-law - Kathy's father and son, Aaron. Heather Edgemon's friends – Kyle, Shaye and family; Kevin Mitchell's friend, Karen (Ehrlich) Burgon's family; Don and Susan Sidoti; Kim Franzen's 3 friends; Carol Draney's mom – Loretta Laumer; Mike and Carol Draney; Betty Guinn; Tami Travers; Allan and Barbara Dellinger's friend – David; Barbara Dellinger's 2nd cousin – Jan Franklin; Allan Dellinger's friend – Pastor Robert and Allan's cousin – Penny; Don Sidoti's Uncle Douglas and his wife; Chuck and Sandy Stringham; Bree Ann Stringham's mom and grandparents; Caitlyn Del Rio's friend's sister; Jacob and Jen Del Rio's family; Glen and Gail's daughter's friend – Vivian and family.

We keep in prayer - Tony Mantz and family; Dave Nehls and family; - Patty and Richard Lowe; Anthony and Tamara Mahomes; Bill Choske's friend – Tim and his wife, Erin. Marcy and Bryan Stringham; Pastor Maggard's mom – Lyn Sperling.





1	Evelyn Smith
4	Greg Nelson
6	Mike Miller
14	Pastor Holm
14	Joyce McFarland
16	Amy Franzen
19	Luke Wampole
23	Linda Darnold
24	McKenzie Murdick
26	Don Belter



Pastor Maggard is conducting an online Bible Study on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Presently, they are using Google Meet. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Maggard at 909-600-4917 or wrmaggard@gmail.com

God Loves You

email – gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com

phone – 909-875-3163

Website: www.gracelutheranrialto.com



IN SEPTEMBER TO:

2	Bryan and Marcy Stringham
4	Kurt and Jessica Wampole
8	Glen and Gail James
21	Dale and Nancy Telizyn

Funny Corner

How do you fix a broken tomato?

With tomatopaste!

