

Amazing Grace

October, 2020

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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,

The 8th Commandment is especially helpful to remember during the political season.

What is the 8th Commandment?

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Ouch!

Not only am I not supposed to talk poorly about my neighbor, I actually need to speak well of them and explain everything in the kindest way!

This is reflected in Philippians: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (2:3) Notice that Paul does not add any conditions to that other person: "count others more significant than yourself... only if they are worthy!" No! It is simply "count others more significant than yourself!"

The reason for this is Christ died for that person. No matter how poorly they behave or how ignorant

they seem, Christ still died for them. Everyone has value because Christ died for them.

Facebook is an example where personal attacks are all over the place. EverTrumpers are idiots. NeverTrumpers are idiots. Rarely in these types of posts, do you see people attacking the ideas. They attack people instead. It should be obvious, but if you call someone an idiot, you will never win them over to your point of view. You have also broken the 5th commandment.

Forgiveness is available to you while you still have breath. "If we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) Thanks be to God; our forgiveness depends upon Christ's work and not our own! That means your forgiveness is guaranteed!

"Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18) Remember as you engage with people online that Christ died for them; yes, even them, just as He died for you. Attack bad ideas but not the people who hold them. Who knows, maybe you will even get the chance to get into a discussion with someone instead of endless character assassinations!

God bless you as you continue to interact with the world around you.

Pastor Maggard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

While we continue to experience the conditions imposed upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic, I believe that the cases we are following are beginning to flatten which means there might be some easing of the restrictions on churches.

In October, we will have a church council meeting on Sunday October 18, 2020. We will be planning for the 2021 budget and looking at church council positions that may need to be filled.

In November, we will also have a church council meeting on November 8, 2020, followed by a voters' meeting on November 15, 2020.

All meetings will take place right after services. Attendance at our regular Sunday service usually totals around 25-30, which means we will have to see how that works with making a quorum for the voters' meeting. I hope by having a few regular meetings, we might feel a little normalcy returning to our lives.

In His Services.

Chuck Stringham, President

EVANGELISM

“Intentionality gives clarity and focus to evangelism.”

The author for all of September's Portals of Prayer devotions is Steve Cohen, a Christian Jew who has served as a frontline missionary to the Jewish people since 1976. In the September 15th devotion he thanks a Lutheran layman who prayed for him daily for three years. For twenty-three years of his life, Steve did not believe in Jesus and was not interested in spiritual things. Through this man's

prayers and the power of the Holy Spirit, Steve gradually desired to learn of God and His love for him. The Lutheran layman was intentional in his prayers. Now Steve is intentionally sharing the Gospel with others. That's intentionality!

I'm going to borrow from Steve's September 14th devotion in Portals of Prayer on Intentionality because he explains it so well. Steve Cohen cites Mark 12:29,30 when Jesus is answering a scribe's question about which is the first commandment of all.

Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

Focusing on loving the “Lord your God with all your mind” is being intentional. Steve Cohen states that “intentionality gives clarity and focus to evangelism. In Luke 9:23 Jesus said to all, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” “The Lord urges us to follow Him, and that takes intentionality. We choose to do right over wrong, to deny ourselves rather than vaunt ourselves over others. We are redeemed people who face the world, the flesh, and the devil in our daily walk. Because of sin, we will fall short. But by God's amazing grace, we live daily in forgiveness of sin.”

“As followers of Christ, we have good news: Jesus Christ died for us and gave us His marvelous gift of salvation. Because He fully kept the Law, we who are saved are in Christ as new creations! We are set free from sin's slavery. Now we strive daily to grow in our intentionality to love the Lord, denying ourselves.”

Lord, help us to love You with our whole heart,

whole soul, whole mind, and our whole strength. And help us to be intentional in our prayers and in sharing the good news with others.

Kathy Holm, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP

A few weeks ago some church members and members of the Community Garden had a plant sale on the front lawn of the church. A lot of people stopped by, one being a neighbor of the church. This man said he had been watching all the work being done at the church and how nice it looks, especially with the new paint.

Several of the gardeners have commented on the new security lights. They felt much safer on the occasion they have stayed a little later than planned.

I tell you this because it is from your faithful giving that the upkeep of the church has continued and others are noticing. Thank you for your loyalty during these difficult times and allowing us at GLC to be good neighbors.

I also want to remind you to watch for your annual pledge letter....yes, it's already that time again. Your pledge card is an important tool for Church Council to prepare a budget for the upcoming year. I thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration and returning your card.

Barbara Dellinger, Chairperson

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WORSHIP

This is Part III, and the final of the series on why singing helps our overall health and well-being! Choir rehearsals ordinarily start the Thursday after Labor Day. Unfortunately, not this year! As soon as we are able to meet safely, it will happen. But in the meantime, whether you are part of the Grace choir or not, sing for your whole life!!!

Psalm 104:33 states “I will sing to the Lord all my life, I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.”

Social Benefits of Singing

Singing can widen your circle of friends

Whether you're in a choir or simply enjoy singing karaoke with your friends, one of the unexpected health benefits of singing is that it can improve your social life. The bonds you form singing with others can be profound, since there's a level of intimacy naturally involved.

Singing boosts your confidence

Stage fright is a common feeling for new singers. However, performing well and receiving praise from your friends and family may be the key to eventually overcoming your fears and boosting your self-confidence. With time, you may even find it easier to present any type of material in front of a group with poise and good presentation skills.

Singing broadens communication skills

According to an article in [The Guardian](#), singing to babies helps prepare their brains for language. Music is just as important as teaching reading and writing at a young age to prevent language problems later in life. If you enjoy writing your own lyrics, honing this talent can improve your ability to communicate in different ways!

Singing increases your ability to appreciate other singers

Sometimes, you don't realize how difficult

something is until you try it yourself. As you grow from an amateur to an intermediate student and beyond, you'll be looking to the masters for inspiration. You might even find a new style of music to appreciate that you wouldn't normally listen to!

The delights of singing go beyond merely enjoying the beauty of your own vocal talent. All of these health benefits of singing may make you want to join a choir or [start taking voice lessons](#) right away! If so, don't hesitate to get started – have fun with it, and do what you enjoy!

Love in Christ,
Debbie Schwartz



Thank you for remembering our “shut-ins”
Margaret Dickenson, Bette Howard, Joyce McFarland, Larry Maudlin, Dick & Margie Nelson, Evelyn Smith, Ruth Spies, and Joyce Waters.

This month's added prayers: *Eleanor Holm's mother, Ruby and grandma, Ester; Gail York's friends – Cathy and her husband, Steve; Glen and Gail's friend – Debbie's nephew – Chris, his wife Sierra and unborn son Jack; Gail Picado, Carol Draney's mom – Loretta Laumer; Kevin Mitchell's employee – Fred and his wife, Lyn; Lake Charles folks and others affected by the hurricane; Terry Pickinpaugh; Kim Pickinpaugh's mom – Joan; Dave Nehls' wife – Sue and her parents and brother-in-law, Michael Schultz; Barbara Dellinger's 2nd cousin – Jan Franklin; Mansell family in the passing of Jan Mansell; Jim and Diane Kline's friend – Julie; Betty Guinn; Barbara and Allan Dellinger in the passing of her brother, James Kelly; Margaret Dickenson; Tamara Mahomes' friend – Zenida, her best friend – Windy, Windy's son – Jayson, his wife – Nikole and their unborn son; and those affected by the wildfires in all the western states.*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Tuesday, OCTOBER 13TH

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

AUGUST	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
2 ND	\$ 2,680.00	28
9 TH	\$ 7,690.00	24
16 TH	\$ 2,625.00	28
23 RD	\$ 2,655.00	29
30 TH	\$ 2,565.00	26

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.*

October Baptisms

Sherry Herrera Elisa Torrance
Josh Torrance Jr

Do you know when you were baptized?
Email - gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com

Bible Study

Join us on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for an online Bible Study.

If you are interested please contact Pastor Maggard at
909-600-4917 or
wrmaggard@gmail.com

LET'S CELEBRATE



BIRTHDAYS

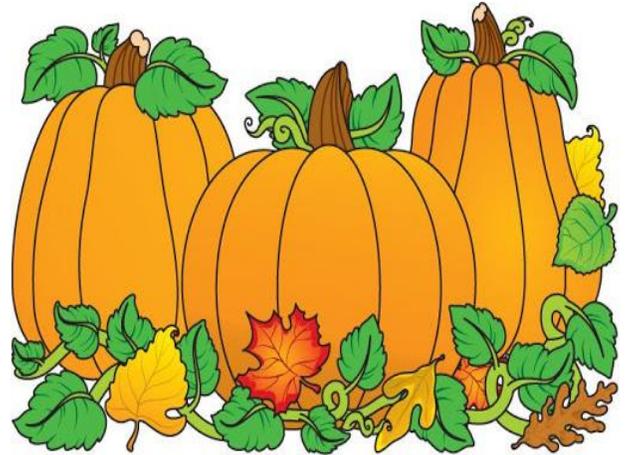
2	Richard Franzen
3	Mikeal Villasenor
5	Sandra Scharlemann
7	Anthony Herrera
9	Trisha Cospers
12	Mike Guinn
19	Kathy Holm
24	Jeanne Nelson
25	Heather Murdick
28	Debbie Schwartz



IN OCTOBER TO

Chuck and Sandy Stringham on the 1st

Pumpkin Prayer



Cut off the top:

Lord, open my mind and fill me with Your wisdom and guidance.

Scoop out the yuckies:

Lord, take out all my fussies and frownies and fill me with Your love .

Carve out the eyes:

Lord, open my eyes to see all of the beautiful things you have made.

Carve out the nose:

Lord, help me to be a sweet fragrance for you.

Carve Out the mouth:

Lord, help me to always speak Your words of love and kindness.

Place in a light:

Lord, let me be a light to others for You have filled me with Your light.