

# Amazing Grace

January, 2021

Volume 40, Issue 1



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,

Treasury means, "a place in which stores of wealth are kept." (Merriam-Webster) The Treasury of Daily Prayer is truly that, a book in which stores of wealth are kept. The wealth, of course, is God's Word. The daily readings along with the daily psalm are printed in the bulletin so that you do not have to own a copy of the Treasury of Daily Prayer to read along with others. The daily readings are listed in your hymnal as well (LSB 299-304), but they do not contain the daily Psalm, so I put it in the bulletin. The book is expensive! In the book, each day contains a Psalm, Old Testament reading, New Testament reading, a writing from a church father or our confessions, a hymnody verse, and a prayer of the day. It also includes a short bio for feast days and saint days on those days. The book also conveniently contains the Psalms together at the end and Luther's Small Catechism. I love having the book form with all these wonderful resources in one place, but it is not cheap. However, if you like this sort of thing on your phone or tablet, the application for Apple or Android is excellent as well and actually reasonably priced.

We focus on the daily Psalm and the Old Testament reading currently. I do this so that we do not become overwhelmed with the amount to read each day. If you tried to read everything in the Treasury each day, it could become overwhelming and frustrate your ability to be in God's Word every day. Ash Wednesday, we will switch our focus to

the daily Psalm and the New Testament reading. Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup> this upcoming year. I am looking forward to digging into the New Testament!

I encourage you to read along with us. You certainly do not have to. I am happy as long as you are in the Word every day. There are some great reading plans out there not to mention books that help you read through the whole Bible in a year. But I love the idea that we are reading along with each other. I think it really heightens the sense of community that we share. The new year is a great time to start a new plan if you do not already join in the daily readings. If you do, consistency over years really pays off. I recommended a different reading plan when I first arrived here, but I will continue to recommend the daily lectionary found in our hymnal and Treasury of Daily Prayer.

The readings are in the bulletin each week, but I will also make a 2021 calendar with the readings, so they are all in one place. I will have several formats and I will put them on the Newsletters and Calendar page of our website

[\(https://gracelutheranrialto.com/newsletter-calendar/\)](https://gracelutheranrialto.com/newsletter-calendar/).

May we continue strong in the Word! As our Lord says, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

In Christ,  
Pastor Maggard

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

Welcome to 2021! I hope and pray that 2021 will be much better than 2020. Our lives were upended and fundamentally changed by the COVID-19 virus. I fear we will be dealing with the recovery well into 2021.

In the midst of it all, we can be assured that our Lord Christ Jesus, is firmly in control of what happens next. We need to stay positive and an attitude toward helping others get through this situation.

We will continue to have church services, observing all the sanitation and social distancing required to keep everyone safe from infection. As a reminder, if you feel like you are sick or encountered someone that was positive for COVID-19 please be honest and tell us so we can keep each other safe.

We will have a full schedule of Council meetings and Voters' meetings. Sunday school, Adult Bible class and weekly Bible studies will not be held unless and until the restrictions allow us to do so.

I appreciate everyone's attention to our safety and don't let your guard down when you are away from church out in the community.

In His Service!  
*Chuck Stringham, President*

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## EVANGELISM

“Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.” Psalm 98:1  
“Behold, I will do something new...will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness.” Isaiah 43:19

Dear Loved Ones,

Are you hopeful for something new this year? A year with new goals and resolutions? A year free from COVID 19? A year free of restrictions? Or maybe you are still burdened and discouraged with the challenges and issues that plagued you in 2020.

The people of Israel felt discouragement year after year waiting for the Messiah. What they didn't realize was that even when they couldn't see the incredible plan the Lord was setting in motion, He was working to fulfill His promises to them in an incredible way that they could never have imagined (John1:12-13).The same is true for you. God is making a way for you even when you don't see it. So don't be discouraged because everything looks the same from one day to the next, or the same year after year, your burdens remain, and new opportunities don't seem to work out. Trust that at the right time, Our Heavenly Father will make you aware of all that He's done for you.

Throughout the Advent season, we can gain comfort from Mary's words, “Let it be to me according to Your word” (Luke 1:38), upon being told she was to give birth to our Savior. By the grace of God, Mary was willing to let things happen according to God's plan instead of her own. She later follows this with her beautiful song magnifying the LORD (Luke 1:46-55).

Mary experienced the unexpected of the miraculous conception of her child, Jesus, our Savior. As we face the unexpected in this new year, we can rejoice in God's divine plan for our lives. He is in control! Praise God!

Here's to a Happier New Year in 2021 where we can sing unto the LORD a new song!

*Dear Father, thank you for always knowing what is best for us according to Your plan for our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

(Excerpts from Jesus, Our Perfect Hope, January 1, by Charles Stanley and Portals of Prayer, December 18<sup>th</sup>)

*Kathy Holm*, Chairperson

## WORSHIP

The power of music to heal and help is a gift from God that comforts many. Perhaps, that is why the Psalms speak so deeply to us. There we find the lyrics that connect with our hearts, allowing us to speak to God from the depth of our spirits, "But I will sing of Your power; yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble" (Ps. 59:16) Amazingly, David wrote this song as he was being hunted down by men seeking to kill him! Despite his circumstances, David remembered God's power and mercy, and singing of them encouraged him to go on.

May our God give us a song today that will remind us of His goodness and greatness, no matter what we may face.

"This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long."

By Fanny Crosby

(I love this song, as it is a memory of my dear mother, Patricia. She sang it as a solo in church many years ago before her passing.)

"I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel."  
Judges 5:3

*Debbie Schwartz*, Chairperson



# January Baptisms

**Kathy Holm**  
**Alma Rich**  
**Bryan Stringham**  
**Chuck Stringham**  
**Ross Stringham**

Do you know when you were baptized?  
Email - [gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com)

## YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

NOVEMBER	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
1st	\$ 4,595.00	30
8th	\$ 4,180.00	32
15th	\$ 5,135.00	40
22nd	\$ 1,917.00	24
29th	\$ 5,466.17	33



## BIRTHDAYS

1	Izzak	Wallis
7	Sydney	Mahomes
8	Gail	Picado
10	Alma	Rich
14	Sue	Nehls
14	Brian	Smith
29	Gail	York

# PRAYER Requests

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

**This month’s added prayers**– Brian Smith and family; For all those affected by the Coronavirus; Dolores Smith’s son-in-law, Greg’s cousin - Dave and his family; Don Sidoti’s Aunt Marge and her husband - Douglas; Dolores Smith’s cousin – Shirley and her daughter- Sheila, John and Sandra Scharlemann; Don Sidoti’s family, Aunt Marie, Mark, Danielle, and their 3 little kids, Don and Judi Belter; Dolores Smith’s nephew – Jacob Blanton and his mom, Jenny; Carol Draney’s niece, Grace and her unborn baby; Mike Draney’s nephew, Tyler and his father, Rick; Nancy Telizyn’s friend - Hilary; Kathy Holm’s cousin, Mary; Dolores Smith’s son – Mike and his wife, Kathy; Kim Franzen’s cousin – Scott Unger and his family, Julia, Megan and Logan; Hannah and Mike Villasenor and their unborn daughter; Jim and Diane Kline.

**We keep in prayer:** Tony Mantz and family; Dave Nehls and family; - Patty and Richard Lowe; Anthony and Tamara Mahomes; Terry Pickinpaugh; Marcy and Bryan Stringham; Alma Rich’s daughter – Dawn and her husband – Tom; Glen and Gail James’ friend – Kathie and Glen’s Aunt Jyrlene; Tamara Mahomes’ friend – Andera, friend – Zenida and her best friend – Windy, Windy’s son – Jayson, his wife – Nikole and their unborn son; Mike and Betty Guinn; Kim Pickinpaugh’s sister – Kristy and her boyfriend, Tony; Bill Choske’s friend – Tim and his wife, Erin and co-worker – Fred and his elderly mother, Joanne; Debbie Schwartz’s sister – Suzzanne.

Happy New Year

# Happy Anniversary

IN JANUARY TO

3	Greg and Jeanne Nelson
8	Larry and Judy Adams
11	Ron and Kim Pickinpaugh
19	Ken and Nancy Nobis

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

phone – 909-875-3163

Website: [www.gracelutheranrialto.com](http://www.gracelutheranrialto.com)

**NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE**

Tuesday, January 12th

## 2021 GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Officers

President – Chuck Stringham  
 Secretary – Kim Pickinpaugh  
 Treasurer – Ron Pickinpaugh  
 Financial Secretary – Sandy Stringham  
 Elders – Richard Franzen  
 Education - Pastor Daniel Holm  
 Evangelism – Kathy Holm  
 Stewardship – Barbara Dellinger  
 Trustee - Allan Dellinger  
 Worship – Debbie Schwartz

## Funny Corner

Why did the man sprinkle sugar on his pillow on New Year’s Eve?

He wanted to start the year with sweet dreams!

