

# Amazing Grace

February, 2021

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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,

February 17 is the start of Lent. Lent has historically been associated with three disciplines: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. It is also traditionally used as a time of catechesis in the basics of the Christian Faith, also called the Small Catechism. This year we will focus on the Lord's Prayer in our Wednesday evening services.

In the Large Catechism, Dr. Luther teaches us that there are three reasons to pray: 1) the command of God, 2) the promises of God, and 3) our need.

First, God commands us to pray in the second commandment: "call upon [His name] in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC) This is why Jesus says "when you pray" in the Sermon on the Mount. (Mt 6:5) He is expounding on the second commandment. The "when you pray" means that He expects you to pray. He not only gives us the command to pray but gives us the very words we know are pleasing to our Father in heaven.

We pray because we are commanded, but we pray knowing that our dear Father in heaven wants to hear from us as dear fathers want to hear from their dear children. God cares about you and wants to hear from you!

Second, God promises to hear us and give us every blessing when we pray. In Psalm 50:15, God

says: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you." Jesus compares our relationship to God the Father with our relationship with our earthly father: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good to those who ask Him!" (Mt 7:11)

We pray because we know we have a dear Father in heaven who hears us. And He promises to act in our behalf! What a great comfort that is!

Third, we have desperate need. We are beset by the devil, the world, and our old sinful nature. The devil roams around like a roaring lion seeking Christians to devour. (1 Peter 5:8) God warns us that "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes." (Ps 118:9) Princes seek after their own power. Paul struggles with his old man and asks: "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom 7:24)

The tragic events on January 6<sup>th</sup> show us that we live in uncertain and evil times. Now, more than ever, is a time for prayer.

Let us spend extra time praying this Lent. Let us focus on how we have broken the second commandment with lukewarm prayers and receive forgiveness. Let us reflect on the goodness of our dear Father in heaven who gives us amazing promises which are ours in Holy Baptism. Let us

reflect on our need as we live out our pilgrimage in this lost and condemned world.

Finally, let us focus on Hebrews 4:15-16:

*We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

In Christ,  
Pastor Maggard

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

Many of us hoped throughout 2020 that the COVID-19 infections would be less and less over time, boy, were we wrong. January showed us that even our little congregation was not going to be spared from the virus as a few of our folks tested positive.

It is interesting to me that the virus symptoms show up so differently in people that we can't differentiate between a cold, the flu or COVID-19. Someone that thinks their symptoms are the beginnings of a cold have turned out to be positive for COVID-19. If you feel a cold coming on or feel off, take it seriously that your body is trying to tell you that it's trying to fight something off. Monitor your symptoms for a day or two and assess your condition. In any event, make the tough decision to avoid coming to church. I know this is like a broken record, but we can't let our guard down now.

Thank you for your vigilance and safety away from church.

In His Service!  
Chuck Stringham, President



## EVANGELISM

(From "God's Purpose for Your Life", 365 Devotions, January 24, by Charles Stanley)  
"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15

There are certain activities that we are told are God's will for every believer, and one of those is active ministry. Every Christian is called to share the Gospel with others in both word and deed—and to do so under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

That does not mean that every Christian is called to be a pastor, evangelist, or missionary. Rather, as a follower of Jesus, your call is to ask the Lord to guide your steps daily, so you walk precisely where He wants you to. You are sensitive to His leading—to talk to whomever He tells you, to act when He says to, and to refrain when He calls you to wait or to be silent. How can we be sensitive to God's leading? Through reading and listening to His Word, going to church, and receiving the Sacraments.

This call may seem overwhelming to you, and you may feel inadequate talking to others about Jesus. But remember, God created you for the assignments He gives you (Ephesians 2:10). Your task is not to show your brilliance, but to allow the Lord to shine through you so that His brilliance is revealed.

So, do not be afraid. The One who prompts you to speak on His behalf will give you the words you need to glorify Him (Luke 12:12).

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Luke 12:12 - For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

*Jesus, guide us today and every day to be the witnesses You created us to be. Amen*

*Kathy Holm, Chairperson*

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## WORSHIP

When you grow up in church you tend to sing every week. It doesn't matter if you are good or not, every one is encouraged to sing along to hymns and liturgy during the worship service.

There is something special about singing. It can connect you to a deeper emotional level than normal conversation. It can be beautiful and poetic but also dark and brooding.

While the singing in a worship service is not the only important element, I think it can help us connect with God in a truly special way. God doesn't need to hear that we are pitch perfect. He's too busy focusing on what our hearts are saying. It may not be your strongest gift, but everyone has the ability to apply themselves in praise through music. Maybe it's a chance for you to meditate on the words, maybe you like to clap along to the beat or maybe you, like me, can see the wonder of God through watching others praise Him.

For a lot of us it's a weekly part of our worship, but let us not get complacent through the repetition. Let us take every opportunity to connect with God through the music we listen to and the praise that we sing.

Prayer: Lord, people have been singing Your praises for thousands of years. May we use every praise opportunity to get closer to You. Amen.

Taken from "Devotions for Singing"

*Debbie Schwartz, Chairperson*



**All the following evening services will meet online and at church at 7:00p.m.**

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** – Ash Wednesday  
**24<sup>th</sup>** - Wednesday Midweek

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Wednesday Midweek  
**10<sup>th</sup>** – Wednesday Midweek  
**17<sup>th</sup>** – Wednesday Midweek  
**24<sup>th</sup>** – Wednesday Midweek  
**31<sup>st</sup>** - Wednesday Midweek

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** - Maundy Thursday  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** - Good Friday  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** - Easter Vigil Service

### **EASTER SERVICES – Sunday Morning**

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Sunrise Service – 7 a.m.  
Divine Service – 9 a.m.

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## **YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK**

<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>OFFERING</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
6th	\$ 5,190.00	37
13th	\$ 3,515.00	25
20th	\$ 5,195.00	39
27th	\$ 2,691.00	21

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### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Tuesday,  
February 16th**



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	A.J. Deacy
1	Tristan Travers
2	Jacob Del Rio
2	Sean Villasenor
6	Kenny Franzen
8	Stephanie Brewer
9	Judith Belter
9	Jessica Wampole
11	Oliver Mahomes
17	Bryan Stringham
22	Shane Travers
25	Judy Adams
25	JoAnn Miller
29	Kevin Mitchell



## IN FEBRUARY TO

- 14 - Roger and Linda Darnold
- 15 - Mikeal and Hannah Villasenor

## Funny Corner



What kind of haircuts do bees get?

Buzzzzcuts!



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:** Joann Miller’s granddaughter – Tessa and her husband, Matt; Mike and Maletta Miller, Pastor and Erin Maggard; Jim and Diane Kline; Tamara Mahomes’ friend – Vivian’s son, Grant; Caitlyn Del Rio’s best friend’s family, especially, Azmoon; Carla Del Rio’s friend – Maria; Debbie Schwartz and the Travers family; Ron Pickinpaugh’s co-worker’s family; Kevin and Laura Mitchell; Barbara Dellinger’s ex co-worker, Paul Zinni; Debbie Schwartz’s friend’s friend – Reid Woodbury and his wife; Nancy Telizyn’s friend – Hilary and her mom, Helen; Our Country; Tamara Mahomes’ friend – Andrea’s family; Dolores Smith’s nephew – Jacob and his mom, Jenny; Don Sidoti’s Uncle Douglas, Aunt Marge and family; Debbie Schwartz’s friends – Glen, Theresa and David’s wife; Dolores Smith’s niece – Jenny and her dad, Fred; Kim Franzen’s friend – Julia Hernandez. A prayer of Thanksgiving for Kim Franzen’s cousin – Scott and family; and for Mike and Carol Draney’s family – Tyler, Rick and Grace.

**We keep in prayer:** Tony Mantz and family; Pattie and Richard Lowe; Anthony and Tamara Mahomes; Terry Pickinpaugh; Alma Rich’s daughter – Dawn and her husband – Tom; Glen and Gail James’ friend – Kathie and Glen’s Aunt Jyrlene; Tamara Mahomes’ 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 – Suzanne; Hannah and Mike Villasenor and their unborn daughter.

