

Amazing Grace

April, 2021

Volume 40, Issue 4



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,

This Lent I am reading the Book of Concord. It is wonderful to read through our confessions all at once. One thing I have really noticed this read through is that there is a constant refrain that the Divine Service, Word, and Sacraments do not work *ex opera operato*. This means that these gifts of God do not work just by doing them. You must have faith. For example, you must believe when you partake of the Lord's Supper that the forgiveness Christ distributes is for you.

This also means that we do not go through the motions at church. We are expected to think about the liturgy, hymnody, preaching, and Sacraments during the service. One of the blessings from consistently doing the historic liturgy (Divine Service III, LSB 184) is the ability to easily sing and meditate on parts of the liturgy during the week.

One thing many Christians do is use the pre-service time to meditate on something in the service. Many meditate upon the Gospel reading for the day. Some reflect upon the other Propers of the Day like the Introit or the Collect. Others may pray the "Prayers for Worship" found on the inside cover of the hymnal. Time before service is really meant to prepare oneself for the visitation of our Lord!

I have been using the before service time to attempt to teach on something about the liturgy or

what we believe, teach, and confess. I have really enjoyed doing this and I hope it has impressed upon you that I try to have a good reason for everything that I do. Now, before service, I would like to give a little meditation on the "Hymn of the Day." Concordia Publishing House has put out a wonderful "Companion to the Hymns" volume that discusses all the hymns in our hymnal. It is a great tool to help us meditate on the "Hymn of the Day."

The "Hymn of the Day" is a wonderful resource for you. Besides the Catechism Hymns (LSB 581, 954, 766, 406, 607, 617), the "Hymn of the Day" is meant to be memorized. In the Small Catechism, Luther says: "Then go joyfully to work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments (LSB 581), or whatever your devotion may suggest." indicates that Luther intended hymns to be a part of our daily life. He understood both the teaching power of hymns and the comfort they provide. Each week, we will learn together something about the "Hymn of the Day" to enrich our meditation upon that hymn and may even encourage us to memorize it!

In Christ,
Pastor Maggard



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

As most of you know or will know soon enough, reports Nationwide of people getting vaccinated and recovering from being infected we are slowly developing what's called herd immunity. That means if everyone continues to be vigilant with their own health needs and precautions when out in public, the sooner we can return to some sense of normality.

Things will never be the same and I believe we will be living with COVID-19 just as we do with the flu, shingles and other illnesses that may affect the population at large. So, we will continue to learn more about COVID-19 and the ways in which we can keep ourselves safe or limit the severity of the symptoms if we get it.

I am looking forward to the time when we don't have to wear a mask in church, but I think we are still a few months from that reality.

As always, I appreciate our congregation and especially our Pastors for their faithful service to us in delivering the Word of God to us each time we meet. I am grateful for the continued sharing of financial gifts and other talents needed to keep our great little church going. Until next time, stay safe!

In His Service!

Chuck Stringham, President



EVANGELISM

Dear Fellow Christians,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

I am writing this article still in Lent and counting down the days to the season of Easter, celebrating Christ's resurrection which is the crux of our faith as Christians. So, I am going to borrow from my favorite devotion booklet, *The Portals of Prayer*, March 31st, "Countdown" written by Jan Brunette.

"And He was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy Him." Luke 19:47

"Immediately after Palm Sunday, Jesus continued His work as before—teaching in the temple, upsetting the tables. Even though He knew others were plotting to kill Him, He kept teaching in the temple as only a rabbi would do. Nothing could deter Him from His work, for He knew His time on earth was short, and He had much to do before it ended."

Jesus leads by example in His efforts and determination to continue teaching right up to His death on the cross. The world is in dire need to hear the hope that we have in Jesus--His resurrection and our salvation from sin. We need to ask that the Holy Spirit give us the same determination in spreading the gospel. There are many who have wandered away from the Bible's teachings. They are filled with falsehoods and superstitions based on partial knowledge of the Scriptures. The world is hungry for God's Word, and we need to put on the full armor of God that

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

Tuesday, April 13th

we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, against principalities, against powers, to share boldly the mystery of the gospel. (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for salvation by grace. Help us to be Your ambassadors and give us the same determination to share law and gospel with others. Amen.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Kathy Holm, Chairperson

WORSHIP

MUSIC TREASURES

I want to share from Portals of Prayer from February 27th. Many of you read from it and may remember.

Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart. Ephesians 5:19

In the last three years of my grandmother's life, she was bedridden after a series of strokes. She had raised six children alone after her husband died, but now could not even care for herself. We loved her deeply and yearned to touch her, but we couldn't communicate.

She had always loved music; a small organ sat in a corner of her home, an open Lutheran hymnal on the rack. So we began singing hymns. "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee" (LSB 761). Sometimes we saw her moving a finger in rhythm, or her eyes twinkle, and on a blessed day, we would hear her sing faintly in German, "Fels seit alters, steh mir bel..."

God's people throughout the Bible praised Him with music; Miriam sang of deliverance (Exodus

15:21), David played the harp (1 Samuel 16:23), the disciples sang a hymn with Jesus on Holy Thursday (Mark 14:26), and the multitude sings of Christ's sacrifice for every tribe, language, people,

and nation (Revelation 5:9). With music, we glorify God. In song, we lift high the cross. Through hymns, we proclaim the love of Christ. Music soothes troubled hearts, blesses the sick and dying, and rejoices with the living.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150:6)

Debbie Schwartz, Chairperson



Saints of Grace, the 2021 Relay for Life season has begun. As you may recall, my late wife Denise was a champion of Relay and I am continuing the fight against cancer in her memory and honor.

Our Relay team is called Scouting for a Cure and former Scoutmaster Terry Bryan is the team co-captain. Our goal is simple – To raise as much money as possible to help in the war against cancer.

What is Relay for Life? Simply put, it is the main fundraising activity for the American Cancer Society (ACS). Funds raised are given to the ACS to provide for cancer research and local programs to help those who are dealing with cancer.

Traditionally, there is a two day event that includes walking laps around a track, food and fun activities with the goal of raising money for ACS. There are ceremonies to celebrate those who survived cancer, are currently fighting cancer and their caregivers, and to remember and honor those who

we have lost to this horrible disease. This year, due to covid, we will have a virtual event with programs streamed online. The date of the event is September 18.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, and I hope you do, please go to the website: relayforlife.org/fontanarialtoca. Scroll down to the team names and click on 'Scouting for a Cure'. On the team page you can join our team or make a donation. If you'd rather not deal with the computer stuff, give me a call and I'll help you out.

I'll have more information as we get closer to the event date.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone, e-mail, text message or smoke signals. Okay, smoke signals might not work, but I look forward to working with you as we strive to put an end to this scourge of mankind.

In His Service,
Kurt Wampole

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

FEBRUARY	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
7th	\$ 9,135.00	37
14th	\$ 1,755.00	34
21st	\$ 2,435.75	35
28th	\$ 3,130.00	34

Celebrating April Baptisms

Patti Guerra Maletta Miller
Dolores Smith Dale Telizyn

Do you know when you were baptized?
Please call or email the church
gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com



2	Tyler	Franzen
5	Andrew	Dellinger
12	Shane	Travers, Jr
13	Andrew	Holm
13	Leslie	Richmond
14	Laura	Mitchell
23	Randy	York
23	Ashley	Smith
26	Dolores	Smith
28	Tami	Travers
30	Jonathan	Torrance



12 - Anthony and Tamara Mahomes

Funny Corner

Why can't a rabbit's nose be 12 inches long?



Because then it would be a foot!



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

April -

- 1st - Maundy Thursday Service
- 2nd - Good Friday Service
- 3rd - Holy Saturday Service

EASTER SERVICES – Sunday Morning

- 4th - Sunrise Service – 7 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast – 8 a.m.
Divine Service – 9 a.m.



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

This month’s added prayers: Gail York; Bill and Judi Parker-Choske; Richard and Pattie Lowe; Anthony and Tamara Mahomes; Alma Rich’s son – David and his wife – Judy in the loss of her mom; Alma Rich’s niece – Justine and family in the loss of her husband; Lynda Olson’s friend – Daryl; Don Sidoti’s nephew – Thomas and family; Kim Franzen and friends – Carolyn and Gordon Allas.

We keep in prayer: Tony Mantz and family; Terry Pickinpaugh; Tamara Mahomes’ friend – Zenida and her best friend – Windy, Windy’s son – Jayson, his wife – Nikole and their unborn son; Mike and Betty Guinn; Bill Choske’s friend – Tim and Jackson; Barbara Dellinger’s dear friend – Pauline Johnson; Tamara Mahomes’ friend-Vivian’s son – Grant; Caitlyn Del Rio’s best friend’s family – especially, Azmoon; Carla Del Rio’s friend – Maria; Hannah and Mike Villasenor and their unborn daughter; Carla Del Rio’s mom – Darlene and sister – Amy; Pastor Eric, Kawaii and Pastor Eric’s dad – Jack; Justin and Tiffany Izzo and their unborn son; Don Sidoti’s Uncle Douglas, Aunt Marge and family and unspoken prayers.

