

Amazing Grace

September - 2021

Volume 40, 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,

What is the most beautiful place in the world?

I have been blessed to be able to see some amazingly beautiful sights in the world around us. A few that come to mind are a sunset on the Indian Ocean, the view when you ride the train into Vienna, Austria, and the city of Santiago in Chile lit up at night nestled in the mountains.

Erin has taught me that there are also amazing, beautiful sights in the United States as well. A few that come to mind are the Rockies during a sunrise, the beautiful white sands of the beaches in Destin, Florida, and the rugged cove of China Beach in San Francisco.

California is an amazing place filled with much beauty. We have every kind of natural feature including desert, mountains, lakes, ocean, forests, and high plains. It is a beautiful state. It is no surprise that California is the most populated state in the United States and it is not even close.

We are not surprised by the beauty because we know:

“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof.” (Ps. 24:1)

God is not only a God of Order, but a God of beauty. We see it all around us. But what is the most beautiful place on the earth?

The most beautiful place on earth resides at 539 North Acacia Avenue in Rialto, California!

Why?

As churches go, it is not the most beautiful and it is not the ugliest. Its design is more modern than classical. If you look at the stained glass and artwork in our sanctuary and building, we really do not see a consistent theme. We have Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and God, the Trinity, and Jesus at Gethsemane, and the apostles. This eclectic mix certainly contributes to its charm, but why do I consider it so beautiful?

To answer this question more completely, we must turn to a wonderful idea recovered in the Reformation. Where do you find God “for you?” We know that God governs the world, but all we know about God from the world is that He is powerful and full of wrath over sin. (Romans 1:18-20) God is not “for you” in the revelation of His glory in the world. God wrote His moral Law on our hearts, and even though original sin has obscured the knowledge of God’s Law, we know that we have fallen short. (Romans 2:12-16) God is not “for you” in the

knowledge of His moral requirements and our failure to live up to those requirements.

We must have a direct word from God through the Gospel that God cares about us, saves us, and gives us the gift of eternal life. (Romans 10:17) This is not a natural thought in our hearts or minds. We must hear the good news that God has died for sinners, with whom I am counted, and that He delivers the gift of grace through faith and not works! (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9)

Furthermore, since 1) you have a mighty enemy Satan bent on destroying you, and 2) you live in a sin plagued world that wants to pervert you, and 3) since God does not kill the old man fully until your physical death; you must continue to hear the Gospel proclaimed in your ears. Therefore Paul declares:

“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’” (Romans 1:16-17)

You must continue to hear the unfathomable promises of God (what we call the Gospel) again and again to know that God is for you and not against you. If that is not awesome enough, you also partake of the most incredible miracle in the world: the Lord’s Supper. Jesus visits you *in person(!)* in His Supper so that you are joined to Him bodily, and your faith is strengthened.

That is why Grace Lutheran Church in Rialto, California is the most beautiful place in the world.

Here you receive the most wonderful grace and visitation from your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Here you learn and relearn that God is for you and not against you. Here you receive the healing balm for all your woes. This is your church. There is no other place like it in the world!

So, come often to Grace and receive God’s gifts of grace in Word and Sacrament. Bring others to this

wonderful oasis that flows with God’s Word. He will surely bless you!

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

⁵ *He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

(Psalm 24:3–6)

In Christ,
Pastor Maggard

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

Summer is almost over, and I hope you were able to enjoy some well needed rest, relaxation, and family time.

We had hoped that the COVID-19 virus would be affecting us less, but the Delta Variant has changed lives for those that are infected by it. I want to remind all of you to remain vigilant in your self-protection efforts because this variant can be highly infectious and deadly in some cases.

In His Service!
Chuck Stringham, President

EVANGELISM

Dear Fellow Christians,

Jesus Christ gave his disciples (that means us, too!) the Great Commission—Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit, and teaching them everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

We have been commissioned by Jesus Christ himself and by the power of the Holy Spirit to tell others about Him and His commandments—the Law and Gospel. If you just read or listen to the news, you know how much the world and our communities need Jesus.

“One challenge of living in our pluralistic society is the reality that our Christian faith and values no longer dominate our society’s values and priorities. Therefore, we cannot afford to hide our faith or take our Christian beliefs and principles for granted. We need to know God’s Word and God’s will more fully so that we’re **always ready to share** God’s vital truths and promises with those who are clinging to false hopes and false gods—or no god at all. There will come a time at the end of time when “every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall swear allegiance” to the true and living God (Isaiah 45:23). But in the meantime, sharing God’s saving message is our **urgent** mission: “Turn to Me and be saved, all the earth, for I am God, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:22) *Pastor Gil Duchow, Portals of Prayer, August 10, 2021*

Jesus is the perfect teacher and example for sharing our beliefs. Andrew, one of His disciples also offers a good example. Just as we learned the acronym of LASSIE (**L**isten, **A**sk, **S**eeK, **S**hare, **I**nvite, **E**ncourage), Andrew’s example offers another acronym for sharing our faith: **LIFT**—**L**isten, **I**nternalize, **F**ollow, **T**ell. Andrew heard and followed Jesus. Andrew’s first reaction to being with the Savior was to find and tell his brother. Let us use these acronyms as reminders on how to share our faith.

I urge everyone to sign up for the congregational seminar, “Faith that Engages

the Culture” presented by Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa at Christ the King Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 11th from 9am to 3:15pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Lunch will be provided so you need to sign up no later than September 1st.

Dear Heavenly Father, embolden us to tell others of You. Let our actions and decisions reflect the Good News we have in our Messiah. Grant us the willingness and words to proclaim bravely and winsomely that You are the one true God and that Your Son is the one and only Savior. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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Thanks to all the members of Grace who attended the 66ers (Cucuys?) Baseball game on August 13th. It was a beautiful evening despite the local team’s loss. The special 50 cent hotdogs were delicious and the fireworks were spectacular.

Women’s Bible Study on Colossians, The Mighty and the Mysterious, will reconvene on Thursday September 9th at 5:30 p.m.

Kathy Holm

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

COUNTERS NEEDED....

I am looking for a few counters that can assist with counting offering following Sunday services.

You would be paired with an experienced counter, so the task isn't difficult and usually takes 20 - 30 minutes.

Counting teams usually count about once per month, sometimes longer in between. Let me know if you are interested in helping out.

Thank you.
Sandy Stringham

WORSHIP

CALLING ALL VOCALISTS!



Become a member of the GRACE LUTHERAN CHOIR!

*If you have a spirit of praise
and a song in your heart,
we're looking for you!*

*We rehearse on
Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m.
First one begins on September 9, 2021.*

*Contact: [Debbie Schwartz](mailto:Debbie.Schwartz@gracelutheranrialto.com)
951-662-9863
or singingdeb@aol.com*



Ron and Kim Pickinpaugh would like to sincerely thank you for all of the love, meals, support, and prayers for them before, during, and after Kim's surgery. You made it so much easier to get through a very hard time. THANK YOU for being there for us!! 

Church Directory Changes

Allan and Barbara Dellinger

Allan's cell: 909-586-5411
Barbara's cell: 909-586-5152

Their landline 909- 875-7024 is no longer in service.

Joe and Patti Guerra

6751 Montia Court
Carlsbad, CA 92011

Patti's cell: 951-660-8908
Joe's cell: 951-660-8909

Their landline 909-875-0348 is no longer in service.

Sue Maeer

Email susanmaeer78@gmail.com
Phone – 909-566-6147

Dave and Sue Nehls

24145 Deputy Way,
Menifee, CA 93584

Maurine Schaffer

Phone – 909-875-8427

Delores Koller passed away on August 12th.

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

| JUNE | OFFERING | ATTENDANCE |
|------------------|--------------|------------|
| 6 th | \$ 4,970.00 | n/a |
| 13 th | \$ 2,835.00 | n/a |
| 20 th | \$ 13,295.00 | 31 |
| 27 th | \$ 1,995.51 | 42 |

| JULY | OFFERING | ATTENDANCE |
|------------------|-------------|------------|
| 4 th | \$ 3,270.00 | n/a |
| 11 th | \$ 5,580.00 | 38 |
| 18 th | \$ 1,676.00 | 38 |
| 25 th | \$ 1,360.00 | 20 |



On Saturday, September 18th, pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the more than 60 million unborn victims of abortion during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Please join us at Pierce Brothers Crestlawn Memorial Park and Mortuary, 11500 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA. A service will be held at the gravesite of the 54 Chino Hills babies and conducted by Pastor Maggard at 1:00 p.m.

For more details: Erin Maggard at 909-600-4242 or email her at ProLifeErin@gmail.com.



Baptism in September

Diane Kline

If you know the month you were baptized please let the church office know at gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com

**OCTOBER
 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Tuesday, September 14th



- 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



IN SEPTEMBER TO

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

Jesus Loves You!

RALLY DAY

Hi Grace Family!

The school year is starting up and that means Rally Day is around the corner and it is time for a POTLUCK!

We will celebrate our kids with BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs and whatever goodies you bring to share on **Sunday, September 12th**. It will take place after Sunday School at 12 for lunch.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex with how many will attend and what you will bring. This helps in purchasing the correct number of hamburgers and hot dogs.

Please join us for the celebration kick off. We would love for you to come! We look forward to seeing you there!

The peace of the Lord be with you!
Pastor Holm

*Let all that you do
be done in Love.*

1 Corinthians 16:14b

PRAYER TREE UPDATE

Starting September 1st –

Names will remain on the Sunday Prayer Requests for four Sundays. If you wish to keep the person on the prayer list longer, please call or email the church office.

Phone – 909-875-3163

Email – gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com

Thank you!!



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: *Debbie’s son – Brian and family; Susan Maeer; Rebecca Wampole; Susan Maeer’s brother-in-law, Rusty; Larry and Debbie Schwartz; Dolores Smith’s son, Mike; Kathy Holm’s sister – Linda; Gary Mansell; Tiffany and Justin Izzo and their newborn son; Laura Mitchell’s friend – Geri; Margaret Dickenson and family; Family of Delores Koller; Barbara Dellinger and the family of Pauli Johnson; Dale and Nancy Telizyn’s friend – Mac Rojo; Dolores Smith’s daughter, Connie and her son – Joshua; Jacob Livoni and all soldiers.*

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; Tamara Mahomes’ friend- Vivian’s son – Grant; Diane Kline’s sister – Pearl; Pastor Eric, Kawaii and Pastor Eric’s dad – Jack; Randy and Gail York; Richard and Pattie Lowe; Dolores Smith’s friend – JoAnn Thomas; Pastor Daniel and Eleanor Holm and Eleanor’s mom and dad; Carla Del Rio’s mom – Darlene and family; Judi Parker-Choske’s sister – Donna, and Donna’s husband; Luis and Carla Del Rio’s friend – Roger; Sue Sidoti’s co-worker – Michael and his wife, Kathleen; and unspoken prayers.*

Funny Corner

How do trees get on
the internet?

Easy, they just *log* on!

