

# Amazing Grace

November † 2021

Volume 40, Issue 11



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,

There have been several moves from our congregation lately. We wish nothing but the best for the Guerras and the Klines but we will miss them! This has been on my mind lately as it highlights that we have a small congregation. This may tempt us to look at programs or business models to increase growth of our numbers. Many in the LCMS have bought into this "church-growth" model made popular by non-Lutherans. But we are not called to increase our numbers. Many love to point to Acts and the seeming astronomical growth of the church. What seems to get overlooked is the fact that the Lord adds to the church: "And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47b) The church in Jerusalem was devoted to doctrine, the Divine Service (fellowship), the Lord's Supper, and prayer. (Acts 2:42) It highlights the means by which the Lord grows the church, that is, a people gathered around His Word and gifts. We are called to be faithful to these things and not to incorporate business thinking. We are not a business and should not act like one.

Our Confessions talk about this in a slightly different way. The seventh article of our main confession, The Augsburg Confession, says: "Our churches teach that one holy Church is to remain forever. The Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the

Sacraments are correctly administered." Let's look at the easy one first. Correct administration of the Sacraments boils down to infant baptism and closed communion. If a church is doing these things, they are administering the Sacraments correctly. The Gospel is purely taught when it is in line with our confessions, especially the Small Catechism. The Formula of Concord, which is the last document in our confessions, constantly uses the refrains, "we believe, teach, and confess..." I think this is a great reminder of how to approach remaining faithful to our confession, especially when we have a small congregation.

We believe. It seems obvious but we need to know what we believe. This involves intense reading and study of both the Bible and our confessions and even good hymns.

We teach and are taught. We are taught at church and spend time teaching our family as we are able. I believe it is obvious to all of us that if the parents are not primary in teaching their kids the catechism, it does not matter how good the pastor is at teaching, the kids will not take it to heart. We may not be able to teach our grandkids as we like but maybe we have opportunity to read them Bible stories and sing with them great hymns from the Lutheran Service Book.

We confess. We confess on Sunday in the Divine Service and also confess our faith in our daily lives

where God has placed us. We are called to be faithful to these things and God will provide the increase or decrease as He sees fit.

We have our Lord's promise that His word "shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11) So, let us remain faithful and see what our Lord will do at Grace!

In Christ,  
Pastor Maggard

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

This is a reminder that our November Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 21, 2021, right after service. We will be voting on Church officers and the budget. If you are planning to stay in your current position, please let me know. If you are interested in being nominated for one of the offices, please let me know.

### Board Offices to be voted on in 2021:

**President** - Chuck Stringham - Current

**Vice President** - Vacant

**Secretary** – Kim Pickinpaugh - Current

**Stewardship** – Barbara Dellinger -Current

**Worship** – Debbie Schwartz - Current

**Education** – Pastor Holm -Current

**Elder** - Richard Franzen -Current

3 Elder Vacancies

In His Service,  
Chuck Stringham, President



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## EVANGELISM

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." [Matthew 5:16](#)*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** [Galatians 5:22–23](#)*

It can be hard to consider others' needs while we're anxious about our own, but we are called to "let the light of Christ shine through us." Thankfully, we're not left with willpower alone to meet the need. We were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. We can ask the Holy Spirit to give us *love* to replace our indifference, *joy* to counter sadness, *peace* to replace our anxiety, *forbearance* (patience) to push out our impulsiveness, *kindness* to care about others, *goodness* to see to their needs, *faithfulness* to keep our promises, *gentleness* instead of harshness, and *self-control* to lift us beyond self-centeredness (Galatians 5:22–23).

While we won't be perfect at all of this, we're called to seek the Spirit's gifts of virtue regularly (Ephesians 5:18) and to let our light shine before all men. Come, let us share the light of Christ, the love of Christ, the forgiveness of Christ, and the peace of Christ with others.

### Special Events

- Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> church members are getting together to attend the "Back to

Old Broadway” Musical Performance at San Bernardino Valley College at 7:30pm. Contact Kathy Holm for more information.

- Advent Soup Suppers, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6pm – Please sign up in the narthex if you will be attending/cooking.
- Looking for members interested in planning events for next year--Neighborhood 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in the church parking lot, Neighborhood Oktoberfest/Reformation party in the church parking lot. Sign up in the narthex.

*Kathy Holm, Evangelism*

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## STEWARDSHIP

You should have received a letter from me with your pledge card included. Please prayerfully consider how you can financially help your church and return the card either at a Sunday service or by mail.

While doing so, also consider how you can help Grace by your talents. Can you help with gardening? What about minor repairs? Do you like to sing and might enjoy choir? Are you a leader, a planner, or a doer? Consider these questions and step up when our president asks for volunteers at the Voters' meeting coming up.

*Barbara Dellinger, Stewardship*

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## WORSHIP

### GIVE THANKS!



At one of the worship services in November, the choir will be singing a song entitled, “Give Thanks!”

Give Thanks! It’s told for us to do this in the Bible several times.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:17

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:20

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

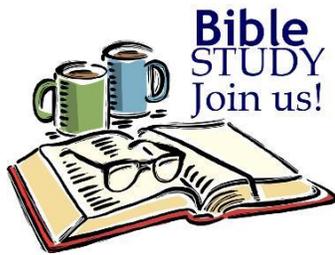
Psalms 100:4

So, even though we especially think about giving thanks in November at Thanksgiving time, we should always be doing this, as the Lord teaches in His word.

Let November be that reminder and then continue it throughout the year and in your daily lives.

*Debbie Schwartz, Worship*

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Our Tuesday Night Bible Study has returned! Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at church. We will be studying the book of Hebrews.

# November



## BIRTHDAYS

2	Susan	Sidoti
2	Josh	Torrance Sr
9	Jacob	Wampole
12	Charles	Dellinger
12	Michael	Nehls
16	Carole	Mincer
16	John	Scharlemann
19	Joseph	Mantz
20	Maurine	Schaffer
29	Brent	Rosen



### In November to

13 Jim and Diane Kline

**JESUS LOVES YOU!**



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

**This month’s added prayers:** Randy and Gail York; Alma Rich and her daughter – Leigh Ann due to the passing of Leigh Ann’s husband, Garry; Family of Mary Ellen Lund due to her receiving her crown; Dale and Nancy Telizyn’s friend’s family in the passing of their father – Nelson Brewart; Bill Choske and Ron Pickinpaugh’s co-workers – one whose daughter is ill both spiritually and physically and another one whose friend’s 18 year old son committed suicide; Sue Maeer’s niece and family; Debbie Schwartz’s grandson – Shane and family; Family of Bette Howard due to her receiving her crown; Sue Maeer’s cousin’s family in the passing of Lewis; Gail and Glen James; Debbie Schwartz’s daughter – Jamie Bartsch’s friend and her friend’s dad; Gloria Reinschmidt’s granddaughter – Amy; Glen and Gail James’ daughter, Sarah and her husband Steve and their unborn baby; and unspoken prayers.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for:** Dale and Nancy Telizyn’s friend -Mac Rojo; Sue Maeer’s friend – Bill; Gail James’ cousin – Barbara.

**Keep in prayer:** Ross and Bree Ann Stringham and their unborn son; Evan Guerra and family; Susan Maeer; Mike and Maletta Miller; Gail James’ cousin – Connie.

### Funny Corner



Where do turkeys go to dance?

➔ The Butterball!