

Amazing Grace

October † 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,

I have written to you before about why I was not going to get the COVID vaccination. I think I have very good reasons for not getting the virus. I will not rehash them, but I still think they are good reasons. You may disagree and that is okay! One of the most frustrating aspects of the public discussion on COVID vaccinations is the total absence of any consideration about natural immunity. A study in Israel shows that natural immunity is stronger than the COVID vaccination. It also shows that natural immunity and the COVID vaccination together provide even stronger immunity. But the fact that natural immunity has been removed from any public discourse is a huge problem. As most of you know, Erin and I had COVID and, thanks be to God, the symptoms were not too severe.

I have decided to receive the COVID vaccination. I have already had my first shot and I will get the second one in a few weeks. This has actually nothing to do with the mandates that are coming out. I believe that the government is overextending its authority and I believe the courts will sort this out. But naturally, that will take some time. That is a separate issue. The reason that I am getting the vaccine is so that I can act as your pastor. This is what Paul is talking about when he says he is all things to all people:

19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of

them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

In other words, we put aside our preferences and desires so that we might be of service to someone else. In this case, I am putting aside my reasonable ethical objections to the vaccine so that I might be able to serve people in hospitals and nursing homes. These verses do not excuse sinful behavior nor allow for anyone to be in the office of the pastor, as it is sometimes misused. They talk about counting others as more significant than yourself and serving them in love.

Let us also remember that this is not a black and white issue. Please be kind to those who insist on vaccine mandates. And please be kind to those who are adamant on not getting the vaccine. As Peter says, "love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8) If we cannot show each other humility and kindness in the household of God, how can we

be light and salt to the world? Be firm in your own mind about what you think you should do and make allowance for your brothers and sisters in Christ. (Romans 14:1-9) May God richly bless you during these difficult times.

In Christ,
Pastor Maggard


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

We have a couple of important things coming up the entire congregation needs to focus on. The first one is the 2022 budget. Soon you will receive your pledge cards that may assist you in planning your 2022 giving strategy. when you receive it, please send it back or bring it to church and place it in the offering plate. The pledge cards help the treasurer and council prioritize spending on the non-fixed costs.

The second important thing is voting for church officers. I hope that the current officers will want to continue in their positions unless they are termed out, but if there is someone in the congregation interested in helping out, here are the positions to be voted on: President, Vice President, Council Secretary, Stewardship, Worship, Education and Elders. Contact any council member if you are interested.

In His Service,
Chuck Stringham, President



Blessed be the Lord,
who daily bears us up;
God is our salvation.

PSALM 68.19 (ESV)

EVANGELISM

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!”

I love the way the Apostle Paul addresses his fellow Christians in his letters to the different churches in the New Testament. It’s a lovely way to start a letter. I think I will start using this more often.

In our recent devotions we read the well-known passage, Matthew 4:18-22, of Jesus calling Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be His disciples. All Jesus had to say to them was, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” and they **immediately** left their nets and followed Him. There is such power in Jesus’ words.

- **The power to create** - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” John 1: 1-3
- **The power to convict** - “For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12
- **The power to forgive** - “Then He said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’” Luke 7:48
“...He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’” Mark 2:5
- **The power to heal** - “I say to you arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Mark 2:11 “Then Jesus answered and said to her, ‘O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.’ And her daughter was healed from that very hour.” Matthew 15:28

- **The power to revive/resurrect** - "Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise.' So, he who was dead sat up and began to speak." Luke 7:14
- **The power to lead and guide** - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

God's word is powerful. It is God's word that can guide us, convict us, heal us, and forgive us. Let us share God's word and the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ freely with others so that they may know "our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of God and Father to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen." Galatians 1:4

Thanks to all the members who attended the "Faith that Engages the Culture" seminar led by Pastor Alfonso Espinosa at Christ the King Lutheran Church. It was informative and inspirational.

Kathy Holm, Evangelism



STEWARDSHIP

Here we are, into Round 2 of this pandemic. We've battled through the "parent" virus and are now facing the "variants". We are on-guard and cautious, and can't wait until things return to

normal, whatever that new normal may be. Our lives have changed, but do not fear, remember, He has us in His nail-pierced hands.

The attendance at Grace has reduced through this trial, but your support remains strong. At the last voter's meeting, the Treasurer reported a solid financial picture. We have not only covered our ongoing monthly bills, but your giving has allowed us to keep up with the maintenance of the aging campus.

You will soon be receiving your annual stewardship letter and pledge card. Prayerfully consider what you can commit to giving in 2022. Your confidential reply helps Council develop a working budget, a guideline to keep us on track.

I ask that you also consider other ways you can support our great, little church. Several active members have moved out of the area and left big shoes to fill. Please think about what talents you have that could help fill that void, whether it be as a greeter, trimming roses, or washing tablecloths. There are lots of "little" jobs that can lighten the load for others. Your steadfast commitment is appreciated.

1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV — Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Barbara Dellinger, Stewardship

**November
Newsletter Deadline**

Tuesday, October 19th

WORSHIP

Why Was Music So Important to Martin Luther?

Since this month we are celebrating the Reformation, here is some historical info.



In 1526 at the age of 33, Luther began to rearrange the typical church service. Luther believed the congregation should take a more active role in the service and he wanted this activity to be more singing.

Luther said, "We need to remove hymn singing from the domain of monks and priests and set the laity to singing. By the singing of hymns the laity can publicly express their love to the Almighty God."

In fact, Luther even had his own congregation practice their songs during the week before the services on Sunday!

This led Luther to begin writing hymns for his congregation to sing. He wrote a total of 36 hymns. Not many of them are sung today, but you have probably heard of "All Praise to Thee, Eternal God" or "Our Father, Who From Heaven Above" or "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"; those are the most well-known of Luther's music compositions.

On this day, October 31st, Reformation Day, thank God for men like Martin Luther. Who knows if the church ever would have started singing together in their worship services? I, for one, am delighted that we do.

Debbie Schwartz, Worship

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

SEPTEMBER	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
5 TH	\$ 5,260.00	40
12 TH	\$ 3,110.00	34
19 th	\$ 1,785.00	29
26 TH	\$ 1,985.00	n/a

October BIRTHDAYS

2	Richard	Franzen
3	Mikeal	Villasenor
5	Sandra	Scharlemann
7	Anthony	Herrera
9	Trisha	Cosper
12	Mike	Guinn
19	Kathy	Holm
24	Jeanne	Nelson
25	Heather	Edgemon
28	Debbie	Schwartz



In October to

1 Chuck and Sandy Stringham

Prayer Request

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

This month’s added prayers: *Ross and Bree Ann Stringham and their unborn son; Dolores Smith’s son – Mike; Sue Maeer’s friend – James; The Macias family and the loss of parents - Daniel and Davy; Alma rich’s daughter – Leigh Ann and Her husband, Garry; Randy and Gail York; Mike and Carol Draney’s niece’s family – the O’Rourke family; Gail James’ cousins – Barbara and Connie; Susan Maeer; Evan Guerra and family; Melanie (Davis) Daniels and family in the loss of her husband; Keven Mitchell’s employee’s wife – Lynn; Sue Maeer’s friend – Bill; Family of Margaret Dickenson with her receiving her crown; Josh Torrance Jr. and the family of Tyler Blaylock in his passing; Greg Nelson and family in the passing of his father – Richard Nelson; Sue Maeer’s nephew – Jon; Kathy Holm’s dad – Pat Lara and his wife, Nedra; Bill and Judi Parker-Choske’s friend – Tim; Alma Rich’s son – David; Mike and Maletta Miller.*

Keep in prayer: *Dale and Nancy Telizyn’s friend - Mac Rojo; Dolores Smith’s daughter – Connie and son, Joshua; All soldiers.*

CHURCH DIRECTORY ADDITION

Jim and Diane Kline

3950 Wood Loop
Alamogordo, NM 88310



is October 31st!



Funny Corner



How do fall leaves get from
place to place?

Autumn-mobiles!

