

Amazing Grace

February † 2022

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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,

I have been convicted lately by many people, including our very own catechumen, Elijah Holm, that I use the word "Lutheran" too much.

Now "Lutheran" is a fine word. It describes a church that subscribes to the Book of Concord, even if many who bear the name Lutheran do not. It describes someone who holds the genuine Faith, that is, the doctrine handed down by the Apostles. There's nothing wrong with being distinctly Lutheran because it gets the Faith right. And that is a good thing. We are Biblical and historical. We relish this and want this for all people.

You may have had experiences like I have had. Many times, I have told someone I am Lutheran, and they give me a quizzical look. They have no idea what I am talking about! To be fair, if I say "Christian," they may have some messed up ideas about what we believe. But that can happen anytime you identify yourself as belonging to a group. Sometimes members of the group behave in a way that is not characteristic of what the group believes. But that does not nullify what the group believes.

We are "Christian." When I say "Christian," I mean "Lutheran," and when I say "Lutheran," I mean "Christian." That may sound arrogant to your ears. We have been trained by our culture that you

cannot say someone is wrong. But that is exactly what we are saying. Either the Lord's Supper in your mouth is the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, or it is not. We are right and those who espouse a different view on the Lord's Supper are wrong. It really is that simple. This brings up a great reminder. Can you defend why we believe that Our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present under the bread and wine?

Luther's Small Catechism is what we ask all Lutherans to subscribe to when they join our church. Your pastors and the church itself subscribe to the 1580 Book of Concord, which is our confessions. But we ask all Christians to learn the Catechism by heart and to teach it to their kids. This may be a good reminder to all of us that we could do better in both learning and transmitting the Catechism. The Catechism is nothing else than the basic beliefs that we hold as Bible-believing, confessing, Christians.

A handout edition of our Catechism is in our Narthex, titled "A Simple Explanation of Christianity." I am not sure who was responsible for naming the Small Catechism this way, but it was a totally genius, inspired move. Yes, the Catechism is Lutheran, but it is also fully Christian. It teaches Christianity. True Christianity. It is pulled directly from the Bible. It conveys what the Apostles taught and confessed. It teaches what every Christian ought to believe and confess.

I encourage you to use the name “Christian” more often. (I am especially encouraging myself!) As you encounter people in your day-to-day life, identify yourself as Christian and maybe you will have the opportunity to confess what that means. You might even have a chance to use the Catechism!

In Christ,
Pastor Maggard

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

We are only one month into 2022, and the country and state are seeing record infection rates from the Omicron variant. I think we all thought there would be some sort of waning of COVID infections by now but not so.

This is just a friendly reminder that the Omicron variant is very contagious and tends to settle in the nose and airway, which means that when you exhale through your nose and mouth, more of the virus is expelled from your body thus causing greater rates of infection.

Be mindful of your surroundings and those with whom you come into contact. If you feel cold or flu like symptoms, you most likely have the Omicron variant, and you should get tested and quarantine to make sure.

If you live with someone that tested positive and you have no symptoms, you should get tested to be sure you are not an asymptomatic carrier. What I'm saying is nothing new but it never hurts to read it again. Be safe and respectful of others.

In His Service
Chuck Stringham, President

Jesus Loves You!!



EVANGELISM

Dear Fellow Christians at Grace,

“Praying for hope, joy, and peace anew in the year 2022!”

Resolutions for the New Year can be taken straight from God’s Holy Word:

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Colossians 3:12,13

“Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful.” “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversations always be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 4: 2,5,6

“Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:13-18

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons (children) of the Most High, for He is **kind** to the ungrateful and the evil.”
Luke 6:35

There are many other instructions in our Holy Scriptures for Godly living. In this new year spend more time and focus in God’s Word each day. Remember to be **kind** and to **love** one another just as Christ does for us.

*Father, You gave Your Son to make us Your family. Give us **kind** hearts to lead others to the heavenly reward Christ earned. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

There are several sign-up sheets in the narthex for volunteers to serve on committees for church events that include community outreach. We need at least 4 people to sign up to have a good working committee to plan these events and we need to start planning now. These are some of the suggested events for 2022:

- March Irish Potluck/Talent Show,
- July Neighborhood Barbecue,
- Oktoberfest/Reformation Neighborhood Celebration.

Please sign up for at least one committee **NOW!**

Thanks to all the people who signed up for the Advent Soup Suppers! Look for a new sign-up sheet for the upcoming Lenten Soup Suppers. God Bless you all!

Kathy Holm, Evangelism



WORSHIP



After much prayer and consideration for all involved, I want to let the congregation know that choir is going to be on hiatus. You have all seen how many the choir has lost over the past year. There have been many that have moved or just can’t come anymore. We have thrived for over 66 years. I believe, since the beginning of Grace. I have been the choir director for 35+ years of that time. That is very hard to believe since I was just going to do it until they found someone. That was in 1986. I have felt it a privilege and have had so much joy AND learning. I may not be musically trained but I believe I have the heart. And that is what Helen Mathews said to me so many years ago. Each person has touched my life in some special way. All the many church services, celebrations, Christmas cantatas, joint services with congregations in our district, etc.

My hope and prayer is that someday Grace choir will be back. God has truly blessed our congregation with wonderful people. There are so many great memories. Bob and Cora Kern come to mind. They rarely missed a practice. Bob even kept coming after Cora couldn’t anymore. When he couldn’t drive anymore, Carolyn drove him and thus became a part of the choir. Thank you, Carolyn!

I want to thank Gail who came to our rescue. She, also, was just going to do it until we found someone. That was more than 7 years ago. She has been a special gift to us!! Thank you, also to Esther Katt, Nancy Nobis, and Miriam Holdaway, for being our accompanists.

Thank you, Allan, for stepping in when I needed you. Either as director or advisor! You were also a very special gift!

I also want to thank all the past and present members of the choir. You know who you are! You have all added to the precious group that I call my friends and treasure in my memories. I know who you are! I would love to list all the special people who have been in choir, but I'm sure I would miss someone.

May God continue to bless you all with joyful voices! Just keep singing because you know it keeps you healthy in many ways!

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

With much love and joy for all that we had and have!

Debbie Schwartz, Worship

This is the day the *Lord* has made,
Let us *Rejoice* and be glad.
-Psalm 118:24

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

DECEMBER	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
5th	\$ 7,140.00	37
12th	\$ 2,780.00	30
19th	\$ 3,105.00	39
26th	\$ 2,380.00	n/a



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
29	Kevin	Mitchell



In February to

14	Roger and Linda	Darnold
15	Mikeal and Hannah	Villasenor

Prayer Request

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

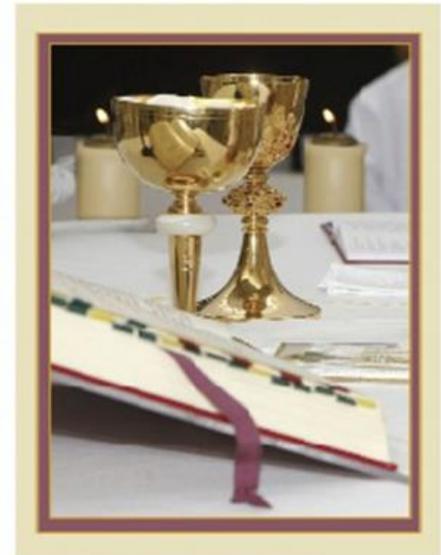
This month’s added prayers: Dale and Nancy Telizyn; Kevin Mitchell’s friend – Mike Van Hanja; Sue Maeer; Emily Dellinger’s grandma – Rosie Janssen; Barbara Dellinger’s friend – Sue Fox; Greg Nelson’s mom – Margie and family; Shane Travers, Jr. and family; Alma Rich’s daughter, Lee Ann; Sue Maeer’s neighbor’s son – Danny; Bill and Judi Parker-Choske’s friend - Cheryl in the passing of her father – John Thompson; Ruth Wells; Sue Maeer’s friend – Bill; Pastor Jim and Suzanne Pierce, Kathy Holm’s sister - Linda and her Tom Holden; Tami and Shane Travers; Allan and Barbara Dellinger’s friend, Mike Fox; Gloria Reinschmidt..

Prayer of Thanksgiving for: Ross and Bree Ann Stringham and their newborn son – Lincoln Everett; Don and Sue Sidoti’s nephew – Thomas and his mom; Gail Picado’s sister, Carol Marceau; Sue Maeer; Mike and Betty Guinn.

Keep in prayer: Glen and Gail James’ daughter - Sarah, husband - Steve and their unborn baby; Gail James’ cousin – Connie; Randy and Gail York; Glen and Gail James.

We pray for all our troops overseas and their families and for our own young people in uniform: Kurt Wampole Jr., Noah Nery, Adam Nery, Jacob Livoni and Jacob Blanton.

On The Anniversary Of Your Ordination



Wishing You
Many Blessings On This
Special Occasion

Pastor Holm!

Funny Corner

What flower does a
face wear?

Tu-lips – (Two lips)

