

# Amazing Grace

January † 2022

Volume 41, Issue 1



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,

A new year is upon us! I've been thinking a lot about "white noise" lately and I'd like to share some thoughts with you.

By "white noise" I mean all the electronic input you take in. It can include your "smart" phone, tablet, computer, radio, and television. There are so many studies recently that have shown that our electronic input is making us shallow and maybe not quite so smart! My concern is that it ruins our ability to think deeply about God and His Word.

God reveals Himself to us through the oral and written word. We must actually spend time contemplating God's Word so that we get to know Him better and so that we become firmer in our faith. The Bible is the one thing in our lives that we know is true! It informs, or should inform, every other aspect of our lives. It cannot inform our lives if we do not spend time reading it, hearing it, and meditating upon it.

Consider a portion of Psalm 119:

<sup>14</sup> In the way of your testimonies I delight  
as much as in all riches.

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways.

<sup>16</sup> I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.

Is that true for us? The rest of Psalm 119, as well as Psalms 1 and 19, show us the importance of God's Word in our lives.

To meditate and memorize God's Word takes hard work, time, and times of very little distraction. And this highlights my concern over "white noise."

"White noise" not only distracts us, but it also destroys our capacity to sit and think. It teaches us to constantly need electronic distraction. The more you use it, the more affected you are by it. And I believe it's foolish to think you can use it without being affected. But I also understand that we cannot throw away technology. And I will not ask you to do that.

This is what I will encourage you to do:

- Start your day off remembering your Baptism and recite a prayer and a portion of Scripture.
- Take time during the day to stop what you are doing and pray. Use a Psalm, or hymn from our hymnal, or the Small Catechism if you like.
- Eat at least one meal around the dinner table and check in with your loved ones.
- Be bored. Seriously, take some time to not have any input from anything electronic.

- Spend some time reading anything. Flex your reading muscles.
- Right before you go to bed at night, pray the Lord's Prayer and your regular evening prayer.
- Consider doing things without your "smart" phone. Life was actually possible before we all carried around a computer in our pocket!

My goal is not to make us Amish or to live like we are in a monastery. My prayer for you is that you enjoy the Word of God more and more in your life. I guarantee it will bear fruit in your life.

God bless you richly in this new year!

In Christ,  
*Pastor Maggard*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

With 2021, behind us and 2022, ahead of us, we have a lot to be thankful for. First and foremost, we are thankful for what Christ did for us by dying on the cross for our sins. That is something we never forget, but we are also thankful that we all continue to thrive and grow during this horrific pandemic. I believe it will be with us for some time.

I want to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

In His Service,  
*Chuck Stringham, President*

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*Jesus Loves You!*

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## WORSHIP

Another year has come and gone. Each of us is one year closer to eternity: "salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed" ([Romans 13:11](#)). Do not mourn that you are closer to death, but instead thank God that you are now that much closer to eternal life.

A generation comes and goes, but the earth remains. Though all streams flow into the sea, the sea is not full. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. Though we toil on this earth, we can take nothing with us into the next life. Though we may indulge in the comforts and pleasures of this life, we will never be satisfied ([Ecclesiastes 1:1-18](#))

As one year passes and another begins, let us remember that we are dust ([Genesis 3:19](#)). Let us remember that at any moment we could be called away from this life. Who of us knows if he will make it to the end of this year? Be not like the rich fool who basked in his earthly blessings only to lose his life that very night ([Luke 12:13-21](#)). We remember those in our family of Grace who have gone on before us.

Where your treasure is, there your heart is also ([Matthew 6:21](#)). What are the greatest objects of your heart's desire? God and His word? Free salvation through Jesus' death?

What is worth more than God? What on this earth is worth more than hearing His word? What is a better use of your time than coming to church regularly?

Everything in this world fades, rots, fails, falls apart, does not satisfy you, does not save you, does not last forever.

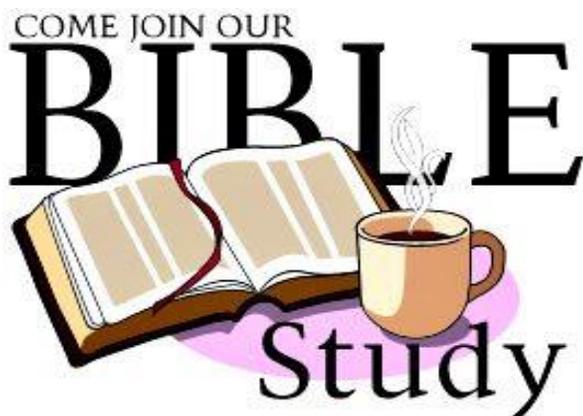
Therefore, examine your heart. Examine your time commitments. Examine your loves. This world is passing away. Do not pass away along with it. Do not be conformed to this world ([Romans 12:2](#)).

Redeem the time, which passes so quickly. Redeem it by using it to hear God's word. Fill your flasks with oil while there is still time ([Matthew 25:8-10](#)). Come to church! Come regularly! Sing His praises! Meditate on God's word throughout the week and throughout your life.

(adapted from **Rev. Benjamin Ulledalen**, Associate Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Mount Pleasant Michigan.

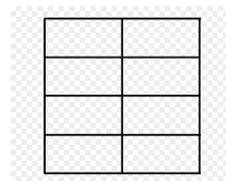
May you be richly blessed in 2022!

*Debbie Schwartz, Worship*



Our Tuesday Night Bible Study will be starting in JANUARY!! Please join us on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at church. We will be studying the book of Hebrews.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS CHART



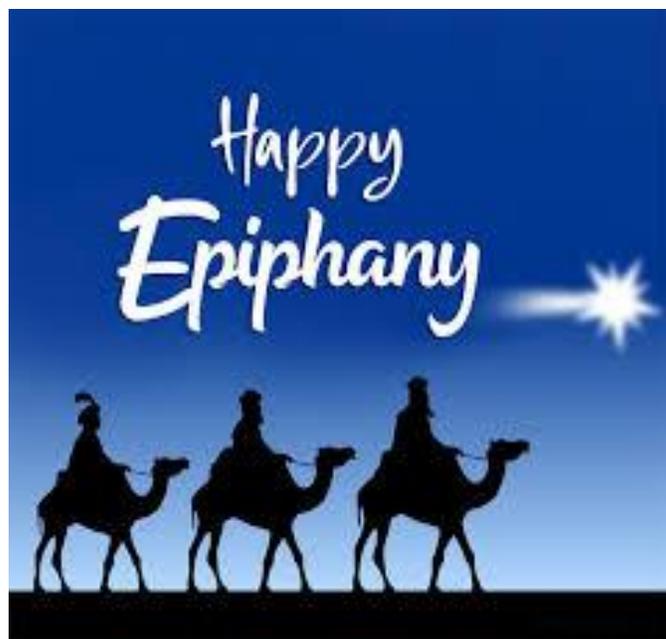
There is plenty of room on the new chart for you to have special events to share in the bulletin. There is no cost to post an event.

Please just fill out the chart as you normally would with your information. You can also send an email to -

[gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranrialto@gmail.com) or call the church office at 909-875-3163.

## YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

NOVEMBER	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
7th	\$ 5,320.00	21
14th	\$ 3,017.00	32
21st	\$ 2,052.96	28
28th	\$ 3,445.00	39





# BIRTHDAYS

1	Izaak	Wallis
7	Sydney	Mahomes
8	Gail	Picado
10	Alma	Rich
14	Sue	Nehls
14	Brian	Smith
29	Gail	York



## In January to

3	Greg and Jeanne	Nelson
8	Larry and Judy	Adams
11	Ron and Kim	Pickinpaugh
19	Ken and Nancy	Nobis



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:** Mike and Betty Guinn; Don and Sue Sidoti’s nephew – Thomas and his mom; Kevin Mitchell’s friend – Mike Van Hanja; Sue Maeer; Emily Dellinger’s grandma – Rosie Janssen; Kathy Holm’s sister – Linda and family; Mike and Carol Draney’s friend - Bob Billig; Chuck and Sandy Stringham’s brother – Bjorn Stringham in the passing of Bjorn’s wife – Sandy; Gail Picado’s sister, Carol Marceau; Randy and Gail York; Glen and Gail James; Sue Maeer and her brother – Andy; Chuck Stringham’s aunt – Eileen Powel; Mike and Carol Draney;

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for:** Joe and Patti Guerra’s son – Evan and their niece – Traci and her husband, Rob; Sue Maeer.

**Keep in prayer:** Ross and Bree Ann Stringham and their unborn son; Glen and Gail James’ daughter – Sarah, husband- Steve and their unborn baby; Gail James’ cousin – Connie.

**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.

## Funny Corner



How does the barber drive to work?

→ He takes shortcuts.