

Amazing Grace

April, 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,

If you have been reading along in Luther's Small Catechism, you may have noticed that there is a lot of time devoted to the Ten Commandments. If you read it straight through, it can be quite heavy. I know I am so ready for the Gospel in the Apostle's Creed by the time I get there! But in this is a key to true comfort.

There's a lot of false comfort out there. A Christian example of false comfort would be someone participating in any kind of sexual activity outside of marriage and thinking that everything is okay with God. The last thing that you want to say to this unrepentant person is "It's okay, your sins are forgiven." That is a false comfort. It would be like telling someone with cancer, "That's okay, you don't need treatment!"

Cancer is a good analogy to the sin that plagues us. I have read many testimonies of people who have had cancer signs and just ignored them until they did not have a choice. If cancer is caught early, treatment is much more successful than when it is ignored and caught late. And I do know that sometimes there is just nothing you can do because no treatment will be successful.

Sin, if left untreated, becomes much worse and is harder to treat as well. It seems to me that a little untreated sin usually turns into bigger and bigger sins. It is like what Jesus says about the unclean

spirit that has been cast out of a person: "It goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first." (Luke 11:26) Demons have no power over you unless you give them entry with untreated sin.

Lent is a period where we spend more time meditating upon the Law and the condition of sin that we are in. God does not want you to meditate upon sin. He wants you to meditate on His Law and be honest and confess your sin. Then you are prepared for true comfort.

The cancer analogy is bad in a way because not all treatments for cancer are successful. But the cure for sin is always successful. When Christ says, "It is finished" on the cross, He meant that all His work to pay for sin was accomplished. (John 19:30) In other words, all sin of all time of all people is paid for by the blood of Christ. This is technically called "universal atonement," or "objective justification," and it is the comfort of the Christian. The confidence of your standing with God is based on the universal atonement. You know your sin is paid for. This is why the resurrection of Jesus is so precious to us.

You also need "subjective justification." That is, you need to know that the work of Christ on the cross applied to you personally! This is where the gift of the means of Grace is so important and precious to

the Christian. In the preached Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper, you know that the grace and mercy of God have come to you personally. The hearing of the Word and Holy Baptism are foundational to your faith. (Romans 10:17, Mark 16:16) Hearing the Word, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper are foundational to the *continuation* of your faith. (1 Corinthians 4:7) And these wonderful gifts of God give true comfort. A comfort that lasts unto eternal life.

Let us continue to enjoy God's awesome gifts of grace and remain steadfast in the true comfort they provide. Then you will be able to stand no matter what the devil, the world, and your old sinful nature throw at you. (Ephesians 5:10-20)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:3-6)

In Christ,
Pastor Maggard



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

We just experienced the Daylight Savings changing of the clocks and for the first time in a

long time, I was affected by the change and was a few minutes late for church. This is a reminder that any change can be difficult to navigate. God never changes in his Love for us and His desire for us to live with Him when we die or if Jesus comes back in our lifetime. It is always a good idea to be ready for any event that causes us to meet Him. I am looking forward to our Easter celebration coming next month.

In His Service

Chuck Stringham, President



EVANGELISM

Dear Fellow Christian Foot Soldiers/
Ambassadors/Spreaders of the Gospel,

One of my favorite chapters in the New Testament is from Ephesians 6:10 – 20:

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ **and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;** ¹⁶ above

all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that **I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,** ²⁰ for which I am an **ambassador** in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Here's a newly discovered verse from the Old Testament, Isaiah 52:7

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.”

“The Old Testament prophet Isaiah uses the word *beautiful* to describe feet—not because of any visible physical attribute but because he saw beauty in what they did. “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news” (Isaiah 52:7). After seventy years of captivity in Babylon resulting from their unfaithfulness to God, messengers arrived with encouraging words that God’s people would soon be returning home because “the Lord has . . . redeemed Jerusalem” (v. 9).

The good news wasn’t attributed to the military might of the Israelites or any other human effort. It was the work of God’s “holy arm” on their behalf (v. 10). The same is true today, as we have victory over our spiritual enemy through Christ’s sacrifice for us. In response, we become the messengers of good news, proclaiming peace, good tidings, and salvation to those around us. And we do so with beautiful feet.” (Kirsten Holmberg)

I am writing this article during Lent, grateful for our church’s Wednesday Lenten services when so many other churches don’t offer special services during Lent. This is **the** time for repentant reflecting and prayer in preparation for the resurrection celebration on Easter Day. This is a time to put on

the whole armor of God, so the Holy Spirit can lead our “beautiful feet” and help us “open our mouths boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.” Lenten preparation helps to make the day of Jesus’s resurrection more joyous and glorious when we can all shout boldly,

**“Jesus Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!”**

Kathy Holm, Chairperson

Jesus Loves You!

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD’S WORK

| FEBRUARY | OFFERING | ATTENDANCE |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 6th | \$ 4,480.00 | 27 |
| 13th | \$ 3,235.00 | 30 |
| 20th | \$ 5,065.00 | 35 |
| 27th | \$ 3,680.50 | 37 |



Happy Birthday



In April to

- 2 Tyler Franzen
- 5 Andrew Dellinger
- 12 Shane Travers, Jr
- 13 Andrew Holm
- 13 Leslie Richmond
- 14 Laura Mitchell
- 23 Randy York
- 23 Ashley Smith
- 26 Dolores Smith
- 26 Daisy Villasenor
- 28 Tami Travers
- 30 Jonathan Torrance



12 - Anthony and Tamara Mahomes



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

This month’s added prayers: Joe and Patti Guerra’s daughter-in-law – Bethany Guerra, Tony’s wife; Carla Del Rio’s mom - Darlene; Sue

Maeer; Family of Kevin Mitchell in the passing of brother-in-law – Kelley; Bill and Judi Parker-Choske’s friend – Cheryl Veleker, in the passing of her son – Brad; Debbie Schwartz’s daughter, Jamie’s friend’s daughter – Evelyn Jefferson and family; Debbie Schwartz’s granddaughter – Adison; Alma Rich’s daughter-in-law, Jane; Sue Maeer’s neighbor; Debbie Schwartz’s friend – Glenda McAlpine; Gail and Glen James daughter, Sarah, her husband – Steve and their unborn baby – David; Randy and Gail York; Dolores Smith’s neighbor- Shelby and her son -Stan; Don and Sue Sidoti’s Aunt Millie and family; The Smith Family – Evelyn, her daughter, Lori and Lori’s husband and unspoken prayers.

Pray of Thanksgiving: Debbie Schwartz’s daughter, Jamie’s friend’s daughter – Evelyn Jefferson and family; Alma Rich’s daughter-in-law, Jane; Gail and Glen James daughter, Sarah, her husband – Steve and their unborn baby – David;



All the following evening services will meet at church at 7:00p.m.

- April -
- 6th - Midweek Lent Service
Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.
- 14th - Maundy Thursday Service
- 15th - Good Friday Service
- 16th - Holy Saturday Service

EASTER SERVICES – Sunday Morning

- 17th - Sunrise Service – 7 a.m.
- Easter Breakfast – 8 a.m.
- Divine Service - 9 a.m.