

Amazing Grace

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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,

Lent is upon us again. Traditionally, Christians give up something for lent. I would like you to consider incorporating this practice into your Christian piety. Piety here just means way of life. I am using way of life language because I do not want this practice to become trivial. That is what happened to me when this practice was imposed upon me when I was young. I put very little thought into what I would give up.

There is a wonderful verse in First Corinthians:

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything.” (1 Corinthians 6:12)

Paul understands the weakness of our flesh. Flesh is rightly often equated with the Old Adam. The Old Adam is composed of both body and soul. The new man is also both body and soul. Your body and soul are intertwined and impact each other. Paul rightly warns you of the danger of being enslaved by the appetites of your body. This will affect both your body and your soul. The practice of giving up something for lent is meant to show you if you are enslaved to something.

We typically are much too kind when we examine ourselves against the mirror of the law. Jesus is not using allegorical language when He says, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23) Giving up something for lent that is truly difficult to give up is one way we can deny ourselves for the sake of Christ. And the biggest lesson may be to fail and find out that we are enslaved to something. A lesser lesson may be that it might actually be good for both our body and soul to give up something we struggle with giving up.

What about Christian freedom? This is a great question. We are free in Christ, which Paul clearly confesses in 1 Corinthians 6:12. I am certainly not imposing upon you that you *must* give up something for lent. If I were to do that, I would be guilty of violating your Christian freedom. But far too often, we use “Christian freedom” as an excuse not to live a pious life. I am asking you to seriously *consider* giving something up for lent. I would also encourage you not to tell anyone. There is a temptation to pride when we broadcast what we are doing. I am giving up something for lent and I may fail, or I may not. Either way, it will be an opportunity for me to turn to God in prayer.

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life. We love to turn to God in prayer when things are going poorly. And that is not a bad thing. That is a very good thing. But God desires for us to pray to Him in all times, both good and bad. Prayer during a self-imposed “bad” time during lent is a good practice to incorporate daily prayer as a normal part of your Christian piety.

I pray that your lent will be a fruitful season of considering your life in Christ. And any meditation on your life in Christ will always bear fruit.

In Christ,
Pastor Maggard

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Grace Family,

I want to take this opportunity to thank the faithful members at Grace for their generosity of time and talents. With our small but mighty congregation, the people that volunteer to be on the church council and board of elders are truly dedicated to make sure we succeed as a congregation.

The hard-working members of the alter guild, counting committee and scrip committee are instrumental in making sure that important aspects of church life are handled without a glitch.

One council position that I want to highlight is the Board of Trustees. This board is responsible for the minor and major upkeep and repair projects that keep us in business. The board chairperson, Allan Dellinger, is doing a fabulous job of making things happen.

We need the help of the congregation in completing

many small tasks that sometimes are overlooked. **A Work Party has been scheduled for April 1st and 2nd.** If you can help on Friday the 1st, or Saturday the 2nd, please let Allan Dellinger know and he can assign something for you to do. Thank you in advance for helping!

In His Service
Chuck Stringham, President



EVANGELISM

Dear Fellow Grace Neighbors,

From Leviticus 19:9 - 10,18

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.”

*“...but you shall **love** your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”*

“The Levitical law in this passage admonishes the owners of the fields to deliberately leave something for the poor and the sojourner. This was their way

of making sure that all members of the community were cared for. Jesus reinforced the law of love that was already known to His community: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” *Matthew 19:19*

“Neither Jesus nor Leviticus calls us to judge neighbors and decide which are worthy of help. Following God’s call, reaching out to whomever God has placed in our path, is freeing. We become partners with Him in providing for the needy.” The needy can also mean those poor in spirit. We need to share both the Law and Gospel with those who don’t know it and need to know about God’s **love** and forgiveness. As Pastor emphasized in his sermon, **love** is an action verb. We need to actively show our **love** to our neighbors. Moreover, we ourselves are also the needy, and Christ Jesus provides perfectly for us in His death and resurrection. (Excerpt from Portals of Prayer, February 7th)

During the Lenten season we remember the **love** of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus by His death on the cross. This is a time for repentant reflecting and prayer in preparation for the resurrection celebration on Easter Day. A lot of people give up self-indulgences for Lent to help them focus on this holy season of penitential reflection.

Let’s also try to reflect God’s **love** for us by putting our **love** for our neighbors into action. Someone shared the following advice:

Today be an example. Show kindness to unkind people. They may be good people just having a bad day. Forgive people who don’t deserve it. They

probably do deserve it and are just hurting. Love unconditionally. Your actions reflect who you are.

You are a beacon of light by reflecting God’s love for you.

There are several important sign-up sheets in the narthex. Please sign up to bring a dish for the March 6th potluck in celebration of the baptism of Maddox Rivera. Thanks to all those who helped with the potluck after Joann Miller’s memorial service on February 26th. Thank God Lutherans are the masters of potlucks!

There is also a sign-up sheet for Lenten Soup Suppers.

The March Community Potluck and Talent Show has now been moved to May. Please sign up to be on the planning committee.

Kathy Holm, Evangelism

WORSHIP

RING THOSE CHIMES!!

We’re going to try something NEW at Grace and WE NEED YOU!



Have you ever heard of a bell choir? Well, we’re doing something pretty close to that. It’s much

easier!! It's called CHIMES! Anyone can do it! Young and old alike. You don't have to be able to read music or sing. [But coordination is a must!] lol!

The chimes have been ordered. I don't know when they will arrive. We will have an informational get together once they come. It won't be an every week commitment. You don't even have to be a part of it each and every time. I will get the music and then we'll meet a few times before we do it in church. Sound like fun?? Sound interesting?

I'll let everyone know when we will start. I hope by the end of March. If you would like to hear what they sound like, there is a YouTube link. Here it is:

<https://youtu.be/iZyJdxJQQ-c>

Just type or paste into your browser and hit enter. Or just Google chime Choir.

Debbie Schwartz, Worship

Jesus Loves You!!

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD'S WORK

JANUARY	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
2nd	\$ 4,413.00	28
9th	\$ 2,944.00	26
16th	\$ 3,600.00	n/a
23rd	\$ 2,255.00	23
30 th	\$ 1,110.00	22



BIRTHDAYS

7	Isaac Smith
8	Carol Draney
12	Katryn Mantz
18	Larry Adams
23	Noah Holm
30	Dale Telizyn



In March to

17	Ted and Gail Picado
22	Mike and Maletta Miller
29	Justin and Tiffany Izzo
30	Joe and Patti Guerra





Wednesday Evening Services

March 2nd – Soup Supper - 6 p.m.
Ash Wednesday - 7 p.m.

March 9th – Soup Supper – 6 p.m.
Lenten Service - 7 p.m.

March 16th – Soup Supper – 6 p.m.
Lenten Service – 7 p.m.

March 23rd – Soup Supper – 6 p.m.
Lenten Service – 7 p.m.

March 30th – Soup Supper – 6 p.m.
Lenten Service – 7 p.m.

April 6th - Soup Supper – 6 p.m.
Lenten Service -7 p.m.

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: *The Dellinger Family in the passing of Emily’s grandma – Rosie Janssen; Pastor Holm & family; Debbie Schwartz’s friend – Glenda McAlpine; Sherry Herrera and her son- Anthony; Sue Maeer; Joe and Patti Guerra’s and her cousin’s family in the passing of Judi Robbins; Kevin Mitchell’s brother-in-law – Kelley; Joe and Patti Guerra’s daughter-in-law – Bethany Guerra, their son - Tony’s wife; Sue Maeer’s friend, Christy; Gloria Reinschmidt and family; Alma Rich’s granddaughter – Meghan and family; Greg and Jeanne Nelson and Greg’s mom – Margie; Glen and Gail James’ friend – Sherry; Sue Maeer’s brother – Andy and sister-in-law, Heather.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving for: *Alma Rich’s granddaughter – Meghan; Greg and Jeanne Nelson and Greg’s mom – Margie; Dolores Smith’s sister – Margie.*

Keep in prayer: *Glen and Gail James’ daughter - Sarah, husband - Steve and their unborn baby; Jim and Suzanne Pierce; 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.*

March
13th



Funny Corner

What do you call
a fake rock in Ireland?

→ A Sham-rock! 

