

Amazing Grace

June, 2022

Volume 41, Issue 6



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 hope you have noticed that I put a quarterly journal and donation forms for Luther Classical College on the narthex table. I have a personal connection to the church and district involved, so I hesitated to share their information with you. I finally decided to share this information because, regardless of my personal involvement, it is a most worthy endeavor. But even if you choose not to support Luther Classical College, the journal is well worth your time.

Grace Lutheran Church does a wonderful job of supporting with our tithe a local and national institutions. I also think it is important for us individually to support both local and national institutions. After giving to Grace, you have total Christian freedom to give to any worthwhile cause. Erin and I support both local and national groups. So why do I support giving to Luther Classical College?

They are doing it right!

Luther Classical College is authentically Lutheran and dedicated to God's Holy Word and our faithful Lutheran Confessions. None of our current Concordia Universities have remained true to their original mandate to train pastors and teachers for the church. They have all added secular elements

to attract students that will not be pastors or teachers. They have all accepted government funding. They have all added staff and faculty who are not Lutheran. Naturally, this has caused all of them to drift from being solidly Lutheran. Whether they are worth saving, I do not know. I do know I have a hard time recommending a young man or woman to go to any of our Concordia Universities. Luther Classical College will not be based on the secular model of colleges, will never accept government funding, and will never hire anyone who is not solidly Lutheran. I will encourage every young man or woman to apply to Luther Classical College.

Luther Classical College is classical. Since the early 1900's, John Dewey revolutionized education at all levels into the current form of "progressive" education. The results have been downright scary. Classical education was the standard education model before progressive education took over. Not only is there a difference in method, which is not really the point of education, but there is a difference in content. In the Western world, we have a rich heritage that most people who were raised in public education know nothing about, including myself. I learned about classical education by serving as the chair of a classical Lutheran school. My research, experience, and learning classical languages has convinced me that the only type of education that will serve the church and the United States well is classical

education. If you have any questions, please let me know. We will grab a coffee and I will talk your ears off! I love this subject. Luther Classical College is a classical college offering only one degree! With that one degree, you will have the capacity to pursue and excel in any career.

Luther Classical College will remain small. They will accept only so many students each year. Keeping the classes small will help keep quality high, costs low, and the intangibles of education manageable. When demand outpaces the number of students allowed, there are other sites available in the country to start the next Luther Classical College.

I do have a personal connection to this college. However, my daughter, and God-willing, grandchildren, will not benefit from Luther Classical College directly. So why am I supporting it personally and suggesting that you consider supporting it?

So many institutions are broken in our country and, not in the least, the education institution. They are broken so badly that the only real option is to let them die and build brand new ones on their ashes. I encourage all of us to find quality institutions that are doing it right to share our resources with them. That might mean that no one in your family is directly affected by that institution, but the institution's effect on society will have a positive impact on you and your family. Luther Classical College is such an institution. It will build quality individuals and families who are authentically Lutheran and that are a positive impact on their communities, states, and country. Ultimately, that will benefit all of us.

I am asking you to *consider* supporting Luther Classical College. I am *not expecting* you to support it. I *do expect* you to find quality institutions to support with the abundance that God has blessed you with. Regardless, I hope that you will

look at "Christian Culture: A Magazine for Lutherans" to see if you like it. And I hope that you will hit me up for a coffee so we can talk about education or anything else you may have on your mind!

In Christ,
Pastor Maggard



EVANGELISM

Dear Fellow Christians!

I don't know about you, but this year has really gone by fast for me. It is almost summer, and I am disappointed that I haven't accomplished many of my "evangelism" goals. Then I stop to reflect. I take time to pray and to read God's Word--surrender to His perfect peace. The following verses give me comfort:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

"...being confident that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;" Philippians 1:6

"For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:5,6

"For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." Luke 12:12

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11

“Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3: 12-17

I love the above verse/prayer! We are all called to be disciples, ambassadors, evangelists to share the Good News of the hope and salvation we have in Jesus Christ.

We need to trust in the Lord, believe that the Holy Spirit will give us the words to say, and that God’s Word does not return void. God’s Word is powerful!

Remember to be kind and loving with everyone. When faced with challenges or insults, respond with kindness. We are reflections of God’s love. Trust in Jesus and the Holy Spirit to help us share His love and light with others.

In Jesus’ Eternal Light,
Kathy Holm



STEWARDSHIP

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness

and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in

this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities

of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Barbara Dellinger, Chairperson

Jesus Loves You!

WORSHIP

WHY DO WE SING IN CHURCH?

There are three answers to the question. First, Lutherans sing because we can. We are created with the capacity to sing and make music. Music is a part of God’s good creation. This is a

fundamental Lutheran understanding of the “why we sing.” Luther himself wrote concerning music:

“From the beginning of the world it has been instilled and implanted in all creatures, individually and collectively. For nothing is without sound and harmony. . . Let this noble, wholesome, and cheerful creation of God be commended to you. . . At the same time you may by this creation accustom yourself to recognize and praise the Creator.”

And there’s the important (and sometimes overlooked) part of this music as a gift from God: when we sing, we recognize that God is the creator, and we are the creatures. In singing, we take our proper place in the created order. As a hymn puts it: “adoration leaves no room for pride.”

“Why do we sing?” The second reason is: because there is good news! Luther again:

“For God has cheered our hearts and minds through His dear Son, whom he gave for us to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. He who believes this earnestly cannot be quiet about it. But he must gladly and willingly sing. . . .”

Or, to paraphrase 1 Corinthians: “we sing Christ crucified . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God.” So for us our singing is no different than our preaching: we preach Christ crucified. And we live Christ crucified. So our song is directly connected to our life.

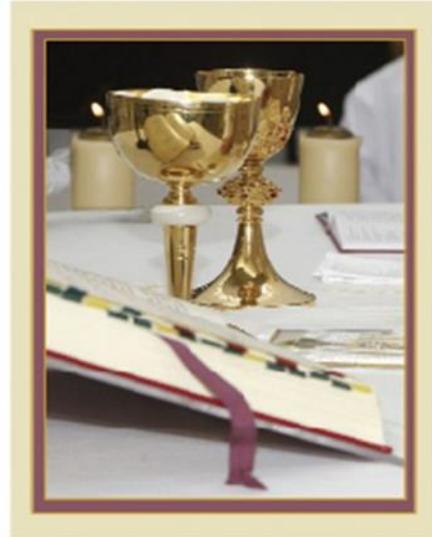
“Why do we sing?” The third reason is: in order to build faith and community. Our singing forms, nurtures, and strengthens individuals in the faith.

*by Michael Krentz-St. John’s Lutheran Church

So, you don’t have to be in the choir in order to sing. Sing the good news and sing to praise God!

Debbie Schwartz, Chairperson

On The Anniversary
Of Your
Ordination

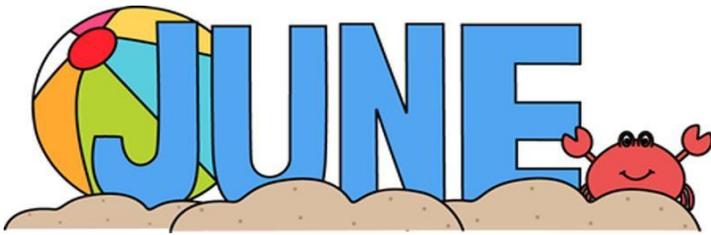


Wishing You
Many Blessings On This
Special Occasion

Pastor Maggard!

YOUR TITHES FOR THE LORD’S WORK

APRIL	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
3rd	\$ 8,356.00	28
10th	\$ 4,085.00	32
17th	\$ 2,570.00	41
24th	\$ 4,428.00	23



BIRTHDAYS

1	Glen James
4	Larry Maudlin
16	Robert Klemm
20	Andrew Herrera
20	Brian Kelmar
20	Betty Guinn
21	Caitlyn Del Rio
24	Sandy Stringham
26	Judi Parker-Choske
28	Ruth Wells
30	Sherrie Smith
30	Evan Guerra



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

This month’s added prayers: Pastor Daniel and Eleanor Holm’s dear friend – Mary Stafford; Dolores Smith’s grandson – Jesse and family; Pastor Holm and family; Sue Maeer; Allan and Barbara Dellinger’s neighbor’s family and granddaughter – Cora Catalina; Alma Rich’s family in SW Nebraska and those effected by wildfires; Nancy Telizyn’s friend – Hilary; Alma Rich’s daughter-in-law, Jeri; Sue Maeer’s friends; Kathy Holm’s cousin, Beth; Evelyn Smith’s family due to her receiving her crown; Gail Picado’s lifelong friend – Belinda ‘Punky’; Judi Parker-Choske’s dear friend – Pat; Debbie Schwartz’s sister – Suzzanne; Bill Choske’s co-worker, Ronnie; Pastor Eric Kaelberer and family; Sue Maeer’s friend – Bob; Kurt Wampole’s friend – Eladio Acuna and family of donor; Sue Maeer’s neighbor’s grandson’s premature baby girl; Nancy Telizyn’s sister – Lynn; Josh Torrance Sr, his uncle – John Vanover’s family due to his passing; Joe and Patti Guerra’s son, Tony and daughter in law, Bethany; Carol Draney; The families of the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas.



In June To

10	Charles and Desiree Dellinger
19	Allan and Barbara Dellinger
19	Shane and Tami Travers
23	Jon and Heather Hathcock
25	Richard and Patti Lowe

Prayer of Thanksgiving for: Dolores Smith’s friend, Shelby and her son Stan; Dolores Smith’s daughter – Connie and her son, Jesse; Nancy Telizyn’s friend – Hilary; Fires in Nebraska were contained; Alma Rich’s daughter in law – Jane; Pastor Eric Kaelberer and family; Allan and Barbara Dellinger’s neighbor’s family and granddaughter – Cora Catalina.

We keep in prayer: Randy and Gail York and unspoken prayers.