

PONY EXPRESS

SPECIAL DELIVERY TO OUR GRACE OF CHRIST FAMILY

October 28, 2020

Dear Grace of Christ Family,

2020 will be a year to remember – or forget. It's all about perspective. It's certainly been a year that none of us could have anticipated. We have yet to know the full impact 2020 will have on us as individuals, families, the country, the world or the Church. We may not know for years to come. It's been a year that has made us long for normal routines – to realize how much we take for granted (i.e. toilet paper) – to hold on loosely to what we have – and to appreciate the little blessings that have come along the way that we did not anticipate in such a time as this.

In a year filled with so many unknowns, there is one thing I know for sure: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13.8) In a world that is filled with uncertainty, one thing I know is certain: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." (James 1.17) GOD NEVER CHANGES!

In these chaotic and confusing times, God calls us to trust in Him even more. We are to live as Children of God, worshipping and loving our Maker with all that we have: heart, soul, strength and mind. We are to live in a generously loving response to God's love for us, demonstrated fully in the gift of His Son, our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Vision at Grace of Christ is to **Love God and Love Others**, as we carry out our unique calling and mission of **Making Disciples Who Love Well With Drops of Grace**. As a reminder, our DROPS include:

- D**evelop Relationships with Those Who are Far From God
- R**each the World with the Gospel
- O**ffer Hope to Those Without Hope
- P**ray for Revival
- S**erve Like Christ

In order for each of us to Love God and Love Others, it is our belief that the following Core Essentials (Values) must be developed and practiced individually and corporately:

WORSHIP – COMMUNITY LIFE – SPIRITUAL DISCIPLESHIP – MISSIONS

One of the ways we are able to fulfill our unique calling at Grace of Christ is through generous financial contributions of the congregation. The Tithes and Offerings given to Grace of Christ not only help keep the lights on at 9 S. 8th Ave, but to continually bless others throughout our community and the world.

Without knowing how the year will unfold, your Elders are putting together a budget that trust God will once again use for His Glory and His Purpose. Please be in prayer over the upcoming weeks as you ask God to reveal to you how it is He wants you to contribute to the life and ministry at Grace of Christ. Remember, it's not just about giving a portion of our finances, but it is also using our time and talents to love and serve others, "as each member does his or her part". (Ephesians 4.16)

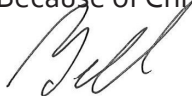
You will hear about this on Sunday, but be prepared to participate in an old-fashioned Pony Express Campaign. There may even be a real horse involved in our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. Some of you may have experienced this in the past. It seems rather appropriate to do it this year. It's a way for everyone to be connected as we join together in offering our Commitment Cards for 2021. Keep an eye out for a horse coming to your neighborhood – well, at least be on the lookout for a saddlebag to appear on your front porch.

Yes, a saddlebag...

- Multiple bags will travel from home to home, passed on from one house to the next.
- You will receive a call from your Pony Express Leader and given instructions.
- If you prefer not to participate, or would not be able to pass the saddlebag along to the next house, let your leader know when they call. You can turn a pledge in directly to the church, if you prefer.

All of the saddlebags with the collected pledges will be brought to the church as we celebrate the fact that "every good and perfect gift is from God, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights."

Because of Christ, and in His Grace,



Pastor Bill



Making Disciples Who Love Well With Drops of Grace

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