

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



**August 2025
GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**



The Rich Fool

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Luke 12:15

Letter from Pastor Carleton

Being a παιδαγωγός...

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. – Galatians 3:23-24

I said it in a sermon a few weeks ago, but the Law is not your friend. The Law, meaning the demands placed upon you for righteousness, goodness, holiness. Yes, we think most specifically of the Mosaic Law, or the Torah, but it can be anything placed upon you or held over your head that tells you that you are not enough, you are not righteous, or holy, or good.

Here in Galatians, Paul spends quite a bit of time speaking about this idea of Law. He is troubled by the desire of the people of Galatia to live under the requirements of the Law in order to check their holiness. What they had been taught by some rather zealous teachers was that you can have Jesus, but you have to become a practicing Jew.

The word in the Greek that Paul uses which is translated in our verses above as disciplinarian is the word: παιδαγωγός. It means “boy-leader”. This person would usually be a slave tasked with taking a child from home to school, and back again. He was not a teacher or schoolmaster, and not a disciplinarian either. He was a guide that would take the child by the hand and lead them to a particular place and bring them home safely. Paul takes this word and applies it to the Law saying that the Law was this guide to hold our hand and lead us in a particular way until someone else came along. That someone being Christ.

Notice that the Law is not the schoolmaster, nor is the Law is the thing that makes us a better person. It is Christ and faith in him. There is no righteousness attached to the demands placed upon you by the Law, only a demand for righteousness from you. Christ comes in the opposite way, to bring you the very righteousness you think this παιδαγωγός was supposed to lead you to and couldn't. Christ then becomes the παιδαγωγός for us, bringing us to the Father.

As school begins for most of our students, think of yourselves as this παιδαγωγός for them. Like a crossing guard protecting the kids as they cross the street, you each have been placed here at Grace, not to be a source of discipline, but to hold their hand as they walk the life of faith, and protecting them from all the outside elements that want to run them over with Law and demands of holiness they will never meet.

Even more so, who is your παιδαγωγός? Who is that one who takes you by the hand and leads you to Jesus time and time again? That is why we need one another. As we walk the road of faith, we walk together with Jesus where we may need disciplining and some schooling, but the road always leads home to the Father who loves us and sent his Son for us.

In Him,

Pastor Smee

Announcements



Church Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in room 8. If a regularly scheduled council meeting needs to be rescheduled, the will be notified through the weekly MailChimp mass emailer as well as the bulletin.

New Member Class is Coming

Sundays August 10, 17, 24, 31 at 9:15

Whether you are

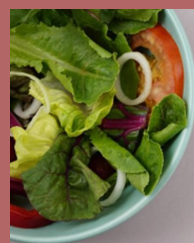
+ ready to take that next step and join the OR

+ you simply want to learn more about who these Lutherans are and why we do what we do and how we do it

this class is *for you*.

To sign up: email Pastor Kris

revmadsen@gracelutheran.org



Summer, Salads & Sisterhood

Salad Potluck
&

Root Beer Floats

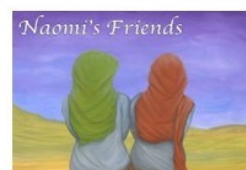
August 16, 11-12:30
Fellowship Hall

GriefShare
Grieving the death
of a loved one?

Join us:

Tuesdays from 6 to 8pm
Aug. 26 through Nov. 18
Cost: \$20 (includes workbook)
To Register, send an email to:
RevMadsen@gracelutheran.org

griefshare.org



Naomi's Friends meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at Ale's Crab House @ 12 pm.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

BACK-2-SCHOOL BREAKFAST & BINGO

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd AT 6PM-8PM

PANCAKES, BINGO AND PRIZES

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY - ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

Grace Lutheran Church 502 N. NORMA ST. • RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA
FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Blessing OF THE Backpacks

SUNDAY - AUGUST 10TH
AT BOTH SERVICES

NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

Running with Endurance

National Gathering
August 5-8 in Pittsburgh, PA
Attend in person or watch online
Visit theNALC.org for info

OWLs

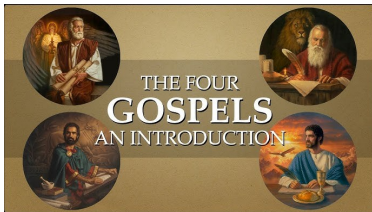
(Older Wiser Lutherans)
Meets for games, fun, and entertainment in the Fellowship Hall the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Church Family Summer Sundays

2nd Sunday of the Month
9:15am (June 8th, July 13th, August 10th)

Let's have some fun! Pastor Smee will plan one Sunday a month to have some games to play with our families, young and old alike. We'll meet on the grass outside the Fellowship Hall with variations of "Red Light, Green Light", Kickball, Freeze Tag, etc. All Ages are welcome!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Peace Bible Study meets the third Wednesday of the month at 9 am in the CR. The study is called *Introduction to the Four Gospels*. All are welcome.



Limbo Young Adult Life group meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Smee's home.

Christian Education Hour is on summer break till September 7th



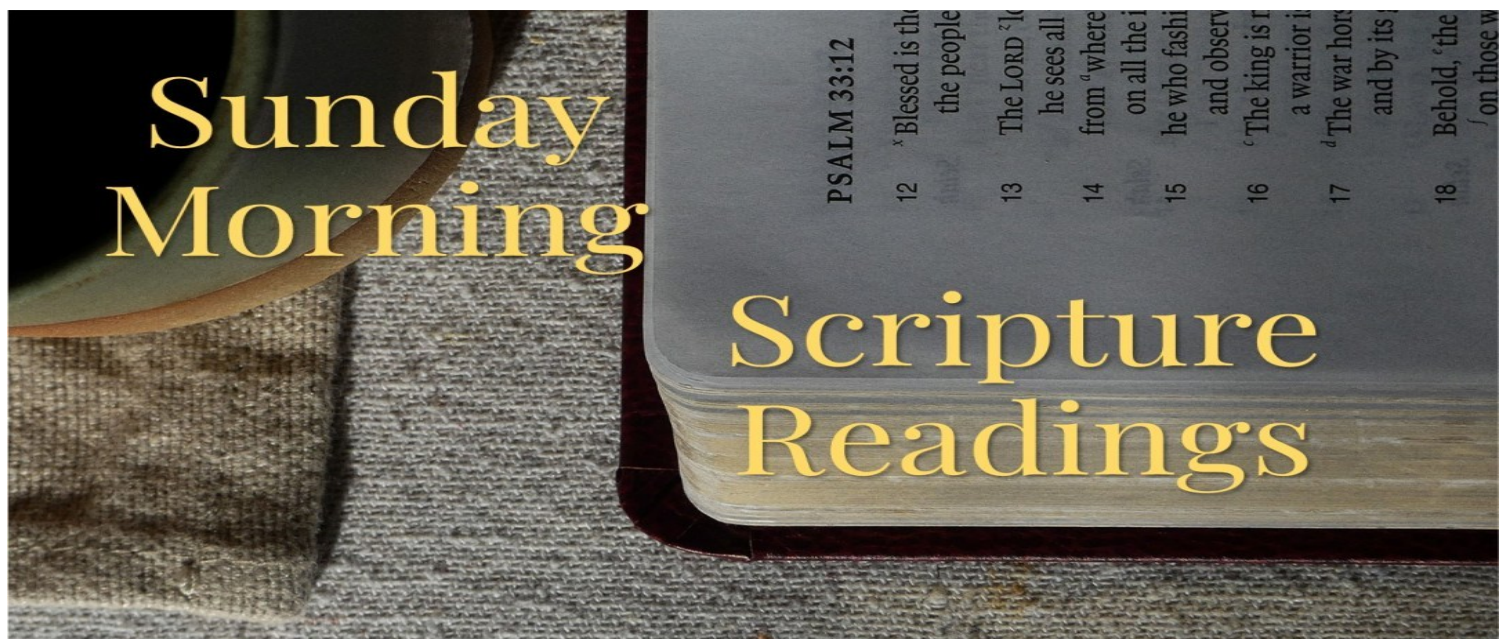
Join "A Bible and a Pencil" Bible study via Zoom on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. The study is on the book of Exodus. Please contact Mark Brynestad via email at marknsue78@gmail.com for further information



An in-depth Bible study of Mark via Zoom on Tuesday nights, 7:00, under the instruction of Mark Brynestad. Please contact Mark Brynestad via email at marknsue78@gmail.com for further information regarding this class.

Scripture Readings for August

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
Aug-3rd	Luke 12:13-21	First Reading Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14;2:18-26 Psalm Reading 100 Second Reading Colossians 3:1-11
Aug-10th	Luke 12:22-34 (35-40)	First Reading Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm Reading 33:12-22 Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-16
Aug-17th	Luke 12:49-53(54-56)	First Reading Jeremiah 23:16-29 Psalm Reading 119:81-88 Second Reading Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3
Aug-24th	Luke 13:22-30	First Reading Isaiah 66:18-23 Psalm Reading 50:1-15 Second Reading Hebrews 12:4-24 (25-29)
Aug-31st	Luke 14:1-14	First Reading Proverbs 25:2-10 Psalm Reading 131 Second Reading Hebrews 13:1-17



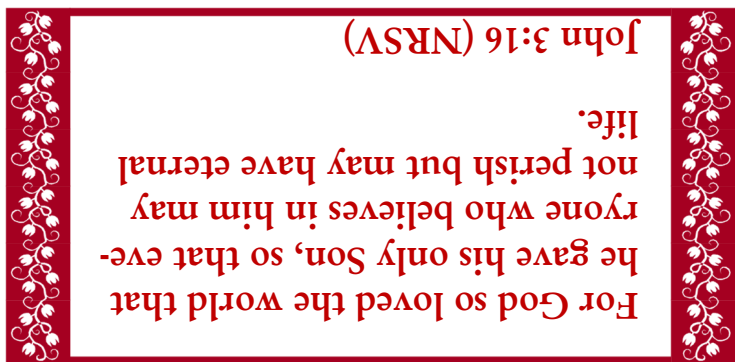
August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6:00 pm Family Fun Night	4 6:30pm Limbo	5	6 NALC National Gathering	7 NALC National Gathering	8 NALC National Gathering	9
10 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15am Church Family Summer Sundays 9:15 am New Member Class	11 6:30pm Limbo	12 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS	13	14 2:30pm Parkinson's Group	15 12 pm Missions & Service team meeting	16 11am Ladies Event
17 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15am New Member Class	18	19 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	20 9am Peace Study	21	22	23
24 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am New Member Class	25 6:30pm Limbo	26 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS 6 pm Grief Share	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am 9:15 am New Member Class						



502 N. Norma
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



www.gracelutheran.org
www.facebook.com/gracelutheran.org

We're on the Web at:

Rev. Kris Madsen, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Carleton Smece, *Associate Pastor*
Christine McClain, *Office Manager*
Jane Kuhlman, *Music*
Paul Jauregui, *Custodian*
Michell Koenig, *Gracevine Editor*



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Worship Services Sundays at 8 & 10:30 am
Christian Education Hour Sundays 9:15 am