

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Grace
Lutheran Church

JUNE 2026
GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER



*Go and learn
what this means:*

**'I DESIRE MERCY,
AND NOT SACRIFICE.'**

*For I came not to call
the righteous,
but sinners."*

Matthew 9:13 ESV

Letter from the Pastors

Embodied sin...

You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. – 1 Peter 1:18-19

As a child I was always worried about my own sin. Where did I stand with God? Was God happy with me? Was he going to punish me, or love me? Had I been good enough this week? There are days, even now, where I think and feel these thoughts and emotions rather deeply. Part of it is because the audacious nature of the Gospel, the free forgiveness of sinners by God in Christ, is so hard to believe sometimes. The other part is that I live as a sinner amid other sinners.

Born of fleshly parents I carry with me the nature of the mortal. Because I am mortal my first desire, above everything else, is not to die. With this desire, then, I will do anything I can to avoid it. That is our nature of sin. But the even worse part is that on top of my nature comes this frictional sin – this sin of my own, and the sins of others, that I fight and that fight against me.

For instance, like you, I carry in my nurturing many of the sins of past generations, because as I have been parented, so I will exist in the world (either positively or negatively). As I exist in the world, I will meet others who have their own nurturing to deal with. These cumulative sins around me then cause more hardship, anger, frustration, and pain.

All of this is “the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors.” The word “futile” in the Greek (*mataios*) means fruitless, useless, empty, lacking truth, and powerless. This life of sinfulness embodied in the world, in physical form with other physical forms, is one of emptiness, powerlessness, and lacking truth. It is one that is lived out like a prison that I can’t get out of because, as much as I want to set myself apart, no matter how holy I can feel or be, I come into contact with others who are not, and they rub off on me. It is no wonder that so many early Christians wandered off into the desert and never came back.

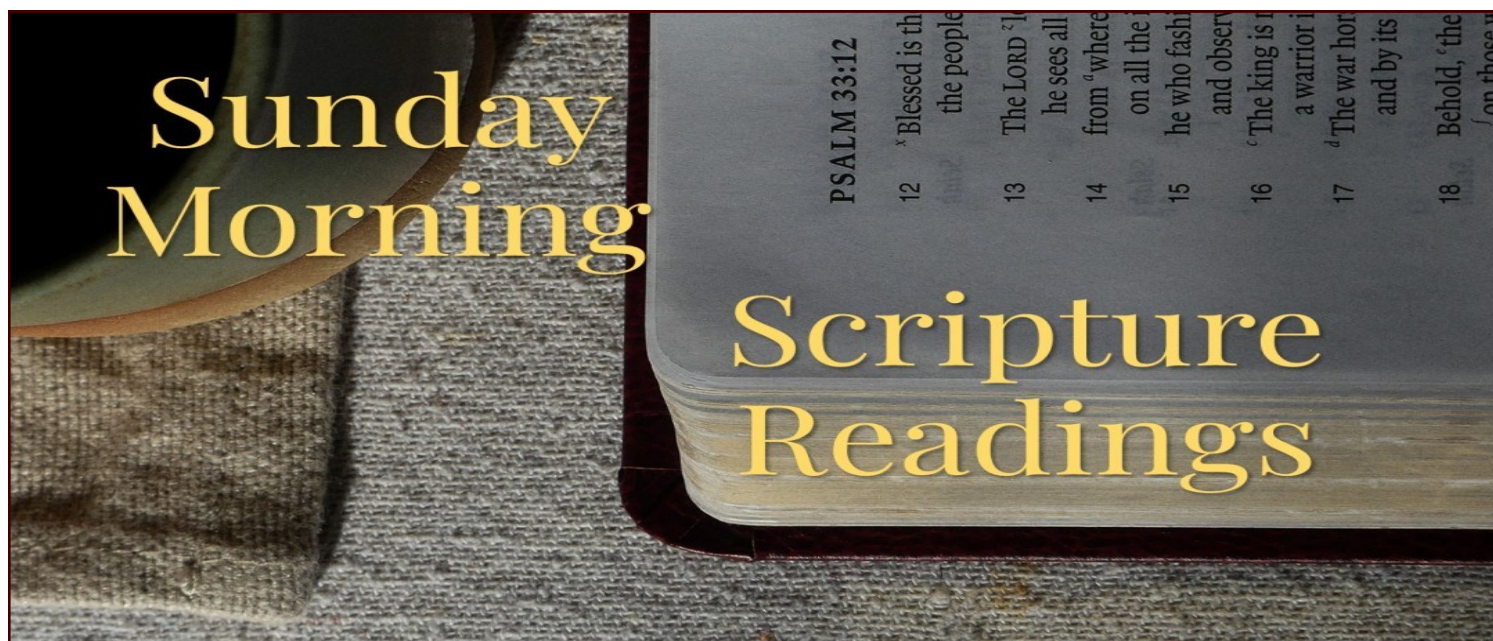
But the great reversal comes in Christ. When he embodies himself into history, he brings the mercy, forgiveness, and love of God with him. He becomes the one “body” that sinners encounter and things change. It is in him that comes this ransom from this curse we surround ourselves with, and through this ransom he sets the captives free. That it is, as I look to the cross and not others, at Christ and not myself, at the blood of the only Holy One and not my own mortality, I find God’s promise that gives me hope and life. That it is the freedom that comes in him that makes me new. That it is, because he was embodied in the world, was killed, and raised, I now have this eternal sacrament of salvation to behold, so that when I am bogged down by the brokenness of the world, wonder if I will ever have good news, I look to him, the source and completeness of my faith, and know for certain that one day the sin curse will be gone, and we will truly free.

In Christ,

Pr. Smee

Scripture Readings for June

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
June 7	Matthew 9:9-13	First Reading: Hosea 5:15-6:6 Psalm Reading: 119:65-72 Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25
June 14	Matthew 9:35-10:8	First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8 Psalm Reading: 100 Second Reading: Romans 5:6-15
June 21	Matthew 10:5a, 21-33	First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm Reading: 91:1-10 (11-16) Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23
June 28	Matthew 10:34-42	First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm Reading: 119:153-160 Second Reading: Romans 7:1-13



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.

Summer Sunday education hour Book Study
Room 7, 915 to 1015: June 7, 14, 28 & July 12
and 19

We Shall Live in Heaven

Harri Haamer's testimony of faith,
recounting his experiences in a Soviet slave
labor camp

Craig and Sandy Stevens will represent Grace Lutheran in an Estonia Adult Bible Camp this August. They will lead this book study to help Grace acquire a broader picture of the importance of this mission trip and to inform prayer support for the camp and churches in Estonia. We will select 5 short chapters for discussion. We would love to have you join us.

Open Hearth YG Baseball Trip 2026

Wednesday, July 22nd, 9am-9pm

Cost: \$40

Join Pastor Smee as we head on down to Angel's Stadium for a baseball game. We will meet at the church at 8am to head on down. Pr. Smee will cover lunch. Bring money for any souvenirs or snacks in the park, plus dinner on the way home.

Open Hearth YG Summer Pool Party

June 14th, 6pm-8pm

At the Lindula's house

Join us for some fun, food, and fellowship. Maybe we will even have s'mores. (Pink flamingo floaties are optional)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

TAKE A BREAK THIS SUMMER

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH AT 6PM-8PM

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, BINGO AND PRIZES

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY

ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AND FUN



502 N. NORMA ST. + RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA
FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

BACK-2-SCHOOL BREAKFAST & BINGO

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND AT 6PM-8PM

PANCAKES, BINGO AND PRIZES

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY - ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AND FUN



502 N. NORMA ST. + RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA
FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED



Naomi's Friends

Is a widow's
Support Group.

They meet the 2nd & 4th

Wednesday of each month

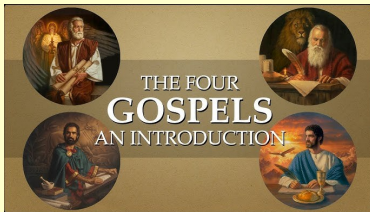
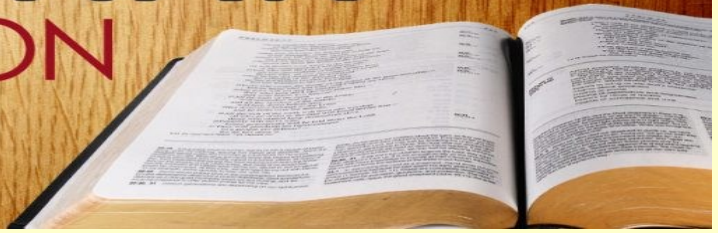
At Lugo's Grill @ 12pm.



(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.

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.



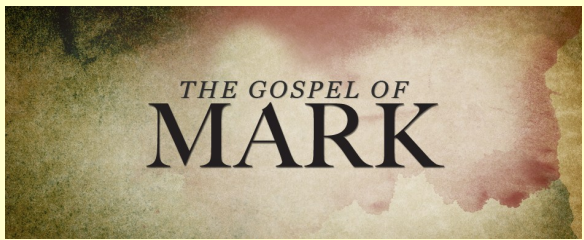
Limbo Young Adult Life group meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Smee's home.

Team 784 meets in the Fellowship Hall
For ages 3rd grade to 90+

Kingdom Kids meets in the Conference Room for kids up to 2nd grade & adults



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 regarding this class.



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.

*Spotlighting
the Family of Grace*

**Jim and Judy
Martin**



Jim Martin is essentially a lifelong area resident, having been born in Trona. After coming of age and getting his education, he worked on the base as a mathematician. He eventually became a branch head, which is the position he held when he had the opportunity to retire early, thanks to buy-outs in the late 90's.

Judy grew up in Portland, Oregon and having moved to Ridgecrest, she went to work on the base, where she held multiple positions, including project management. She was also able to retire about the same time as Jim and thus began their life of RV travel in earnest. They have always enjoyed traveling and spend time on the Pacific Coast annually, although pulling a fifth-wheel is no longer part of their trips.

The Martins were attending Ridgecrest Presbyterian when Judy was involved in Rotary. At the same time, Pastor Mark Rowland, who was ministering at Grace at that time was in Rotary and he invited her to attend Grace. Having grown up attending Pentecostal churches, Jim and Judy expected a liturgical church to lack spiritual depth, but in 2002, they serendipitously found Grace offered the perfect balance of order and spiritual nourishment. They have been active members ever since: Judy served with the Altar Guild, Jim as trustee and both have served as ushers and counted offerings.

When they are in Ridgecrest, they spend time working on their yard and garden, which they transformed after their house burned down while they were in Oregon on one of those many long RV trips. The oasis they've created meant filling in the swimming pool, which wasn't getting enough use and required too much maintenance while they were away, but the beautiful garden they have now is a place of peace and tranquility they can enjoy when they are here and not have to worry too much about when they are off on their next adventure!

Air Fryer Turkey Meatloaf

Ingredients

Meatloaf

- 1 Egg, beaten
- 1/3 cup Bread Crumbs
- 8 ounces mushrooms, trimmed and very finely chopped
- 1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1/3 cup Milk
- 2 tsp Garlic Powder
- 1 tsp Onion Powder
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1/2 tsp Pepper
- 2 tsp Italian Seasoning
- 1/2 cup Ketchup
- 3 tsp Dijon Mustard
- 1 1/2 lbs Ground Turkey, 85% Lean
- 1/4 lb Thick Cut Bacon (optional)

Topping Sauce

- 1/2 cup Ketchup
- 3 Tbsp Real Maple Syrup
- 1/2 tsp Liquid Smoke

Instructions

Heat a little cooking oil in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Add the onion, stirring occasionally, until softened; about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in the mushrooms, 1/2-teaspoon of salt, and 1/4-teaspoon of pepper. Cook until the mushrooms give off their liquid and it boils away; about 10 minutes.

In a large mixing bowl, beat the egg. Add bread crumbs, milk, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper, and Italian seasoning. Mix well.

Add the ketchup and Dijon. Mix well.

Add the ground turkey and thoroughly combine the meat with the seasoning mixture.

Shape into a loaf that is even in thickness and will fit in the air fryer basket. This recipe works best in a minimum 7 inch wide basket. A smaller basket will yield a thicker meatloaf, which means a longer cook time.

Put the meatloaf into the air fryer basket and drape the strips of bacon evenly over the loaf, tucking the bottoms of the bacon under the loaf.

Cook at 350° F for 20 minutes.

While the meatloaf is cooking, mix the topping sauce. After the 20 minute cook time, open the air fryer and apply a generous amount of the sauce over the top of the meatloaf (try not to double dip, so you can serve the rest of the sauce with the meatloaf).

Place a piece of sprayed foil loosely over the meatloaf. Cook at 350° F for another 10 minutes.

Open the air fryer and check the temperature with an instant read thermometer. If it says 160°, let the meatloaf rest for 10 minutes before serving. It will come up to 165°.

If the meatloaf is below 160°, cook for another 5 minutes. You can take off the foil for the last couple of minutes.

Always rest meatloaf for 5-10 minutes after cooking.

Transfer to a serving platter and slice. Serve with the remaining topping sauce.

JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30pm Model Planes 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm High Desert Pipers 7 pm Boy Scouts	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	3	4	5	6 10:30 am Music Together
7 Worship 8am & 10:30am	8 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm High Desert Pipers 7 pm Boy Scouts	9 1:30 pm OWLS 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	10 10 am Music Together 12 pm Naomi's Friend's 6 pm Girl Scouts Ceremony	11 2:30pm Parkinson's Group 5 pm Praise Band Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	12 6 pm Family Fun Night	13 10:30 am Music Together 12:30 pm Cranston Birthday Party
14 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	15 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm High Desert Pipers 7 pm Boy Scouts	16	17 9 am Peace Bible Study	18 5 pm Praise Band Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	19 Office closed for Juneteenth	20 8am IMTT Renewal 10 am Braithwaite Funeral
21 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	22 6:30 pm Limbo 6:30 pm High Desert Pipers 7 pm Boy Scouts	23 1:30pm OWLS 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	24 12 pm Naomi's Friend's	25 5 pm Praise Band Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	26	27
28 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	29 6:30 pm Limbo 6:30 pm High Desert Pipers 7 pm Boy Scouts	30				

Celebrating 70 Years
 1956 - 2026
Grace
 Lutheran Church

502 N. Norma
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For God so loved the world that
 he gave his only Son, so that eve-
 ryone who believes in him may
 not perish but may have eternal
 life.
 John 3:16 (NRSV)



www.gracelutheran.org
[www.facebook.com/](http://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

