

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



**MARCH 2025
GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**



Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Joel 2:12-14

Letter from Pastor Kris

Update On Church Doctor Recommendations

It has been nine months since the Church Doctors came and gave us their report on how we as a congregation are feeling about ourselves as well as a list of recommendations to help give us some forward direction for mission and ministry. Some of those recommendations were quick and easy things to address (and have been addressed), others take more planning and time to act on. I'm going to use this article as an opportunity to update you all on steps that have been taken already as well as fill you in on some items we are in the midst of addressing.

- **Move the Second Service from 10:15 to 10:30:** Very easy recommendation that went into effect Labor Day weekend. This has been a helpful change in giving everyone (myself and Pastor Smee included) some extra time to move between services, not feel so rushed going from one thing to the next, and thus even have a little time to check in with folks.
- **Reinstitute the Passing of the Peace:** Another easy recommendation that we acted on in the fall. We removed the passing of the peace again once cold and flu season was upon us (and it was a gnarly one), but look for that coming back now that we're pretty well through it.
- **Create a Philosophy of Ministry:** Pastor Smee and I took time over the summer to write a Philosophy of Ministry which was then discussed at the council retreat. The Philosophy of Ministry is intended to help leadership focus our ministry efforts; it also provides the congregation with language to talk about Grace with our neighbors, to share with them what we as a congregation are about. You can read the Philosophy of Ministry under the "About" tab on the church website: GraceLutheran.org/Philosophy-of-Ministry.
- **Bible Reading Plans:** Pastor Smee has put together several different one-year Bible reading plans for you to choose from, depending on how challenged you want to be. Each plan will guide you on a journey from creation to the early church. Check out the bulletin board on the east wall of the Fellowship Hall to find a reading plan that's right for you.
- **Support Groups & Mental Health:** One of the recommendations was to begin some support groups with more direct ties with the congregation (i.e., in addition to hosting the NA groups currently using our facilities). To this end, I have begun a Greif Share ministry; we are currently running it "in-house" as an initial trial run to see how it goes before going public with it. Additionally, I have a Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th with a support group ministry called Fresh Hope for Mental Health to see if they might be a good fit for us and our community.
- **Better Signage for Campus:** At the February meeting the council approved the Trustee team to consult with Scott and Masumi Frastaci's son, Brian to create signage for our buildings to make our campus friendlier to navigate for visitors.
- **Sanctuary Refresh Team:** Anna Garcia, Michell Koenig, Celest Roper, and Mary Barnett have graciously agreed to serve on this team. The sanctuary/office building turns 45 years old next year; this team is looking into giving the sanctuary a fresh, updated look: patching the plethora of cracks and holes in the walls, a fresh coat of paint, possibly also removing the popcorn ceiling. Also possibly (*emphasis on possibly*) addressing the 70s-era colored orange pews. This team is also looking into addressing some space and configuration issues, namely the possibility of creating a larger gathering/fellowship space in the narthex without adding additional square footage to the building (because that would trigger a plethora of new building codes to comply with). This is a big-dream type of idea that is being explored; we don't know if it is even structurally possible at this time. Because much of what comes from this team will require approval from the congregation at-large, there will be presentation sessions after the team gets a solid handle on what they want to propose.
- **Education about Spiritual Gifts:** Coming in the second half of 2025, Sandy Stevens will be offering a small group study on Spiritual Gifts. This group will go beyond the typical Spiritual Gifts inventory to explore how your gifts can be utilized for the Kingdom of God.
- **Decluttering Team:** As with many of our own individual homes, our church home can become cluttered. We have A LOT of clutter. This spring/summer I'll be looking for some willing souls to go through the various rooms around campus for the purpose of decluttering. If you would like to serve on the decluttering team please let me know. If you're concerned that what this team might classify as clutter to get rid of is not clutter to you, then you might want to volunteer for this team and/or collect it. *If you are keeping clutter at your church home because you ran out of room at your own home, be advised that it may not be here for very much longer.*

As you can see, a lot of forward progress is being made off of the recommendations from Church Doctors and there are more recommendations not listed in this article that we will update you on as we begin to tackle them.

Your partner in Ministry,
Pastor Kris

Reminder: If you would like to read through the Church Doctor Report and see their list of recommendations, you can check out a copy from the office.



GLC Mission Trip to Chico, CA

When: Sunday, July 20- Saturday, July 26th (work days M-F)

Cost: \$250/person plus transportation and meals while traveling

Attendees: Any age may participate but those age 16 or younger must be accompanied by guardian.

Scope of work: Finish work on homes that are being rebuilt after the fires from 2024. No skills required. We will learn on the job.

Accommodations: We will be staying at a Lutheran church with a shower trailer. Bring cots/air mattress, sleeping bag, towel. All meals will be provided while in Chico.

Deadline for signing up is May 1, 2025

A sign up sheet for those interested is in the Narthex.

Contact: Kim Perkins (805) 428-6313 for more information

Sponsored by the NALC Disaster Relief Team

Announcements



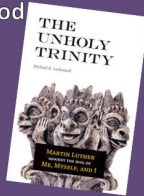
(Older Wiser Lutherans)
Meets for games, fun, and entertainment in the Fellowship Hall the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.



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

Mid-Week Lenten Services
"The Unholy Trinity: Me, Myself, & I"
 Based on the book by the same title
 By Rev. Dr. Michael Lockwood

Wednesday Evenings
 beginning March 12
 Dinner at 6, Service at 6:30



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, they will be notified through the weekly MailChimp mass emailer as well as the bulletin.

HOLY WEEK			
Palm Sunday April 13	Maundy Thursday April 17	Good Friday April 18	Easter Sunday April 20

Women's Ministries 2025 Events

- 4/5 Ladies lunch and Speaker with Nazarene Church 11-1 FH
- 5/10 Secret Sister reveal 11-1 FH

Save the date:

- 7/12 Summer event
- 10/11 Sisters in Christ kick off
- 12/13 Christmas brunch

NALC Disaster Response STUFF the TONKA TRUCK!



Please bring your prayers and support to:
Grace Lutheran Church

502 N. Norma St.

Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Feb 14-Mar 14, 2025

For Southern California
Wildfire relief &
recovery:

Lowes
Home Depot
Ace Hardware
gift cards

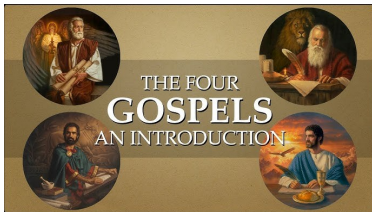
For Monetary Donations:

Financial donations designated for
NALC Disaster Response/SoCal Wildfires
should be made payable and mailed to:

North American Lutheran Church
2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309, PMB 409
Bedford, TX 76021-4703

Contact Mary Bates for more information at
740-509-1132

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
Intro to the Bible &
The Bible's Big Story
with Pastor Carleton
Fellowship Hall

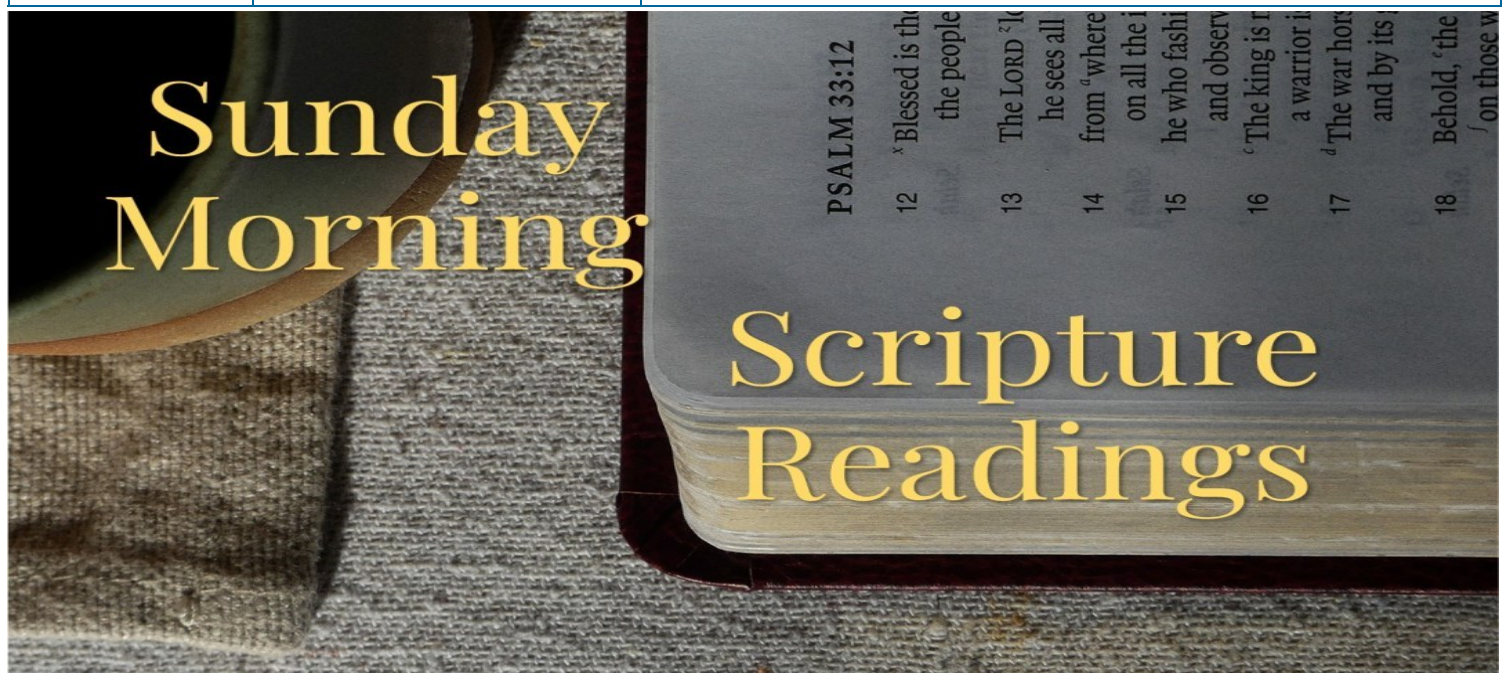
Augustana
The Lutheran Perspective
With Pastor Kris
Conference Room



Online bible studies are on hold until further notice.

Scripture Readings for March

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
Mar 2nd	Luke 9:28-36	First Reading Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm Reading 99 Second Reading Hebrews 3:1-6
Mar 9th	Luke 4:1-13	First Reading Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm Reading 91:1-13 Second Reading Romans 10:8b-13
Mar 16th	Luke 13:31-35	First Reading Jeremiah 26:8-15 Psalm Reading 4 Second Reading Philippians 3:17-4:1
Mar 23rd	Luke 13:1-9	First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-20 Psalm Reading 85 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Mar 30th	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	First Reading Isaiah 12:1-6 Psalm 32 Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	3 6:30pm Limbo	4	5 6pm Ash Wed Service	6 7pm Choir	7 10am Grief Share	8
9 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	10 6:30pm Limbo	11 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS	12 6pm Lenten Service	13 2:30pm Parkinson's Group 7pm Choir	14 10am Grief Share	15
16 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	17 6:30pm Limbo	18	19 9am Peace Study 6pm Lenten Service	20 7pm Choir	21 10am Grief Share	22
23 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	24 6:30pm Limbo	25 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS	26 6pm Lenten Service	27 7pm Choir	28 10am Grief Share	29
30 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	31 6:30pm Limbo					

Nurture
Welcome Equip Share

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, *Family, Youth, and Education*
Michelle Koenig, *Office Manager*
Jane Kuhlman, *Music*
Paul Jauregui, *Custodian*



Phone: 760-375-9768
Fax: 760-375-1313
E-mail: gracelutheran@gracelutheran.org

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

