

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



**MAY 2025
GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**



Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

John 21: 4-8

Letter from Pastor Kris

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy." Luke 1:41-44

May 31st is the Feast of the Visitation, a minor festival on the Church Calendar that remembers a pregnant Mary going to visit her relative Elizabeth who was, at that time, pregnant with John the Baptist. I thought this gospel text and festival of the Church Year which celebrates motherhood would be good to lift up in this month in which we celebrate Mother's Day and of course Father's Day soon after.

The very first commandment God gives after the three commandments that deal with us and our relationship to God concerns the office of mother and father, "God has given this walk of life, fatherhood and motherhood, a special position of honor, higher than that of any other walk of life under it. Not only has (God) commanded us to love parents but to honor them. In regard to brothers, sisters, and neighbors in general he commands nothing higher than that we love them. But he distinguishes father and mother above all other persons on earth, and places them next to himself. For it is a much higher thing to honor than to love."* So we worship God only (Mtt.4:10), we honor our father and mother (Exodus 20:12), and we love our neighbors as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18).

There are no greater titles or offices under heaven than that of father and mother, for by them God has decided to preserve humankind and give each of us individually and specifically our lives. I love the naming of Eve in Genesis 3: in Genesis 2 Adam calls the partner God made for him "woman" because she was taken from his rib, but in Genesis 3 Adam so lovingly names this particular woman Eve because "she was the mother of all the living." That word mother, אִמָּה (Am) in Hebrew, is a word that relates to tender caring; even before Eve has born a child (as the narrative goes Cain and Abel aren't born until chapter 4), yet she has been promised a child, and with that promise Adam looks at this woman in a whole other light; he looks at her now and sees the tender care of a loving mother. Created for Adam to make him complete, she herself is the sign of hope that his kind (humankind) will not begin and end with him. In Luther's Genesis commentary he observes that, though Adam was made good (Gen.1:31), there was one good that he lacked which all the other creatures had, hence God says, "It is not good that man/Adam should be alone..." (Gen.2:18). That good which Adam lacked was the hope of any future for his "kind." Eve is the fulfillment of Adam's goodness and his hope for a future.

The office and vocation of father and mother is nothing to be scorned or shied away from; in fact it is the first commandment given to humanity recorded in Scripture, "Be fruitful and multiply" (Gen.1:28). Furthermore, there is no greater work under heaven given to men and women than to parent children in the love and fear of God. Life is something to be greatly esteemed, to be held in highest regard. So it is a great work to "be fruitful and multiply," there is no greater work than to bring one's children up in true fear and love of God (in fact, it is the most needful thing in Christendom),** and there is no higher way to honor one's father and mother than stepping into these offices one's self whether one steps into this office by natural law (i.e., pregnancy and childbirth) or by civil law (i.e., adoption). So how great is the joy of a husband and wife as they become parents; how much greater the joy of grandparents to see their children become parents.

A blessed Mother's Day to all you moms and women who have taken on a motherly role to those in need of a good and honorable mother and an early blessed Father's Day to you fathers and men who have taken on a fatherly role to those in need of a good and honorable father.

Sola Deo Gloria

Pastor Kris



Statue of Mary and Elizabeth outside the Church of the Visitation in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem

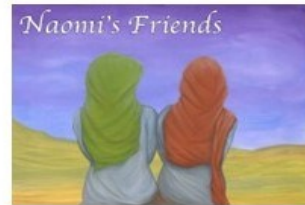
*Luther, Martin The Large Catechism BOC 400.105

** Luther's sermon on the estate of marriage, 1519

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.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

TAKE A BREAK THIS SUMMER

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 6PM-8PM

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, BINGO AND PRIZES

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY

ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

The logo for Grace Lutheran Church, featuring a stylized 'G' and the text 'Grace Lutheran Church'.

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



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.

Semi-Annual Meeting

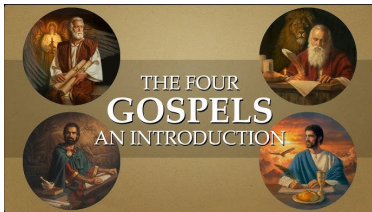
May 18th, following the second service, is the
semi-annual meeting in the Sanctuary. Potluck
to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Sisters in Christ

Save the Date: May 10, 11am
Ladies' Luncheon and Secret Sister Reveal

All women are invited

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 May

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
May 4th	John 21:1-19	First Reading Acts 9:1-22 Psalm Reading 30 Second Reading Revelation 5:1-14
May 11th	John 10:22-30	First Reading Acts 20:17-35 Psalm Reading 23 Second Reading Revelation 7:9-17
May 18th	John 16:12-22	First Reading Acts 11:1-18 Psalm Reading 150 Second Reading Revelation 21:1-7
May 25th	John 16: 23-33	First Reading Acts 16:9-15 Psalm Reading 67 Second Reading Revelation 21: 9-14, 21-27



Sunday
Morning

Scripture
Readings

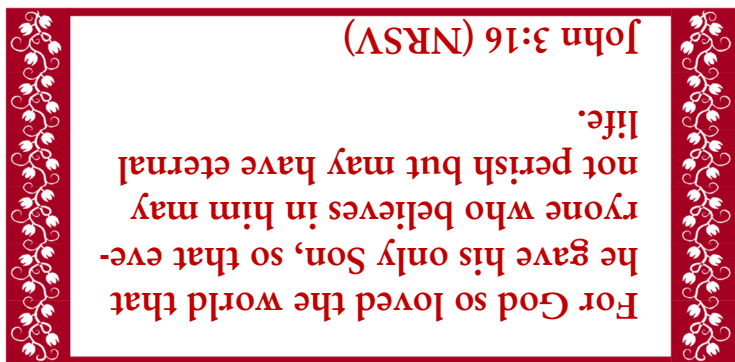
May 2025

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



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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, *Family, Youth, and Education*
Christine McClain, *Office Manager*
Jane Kuhlman, *Music*
Paul Jauregui, *Custodian*



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