

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

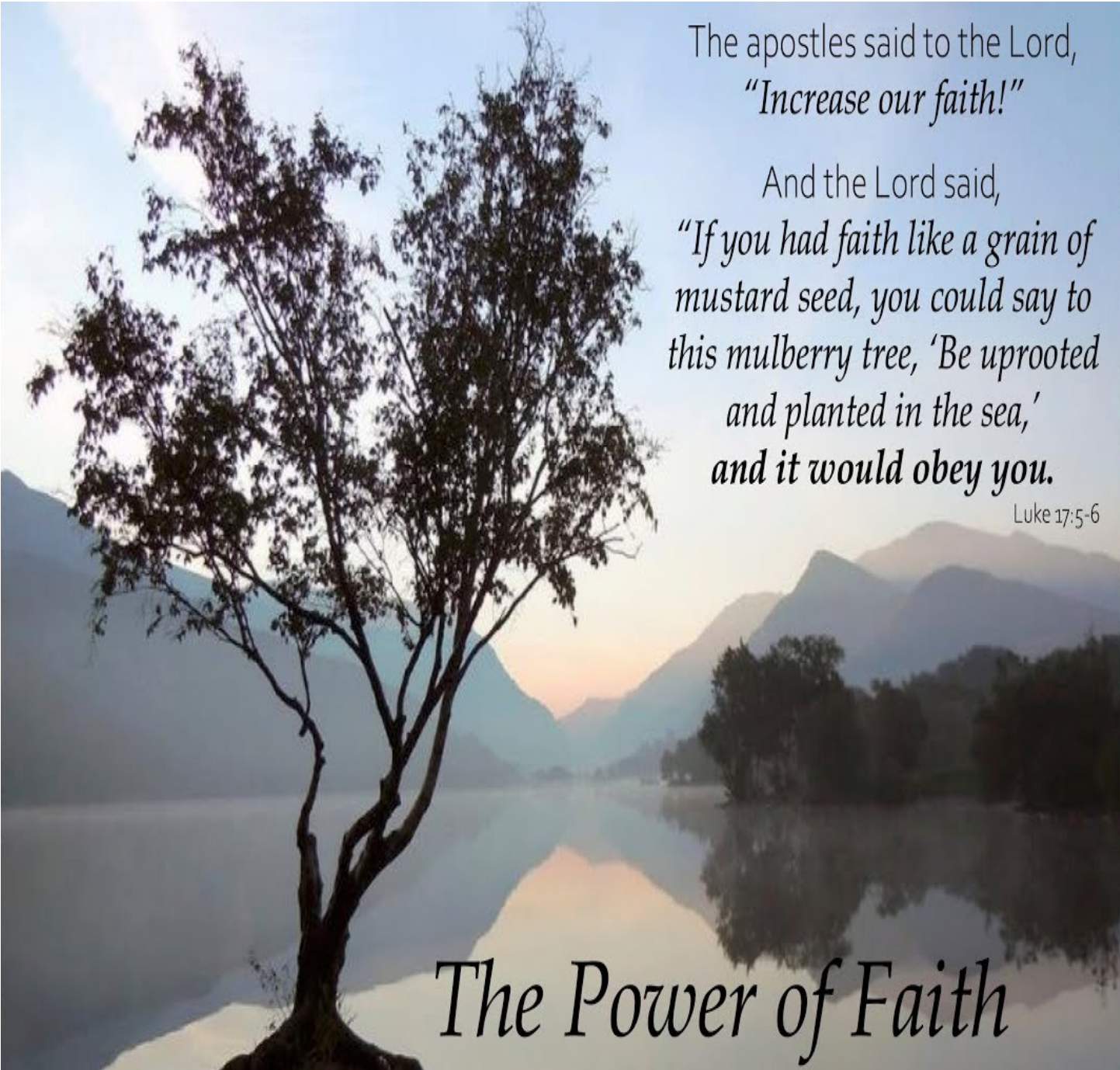


**October 2025
GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**

The apostles said to the Lord,
"Increase our faith!"

And the Lord said,
*"If you had faith like a grain of
mustard seed, you could say to
this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted
and planted in the sea,'
and it would obey you."*

Luke 17:5-6



The Power of Faith

Letter from the Pastors

Speech that frees...

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. – Ephesians 4:29

I love the First Amendment. This should not come as a surprise to you. I'm a pastor, so you would have to assume that the ability to have free exercise of religion is important to me. Because I am a preacher, you can also assume that the free exercise of speech is also important to me.

However, as I just finished going through Paul's letter to the Ephesians, I am amazed by how often he speaks to us about not being "free" in our speech as Christians, but instead to speak words that free. We are to "bear (put up) with one another in love" (4:2) and "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (4:3) Yes, we do point to Ephesians 4:15 when we get into our political and religious debates – "speaking the truth in love" – but it is often used as permission to basically be a jerk. We forget that the truth he is speaking of is the adamant statements he makes in the Gospel of being free in Jesus, forgiven in his blood, and because he has died and risen for you and me, we have been brought to peace with one another and with God.

It is no wonder, then, that we are to speak no evil, only good words for encouragement and building up, and especially words of grace. That we are to put away words of bitterness, wrath, anger, arguing, slander, and malice. (4:31) We are to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving as God has forgiven us. (4:32) In other words, the Gospel being on the tips of our tongues at all times. Maybe even thinking before we speak, "Did Christ die so I may say *this*?"

As a Disney adult, this is where you think I will break out the wise words of Thumper's mom, that Thumper parroted back in Bambi "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all". It is true, but I'm not one for childish sayings or mottos. Instead, let's use our speech to free one another from sin, from fear, from the idols of politics and class that bind us. We should speak into the world speech that does not leave the sinner condemned or build up the walls of "us and them", but tears down every wall and points to the saving work of Christ. So when we interact online, have political conversations with our friends or family, I do wonder what would change if we were to read this verse over and over again, and then maybe ask ourselves, "What I am going to say now, is it to try to win a fight, or point to my Jesus?"

In him who died and rose for you,

Pastor Smee

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 19, 2025
6:30, GLC Room 7

Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Ryan Cranston called the meeting to order at 6:30.

- Council members present:
- Ryan Cranston, President
- Ryan Schmidt, Vice President
- Sandy Pryor, Council Secretary
- Sandy Stevens, Council Liaison for Finance
- Nate Hardy, Council Liaison for Trustees
- Anna Garcia, Member at Large
- Pr. Kris Madsen

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 17, 2025 GLC Council Meeting were approved with a correction of the Sunday services attendance count. The attendance count was corrected to approximately 110 for first and second services combined.

Consent Items

Consent items were approved after the following discussions:

- The ac in the music room is not working.
- We need to check on the manufacturer's warranty.
- We need to get estimates to fix the music room ac from other HVAC providers.
- Signage for the sanctuary was discussed. One of the bigger signs is almost done.
- The ice maker has been leaking in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. The water line has been replaced and that should take care of the problem.

Old Business

Sanctuary Refresh

- A contract has been signed to paint the sanctuary.
- The start date is several months out.
- We need to identify and schedule work that needs to be done before the painting can start.
- Continuing Resolutions will be addressed at the council retreat 10/10/25.

New Business

Check writing was discussed. It would be favorable to use direct debit for some charges.

- The church treasurer will look at the church's insurance and possibly shop for new insurance on the church buildings. The umbrella policy should remain as is.
- The utilities have risen considerably. The gas bill is higher. The Ground Water Authority caused an increase of \$300 monthly in the water bill.
- Our use of solar was discussed. Our solar was installed in 2018. A council member will investigate the advisability of adding more solar panels and a solar battery pack.
- Workman's compensation cost is going up.
- Pastor Kris will ask a knowledgeable church member to do some insurance shopping and check into workman's comp.
- The Handbell choir and Chancel choir will be starting up next month.
- The facility usage policy needs to be updated and possibly increase the cost of outside organizations using our facilities.
- Further discussion is/needs to be had on music room usage.

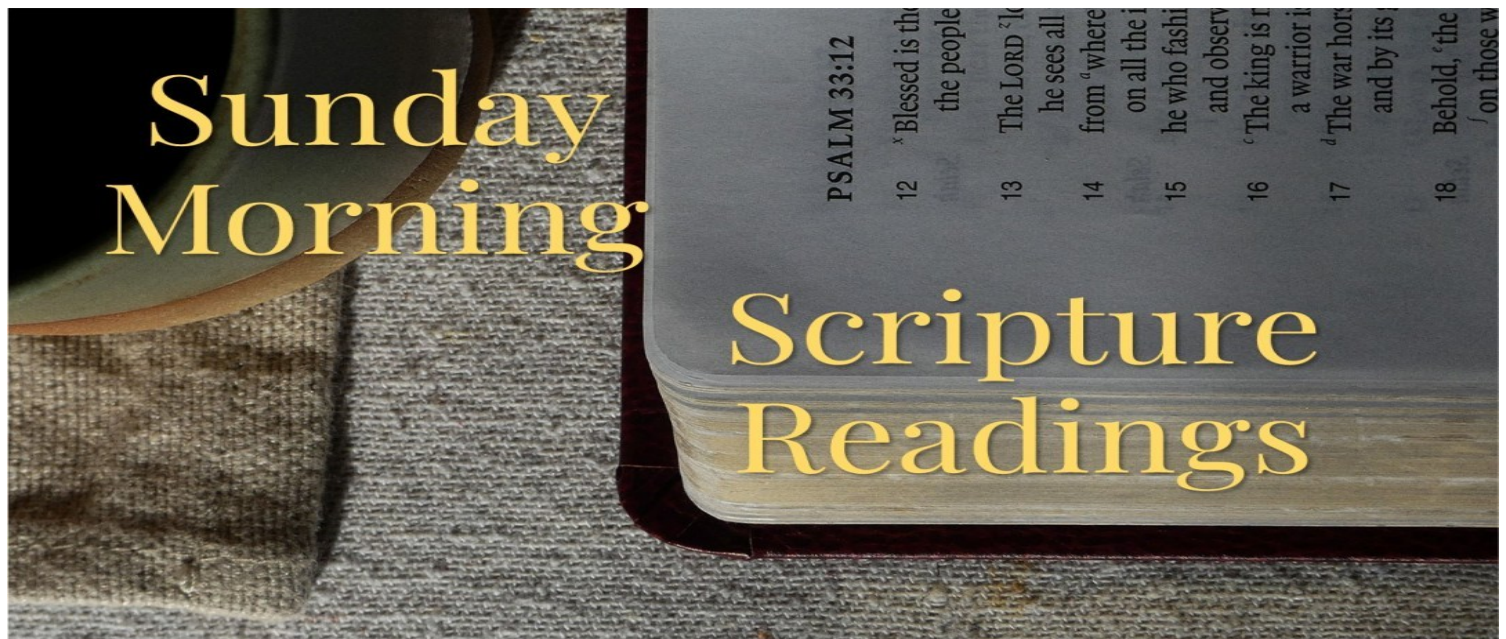
GLC Council Calendar

- The GLC Council Retreat is scheduled for flex Friday, October 10, 2025.
- The next council meeting will be September 16th, 2025.

The council meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Scripture Readings for October

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
Oct-5	Luke 17:1-10	First Reading Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm Reading 62 Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-14
Oct-12	Luke 17:11-19	First Reading Ruth 1:1-19a Psalm Reading 111 Second Reading 2 Timothy 2:1-13
Oct-19	Luke 18:1-8	First Reading Genesis 32:22-30 Psalm Reading 121 Second Reading 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Oct-26	John 8:31-36	First Reading Revelation 14:6-7 Psalm Reading 46 Second Reading Romans 3:19-28



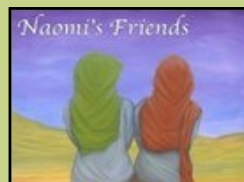
Announcements



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.



(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 Friend's is a Widow's Support Group that meets the 2nd & 4th

Tuesday of each month at Ale's Crab House @ 12pm.

Women's Ministry

2025-26 "Sisters in Christ" participation forms are available in the church entry and office.
Forms are due to the office by October 20th

Women's Ministry Fall Soup and Sisters

When: Saturday, October 11, from 11:00 -12:30
What: Enjoy getting to know your sisters in Christ
Where: Grace Fellowship Hall
Sign up: Sign up on the sheet is in the Narthex for attendance and volunteers for soups, breads and desserts

Dinner with Friends

Meet new people. Deepen existing friendships.

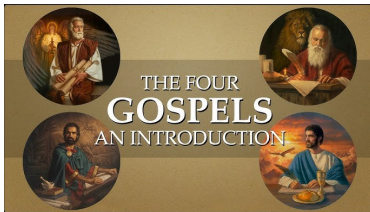
Enjoy a meal.

Groups of 6 to 9 people from 3 to 5 households and rotating hosts.

Sign up today. For questions contact Anna Garcia.



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



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 **The Hardy Family**

Aaron, Christi, Micah, Nate,
Ethan, and Caleb



Nate Hardy came to Ridgecrest in the spring of 2020 to head up the restoration of the Naval Air Warfare Station to its pre-earthquake functionality. Navy contracting and construction typically take about 10 years, but the work has proceeded at an amazingly fast pace with buildings being completed in under 5. Nate will be retiring from the Navy with 24 years of service soon and the civil service contracting office will certainly be looking to gain his expertise!

Nate's family soon followed him to the Mojave Desert, a very different environment after living in Washington State. Ridgecrest held another, smaller new environment for the Hardy family as well: after having always purchased older homes to fix up, they purchased a new home for the first time. It's nice not to have to work on it, but they do miss living in the character of an older home.

Christi went to work for Sierra Sands School District and is currently an eighth grade teacher at the new STEM school. Being a new school for all the students, teachers and faculty, there is much to learn for everyone!

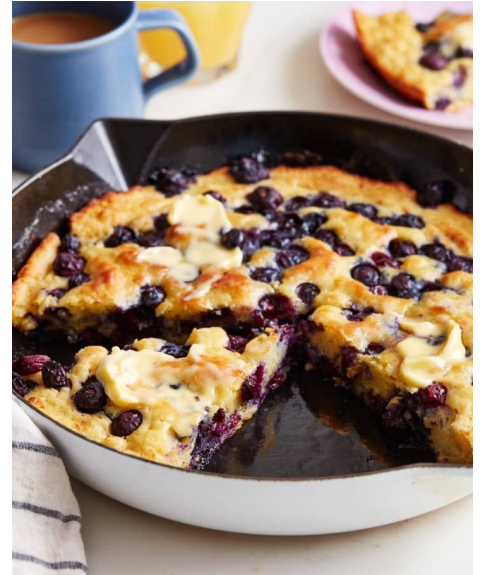
They arrived here with only one teenager, but time flies and boys grow. Aaron is now in San Luis Obispo attending college. Ethan is studying in Paraguay this year. Caleb attends Burroughs High School. Micah attends the STEM school, which is convenient to have Christi and Micah at the same school.

Despite not coming from a Lutheran background, the Hardy family wanted to try a Lutheran Church, so it didn't take long for them to find Grace and they became members soon afterwards. They have blessed the congregation with musical skills: Nate plays trumpet and bells; Ethan played piano and percussion with the praise band; Micah played a special piano piece for service during the summer.

OVEN-BAKED SKILLET PANCAKE

Serves 4 to 6

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 Tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 4 Tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
- 1 1/4 cups buttermilk
- 2 large eggs, separated
- 1 1/2 cups blueberries, plus more for serving
- Maple syrup, for serving



- Arrange a rack in the upper third of the oven. Place a 10 inch cast iron skillet or oven-safe nonstick pan in the oven and heat to 375 degrees F.
- Mix dry ingredients: whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt together in a large bowl.
- Melt half the butter in small pan over low heat or microwave in a separate smaller bowl in 10 second bursts until melted.
- Add buttermilk to the melted butter. Separate 2 eggs, collecting the egg whites in the measuring cup used for the buttermilk. Add the egg yolks to the melted butter and whisk to combine.
- Combine the wet and dry ingredients. Pour the buttermilk mixture into the flour mixture and stir with spatula until most of the flour is moistened. Add the egg whites and fold in just until incorporated. Do not overmix!
- Set the batter aside for 10 minutes to rest it.
- Melt the other half of the butter in the preheated skillet by swirling the pan until the butter melts and coats the bottom and sides.
- Spread pancake batter evenly in pan, top with blueberries.
- Bake until puffed and golden brown, 25-30 minutes
- Serve with maple syrup and more blueberries. Enjoy!

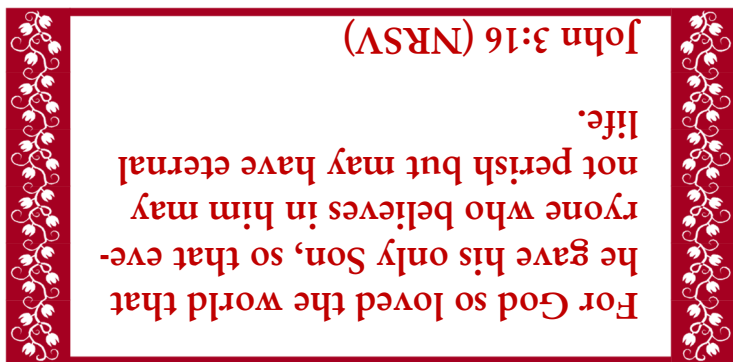
October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 am Music Together 6 pm Theology on Tap	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir	3 4 pm Youth Orchestra	4 8 am –1 pm Boy Scouts Event 10:30 am Music Together
5 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am Christian Education Hour 12 pm Boy Scouts Event 6 pm Youth Group	6 5:30 pm Model Planes 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts	7 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	8 10:30 am Music Together 6 pm Theology on Tap	9 2:30pm Parkinson's Group 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir	10 4 pm Youth Orchestra	11 10:30 am Music Together 11 am Sisters in Christ
12 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am Christian Education Hour 6 pm Youth Group	13 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts OFFICE CLOSED FOR COLUMBUS DAY	14 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	15 9am Ruth Study 10:30 am Music Together 6 pm Theology on Tap	16 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir	17 4 pm Youth Orchestra	18 10:30 am Music Together 8am IMTT Renewal
19 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am Christian Education Hour 6 pm Youth Group	20 6:30 pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts	21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	22 10:30 am Music Together 6 pm Theology on Tap	23 7 pm Choir Holiday Bazaar-Set Up	24 4 pm Youth Orchestra Holiday Bazaar	25 Holiday Bazaar
26 Reformation Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am Christian Education Hour 6 pm Youth Group	27 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts	28 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	29 10:30 am Music Together 6 pm Theology on Tap	30 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir	31 4 pm Youth Orchestra	
Nov 2 All Saints Day						



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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, *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