

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



September 2025
**GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**



So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Luke 15:3-7

Letter from Pastor Kris

“We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.” – Psalm 78:4b

As August draws to a close a new year of small group and educational ministries begins again for us here at Grace. You’ve heard us announce the various opportunities to grow deeper in our relationships with Christ and with one another as we delve into the scriptures and grow more and more together in faith to which we’ve been called.

Sunday Mornings

-**Team 784** with Pastor Carleton has become a much loved class offering an overview of the biblical narrative from creation to the early church. Each year different parts of the most important events and periods are covered. This class is for anyone from 3rd grade to 90+.

-**Kingdom Kids** with Pastor Kris is a new class being offered on account of the growing number of younger children in the congregation. This class will also cover the big stories of the Bible but is aimed at children up to 2nd grade, their parents, and anyone who would like to be a kid again and be energized from the excess energy and life these little ones have to offer.

Why Intergenerational Ministries?

1. It’s biblical. In Deuteronomy 6:4-9 God commands the whole of Israel – not just the priests – to teach His word to the children and talk about his word at home and on the way and when lying down and rising up, etc. Then, in Matthew 19 (cf. Mark 10, Luke 18), as Jesus was talking to his disciples people started bringing their children to him, and the disciples (aka the adults) spoke sternly to the people; but Jesus said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” And again St. Paul writes, “There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called to the **one** hope of your calling, **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one** God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:4-6).

2. Galatians 1:2 and 1 Peter 2:17 refers to the church as “the family of God.” What kind of family are we if everyone stays in their own generational corners and doesn’t interact with each other? Think about what we miss out on: children are deprived of the wisdom and stories of grandparents as well as the direction and encouragement of parents; grandparents miss seeing the resourcefulness of parents as well as the energy and youthfulness of children. It’s amazing to watch the transformation that happens to the residents at an assisted living home when you bring in a group of kids to sing Christmas carols. Every generation has something unique to offer the others, intergenerational ministries offer a forum for such an exchange of gifts.

3. Those kids who feel not only seen, but actually known in a congregation are the kids who are most likely to stick with church for the long-haul. Intergenerational ministry is an investment into the long-term health and vitality of the faith we’re passing along to our kids. Think about who the most important influences have been in your faith life: a pastor, sure; parents, that’s of utmost importance; a Sunday School teacher, definitely; the adult who otherwise had no formal responsibilities toward you, but made you feel important by greeting you by name every Sunday, absolutely.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Kris



A Snapshot of the NALC National Gathering & Sneak Peek of the Upcoming LCMC Gathering

August 6-8 I traveled to Pittsburgh for the bi-annual in-person gathering of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)¹ which met under the theme of Hebrews 12: 1-2. It was a great time as the NALC celebrated its 15th anniversary as a church body and the 10th anniversary of its seminary, which is housed at Trinity Anglican Seminary in Ambridge, PA, just twenty to thirty minutes west of Pittsburgh. The gathering was a refreshing time of worship, devotions, catching up with long-time colleagues/friends and making new friends (I very much enjoyed meeting and getting acquainted with the senior pastor at Christ Lutheran, Santa Clarita which is the closest LCMC/NALC congregation to us).

The business side of the gathering had two primary focuses before the delegates at this year's gathering. One of those focuses is on where the NALC is heading and how to get there; to this end the NALC unveiled its new website with a host of available resources on such topics as discipleship, stewardship, leadership training, and tools for equipping church councils (I look forward to making good use of this page). Additionally, a lot of time and focus is being given to new and emerging models in church planting. As a side note, since Grace joined the NALC in May, 40 additional congregations have joined the NALC, the most recent of which is Westchester Lutheran Church and School located just blocks away from LAX. The second area of focus for the business side of the gathering was more structural, working through the "growing pains" of a growing church body. This included some re-organizing of the constitution, adding an article that more clearly defines the relationship of our seminary to the NALC and giving the seminary clearer guidelines for its work, the addition of an indemnification article, and lastly the creation of bylaws.

If you you'd like to watch the service, devotions, and/or other plenary sessions from the gathering, visit www.theNALC.org and click on the "Lutheran Week 2025 Archive."

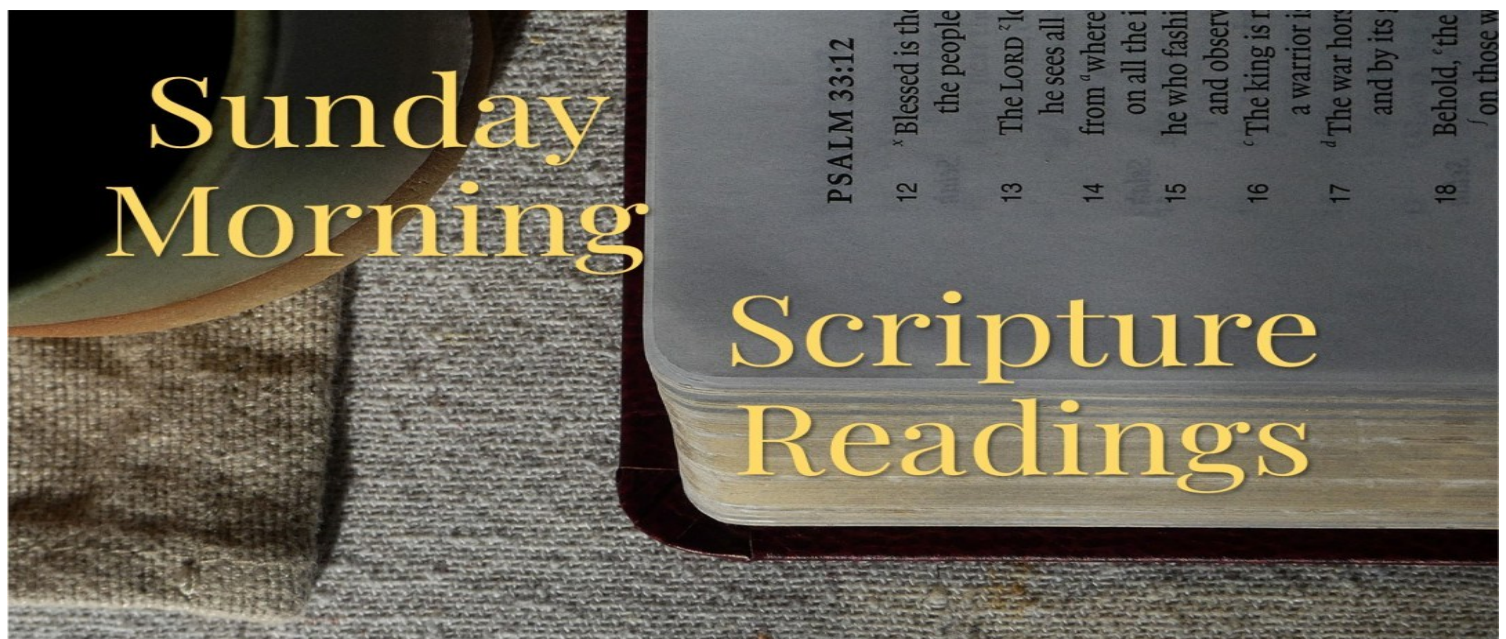
October 5-8 LCMC will be hosting its 25th annual gathering and convention in Lakeville, MN (a suburb of the Twin Cities) under the theme, "Our Help and Hope." Amongst other things, Rev. Dr. Julie Smith will be installed as the new Service Coordinator of the association. Devotions and other plenary sessions can be viewed via livestream at LCMC.net and will be made available to watch on-demand sometime in late October.

In Christ,
Pastor Kris

¹ The NALC hold a meeting of its membership every year, but to help congregations save on costs the gathering is held in-person every other year, and via Zoom on the in-between years.

Scripture Readings for September

| Date | Gospel Reading | Additional Readings |
|--------|----------------|--|
| Sep-7 | Luke 14:25-35 | First Reading Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm Reading 1 Second Reading Philemon 1:1-21 |
| Sep-14 | Luke 15:1-10 | First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-24 Psalm Reading 119:169-176 Second Reading 1 Timothy 1:(5-11) 12-17 |
| Sep-21 | Luke 16:1-15 | First Reading Amos 8:4-7 Psalm Reading 113 Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-15 |
| Sep-28 | Luke 16:19-31 | First Reading Amos 6:1-7 Psalm Reading 146 Second Reading 1 Timothy 3:1-13 |



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.



(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.

Begins Sept. 10

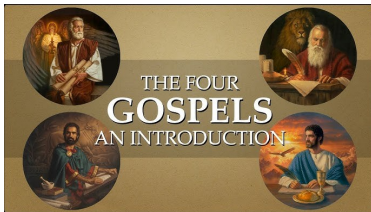
Theology on Tap
Wednesdays at 6pm
In the Grace Center

Tis better to think of the church in the ale house than to think of the ale house in church

OPEN HEARTH
Sundays, 6-8pm, in the Grace Center
Where our youth gather to be enriched and equipped by the love of God for the sake of the world.

Begins Aug. 24

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

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Psalm 78:4



ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



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.

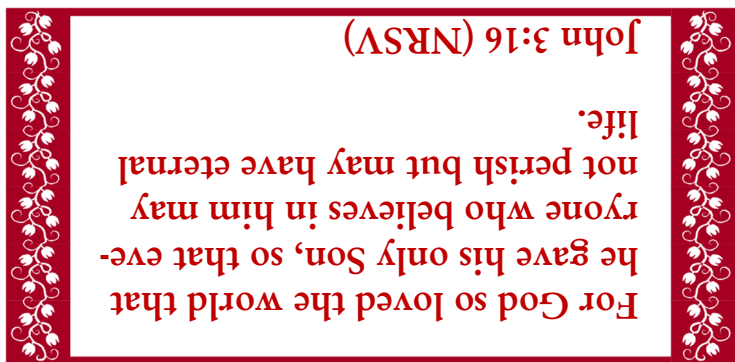
September 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 1 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts | 2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts | 3 | 4 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir | 5 4 pm Youth Orchestra | 6 |
| 7 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am Christian Education Hour 6 pm Youth Group | 8 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts | 9 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS 5:30 pm Girl Scouts | 10 6 pm Theology on Tap | 11 2:30pm Parkinson's Group 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir | 12 4 pm Youth Orchestra | 13 |
| 14 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am Christian Education Hour 6 pm Youth Group | 15 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts | 16 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 5:30 pm Girl Scouts | 17 9am Peace Study 6 pm Theology on Tap | 18 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Choir | 19 4 pm Youth Orchestra | 20 8am IMTT Renewal |
| 21 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am Christian Education Hour 6 pm Youth Group | 22 6:30 pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts | 23 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS 5:30 pm Girl Scouts | 24 6 pm Theology on Tap | 25 5:30 pm Girl Scouts | 26 4 pm Youth Orchestra | 27 |
| 28 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15 am Christian Education Hour 6 pm Youth Group | 29 6:30pm Limbo 6:30 pm Flutes 7 pm Boy Scouts | 30 5:30 pm Girl Scouts | | | | |
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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