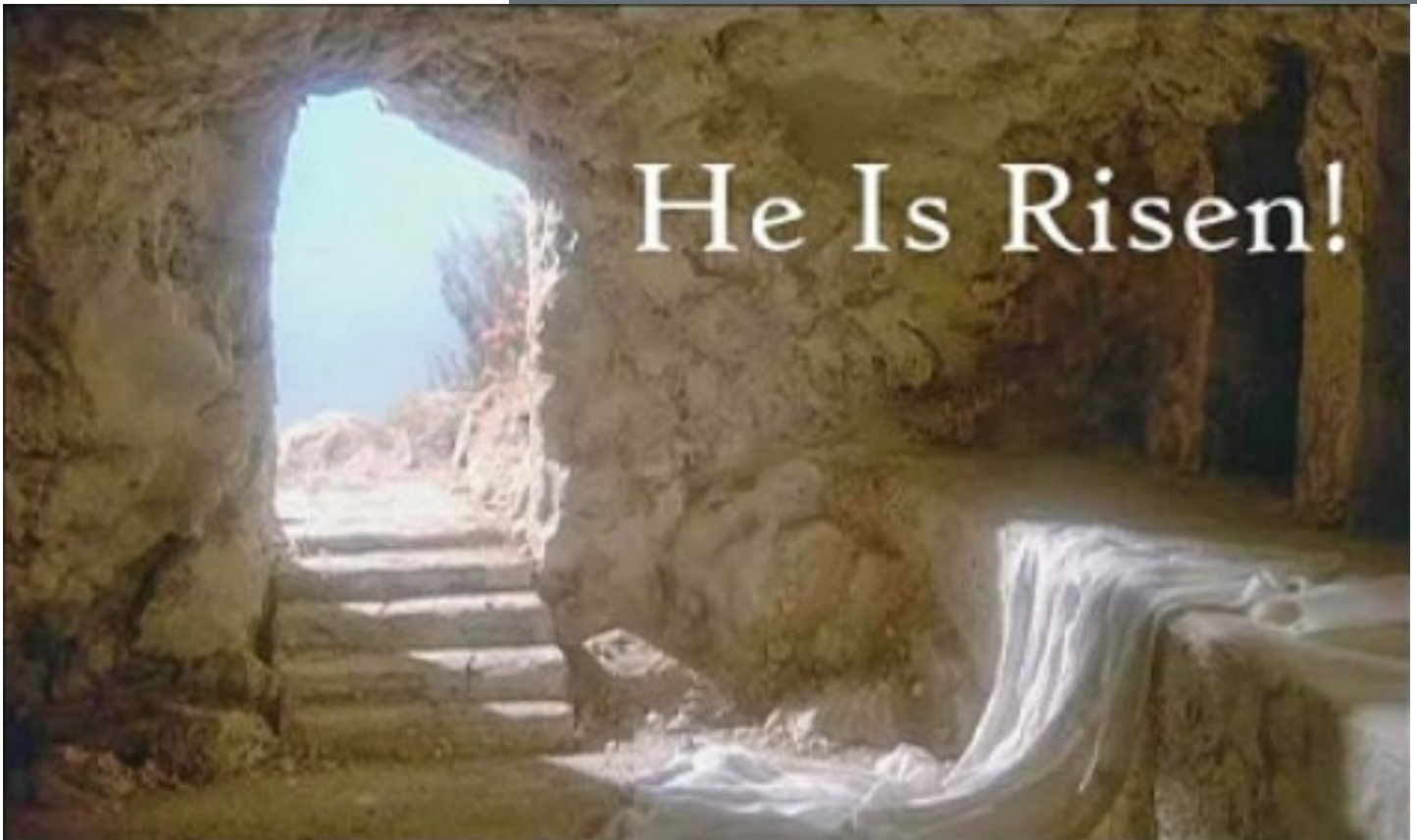


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



**APRIL 2025
GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**



Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

John 20:1-10

Letter from Pastor Smee

Lent is life...

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 3:14

Rejoice everyone. Lent is almost over. Sort of. Maybe. Ok...not really. You see, Lent is a season, yes, but it is a season that represents for us the life of the Christian.

Think of it in this way - Epiphany season ends with the Transfiguration. This is that moment where Christ is truly revealed to us as the God-man who has come to take away our sins, and we are called to listen to him. That is where the life of the Christian begins on that mountain with an experience of Jesus as more than just some nice guy, a good teacher, a guru, or something else.

Then Lent opens with a variation of the story of the Temptation of Christ. This fits with the life of the Christian because as we enter into that life, are baptized, are marked with the cross of Christ forever, and made a child of God, put in the will, the devil doesn't run away from us. He doesn't give us a break or think that the war he has against the grace and mercy of God is over. If anything, he heightens his assaults. His desire is to usher in doubt and death to those who trust in their new life in Christ. He wants us to deny the God-ness of God and hold to the lie that somehow, we are in charge.

The rest of Lent varies in its stories but usually includes parables and teachings of Jesus that move us towards Calvary, reminding us of why he came in the first place – to reconcile all of creation to God. That is the whole reason for regular weekly church meetings and regular teaching and preaching of the Gospel. We continually need the word preached into our ears because we will listen to almost anything in order to make ourselves feel better, or get ahead, or be all that we can be on our own.

Finally, the season culminates in Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Maundy Thursday reminding us that Jesus hands over to us the Sacrament of the Table that we might not forget what he has done, but actually feast on him and devour the promise of the forgiveness of all our sins. Good Friday reminds us that not only does Christ die for you and for me, but his call to us is one of death. He bids us come and die, for only in our death of self, the death of the old you, the death of the sinner who clings to the flesh, are we reborn by the Spirit into life everlasting.

That is our life in Jesus. We begin with Christ bursting into our lives as the God who interrupts. He then follows us on this journey to the cross, each day dying. Each day rising. Each day living a little Lent knowing that one day Christ will return to make all things new. In fact, each Sunday is a little Easter, so that once we finish off this season, every week welcomes us into a continual Lent. Remembering who we were, who we are now, and where we are going. Inevitably leading us to the empty tomb of Jesus as a celebration that the war of sin, death, and the devil will one day be over.

In His mercy,
Pastor Smee



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.

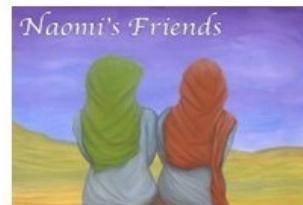
Contact: Kim Perkins (805) 428-6313 for more information

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.

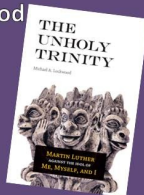
Mid-Week Lenten Services

"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



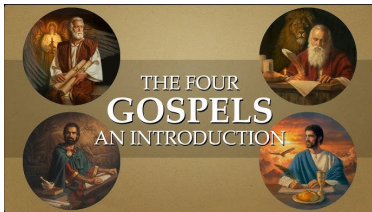
Good Friday
April 18



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

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**

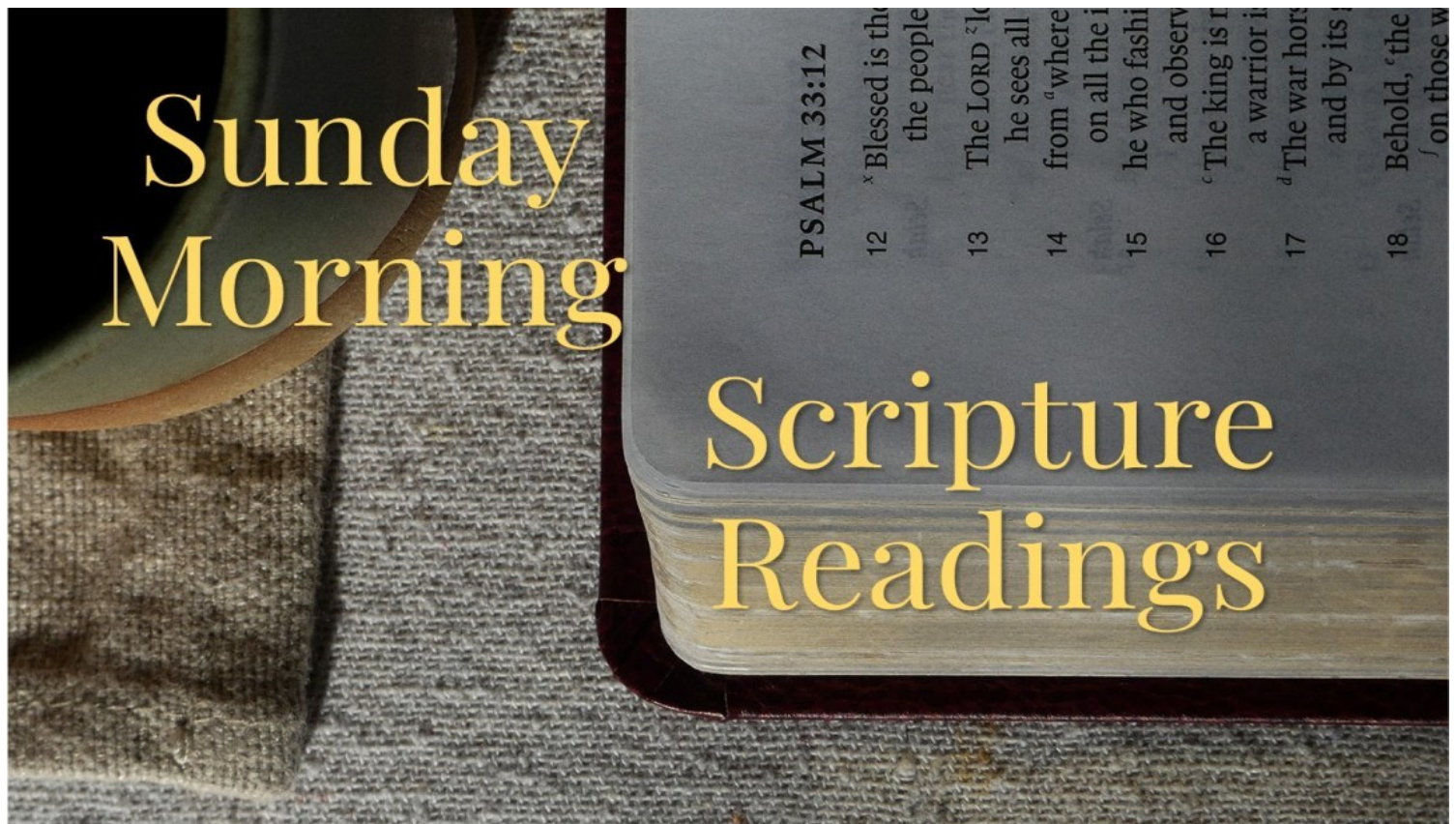
Augustana
**The Lutheran Perspective
With Pastor Kris
Conference Room**



Online bible studies are on hold until further notice.

Scripture Readings for April

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
April 6th	Luke 20:9-20	First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm Reading 126 Second Reading Philippians 3:4b-14
April 13th	Luke 22-23	First Reading Deuteronomy 32:36-39 Psalm Reading 118:19-29 Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11
April 20th	Luke 24:1-12	First Reading Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm Reading 16 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
April 27th	John 20:19-31	First Reading Acts 5:12-32 Psalm Reading 148 Second Reading Revelation 1:4-18



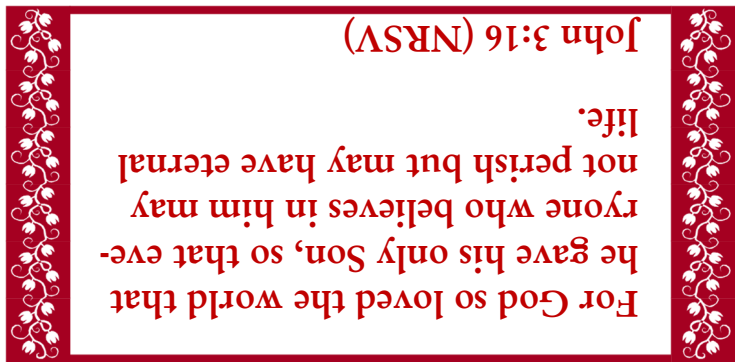
April 2025

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



502 N. Norma
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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*
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