

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



July 2025
**GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**



He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
Luke 10:2

Letter from Pastor Kris

O! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the wars desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: In God is our trust.
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!
- Francis Scott Key
The Star Spangled Banner, vs.4

At the writing of The Star Spangled Banner in September of 1814, the very young United States was in the second year of a two and a half year war with then world superpower, Great Britain (it was the war of 1812). Francis Scott Key had gone on board a British navy vessel to discuss the release of a beloved town physician. While on board he became privy to a particular British attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore and, consequently, was held captive until this attack had been carried out. It was while being held captive on this British vessel that Key wrote what more than a century later would become our national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner.

There was still six months of war to be fought, yet in this fourth verse of The Star Spangled Banner, Key recognizes and names God's activity in the midst of the chaos around him; Key has the boldness to call his country a "heaven rescued land" and to call for "praise (to) the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation." In the midst of war, in the midst of havoc and chaos, Key is bold to say that God is still at work here and that it is He who guards and protects us by calling up and empowering brave men and women to take up a cause which is far higher than any one person or life.

It is interesting how even in times of deepest darkness and turmoil that previous generations were able to maintain hope and to see the light of God shining forth. Interestingly, the psalms of lament also have this characteristic to them, by the end of most such psalms the lamenter comes around not necessarily to a point of praise and thanksgiving, but to remembering the faithfulness of God and speaking it into the darkness... keeping an eye ever focused on the Light regardless of how small or dim that light may at times seem to be, "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God" (Psalm 42:11)

I wonder in these times where there seems to be such an increase in domestic and global turmoil if our generation will, like generations before us, be bold to stand up and say that God is still with us, that He is still acting, that He is still our hope and our stay. I wonder if we have faith enough to continue to turn to God for every need and to be sustained by hope in Him – hope that those things that humanity intends for evil, God has the power to turn around for good (Gen. 50:20a).

I pray that this 4th of July we will be bold enough to sing and to proclaim this fourth verse of The Star Spangled Banner. I pray that this 4th of July we will be bold enough to pray and to sing the Doxology and to truly believe it, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!..." We are indeed a blessed nation, may God continue to preserve and protect us in it.
A happy and safe 4th of July to you all.

Your partner in ministry,
Pastor Kris

Announcements

New Member Class is Coming

Sundays August 10, 17, 24, 31 at 9:15

Whether you are

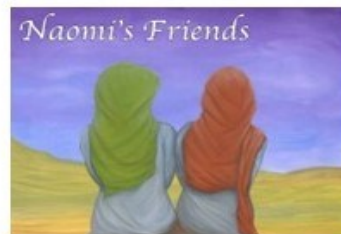
+ ready to take that next step and join the OR

+ you simply want to learn more about who these Lutherans are and why we do what we do and how we do it

this class is *for you*.

To sign up: email Pastor Kris

revmadsen@gracelutheran.org



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



(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.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

NACHO BAR & BINGO

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH AT 6PM-8PM

TEX-MEX FOOD, BINGO AND PRIZES

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY + ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AND FUN



502 N. NORMA ST. + RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA

FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Spiritual Conversations

An opportunity for you to assess and develop your engagement and enjoyment in conversations about God, faith, religions, and your personal relationship with Jesus

Using a tool developed by
Lutheran Hour Ministries

Starting June 1 at 9:15 (between services)
in the conference room

Brought to you by your
Missions and Service Team

Church Family Summer Sundays

2nd Sunday of the Month

9:15am (June 8th, July 13th, August 10th)

Let's have some fun! Pastor Smee will plan one Sunday a month to have some games to play with our families, young and old alike. We'll meet on the grass outside the Fellowship Hall with variations of "Red Light, Green Light", Kickball, Freeze Tag, etc. All Ages are welcome!

Open Hearth Trip to Hollywood

Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

Thursday, July 24th, 9am-9pm

Cost: Free

Join Pastor Smee on a trip to the Academy Awards Museum. We will leave the church at 9am and stop for food on our way. There will be a scavenger hunt, and a chance for the winner to pick dinner on the way back.

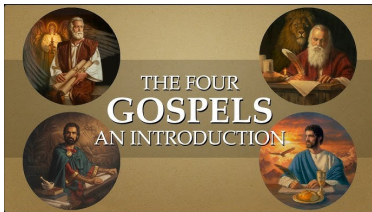
Open Hearth Big Bear Picnic and Swim

Tuesday, July 8th, 8am-9pm

Cost: Free

To escape the heat of Ridgecrest, join Pastor Smee on a trip to Big Bear for a picnic and some swimming. We will grab dinner at a restaurant in town before we return home – Pastor's treat.

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.

Christian Education Hour is on summer break till September 7th



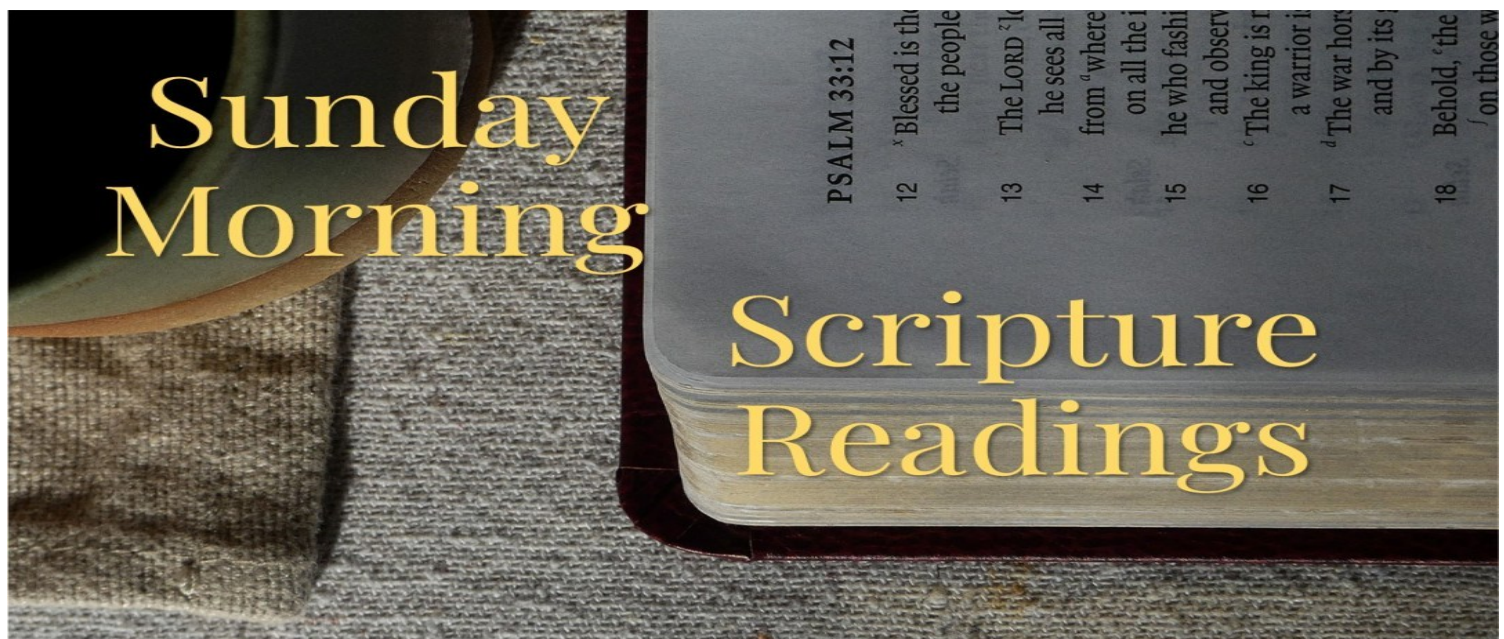
Join "A Bible and a Pencil" Bible study via Zoom on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. The study is on the book of Exodus. Please contact Mark Brynestad via email at marknsue78@gmail.com for further information



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.

Scripture Readings for July

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
July 6th	Luke 10:1-20	First Reading Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm Reading 66:1-7 Second Reading Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18
July 13th	Luke 10:25-37	First Reading Leviticus (18:1-5) 19:9-18 Psalm Reading 41 Second Reading Colossians 1:1-14
July 20th	Luke 10:38-42	First Reading Genesis 18:1-10a (10b-14) Psalm Reading 27:(1-6) 7-14 Second Reading Colossians 1:21-29
July 27th	Luke 11:1-13	First Reading Genesis 18:(17-19) 20-33 Psalm Reading 138 Second Reading Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)



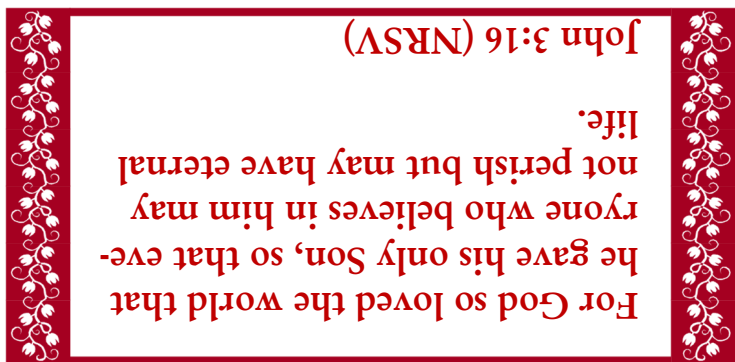
July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5pm Ladies Choir	3	4	5
6 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	7 6:30pm Limbo	8 8am-9pm Open Hearth Big Bear Picnic and Swim 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS	9 5pm Ladies Choir	10 2:30pm Parkinson's Group	11 6 pm Family Fun Night/	12 11am Ladies Craft Event
13 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 9:15am Church Fam- ily Summer Sundays	14 6:30pm Limbo	15	16 9am Peace Study 5pm Ladies Choir	17	18	19
20 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am Chico Missions Trip Leave	21 6:30pm Limbo	22 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS	23 5pm Ladies Choir	24 9am-9pm Open Hearth Trip to Hollywood	25	26 Chico Missions Trip Return
27 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	28 6:30pm Limbo	29	30	31		



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, *Associate Pastor*
Christine McClain, *Office Manager*
Jane Kuhlman, *Music*
Paul Jauregui, *Custodian*
Michell Koenig, *Gracevine Editor*



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