

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



June 2025
**GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**



"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

John 14:25-26

Letter from Pastor Smee

The Lord's

But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! Thus says the Lord who made you, who formed you in the womb and will help you:...I will pour my spirit upon your descendants and my blessing on your offspring....This one will say, "I am the Lord's"; another will be called by the name of Jacob; yet another will write on the hand, "The Lord's," and adopt the name of Israel. – Isaiah 44:1-5

May is over and June has begun. In just over 11 weeks we will be sending our youngest off to college, and we hope we have done our job. As parents we always beg that we somehow did it right. At least most of us do, I think. We hope that they have learned the survival skills necessary to adult for an extended period of time. (As I am writing this my oldest is texting me as she and her boyfriend try to figure out how to change a flat tire for the first time.) And yet, we can only do what we can do. There is no ideal parenting or process that punches out a well-mannered, well-formed adult. We are not factories and assembly lines, but human beings with faults and feelings, and we get things right sometimes, and we may get things terribly wrong.

This goes with our spiritual life as well. Spiritual parenting is even harder than actual parenting because most of us rebel at our parents' beliefs, not embrace them. We want to make things our own and grab ahold of things that work for us. But on that journey, difficulties come. We wander off on our own. We forget God, which is a human's favorite pass time. We get left often alone, jettisoned off into this life, somehow thinking that we will find all the answers anywhere but in the things that have been spoken to us for millennia.

The best news we have, though, is that Pentecost happened. That years of spiritual failure culminated, not only in God coming to earth in human flesh in order that he might incarnate his good news into the lives of people, but also that once and for all, the power on high came down to imbue us with the necessary faith to survive another day. And all of this did not come from some formula, a special recipe of spirituality with a pinch of Jesus thrown in. It came about because God poured out his Spirit upon all flesh. That God has interceded where all of us had Failed, in order to birth for himself a people that he loves, despite our wayward nature.

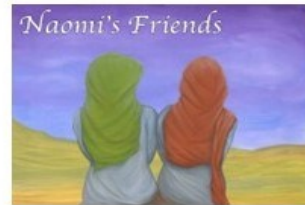
So, as I watch my little boy grow up and leave the nest and seek out a new life that he will make for himself, I do worry that I may have done things wrong, and maybe I did. But the one thing I know for sure is that he has never belonged to me. The day he came into the world, the Lord put his mark on him. When he was baptized, my baby died in that font and was raised to new life, in a new family. He is my son, but also my brother because God has made him his own. Because my boy has clung to the Lord for his life, I know he is in good hands. And even though the kid will probably mess up, just as we all have, one thing I know for certain, He is the Lord's. And so are you.

In Christ,
Pastor Smee

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



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, they will be
notified through the weekly MailChimp mass
emailer as well as the bulletin.

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

*Do you like movies? History? Cool stuff? 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.*

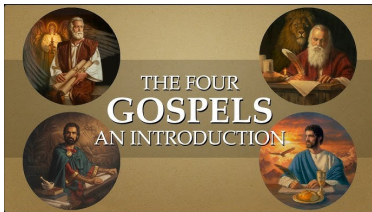
Open Hearth Big Bear Picnic and Swim

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.

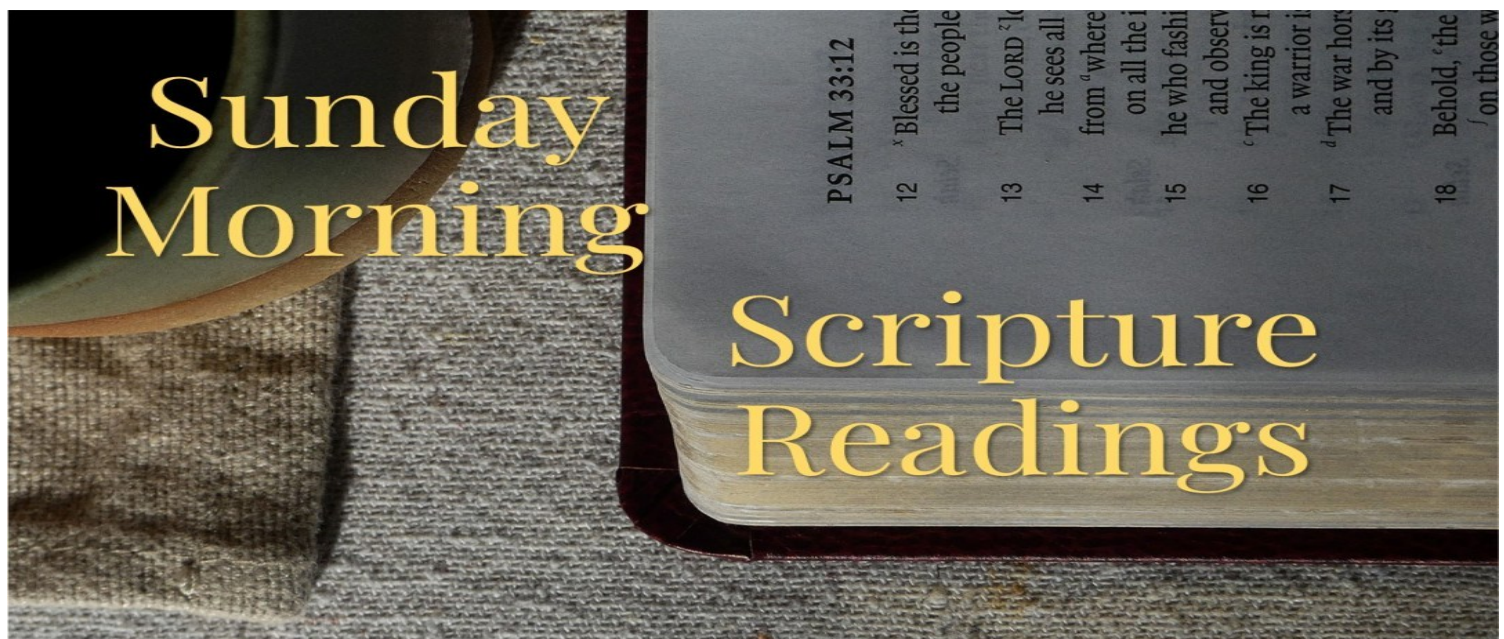
Christian Education Hour is on summer break till September 7th



Online bible studies are on hold until further notice.

Scripture Readings for June

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
June 1st	John 17:20-26	First Reading Acts 1:12-26 Psalm Reading 133 Second Reading Revelation 22:1-6 (7-11) 12-20
June 8th	John 14:23-31	First Reading Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm Reading 143 Second Reading Acts 2:1-21
June 15th	John 8:48-59	First Reading Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm Reading 8 Second Reading Acts 2:14a, 22-36
June 22nd	Luke 8:26-39	First Reading Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm Reading 3 Second Reading Galatians 3:23—4:7
June 29th	Luke 9:51-62	First Reading 1 Kings 19:9b-21 Psalm Reading 16 Second Reading Galatians 5:1, 13-25



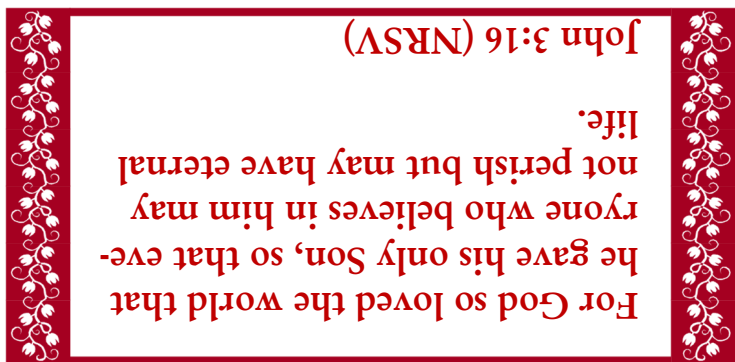
June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	2	3	4	5 7pm Choir	6	7
8 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	9 6:30pm Limbo	10 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS	11	12 2:30pm Parkinson's Group	13 6 pm Family Fun Night/ Michell Koenig's going away party!	14
15 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	16 6:30pm Limbo	17	18 9am Peace Study	19 Office Closed	20	21
22 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	23 6:30pm Limbo	24 12pm Naomi's Friends 1:30pm OWLS	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am	30 6:30pm Limbo					



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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