

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Grace
Lutheran Church

**NOVEMBER 2024
GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER**

Psalm 107:1

Give thanks
to the LORD,
for He is good;
His love endures
forever.

Happy
Thanksgiving

Letter from Pastor Kris

Happiness never depends on success, won in the struggle for glory or treasure;
Often the humblest of homes may possess happiness unknown to seekers of pleasure.

Happy is he who has peace in his heart, peace with himself, with his God, with his neighbor;
He has of happiness found the best part, reaps he but little reward from his labor.

-Charles Gandrup (1847-1911)

The above verses come from the Danish folk song, Happiness Never Depends on Success. The notion of happiness being determined by titles or assets is one that is set deep within our culture, we are inundated every day by the newest “must haves.” Every day when I go home for lunch, I’ll make myself a sandwich, grab some chips, and sit down to watch the news while I eat. One of the commercials I saw was for a brownie cutter; there’s this non-stick grid-thing that you set in your pan after you’ve poured your batter in the pan. After you’ve taken your brownies out of the oven this grid thing comes right out and you don’t have to cut your brownies. Why do I need this? According to the commercial, I need this grid for my pan because, when I go to cut my brownies, the knife pulls and tears at the brownies thereby making a mess of them... which is so true and it annoys me to no end that my knife does this to my brownies.

Some things (i.e., the kitchen accessories) are fun things to have, but let’s be honest, how happy will it make you? It’s like buying a new car: you buy the car, you’re excited about all the cool new tricks your car can do like warm up your seat and steering wheel, keep you in your lane, or put controls to absolutely *everything* you could possibly control in the car on a little button on the steering wheel (you might not know this about me yet, but I *love* buttons). After a while the novelty of it all wears off. Why? Because *things* do not provide long-term happiness. Things are non-relational: they can’t make us laugh when we feel blue, nor can they rejoice with us when we are happy. True happiness, Gandrup says, comes from two things: honest relationships and living under the gospel of peace (i.e., knowing God according to his love and compassion). The person who has peace with himself, his God, and his neighbor, Gandrup says in the latter of the two verses, will have peace in his heart and in his soul and thus be truly happy.

Thanksgiving is a simple holiday (or, at least, it used to be simple) in which we are reminded of the simple gifts God richly bestows upon us every day: food on the table, a warm or cool home (depending on the season), honest work, friends and family. These are things which often get overlooked in the rigmarole of life because they are considered “basic necessities.” In Matthew 5, Jesus says that God causes the rain to fall on the righteous and the unrighteous. Rain is a most basic of necessities bringing forth water, which both keeps us hydrated and a harvest to keep us fed, without this most basic of necessities there is no life. The “basics” is where life and happiness are found... everything else is “frosting on the cake”... until the frosting becomes overbearing and thus prohibitive of happiness (i.e., the rich young ruler whose stuff/ riches became prohibitive of his entering the Kingdom of God.)

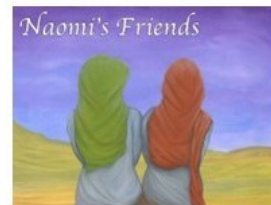
As we prepare for the holiday season, as we prepare once again to get caught up in the hustle and bustle, which seems to coincide with every holiday season, I pray that we would be bold to step back and give thanks for the simple things in life – the things that bring true happiness and joy: faith, love, friends and family, work... you know, the basics. To this end, let me conclude by saying that I’m thankful for each of you and the various contributions you bring to help make the ministry of Christ and his gospel possible here at Grace.

A Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving!
Your Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Kris

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.

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



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.



The Care Center is in need of these items:

- Men's and Women's winter clothing
- Canned Chili
- Canned Peaches
- Side items for Holiday Baskets



Do you have a heart to help those who are grieving?
Are you or someone you know grieving and could
use support traversing your grief journey?
Grief Share is Coming Soon. Talk with Pastor Kris.

Estonia Dinner and Dessert Auction at
Grace Lutheran Church
November 16th at 5PM
\$5/person or \$20/family
Tickets on sale now

Dessert Makers needed!

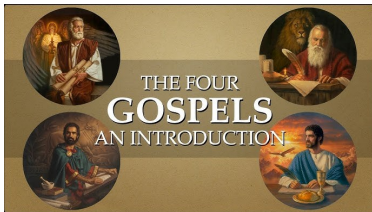
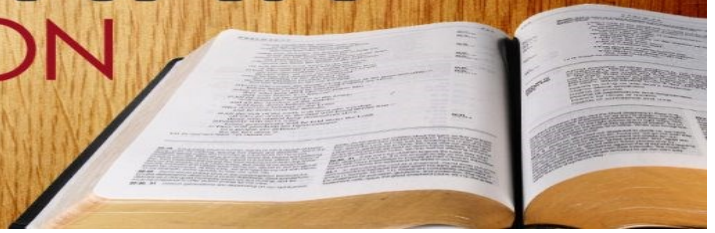
Please sign up to bring a dessert for
the auction!

Thank you!



All Saints Sunday
November 3

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.



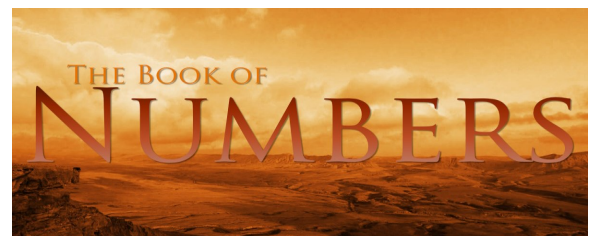
Limbo Young Adult Life group meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Smee's home.

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



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 regarding this class.



An in-depth Bible study of Numbers 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 November

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
Nov 3rd	Matthew 5:1-12	First Reading Revelation 7:2-17 Psalm Reading 149 Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3
Nov 10th	Mark 12:38-44	First Reading 1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm Reading 146 Second Reading Hebrews 9:24-28
Nov 17th	Mark 13:1-13	First Reading Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm Reading 16 Second Reading Hebrews 10:11-25
Nov 24th	Mark 13:24-37	First Reading Isaiah 51:4-6 Psalm Reading 93 Second Reading Revelation 1:4b-8



Sunday
Morning

Scripture
Readings

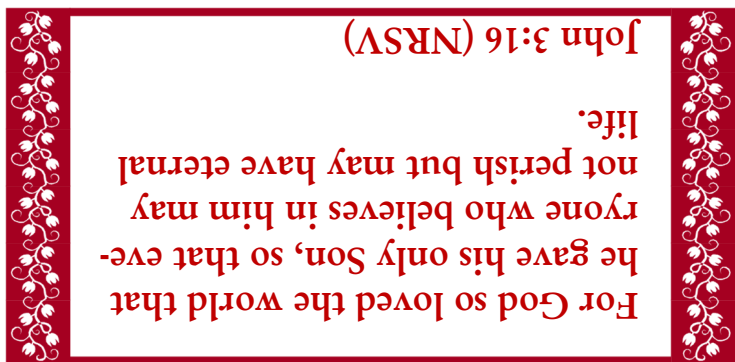
November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12 pm Missions and Service Team Meeting	2
3 All Saints Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	4 6:30pm LIMBO	5	6 6pm Theology on Tap	7 5:10 pm Praise Band	8	9
10 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	11  Office Closed	12 12pm Naomi's Friends @ Ale's Crab House 1:30pm OWLS	13 6pm Theology on Tap	14 2:30pm Parkinson's Support Group 5:10 pm Praise Band	15	16 5pm Estonia Dinner/ Dessert Auction
17 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	18 6:30pm LIMBO	19 6:30pm Council Meeting	20 9 am Peace Bible Study 6pm Theology on Tap	21 5:10 pm Praise Band	22	23
24 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	25 6:30pm LIMBO	26 12pm Naomi's Friends @ Ale's Crab House 1:30pm OWLS	27	28  Office Closed	29	30



502 N. Norma
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

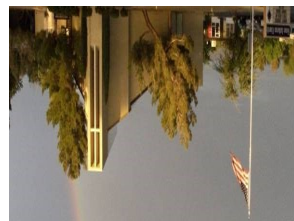
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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*



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Worship Services Sundays at 8 & 10:30 am
Christian Education Hour Sundays 9:15 am