

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



OCTOBER 2024
GRACE VINE
NEWSLETTER



The Lutheran rose, also known as the Luther seal, is a symbol of Lutheranism that Martin Luther designed in the 1520s. The rose's symbolism is as follows:

- **Red heart with a black cross:** A reminder that the righteous live by faith in Christ the Crucified
- **White rose:** A symbol that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace
- **Sky-blue background:** A symbol that joy in the Spirit and in faith is the beginning of the heavenly joy to come
- **Golden ring:** A symbol that happiness and joy in heaven has no end but lasts forever

The first version of the seal was black and white, with Luther's initials, and was used in his writings in the 1520s. Colorized versions began to appear as printers began to include color images in Luther's works, each one laboriously painted by hand.

Letter from Pastor Smee

Trust Him

Just as you don't know the path of the wind, or how bones develop in the womb of a pregnant woman, so you don't know the work of God, who makes everything. – Ecclesiastes 11:5

Ecclesiastes is one of those books that we usually go to if we want to feel really bad about ourselves. It's where we go to hear Solomon tell us that everything is pointless. (1:2) That there is nothing better for a man to do than to eat, drink and enjoy his work. (2:24) I read these verses and some days I think someone should check-in with Solomon and see if he's okay. He sounds depressed and withdrawn. That was probably hard with a thousand wives and concubines, while also being the king of a nation.

To think that much of what he discovers as he is writing Ecclesiastes is that he has spent so much of his time pursuing money, fame, women, power, and even wisdom, and it has all failed him. Nothing has satisfied. All things seem outside of his power and authority. And that is the crux of all things that make us human. Once we learn that everything we believe gives us power and glory is nothing, and that all things work through God, we actually have come to the main point of what it actually means to be human.

That is what Solomon has to say after he talks about enjoying food and drink and work, because he says all of those things come from God's hand, and how can we eat or enjoy life apart from him? (2:24-25) That there is nothing in life you or I have that has not come from God, or through his intervention.

Even here in our verse from Ecclesiastes 11, Solomon makes us ponder about the puzzling work of God in things we cannot understand. So much of our life is trying to figure out God's will for us, His plan for us, or what He has up His sleeve in the world. But Solomon actually gets it right. Just like we do not know what the wind is up to, nor how in the world a woman's body can build a child, so also, we cannot truly discern the work of God on our own. In fact, if we are ever to understand God's will or work, we have to come back to the very basics of our faith, which is – faith. Trusting God when we don't see or know exactly what He is doing. Trusting God when we worry, we might make the wrong decision, don't know where our life is leading, have no idea what to do next, or feel that God is so far off that he has abandoned us.

I speak of this because in the last few months I have had 4-5 different people, both old and young, come to me and wonder what they are supposed to do with their lives.

"Pastor, how am I supposed to know what God wants me to do?"

"Where should I go to school?"

"Should I take this job?"

What God wants you to do is trust him. Trust him that he will work in the decision to attend this college, take that job, date that man, buy that house, or take on this ministry. It may not go how you planned it, but often times the plan is not up to you, but up to Him. All God wants you to do is trust him that He is working in and through those decisions in the way that he will. "This is the work of God – that you trust in the One He has sent." (John 6:29)

In Him,
Pastor Smee



(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.

Theology on Tap

Wednesdays at 6pm
In the Grace Center



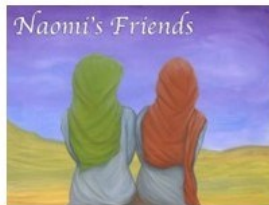
Tis better to think of the
church in the ale house
than to think of the ale
house in church



Holiday Bazaar is coming up!
Mark your calendars for October 18-19



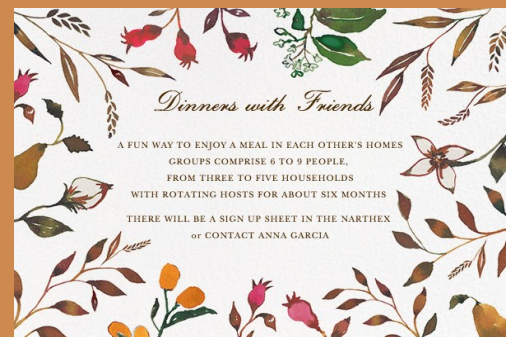
Church Council meetings are held on the third
Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
in room 8. If a regularly scheduled council
meeting needs to be rescheduled, the will be
notified through the weekly MailChimp mass
emailer as well as the bulletin.



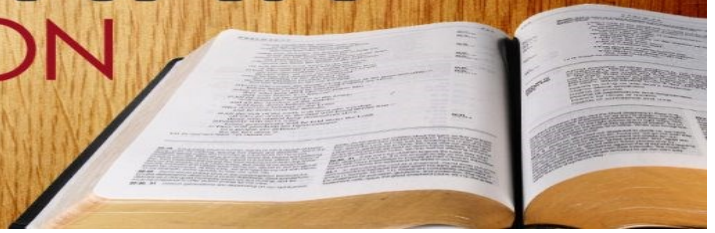
Naomi's Friends meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of
each month at Ale's Crab House @ 12 pm.



Grace Care Center
They need fruit cups, canned soup, and
canned peaches, and donations of cat and
dog food for their people and pets
program. Bring contributions to the church
office or the care center during their
regular hours.



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

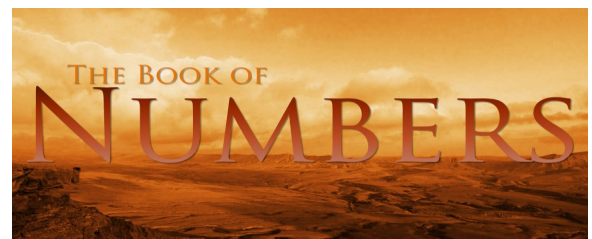
**Intro to the Bible &
The Bible's Big Story
with Pastor Carleton
Fellowship Hall**

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 October

Date	Gospel Reading	Additional Readings
Oct 6th	Mark 10:2-16	First Reading Genesis 2:18-25 Psalm Reading 128 Second Reading Hebrews 2:1-18
Oct 13th	Mark 10:17-22	First Reading Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm Reading 90:12-17 Second Reading Hebrews 3:12-19
Oct 20th	Mark 10:23-31	First Reading Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 Psalm Reading 119:9-16 Second Reading Hebrews 4:1-16
Oct 27th	John 8:31-36	First Reading Revelation 14:6-7 Psalm Reading 46 Second Reading Romans 3:19-28



Sunday
Morning

Scripture
Readings

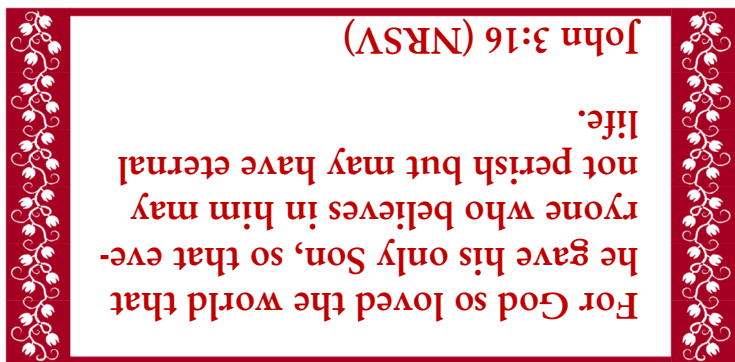
October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6pm Theology on Tap	3 5:10 pm Praise Band	4	5
6 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	7 6:30pm LIMBO	8 12pm Naomi's Friends @ Ale's Crab House 1:30pm OWLS	9 6pm Theology on Tap	10 2:30pm Parkinson's Support Group 5:10 pm Praise Band	11	12
13 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	14 Columbus Day Office Closed 6:30pm LIMBO	15 6:30pm Council Meeting	16 9 am Peace Bible Study 6pm Theology on Tap	17 5:10 pm Praise Band	18 8am Holiday Bazaar	19 8am Holiday Bazaar
20 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	21 6:30pm LIMBO	22 12pm Naomi's Friends @ Ale's Crab House 1:30pm OWLS	23 6pm Theology on Tap	24 5:10 pm Praise Band	25	26
27 Worship 8:00 & 10:30am 6pm Youth Group	28 6:30pm LIMBO	29	30 6pm Theology on Tap	31 5:10 pm Praise Band		



502 N. Norma
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

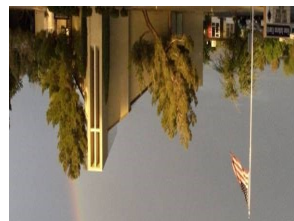
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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 & 10:15 am
Team 784 Sundays at 9:15 am