

GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church
2201 Benita Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

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Rancho Cordova, CA
Permit #7

GRACE

SERVICE TIMES

9 am Traditional Lutheran Service
11 am Grace Awakenings Modern Worship and Children's Church

JANUARY 2020

GRACENOTES

IDENTITY

“You are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.”

(Galatians 3:26-29)

There is no greater influence in life than our belief regarding our own identity. What we think about ourselves can create feelings of peace and confidence or anxiety and insecurity. It can also manifest feelings of arrogance and pride or humility and empathy. Our self-identity is able to create a mindset characterized by love and hope or fear and shame. How we see ourselves not only determines our state of being but also our destiny. This is why the gospel (good news) message about Jesus Christ is so powerful: because it reveals **who we truly are in God.**

According to the bible, we as human beings were created in God’s image or likeness. In other words, we were created and intended to be God’s image-bearers. This means that as human beings, we are intended to embody and express the very nature and character of God. We are meant to display God’s unlimited love

and creative power. Our purpose and identity is sacred and divine. However, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see that our entire history and current state of affairs does not reflect this reality. Because of sin (the rejection of God’s goodness and our divine role in this world) we live in a world separated from God’s grace and in bondage to fear, shame, jealousy and violence. This painful and broken reality surrounds us. It is also within us. This broken and sinful reality is the reason why it is natural for us to size each other up: rich vs. poor, upper vs. lower class, ethnic and religious differences to name a few of these man-made categories. In Jesus’ day, identity differences were so palpable and contemptuous that violence often resulted. Whether one was a Jew or non-Jew, slave or free and male or female defined one’s place in society as well as their destiny. By definition these categories also defined to whom people...

...IDENTITY

belonged as well as who they were to despise. This way of life had been in existence for so long that no one could possibly think any different. That is, until Jesus.

During the time of Jesus (and even today) Jews understood themselves in a very unique way. They knew they were God's chosen people. They understood that God chose them from among all other nations to dwell among and had given them a promise of an eternal inheritance. No other people understood themselves in this way. No other people thought of themselves with such great honor and blessing. This is why Jewish people often looked upon non-Jews (Gentiles) as "unblessed". That is, until God moved to fulfill His promise of extending His sacred and divine favor to everyone.

Through faith in Christ Jesus the promise of God's presence, power and blessing became available to everyone. Through trusting in what God was and is doing through Christ, the possibility of experiencing the peace and hope of God's kingdom was made available to everyone. This promised reality was no longer just for the Jewish people. No longer were people defined by their race, amount of money, past mistakes or their class. No longer were people's lives determined by their station in life. Now, anyone who placed their complete trust in Jesus and His kingdom could experience a completely new life - a

life defined not by human differences, but by the very presence of the Living God. Through Jesus, one could now enter the promised hope that one day God would re-create this world and His people would again fulfill their role as God's image bearers. Through Christ, all of God's promises were made available to the world. His promise of a new creation; His promise of forgiveness; His promise of eternal life and His promise of blessing and redemption. This new reality is what defines every single person who trusts in God through Jesus Christ. As we enter this new year, may we remember our God and His promises, and who we truly are in Him.

Peace,



Pastor Steve

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All submissions to Grace Notes
are subject to editing for space and content.

“By salvation I mean not barely according to the vulgar notion deliverance from hell or going to heaven but a present deliverance from sin a restoration of the soul to its primitive health its original purity a recovery of the divine nature the renewal of our souls after the image of God in righteousness and true holiness in justice mercy and truth.”

John Wesley

“The great preacher and founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley (1703-1791), was once approached by a man who came to him in the grip of unbelief. "All is dark; my thoughts are lost," the man said to Wesley, "but I hear that you preach to a great number of people every night and morning. Pray, what would you do with them? Whither would you lead them? What religion do you preach? What is it good for?"

Wesley gave this answer to those questions: You ask, what would I do with them? I would make them virtuous and happy, easy in themselves, and useful to others. Whither would I lead them? To heaven, to God the judge, the lover of all, and to Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant. What religion do I preach? The religion of love. The law of kindness brought to light by the gospel. What is this good for? To make all who receive it enjoy God and themselves, to make them like God, lovers of all, contented in their lives, and crying out at their death, in calm assurance, "O grave where is thy victory! Thanks be to God, who giveth me victory, through my Lord Jesus Christ.”

Join us!

Bible Study

Monday mornings at 10:30

Men in Mission

Men's Bible Study

Saturday mornings at 8 am
All men are welcome.

Faith Circle

Women's Bible Study

2nd Wednesdays at 1 pm
All women are welcome.

Choir & Bells

Choir rehearsal Wednesdays at 7 pm
Bell rehearsals TBA

Led by Grace

Men's Bible Study

Tuesday evenings at 7 pm
All men are welcome.

JAM 2020!

"Jesus And Me" After school
Kid's Ministry Ages 6-13

Thursday afternoons at 4 pm



Grace Has HART Winter Shelter 2020

Sunday January 12 through January 19.
Shelter is provided 6 pm until 6 am.

Grace Lutheran will be sheltering people and providing meals in our Fellowship Hall. If you would like to volunteer by helping with meal preparation and service, serving on an overnight watch team, or donating funds, please contact our office at (916) 635-5502 to find out what is still needed.

HART (Homeless Assistance Resource Team) is a group of congregations, businesses and individuals who care about those in Rancho Cordova who are currently without a home. Together we aim to be a resource for the homeless and ultimately to end homelessness in Rancho Cordova.

Visit www.ranhocordovahart.org for a list of vital community resources and to learn more.

January Birthdays

- 3 Kim Cristo
- 6 Jerine Ireland
- 8 Judy Smith
- 14 Kyle Krogh
- 15 Angel Richard
- 19 Kristi Wakefield
- 23 Brian Hammer
- 29 Sheryl Martins

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 7 am to 10 am MIM New Year's Day Breakfast Office Closed	2 12 pm Al Anon. Meeting 7 pm N. A. Meeting 7 pm Choir	3 Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	4 8 am Men in Mission 2 pm—6:30pm OLFG (fellowship hall and big classroom)
5 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	6 EPIPHANY 10:30 am Bible Study	7 7 pm Led by Grace	8 1 pm Faith Circle 7 pm Choir	9 Worship Committee 12 pm Al Anon. Meeting 4 pm JAM 7 pm N. A. Meeting	10 Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	11 8 am Men in Mission 2 pm—6:30pm OLFG (fellowship hall and big classroom)
12 HART SHELTER 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	13 HART SHELTER 10:30 am Bible Study	14 HART SHELTER	15 HART SHELTER 7 pm Choir	16 HART SHELTER 12 pm Al Anon. Meeting 4 pm JAM 7 pm N. A. Meeting	17 HART SHELTER Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	18 HART SHELTER 8 am Men in Mission 2 pm—6:30pm OLFG (fellowship hall and big classroom)
19 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 10:30 am Bible Study	21 7 pm Led by Grace	22 7 pm Choir	23 12 pm Al Anon. Meeting 4 pm JAM 7 pm N. A. Meeting	24 Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	25 8 am Men in Mission 2 pm—6:30pm OLFG (fellowship hall and big classroom)
26 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church	27 10:30 am Bible Study	28 7 pm Led by Grace	29 7 pm Choir	30 12 pm Al Anon. Meeting 4 pm JAM 7 pm N. A. Meeting	31 Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved	