



Fall 2025

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. — Proverbs 27:17



Our next men's breakfast is Saturday, October 4 from 8-9:45 A.M. Join us for fellowship, encouragement and a delicious breakfast.

Sign up for the men's breakfast here:
<http://www.laurelridgechurch.org/men>.

We need **a few good men** to cook the meal and set up tables. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Dan Mathisen at mathisen.dan@gmail.com or at (209) 612-5028. ☩

Celebrate Recovery at Laurel Ridge

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind—a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling your life. Meetings are on Tuesday nights at 6pm at Laurel Ridge Church with dinner, time for fellowship, worship, teaching and sharing. Email CR@LaurelRidgeChurch.org for more info. ☩

LRCC gains new men's groups

Three new men's groups join Dennis Ouka's Tuesday evening group and Dan Mathisen's Thursday morning group in providing additional resources for Laurel Ridge men to meet, share and study God's word.

Lorenzo Guerrero's group, called *Building Brothers*, started this summer and is targeted at young men in the 18-30 age bracket. Lorenzo was kind enough to share a few thoughts about it with us.



Why did you decide to start a men's group?

God really started my journey with men's ministry right about the time I accepted Christ. I was fully devoted to learning all that I could, but I struggled on the application. It all came to a head when a strong man of God came to me and offered to mentor me. I spent years working with him one on one, reading through books, reading through the Bible, learning what it looked like to serve God, serve my family, and serve perfect strangers. I saw exponential growth in that season. It was then that I understood that I wasn't alone in feeling ill equipped to apply the word of God to my life in an effective and practical way. That's what was missing for me and I wanted to offer that to other men in my position. Through the years I was involved in other ministries and I was in a different season being —cont'd on page 3

Laurel Ridge Men's Community Groups

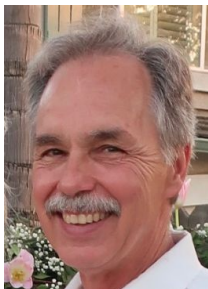
The groups below are open to men looking for devotion, prayer and fellowship. To join a group, browse to laurelridgechurch.org/community-groups, click the **Sign Up** button and fill-in the form. For more information, contact the group leaders.

Tuesday Evenings

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Room 301 at church or
online via Zoom

Host: Dennis Ouka
(925) 584-6618
denouka@sbcglobal.net



Monday Mornings

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Bergeron home in
Brentwood

Host: Skip Bergeron
(925) 522-9393
skip_3@comcast.net



Thursday Mornings

Time: 6:30 AM

Place: Online via YouVersion

Host: Dan Mathisen
(209) 612-5028
mathisen.dan@gmail.com



Monday Evenings

Young Men's Group, 18-30

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Room 201 at church

Host: Lorenzo Guerrero
(925) 864-1835
lorenzo.guerrero4824@gmail.com



Monday Evenings

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: LRCC North Gym

Fall study: Ephesians

Hosts: Brett Garcia
(925) 586-9964
alfonsobgarcia70@gmail.com



Lance Brashier
(925) 206-2852
lancebrashier@yahoo.com



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New Men's Group —cont'd from page 1

a young dad and husband and honestly I just got too busy to revisit it. But God led me here to Laurel Ridge and my family and I have established a strong community and God is showing me that my gifts are needed here. Our church is growing and one of the most apparent demographics that God is growing is young men. And that brought me full circle to what God was calling me to way back when. Building Brothers came from that.

Have you led or participated in other community groups?

I've led many groups over the years. All of them have been partnering with my wife, Alissa, as co-leader. When our daughter was younger we did young family ministry such as a game night, small group and a picnic in the park group where young families could meet up, let our kids hang out in a park, and fellowship over food and our love of Jesus. We were also able to use the lessons we learned through our marriage to pour into marriages and lead couples small groups. I believe that God was using these experiences to prepare me for the calling he put on my life for men's ministry.

I was a member of Pastor Dan's young adults group. I helped co-lead a co-ed adult community group with Alissa and the Chavez family on Monday nights that we called the Monday Nighters. Before the Monday Nighters I had taken some time away from leading and instead focused more on my family and establishing myself in this church body. The season of Monday Nighters reignited a passion for leading and reminded me of a calling God gave me for leading men young in their faith.

In addition to the Building Brothers group I lead, Alissa and I have started a married couples group that meets at the church at 4pm each Sunday.

Is there a particular focus for the group beyond young men's issues or is it primarily a Bible study?

The name of this group pays respect to a brother in Christ and one of my best friends that led a men's group that I was a part of. He was a strong man of God and father of four boys and had been diagnosed with cancer. As God would have it our families met and were brought together during the hardest seasons of both our families lives. I watched him lead his group, invest in the lives of men, and all while leading his own family, and struggling through cancer. He lost his battle a few years ago but the legacy and the impact he made on me is something I will never forget and so this group is continuing that legacy of building up men, young in their faith journey and equipping them to lead in their families, to lead in their jobs, to lead in our church and in our community.

What was the focus or study this summer?

This summer I decided to use the study *Kingdom Men Rising* by Dr. Tony Evans. It was the book that my mentor walked me through and it spoke to me and made a huge impact on me and I know it can do the same for this group of young men. I'm also really excited for our next season of Building Brothers. —cont'd on page 4



God told Joshua to be strong and courageous. Who else told him that? You can find the answer in Joshua 1:16-18.

New men's group —cont'd from page 3

Next season we are diving into discipleship training and equipping the men in this group to be able to share the gospel and make more disciples.

What happens during a typical meeting?

We start our meetings going over any questions or anything that was highlighted during our own personal study time during the week. Afterward we'll open in prayer, praying that God would meet us each where we are at and that our study and conversations would be pleasing and honoring to God. We'll show a short video lesson followed by group discussion questions. After that we typically go around the room sharing prayer requests or praise reports and close out the meeting in prayer.

Do you have group events or a group ministry?

We started our week one meeting this summer with a Fourth of July potluck. And we are planning to begin next season in a similar way, but this time we are going to show the feature length documentary, *Kingdom Men Rising*, along with a potluck.

You designed a logo for your men's group (see page 1). What's the story behind it?

I wanted something that a group of men that are growing in Christ and leading their families well can get behind. The shield represents the armor of God and the defensive posture we take sometimes as men of God. The swords represent the offensive position we take as men of God. The cross represents our submission to Christ and the sacrifice he made for us, and the Bible and praying hands represent our spiritual rhythms.

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For more information on the Building Brothers young men's group and other Laurel Ridge Church men's groups, see page 2. ☩



Looking for a way to serve? The Laurel Ridge Church ministries listed below are looking for men ready to use their talents and gifts to serve the Lord and build His church. Browse to <https://laurelridgechurch.org/get-involved> for the complete list, fill in the form and click the **Submit** button.

Harvest Carnival — Our annual fall event, scheduled this year for Friday, October 24, 6-8:30 pm, brings hundreds of people to our church for fun and games. We need volunteers to work a carnival booth, decorate a trunk-or-treat car, help with parking, registration and clean-up, or to bring goodies for the cake walk. Sign up [here](#).

Prayer Partners — One couple or two individuals needed for the fourth Sunday of each month to pray for people at the end of the 9:50 service. Contact Keith Cook at krc@sonic.net for information or to sign up.

Production Team — Assist in the production of the overall worship experience, using lights, cameras, and other visual elements.

Capture Team — Join a team that captures church life and events through photography here at Laurel Ridge Church.