GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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October 2026



The other morning our 3rd born son woke early and found me making my tea in the kitchen. The early morning hours is by nature my best time. The house is quiet and I can spend time enjoying my tea, resting in scripture, and collect my thoughts for the day.

Over the years, I have come to appreciate the interruptions of little feet and voices and this day was no exception. “Dad, I’m hungry,” our seven year old declared. We decided scrambled eggs would be our best option. I sent him to get the eggs from the fridge in the garage and I fired up the stove. “Dad, I could only hold four eggs,” his sweet voice said. I said that was ok because we would only use 3 to which he responded, “Oh good, I’ll make this one my little friend and name him Bob.”

Before I could advise him that making a raw egg his friend was a risky choice he returned with a marker to create Bob’s face. What a precious moment! You know the ones. They surprise us in wonderful ways and remind us of the innocence of our youth and how fleeting they can be.

I want desperately to hold on and never forget these life giving experiences. That is what my heart wants and at the same time my head reminds me that memories fade quickly in the decay of life. Then, I got to thinking about Bob the egg. In many ways Bob is a metaphor for God’s children. He finds us in sin, raw, vulnerable to the fractures life can wield, prone to roll around without aim and ever dependent on God’s ability to sustain and use our lives for His glory.

God also does not hide His face from our imperfections. A few minutes later I opened the refrigerator, what joy! Placed gently back in the egg carton was Bob and his hand drawn rudimentary smile. I was even more delighted to know my son’s creative young heart was inspired to create Bob. It served as a reminder to me that God works through children.

We can carry the weight of our own inconsistencies throughout life. Imperfections and sin distort reality. The enemy of our souls tries to erase any evidence of the goodness of God. His aim is to disfigure and destroy any revelation of an eternal and ever present Father. Fortunately, he cannot. David expresses the strength of God’s power in Psalm 19:1-2 *The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.*

If that were not enough, He did not stop there. Our knowledge of Him was not enough. He would not rest until all that was lost was redeemed and our enemy crushed! He paid the ultimate price to accomplish this. His suffering would demonstrate His love and intent to save the crown of His creation, mankind!

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John1:14

Later in John we learn that Jesus would reveal the glory of God at a wedding feast. *What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.* John 2:11

The good news? Even though we fade in this life, even though our memories grow dim, we are not left hopeless. The God of all creation will redeem all things and bring everything to completion. He promises to do it for our good and His glory.

In Christ’s Love, —*Pastor Brian*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRADITIONAL SERVICE 9AM

Communion Served September 13 & 27

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

10-10:15 COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
10:15 BIBLE STUDY

Services are live-streamed and posted online at *glcbanning.org*. You may follow along with the order of service found on the website.

Office Hours: Closed Monday;
Tues-Wed-Thurs 8--noon; Friday 8--10am



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3 – Ryan Wishner
8 – Bianca Ralston
18 – Nichole Barlow
18 – Darryl Craft
21 – Dave Ehlers
26 – Don Belter
28 – Sandy Beck **ANNIVERSARY**

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact Greg in the church office.



GRACE CHOIR

New voices welcome!

Weekly practice, Tuesday from 10-11am

In the sanctuary

Contact NANCY at 909-856-3085



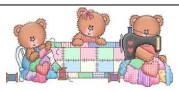
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on September 16 in the Fellowship Hall with Chair Jerry Beck, Sandy Beck, Andie Arthurholtz, Elected-Elder Dennis Barnett, Karen Hawkesworth, and Pastor Brian Barlow present.

The August Minutes, Financial Secretary Report, Treasurer's Report and Pastor's Report were all submitted and approved.

The main subjects of the meeting were ideas to upgrade the church's website and a formation of the 2027 budget committee.

GRACE QUILTERS



Quilters meet on **Wednesday October 7th**. We hope you will join us from 9-11am. There is work available for all skill levels: *Quilters gladly learn and gladly teach!*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS MONDAY 10:30am

Ladies you won't want to miss this study led by Cat Major. We delve into God's Word and you will learn something new each time. Join us for an hour of study and fellowship!

Circuit 17 Forum
IN REVIEW



(Left to Right) Rev. Paul Miller, Nichole Barlow, Bobbie Smith, Rev. Bob Smith, Rev. Luis Lugo, Andrea Lugo, Lauren Bowes, Rev. James Bowes, Vicar Michael Orme, Rev. Luke Kastner



Rev. Brian Barlow and Nichole Barlow
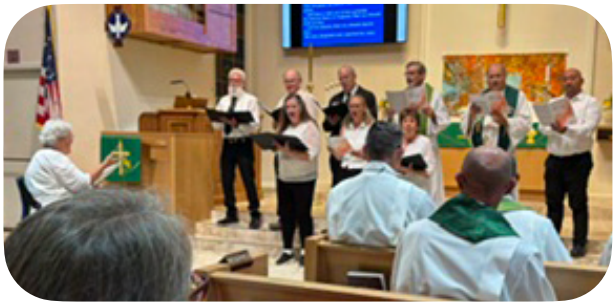
The Re-Connect Circuit 17 forum on October 2 was a wonderful success. Rev. Brian Barlow was elected as the new Circuit Visitor for the remainder of this triennium, ending in 2028. With over 40 in attendance we were blessed to hear the stories of faith and struggle from each of the pastors and their wives our circuit.



Living transparently is powerful tool in the hands of God. He chooses to work through our weaknesses to demonstrate His power to save lives. St Paul, in his letter to the church in Philippi reminds us; *Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.* Philippians 2:12-13



Our pastors and their families know the weight of public ministry, they also know the joy and victories that come from living a life surrendered to Christ. Looking ahead, the churches in our circuit have committed to combining efforts to connect our Youth, supporting our churches and their ministries and living life together.



Pictured above was our first Circuit Choir. Under Nancy Swanlund's direction, members from our churches blessed us with song.



Rev. Bob and Bobbi Smith share their story of grief. In 2025 they lost their 3 month old granddaughter to SID's. The pain of this loss renewed and deepened faith in the lives of their son and his wife. While the brevity of Reah's life will be a mystery until they are reunited in heaven, her life cultivated a deep need that only Jesus could fulfill. Attendees at the Forum were blessed by this testimony of suffering and faith.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Sign up in the Narthex and fill out the request form. Put the form with your check of $55 in the offering plate. Altar Guild will take care of ordering the flowers. Please indicate if you have a color or flower preference.



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



—No meeting in October—

Except not this month--Grace men meet on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9 for a time of breakfast, fellowship, and devotions. Invite a friend.

REMEMBER TO HELP WITH THESE:

Bottles & Cans

To benefit the General Fund

Stater Cards

Provides 5% to Church Funds

See Carol Munnelly to purchase in the Fellowship Room 1st & 3rd Sundays.

Eye Glasses Are Collected

We collect used eye glasses for the Lion's Club. They will be given to people in need. A box is on the table in the narthex.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Well Summer is almost over and we know most of us are really happy about that. Thank you to all who showed up for September's Lutheran Women's Missionary League meeting.

Pat McCage and Mary Bass gave the dedication. We had a Drive Thru History Video "Paul's Trip to Rome".

We, along with Sara and baby Willow Grace [Ed. Note: also Justin] appreciate everyone who came to the baby shower. Sara got so many beautiful gifts, especially the beautiful handmade quilts.

LWML is working hard and looking forward to the Zone Rally on Saturday, October 3, starting at 9:30am. There will be a $10 Registration fee. Palm Desert will be providing a continental breakfast and Grace Lutheran lunch. We will make bracelets for all the ladies attending. And, Pat McCage's daughter, Shannon, will be making and donating cookies that say: "Joy". Pastor Miller is leading a Bible Study and Haragewen Kinde will be our guest speaker.

Hope you can all make it.

God Bless all.

Sandy Beck
LWML Secretary

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God…because God is love….if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. **1 John 4:7,8,12**





Buy Our Butter Braids!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER GET US TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING SUMMER 2028

Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

Next NYG
July 3-7, 2028 in San Antonio, TX



SCAN THE QR CODE TO ORDER

Harvest festival

& Youth Activities

"Join Us and Support our Youth"

Saturday, October 24th

If you have crafts, art, holiday decor, or you like to bake delicious treats, sign up to host a booth!

Food - Fun - Fellowship

Hosted by Gospel Go-Getters



Inflatable Games

Join Us for Reformation Sunday October 25th

Reformation Sunday

Wear Red! But why?

Wearing red on Reformation Sunday is a common practice in some Protestant denominations, particularly Lutheran churches, because red is the liturgical color of the Holy Spirit, which symbolizes the Spirit's fire, passion, and power in renewing the church. This tradition is a way to celebrate how the Holy Spirit empowered the Reformation and continues to work in believers' lives today.

Meaning behind wearing red

- Holy Spirit: Red is the color used to represent the Holy Spirit, and its use on Reformation Sunday highlights the Spirit's active role in reforming the church, as seen in the actions of Martin Luther and others.
- Martyrdom: The color red can also remind people of those who have been martyred for their faith in Jesus.
- Celebration of faith: Wearing red serves as a vibrant visual reminder of the fire of the Holy Spirit and a celebration of faith.



Dear LBW team and congregation:



Thank you for the amazing warm welcome you gave LBW president Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell! He was so blessed by the visit! We are the closest large print ministry center there is to headquarters! Hopefully you didn't miss the guest speaker last month but if you did I would encourage you to go listen to the recording. Prior to worship there was a wonderful tribute Sandra gave to honor her mom. The gift Jane Gutknecht left to LBW, was given to the president, only God when he formed the foundation of creation could have orchestrated the neat details to this great financial gift being given on the same day the president came to speak! God is amazing! Thank you to all who came after to fellowship! Declan is the youngest participant in LBW on Thursdays and was so thrilled to win the raffle!



We hope to see you at the next gathering! From 9-11am or 11-1pm on October 8th and 27th.



Ebenezer Leadership and Institutional Development Inspired by Abraham's Journey of Faith and Guided by God's Faithful Help



Haragewen.kinde@missionofchrist.org

September 2026 Newsletter

Praise the Lord for His endless love and faithful guidance as we continue building the capacity of Christ-centered educational institutions in Ethiopia.

Celebrating 10 Years: A New Name for the Journey Ahead

As we commemorate the 10th anniversary of this ministry, we give thanks to God and to all who have walked with us on this journey. As 1 Samuel 7:12 reminds us, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." To God be the glory!

Going forward, this ministry will be known as Ebenezer Leadership and Institutional Development: Inspired by Abraham's Journey of Faith and Guided by God's Faithful Help.

The name Ebenezer, from 1 Samuel 7:12, means "stone of help" and reminds us of God's faithful presence and provision throughout this journey. The journey of Abraham reminds us of faith, obedience, courage, and the willingness to step forward in trust when God calls. While Abraham points us toward the forward journey of faith, Ebenezer reminds us of the faithful help of God along the way.

The name also honors my father, Abraham, whose name carries both personal and biblical significance. Together, Abraham and Ebenezer communicate a leadership vision rooted in faith, gratitude, courage, service, and generational impact. The new name reflects the ministry's continued commitment to strengthening educational leaders and institutions with purpose, faith, and a vision for future generations.

New Year in September:



Marking the end of Ethiopia's long rainy season, which extends from June through mid-September, Ethiopians welcomed the Ethiopian New Year—2019—on September 11, 2026! As Ethiopia begins this new year, please join us in prayer for God's mercy, grace, peace, and abundant blessings upon the people of Ethiopia throughout 2019.

One-Year Intensive English Program (IEP):

The program continues to support students as they prepare for theological education. A new cohort has begun the one-year program. Please join us in prayer for the students, faculty, and all those involved, asking God to bless their efforts and make the program effective in equipping students for successful theological studies.

Personalized One-on-One Mentoring and Coaching:

Our personalized one-on-one mentoring and coaching, designed to facilitate individualized professional growth and promote servant leadership, continues to progress well. The goal is to support leadership that makes a sustainable impact on the students we serve, our communities, and the church. Planning and assessment of areas of focus for the coming year will soon begin. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to reflect, anticipate, encourage, pray, and plan, so that through our service, the love of our Lord Jesus Christ may be visible and experienced by others.

Professional Development Seminars:

Planning for the Fall 2026 professional development activities is underway. We look forward to the journey ahead during the 2026–2027 academic year and to working with both new and returning participants. Arrangements are currently being coordinated for a combination of in-person and virtual professional development activities, providing meaningful opportunities for learning, reflection, collaboration, and continued growth throughout the academic year.

Please pray for:

-> The People of Ethiopia,
->The Intensive English Program team and new student cohort
-> Planning and coordination for the 2026–2027 academic year professional development activities.
-> Leadership team, faculty, and students at MYS
-> New partners to support this ministry and fundraising efforts,

To provide tax deductible gift to support this mission work, please go to

https://missionofchrist.org/service/kinde-haragewen *Or send your gift to the address below and specify the support is for:*

Haragewen Abraham Kinde
Mission Partner serving in Ethiopia
Mission of Christ Network
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