



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 West Wilson Street Banning, California 92220

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Dancing for Jesus

August 2026

I recently learned that one of my nephews, who having recently retired from active service in the Army Reserves, had began writing songs. His dad, my eldest brother, lost his life in a drowning at the age of 35. My nephew was in high school at the time. He shared with me that he was cleaning out items he no longer needed and came across his journals written during his tours in Iraq. His journals became the inspiration for the lyrics. Having recently celebrated the 4th of July, as I listened to his songs my heart was filled with a renewed sense of God's presence in the midst of great suffering. I began to think of friends and family who served in the military that might be encouraged by his songs.

One woman in particular was so moved she wrote me back within minutes of listening to the song, "Life Didn't Wait." She had spent two tours in her twenties in Iraq. She shared she just learned she has a traumatic brain injury as a consequence of a mortar exploding near the tank she was in during her tour that caused her to go unconscious. While going through a routine exam at the VA, the physician asked her a series of questions that led to a scan of her brain. She shared with me some of the symptoms she had experienced that now made sense—loud talking and some reactivity. With enthusiasm, she explained, that's not the most exciting part!

"Dancing with Jesus in worship was healing me in ways I never knew I needed!"

The doctor went on to tell her there are ways to help the brain heal from an injury and one of the ways is to learn to dance. She shared, it was only recent that she enrolled in a rabbinical dance class at the messianic fellowship she and her family attend. She laughed when she shared how clumsy and awkward she felt while learning the dances and then her voice sobered. Through tears, she shared how profound it was to suddenly be aware of the hand of God in her healing. Learning to dance and worship her Jesus through ancient dance was healing her brain! She said through her tears, "Dancing with Jesus in worship was healing me in ways I never knew I needed!"



¹²They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. ¹³Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. Jeremiah 31:12-13

There is a certain level of humility and vulnerability associated with worship. Our posture both physically and spiritually is important. This being said, priding oneself in his/her personal form of expression in worship while measuring others by their standard is a dangerous thing. I've been in sanctuaries where eyebrows raised along with the raising of hands from others. There is something beautiful in genuine corporate worship that extends beyond holding a hymnal. We experience it in our setting when we come to the altar. We leave our seats and walk. What if someone were to be so moved with the reality of their forgiveness that they skipped to the altar or dare I say danced? Richard Wurmbrand, a Romanian Lutheran pastor who was imprisoned and severely tortured for 14 years by the Communist regime knew what freedom in Christ truly was.

He famously took Jesus' command to "rejoice and be exceedingly glad" as a direct order. Despite the horrific conditions, severe isolation, and constant torture, he chose to praise God by dancing in his cell. He maintained his spiritual freedom while in physical captivity, explaining that those who are with Jesus hear a joyful music that the world cannot hear.

—Pastor Brian

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



**CELEBRATING 106 YEARS
OF GOD'S GRACE**

TRADITIONAL SERVICE 9AM

Communion Served August 9 & 23

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

10-10:15AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

10:15AM BIBLE STUDY

Services are live-streamed and available online at glcbanning.org. The worship folder is also posted, so you may also follow the order of service.

Office Hours: Closed Tuesday;
Mon-Wed-Thurs 8--noon; Friday 8--10am

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MONDAYS 4 pm

Study of the New Testament

Led by Cat Major

Ladies you won't want to miss this study.

We delve into God's Word and you will learn something new each time. Join us for

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on July 15 in the Fellowship Hall with Chair Jerry Beck, Secretary Sandy Beck, Andie Arthurholtz, Elected Elder Dennis Barnett, and Pastor Brian Barlow present.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for August 19.

—Sandy Beck
Secretary



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 4 – Don McCage
- 10 – Sue Herman
- 14 – Rosemary Burton
- 16 – Dennis Barnett
- 20 – Deacon Gerry
- 25 – Janie Haughn
- 27 – Bill Choske
- 28 – Dan Clayton
- 31 – Cat Major

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 2 – Dave & Cat Major
- 4 – Justin & Sara Juarez
- 6 – John & Sandra Scharlemann
- 30 – Manny & Susan Martinez



Mommy

to

BEE

*Welcoming her little honey!
Join us for an all women baby shower!*

SARA JUAREZ

Saturday, August 8th at 11:30 AM to 2 PM

*Grace Lutheran Church
1000 West Wilson
Banning, Ca 92220*

RSVP to Nichole @ 760-641-9744

*Registered @ Amazon Sara Juarez
Bring a pack of diapers for the raffle!!*

GLC COOKBOOK UPDATE

The focus of this cookbook will be cooking for two. Recipes that are easy, taste good may be made for more and possibly can be frozen.

We are collecting recipes for:

- Appetizers and Beverages
- Main Dishes
- Vegetables and Side Dishes
- Soups and Salads
- Breads and Rolls
- Desserts and Candy
- This and That

We are so excited that so many of the congregation are willing to help and share with us their treasured recipes.

Please submit recipes to either Estella Craft or Sue Herman either by placing them in our mailboxes at church or email.

craft.estella@yahoo.com
suehermanrn@hotmail.com.



REQUEST FOR LWML MITES

Because so many of us use credit cards instead of cash, we are not getting donations for our Mite Boxes. We hope in that case, you will participate by putting dollar bills in your Mite Box. The money collected is sent to our PSW District LWML where 75% is used for mission projects in our District. The remaining 25% mites go to our national LWML which funds mission projects all over the United States and the world. Boxes are available in the church and Fellowship Room.

We hope you will join in gathering MITES.



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Serving the Lord with Gladness

We will be resuming our meetings on Saturday, September 12th at 10am. Please keep in mind the LWML Zone Fall Rally on **October 3** which will be held at Grace this year. As hosts we will be serving a continental breakfast and lunch to the LWML ladies of our zone churches. There will be a guest speaker and a Bible study.

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

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION FOR COOMBS ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

If you would like to participate, there is a basket in the entry way. The school staff very much appreciates your help and the blessings that will be coming their way for their students!! These items are requested:

- Backpacks
- Mechanical Pencils and Refill Lead
- Sheet Protectors
- 1" Binders
- Dry Erase Markers -Thin Line
- Color Pencils
- Color Markers - Thin Line
- Flash Drives
- White-Out
- Elementary Writing Paper 1st -5th grade
- Elementary Pencils and Crayons
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencil Pouches

GRACE WIDOWS OF FAITH

Fifteen Grace Widows of Faith met Wednesday, July 22 in the Sun Lakes Club House Atrium, hosted by Lavinia Brass. August plans are tentatively set for lunch at the "Farm 2 Fork Café and Bakery" in Banning.

We hope you will join this wonderful group of women. If you have questions, or would like more information please contact:

Sue Herman: 909-532-2173

suehermannrn@hotmail.com

Carolyn Modellmog: 714-537-7414

carolynkm@yahoo.com

Dee Moore: 909-731-5807

delanah.moore@verizon.net



GRACE QUILTERS



Quilters will meet on **Wednesday August 5th**. We hope you will join us from 9-11am.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST MEETS EVERY 4TH SATURDAY



On Saturday, August 22, Grace men will be meeting at 9am for a time of breakfast, fellowship, and devotions. Invite a friend.

REMEMBER TO HELP WITH THESE:

CRV Bottles & Cans

To benefit the General Fund

Stater Cards

Provides 5% to Church Funds

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



Eye Glasses Are Collected

We collect used eye glasses for the Lion's Club. They are given to people in need. Collection box is in the entry way.



BRILLE WORKSHOP

Looking Ahead...Save the Date



LBW
LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

Sunday, September 13th, Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell, President Lutheran Braille Workers will join us for a special presentation. Pastor Hartwell will also give the message during our Divine Service at 9am. Following the service, you are all invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall where Pastor Hartwell will share a presentation for the future of Lutheran Braille Workers. Lutheran Braille Workers is a recognized service organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

I am excited for this event. My heart is to raise awareness for this amazing ministry. Having lived a life with a visual impairment, I understand first hand the specific hurdles visually impaired persons encounter. Since joining the ministry at Grace Lutheran in 2023, God has continually demonstrated his heart to bring His Living Word to all people. I remember learning for the first time why so many incarcerated in our prisons and jails do not use Bibles given to them by well intentioned Christians and ministries. Individuals, during their initial intake have their glasses removed rendering them unable to read small print in a traditional Bible. Our center specifically prints Large Print Bibles so souls like those incarcerated in our country have the opportunity to read God's Word.

That is just one reason my heart is passionate about this ministry and why I am encouraged to host Rev. Dr. Hartwell next month hear at Grace Lutheran. If you know of anyone who suffers from vision issues, have loved ones who are visually impaired or would benefit from the ministry of LBW, INVITE THEM to this event!

Our LBW group has printed, collated and sent 21 sets of the Old Testament since we reconvened. This is an incredible accomplishment. By the end of this summer we are hoping to double this number. Please join us August 13th and 27th. We work from 9 am - 1 pm and break for a refreshment and a devotion. See you there!



2026 GLC Leadership Retreat

On July 24th Members of the Board of Directors along with committee chairs and faithful servants gathered together to review and discuss strategic plans for ministry at Grace Lutheran Church. This past January Grace held a forum and invited the congregation and leadership to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges they believe currently define Grace Lutheran Church. Pastor Brian summarized the comments and suggestions from the forum and incorporated the recommendations into a 3 year plan for GLC. The 3 year plan focuses on 5 areas including: Spiritual Care, Operations, Mission, Building and Grounds, and Key Events.

The group met at a local restaurant, (Farm to Fork, in Banning) to support a locally owned business. Owners Stephanie and Carl, in their own words, were grateful we came to support their business and the food was amazing! This charming, farm fresh venue was the perfect place to gather. The day opened with worship and singing. Imagine what it must have been like for the other patrons to hear hymns and scripture while they enjoyed their meals in the adjacent dining room. This is truly mission and ministry. Taking church into our community, praying at meals and giving glory to Jesus is a bold move for any Christ centered group. It is even more powerful when a business shares in that opportunity.

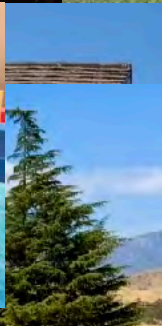
Only our Lord knows the eternal impact Grace Lutheran has and continues to have in Banning. One member of the leadership shared, "I have lived life without Jesus and I have lived life with Jesus—I prefer life with Jesus." This is the hope and mission of Christ, that those in our community would come to faith in the One who overcame to grave so that no one would be without hope. As the group closed they committed to connecting quarterly to assess progress make adjustments to GLC's three year plan. The last words were offered to God in song, as they lifted their voices in the Doxology.



GRACE LUTHERAN YOUTH

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Circuit 17

RE-CONNECT

Circuit Forum



Rev. Luke Kastner
St John's, Hemet



Rev. Paul Miller
Good Shepherd, Yucca



Rev. Luise Lugo
Prince of Peace, Hemet



Rev Dr. Sam Gomez
ENGAGE, Hemet

OCTOBER 2, 2026

WHY SHOULD I COME

- Get to know your Circuit Pastor's and their Wives
- Connect with others in your Circuit
- Initiate Circuit Youth Connection
- Join together in a Circuit Worship Service
- Host an Exhibit Table for your Ministry
- Enjoy Great Food and Fellowship

**Registration
Luncheon
1 :15 PM**

**3:15
3:30**

**5:30
6 pm**

WHAT TO EXPECT

RSVP (Registration at door 11:30 am)

Noon - 1 pm

Plenary Sessions

Election of Circuit Visitor

Circuit 17 Re-Visioned

Meet Your Circuit Pastors Panel

Meet Your Circuit Pastor Wives Panel

Break

Breakout Sessions

Freedom: Rev. Lugo *From Communism to Freedom*

National Youth Gathering: Rev. Barlow/Rev. Gomez

Living Through Grief: Rev. Miller/Rev. Smith

Culture Shift Rev. Kastner

Reception

Worship Service with Communion

Rev. Robert Smith
Trinity, Indio

Rev. Brian Barlow
Grace, Banning



Vicar Michael Orme
Our Saviors, Palm Springs



Rev. James Bowes
Peace Lutheran, Palm Desert



**GRACE LUTHERAN
1000 W. WILSON ST, BANNING**