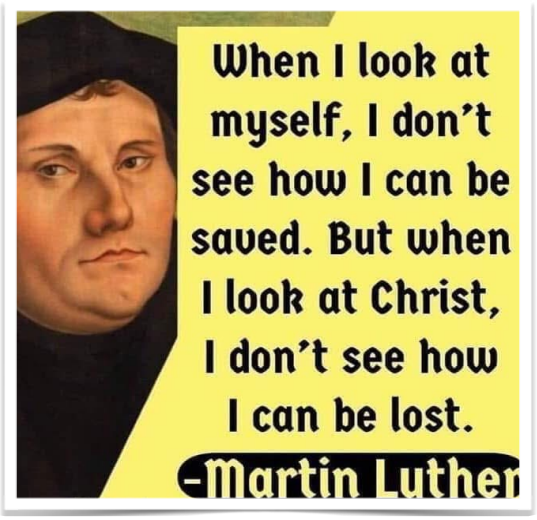
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 West Wilson Street Banning, California 92220

951-849-3232 office@glcbanning.org www.glcbanning.org

November 2026

REAL LIFE CAN BE A REAL MESS



A job loss, emergency house repairs, a car accident, a hospital stay, another unanticipated dental visit, a broken relationship, an accuser who will not accept an apology or forgive an offense. If life were predictable and we were always in control of it, would we ever see the need for God? It's an honest and fair question. For the person of faith who prides themselves in getting it right it can fill the soul with anxious thoughts.

You may know what it's like to be lost in a swirl of accusing thoughts, stressed over undone tasks, or consumed by "what ifs?"All of that causes you to miss the life story that is unfolding right in front of you. It is possible to become so disoriented in your own thinking that you overlook the good gifts God has given you. It is in these moments, dear friend, that we need a caring person who can remind us that Our Savior is near, an ever present help in times of trouble. Psalm 46 reminds us, God is our refuge and our strength. Our struggle to rest in His grace and presence while living in a world of chaos is the very training ground He allows for our spiritual growth. We learn to trust that His unknown way is better than our known way. It is a journey often veiled in mystery. Our flesh cries, what good could possibly come from this! I've blown it again! We may even feel too weak to press on some days. Endurance is gained when we release our grip on control and find peace and rest in God's control.

Some may be thinking, reading this article, I wish I had someone else's life. More specifically, you may be thinking of the person right now, the one you've often believed had it all together. They seem to not have a care in the world they couldn't resolve with ease. Rarely, in my travels and vocation as a pastor have I met anyone who believes, they have it all and are satisfied with this life. Moreover, it is more the norm that I find souls caught up in a cycle of performance, pushing for perfection and effortless pursuits to protect themselves against all odds. Does that offend you? It may, if faith is something tied to personal success. But faith, the faith that is given from a Father who knows us better than we know ourselves looks very different from the trophies we collect in our lives. Hebrews declares it is the evidence of things unseen.

When we are able to see our weakness as the very place where God works in our hearts and lives, we can see that the battle is worth it for the strength and endurance it produces. The God who created us, the Savior who redeemed us, and the blessed Spirit that conforms us to His image in our affliction wants to use us in our smallness, in our weakness, just as he did young David. A boy who believed not in his own abilities but in the One who is undefeated.

In 1995 Stuart Townend penned the words to the hymn *How Deep the Father's Love*:

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

Continued on page 2

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CELEBRATING 106 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE

TRADITIONAL SERVICE 9AM

Communion Served November 8 & 22

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE
5:30PM THANKFUL FEAST
6:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 – Sandra Gutknecht
2 – Susan Sidoti
10 – Carol Heard
15 – Carolyn Moddelmog
16 – John Scharlemann
21 – Bill Kelly
30 – Darlene Brewer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



4 – Lew & Phyllis Farwell
5 – Colin & Robin Pay
7 – Robert & Vera Perez

Pastor's letter continued from page 1

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart–
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Martin Luther knew the struggle. Jesus knew the man and chose to use him in remarkable ways.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

Be encouraged today, when you are in a place where your flesh may fail but your Savior does not.

In Christ's Love, --*Pastor Brian*



GRACE WIDOWS OF FAITH

The Widows of Faith had a lovely luncheon at the Four Season's Bistro coordinated by Daphne Hester. After, we went to the Four Seasons movie theater and watched the movie "Fantastic Four." It was enjoyed by all.

Our group will not be meeting in November. We are investigating the possibility to going to see the "Miracle on 34th Street" at the Lifehouse in Redlands on December 20th. If you are interested, please contact Sue Herman as soon as possible but no later than November 16th. You may also contact Carolyn Moddelmog or Dee Moore. This show has matinees on Saturday and Sunday, and evening performances on Thursdays.

What a blessing to have such a wonderful group of women at Grace.

Your Sister in Christ
Sue Herman
909-532-2173 or suehermanrn@hotmail.com

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

We will have our yearly meeting on Saturday, November 7th at 9am. We have a few things to cover but the meeting should only last a couple of hours. Contact Gail Wright if you would like to serve the Lord on the Altar Guild.



GOD'S LITTLE BLESSING

WILLOW GRACE JUAREZ

BORN 10/19/2026

VERY HAPPY PARENTS: JUSTIN & SARA JUAREZ

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Ladies, please join us on **Saturday, November 14th at 10am**. We have things planned for you and following the meeting we will go to Russo's Italian Restaurant for lunch at 11:30am.

Next month – December - we meet on the 1st Saturday, **December 5th**. Bring any old unused eyeglasses you may have. We will have a special guest speaker from the Lion's Club to tell us how your donations of used glasses benefit others in need. We will be drawing **Prayer Sisters** for the new year. Bring a new or old coffee cup or mug filled with candy and put your name on the bottom. Those who choose to participate will draw a mug and you will pray for that person throughout the year. No other gifts are required, just your prayers. Bring a friend and your favorite potluck dish to share.

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

GRACE CHOIR



Not only do our choir members sing -- they also ring!
Thanks for adding to our worship!

Now is a good time to add your voice, as we prepare for the Christmas season.
Join us at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS



Lutheran Braille Workers meet every month 2 different days for 4 hour intervals. We would love to see some new faces and have some extra hands in the line of work! We hope that you will join us. We will have a few new days in November and a packing party in December! Consider popping in even if just for an hour! Fellowship, snacks and devotional make this even more of a reason to attend!

We will meet Thursday November 12th from 9-1; Friday November 20th 9-1; and December 13th 3-7.

The Christmas packing party will have a sign up and we hope you can come!!! Thank you to our regular volunteers your work in this ministry is such a gift to those who need these materials! I hope you know you make a huge difference!

Thank you also to the many who attended the Open House at headquarters! What a lovely time of fellowship!

Comments from a 1st-time Volunteer

What an awesome experience I had at the Lutheran Braille Group on Thursday, October 22nd. All you need is some time and a willingness to do God's work. I was so impressed with how kind and comforting everyone was and how it was easier than I thought. I did only work on one machine. There are different stations where anyone may work from punching holes in the paper, quality control and binding these large print Bibles. Others made sure we have enough Bible chapters to put together for a whole Bible and packing boxes. Please consider sharing your time at this worthwhile venture. Oh, and they had food.

--Sue Herman







GOODIE SUNDAY

November 29

Bring a goodie to share during Fellowship time.



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

MEETS THE 4TH SATURDAY

The Breakfast will resume in January following a break for the holiday months.



Sign Up Today !

Grace's Annual Christmas Dinner and Raffle

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH at 12 Noon

Music, Basket Raffle, Quilt Auction, Great Food & Fellowship

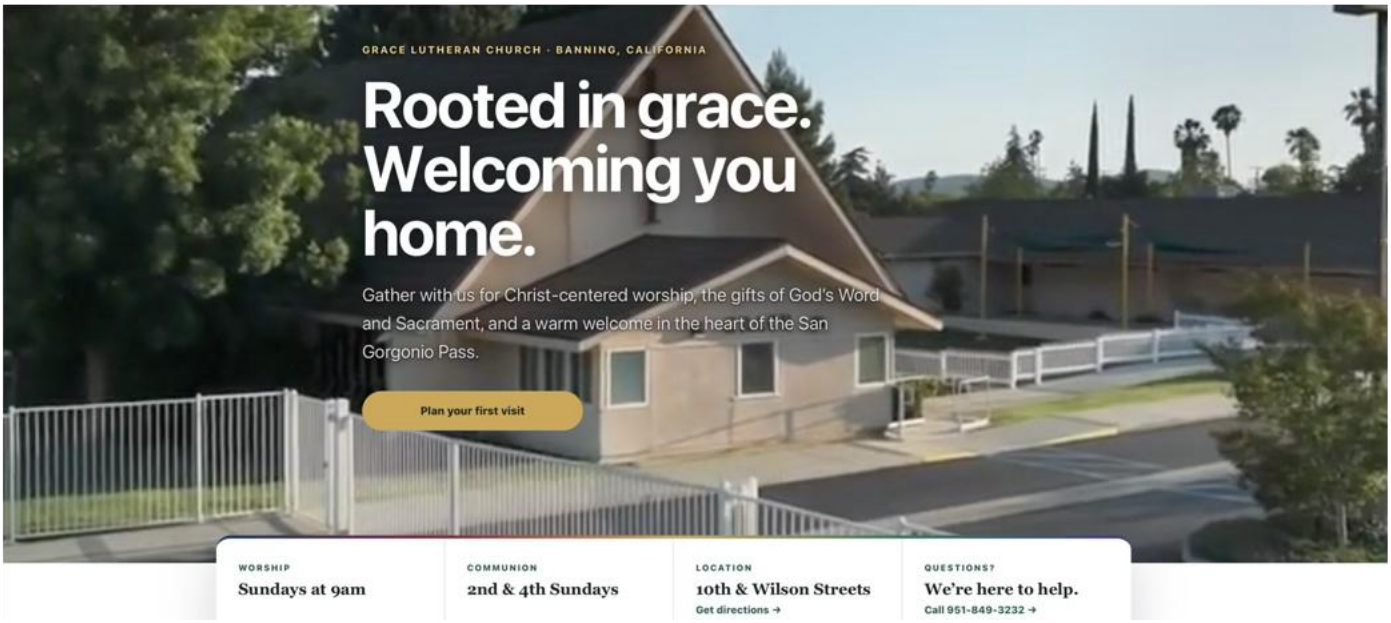
Sign up to reserve your seat – Tickets $12



Grace's worship services are now live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Subscribe to our YouTube channel to be notified of new live-streams, and follow us on Facebook to help us reach a wider audience.

Check out Grace's New Website!

Your comments and feedback are welcomed. Take time to review each page and let us know what your like, what you would like to see, and anything you believe should be added. Send our office your pictures. We would also like to know what you love about being a member at Grace. Write a sentence or two expressing your joy to add to our reviews. This will help personalize our web presence. You can submit comments to office@glcbanning.org or if you prefer send us a written note.



Sanctuary Update

Thank you to all of you who have shared encouraging words and positive feedback about the upgrades to the sanctuary. A special thank you to Greg Grose for his diligence and flexibility as he invested many hours learning the new software. While we are still in the early stages, it is wonderful to see the benefits of current technology.

One member of our congregation recently commented, *"I was skeptical at first, but I really enjoyed singing the hymns from the monitors as I walked to communion. I did not have to juggle the bulletin or run into the back of the person in front of me."*

Another member shared. *"I really like the new color painted behind the cross, it makes the Cross stand out all the more."*

Sanctuary Updates Completed

- Painted the wall behind the Cross
- Upgraded Audio Visual within the Sanctuary
- Upgraded the Sound Booth
- Installed New Camera for Livestream Service
- Cleaned the Tile and Carpet throughout the Sanctuary, offices and Narthex

Continuing Updates

- Phase 2: of Audio Visual Updates: Installation of new speakers, and audio mics for sanctuary
- Building a patrician to create space in the entry for nursing mothers, and special needs



Harvest Fest 2026



Harvest Fest 2026 was filled with a fun, food, and fellowship! A special thank you to our volunteers for your time and talents. Your hard work did not go unnoticed! The days events included, a Gospel Message with Pastor Brian, Inflatable Games, Craft Fair, and great pulled pork sandwiches prepared by Carolyn Moddelmog. We were also blessed by the Gideon's presence.





















WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS MONDAY MORNING AT 10:30 am

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!