



# GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



### **December:** Sunday Worship - December 5, 12, 19, 26 at Grace

**Worship at 9 a.m.** - Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Confirmation and Sunday School at 10 am.

Fellowship following worship.

**Bible Study - Wed, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** - 9:30 a.m. at the church

**GLCW meeting - Wed, Dec. 1** - 1:30 at the church

**Church Council - Wed, Dec. 14** - 7 p.m. via Zoom or in person



**Sunday School Christmas Program** – Sun. Dec 19 during worship



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** - Friday Dec 24 at 4 pm

### **January:**

**Sunday Worship - January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at Grace**

**Worship at 9 a.m.** - Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Confirmation and Sunday School at 10 am.

Fellowship following worship.

**Bible Study - Wed, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26** - 9:30 a.m. at the church

**GLCW meeting - no meeting**

**Church Council - Wed. Jan. 11** - 7 p.m. via Zoom or in person

**Annual Meeting - Sunday, Jan 26** following worship

***Please call Pastor Danner anytime, if you have an emergency  
or require spiritual care or assistance 507-380-6926.***





If you cannot attend Sunday worship in person at Grace, the Pastor records a weekly worship service, which is available for online viewing via YouTube. Access via your smart phone, tablet, smart TV or computer under “Dave Danner Sermons” on the YouTube search bar.

Grace also records our Sunday morning in-house worship and televises on Media Comm cable TV at 1 pm on the following Friday - reference Lake Benton Community Channel 117-2.

**Website**

**Grace Website** – The Grace Lutheran Church website is available at <https://gracelutheranlakebentonmn.weebly.com/>. The website can be your one-stop-shop for information and content about Grace Lutheran Church, our programs and events. Please submit any content or suggestions to Tonia Czech.

## Food Shelf



**Noisy Offering / Food Shelf Sunday** – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month is designated for Noisy Offering and Food Shelf donations.

*Noisy Offering for October - December will be directed to “The Banquet” in Sioux Falls. During January - March 2022 the offering will be directed to Shetek Lutheran Ministries*

*Food Shelf donations can be monetary or items placed in the drop box in the Fellowship Hall entrance. All items are appreciated. Suggested donations for the Food Shelf include:*

- **December** - Baking products (Flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, pepper, brown sugar, powdered sugar, vanilla)
- **January** - Laundry products (detergent, fabric softener sheets, stain remover)



## Worship Assistants

✓ **December:** Deacon Tonia Czech Altar Guild Susan Johnson / Karen Lichtsinn

Ushers Wayne Fehrman / Michael Haugen / Gerry Rochel / Gary Hefele

✓ **January:** Deacon Julienne Prosch Altar Guild Karen Lichtsinn / Anne Lichtsinn

Ushers Mike Weets / Roger Rudebusch / LaDon Prosch / Mike Czech



## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

December 2021 / January 2022

*But the angel said to them (the shepherds), "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11, NRSV)*

On December 25th, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Much has been said and written about the commercialization of Christmas for over a century as well as to the actual date of Jesus' birth and that it probably was not on December 25 and how Christianity had linked Jesus' birth, the coming of the light into the world with pagan celebrations of the winter solstice marking the shortest day of the year. However, I am not going to focus on these aspects in this article.

What I would like to spend some time looking at are the above verses from Luke's birth narrative of Jesus. The most obvious thing that stands out is the announcement of the birth of Jesus to people of low status within Jewish society. Shepherds were a despised class of workers in the Middle East at that time. So, combined with Matthew's birth narrative that magi came from the east to see Jesus, we see that all segments of society are included in this special birth. To the Jewish people, the announcement of the arrival of a Savior, or Deliverer meant that God was keeping God's covenant with them and giving them a Messiah. However, the expectations of this Messiah do not match up with Jesus. However, the Biblical prophecies about the Messiah do match Jesus in over 50 instances.

While this obvious part of the angel's announcement to the shepherds is important, I would also like look at is the phrase "for all the people." Some have interpreted this to mean that Jesus came for the Jewish people and then go on to further say that since they had rejected Jesus, then they lost the covenant with God and thus lost the title of God's Chosen People. Those who believed that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, that is the Christians, then inherited this title because they believe. That has led to a history of abuse against the Jewish people ever since. But one thing that is forgotten is that if God is ever faithful to the covenants, then God would not take this designation away from them. If God revoked the Chosen People title from the Jewish people, then for starters, that would mean that God made a mistake in choosing the Israelites in the first place which opens a whole different discussion that is beyond the scope of this article. But, in announcing that Jesus came for **all the people** means that no one is excluded from all the promises that are fulfilled through Jesus. Being a believer in Jesus is not an exclusive club, where membership is only for the elite, the powerful, those who pass a certain test of 'worthiness' determined by those already in the club. Being a believer in Jesus is open to all who believe that Jesus came for the forgiveness of our sins and thus we become heirs to the promises of eternal life.

On Christmas Day, we celebrate that God sent His only Son to us, marking a new and different way for God to relate to God's creation of humanity. The time before Christmas, Advent, is a time of preparation for this new relation to God through Jesus. It is a time to prepare not only for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, but also to prepare our hearts and lives for the promised second coming of Jesus, whenever that may be. As we prepare, may we learn to live as Jesus, accepting all people who come to Him, regardless of what they look like on the outside, but what they believe in their heart.

May you have a joyous Christmas and may you feel the love of God through the birth of Jesus in the manger of your heart.

May God bless,

**Pastor Dave**



## FROM PENNY'S KITCHEN

### **Hungarian Goulash**

#### **Ingredients:**

2 lbs. beef chuck or round, cut into 1-inch cubes  
1 small clove garlic, minced  
3/4 cup ketchup  
2 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1 tbsp. brown sugar  
2 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. paprika or smoked paprika  
1/2 tsp. dry mustard  
Dash cayenne pepper or red pepper flakes  
1 1/2 cups water  
2 tbsp. flour  
1/4 cup water

#### **Directions:**

In a large skillet add beef, onion and garlic; cook until meat is brown and tender.  
Stir in ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, brown sugar, salt, paprika, mustard, cayenne and water.  
Cover and simmer for 2 to 2 1/2 hours.  
Blend flour and 1/4 cup water, stir gradually into meat mixture.  
Heat to boiling, stirring constantly for one minute.  
Serve over cooked wide egg noodles.

### **Pumpkin Bars**

#### **Ingredients**

1 spice cake mix  
1 can pumpkin (15 oz)  
Cool whip or powder sugar

#### **Directions**

Mix both ingredients together with an electric mixer just until combined. Spread as evenly as possible into a greased 9×13 baking dish. Batter is very thick. Bake at 350 for 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Allow to cool. If desired, sprinkle with a dusting of powdered sugar or a dollop of cool whip. Cut into bars and Enjoy!



**Cookie Walk** - The Church Council is sponsoring a Christmas Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> following worship. We welcome donated cookies from church members, which can be delivered to church early that morning or left in the church entryway. During this event, members can purchase a variety of delicious Christmas goodies. The proceeds will support the local Food Shelf and Weekend Winners program in Lincoln County.

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The GLCW wants to thank everyone who donated to the Weekend Winners backpack food program during the GLCW November offering collection.

**2021 Successful Fundraiser** - Thank you to all who responded to the annual GLCW fundraiser campaign. Your generous donations are truly appreciated and enable the GLCW to support many charities and organizations. Thank you for sharing what God has given us.

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## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Gracious Father, we pray for all those who are facing illness, surgery, a troubled spirit, making health care decisions or are hurting in any way.

Assure them of your presence at this time; look upon them with compassion, giving them peace and granting them the comfort and healing that only you can give.

Pray for those who have no one else to pray for them. May they know of Your love through our actions toward them. Amen

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**Join us for weekly Bible study** every Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome!



# SPECIAL EVENTS AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Youth serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls, in October 2021. Youth members from Grace Lutheran in Lake Benton and First English in Pipestone attended the event.



THE BANQUET

## Quilting Ladies at Grace Lutheran Church





**Baptism of Elena Deutz on November 21, 2021 at Grace Lutheran Church  
Sponsors, Ben and Miranda Deutz, Pastor Danner, Parents, Andy ad Betze Deutz**



**Grace Lutheran Sunday School - Students and teachers**



## 2021 Church Council Members

Deacons:	Barry Berkenpas – (Council President) Julienne Prosch Susan Johnson - (Council Secretary) Tonia Czech
Trustees:	Mike Weets – (Council Vice President) Mike Czech
Board of Education:	Susan Hauptert
Treasurer:	Karen Lichtsinn

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**Thank  
You!**

Thank You for being an important part of our church at Grace Lutheran. We appreciate that you took the time to read our newsletter. Please share your feedback with Barry Berkenpas, Jolene Trageser or any Council member. Let us know of additional items you wish to see or share in future editions.

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### **Please notify the Pastor or Council President when:**

- ✝ There is a birth or adoption of a child or grandchild
  - ✝ There is a death in your family
  - ✝ There is a hospitalization in your family
  - ✝ Someone becomes home bound
  - ✝ Someone becomes unemployed
  - ✝ You move or get a new phone number
  - ✝ A child moves out of the house or attends college
  - ✝ Whenever there is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy
- ✓ **Pastor Dave Danner - cell (507) 380-6926 (anytime day or night)**  
**Email: [dadanner@aol.com](mailto:dadanner@aol.com) Office Hours – Wed. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
  - ✓ **Barry Berkenpas - Church Council President - cell (507) 829-6308**  
**Email: [barryberkenpas@gmail.com](mailto:barryberkenpas@gmail.com)**
  - ✓ **Jolene Trageser - Grace Church Secretary Email: [glc@itctel.com](mailto:glc@itctel.com)**  
**Leave messages at church (507) 368-4243 or if urgent, call the Pastor directly.**
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*Grace Lutheran Church – the Body of Christ wants to bring you  
Christ's love in all the seasons of your life.*

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