



GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN

Worship With Us

February: Sunday Worship – February 6, 13, 20, 27 at Grace

Worship at 9 a.m. - Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays
Confirmation and Sunday School at 10 am.
Fellowship following worship.

Bible Study - Wed, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 - 9:30 a.m. at the church

GLCW meeting - Wed, Feb. 2 - 1:30 at the church

Church Council - Wed, Feb. 2 - 7 p.m. via Zoom or in person



Annual Meeting - Sunday, Feb. 13 following worship

March: Sunday Worship – March 6, 13, 20, 27 at Grace

Worship at 9 a.m. - Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays
Confirmation and Sunday School at 10 am.
Fellowship following worship.



Ash Wednesday - March 2 – worship at 7 pm

Weekly Lenten Services – Wed. March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6

Lenten Meal 6 pm (before worship)

Lenten Worship Service 7 pm

Bible Study - Wed, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 9:30 a.m. at the church

GLCW meeting – March 2 – 1:30 at the church

Church Council - Wed. March 9 – 7:30 p.m. following Lenten service

Daylight Saving Time change – Sun. March 13



Easter Sunday - April 17 - worship at 9 am

***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 3rd Sunday of the month is designated for Noisy Offering and Food Shelf donations.

Noisy Offering for January - March 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:

- **February – Canned meats (Spam, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, tuna, canned chicken)**
- **March – Paper Products (paper products, tissues, toilet paper, dinner napkins)**



Worship Assistants

✓ **February:** Deacon Susan Johnson Altar Guild Coralee Rochel

Ushers Barry Berkenpas / Darren Nelsen / Wayne Fehrman / Lowell Nelsen

✓ **March:** Deacon Barry Berkenpas Altar Guild Susan Johnson / Karen Lichtsinn

Ushers Gary Hefele / Milo Downs / Mitch Long / Gerry Rochel



Prayers for Pastor Dave Danner - Pastor Dave took a fall in December and reinjured his back. He will be undergoing surgery, which is scheduled for Feb 22, if not sooner. Please keep him your prayers as he recovers. Cards can be sent to Dave Danner, 480 Fir Ave. Westbrook, MN 56183.



THE PASTOR'S PAGE

February / March 2022

"And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to him!"

Luke 9:35 (CJB)

These words of God from the story of the Transfiguration mark the end of the Epiphany season. Three days after we hear these words, we will begin our annual Lenten journey. But before we commence that journey, it would do us well to dwell on these words from God and contemplate their meaning for us. If you will recall, the Transfiguration is the manifestation of Jesus' glory to His apostles, Peter, James and John.

The season of Epiphany is bookended with the Baptism of Jesus and the Transfiguration. The words that God uses here at the Transfiguration were the same as at Jesus' baptism with the added admonition to the apostles to "listen to him." It is interesting to note that at the beginning, when God created, God spoke and the 'universe' listened to God and came into being. It is here, where God tells the apostles to 'listen' to the Word of God, Jesus, where the new creation begins to come into being. For it is after this, that Jesus begins His journey to Jerusalem to fulfill His mission from God. I am not saying that the 'new creation' began at the Transfiguration, but it started to become more in focus at this point. It could be argued that the actual start of this new creation began at Jesus' birth or even at Jesus' baptism where God used the same words to 'introduce' Jesus to the world.

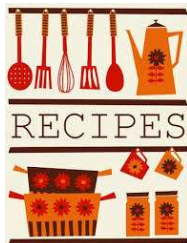
So, what does it mean to "Listen to Him.?" We not only listen with our ears, but also with our other senses. We can hear the words with which Jesus teaches, admonishes, encourages, pushes, and reveals to us about God. We can also 'hear' the way that Jesus acts and what He does and match those actions with what we know about God and attribute to God alone and accept that Jesus does those same things. We can 'hear' Jesus as He interacts with others through love and compassion, seeing those who He meets as a child of God and doing what He can to help them in their struggles without seeing what is in it for Himself. We can 'hear' Jesus as He fulfills the Messianic prophecies from the Old Testament. Throughout the season of Epiphany, we have listened to readings that reveals God to us through Jesus. We see that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scriptures and can do those things that only God can do. We have also listened to some of the resistance towards Jesus, the questioning of His ability to do those things that He has done. These readings have presented the same thing with which we face ourselves, that is, how do we know that Jesus is for real, that He is the One who should be followed? This question can also take us to the question of whether God exists or not. What it comes down to is what do we believe in, what do we trust to be true?

Believing in God and Jesus ultimately comes down to a matter of faith, of trust. While we cannot really 'prove' that God is and that Jesus is God's Son who came to redeem the world, we can point to history and see those times when God has intersected with our lives in a more direct way than at other times.

Using this faith, this trust as the starting point and seeing the season of Epiphany as the revealing of God through Jesus; we can prepare ourselves for the next season of the church year, the season of Lent. Beginning on March 2 with Ash Wednesday, we will begin this annual journey to Christ's cross and the empty grave. But first, we need to have a basis from which we can accept Jesus' bold, redeeming act for us.

There is a saying, "Ah, the tales that could be told if only these walls could talk." This Lent, we will hear some of those stories that could be told if inanimate objects could talk. We will hear what some of the items that are a part of the Passion of Jesus would say if they could talk. Please join us on the Wednesdays in Lent to hear these tales and the impact that encountering Jesus had on these objects.

May God bless, Pastor Dave



FROM PENNY'S KITCHEN

Bacon Cheddar Muffins

2 cups Bisquick
2/3 cup milk
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 egg
1 cup (4 ounces) finely shredded sharp cheddar cheese
8 bacon strips, cooked and crumbles

In a bowl, combine the biscuit mix, milk, oil and egg just until moistened. Fold in cheese and bacon. Fill greased muffin cups (or use paper muffin cups in muffin pan) three-fourths (3/4) full.

Bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pan to wire rack. Refrigerate leftovers. Yields about a dozen muffins.

Banana Bread

Cream: 3/4 cup butter or margarine
Add: 1 1/2 cup white sugar gradually
Blend in: 1 1/2 cup mashed ripe bananas (4-6 bananas)
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
Sift: 2 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt

Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with 1/2 cup buttermilk or 1/2 cup *sour milk blending just until well combined. Fold in 1/2 cup chopped walnuts if desired. Pour into greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.

*To sour sweet milk, add 2 tsp of vinegar.

In memory of my sister Rae Leach



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



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



**Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday Dec 19, 2021**



**Halle Deutz, Narrator
Confirmation Student**



**Sunday School & Confirmation
Students Dec 19, 2021**



Cookies & Carols Worship on Sunday Dec 26



Worship held in the Fellowship Hall Dec 26

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

**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.

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 Office Hours – Wed. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - ✓ **Barry Berkenpas - Church Council President - cell (507) 829-6308**
Email: barryberkenpas@gmail.com
 - ✓ **Jolene Trageser - Grace Church Secretary Email: 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.*

Grace Lutheran Church
101 Sherman Street South
Lake Benton, MN 56149
Office Phone: 507-368-4243
Office E-mail: glc@itctel.com