



# GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

APRIL - MAY 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



## **April: Sunday Worship – April 3, 10, 17, 24 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. **(thru April 24)**

Fellowship following worship.



## **Weekly Lenten Services – Wed. April 6**

Lenten Meal 6 pm (before worship)

Lenten Worship Service 7 pm



**Palm Sunday - April 10 – worship 9 am – Brunch to follow**

**Maundy Thursday – April 14 – worship at 7 pm (no meal/fellowship)**

**Good Friday – April 15 – worship at 7 pm (no meal/fellowship)**



**Easter Sunday - April 17 - worship at 9 am**

No Fellowship, Confirmation or Sunday School.

**Bible Study - Wed, April 20 and 27 - 9:30 a.m. at the church**

**GLCW meeting - Wed, April 6 - 1:30 p.m. at the church**

**Church Council - Wed, April 20 - 7 p.m. via Zoom or in person**

## **May: Sunday Worship – May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at Grace**

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

Fellowship following worship.

**Bible Study - Wed, May 4, 11, 18, 25 - 9:30 a.m. at the church**

**GLCW meeting – Wed. May 4 – 1:30 p.m. at the church**

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

**Rite of Confirmation for Barrett Berkenpas, May 22 at 9 am worship**

**June-August – Worship 10 am - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays @ Grace, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @ Diamond Lake**

***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.



**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.



**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 April - June will be directed to The Banquet.

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:

- April – Canned fruit or dried fruit (raisins, prunes, dates, figs)
- May – Cleaning products (dishwashing liquid, ammonia, toilet bowl cleaner, glass cleaner, dusting spray)



### Worship Assistants

- ✓ **April:** Deacon Tonia Czech Altar Guild Anne Lichtsinn / Karen Lichtsinn  
Ushers Mike Czech / Roger Rudebusch / Emma Czech / Lowell Nelsen
- ✓ **May:** Deacon Julienne Prosch Altar Guild Tonia Czech / Emma Czech  
Ushers Jerid Johnson / Jeff Johnson / Austin Johnson / Landon Johnson



**HELP THE GRACE QUILTING LADIES** - The Grace Quilting Ladies are in need of clean flat sheets, white or colored, to use for quilt backs. They would also appreciate other donated fabrics for quilt squares. Any help is appreciated. Thanks for your support!

## ***The Pastor's Page***

**April / May 2022**



*“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us, we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:20 NRSV).*

This verse is from the second reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent (March 27). In this passage, Paul is reminding the Corinthians what God has done for us through Jesus. That is, we have been reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus – nothing that we did, but only by what God has done. This for Paul is the new creation: being reconciled to God, by God, so that we may live in a right relationship with God. In being reconciled, Paul says that we are ambassadors for Christ to the world.

In many ways, we are urged to see ‘Christ in the other person’ and in this seeing Christ, our actions towards the other person become what would we do to Jesus, Himself? But I think the flip side of the way of thinking is also important. Before we even approach another person and determine how we should act towards them by seeing Christ in them, we should remind ourselves that we are ambassadors for Christ. We do not act on our own, looking out for our own best interests, but our actions should be reflective of what Jesus would say or do if He were here in our place. We should ask ourselves, “Is what I am going to do or say what God really wants me to do?” As an ambassador, we are a representative of Christ. By what we do and say, are people getting the right impression of the risen Christ?

As we go through the Easter season, the readings for each week show us how people had reacted to the news of Jesus being alive. To get an even better look at those reactions, we can also go back to the pre-Easter Gospel stories and see how Jesus reacted to others and how they reacted to Jesus. By going back to the stories, we can see the ‘true’ Jesus, a Jesus that had not been clouded over by 2,000 years of church doctrine; of 2,000 years of the real message of Jesus being coopted by others for their own benefit; of 2,000 years of ‘sharing’ the Good News through wars and forced conversions and making indigenous groups give up their identity so that they are more ‘like us.’ When we get back to the Jesus of the Gospels, we see a Jesus who is not concerned if we do everything the ‘right’ way or profess belief in the ‘right’ doctrine or get so focused on following the rules that we fail to see the other person. Instead, we see a Jesus who desires that the relationship with God is restored and that people live in the light of that reconciled, restored relationship; knowing that He is the only one who can bring about that reconciliation by defeating the devil and death by His own death and resurrection. We also see a Jesus who, through compassion, is moved to help others without any qualifying requirements on the person’s part.

May we learn to be true ambassadors for Christ, bringing the gift of reconciliation to others, especially those who are in the most need of such grace.

May God bless,

***Pastor Dave***



## FROM PENNY'S KITCHEN

### **Baptism Rice Dish**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

#### **Ingredients**

Chicken (2 cups cut up in bite size pieces, rotisserie is best)  
2 cups white rice or wild rice – cooked, your choice  
1 cup cream of mushroom soup or cream of chicken soup, your choice  
1 tbsp. minced onion  
3/4 cup mayonnaise  
1 can of drained water chestnuts  
Mix together and put in a foil lined and sprayed 9x13 pan.

#### Topping

1 sleeve of Ritz crackers crushed  
1 stick of butter (melted)  
Slivered almonds  
Mix crushed crackers and melted butter together and sprinkle on the top of the dish. Sprinkle sliced almonds of the top of the crackers. Bake at 350 for 20 to 30 min until hot.

### **Slow Cooker Calico Beans Recipe II**

#### **Ingredients**

1 – 1 1/2 pound ground beef	1/2 pound bacon diced
1 medium onion chopped	1 (16 ounce) can pork and beans drained
1 (15 ounce) can kidney beans drained and rinsed	1 (15 ounce) can butter beans drained and rinsed
1 can Great Northern beans drained and rinsed	1/2 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup ketchup	1 tbsp. dried mustard
2 teaspoons white vinegar	

#### **To make Calico Beans in a slow cooker:**

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, cook ground beef and bacon; drain well and transfer to the slow cooker. Add onion, all beans, brown sugar, ketchup, vinegar, and mustard. Mix well, cover, and cook on HIGH for 4 hours or LOW for 8 hours. Season to taste with salt (I like 1 teaspoon).

#### **To make Calico Beans in the oven:**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, cook ground beef and bacon; drain well and transfer to a 2-quart casserole dish. Add onion, all beans, brown sugar, ketchup, vinegar, and mustard. Mix well, cover, and bake until heated through, about 45 minutes to 1 hour. Season to taste with salt (I like 1 teaspoon).

#### **To make Calico Beans on the stove:**

In a large Dutch oven or stock pot over medium-high heat, cook ground beef and bacon; drain well. Add onion, all beans, brown sugar, ketchup, vinegar, and mustard. Bring to a simmer and cook until heated through, stirring occasionally, about 20 minutes. Season to taste with salt (I like 1 teaspoon).

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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! NO Bible study April 6 or 13. Bible Study will continue throughout the summer as well!

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GLCW is making ***Personal Care Kits*** for Lutheran World Relief,

helping those in need. Please consider donating items for the kits or give a monetary donation to the GLCW to purchase items. The program will continue thru early May. Items include: Lightweight bath towel, 2 bath size bars of soap, adult size toothbrush in the package, nail clipper and sturdy comb. Details available near the example display in the narthex. Thank you for your support!

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## **BAPTISM AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH 20, 2022**



Baptism of Camden John, son of Amber & Devin Gorter. Sponsors are April Haupert, Dustin Kounkel and Shannon Paulson. His grandparents Are Susan and Gary Haupert & great-grandmother, Garnet Petersen.



Pastor Dave Danner, Camden with his mother Amber, his big brother Hayes and his father Devin.

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## 2022 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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