



GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

JUNE - JULY 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN

Worship With Us

Summer Worship Schedule

June: Sunday Worship - June 5, 12 at Grace; June 19, 26 at Diamond Lake

Worship at 9:30 a.m. - Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays

Fellowship following worship.

Bible Study - each Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. at the church

Devotions at Diamond Lake - 7 p.m. at Diamond Lake for the entire family

GLCW meeting - Wed. June 1 - 1:30 p.m. at church - guest speaker

Church Council - Sun. June 12 - 10:30 am following worship at Grace

July: Sunday Worship - July 3, 10, at Grace; July 17, 24, 31 at Diamond Lake

Worship at 9:30 a.m. - Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays

Fellowship following worship.

Bible Study - each Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. at the church

Devotions at Diamond Lake - 7 p.m. at Diamond Lake for the entire family

GLCW meeting - Wed. July 6 - 11:30 a.m. - potluck at church

Church Council - Sun. July 10 - 10:30 am following worship at Grace

Devotions @

Diamond Lake

Wednesdays 7 to 8 pm

(June & July)

NEW - Devotions @ Diamond Lake - Join us every Wednesday during June and July for our new mid-week family worship at Diamond Lake. Devotions begin at 7 p.m. with a light snack, followed by games, crafts, singing and s'mores by the campfire at 8 p.m. Bring your entire family and join us for an evening of faith, fellowship and fun.

Pastor
OFFICE HOURS
come on in!

Pastor Danner is in his office on Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm, but you can contact Pastor Dave anytime for an emergency or spiritual assistance. Call 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, including our newsletter, photos, programs and events. Please submit any content or suggestions to Tonia Czech.



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

Noisy Offering for April - June will be directed to The Banquet.

July – September will be for Weekend Winners.

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:

- **June – Juices (bottled fruit and vegetable juices)**
- **July– Personal Care Items (bar soap, liquid hand soap, tooth paste, dental floss, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, deodorant, antiperspirant)**

Worship Assistants



✓ **June: Deacon** Julienne Prosch **Altar Guild** Tanya Berkenpas / Breelee Berkenpas

Ushers Barry Berkenpas / Gerry Rochel / LaDon Prosch / Barrett Berkenpas

✓ **July: Deacon** Barry Berkenpas **Altar Guild** Julienne Prosch / Shayna Demuth

Ushers Roger Rudebusch / Royal Lynn / Milo Downs / Wayne Fehrman

If you cannot fulfill your duties as a worship assistant, please contact Jolene Trageser, the Grace Church secretary, so we can find a substitute. We appreciate your assistance with our worship services.

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



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

The Pastor's Page

June / July 2022



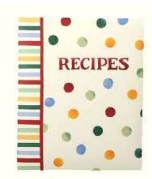
Pentecost is considered the “birth of the Christian church” and we commemorate that day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles who were gathered in the upper room 50 days after Easter. The church notes that it was after this event that the followers of Jesus became active in fulfilling their mission to spread the Good News of Jesus to all the world. Since the days that Jesus walked this earth, the followers of Jesus were considered to be a fringe element of the Jewish religion to being a sect of Judaism. After the destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 A.D. by the Romans, Christianity (known as The Way at that time) became an independent religion on the fringes of society. After Charlemagne accepted Christianity, it became the ‘official’ religion of the Roman Empire and grew in its power and influence in society. Since the 1960’s or so, the influence in society of the Christian church has noticeably waned. Since then, the idea of belonging to a church (and making sure that it was the ‘right’ church) had become less important to individuals looking to advance in society. Many have noted that the fastest growing segment of the American population is the ‘Nones’ who claim to be spiritual, but not religious.

Since the end of the 20th Century, the church has been experiencing these changes and the recent pandemic has magnified the results of those changes. For years, the number of people who have been called to the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament has been decreasing. It has reached the point that here in the Southwest Minnesota Synod, about 20% of the churches are without a called pastor. This means that 1 in 5 churches are without a called pastor to perform those duties that a pastor does. This trend, along with the decreasing membership in the ELCA has led many observers to predict the ‘death’ of the ELCA in a generation or so.

This prediction of the demise of the ELCA has reminded me of Acts 5:33-39 where the Jewish Council was considering what to do with the followers of Jesus who did not obey their order to stop preaching about Jesus. The Pharisee Gamaliel said that if the movement was man-made, then it would die out on its own, but if God directed them to do it, then they would not be able to stop it. From this, I firmly believe that if God wants the ELCA (or any other Christian denomination) to continue, then no amount of predicting of the end will make it so. I also think that the voice of the ELCA has something important to say to the world and to contribute to the understanding of what it means to be Christian.

That said, the way of ‘doing’ and ‘being’ church is changing and will continue to change. The way the church related to society when it was the center of society are no longer valid for a church that now finds itself at the fringe of society. What the church will become and how it will find ways to be relevant to people while proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus will take listening to God through prayer and reflection; thinking of new ways of presenting the Gospel of Jesus to those who need to hear it while still telling the story to those who know it. The worship experience may take new forms and may look quite different from what it does today. We need to find a way to relate to the ‘spiritual, but not religious’ people to show them that the Gospel of Jesus was not always reflected by the historical church; that the Gospel of Jesus had been co-opted by the ruling powers to benefit themselves and to keep and increase the power that they had. The church must continue to admit its complicity and its role in the ‘isms’ of society in order to maintain its power and societal status and return to the Gospel of Jesus where those who are at the fringes of society are noticed and cared for. We must be that prophetic voice that calls out injustices and seek ways to rectify and eliminate those injustices at all levels of society.

May God bless,
Pastor Dave



Angel Food project recipes

(The Grace Angel Food Project volunteers cook meals for the homebound and others in our church family who need our love and attention.)

Old fashioned Goulash (American Chop Suey)

Ingredients:

2 lbs. ground beef or turkey	1/2 tbsp. black pepper
1 tbsp. Italian seasoning	1/3 cup olive oil
3 tsp. minced garlic	2 cups elbow macaroni (uncooked)
1 tbsp. Adobo Seasoning	2 (15-ounce) cans tomato sauce
1 large yellow onion (diced)	1 cup shredded Mozzarella Cheese
3 bay leaves	2 (15-ounce) cans diced tomatoes
2 1/2 cups water	1/2 cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese
1 tbsp. seasoning salt	
1/2 cup beef broth	

Instructions: In a large pan, sauté the ground meat over medium-high heat until partially cooked (no pink), remove from heat. Add garlic, onions, olive oil & continue cooking until meat is fully cooked. Add water and broth, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes (can substitute 2 quarts of home canned tomatoes in place of sauce and diced tomatoes), Italian seasoning, bay leaves, and seasoning salt, pepper and adobo seasoning. Mix well. Cover, lower heat and cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add uncooked elbow macaroni and stir until combined. Cover and simmer for about 30 minutes. Once cooked, remove the bay leaves and add the cheddar cheese. Mix until combined. Add mozzarella just before serving.

Paula Deen's Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole

Ingredients

1 - 10 3/4 oz. can condensed cream of celery soup	2 tablespoons or vegetable oil butter
1 - 4 oz. jar pimentos, do not drain	1 cup mayonnaise
1 - 8 oz. can drained and chopped water chestnuts	1 - 6 oz. box long grain wild rice - cook according to pkg directions
2 - 14 1/2 oz. cans drained and rinsed green beans	1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
3 cups diced cooked chicken	1 pinch salt
1 medium peeled and diced onion	

Instructions: Preheat the oven to 350°F. Heat butter or oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Add onion and sauté until translucent, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer to a large bowl. Add all remaining ingredients to a bowl and mix together until thoroughly combined. Pour into a greased 3-quart casserole dish. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until bubbly. Let stand for a few minutes before serving.

Egg bake

Ingredients:

2 cups frozen shredded or cubed potatoes
2 cups cheese (cheddar cheese and/or mozzarella)
1 pound cooked breakfast seasoned ground pork or ham
1 teaspoon pepper
1 medium onion, diced (optional)
½ cup green and red pepper, diced (optional)
16 eggs, or enough to equal 3.5-4 cups
2 cups whole milk

Instructions: Spread frozen potatoes in a greased 9 x 13 pan. Spread the shredded cheese then the meat evenly over potatoes. Add pepper to taste. Add onions and peppers if using. Crack eggs into a large mixing bowl and beat with a hand mixer for 1 minute. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add whole milk and beat with a mixer just until blended. Pour over potato, cheese and meat in the pan. Cover tightly with foil and refrigerate overnight. Place the pan in the oven and turn to 350. Bake for 75 minutes with the foil on. Remove foil and bake until the center of the egg bake is set, up to 20 minutes.



Grace Lutheran Church Women (GLCW) - The GLCW ladies made 26 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief, helping those in need. Thank you to all who donated toward the project. Susan Johnson delivered the kits at the recent WELCA convention in May. The June 1st meeting will be at 1:30 pm at the church, featuring a guest speaker from Hope Haven. The July 6th meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. including a potluck lunch at the church. All ladies are welcome to join the monthly meetings.



The Grace Quilting Group keeps very busy. The group presented quilts to our three 2022 High School graduates, and the group is also making baby quilts for baptisms. The ladies could use both white and colored sheets, thread, pins and yarn. Please bring any donations to the church fellowship hall. The ladies meet most Mondays from 1 to 4 pm at the church. Call Donna Lynn for details 507-368-4879. Thank you for your support!

Special Events at Grace Lutheran

New Members - May 8, 2022



Pastor Danner, Jodi & Randy Lichtsinn
(not shown, Carter Lichtsinn)

Baccalaureate for Graduates - May 15, 2022



Austin Johnson, Pastor Danner, Brayden Weets
and Brock Hefti

Confirmation - May 22, 2022



Pastor Danner, Barrett Berkenpas

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

**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 (507) 368-4243 Email: glc@itctel.com
Leave messages at church 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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