



# GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



### Worship Schedule

#### August:

**Sunday Worship – August 7, 14 at Grace; August 21, 28 at Diamond Lake**

**Worship at 9:30 a.m.** - Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Fellowship following worship.

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

**GLCW meeting – Wed. Aug 3** - 1:30 p.m. at church

**Church Council – Sat. Aug 20** - 3:00 p.m. in Westbrook (at Danner's)



**Annual Church Potluck Picnic** - **Sunday August 28** at Diamond Lake following worship. Please bring a dish to share. Everyone is welcome! Come and enjoy a day of worship, fun and fellowship.

#### September:

**Sunday Worship – September 4, 11, 18, 25 at Grace**

**Worship at 9:00 a.m.** - Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Fellowship following worship.

**Sunday School & Confirmation - starting Sept 11** following worship

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

**GLCW meeting – Wed. Sept 7** – 1:30 p.m. at church -

**Church Council – Wed. Sept 14** – 6:30 p.m. at Grace



**Rally Day** - **Sunday Sept 11** - Sunday School and Confirmation start at Grace on Sunday Sept 11, following worship. If you have any questions please contact Suzy Hauptert for Sunday School and Pastor Dave for Confirmation.



Pastor Danner is in his office on Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm, but please contact Pastor Dave anytime for an emergency or spiritual assistance. Call 507-380-6926.



**Online worship services available.** 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month is designated for Noisy Offering and Food Shelf donations.

Noisy Offering for July – September will be directed to Weekend Winners.

October - December will be directed to the Food Shelf.

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:

- **August – Condiments (peanut butter, jelly, pickles, ketchup, mustard, bottled salad dressing).**
- **September – Soups and saltine crackers**

## Worship Assistants



- ✓ **August:** Deacon Tonia Czech Altar Guild Suzy Hauptert / Jodi Lichtsinn  
Ushers Jim Berkenpas / Barry Berkenpas / Dale Petersen / Darren Nelsen
- ✓ **September:** Deacon Susan Johnson Altar Guild Coralee Rochel  
Ushers Bob Trigg / Mike Weets / Mike Czech / LaDon Prosch

*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** on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome!



## **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***

**August / September 2022**



Ever since Charlemagne put a cross on his shield before a battle and invoked the name of Jesus asking for victory in that battle, Christianity has been co-opted by the society at-large and molded to serve that society's goals and purposes. Ever since Christianity had become 'accepted' by society and has been a part of society, assisting in directing how that society is to act, the fundamental beliefs of Christianity have been twisted, shaped and even changed so that the goals of that society could be met and justified by religion (This has probably happened to all religions, but we are only considering Christianity here). The Spanish Inquisition, the conquest of the New World and of Africa and the Third Reich are just a few examples where Christianity has been twisted to serve the aims of a few people in power who were seeking more power and/or wealth. We have seen recently that even our American democratic society is not immune to the twisting of Christian beliefs to serve the powers-that-be.

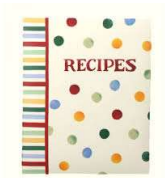
This latest iteration of co-opting Christianity by society has been called Christian Nationalism. Despite what else is said about it, it boils down to the belief that America is only for whites. Any other citizen is not a 'full' American and does not deserve the same rights as 'real' Americans enjoy, regardless of how long their ancestors lived in this country. Even the belief that America democracy was founded upon Christian beliefs has been put forth despite the fact that the founding fathers were generally more deists who believed in a God rather than Christians. While it could be pointed out that the legal system is based on the Ten Commandments, it should be noted that first, the Ten Commandments were given to the Jewish people; and that most legal systems and religious belief systems have some form of the Ten Commandments in their beliefs.

When we look at the Gospel accounts, as well as the whole of the Biblical story, we see that central to the message of the Gospel is that nobody is excluded from the saving grace of God through Jesus. This means that anyone whether they are (to use Paul's words from Colossians 3) Jew or Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian or Scythian, slave or free as long as they believe in Jesus, then they are saved. Basically, if anyone believes in Jesus that He died for our sins, then they are a 'real' Christian. (In the interest of full disclosure, I should state that another basic belief of Christianity is the belief in the Holy Trinity, which would be another whole discussion.)

Another image that the Christian Nationalists use is the warrior image of Jesus which is found primarily in the Book of Revelation to justify the use of force their beliefs on others. Even a cursory look at this book indicates that the imagery of Jesus riding a white horse with a two-edged blade coming out of His mouth is meant to be understood in a figurative sense and not understood literally. Additionally, nowhere in the Gospels does Jesus advocate the use of violence. Even at His trial before Pilate, Jesus said that He could call upon His army to come defend Him, but that He would not. So, to use the image of Jesus to try to justify the use of violence and force is a misuse of the Gospel; it is co-opting the Gospel message for carrying out one's own agenda.

So, whenever we hear anyone who wants to twist the Christian message to fit their own agenda, whether they are from a secular point of view or a religious point of view, we must critically examine what they are saying and how they are acting to see if it consistent with the basic Christian message that God desires to save everyone from sin through believing in the sacrifice of Jesus. If anyone wants to limit who this includes, if anyone seeks to exclude anyone for any reason (especially for a reason a person has no control over such as skin color place of birth) other than that person's choice to turn away from God. Even then, Jesus has some advice on how to deal with them, which is still not to exclude them. We always need to remember Peter's admonition to question what we are being told by the authorities, making sure that it is consistent with the Gospel message from Jesus.

May God Bless,  
Pastor Dave



## From the Kitchen



### Lopez Island Salad

#### Ingredients:

10 oz. bag of fresh baby spinach  
1 pint fresh sliced strawberries

#### Dressing:

½ C. sugar  
1 ½ tblsp minced onion  
¼ tsp paprika  
¼ C. vinegar  
1 tblsp poppyseeds  
2 tblsp sesame seeds  
½ C. olive oil

Directions: Wash & pat dry the spinach, quarter and tear into bite sized pieces. Toss with the sliced berries. Blend dressing and toss over spinach and berries. Serve cold.

### Baked Chicken Breasts and Rice

#### Ingredients:

1 ¼ C. uncooked white rice	1 can cream of celery soup
1 C. milk	5 whole boneless chicken breasts
1 C. dry cooking sherry or white wine	2 ounces of slivered almonds
¼ C. melted butter or margarine	1 - 8 ounce package of shredded swiss cheese
1 can cream of chicken soup	¼ C. grated parmesan cheese
1 small can of mushrooms	

Directions: Heat oven to 300 degrees. Spread rice evenly in the bottom of a greased 9X13 pan. In large bowl combine milk, sherry, margarine, mushrooms, cheddar cheese and soups; blend well. Pour about 1 cup of the soup mixture over the rice. Place the chicken breasts in the pan. Pour remaining soup mixture over the chicken breasts. Sprinkle with the parmesan cheese and the slivered almonds. Bake covered for 2 to 2 ½ hours or until the chicken is fork tender and the rice is completely cooked. Uncover for the last 15 mins to brown the cheese. Serves 8.

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**The Grace Lutheran Church Women** (GLCW) meet the first Wednesday of the month. In August, the group will meet on Wed, Aug 3 at 1:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Jody Hexum, with A.C.E. of SW Minnesota, will be the guest speaker. In September, the group will meet on Wed, Sept 7 at 1:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Pat Johnson will be leading the program. The group looks forward to the October meeting, which is the annual “Over 80’s Celebration”, which will be held at noon in the fellowship hall for all members over 80 (men and women). The event will include lunch and entertainment from Richard Siemers. More information to follow. All the ladies of Grace are invited to join the group for the monthly meeting.





**GLCW is sponsoring Stuff the Bus at Grace** - A clothes basket in the Narthex has a listing of all items that are needed. The items will be donated to the Lake Benton & Elkton Schools and to six (6) young women from Hope Haven in Marshall. The drive will continue thru August 15th. Items needed include: backpacks, colored pencils, crayons, eraser toppers, expo markers, folders, glue bottle, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, headphones, tissues, highlighters, index cards, notebooks, pencils & pens, pink erasers, rulers & scissors. Please purchase some of the items and place in the basket in the Narthex. *Thank you for your help!*

### ***Special Events at Grace Lutheran***

**Baptism of Petersen Triplets on July 31, 2022 at Diamond Lake – Charli, Cameron and Calvin with their parents Kirsten and Evan Petersen and their sponsors.**



**Devotions at Diamond Lake – Wednesdays in June & July, 2022 - for children young and old alike.**



**Smores**



**Games**



## 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 (507) 368-4243 Email: [glc@itctel.com](mailto: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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