



GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



Worship Schedule

October:

Sunday Worship – October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at Grace

Worship at 9:00 a.m. - Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays

Fellowship, Sunday School & Confirmation following worship

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

GLCW meeting – Wed. October 5 - “Over 80 Luncheon” at noon at church

Church Council – Wed. October 12 - 6:30 p.m. at church

Please note - No confirmation on Oct 23 for MEA weekend.



5th Sunday Brunch & Bingo – Sunday Oct 30 - The Council will be serving brunch following worship. Everyone is invited to stay and play Bingo.

November:

Sunday Worship – November 6, 13, 20, 27 at Grace

Worship at 9:00 a.m. - Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays

Fellowship, Sunday School & Confirmation following worship

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

GLCW meeting – Wed. November 2 - 1:30 p.m. at church

Church Council – Wed. November 9 - 6:30 p.m. at Grace



Thanksgiving Community Worship Service – (details to be determined)
Watch for details in the bulletins in early November.



ag640441.06@luph.com

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. 507-380-6926.



Simplify your Stewardship Giving – If you cannot attend worship each Sunday or just want to simplify your giving, Grace Lutheran Church accepts donations directly from checking and savings accounts. Five families currently use automated giving each month at Grace. Consider setting up an automatic EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) payment through your bank for your regular gifts to Grace. You can setup donations through online banking or contact Janel Stuefen at First Security Bank or your bank to arrange for automated donations. Save the envelope, the check and the stamp, and simplify your giving. Please contact Karen Lichtsinn if you wish to discuss 952-607-7002.



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.

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 October - December will be directed to Lake Benton 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:

- **October– Storage items (food storage bags, aluminum foil, plastic wrap).**
- **November – Canned vegetables and baked beans.**

Worship Assistants



- ✓ **October: Deacon** Julienne Prosch **Altar Guild** Tonia & Breelee Berkenpas
Ushers Milo Downs / Brent Bressler / Jerid Johnson / Jim Herschberger
- ✓ **November: Deacon** Barry Berkenpas **Altar Guild** Julienne Prosch / Shayna Demuth
Ushers Martin Ritter / Barry Berkenpas / Barrett Berkenpas / Milo Downs

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



Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse, is collecting shoeboxes of supplies for children in remote areas of the world, to help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The GLCW is collecting items to pack **12 Shoeboxes** by October 15th. The supply lists (by gender/age) and a drop box are in the Narthex to collect the items. Please note which gender/age group you are donating toward. Items to purchase are all non-perishable such as wrapped bar soap, toothbrush (sealed), washcloth, toys, pencils & such (no food/lotion/liquids/toothpaste etc.). Any questions, please contact Susan Johnson at 507-247-3996. We appreciate your support!

The Pastor's Page

October / November 2022



The fields have been changing for a few weeks now, turning from that green of summer to browns, signifying that harvest is soon near. We are settling back into our schedules of school, work and all the other activities that restart after Labor Day. The national 'religion' of football has resumed its normal schedule of games and pre- and post- game shows, analysis of the games played the previous week and previews of the games coming up. A pastor once commented that at their new congregation, they were told that they could preach as long as they wanted to, but be aware people would leave to get home in time for opening kickoff of the Vikings' game. What is disturbing now is there are many shows which revolve around the betting odds and how one can place a bet on the game. Not only are there odds on the final score in the game, but you could probably find odds on most any kind of statistic that the game records.

This got me to thinking, what if the church and its congregations ran a similar format as pro football? I'm not sure what it would look like, but maybe something like this; services that are recorded and streamed or broadcast later would have play-by-play announcers and color commentators, explaining what is going on in the service, maybe why the hymns were selected, what each part of the liturgy signified, or in the case of a non-liturgical congregation, why they chose the worship format that they did. There could be commentary on the sermon content, pausing the sermon to emphasize a point the pastor made or even neglected to make, how well the sermon fits with the core beliefs of the particular denomination. There could also be commentary on how well the congregation sings and knows the hymns, the participation of the congregation in the service and how much people put into the offering plates. The work of the ushers would be graded out and the color analyst would point out how they could improve their ushering skills. There would be interviews of those in attendance who would give their overall opinion of the service with particular emphasis on the delivery of the sermon, how well the readings were read. I'm sure there could be some sort of scoring system put in place to score the service and then compare it to other congregations of the same denomination and between denominations. There could be competitions set up between denominations where the best preachers and liturgists would go up against each other and 'win' for their denomination. While this is pure fantasy and would never become a reality, it does point out the difference between something that is temporary (football) versus something that is permanent (our salvation).

Why is it that people show more loyalty to something like a sports team that only looks to have you spend money on their product than they do for their church? Why do people who disagree with each other find unity around a sports team? In a society that is polarized to the degree that it is, it seems the only thing that unifies people is the local favorite sports teams. Granted between team fans there can be a bit of polarization, but they all are still fans of the game. Why is there so much polarization within our churches that it seems like the only way to solve our differences is to split? What happened to the belief that Jesus died for our sins and that it is through His death and resurrection that we are given the promise of eternal life with God as a child of God?

This being October, we need to be reminded of Martin Luther's hope that the church of his day returns to being focused on Jesus and the Gospel. We need to focus that our God is a God of love and because of this love, reconciliation of broken relationships. Unlike fans of a sports team, however, we are called to participate in that repairing of relationships and work towards the goal that God has. We need to learn how to talk with our neighbors about that which unites us and not what divides us. Perhaps in doing this, we overcome those forces that want to polarize us and we will see that we have more in common than we are led to believe.

May God bless, Pastor Dave



Recipes From Penny's Kitchen

Rosemary Baked Chicken with Potatoes

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon Paprika
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Whole Rosemary Leaves
- 1 teaspoon Sea Salt Grinder
- 1/2 teaspoon Coarse Ground Black Pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon Garlic Powder
- 6 bone-in chicken thighs, skin removed (about 2 pounds)
- 1 1/2 pounds small red potatoes, halved

Instructions

Preheat oven to 425°F. Mix oil, paprika, rosemary, sea salt, pepper and garlic powder in large bowl. Add chicken and potatoes; toss to coat well. Arrange chicken and potatoes in single layer on foil-lined 15x10x1-inch baking pan sprayed with no stick cooking spray. (For easier clean-up, try lining pan with foil.) Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and potatoes are tender, turning potatoes occasionally. Makes 6 Servings.

Brookies (Fudge Brownie with Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookie inside)

Ingredients

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 C. flour | 1/2 c. sugar |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 1/2 C. brown sugar |
| 1/2 tsp. baking powder | 1 egg |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 2/3 C. pumpkin puree |
| 1 tsp. cinnamon | 1 tsp. vanilla extract |
| 3/4 tsp. nutmeg | 1 C. chocolate chips |
| 1/2 C. butter, softened | 1 box brownie mix |

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 12-cup muffin tin with cooking spray. Prepare brownie batter according to box instructions. Set aside.
- Whisk together flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder cinnamon and nutmeg in a medium bowl until evenly combined. In a separate large bowl, combine butter and sugars. Beat until light and fluffy. Add egg, pumpkin and vanilla and mix until evenly combined. Gradually, add the dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Fold in chocolate chips.
- Divide brownie batter between the muffin cups. Each cup should be filled halfway to two-thirds of the way up. Scoop rounded tablespoons of cookie dough and roll them into balls. Place the cookie dough balls into the centers of a each brownie batter-filled cup. Bake for 15-20 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the brownie cup comes out with a few moist crumbs. (Use any extra cookie dough to bake pumpkin chocolate chip cookies!)
- Let cool in muffin tin for about 10 minutes, then transfer brookies to a cooling rack. Serve warm or at room temperature. Serves 12.



The Grace Lutheran Church Women (GLCW) meet the first Wednesday of the month at church. October 5th will kick off the fall seasons with the annual "Over 80" lunch for Grace members & guests from area churches, with a meeting at noon, including lunch & entertainment by Richard Siemers. The November 2 meeting is at 1:30 pm at the church.

Our quilters have been very busy this past year, & will be distributing over 60 quilts to various organizations in the area. The quilts were on display and blessed during our worship on Sept 11 (see photos below).

Special Events at Grace Lutheran



Sunday School Teacher Installation Sept 18, 2022
Susie Hauptert, Betze Deutz, Jodi Lichtsinn



Blessing of the GLCW Quilts - Sunday Sept 11, 2022



Grace Lutheran Sunday School and Confirmation Classes Sept 2022



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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