



GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



Worship Schedule

February: Sunday Worship – February 5, 12, 19, 26 at Grace

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

Fellowship, Sunday School & Confirmation following worship

NOTE - No confirmation on February 12.

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

GLCW meeting – Wednesday, February 1 - 1:30 pm at church

Church Council – Wednesday, February 8 - 6:30 p.m. at church



Valentine's Day - Tuesday, February 14



SAVE THE DATE - Sledding Event – Sun Feb 26 - noon at Hole in the Mtn. Chalet



Ash Wednesday - Wed, Feb 22 – worship at 7 pm with communion



Lenten Services – March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Wed. worship 7 pm, supper 6 pm

March:

Sunday Worship – March 5, 12, 19, 26 at Grace

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

Fellowship, Sunday School & Confirmation following worship

NOTE - No confirmation on March 12.

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

GLCW meeting – Wednesday, March 1, World Day of Prayer.

Church Council – Wednesday, March 8 - 6:30 p.m. at Grace

Holy Week April 2 – April 9

Palm Sunday April 2, Maundy Thursday April 6, Good Friday April 7, Easter Sunday April 9



Palm Sunday – Maundy Thursday – Good Friday – Easter Sunday



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.



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

[Website](#)

<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 February and March will be directed to Shetek Ministries.

Food Shelf donations can be monetary or items placed in the drop box in the Fellowship Hall.

All items are appreciated, but here are some suggested donations for the Food Shelf:

February – Canned Meats (Spam, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, tuna, canned chicken).

March- Paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, dinner napkins)



Worship Assistants

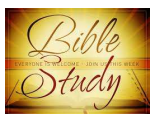
February: Deacon Julienne Prosch **Altar Guild** Coralee Rochel

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

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

Ushers Brent Bressler / Mitch Long / Gerry Rochel / Gary Heffele

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 worship services.



Join us for weekly Bible study on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall at Grace. 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 ***February – March 2023***



Lent will soon be upon us, beginning on February 22, Ash Wednesday. The Super Bowl will have determined the champion of the National Football League, elating the fans of the winning team and sending the fans of the other 31 teams into thoughts of 'wait till next year.' I have mentioned in the past that it seems as if sports has become the nation's number one religion with football as the major 'denomination.' A couple of years ago, I had heard a countdown to the Super Bowl, much like the countdown to Christmas, noting how many shopping days were left before Christmas. This may have been a subtle way to elevate the status of the Super Bowl, making it appear to be equivalent to Christmas.

Recently, I saw an ad on TV from ESPN with the theme that sports bring people together, that it is through sports that differences between people disappear as they root for their team, regardless of the sport that is being played. It gave the impression that all sports fans are united around their sport. It didn't matter which team you supported; it was the sport that unified the fans. When I saw this ad (and admittedly, I only saw it out of the corner of my eye since I was doing something else at the time), I thought of this portrayal of sports as a national religion. Sports has become such a pivotal part of society that it eclipses religion, participation in government and all else as being important. We need to remember that these people are just playing a game, a game that, in the end, does affect much at all. As I have often said, the sun still rises on Monday, regardless of who wins or loses on Sunday.

As much as the 'sports unifies people' theme of this ad portrays a positive outlook on sports, it doesn't take long to recall news reports of fans who went to see a sporting event and they wore clothing that showed that they were fans of the visiting team and got beat up by the hometown fans. Or the reports of fans being thrown down several rows in the stadium because they were fans of the opposing team. Or of fans rioting after soccer games. These images certainly do not sound very unifying.

Lent gives us a time to reflect on the truly important things in life. It provides us with an opportunity to re-orient ourselves to the One who really does make a difference in the world; the One who wants to give us and has given us all good things. This Lenten season, we will be having our midweek services on Wednesday evening after a shared meal. This year, we will be hearing monologues from individuals who were touched by Jesus during His earthly ministry. Hopefully, as we hear the stories of Thomas, Blind Bartimaeus, a Pharisee, Judas and Peter, you may see clearer what Jesus had meant to those whom He touched and realize how Jesus has touched you in your own life.

During this Lenten season, may you see what is truly most important in your life and may the Holy Spirit lead you to turn to God.

***May God bless
Pastor Dave***



Candy Recipes From Karen

Fanny Farmer Fudge

Ingredients:

4 ½ Cups of granulated sugar

1 can of evaporated milk

18 oz. chocolate chips (milk chocolate or semi-sweet)

1 square of bitter chocolate (shaved) (can subst. 3 Tbsp. cocoa & 1 Tbsp. oil)

½ lb. butter (cut in chunks)

1 ½ tsp. vanilla

½ Cup chopped walnuts (optional)

In a large pan (I use a Dutch oven pan), combine the sugar and evap. milk. Bring to a rapid boil over medium heat (stirring constantly – be patient). Once at a rolling boil, boil for 8 mins, stirring constantly to avoid scorching.

In a large bowl, have the chocolate chips, bitter chocolate, butter and vanilla ready (prepare before you start the hot mixture). Pour the boiling mixture over the bowl mixture and mix until blended. You can then add nuts if desired.

Pour the combined mixture into a buttered 9 X 13 pan (I use glass). Freeze for 24 hrs. Cut into pieces and serve. Keeps well if refrigerated and sealed. Makes a lot!!!

Peanut Brittle

Ingredients:

1 Cup granulated sugar

½ Cup light corn syrup

1/8 tsp. salt

1 to 1 ½ Cups Raw Peanuts (not roasted peanuts)

1 tbsp. Butter

1 tsp. vanilla

1 tsp. baking soda

Combine the sugar, syrup and salt in the 2 quart microwavable glass bowl. Microwave on high for 5 mins (no more, no less). Stir in the raw peanuts (it will be very sticky). Microwave for another 4 mins, stirring after 3 mins, until the syrup and peanuts are lightly browned. Remove and quickly stir in the butter, vanilla and soda (it will foam when you put in the soda). Stir until light and foamy throughout. Immediately spread the mixture on a butter pan or baking sheet to ¼ in. thickness. Cool and break apart to serve. To store, keep cool and sealed.



The Grace Lutheran Church Women

The Grace Lutheran Church Women (GLCW) meet the first Wednesday of the month at 1 pm in the fellowship hall for a program and short meeting. Lunch is served following the meeting. All ladies are welcome.



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. Six 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 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.

Special Events at Grace Lutheran



Dec 4, 2022 - New Members Justin & Emily Myhre and the baptism of their daughter, Sage Myhre.



Children's Sermon - Pastor Dave Danner and children



**Sunday School & Confirmation Children Dec 2022
Teachers – Betze Deutz, Jodi Lichtsinn & Susie Hauptert**



SS Christmas Program - Dec 18, 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 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.

*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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