



# GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

APRIL - MAY 2023

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



## Worship Schedule

**April:** Sunday Worship – April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at Grace

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

Fellowship, Sunday School & Confirmation following worship

**See the Holy Week Schedule below**

**Bible Study** - each Wednesday – 4:00 p.m. at the church (*note change of time*) **No Bible Study on April 5 or April 12.**

**GLCW meeting – cancelled for April**

**Church Council – Wednesday, April 12** - 6:30 p.m. at church



## Holy Week Schedule April 2-April 9

Palm Sunday - April 2 - 9 am worship

Maundy Thursday - April 6 - 7 pm worship with communion

Good Friday - April 7 - 7 pm worship

Easter Sunday - April 9 - 9 am worship with communion

**May:** Sunday Worship – May 7, 14, 21, 28 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 following worship thru May 7.**

**Confirmation Sunday – May 21– confirmands Angie Deutz & Halle Deutz**

**Bible Study** - each Wednesday – 4:00 p.m. at the church

**GLCW meeting – Wednesday, May 3** - 1:30 pm at church

**Church Council – Wednesday, May 10** - 6:30 p.m. at Grace



**Pastor Danner is in his office on Wednesdays from 9 am to 5 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



<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 April and May will be directed to The Banquet.

**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:

***April – Canned fruit or dried fruit (raisons, prunes, dates, figs)***

***May – Cleaning products (dishwashing liquids, ammonia, toilet bowl cleaner, glass cleaner, dusting spray)***



### **Worship Assistants**

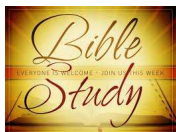
**April: Deacon** Tonia Czech **Altar Guild** Anne Lichtsinn / Karen Lichtsinn

**Ushers** Mike Czech / Roger Rudebusch / Milo Downs / Lowell Nelsen

**May: Deacon** Susan Johnson **Altar Guild** Tonia and Emma Czech

**Ushers** Barry Berkenpas / Barrett Berkenpas / Gerry Rochel / 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. Thank you for being part of our worship service.***



**Join us for weekly Bible study** on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Grace. (note the change of time) 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*

### *April - May 2023*

*"Christ has died; Christ is risen. Christ will come again."*

The above words are the proclamation of the mystery of Christ that is used in the Eucharistic Prayer that some churches use. It states the core Christian belief about the events which we just celebrated at the beginning of April. These events, namely Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the bedrock of our Christian faith. Inarguably, these events had the most impact on human history than any other event in the history of mankind. In the 1970's, in the rock opera *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, the question of why Jesus came at that time in history, to "such a backward time and such a strange land?" is posed. While no clear-cut answer is provided, it is clear that until the Incarnation came to be, the world would have been stuck in the type of life that there was until God came in human form. Nearly all advancements in the world happened because of Christianity. While much had been done in the name of religion up to Jesus and even after, it wasn't until Christianity acted in the name of Jesus did major advancements occurred.

This is not to say that everything that has been done in the name of Christianity or in Jesus' name has been good and to the betterment of society. Throughout history there has been many atrocities perpetrated by those who have co-opted Jesus' message for their own use and in the process, have corrupted that message. Unfortunately, not only evil people have done this. Well-meaning people who have tried to further Christianity had led people astray.

The fortunate part of this is our belief that God is still active in the world and that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit things will work out. This assurance is given to us when we study the Bible, when we see how other times were and see how the story unfolded through God's intervention. We can see how God has kept the promises that were made to humanity, even if it took much longer than people had hoped.

In looking at the news today from around the world, it appears that things are getting worse and worse. It almost seems as if the end-of-times seen in some of the Biblical literature is being played out and things look dire. It is at these times that we need to remember that when God created the world, God looked at it and said that it was good. Despite all the 'wrong turns' that humanity took which led us away from God, we see that God still has a desire to give us grace, to welcome us back into God's arms and live the way in which God intended. When we look at the Gospel accounts of how Jesus acted towards God and towards others, we see how different Jesus acted from 'the world,' from a life without God. We also need to remember that in 'saving' the world, God will make it the way God wants. If something is worth saving to God, then God will ensure that it is saved. After all, didn't God, through Jesus, go to the grave and back to save us? If God has been this good to us, should not we, in response, be 'good' to God and strive to do God's will?

Happy Easter & God bless,  
Pastor Dave



## Recipes From Penny's Kitchen



### Garlic Lime Salmon

#### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon grated lime zest
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 salmon fillets (about 1-1/2 pounds each)

#### Directions:

Preheat broiler. In a small bowl, mix the first 5 ingredients. Place salmon fillets on a broiler pan, skin side down (spray pan to reduce sticking). Broil 4-6 inches from heat until fish just begins to flake easily with a fork, approx. 15-20 minutes. Brush frequently with onion mixture during the last 5 minutes of cooking.

Serves 4.

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### Super Easy Egg Casserole

#### Ingredients:

- 6 eggs, whisked
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 6 slices bacon, diced
- 2 slices bread, cubed
- 1/3 red bell pepper, diced
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic, or to taste (Optional)
- salt and ground black pepper to taste

#### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Mix eggs, cheese, bacon, bread, red bell pepper, green onion, milk, garlic, salt, and black pepper together in a bowl until well-combined; pour into the prepared baking dish.

Bake in the preheated oven until eggs are set, about 20 to 25 minutes. Serves 4.

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## The Grace Lutheran Church Women

The Grace Lutheran Church Women (GLCW) meet the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm in the fellowship hall for a program and short meeting. Lunch is served following the meeting. All ladies are welcome. Note – no meeting in April. Next meeting May 3 at 1:30.

**Save the date - Sat. April 22 - Prairie Conference WELCA Spring Gathering** at Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe. The theme will be "Family of Believers", with registration beginning at 8:30 am, \$10 registration fee. Brunch at 9 am with guest speaker, Mary Hippe, on "Who Is Family?" In-Kind Offering will be donated to the Ivanhoe Area Food Shelf.



**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 for details 952-607-7002.

## Special Events at Grace Lutheran



Sledding Party Feb 26  
Food, Fun and Bingo.



Grace Lutheran Sunday School children - March 2023



1<sup>st</sup> Communion – Feb 19  
Brooklyn Demuth



Grace Men's Group - Feb 26  
following the Imposition of Ashes



Lenten Suppers March 2023

## 2023 Church Council Members

Deacons:	Barry Berkenpas - (Council President) Julienne Prosch Susan Johnson - (Council Secretary) Tonia Czech
Trustees:	Mike Weets - (Vice President) Mitch Long
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](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.**

***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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