



GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

JUNE - JULY 2023

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



Worship Schedule

June: Sunday Worship – June 4 & 11 at Grace June 18 & 25 at Diamond Lake

Worship at 10:00 a.m. (note change of time for the summer)

Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays. Fellowship following worship.

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

GLCW meeting – Wednesday, June 7 – 1:30 p.m. at church

Church Council – Sunday, June 18 – 11 a.m. following worship at DL

July: Sunday Worship – July 2 & 9 at Grace July 16, 23 & 30 at Diamond Lake

Worship at 10:00 a.m. (note change of time for the summer)

Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays. Fellowship following worship.



July 30 is the Potluck Church Picnic following worship at Diamond Lake.

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

GLCW meeting – Wednesday, July 5 - 1:30 pm at church

Church Council – Sunday, July 16 – 11 a.m. following worship at DL



Devotions @ Diamond Lake This summer, join us every Wednesday starting

June 14 thru July 26 for our 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 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.



Grace Facebook page - find us at ***Grace Lutheran Church of Lake Benton***



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 - June will be directed to The Banquet & July to Weekend Winners.

Food Shelf - donations can be monetary or items placed in the drop box at church.

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

June – Juices - bottled fruit and vegetable juices.

July – Personal Care items – bar soap, liquid hand soap, lotions, toothpaste, dental floss, toothbrushes, combs, hair brushes, deodorant and antiperspirant.



Worship Assistants

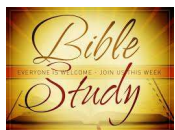
June: Deacon Julienne Prosch **Altar Guild** Tanya and Breelee Berkenpas

Ushers Jerid Johnson / Jeff Johnson / Austin Johnson / Landon Johnson

July: Deacon Barry Berkenpas **Altar Guild** Tonia and Emma Czech

Ushers Roger Rudebusch / Mitch Long / 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. Thank you for helping with worship.



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

June - July 2023

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..."

(Eccl 3:1, KJV)

Driving from Westbrook to Lake Benton, I am constantly reminded that there is a time for every season. Even seeing all the rain that came down shortly after the farmers had worked so hard to plant before the rain and the standing water as a result of those rains reminded me that there is a purpose for everything that happens. We may not always see that purpose, or agree with it, but it is there. Ever since creation, there has been much debate as to why these kinds of things happen and what God's role is in them happening. In other words, why do bad things happen and does God actively or passively make things happen. I believe that there is no one answer to these questions.

Bad things happen for various reasons. Sometimes, God does have an active hand in them, again for various reasons. It may be that God is testing us, seeing how we will react in a certain situation. Sometimes, God is acting like a smelter, removing all the bad stuff from us as the flame burns away the impurities from the metal. It may be because we are being punished for something we did wrong (the 'we' could be individually or corporately). Sometimes, while God wants good things for us, decisions that we have made on our own have brought about those consequences and God allows us to learn from this, provided that we are able to make the connection between actions and consequences and are willing to take responsibility for those things. Sometimes, since we do live in a fallen world, Satan tries to get us away from God. I do think that for whatever reason, God has curtailed the use of God's power to direct everything that happens, making all things to happen how God wants them to happen; God being the 'master puppeteer.'

While it is part of human nature to ask, "Why?," that is not the question which we should be asking. We should be asking ourselves "How are we going to respond to this?" At the proper time, we will know the answers to the why questions, but on this side of the Resurrection, the important response is how do we react to it. Does our response bring us closer to God or does it drive us further away from God? Sometimes, it is clear which choice we should make, but at other times, it is as clear as mud. That is where discernment comes in and that is best done in a community setting as opposed to being by one's self.

We must remember that God is so 'large' as to be able to be all the attributes that we give to God, even when those attributes are opposed to each other. While we would like God to be one way or another, we must allow that God can be both and when the time is right, when it is the right 'season' we will know God completely and have those 'answers' that we seek.

May God bless,

Pastor Dave



Recipes From Penny's Kitchen

Swedish Kladdkaka

Ingredients:

1/2 stick of butter	1 1/4 Cup sugar
2 eggs	1/2 tsp salt
4 tbsp cocoa powder	1 tsp vanilla
3/4 Cup plain flour	

Preparation: Preheat oven to 390°F, or if you have a fan-assisted oven, 355°F. In a large bowl whisk eggs with sugar, then while continuously mixing, add the melted butter. Now, blend in the dry ingredients: cocoa, flour, salt, and vanilla sugar. Pour the batter into a 9-inch baking pan, and bake in the oven for 10-15 minutes.

Baking Tips: Recipes may vary but there is no significant difference in which order you combine the ingredients. But you must sift the flour and measure carefully to avoid adding too much flour, making your cake too dense.

Additional ingredients: You may replace the cocoa powder with chocolate, or enrichen it by adding various nuts, pieces of chocolate, or flavorings like orange zest.

Serving: Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving. Can be eaten piping hot or chilled. Cut into slices and pair with whipped cream, ice cream, or various fruits like strawberries and raspberries.

Swedish Meatballs

Ingredients:

For meatballs:

2 Large Eggs, lightly beaten	2 tsp unrefined Sea Salt
¼ cup Milk	1 tsp freshly ground Black Pepper
1 pound Ground Beef	1 tsp Onion Powder
1 pound Ground Pork	½ tsp Garlic Powder
1 cup Panko Breadcrumbs	¼ teaspoons Ground Nutmeg

For gravy:

5 Tblsp Salted Butter	1 tsp unrefined Sea Salt
5 Tblsp All-purpose Flour	½ tsp freshly ground Black Pepper
4 cups Whole Milk	

For serving: Parsley, for garnish (optional), Mashed Potatoes and Lingonberry Sauce

Preparation: Preheat oven to 400°F. Place all of the ingredients for the meatballs in a large bowl. Using your hands, mix together thoroughly, but do not over-mix or the meatballs get tough. Roll the meat into 1 ½ inch balls and place on a baking sheet so they don't touch. Yield approx. 46 meatballs. Bake in preheated oven for 15–20 minutes, or until thoroughly cooked.

While the meatballs are baking, prepare the gravy. Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Whisk in the flour, salt, and pepper. Cook for 2 minutes, whisking frequently. Pour in 1 cup of milk while whisking, then pour in the remaining milk. Whisk until smooth. Cook, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens and comes to a boil. Boil and whisk for 1 minute. Remove from heat.

Add meatballs and stir to coat in the gravy. Garnish with parsley if desired. Serve over mashed potatoes with lingonberry sauce on the side. *From Erica Kastner of Buttered Side Up.*



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. Next meeting June 7.



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 Church



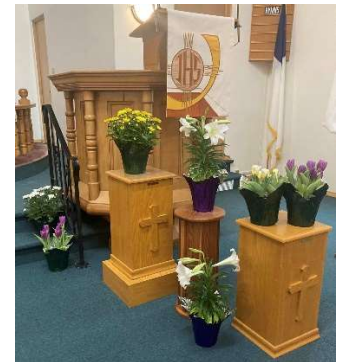
Palm Sunday April 2023



Good Friday April 2023



Easter Sunday April 2023



Easter Flowers



Sunday School Easter 2023



Youth Serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls - April 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 Office Hours – Wed. 9 a.m. – 5 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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