



GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2023

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



Worship Schedule

August: Sunday Worship-Aug. 6 & 13 at Grace, Aug. 20 & 27 at Diamond Lake
Worship at 10:00 am thru Aug 31

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

Bible Study - each Wednesday – 3:00 pm at the church

GLCW meeting – Wednesday, August 2 – 1:30 pm at church

Church Council – Sat. Aug 19 – 3 pm at Danner's in Westbrook.

September: Sunday Worship – 9 am at Grace - Sept 3, 10, 17 & 24

Worship at 9:00 am starting Sept 3 (Note change of time)

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

Sunday School 10 am - starting Sept 10 following worship

Note – Confirmation 10 am - starting Sept 17 following worship

Bible Study - each Wednesday – 3:00 pm at the church

GLCW meeting – Wednesday, September 6 - 1:30 pm at church

Church Council – Wednesday, September 13 - 6:30 pm at Grace



Rally Sunday – **Sunday School** resumes on Sunday, Sept 10 following worship.

Contact Sue Haupert 507-820-0615. **Confirmation** resumes on Sunday Sept 17 following worship. Contact Pastor Danner 507-380-6926.



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.



Stuff the Bus - The GLCW is collecting school supplies for the Stuff the Bus campaign,

for Lake Benton Elementary & the young ladies at Hope Harbor. Lists of suggested items are in the church fellowship hall. Please bring your items to the church and place in the basket in the narthex.

Contact Susan Johnson if you have any questions 507-247-3996.



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 social media 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 – August and September will be directed 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:

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 / Gary Heffele / 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. Thank you for helping with worship.



Join us for weekly Bible study on Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 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 ***August - September 2023***

I had somewhat of a hard time trying to decide what to write about for this newsletter. I thought about writing about the polarizing political climate, especially with hearing more and more about the 2024 presidential election; I thought about writing about how we are coming into the time of year where our routines and schedules become more 'normal' and I even thought about writing about Christian Nationalism (which, when I looked back at previous newsletter articles, I see that I did this last year at this time). I even thought about writing about change and how changes occur whether or not we want them to happen, whether or not we acknowledge them and the implications of change in our lives. Having started several different drafts centering on these different themes, I still didn't feel comfortable with any one of them.

Not being able to settle on one theme and write something coherent and cohesive on it, I took a step back and thought about the constants in our lives. The only thing that really remains constant – the only thing that can remain constant – is something that was not created, something that was not made. For Christians, that constant is God and God's love for the creation and God's desire to bring this creation back onto the vision which God had at the beginning. That vision is one where everything lives according to its purpose, a purpose which is given by God.

Recognizing that humanity has fallen away from God and tried to blaze and control our own path through history, God's desire still had not changed. God's desire was then to redeem humanity without having to throw it all away and start anew. Sending God's Son to make that redeeming act was the only way possible for humanity, as created by God, to be made right with God again. The Bible tells us the story of God's attempts at getting humanity to turn back to God and humanity's resistance to doing that.

Over the centuries since Jesus' redeeming act, as chronicled in the Gospels, this Good News of Jesus has been co-opted, twisted and changed to be used for people's selfish desires. Many people have looked at these misuses of the Gospels to 'prove' how wrong religion, in general, is; and how 'bad' Christianity is in particular and how wrong it is to misplace our trust something so evil. Some of these misuses of the Gospel has been to justify colonialism and wiping out indigenous peoples; to believe in the superiority of one group of people over others; applying the message of the Gospel to certain groups of people, excluding others who are not like them; and to use the earth's resources however we want, without regards to anything else; to name just a few.

What we need to do is to get back to the Gospel message of Jesus, how the redeeming act of Jesus is meant by God to be for all people, everywhere, at the exclusion of no one. This will require us to take a look at what we do and say and see how consistent we are with the Gospels, not try to make the Gospels fit what we want them to say in order to justify our actions. We need to listen to the words of the Lord's Prayer and accept them as a prayer of submission on our part to allow God be God and do what is best for us, not telling God what we want God to do.

While we do need to acknowledge the misuse of the Gospels in the past, we also need to keep proclaiming this Good News and in doing so, we will find a way through the forgiveness of sins past all the wrongs that have been done. Not an easy process, but one that needs to be done.

May God bless,
Pastor Dave



Recipes From Penny's Kitchen

Garlic & Herb Slow Cooker Pork Roast

Prep Time 5 minutes minutes, Cook Time 9 hours, Servings 6 servings

Ingredients

3 pound pork roast butt or shoulder (not pork loin)	
1 teaspoon salt	1 C chicken broth (or beef, pork or vegetable broth)
1/2 teaspoon pepper	4 cloves garlic minced
1/2 teaspoon paprika	1 teaspoon dried thyme
1 large onion thick sliced	1 teaspoon dried rosemary

Instructions

Season your pork roast on all sides with salt, pepper, and paprika. Set aside. Add onions and chicken broth to the bottom of a 6 quart slow cooker. Add seasoned pork roast on top. Sprinkle top of roast with garlic, thyme, and rosemary. Cover and cook on low heat for 9-10 hours, or until roast is fall-apart tender. A larger roast will take longer to cook. Or, cook your roast on high heat for 5-6 hours. Shred roast with a fork, removing any remaining fatty pieces before serving. Serve over mashed potatoes, or on a sandwich. Leftovers reheat well - store leftover meat with some of the liquid from the bottom of the slow cooker to keep moist.

Swirled Cheesecake Nibbles

Ingredients

36 vanilla wafers
1 2/3 cup package nestle swirl real semi sweet choc and white choc morsel
2 pkgs cream cheese softened
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tbsp flour
2 large eggs
Tsp vanilla extract

Directions

Preheat oven to 350; place 36 baking cups on cookies sheet; 1 vanilla wafer (flat side down) in each cup; 5-6 morsels on each wafer; beat cream cheese, sugar and flour in large mixing bowl until creamy; add eggs and vanilla extract, beat well; spoon heaping tbsp mixture into each cup; bake for 15-17 minutes or just until set (not browned); remove from oven to wire rack; while still warm top cheesecakes with remaining morsels; morsels will soften but will retain shape; cool completely; cover and refrigerate. Makes 3 dozen.



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, with lunch to follow. All ladies are welcome. Next meeting August 2 with Jody Hexem as the speaker. The "Over 80s" lunch will be held in October.



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, the stamp & simplify your giving. Please contact Karen Lichtsinn for details 952-607-7002.

Special Events at Grace Lutheran Church



The Hallelujah Hooligans - Worship June 11



The Johnson Family - Worship July 9



Confirmation – Angela Deutz and Emilee Deutz - May 31



HS Graduates – Gary Sutherland Breelee Berkenpas & Autumn Tooley



College Graduates - April Hauptert, Adrianna Johnson & Jayla Prosch



Devotions at Diamond Lake – were held each Wednesday evening during June/July 2023 at the Diamond Lake campus.

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!

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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