



GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER -NOVEMBER 2023

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



Worship Schedule

October: Sunday Worship – October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at Grace

Worship at 9:00 a.m. followed by Sunday School.

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

Bible Study - each Wednesday – 3:00 p.m. at the church

GLCW meeting – Wed, October 4 - “Over 80 Luncheon” at noon at the church.

Church Council – Sunday, October 15 – following worship



Brunch – Sunday Oct 29 following worship. Sponsored by the church council. Everyone is welcome.

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

Worship at 9:00 a.m. followed by Sunday School.

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

Bible Study - each Wednesday – 3:00 p.m. at the church

(note: date change to Tuesday Nov 21 at 3 pm at the church)

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

Church Council – Sunday, November 19 – following worship



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service – Sunday Nov 19, 3 pm at Grace Lutheran. Coffee and dessert following worship. All are welcome.



ELCA Prairie Conference Pastor's gathering – Tuesday Nov 21, 9 am 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.



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 – October – December will be directed to Lake Benton Food Shelf.

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:

October – Storage items (food storage bags, aluminum foil, plastic wrap)

November – Canned vegetables and baked beans



Worship Assistants

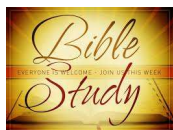
October: Deacon Julienne Prosch **Altar Guild** Julienne Prosch / Shayna Demuth

Ushers Roger Rudebusch / 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, Grace Church secretary, to 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 – date change to Tues, Nov 21 at 3 pm) 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

October - November 2023

During the drive to Lake Benton recently, I was noticing all the changes that happen during this time of year. The green colors of the growing season have turned to the yellows, browns and golds of crops getting ready for harvesting. The sight of the reds, greens and yellows of harvesting machines is also evident at this time with the cloud of dust following behind. Yes, the seasons are definitely undergoing change. Even the sky took on a more 'wintry' look to it. Then I wondered exactly what a 'wintry sky' looked like? Was cooler temperatures the driving force that psychologically leads a person to think of snow? That may be part of it, but the closer I looked at the clouds they looked denser, darker and somewhat lower.

Seeing these changes, the passage from Ecclesiastes 3 came to mind and this was a good example of experiencing "*A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted*" (Eccl 3:2). Hearing of children and grandchildren being born; seeing couples in love getting married; seeing the excitement of children as they come for Sunday School; and even walking alongside families as they plan a funeral and grieve the loss of their loved one, I can observe how there is a time for every season. I know that this verse also says that there is a purpose for everything. That is where the difficult part comes in. We do not always see the purpose, especially when it is happening. Sometimes, we never really understand what the purpose of something happening has. It is especially this way when something atrocious happens to people. Mass killings for no apparent reason, killing of children and killings that are racially motivated are just a few of the things where we cannot find any good purpose in them without doing some major theological and verbal gymnastics. Even the death of a loved one, regardless of the age of the person and the circumstances can be hard to see and understand a purpose.

That is where we need to have a belief in some sort of higher power. If we only believe that life here is the only thing that matters and there is nothing after death, then there is no purpose to anything. One of the themes of the Book of Ecclesiastes is that all the efforts of humanity, in and of themselves, are futile, that they are like grass that eventually withers and blows away. Basically, life becomes a 'live in the moment' type experience and people turn in on themselves, looking to get whatever they can for themselves.

However, when our lives and experiences are tied to something greater than ourselves, then real meaning to our lives is realized. The author of Ecclesiastes realizes this when they say that wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. Not necessarily fear in the sense of being afraid, but of a deep respect and awe of the Lord's power. Throughout the Bible we are reminded of God's power and majesty. We are given the image of God's throne being so large that the earth is God's footstool. Yet, we believe that God cares enough about the inhabitants of this 'footstool' that God's desire is that we live in the ways in which God intended when creation was made. Yes, God could annihilate us with a mere word, just as with a word we came into existence. But without this Word, we would have no meaning, the changes that we experience would only point us to one thing and that is death. This death would be final, there would be nothing after our life has run its course and then we would return to dust. But with the promise of Jesus Christ, we are more than dust, we have the promise of life eternal with God, being in the form which God intended for us.

It is this promise of something else, of something more, that whenever we face change (and let's face it, there is always change occurring) it does not just mean that one thing is ending. Most importantly, it also means that something else is beginning. Yes, we may pine for the end of summer, but when we look closely enough, we can find the seeds for new life. A new life that brings us closer to the new earth that we have been promised by the One who keeps all the promises that they have made.

May God bless,
Pastor Dave



Recipes From Penny's Kitchen

Crepes

Ingredients

1 cup flour spooned and leveled	¾ teaspoon salt
1 ¼ cups milk	2 tablespoons butter melted
3 large eggs	1 teaspoon vanilla
4 tablespoons granulated sugar	butter for cooking

Instructions

Whisk together flour, milk, eggs, sugar, salt, melted butter, and vanilla until mixture starts to get frothy on the top. Grease a small-medium skillet (about 8-10 inches) with butter, set to medium-low heat. Pour 1/4 cup of batter into the center of the pan. Immediately lift the pan off of the heat and tilt the pan to allow the batter to fill the entire bottom of the pan. Return pan to heat and cook for 30-60 seconds. Use a spatula to gently flip the crepe and cook another minute or so on the other side until golden. Remove from heat, cover to keep warm and repeat with remaining batter.

Swedish Limpa Bread

Ingredients

2 tablespoons butter	1 teaspoon fine salt
2 tablespoons water	2 teaspoons instant yeast see note below
2 tablespoons molasses brand	1 cup dark rye flour (140 grams) I use the Bob's Red Mill
Zest of 1 orange	2 cups bread flour (280 grams)
1 cup buttermilk (230 grams)	
¼ teaspoon baking soda	
1 teaspoon anise seed toasted briefly in a dry skillet and then ground, or 1 teaspoon ground anise seed	

Instructions

- Combine butter, water, molasses and orange zest in a small saucepan and heat to a simmer. Remove from heat and cool until it is just warm to the touch.
- Combine buttermilk and baking soda in a liquid measuring cup. Stir together and set aside.
- Add buttermilk mixture and molasses mixture to the mixing bowl of a stand mixer.
- Add ground anise seed, salt, yeast and rye flour to the bowl.
- Using the dough hook attachment, mix on medium low until ingredients are combined. Add the bread flour and continue to mix on medium low until the dough is fully combined and clears the sides of the bowl. Increase speed to medium and knead for approximately 4 minutes. If you are mixing and kneading the dough by hand, the process will take longer.
- Remove the bowl from the mixer, cover with plastic wrap and let the dough rise at room temperature until doubled in size, approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours.
- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Punch down the dough and remove it from the bowl. Fold it in on itself and pat it into an oval shape that is about 1 ½ inches thick. Cover lightly with plastic wrap and allow to rise for another 45 minutes to an hour.
- Remove plastic wrap and decoratively score the loaf with a razor blade or a sharp knife. Place on a baking sheet and bake until golden brown, 30-35 minutes. The internal temperature of the dough should be at least 198 degrees when it is done. Allow the bread to cool completely on a wire rack before slicing.

Notes:

If you want to use active dry yeast instead of instant yeast, add the active dry yeast to the butter/water/molasses mixture once it is just warm to the touch (if the liquid is over 110-120 degrees F, it may kill the yeast). Let it proof for 10 minutes before adding it to the dough. Score or slash the top of the loaf so the gasses created during baking can escape as your loaf expands in the oven. A sharp knife or razor blade works fine for this. Allow the loaf to cool completely before slicing into it.



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 Oct 4 at noon at the church.

“Over 80” Luncheon: GLCW is inviting all those 80 and over to our Luncheon and Program on Wednesday, October 4th at noon in the fellowship hall. An invitation was mailed to all 80 and over. The meal will begin at noon, followed by a program in the sanctuary with our guest speaker, Lay Pastor Portia Martinson from Bethany Lutheran in Arco. Coffee and desserts will be served following the program. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Stuff the Bus was a huge success. We delivered three large boxes of school supplies to the Lake Benton Elementary and a box for the six girls at Hope Harbor in Marshall.

Twenty new coffee servers have been purchased. Thank you to the Grace Church Council for purchasing the new servers using Coffee Hour Funds.

Operation Christmas Child. The group is preparing for the annual drive. Twenty four boxes have been ordered and a list of items is posted at church. A basket has been placed in the Narthex for donated items. GLCW ladies will gather at the end of October to fill the boxes. Any contributions 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 for details 952-607-7002.

Special Events at Grace Lutheran Church Sunday School Rally Sunday, September 10, 2023



Sunday School students & helpers



Sunday School Classroom



Enjoying a snack!

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.
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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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