



GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



Worship Schedule

February: Sunday Worship - February 4, 11, 18, 25 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

Confirmation - each Wednesday - 4:00 p.m. at the church

GLCW meeting - Wednesday, February 7 - 1:30 p.m. at the church

Church Council - Sunday, February 18 following worship



Sledding Party - Sunday Feb 25 @ 1 pm at Hole in the Mtn Chalet

Potluck meal (sandwiches/beverages served by Church Council)

All are welcome. Invite your friends. Hope to see you all there.



Ash Wednesday - February 14 worship at 7 p.m. with imposition of ashes



Lenten Services - Wednesdays Feb 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

March:

Sunday Worship - March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 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

Confirmation - each Wednesday - 4:00 p.m. at the church

GLCW meeting - Wednesday, March 6 - 1:30 p.m. at the church

Church Council - Sunday, March 17 following worship

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Palm Sunday - March 24 @ 9 a.m. worship with communion

Good Friday - March 29 @ 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - Sunday March 31 @ 9 a.m. with communion



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, Susan Johnson or Susie Hauptert to post items to this page.



Noisy Offering / Food Shelf Sunday – The 3rd Sunday of the month is designated for Noisy Offering and Food Shelf donations.

- **Noisy Offering** – February & March will be directed to Shetek Lutheran Ministries.
- **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:
 - ***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 / Lowell Nelsen

March: Deacon Tonia Czech **Altar Guild** Susan Johnson / Karen Lichtsinn

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

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. 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 2024



This year's Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. We will then begin our annual 40 day (minus Sundays) journey that will take us to the cross and eventually to the empty tomb, celebrating Easter Sunday on March 31.

It was fitting that on January 21, for the Third Sunday after Epiphany, the Gospel reading that day was Mark 1:14-20 where Jesus begins His public ministry. Mark records Jesus' first 'sermon' as saying, *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news"* (Mark 1:15, NRSV). This call from Jesus to repent reflects the Biblical prophets who called on people to repent – that is Jesus is calling us to turn to God and admit to all those ways in which we had made ourselves the focus and center of our lives. We need to remember that this call is both for individuals and communities. There are actions and attitudes that we have both as individuals and as a society that are detrimental to others. We need to recognize those ways and turn to God for help from the Holy Spirit to change those actions and attitudes so that we see the light of God in everyone. We need the reminder that God had sent Jesus to the whole world so that anyone who believes in Jesus may be saved.

Part of our Lenten preparation involves our recognition that we have sinned and are repentant of those sins. It is a time for us to practice turning back to God, seeking the forgiveness that we are given through the cross of Jesus. It is a time for us to allow ourselves to be transformed by God's love; a love that created the world; a love that came to us in the person of Jesus Christ who showed us what God is like; a love that still is in the world, creating us anew through the Holy Spirit. What we need to do is to open our hearts to the power of this love and allow us to be transformed into the person God wants us to be and not necessarily the person we want to be. We do this through worship, studying God's Word through Scriptures and being in dialog with each other as we contemplate what God's love means for us. It is a time where we turn back to God, relearn our dependence upon God for all things in our lives and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, make those changes in our lives that lead to continual transformation.

Again this year, we will be having midweek Lenten services on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. Our Ash Wednesday service will be on February 14. On the 5 following Wednesdays, we will have a dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. with the service following at 7:00 p.m. This year, we will be taking a deeper look into the Lord's Prayer. Each week we will look at the petitions and what they mean. The reflections will be based on Martin Luther's writings on the Lord's Prayer in the Small and Large Catechisms. I hope you can join us in these reflections of this submissive prayer which Jesus taught to His disciples.

May God bless,
Pastor Dave



Recipes for Easter

Slow Cooker Ham

Ingredients:

- 1 boneless ham (5-6 lbs)
- 1/2 C. packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. ground mustard
- 1 tsp. prepared horseradish
- 4 tblsp. Regular cola beverage

Cut the the ham in half and place in a 5 qt. slow cooker. In a bowl, combine the brown sugar, mustard and horseradish and 2 tblsp of cola. Mix and rub over the ham. Pour remaining cola over the ham. Cook on low for 8-10 hours. Makes 15-20 servings.

Refrigerator Mashed Potatoes

Ingredients:

- 5 lbs of potatoes (approx 9 large potatoes)
- 6 oz package of cream cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 2 tblsp. butter or margarine
- 2 tsp. onion salt

Peel and cook the potatoes until tender. Drain and mash the potatoes. Mix the softened cream cheese, sour cream, salt, pepper, butter and onion salt into the mashed potatoes. Serves 12-15. Can be refrigerated and reheated for up to 2 weeks.

Rum Raisin Sauce - for ham

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of raisons (
- 1 cup of water
- 1 tblsp. corn starch
- 2 tblsp. Rum or Brandy (optional)
- dash of cinnamon
- dash of nutmeg

Heat raisons and water in a saucepan to almost boiling. When the mixture starts to bubble, reduce heat and stir in corn starch, rum/brandy, cinnamon and nutmeg. Gently simmer until thickened, stirring constantly. Makes 2 cups. Serve warm over ham or other meats.



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 February 7 at 1:30 p.m.



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.

Events at Grace Lutheran Church



Sunday School Christmas Pageant



held Sunday, Dec 17, 2023



**1st Communion – Will Deutz, Pastor Danner,
Aubryn Stuefen & Emilee Deutz – Nov 26, 2023**



Cookies & Carols – Sunday Dec 28, 2023

2024 Church Council Members

Deacons:	Barry Berkenpas - (Council President) Julienne Prosch Susan Johnson - (Council Secretary) Tonia Czech
Trustees:	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. – 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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