



# GRACIOUS WORDS NEWSLETTER

## APRIL - MAY 2024

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE BENTON, MN



## Worship Schedule

### April:

**Sunday Worship – April 7, 14, 21, 28 at Grace**

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

Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, April 3** – 1:30 p.m. at the church

**Church Council – Wednesday, April 10** – 6:30 p.m. at church



**April 7 – Special Congregational Meeting** following worship - to discuss roof replacement at Grace this spring/summer. We encourage you to attend and be part of the process.

### May:

**Sunday Worship – May 5, 12, 19, 26 at Grace**

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

Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, May 1** – 1:30 p.m. at the church

**Church Council – Wednesday, May 8** – 6:30 p.m. at church



**Happy Mother's Day - Sunday May 12, 2024 – God bless all mothers.**



**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. Contact Tonia Czech to contribute to our newsletter.



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month is designated for Noisy Offering and Food Shelf donations.**



- **Noisy Offering** – April & May 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:
  - **April – Canned fruit or dried fruit (raisins, prunes, dates, figs)**
  - **May – Cleaning products (dishwashing liquid, ammonia, toilet bowl cleaner, glass cleaner, dusting spray)**



**Worship Assistants**

**April: Deacon** Barry Berkenpas **Altar Guild** Anne Lichtsinn / Karen Lichtsinn  
**Ushers** Mike Czech / Roger Rudebusch / Milo Downs / Lowell Nelsen

**May: Deacon** Susan Johnson **Altar Guild** Tonia Czech / 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, 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*

### April / May 2024



One of my favorite texts about Easter is the story of the disciples who were traveling on the road to Emmaus that first Easter evening. The risen Jesus met them while they were walking to the town and began conversing with them. They told Him what was weighing heavy on their hearts and Jesus then took the time to explain to them everything that happened needed to happen. It was when they ate together once they reached Emmaus when they recognized Jesus through the breaking of the bread. The part to which I am especially drawn in this story is how Jesus reacted to the disciples not recognizing what had happened over the last three days. Most times, this reaction by Jesus is described as meeting the disciples where they are, meeting them not only in their grief but also their lack of understanding and faith in the Scriptures. Another way of describing this is that Jesus had respect for their feelings and belief.

Over the last few weeks, I have had some conversations with different people, and it was interesting that the subject of respect arose. It wasn't that I brought it up first, but within the course of the conversations, it was noted how there seems to be a lack of respect across all aspects of society. There is a lack of respect for all types of authority. I am not saying that we should just blindly follow those in authority, but we can still be respectful in the ways in which we question those in authority. We do not need to resort to name calling or ridicule the physical features of those who disagree with us, but we can push them on the underlying assumptions that form their opinions.

A few generations ago, there was a certain level of respect that was quite formal. Since the 1960's, society has set aside the formalities of proper address to people and using the titles which they had earned. We wanted to have a more friendly society, where barriers and pedestals were eliminated, and we could talk to each other as equals. However, this went too far in that the respect that a person should have been afforded has been replaced with people trying to establish their own credentials as being superior to others. People are more interested in furthering their own brand, many times at the expense of others.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be hearing more and more campaigning from candidates for many elected offices. When we listen to them, do we hear a discussion of the issues, or do we hear smears about the opposing candidate? I do realize that this kind of campaigning has been going on for many years, but that doesn't make it right and doesn't mean that we should put up with it. We can demand that campaigns are run on the issues and how the candidates will solve the myriad of problems that face our democracy.

I will not endorse any public candidate for any office, nor will I tell anyone how they should vote. I believe that people are intelligent enough to weigh the positions on the issues and decide for themselves. We do need to remember, that as Christians, we have the example of Jesus and the rest of Scripture in which to measure a candidate's qualifications. We should not compromise our beliefs because a certain candidate agrees with us on one issue. We need to look at all the important issues before we make a decision.

Respect goes beyond elections and candidates. We should have respect for all whom we meet during the day, regardless of any physical trait that the person exhibits. Exhibits of road rage show a lack of respect. Not listening while someone else is talking by continual interruptions shows a lack of respect. Insisting that things are done only the way we want them to be shows a lack of respect. There are many, many more examples of where there is a lack of respect within all aspects of society. We can change that the way that Jesus had spread His Gospel message – to one person at a time with respect, compassion, and empathy. May we be bold enough to walk this path with others.

God Bless,  
Pastor Dave



## From Penny's Kitchen

### **Garlic Brown Sugar Chicken Thighs**

#### Ingredients:

8 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs

salt and ground black pepper, to taste

3 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided

4 cloves garlic, minced

¼ cup packed brown sugar

1 tblsp honey

½ tsp dried oregano

¼ tsp dried thyme

¼ tsp dried basil

#### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Season chicken thighs with salt and pepper. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken, skin-side down, and sear until brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Remove chicken to a plate. Melt remaining butter in the skillet. Add garlic; cook and stir until fragrant. Remove from heat and stir in brown sugar, honey, oregano, thyme, and basil until well combined. Return chicken to the skillet. Bake in the preheated oven until chicken is no longer pink at the bone and the juices are clear (25 to 30 minutes). Thermometer inserted near the bone should read 165 degrees F.

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### **Pot Roast with Horseradish**

#### Ingredients:

1 tbsp salad oil

1 boned rump roast

2 tbsp flour

1 jar (5 oz) horseradish

6 onions, sliced thin

1 clove garlic, mashed w/2 tsp salt

1 tsp pepper

¼ cup white wine

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Brown meat on all sides in oil in a heavy pan; remove from pan. Sauté onions in remaining oil; sprinkle with flour. Add remaining ingredients, mix well. Place meat in the mixture; cover and cook about 1-1/2 hours or until tender. Makes 8 servings.



**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 April 3 at 1:30 p.m.

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**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 set up donations through online banking or contact First Security Bank or your bank to arrange for automated donations. Save on envelopes, checks and stamps, and simplify your giving. Please contact Karen Lichtsinn for details 952-607-7002.

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## **Events at Grace Lutheran Church**



**Baptism – Feb 4, 2024 – Quincie, daughter of Amanda & Jordan Goracke, and her cousin, Jace, son of Amber & Devin Gorter. Both babies are grandchildren of Sue Haupert and the great-grandchildren of Garnet Petersen.**



**Annual Sledding Party on Sunday Feb 25, despite the lack of snow. Plenty of food, outdoor games and Bingo for all at the Hole in the Mtn chalet.**



## 2024 Church Council Members

Deacons:	Barry Berkenpas - (Council President) Julienne Prosch Susan Johnson - (Council Secretary) Tonia Czech – (Council Vice President)
Trustees:	Mike Czech Justin Myhre
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. – 5 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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