



Granite Falls Lutheran News February, 2023

Worship with us Sunday Mornings at 9:00am.

Ash Wednesday Worship will be at 7:00pm (Feb 22nd).
*Come let us worship together as we sing praises to our God
and grow in faith together.*

Sunday, Feb. 5 - Fifth Sunday of Epiphany
Holy Communion
Scripture: Matthew 5: 13-20

Sunday, Feb. 12- Sixth Sunday of Epiphany
Scripture: Matthew 5: 21-37

Sunday, Feb. 19- Transfiguration of our Lord
Holy Communion
Scripture: Matthew 17: 1-9

Wednesday, Feb. 22
- Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion
Scripture: Jonah 1



Sunday, Feb. 26 - First Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Matthew 4: 1-11
Bishop Dee Pederson Preaching

"O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our God."

-Psalm 95:6

The Worship & Music Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to those men, women, and youth for who have stepped forward and have served to make worship more welcoming and meaningful. There have been many who have served as ushers, greeters, readers, acolytes, communion assistants, those who setup for communion and those who clean-up after communion. Thank you for enhancing other people's worship experience. You do make a difference.



More people are needed to serve and let their light shine.

If you are interested in serving please contact Di Lliam at 320-894-2124.

Thanks for considering sharing with the

Online Worship Services

Worship services will continue to be livestreamed on the GFLC Facebook page.
If you are unable to tune in live, the services will be posted to Facebook and YouTube after being streamed.
Worship services are also aired on the local cable channel 8 on Sundays at 7:00 PM.

GFLC Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GFLCGFMN/>

GFLC YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/gflcMNeIca/feed>

LENT 2023

UNFINISHED OUT OF THE DEPTHS

We meet Christ in the depths of our lives and our experiences. We all have projects, things we would like to accomplish, or even activities in our spiritual life we want to grow in. We think of Lent as that time to pause, ponder, and worship. Yet there are many things in our life that are unfinished. Unfinished is leaving something incomplete or something to be worked on, or something in life that is ongoing. In our spiritual life we are unfinished. God is at work in us and through us. Lent is Jesus calling us to come and follow Him to the depths of life and death.

This season of Lent during Sunday morning and Wednesday night the theme of, "Unfinished-Out of the Depths," be our theme. The book of Jonah will be our guide as we ponder what is unfinished in our lives. On Sunday mornings the gospel of Matthew and John will be our guide.

Jonah walks a Lenten path. Like all human beings, Jonah is prone to wander from God, his Creator, in favor of determining the shape and scope of his own future. This temptation to wander is especially powerful when God calls us to take on risky venture, travel to strange places, and confront things inside of us that prevent us from seeing one another as God sees us. God meets us in times of uncertainty and certainty. God meets us in Lent like spaces when we find ourselves somewhere between trust and doubt, courage and fear, or anger and empathy.

Our Journey as unfinished people begins on February 22, Ash Wednesday and concludes on Good Friday, April 7th. Below is our theme for each week:

February 22nd: Ash Wednesday	Jonah 1	God Calls and Persists
March 1st: Lent 1	Jonah 1:17, Psalm 139	Intercepted and Redirected
March 8th: Lent 2	Jonah 2 Psalm 130	God is in the Depths of Chaos
March 15th: Lent 3	Jonah 3	Obedience and Preservation
March 22nd: Lent 4	Jonah 4	Faithful and Unfinished
March 29th: Lent 5	Matthew 8:23-27	Jesus, a New Jonah
April 6th: Maundy Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus- The New Commandment
April 7th: Good Friday	John 18:1-19:42	Death and Uncertainty

Our Sunday morning worship services will continue the theme of, "Unfinished Out of the Depths. We will look at different people that Jesus met and called to follow Him who were in the depths of life.

February 26th:	Matthew 4:1-11	Called to Values
March 5th:	John 3:1-17	Called to Openness
March 12th:	John 4: 5-42	Called by God
March 19th:	John 9:1-41	Called to Attentiveness
March 26th:	John 11:1-45	Called to Regret
April 2nd: Palm/Passion Sunday	Matthew 16-27	Called to Experience God's Presence
April 9th: Resurrection Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Called to Resurrection

You are encouraged to read through the text each week. Look for more resources to come as we together experience God's great love and compassion. Together, may we, "Return to the Lord our God, for He is gracious, and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."

You are also invited and encouraged to attend **Lenten Suppers** that will be held beginning March 1st. Supper will be served from 5:45-6:15. Worship will begin at 6:30. There have been individuals and church committees who have stepped forward to organize these suppers. Thank you to those who are willing to serve. Confirmation youth and parents take note, we are asking confirmation youth to help out with serving and clean-up. We will be reaching out to you through e-mail to have you sign up to assist with the meals.

Prayer for Lent: God of creation and compassion, you promise to be a God who hears us, no matter how far we stray. Help us to know deep in our bones that wherever we run you are already there. Amen

Lenten Disciplines

February is always an interesting month. It starts in the season of light, Epiphany. Then during the month we take time to celebrate sharing life in marriage on Valentine's Day. Most years like this at some point we change from light to penitence and Lent.

Ash Wednesday will be here on February 22nd. The start of 40 days to reflect and be renewed. We often talk of giving something up for Lent. It can be a chance to break a bad habit. It may not be a bad habit it may be a routine in need of rethinking. In my first call I was in west Texas and over an hour from the nearest McDonald's. Then I moved to Arkansas and the McDonald's was between my home and the church. I found myself stopping almost every day. One year as we came to Lent I was adding up my cash receipt from the previous month and I realized I had spent over \$50 at McDonald's. I looked back over several months of my cash receipts and realized it had become a pattern. I gave up McDonald's for Lent that year. I broke the habit of eating so often at McDonald's. I still do enjoy a sausage biscuit or a quarter pounder every now and again, but it is not a main stay of my daily life.



When you give something up you need to also think about what you are going to do instead. Last month I wrote about spiritual disciplines. Adding in a discipline or expanding your current routines would be a possibility. Another comes from the practice of the early church; Lent then was a time of preparation for baptism. Lent can be a time to renew our baptismal covenant. The covenant we make at confirmation; "to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." (ELW p237). Now when we have a child baptized, we add in "teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God" (ELW p228).

Lent would be a good time to pull out the small Catechism (if you need a new one we have a supply at church) and review all of it, since it contains the items we are to teach our children. By reflecting on the parts of the catechism, Luther helps us to live our baptismal covenant in the world. As you reflect on the Ten Commandments, pay special attention to the eighth commandment and think of how you can find kind explanations for any with whom you have disagreed.

No matter what becomes your plan, Lent is a time to remember all that led to Christ's crucifixion for our sins and then Jesus conquers death with the resurrection we will celebrate on Easter in April.

Blessings,
Interim Pastor Deborah Nissen

Greetings fellow pilgrims on the journey of life,

I have been thinking about February and the beginning of Lent. Two words have been in my mind. One is pilgrim and the other is journey. A pilgrim is someone on a journey to a holy place. A pilgrim is a wanderer, one who moves slowly from place to place. Journey is about change and growing in faith and life. So for me, Lent is a journey that we take as pilgrims to the holy places where Jesus walked, taught and lived. Lent, as a pilgrim, is a journey inward to become more like Christ. The call to us as pilgrims during Lent is a spiritual journey to the cross where Jesus died. As pilgrims we cannot celebrate Christ's resurrection unless we ponder his life and death.

Three words to focus on as a pilgrim in the season of Lent are: *ponder, pause and presence*. Ponder is to chew on something, to think about something carefully. I invite you to ponder how Jesus lived and what was important to Jesus as He lived and died. Ponder your relationship with Christ who is the light of the world. Chew on Jesus' teaching and chew on his healing presence as you read through the gospel of Matthew. I invite you to worship at 7:00pm on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, and 6:30pm on following Wednesdays. Come and ponder the book of Jonah. Worship is a time to ponder together who Christ is and breathe in his presence.

I invite you to pause in your busy schedule between work, family time, meetings and commitments to cease and make time for Christ. Pause is to interrupt your routine or to stop an action or to cease activities. What is in your life that you can pause or let go of, and make space to seek Christ and to speak to Christ through prayer.

As Lenten pilgrims I encourage you to pause and ponder and to be open to the presence of Christ. Christ's presence is made known in creation, in relationships, in worship, in family time, in times of activities, in times of stress and times of rest. The presence of Christ comes to us as we make time for prayer and Scripture reading. May we as pilgrims on our journey keep our ears and eyes open for the presence of Jesus who accompanies us on our journey.

Our journey as Lenten pilgrims begins with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of three things: First, ashes remind us that we are sinful; Second, ashes remind us we will die; and Third, that we have been redeemed. In other words, Ash Wednesday is really a summary of our life and relationship with God. Ashes also tell us the good news of the cross. The ashes are placed on one's forehead in the shape of the cross to remind us that Jesus died so our sins are forgiven and we live with hope and the promise of eternal life.

Lenten Pilgrim Prayer: *God our creator, Jesus the suffering servant, and Holy Spirit, our teacher and guide, be with us on our pilgrim journey of Lent and faith. Give us the grace and courage to step forward in faith and hope as we journey on the road ahead. Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see your face in all those we encounter. Open our ears to hear your voice in those who are often ignored. Accompany us on our Lenten journey. Amen.*



Interim Pastor Joyce Capp

Calling all Families.

The Education Committee has some dates for you to put on your calendars. Lots of activities and news.

- ✝ The weekend of February 25th-26th BOWLING... Stay tuned for more details.
- ✝ Sunday March 26th: SWIMMING (tentatively)
- ✝ Children will be singing on Palm Sunday- April 2nd.
- ✝ Last day of Sunday School is May 7th. Fun family activities are being planned.

We are looking for a family to host the Green Lake Lutheran Ministries counselors who will be here to lead Vacation Bible School. The dates we need someone to host them are: Sunday, August 6th- through Thursday, August 10th. There will be three to four youths. Prayerfully consider supporting this worthwhile ministry.

Keep watching for more updates.

Children's Church & Sunday School Schedule

CC (age 4 thru 1st Grade) SS (2nd thru 6th Grades)

- Feb 5 Children's Church - 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am
- Feb 12 Children's Church - 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am
- Feb 19 No Children's Church - 9:00 am
No Sunday School - 10:00 am
- Feb 26 Children's Church - 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am

Confirmation schedule

- February 1 Class
- February 8 Class
- February 15 Class
- February 22 No-Class Ash Wednesday Worship

Qp F g e f W r s r f E _ r f c p j e

The LYO board is overjoyed to be sharing registration materials for the Synod's annual Senior High Youth Gathering! All 9th-12th grade students are invited to this event, which is coordinated and planned by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO). It will be held March 10-11, 2023 at Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria, MN.

Our theme this year is , *V g d q f F n c F t l e d r + F n c O q u i t e d r* * ` _ q c b m l @ _ g f 368 / ,

We have an outstanding gathering planned for you:

- Speaker & Band: Joe Davis and the Poetic Diaspora (speaker and poet/musicians)
- Nightlife: Variety of activities including open gym, bonfire, music, Spikeball tournament, games, etc.
- The Zen Zone (a relaxing place for peace and prayer)
- Small group sessions led by trained youth to help dig deeper into the theme
- Service learning opportunities include a guest speaker from LSS, tying blankets, and refugee experience simulator
- LYO board elections (more info below!)
- Lively worship, dancing, singing, fun, faith and relationship-building

Registration Fee: "/// . n c p n c p q r l , The fee includes room, programming, t-shirt, Friday snacks and Saturday breakfast and lunch.

Registration: Opens February 1 @ 12:00 pm — *A j m q c q D c ` p s _ p w 0 2 r f > 2 8 l . n k ,*

Here is the link to register. <https://swmnynod.formstack.com/forms/srhighyouthgathering2023>



Your Church Needs You!

As I write this note for the February newsletter, I think about my life here at Granite Falls Lutheran Church. Being baptized, confirmed and later married here & raising our family in this church, you would say I am a lifelong member. Granite Falls Lutheran Church is very special to me. I have witnessed many ministers come and go - each one with a different style - all of them serving here for the same reason, "to spread the word of God." I look at Granite Falls Lutheran Church as my extended church family all loving the same Lord. It takes a lot of people to help with all that happens here at church. In the next few weeks we will be seeking congregation members to serve on different committees. I am asking you to pray about this. Open your hearts and minds to serve on one of these committees. MY CHURCH, YOUR CHURCH & OUR CHURCH needs your input. We are a CHURCH FAMILY and need to continue to work and grow together.

*Blessings,
Karla Bjorndal, member of the nominating committee*

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

Thank you for your participation and service...

January was a new beginning for our congregation. On behalf of the GFLC Council I want to thank all of you who took the time to participate in the two-day *Dialog Works* presentations and for your valuable input that will impact our future growth as a congregation. A very special thank you to the Project Coordination Team: Taylor Bakkelund, Peggy Hardy, Joe Hauger, Val Hoffman, Carol Nordaune and Joanelle Sannerud, for their commitment and expertise in leading us through the time of discovery, congregational input-survey and interviews and finally to the finished report. We are grateful for your service.

The Nominating Committee will be contacting members, seeking new leaders for the next term which begins June 1, 2023. Please say "Yes" or better yet, please volunteer to serve on a committee that interests you! We are better together and there is so much to be accomplished that will help to build a successful future for our congregation. We need your commitment and ideas!

Later this month *Dialog Works* (Peter Soli and Rachel Hefte) will host three online sessions with the church council and other congregational leaders to begin working and planning for our next steps. The zoom sessions will conclude with an in-person session on Saturday, March 18th, at GFLC. It will be paired with "Conversation Shepherds", a training event that will teach facilitation and mediation to our lay leaders. We are excited to continue this partnership with *Dialog Works* and keep the momentum for positive change going in our congregation.

Finally, it is imperative that we lift up one another, not only in prayer but in word and in deed. The directive, from Peter and Rachel, to remember the meaning of the 8th Commandment-*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor* is an important reminder that we should defend our neighbors, speak well of them, and explain their words and actions in the best possible way. Let us move forward in that spirit of kindness.

Together in Christ,
Elaine Halverson, GFLC Congregational President

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Ash Wednesday

	2/5/2023	2/12/2023	2/19/2023	2/22/2023	2/26/2023
Greeters	Stan & Darlene Santjer Scott Jans	Doug & Nicole Jans Pat Kubly	Shawnn & Erica Martin Paul Hoernemann	Al & Barb Lund Kyle TeBeest	Margaret Holien & Lori Carter Carl Imes
Usher Team	Mark Jensen	Jeff Koepke	Scott Bjorndal	Stan Santjer	Keith Knudson
Acolytes	Braden Eisenbacher Gavin Torvik	Abbie Winter Alyssa Moe	Evelyn Martin Abby Gullickson	Aubree Enstad Sarana West	Wyatt Ansell Ian Zempel
Reader	Karla Bjorndal	Kathy Hendrickson	Amy Hoernemann	Scott Jans	Mark Jensen
Communion Assistant	* Karla Bjorndal * Keith Sandberg Gail Aus Melissa Helgeson	X	Darlene Erickson Di Lalim Peg Heglund Shawnn Martin	Val Hoffman Dana Baldry Gail Aus Tammy Jager	X

Espresso Time!

Women gathering for fellowship and scripture.

Please join us at church on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 2:30 pm.

(bring your own beverage)

Saturday Men's Breakfast at Hardee's



7:00 am

Come and enjoy!



Lac qui Parle Conference Annual Meeting February 26, 2023 at 1:30pm at Kvitsiede Lutheran in Milan.

We are part of the Lac qui Parle conference of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Which is to say we are part of a much greater community of believers that offers us connections and opportunities to share Christ in ways we could not alone.

Our conference consists of 30 Congregations and two nursing homes in our area. There is a map of the synod on the Kiosk in the church entry where you can see what congregations are part of our conference. Through our conference we have a companion circuit in South Africa, Kwa Nod Wengu Circuit. Members of Granite Falls Lutheran have participated in trips to South Africa and connected with those congregations in the past. In fact we have a cloth they gave us which is hung on the processional cross (the one in the stand at the front) on the third Sunday of the month. This connection helps us to recognize the diversity that God has created. As the custom in South Africa is for girls to only go to school through 8th grade our conference uses part of the dues and additional contributions to provide scholarships for girls to continue their education through high school.

The conference also offers us opportunities to do joint ministries with other congregations. The conference women have gatherings as well.

Learn more about what the conference has done this past year and what we could be doing this next year by attending the Conference meeting on February 26.

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 2px dashed red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Bishop Dee Pederson will be preaching on February 26th at our regular 9:00am worship service.</p> </div>			1 9:00 AM -Noon YML Office hours 5:00 PM Worship/Music Committee Mtg <i>6:00 PM Education Committee Mtg</i> 6:30 PM Choir Practice <i>7:00 PM 6th Gr. Pre-confirmation</i> 7:00 PM Confirmation Class (7th gr - 9th gr)	2 5:30 PM Nominating Committee Meeting	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
			5 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion <i>10:00 AM Sunday School</i>	6 <i>7:00 PM Prairie Arb Chorale Rehearsal</i>	7 5:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting <i>6:00 PM Outreach Committee Meeting</i> 7:00 PM Property Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Stephen's Ministry Mtg	8 9:00 AM -Noon YML Office hours 1:00 PM Granite Ridge Worship 2:00 PM GFH Care Center Worship 6:30 PM Choir Practice <i>7:00 PM 6th Gr. Pre-confirmation</i> 7:00 PM Confirmation Class (7th gr - 9th gr)
12 <i>9:00 AM Celebration Worship Service</i> <i>10:00 AM Sunday School</i>	13 <i>7:00 PM Prairie Arb Chorale Rehearsal</i>	14 <i>6:30 PM Council Meeting</i>	15 9:00 AM -Noon YML Office hours 6:30 PM Choir Practice <i>7:00 PM 6th Gr. Pre-confirmation</i> 7:00 PM Confirmation Class (7th gr - 9th gr)	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
19 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion Baptism	20 <i>7:00 PM Prairie Arb Chorale Rehearsal</i> Presidents Day	21	22 9:00 AM -Noon YML Office hours <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship </div> 7:00 PM Confirmation Class (7th gr - 9th gr)	23 <i>2:30 PM Espresso Time</i>	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
26 9:00 AM Worship Service <i>10:00 AM Sunday School</i> 2:00 PMLQP Conference Mtg <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <i>Bishop Dee Pederson preaching</i> </div>	27 <i>7:00 PM Prairie Arb Chorale Rehearsal</i>	28 1:00 PM Sewing Day	<p><i>Lenten Meals on Wednesdays</i> 5:45pm-6:15 pm <i>Lenten Worship at 6:30pm</i> (Beginning March 1st)</p>			

Birthdays

1 Griffin Anderson	11 Hope Foy	17 Isabelle Stark
1 JoAnn Fromm	11 Vicky Lewis	18 Carl Imes
2 Ashley Soine	11 Alissa Siefkes	18 Kylie Knollenberg
2 David Syring	11 Jack Tjosvold	19 Benay Cole
2 Owen Torvik	12 Linda Dahl	19 Eleanor Erickson
3 Peggy Hardy	13 Michael Aus	20 Aubree Enstad
4 Shana Roskens	13 John Ims	20 Gregory Fagen
4 Tanner Kotek	13 Douglas Jans	21 Barry Anderson
5 Chad Friese	13 Kolten Blankenhagen	21 Thomas Midthun
5 Abby Gullickson	14 Todd Balfany	21 Daniel Walters
5 Jill Meyer	14 Connor Fagen	22 Otilia Balfany
5 Peggy Schindler	14 Gage Johnson	22 David Bredeson
6 Bill Dinesen	15 Karen Baker	22 Joshua Foy
7 Dianne Barber	15 Laura Munsterman	22 Marie Risa
7 Herbert Calley	16 Liam Anderson	22 Larry Thielen
7 Dalton Anderson	16 Andrew Arneson	24 Pamela Wilkening
8 Karen Anderson	16 Torey Golberg	26 LaVerne Korthuis
8 Robert Carter	16 David Haroldson	26 Brody Sannerud
10 Eyvonne Hoese	16 Sarana West	27 Matthew R. Johnson
10 Travis Roskens	17 Kayla Nordaune	28 Eunice Skeie

Want to Sign Up for Electronic Giving?

Go to the Granite Falls Lutheran Website. (www.granitefallslutheran.com) On the home page you will see a link titled "Give Online" towards the upper right part of your screen. From there you will be able to complete the easy sign-up. This is a simple way to pre-arrange offerings to the church.

Direct link to Simply Giving sign up:
click [here](#)



WELCA

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 16:19

Do you wonder what the keys to the kingdom that Jesus promised to Peter look like? Could he fit them into a pocket and, over the ages, could they have morphed into a code?

One thing for sure is that on that keychain there is a cross. For it is Christ alone who has unlocked heaven's door through his death and resurrection. Thankfully, not only does that let us in; it also lets heaven out. Our work is flooded with Jesus' love. Just one question remains; Will we unlock that love through the doors of our own lives and share in letting it loose on earth?

Christ in Our Home, p22

One way you shared your love in 2022 was through your response to the donation request letters. With your help we were able to assist with kitchen repairs and give contributions to local agencies. Thank you for your part!

We look forward to your continuing support of the work of GFL WELCA.



Dates to remember:

Dinner at Your Door: February 27 – March 3; Group 4

Quilting: February 28 – March 1, 1pm-4pm; Snacks provided by Group 2

2023 Work Group booklets are available on the table in the narthex.

Updated information?

Do you have a new address, a new phone number, e-mail, or have you switched to using only a cell phone and your land-line is no longer in use? We are in need of your updated information. If you have had a change, or are not receiving any email messages, please contact the church office so that we may better stay in contact with you!

January Ministerial Acts

Funeral

Frank Kranitz - January 25th

Granite Falls Lutheran Church

Joyce Capp

Interim Pastor

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