



Granite Falls Lutheran News

May 2021

We Honor God's Word and Those Who Teach It

Sunday, May 2, is the last day of Sunday School, and importantly, a time to show our appreciation to all those who have brought the Word of God to our students this trying year. We will be publicly thanking our teachers and parish education committee in worship that day, AND handing out Bibles to the parents and guardians of our 4-year-olds, 2nd Graders and 7th Graders, so that they may fulfill their baptismal promises by "placing in their hands the Holy Scriptures." This important ritual bridges the time between Baptism and First Communion, and helps families to renew their commitment to Christian Education for their student—join us for it!

Time to Look Back, Around Us, and Forward 75 Years

On Sunday, May 16, we begin a time for looking back where we have come from as a congregation, where we are now, and where we imagine God has us doing ministry in 75 years. Though it is in fact the 76th Anniversary of our church organization as Granite Falls Lutheran, our presence and ministry began long before that, and will continue long after this moment. The anniversary is a reason for us to spend some time celebrating, praising, praying, and contemplating our future together.

Our **Kick-Off Worship**, beginning nearly seven months of observations, events, visits from former pastors and staff, will begin with **9am worship on May 16.** We will use the same worship service order used for our 50th Anniversary Sunday in 1995 as a way of bridging our past with our present. We will have church imprint face masks on sale (you'll probably be using them for awhile—why not advertise our anniversary?). We hope to have a little outside coffee fellowship, weather permitting.

We are planning an **outdoor picnic** during August (weather and public circumstances permitting), as well as other imprint sales. Importantly, **we are inviting back former pastors, staff and sons and daughters of the church (in ministry),** to visit or even participate in worship! We hope you are excited to welcome them back here, and renew your relationship with them for a Sunday. We hope to end our celebration process with a **church dinner** in November, before we plan for the Christmas season.

*Please read our **ongoing history series** (page 3) and keep up on more events related to this celebration!*

Congratulations to our 2021 Graduating Seniors!

H.S. Senior Recognition Sunday is May 23rd. (More info on page 3)



Worship in May

Worship with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:00am via Facebook Live.

Come let us worship together as we sing praises to our God and grow in faith together.

Sunday, May 2 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

Scripture: John 15: 1-8

Sunday, May 9 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 16 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

Scripture: John 15:26-27 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 23 - Day of Pentecost

Scripture: John 15:26-27; 16: 4b-15

Sunday, May 30 - The Holy Trinity

Scripture: John 3:1-17



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.

GFLC Facebook Page:

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

GFLC YouTube Channel:

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

Our services also continue to be broadcast on KDMA Radio (93.9 FM & 1460 AM) on Sunday mornings at 7:40 AM as well as on the local cable channel 8 on Sundays at 7:00 PM.

MAY WORSHIP LEADERS

	5/2/2021	5/9/2021	5/16/2021	5/23/2021	5/30/2021
Greeter	Shawnn & Erica Martin	Stan & Darlene Santjer	Dar Hanson & Norma Iverson	Doug & Nicole Jans	Jim & Kathy Hendrickson
Usher Team	Keith Knudson	Scott Santjer	Scott Jans	Craig Opdahl	Doug Peterson
Reader	Shawnn Martin	Pat Sheggeby	Dar Hanson	Sue Bergquist	Elaine Halverson

GFLC... 75 Years And Counting! Part 4: The North Church

Last month we began the history of the “North” Church, the United Church, which had become the home of change as the result of a changing local culture. This month we complete it. New immigrants brought new ideas and practices; a changing country was fast embracing new ways of living; and outside events were bringing unheard of pressures and changes. While the United Church was enjoying the consistency of pastoral leadership under the Ericksen brothers, from 1893 to the 1940s much else was changing rapidly: in 1919 they were linked with Rock Valle, Maynard, Wang and Hawk Creek; the church began using envelopes for regular Sunday offerings instead of directly soliciting members; English became the predominant language of worship and keeping records; women were given the right to vote after the US amended the Constitution to allow women the right to vote, Granite Falls was growing in size and importance as the county seat. The Roaring Twenties were not so roaring for farmers because of low prices, and the Great Depression saw things only get worse as farmers lost their land, struggling to survive. A brewing war in Europe seemed far away, but after the horrors of “the Great War” most people wanted to stay out of any entangling alliances.

Pastors Olaf and Michael were now 64 and 71, with their doctors urging them to limit their work. On June 21 of 1942, after the war had begun, Pastor Michael Ericksen preached his farewell sermon, finishing 35 years of service in Granite Falls. On July 7, 1942, his brother Pastor Olaf Eriksen tendered his resignation, following this motion: “Resolved that the United Lutheran congregation of Granite Falls operate independently of any other congregations.” Though asked to reconsider his resignation, he declined. The congregation then passed the following resolution: “We the undersigned do hereby go on record as declaring that unless the United Lutheran congregation joins in a joint call with the First Lutheran congregation, we will no longer contribute toward the support of this congregation. It was signed by 75 parishioners. Pastor Ericksen gave a talk, advising the congregation to get together with First Lutheran in a peaceable way. He had served the church for 35 years. With the second “Great War” raging, the congregations made plans to merge once again after nearly 50 years of separation. *Next month: the “South Church.”*



Celebrate New Beginnings With Our Senior Class!

On Sunday, May 23, we will celebrate with graduating seniors and their families as they prepare to enter new lives, new challenges, and even new places! This special service will focus on gifts and blessings: how these young people have been a gift to our town and congregation; and how we gather to bless them, together, one last time.

Our graduating senior class includes:

Bennett Ansel	Abel Chaparro	Ethan Fagen	Caleb Jans	Hunter Gullickson
Jaden Gorres	Ashley Niemeyer	Tyler Nordaune	Macie Sik	Kaitlin Wohlman
Sydnee Skjefte	Hunter Wilke	Courtney Winter	Tyler Syring	

APRIL MINISTERIAL ACTS:



Confirmation Students

April 25th:



Aria Peters

Ayva Wilkening

Izabella Anderson

Devin Ladwig

James Peterson

Kayla Nordaune

Kylie Knollenberg

Ruby Bones

Nevaeh Chaparro

Owen Torvik

Landon Anderson

History and Lived Reality

As a lover of history, I read quite a bit about our nation's history. I once corrected my elementary school teacher regarding the War of 1812, a highlight of 5th grade. I read about the early white settlers, the treatment of Native Americans, the pan-Atlantic slave trade, the struggles of power between north and south, and the Civil War. Later in my life I read about Women's Suffrage, and the Great Depression, the Great Migration, and the Civil Rights movement. By the time I reached high school, I had read quite a bit about the racism facing black folks in America and thought I had a good understanding of the subject. Racism was bad, and was dealt with in the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement. Sure, there were instances of racism in modern (2005 & on) times, but they were few and far between. Systemic racism was a thing of the past.

I came to this conclusion without actually meeting or talking with any black folks. I grew up in a very white community. My understanding of racism came from the mostly white historians I was reading. I was living with white folks, going to school with white folks, and reading books written by white folks.

I didn't talk with a black person about racism until my sophomore year of college. It was a rather rude awakening for me, as I understood racism to be a thing from the past. These friends explained it was a part of their day to day reality. They had stories of being pulled over in 'white' neighborhoods, and questioned as to what they were doing blocks from their own home. They had stories of clerks following them around in stores, making sure they weren't shoplifting. They had stories of constant micro-aggressions, comments like 'I would never date a black man', or 'she would have never gotten in if she wasn't black', or 'n***** go home' written on a bulletin board. Racism might have been in the past for me, but for the black students I spoke with, it was very much a present reality.

I didn't see the racism black Americans faced because I didn't have to. It was not a part of my life, as a white person living in white communities. I'm still working on understanding 'modern' racism and the insidious ways it is woven in our world. There are so many knock-down effects that we are still dealing with, things that none of us have anything to do with, but that still have negative effects to this day. For an example, search for 'redlining in MN' and click on any article. As Christians, we know the power sin has over us. We also know that the Holy Spirit is working in, through, and despite us to lessen the power of sin. One of these sins is racism.

I'm thankful for the folks who were kind enough to share their stories of oppression with me. Those stories are painful to tell, and should not be taken lightly. If you're looking to learn more about the reality black folks have to face, I would highly recommend *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Caste* by Siabel Wilkerson, or *Dear Church* by Lenny Duncan. Let us have the incomparable love of Jesus as the head of our church, so that we can create a world where all truly are welcome.

Pastor Paul

GFLC Church Council Meeting Tuesday, April 13, 2021

2020-2021 GFLC Church Council – Present – Larry T., Elaine H., Pat K., Dave H., Karla B., Kelly O., Shawnn M., Terri D. and Pastor Mark.

Opening Larry called the meeting to order. The Vision and Mission statements were recited. Motion by Shawnn, second by Karla to approve the agenda with additions. Passed. Motion by Terri, second by Shawnn to approve the resignation of Tim Opdahl from the council due to his job commitments. Passed. Motion by Kelly, second by Elaine to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes. Passed.

Financial Business Val had printed the monthly financial overview in advance. The checkbook balance as of 3-31-21 was \$40,273.19. Motion by Elaine, second by Dave to approve the financial report. Passed. It was announced that the audit had been completed.

Committee Reports: Current Committee Reports are posted on the board next to the Chapel.

Worship & Music Business Item– The 75 + 1 Anniversary Task Force is hoping to get \$500 sponsorship for a church cook-out in August. A final dinner will be planned for November. They are requesting \$1500 from the undesignated memorial fund and \$900 from the endowment fund. Motion by Karla, second by Shawnn to approve the request for \$1500 from Fund 980 – Undesignated memorials. Passed.

Other Church Council Business

1. Updates from Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul: Both pastors sent out reports in advance of the meeting.

2. Church services: Spring semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 18. Election procedures were discussed for the election of council and committee members. Council member election requires a secret ballot. A quorum of 70 members is necessary. Pastor Mark will send out an email by Wednesday afternoon to the congregation explaining the voting process.

3. Policy and other updates:

Custodial update – Joe's next medical review is April 29th. We continue to be grateful for the work by Scott and Karla Bjorndal and Corey Moe. Karla mentioned the wonderful volunteer help from Dallas Iverson.

Building Use Policy – There has been a request from a person taking a piano technician course in regard to practicing on pianos in the building. The only suitable piano for this purpose is in the library. One of the pastors will meet with the gentleman.

Staff handbook – Holiday policies. This section of the hand book is being clarified and will come before the executive committee again before coming back to council for approval.

Summer pastoral coverage – preaching schedule has been established.

4. Church Council Business/Old business:

Audit committee – Audit is complete with recommendations sent to Val.

After School Program – Much discussion followed. Pastor Mark addressed questions and is continuing to refine the plan.

Member transfers – Motion by Elaine, second by Karla to approve the new members: Dale and Diane (Di) Lalim, C.J. and Peggy Hardy, Logan and Hailey Gill, Bernard (Bernie) and Malena (Molly) Jahn, Elizabeth Breczinski and Clara Hartson. Passed.

Motion by Karla, second by Shawnn to approve the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) for the following students: Aria Peters, Ayva Wilkening, Bella Anderson, Devin Ladwig, James Peterson, Kayla Nordaune, Kylie Knollenberg, Landon Anderson, Nevaeh Chaparro, Owen Torvik and Ruby Bones. Passed.

Sound training and volunteers - will wait for an update from Pastor Paul.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer. Next meeting Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Kubly, Secretary Edited for Publication: Pastor M

A Proposal to “Grow the Faith” of Our Younger Elementary-Age Children

The “Here We Grow” After-School Ministry Program is a proposed outreach ministry of Granite Falls Lutheran Church of Granite Falls whose purpose is to provide a safe place for grades K-3 children to gather, receive a Christian values-based education, engage in structured learning and play, and receive homework assistance when appropriate.

Our target is families with children in grades K-3 who desire a safe place for values-based education for their child from the end of the school day until 5:30pm. Presently, these students are not served by any regular school program, though children may spend time at traditional home- or commercial-based daycare. Parents are looking for supervision and programming for this age group at this time in their lives. Sometimes they must pay a whole-day rate in a traditional daycare. Sometimes parents also find it difficult to motivate their child to attend and socialize with preschoolers in traditional daycare, while daycare providers likewise find it difficult to meet their increased needs and capacities. Other parents are understandably concerned about having their child unattended or under-attended at home. This program could answer these diverse needs. This ministry would not stand separate from our church ministry but operate under the supervision of the church council, guided by a separate committee/board, and employ an ASM Coordinator to plan and implement its activities.

There are no comparable ministry programs in Granite Falls that serve this particular age-group, in this particular niche-time, that are faith-ministry based. Our marketing has already started with parent and family visits and discussions, and will next include a SurveyMonkey research survey targeting church members, or a prospective parent/family informational meeting. After this, and following positive church leadership approval and formal announcement of such a ministry, advertising in local news outlets will begin. Our most valuable advertising will be word-of-mouth and personal references. A formal, late summer Open House will provide families with an opportunity to sign-up for a limited number of enrollment openings.

An initial class size of 16 students would require 2 adults: one ASM Coordinator employee and an adult/student assistant (volunteer or paid TBD). The requirement would be an adult for each 8 children. The primary expenses will be snacks, curriculum, equipment, insurance (if any), and labor. The largest single expense will be labor: 20 hours of ASM Coordinator expense will be needed each 5 day week. Hiring a paid assistant ASM for 12.5 hours of student contact time would be the other labor expense.

Implementing this proposal required presenting this ministry plan to the church council at the beginning of April, followed by discussion at their April meeting. Further discussion with the wider congregation, including their input and suggestions (along with any data learned through SurveyMonkey) can occur after the Semi-Annual Meeting and newsletter information has been published. After the initial round of congregational inputs, modifications can be made to the proposed plan. The modified plan can then be brought for final approval to the Church council. An ASM Coordinator job description can then be drawn up, and a tentative plan for advertising, interviewing, and hiring the Here We Grow ASM Coordinator can be devised. Simultaneously, we can begin the marketing campaign, culminating in an Open House enrollment night in August. In this scenario, our first projected class day would be September 7.

If you have constructive thoughts and comments regarding the children’s ministry proposal, please contact Pastor M so we can incorporate them into the finished proposal if possible. An in-depth copy of this proposal can be obtained from the church office.

Vacation Bible School

After a year gap due to COVID-19, the Education Committee is excited to announce VBS will be happening this summer! Our dates are August 9th to August 12th, and it is open for all kiddos (member or not) entering 1st to 6th grade. The children who have done this in the past have had an absolute blast, and we expect the same fun experience this year! VBS will be happening at GFLC from 9:00am to 2:30pm, and children will be provided lunch and a snack.

We will be having staff from Shetek Bible Camp come to lead VBS, and could really use some volunteers to help out! This would be a wonderful experiences for High Schoolers, retired folks, stay-at-home parents, or anyone looking to help either prepare food or help lead children. You can volunteer for one to four days, whatever works for your schedule.

If you would be interested in registering or volunteering, please contact the church office at

reception@granitefallslutheran.com

320-564-3746



Bring Meaning to Life: Living In the Moment For the Sake of Others

We are living in a special moment: as we come to the end of the isolation and frustration of the COVID-19 pandemic, there exists the possibility for several generations to spend lots of time and money that has been stored up during the last year. What will we use it for? Some will buy things (LOTS of things) and this is what our government wants us to do to spur the economy. Some will spend it in the service sector as they travel or purchase services they put off due to social distancing (your favorite restaurant is calling...!). I will be completely honest and say that the church needs and can use you're your extra dollars and time as well. But what we are trying to really get at is meaning: what will give your life meaning in this new world? Most of you have found out that during the pandemic it was not the stuff you valued as much as the people around you. And if you lost a love one, or missed your grandchildren during that year, you really know the value of a special moment WITH someone. What's more, when those special moments are FOR someone, they take on real meaning.

Stewardship not only about money, though it includes it, because stewardship is about how we use what we have to bring meaning to our lives and to God, through using each moment for others. Like money, if we hoard those moments for ourselves, we ultimately lose them like fine sand sifting through our fingers. But if we share them, with just enough in the palm of our hand, and sharing the rest, they no longer slip away from us so easily. As we plan our summers, and the fall, consider how you can create deeper meaning in your life by how you give time to others in your life, community and church. An anonymous survey will go out asking a few questions about this: please respond to it!

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>9:00 AM Worship Service</i> SS teacher apprec.	3 PASTOR MANNING OUT	4 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting	5 <i>6:30 PM Education Committee Mtg</i>	6	7 Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	8 2:00 PM Funeral
9 <i>9:00 AM Worship Service</i> Mother's Day	10 9:00 AM WELCA Board Mtg PASTOR MANNING OUT	11 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Outreach Committee Mtg 6:30 PM Property & Grounds Meeting 7:30 PM Council Meeting	12 <i>5:30 PM Worship/Music Committee Mtg</i>	13 <u>2:30 PM Espresso Time</u> <i>6:30 PM Stewardship Committee Mtg</i>	14 Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	15
16 <i>9:00 AM Worship Service</i> 76th anniv celebration	17 PASTOR MANNING OUT	18 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	19	20	21 Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	22
23 <i>9:00 AM Worship Service</i> Senior Recognition Sunday	24 PASTOR MANNING OUT	25 <i>9:00 AM Sewing Day</i> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	26 <i>9:00 AM Sewing Day</i>	27 <u>2:30 PM Espresso Time</u>	28 Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	29
30 <i>9:00 AM Worship Service</i>	31 Memorial Day Office Closed PASTOR MANNING OUT					

May Birthdays

1	Shawn Flynn	15	Jamie Golberg	23	Dennis Lewison
2	Jordan Bakkelund	15	Ayva Wilkening	23	Suzanne Martinson
2	Addison Doyle	16	Douglas McCoss	23	Galen Skjefte, Jr
2	John Nordaune	16	David Nordaune	23	Kelly Ullrich
2	Bradley Rude	16	Jacklin Thielen	24	Riley Enstad
3	Anders Linden	16	Greta Voudrie	24	Steven Enstad
5	Mitchell Brovold	16	Paul Drees	24	Steven Midthun
6	Hailie Bjorndal	17	Lori Carter	24	Patricia Springer
6	Anthony Mensink	17	Todd Hofteig	24	Gregory Wilkening
7	Mary Hoffman	17	Scott Jans	25	Kathy Balfany
7	Rhett Kleinhuizen	17	Nels Wilkening	25	Dennis Kessler
7	William Niemeyer	18	Elaine Monson	25	Brian Panitzke
7	Gage Wilke	19	Butch West	27	Richard Hamre
7	Laine Christians	20	Mitchell McKay	27	Aaron Schuler
8	Debra Burgeson	20	Joseph Rohlik	27	Camille TeBeest
9	Brian Olson	20	Linda Sorenson	28	Neal Eggebraaten
9	Sheri Parliament	21	Sharon Cole	28	Emma Eisenbacher
9	Aniyah Trost	21	JoAnn Hildahl	28	David Finnes
10	London Luepke	21	Nancy Ross	28	Bill Flaten
10	Todd Reishus	21	Myron Wee	28	Kris Jacobson
10	Asher Wieland	21	Quinten Zieske	28	Patrice Johnson
12	Charles Balfany	22	Christopher Balfany	28	Pamela Peyton
12	Daniel Olson	22	Rori Buchman	29	Elizabeth Hutson
13	Lauren Fagen	22	Verona Dalin	29	Kathleen Kimpling
13	Troy Halvorson	22	Ryan Reishus	29	Wyatt Ansel
14	Karen Mills	22	Arlene Tollefson	31	Jenna Luepke
14	Marlene Peterson	23	Brandon Sullivan	31	Connie Peterson

The GFLC Outreach Committee

would like to thank all those that shared financial support through noisy offering and other contributions to our current outreach to Mollie Varpness. This financial support will certainly aid in her educational expenses as she continues her journey as a Luther Seminary Student. Thank you for making a difference.

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](#)

Better Than a Tranquilizer:

Paul wrote; "Here is a last piece of advice ...Fix your minds on the things which are holy and right and pure and beautiful and good ...Think about all the things you can praise God for... and you will find that the God of peace will be with you" Philippians 4:8-9

As you enjoy the beautiful season of spring and all that it brings – spring cleaning, yard work, gardening, shopping, travels, tournaments, graduations, and so much more, may you take time to think on Paul’s words to the Philippians so long ago and let them be a ‘tranquilizer’ for you now in 2021.

God’s peace be with you!!

- ◆ Thank you for the many generous donations of fabric and sheets given to the WELCA quilters.
- ◆ We’re beginning to collect items for LWR Baby Care Kits and with the spring garage sales just around the corner it could be a good time to look for the following gently used items: sizes **6-24 months**
 - ◇ lightweight cotton T-shirts (we can use Onsies)
 - ◇ gowns or sleepers
 - ◇ tops and pants
 - ◇ jackets, sweaters, or sweatshirts with a hood
 - ◇ baby caps



Coming Events:

Quilting: May 25-26, 9:00-12:00 – Group 5 to furnish snacks

Dinner at Your Door: May 9-15 – Group 6

Endowment Grant Applications can be found on the table in the Narthex as well as the bookcase in the east entrance.

ESPRESSO TIME

Espresso Time will be the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at the church, with appropriate social distancing, for those who are comfortable.



For the safety of all, if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Use this QR code to give an online donation.



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