



Granite Falls Lutheran News April 2021

Welcome to Spring!

Welcome to Spring; and so much more! With some luck you will receive this by April 1 so that you can mark events on your calendar for this month. With better weather and better public health circumstances, we can look forward to much more in our faith lives:

- ✝ ***Holy Week** began on Palm Sunday. And continues with Maundy Thursday Worship service at 7pm, and Good Friday Worship service at 7pm. **Easter Worship will be on Sunday, April 4, at 7:30am, 9am and 11am. IMPORTANT: sign up for one of these worship services in advance through the church office; seating will be limited due to social distancing. If you have a larger family group please consider attending the 7:30am or 11am worship so you will be able to comfortably be seated together. Remember: masks and social distancing requirements are still in effect!***
- ✝ *Our **Spring Semi-Annual Meeting** will be held between worship services on Sunday April 18, starting approximately 10am. Important items on the agenda include proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws, and congregational elections. IMPORTANT: this congregational meeting will have both an in-person and on-line component so that anyone who wants to participate safely may do so. Again, masks and social distancing requirements are still in effect for in-person attendees.*
- ✝ ***Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)** for our Tenth Grade Class will be held at the 11am worship service on Sunday, April 25. We encourage you to attend this service—not avoid it—in order to see these young people, whom you have seen grow up in this church, take this important step in their faith lives. We invite their families from near and far, and their confirmation mentors, to join together in this congregational blessing of their commitment to live in their faith. Again, masks and social distancing requirements are still in effect for in-person attendees.*
- ✝ *Finally, looking ahead and planning, we will have our **75th (plus 1) Anniversary Year** celebration kicking off on Sunday, May 16. This is just the beginning of months of activities planned to help us remember where we came from, who we are now, and where God is sending us. The May 16 worship will be a remembrance of the worship we shared 25 years ago at the 50th Anniversary, and kick off events that will need your time and talent, but most of all your presence. Keep your eyes and ears open for announcements from the 75th Anniversary regarding these upcoming events!*

Worship in April



Worship with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:00am via Facebook Live.
When we can worship in person, we will have additional Sunday services at 11:00am
Come let us worship together as we sing praises to our God and grow in faith together.

Thursday, April 1, - Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 pm

Holy Communion

Scripture: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35



Friday, April 2, - Good Friday Service—7:00 pm

Scripture: Mark 15: 1-5

Sunday, April 4, - Easter Sunday Services – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Holy Communion

Scripture: Mark 16: 1-8

Christ
is
Risen!

Sunday, April 11, - Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 20: 19-31

Sunday, April 18, - Third Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion - Noisy Offering - Semi-Annual Meeting

Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday April 25, - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion & Confirmation

Scripture: John 10:11-18

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.

The full service is also aired on the local cable
channel 8 on Sundays at 7:00 PM.

We also continue have a radio broadcast on KDMA Radio
(93.9 FM & 1460 AM) on Sunday mornings at 7:40 AM

GFLC Facebook Page:

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

GFLC YouTube Channel:

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

March Ministerial Acts

Baptisms:

Georgianna Gill - March 7

Campbell TeBeest - March 14

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME: THE ETERNAL "BUCKET LIST"

A FEW YEARS AGO, FOR MY FATHER'S DAY GIFT, MY WIFE AND OLDEST DAUGHTER (ALMOST) SURPRISED ME WITH TICKETS TO SEE THE DOOBIE BROTHERS AND (BEST OF ALL) STEELY DAN IN CONCERT. THEY KNEW IT WAS PART OF MY "BUCKET LIST;" THAT LIST OF THINGS I WANT TO DO BEFORE I DIE. ALSO ON THAT LIST IS TO DRIVE THE NURBURGRING AND LE MANS AUTO RACE CIRCUITS IN EUROPE WITH MY SON ERIK. I'D LIKE TO GO BIRD WATCHING IN CALIFORNIA AND THE BAJA. MAYBE BICYCLE IN EUROPE WITH JOYCE (NOT SURE IF THAT'S ON *HER* LIST).

WE LIVE IN A WORLD MOST AMERICANS DO WITH A LOT OF "STUFF": IF I HAD ONLY BEEN SMART ENOUGH TO INVEST IN BUILDING STORAGE UNITS 20 YEARS AGO, I WOULD BE RICH!! WE ARE TRULY BLESSED WITH MANY THINGS. HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE THING WE REALLY CAN'T CREATE MORE OF: TIME. WE ALL FACE THIS SCARCITY, NO MATTER WHAT OUR STANDARD OF LIVING IS. IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SCARCITY IS THE TREK TO THE NEXT VILLAGE FOR CLEAN WATER. IN OUR COUNTRY, THE SCARCITY IS SITTING IN TRAFFIC DURING A COMMUTE TO WORK, OR A "HURRY-UP-AND-WAIT" ATTITUDE WHEN WE IMPATIENTLY WAIT FOR THE NEXT ITEM IN OUR PERSONAL AGENDA. IT CAN SEEM LIKE WE ARE RUSHING TO MEET OUR "BUCKET LIST" BEFORE WE RUN OUT OF TIME AND DIE; NO MATTER WHAT OUR AGE. *HURRY.*

WE HAVE A BIBLICAL COMMAND TO BE CONTENT, THOUGH: "*THEREFORE, PREPARING YOUR MINDS FOR ACTION, AND BEING SOBER-MINDED, SET YOUR HOPE FULLY ON THE GRACE THAT WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.*" (1 PETER 1.13) IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN THERE WAS NO SCARCITY NOT EVEN OF TIME. IN OUR FALLEN WORLD THERE IS SCARCITY ESPECIALLY OF TIME. IT IS LIMITED; WE ARE LIMITED. AND OUR RESPONSE IS OFTEN TO HOARD TIME, LIKE GOLD, FOR OURSELVES. OUR RESPONSE IS TO CLUTCH AT IT, EVEN WHILE IT SLIPS LIKE SAND THROUGH OUR FINGERS. (*CUE UP THE CAT STEVENS SONG "CAT'S IN THE CRADLE."*)

BUT OUR CALLING IS TO LIVE IN GOD'S GARDEN OF EDEN, AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT IS TO LIVE CONTENTLY WITH WHAT GOD GIVES US, SO THAT WE CAN SHARE AND GIVE FROM WHAT GOD CONTINUALLY GIVES US. OUR TIME IS LIMITED, BUT WHAT WE DO WITH IT IS IN SO MANY WAYS UNLIMITED. WHEN WE GIVE AND SHARE OUR TIME THROUGH VOLUNTEERING THROUGH OUR CHURCH, WE CAN SEE WHAT WE RICHLY HAVE AND SO GENEROUSLY SHARE. *GFLC DOESN'T TAKE YOUR TIME, IT GIVES YOU TIME. GFLC DOESN'T REQUIRE YOUR DUTY, BUT IT GIVES YOU CONTENTMENT. AND GOD GIVES YOU TIME EVERY DAY IS A GIFT SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE AND BE A GIFT TO ALL AROUND YOU. STEWARDSHIP IS MORE THAN MONEY: IT IS BEING CONTENT IN USING GOD'S TIME.*

Sponsoring a Seminary Student!

The Outreach Committee has been sponsoring Mollie Varpness, a first year Luther Seminary Student. As a part of this sponsorship, we will be having a **noisy offering on April 18th** for Mollie's benefit. Seminary can be expensive, mainly because being a full time student doesn't leave a lot of time to work! Look to our Facebook page for more information on Mollie, we will be posting more about her in the next few weeks.

April 2021

Children's Church & Sunday School Schedule

(age 4 thru 1st Grade)

(2nd thru 6th Grades)

April 11	Children's Church - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:00 am
April 18	Children's Church - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:00 am
April 25	Children's Church - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:00 am

GFLC...75 Years And Counting! Part 3: The North Church

Last month we saw how cultural changes and religious changes in immigrant churches led to the split of the more traditional Norwegian Church away from the United Church, to form the "South Church" (First Lutheran Church), at the present church site. This month we begin a two-part series on the "The North Church," or United Church.

The history of the United Church spans from 1893 to 1945, a time of great change in the country and in this area. We can break it into two periods: the time leading up to the end of the Great War, and the period ending World War II. It is helpful in understanding the early period to remember a few things: in a primarily agricultural area, cash was scarce because money and credit depended on the yearly harvest; the older immigrants and their younger families still conducted much of their family and church life in their native tongue (Norwegian); and the rivalries and suspicions which led to the church split still lived on long after the fracture.

During the early part of the North Church, cash was constantly scarce, leading to repeatedly coming up short in paying the pastor. As in their own lives the church had to live on what little they had, and the good will of their creditors (or the good will of the pastor). For instance, in 1895, the church owed the pastor \$230 in pay (not a small sum back then). To handle finances, congregations resorted to pledges, where a family would pledge to give so much to the church each year. Later, families were "assessed" a suggested amount. A weekly worship offering did not begin until 1925.

Also, in 1896, the matter of the pastors conducting some services in English was brought up. In 1899 families bought English hymnals. It took time, and the switch did not fully happen until sometime later in 1918.

Regarding their relationship with other United Churches, and with the South Church, there was much talk but little action. Repeatedly in 1908, 1919, 1929, 1931 and 1940, the issue of alignment with other churches, first Bergen Lutheran, then First Lutheran (the South Church) came up, gaining more support each time.

Three important positive developments occurred during this time. First, congregational finances began to stabilize and increase from \$39 in pledges (\$6 cash) in 1895, to close to \$2000 by 1915. Second, because of this, in 1911 the congregation was able to add a 20X30 foot addition to the church, and excavate and finish the basement, increasing space greatly. Third, brothers and pastors M.B. Erickson and O.J. Erickson began serving the congregation together for 34 years, from 1908 until 1942, providing much continuity in a changing time.

Next month we will finish our history of the North Church as it moves into a more modern, familiar America, and as it explores reuniting with the old Norwegian "South Church" known as First Lutheran.

GFLC Spring Semi-Annual

Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting



On Sunday, April 18th, the Spring Semi-Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary following the 9:00 am worship service. At this meeting, the 2020 Annual Report will be presented and updates will be given on various ministries within the church.

Why Candles?



Recently I (Pastor Paul) was taking a group of new members on a tour of the church. We traipsed through the various corridors and stairwells, as I pointed out the various parts of the church, and the symbolism they represented. We spent a few minutes looking at the candles upon the altar, and the other candles in the sanctuary.



Many of our traditions in the Christian church date back to the necessities of the early church. For example, we use bread and wine for communion because that was the most common food and drink at the time of Jesus. If Jesus had come in the late 20th century, we might be celebrating communion with light beer and potato chips! The candles that sit on the altar come from a similar tradition. In the times before electricity, candles were not only decorative, they were a needed source of light! It's hard to imagine now in our world of constant electricity, but in a pre-electric world, candles were needed so the pastors and leaders in the church could see what they were doing. There was no special theological distinction that led the early church to use candles, it was simply what was available (likely some communities used oil lamps, for whatever reason they didn't quite catch on in Christian tradition).

So why do we use candles now? First, we generally enjoy tradition in the Christian faith. Tradition connects us back with those first followers of Jesus, nearly 2000 years ago. Those early followers of Jesus wouldn't recognize our clothing, our cars, our buildings, but they would recognize the candles we use. (Sidenote: in function, our candles are effectively oil lamps that are shaped like candles. There's an oil reservoir in the candle body, and a wick that feeds from that reservoir. This means we're not constantly buying large candles and the candles stay at a uniform height). Second, we use candles because there is something appealing about open flames. Anyone who has sat around a campfire or a bonfire knows this. There's something about an open flame (in a safe setting) that appeals to us on a base human level. That's why I burn a scented candle at my desk while I'm working, and part of the reason why candles remain so popular, despite being much more expensive and dimmer than an electric bulb. There is an ambiance that is set by candlelight that puts us in the mood (for worship!).

GFLC Church Council Meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Present: Chad F., Larry T., Elaine H., Pat K., Dave H., Karla B., Kelly O., Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul

Opening: Meeting called to order; Prayer by Pastor Paul; Vision and Mission Statements read. Motion by Karla, second by Kelly to approve the agenda and February 9, 2021 minutes. Passed.

Financial Business: Val printed the monthly financial overview in advance. The check-book balance as of 2/28/21 was \$39,084.02. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Karla to approve the financial report. Passed. Motion by Karla, second by Dave to authorize the purchase of a third table for the Gathering Room at the cost of approximately \$750 from Undesignated Memorials (Fund #980). Passed.

Committee Reports: (due to space considerations, committee reports can be obtained from the office or chairperson.)

Church Council Business:

1. **Update from Pastor Mark and Pastor Paul.** Reports sent in advance.
2. **Church Services:** Spring semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 18. Election of council and committee members as well as constitution and by-laws changes will be on the agenda. Pastor Mark will present information on the formation of an after-school program for grades K-3 or 4. He is working with a template from the Small Business Administration. The “75th Plus One” Anniversary is scheduled for May 16th. Karla said May 16 will be the kick-off event with events and activities scheduled until the end of November or early December.
3. **Policy and Other Updates:** Four constitution and by-laws changes were approved at the Feb. 9 council meeting and were printed in the March newsletter. Since then revisions have been suggested to B6.06 Hillcrest Cemetery Board. Motion by Karla, second by Larry, to approve revisions. Passed. Discussion followed on four additional constitutional and by-laws revisions and strike-outs. Motion by Elaine, seconded by Larry to approve revisions or strike-outs to 10.02 (special congregational meetings). B6.02 (Youth and Education) and B9.03 (ceremonies / membership in lodges, etc.). Passed. B1.04 (inactive members) also needs revision. It will be raised for discussion at the congregational meeting. A possible re-writing of the by-law was discussed and will be put forth as an example.
Custodial Update: A professional evaluation of Joe’s status will be available next week (delayed). A short meeting of the Executive Committee may be required to consider options based on the results.
Building Use Policy Review: The building use policy has been located. Updates to the wedding use policy still need to be made.
4. **Church Council Business/Old Business:** Audit Committee—audit packets have been sent out to the committee with a deadline date for completion of the audit included. Member Transfers—none. Prairie Arts Chorale—they have requested Monday evening practice time at the church starting in May. The Executive Committee has discussed this and recommended approval as long as they are willing to follow the COVID policy we have in place at that time.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Pat Kubly, and edited for publication by Pastor M

Next meeting: April 13, 2021 at 7:30pm

WELCA

Late-Breaking News! "He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end. Daniel 6:26"

For some of us, a certain amount of fear knocks at our hearts when we hear a newscaster say, "This just in...an item of late-breaking news." Most of us would rather not have late-breaking news because, whether of a positive or negative nature, such news interrupts our lives. It upsets our carefully balanced apple cart. The past year has brought us more than enough 'late-breaking news' but as David E. Lilienthan once noted, "The genius of America is its ability to make adjustments. We are adaptable, and because we are adaptable, we are strong." There is strength when we allow ourselves to bend without breaking, to adjust without panic, and to make midcourse corrections without abandoning the hope of our final destination.

Jesus called His disciples to "follow" Him, but He didn't tell them exactly where He was going or what He would be doing on any given day. He continually adjusted His course to accommodate others in need and challenges us to do the same. While circumstances and situations around us may forever change, our relationship with the Lord is sure and fixed. He is always our Savior, teacher redeemer, comforter, counselor, and rock of our souls! How important it is that we remember this when 'Late-breaking news' comes our way!

Time With God.'

'Tea Time With God' p.130

Highlights of the WELCA board meeting:

Thank you to members who have made and will make the annual donation to help with mission contributions and local expenses.

The next regular WELCA meeting will be planned for September.

Payments made in March:

Food Shelf - \$100

GL Ministries quilt auction - \$250

Reimbursement to GFL for donation mailings - \$200

\$100 to purchase children's jackets for Coats for Kids(*to be given in the fall*)



Coming Events:

Board meeting: April 12, 9:00 am

Quilting: April 27-28, 9-12 (*note time*) Group 8 will share treats



Scan this with your smartphone
and get directed to the
Granite Falls Lutheran Website!

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 PM <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Worship	2 7:00 PM <i>Good Friday</i> Worship Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	3
4 7:30 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service Easter	5 PASTOR MANNING OUT PASTOR PAUL OUT	6 5:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting	7 6:30 PM Education Committee Mtg	8 2:30 PM <u>Espresso Time</u>	9 Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	10
11 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	12 PASTOR MANNING OUT	13 6:30 PM Outreach Committee Mtg 6:30 PM Property & Grounds Meeting 6:30 PM Worship/Music Committee Mtg via Zoom 7:30 PM Council Meeting	14	15 5:30 PM Endowment Meeting 6:30 PM Stewardship Committee Mtg	16 Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	17
18 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Spring Semi-annual meeting 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	19 PASTOR MANNING OUT	20 6:30 PM Stewardship Committee Mtg	21	22 2:30 PM <u>Espresso Time</u> Newsletter Deadline	23 Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	24
25 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Confirmation Worship Service	26 PASTOR MANNING OUT	27	28	29	30 Office Closed PASTOR PAUL OUT	

April Birthdays

1 Johnny Magnuson	8 Ross Taylor	18 Michael Skeie
1 Riley Roskens	8 Carol Upton	18 Eugene Steinbach
2 Debra Burthus	9 Laurel Christianson	18 Kaye Thorkelson
2 Lee Luepke	10 David Kietzmann	18 Michele Zempel
2 Aaron Peterson	10 Jill Stark	19 Lori Schuler
2 Joseph Sannerud	11 Michael Barborek	19 Heather Vosberg
2 Irene Swanson	11 Aryn Carter	20 LuAnn Balfany
3 Elaine Hauger	11 Stanley Santjer	20 Kourtney Peterson
3 Jason Hildahl	12 Ashton Helgeson	21 Matthew Zempel
3 Timothy Knutson	12 Boden Richter	22 Ralph Helgeson
3 Barbara Lund	13 Myron Erickson	22 Duane Olson
4 Barbara Formo	13 Lee Parliament	22 Kristine Sik
4 Douglas Peterson	13 Bennett Ansel	23 Audrey Carlson
4 Patricia Sheggeby	14 Ruby Bones	23 Marlys Sietsema
4 Jon Tjosvold	14 Kay Magnuson	23 Cheryl Bain
5 Patricia Anderson	14 Alyssa Moe	24 Michael Abraham
6 Arlene Haroldson	15 Keith Dahl	24 Leslie Knutson
6 Penny Krogstad	15 Paula Panitzke	26 Dana Baldry
6 Mario Ochoa	15 Brady Skogrand	27 Todd Anderson
7 Karla Imes	16 LaVonne Deters	27 Barry Evenstad
7 Dana Skogrand	16 Timothy Johnson	28 Landon Anderson
8 Jordan Anderson	16 Vicki Reishus	28 Ruth Mulenburg
8 Sharon Buchholz	16 Kurt Thorstad	30 Eric Peterson
8 Reagen Steenerson	18 David Knollenberg	30 Gwen Raney

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](#)

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 GFLLC 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 or 320-564-3746.

Use this QR code to give
an online donation.



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.



Looking ahead

May 2nd

Last Day of Sunday School

May 16th

75+1 Anniversary Kick Off

May 23

H.S. Senior Sunday

Mark Manning

Lead Pastor

pastormark@granitefallslutheran.com

Valerie Santjer

Parish Administrator

office@granitefallslutheran.com

Granite Falls Lutheran Church

350 9th Avenue

Granite Falls, MN 56241

www.granitefallslutheran.com

Phone: 320-564-3746

Joe Rohlik

Custodian

Paul Drees

Associate Pastor

pastorpaul@granitefallslutheran.com

Ginny Dambrotten

Receptionist

reception@granitefallslutheran.com