



Granite Falls Lutheran News

August 2020

Greetings from Pastor Mark Manning

Greetings to You All...Finally!

I write this, mostly moved into my office, mostly moved into our house (890 8th St.), and completely ready to jump into this community and this congregation to help lead you in your mission and ministry. It has been an interesting time of waiting, has it not? While I am new to Granite Falls, I have served in yet smaller towns (710 population, not including dogs and cats), and I am not new to what small town life in Minnesota is like. It is a place where:

- you consider it sport to gather food by drilling through 18 inches of ice and sitting there all day hoping for it to swim by,
- you choose your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snow suit,
- you finds 0 degrees "a little chilly,"
- you know several people who have hit deer more than once,
- you measure distance in hours,
- your dad's suntan stops at a line curving across the middle of his forehead,
- driving in winter is better than summer because the potholes are filled in,
- you see people wearing camouflage all year, anywhere, at social events without a second thought,
- you carry jumper cables in your car or truck all year, and your spouse knows how to use them,
- "down South" means Iowa, and "up north" starts just past St. Cloud,
- you think the four major food groups are goose, walleye, venison and lutefisk,
- you can drive 65mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard, without flinching,
- someone in a store offers to help you, and they don't work there.

Thank you for your gracious hospitality as Joyce and I join your community and your ministry in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I look forward to fulfilling your call to be a leader in proclamation to you, and a leader in ministry and mission with you.

Pastor M

Greetings from Pastor Paul

COVID-19 Report

God calls us to be a light shining on a hill, and an important part of that call is to be transparent with our decisions as a church council and as a staff. We have been worshipping remotely for the last five months out of a desire to limit the spread of Coronavirus in our community. I (Pastor Paul) wanted to share some of our reasoning behind that decision, and why we've decided to start worshipping in person.

Early on, there was a lot of confusion about how Coronavirus spread, and what level of contact was required to spread the virus. We knew that it spread via respiratory droplets, but weren't sure whether it would aerosol (i.e. suspend in the air for a period of time) or live on surfaces for a long time (i.e. a chair, or pen, or hymnal). We've since learned that generally Coronavirus does indeed spread via aerosol means, and doesn't tend to live on surfaces for very long. This had a big impact on our recommendations as a COVID-19 Task Force, and is the reason we recommended worshipping outside as much as possible. Being outside means the aerosol particles of Coronavirus are dispersed, and are not concentrated in one room or area. This doesn't mean outside=safe, it just means that outside=less risky. That is why we will require distancing between households and mask wearing during any outdoor and indoor worship, and discourage group singing. By doing all of those things, we are lessening the risk of Coronavirus exposure and transmission. While I feel safe attending these services, I also want to point out that we will continue sharing a live stream on Sunday morning. If you or your family want to worship that way, that is another wonderful way to participate! To attend in-person or remotely is a decision that must be made by individual households, you know your situation better than anyone else.

As I said five months ago, it is only a matter of time before COVID-19 comes to Granite. We already have members of our church that are COVID positive. Please take this pandemic seriously. We will do everything we can to ensure we have safe in-person worship, but that can be undermined if we don't take our local, state, and national guidelines seriously. Please wear masks in public, and encourage others to do so. Keep six feet between yourself and folks outside your household as much as possible. Help support local businesses, but do so while wearing masks and keeping distance. Jesus is always pushing us to care for our neighbor, and following all these recommendations is another way that we can exemplify the love of Christ and give glory to God.

Pastor Paul

Thanks to everyone who provided meals for Joan Lundell's meal train. Joan and Wink are VERY appreciative for all the help during the time of adjustment after Joan returned home. They feel they can handle things on their own now so the meal train has been parked.

Again, they want to express their gratitude for the generous support from everyone!



Worship in August

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

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



Sunday, August 2nd - Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, August 9th - Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, August 16th - Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, August 23rd - Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, August 30th - Outdoor Worship Service

Back to in-person Worship!

GFLC will be having in-person worship service outdoors in the north parking lot.

Sundays at 9:00 am

(weather permitting.)

* Masks are required * Social distancing required. *

Temperature checks will be done.

Please bring a chair.

(A limited number of metal folding chairs will be available.)

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.

Our services also continue to be broadcast on KMDA 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.

GFLC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/GFLCGFMN/>

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



CONFIRMATION CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

Hello! I hope you are enjoying this summer, and gearing up for whatever lies ahead at school. I just attended a Zoom meeting with Superintendent Schneider describing what may be happening at YME this fall, and we will be mirroring that in many ways. We need to be planning a “program” that involves both in-person, class learning, with the possibility of distance, “at-home” learning, and also a hybrid mix of the two.

While we know you like to get together with one another for fellowship and fun, and want to use this as a base for building your faith, we also know that gathering together may be limited in some ways at certain times, and we want to create new ways for you develop your faith in your home with your families. Above all, Pastor Paul and I want to create opportunities to develop a relationship with you, so that you can develop a deeper faith with Jesus Christ. The method, the “how,” the confirmation “program,” may have to be flexible, but what will remain is our commitment as Pastors to shepherd you.

Look forward to a mailing in August giving more details of the upcoming year, and a meeting for parents and students sometime before school starts. Meanwhile, enjoy the weather!



STEWARDSHIP IS GROWING TOWARDS CHRIST

As your newly-called lead pastor I write this in my first newsletter for a couple of reasons: first, I don't want to do so as reaction to some financial crisis; second, I don't want to do this as some sort of formulaic, end-of-the-year plea for money; and last, I want to begin to describe to you the many things I have learned, taught and experienced as a congregational and synodical stewardship leader.

My goal in this is simple: to help you, to help God's people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and God through using your time, your abilities and finances faithfully. I want you to grow in your treasures: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6.21) I want you to grow in your hearts with the love of God and the love of your neighbor. I want you to grow in your astonishing capacity to take risks and grow in mission to the world.

This stewardship is not about paying the bills or meeting the budget; that is secondary, which is not to say that it is unimportant but that it is not as important as your relationship with Jesus Christ. This is not about membership; this is often confused with stewardship. Members pay or contribute to the church; it defines their relationship to the church. Discipleship defines our relationship with Christ. This is not about mission fields overseas, but mission fields in our hearts and in our own towns and neighborhoods. This is not about getting more, new members to widen our financial base; it is about showing the world how to grow closer to Christ, and closer to those whom he died for, using what we have been given by God.

I look forward to the coming months as we explore our relationship with our Risen Lord and Savior!

Pastor Mark Manning

August Birthdays

1	Amber Fromm	10	Reese Blankenhagen	23	James Stavne
1	Richard Heggstad	11	Karen Henning	24	Mark Enstad
1	Karen Lemcke	12	Brantley O'Connor	24	Angelene Knollenberg
2	Shawnn Martin	13	Dwayne Erickson	24	Nevaeh Zieske
3	Vicki Bakken	13	Mary Kietzmann	24	Jerry Kleinheksel
3	Jonas Zempel	14	Melissa Fagen	25	Harlow Fromm
4	Kaylee Luepke	16	Meghan Bredeson	25	Tadd Ihnen
4	LaVonne Olsen	16	Alden Lund	25	Saraya Burgeson
4	Jon Redetzke	16	Michael Martin	26	Diane Fagen
5	Finn Hempel	16	William Schindler	26	Owen Fromm
5	John Pederson	16	Sean Skogrand	26	Ryann Kleinhuizen
5	Hunter Wilke	16	Kristin Wilke	26	Eli Parliament
6	Channing Bestland	18	Mark Sannerud	26	Mark Manning
6	Charlene Gullickson	18	Keith Sorenson	27	Diane Peterson
8	Evan Knudson	18	Lauren Tjosvold	28	Alexis Uecker
8	Randy Peyton	19	Scott Hegna	28	Janine Anderson
8	Kyle Ryer	20	Benjamin Hauger	28	Bonnie Erickson
8	James Skjefte	20	Mark Henderson	29	Paul Krogstad
9	Ronald Fromm	21	Rebecca Koepke	29	Jane Schaffran
9	Amy Hagen	21	Jennifer Lecy	30	Myron Hagelstrom
9	LaDonna Stock	21	Andrew Monson	30	Tamara Moe
9	Andrew Winter	22	Elenora Knutson	30	Kyrstin Reimann
10	Kay Bestland	22	James Stavne	31	Audrey Hanson
10	Evan Friese	22	Claressa Kent	31	Frank Kranitz
10	Lynette Manee	23	Trenton Balfany	31	Allen Zempel

Want to Sign Up for Electronic Giving?

Check out 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](#)

MONTHLY COMMUNITY DINNER

The monthly community meals are cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19.

WELCA Board Meeting

August 10th @ 9:30 am



Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

June & July Ministerial Acts:

Baptisms:

June 14th - Nels Orin Wilkening

July 26th - Laine Michael Christians

Funerals:

June 1st - Kathleen Grove

July 18th - Douglas Henning

ESPRESSO TIME

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



Bring your own beverage.

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

CHILDREN'S UPDATES:

There will be no VBS this Summer due to Shetek Lutheran Ministries cancelling summer day camps until 2021

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

Fax: 320-564-9301

Paul Drees

Associate Pastor

pastorpaul@granitefallslutheran.com

Joe Rohlik

Custodian