



Granite Falls Lutheran News January 2020

Happy New Year from Granite Falls Lutheran!

Leap into participation this leap year

Equipping Congregations Day

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- Congregation Members
- Council Officers
- Christian Educators
- Worship & Youth Leaders
- Pastors... Everyone!

Childcare Available!

Saturday, February 29, 2020

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

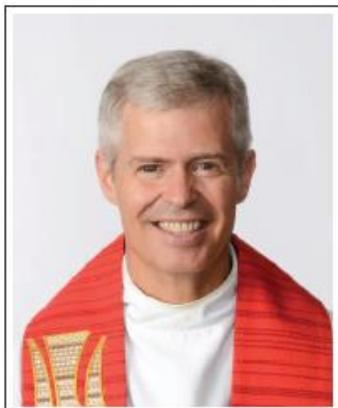
Vinje Lutheran & Bethel Lutheran
Willmar, MN

We will be using the buildings of both Vinje and Bethel Lutheran Churches in Willmar to accommodate up to 1000 registrants. Both locations will have the same program elements, the schedules will just be in a different order. The keynote speaker and workshop leaders will move between the two church buildings. Your congregation's event location will be confirmed after registering online.

If you are interested in attending, please let Saraya or Val know.

Keynote Speaker:

Pastor David J. Lose, *Senior Pastor serving Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis*



Entering the Bible with Heart, Mind, and Soul

Lutherans eagerly affirm that Scripture is the Word of God. But what do we mean when we say that? Given the gamut of ways of reading Scripture — running from “it’s a collection of human wisdom” to “it’s inerrant and inspired” — what do Lutherans really believe? In what ways, that is, do we believe Scripture is true? How does it function as a useful guide and norm for our faith and life? What do we do with “difficult passages” that seems violent or exclusionary? Answering these questions is crucial if we are to allow our lives to be shaped by God’s Word and invite others into our faith communities anchored in the preaching and teaching of the Scriptures. **Join us for a day of learning, practical exercises, and discussion as we immerse ourselves in God’s living and dynamic word.**



Worship in January

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

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



Sunday, January 5th - Holy Communion Worship Service: "Why is God mad at Israel?"

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14; Psalm 147:12-20; John 1:1-18

Senior Choir Sings

Sunday, January 12th - Celebration Worship Service: "Why would God send a Messiah?"

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 29; Matthew 3:13-17

Kids' Choirs Sing

Sunday, January 19th - Holy Communion Worship Service: "Who is this Messiah?"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Psalm 40:1-11; John 1:29-42

Senior Choir Sings

Sunday, January 26th - Celebration Worship Service

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-23

WELCA MEMO

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

2020!!

A new year with new opportunities! As it is written in Proverbs, let God guide our paths and with Him, we can do much!

The 2020 WELCA Handbook is available on the table in the narthex. There are no names on them this year so please take as you need -- Saraya will print more as needed. We have one less work group for 2020 so you may want to check to see who your chairwoman will be.

The favorable response last spring, to the request for a \$10 donation to help with the yearly expenses, was greatly appreciated. Your workgroup chairwoman will be sending a similar request during the month of January for a 2020 donation. Thank you for your support.

Dates to remember:

Deborah Circle: Thursday, Jan. 2, 9:30 am @ Hardee's

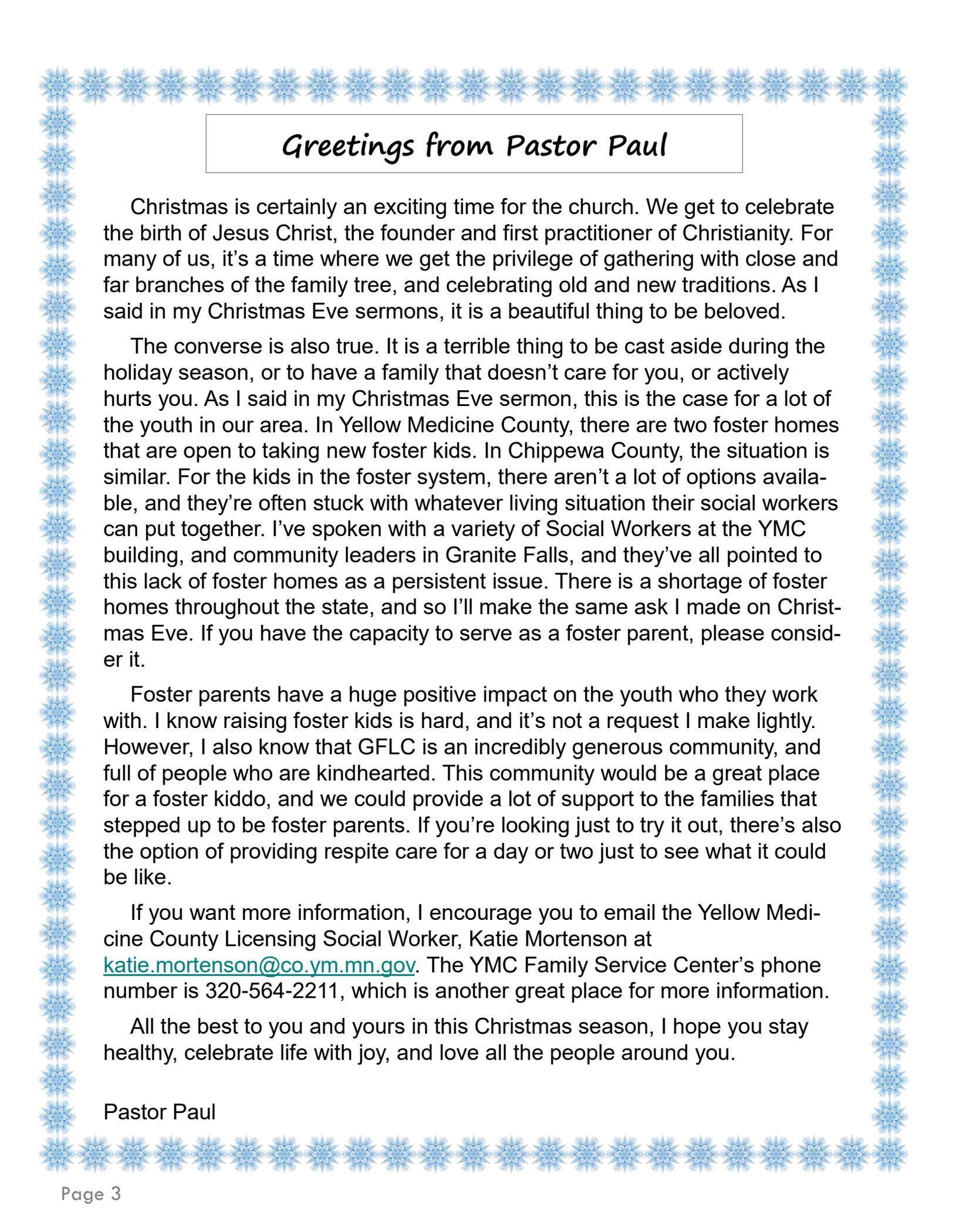
Eunice Circle: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 9:30 am @ Granite Ridge

Naomi Circle: Thursday, Jan. 2, 1:30 pm at Marlys Swam home

Quilting dates: Jan. 28 & 29, 1-4 pm; *Group 7 will furnish the snacks*

If you haven't taken the opportunity to join the quilters, let 2020 be the year for you to join the fellowship.





Greetings from Pastor Paul

Christmas is certainly an exciting time for the church. We get to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the founder and first practitioner of Christianity. For many of us, it's a time where we get the privilege of gathering with close and far branches of the family tree, and celebrating old and new traditions. As I said in my Christmas Eve sermons, it is a beautiful thing to be beloved.

The converse is also true. It is a terrible thing to be cast aside during the holiday season, or to have a family that doesn't care for you, or actively hurts you. As I said in my Christmas Eve sermon, this is the case for a lot of the youth in our area. In Yellow Medicine County, there are two foster homes that are open to taking new foster kids. In Chippewa County, the situation is similar. For the kids in the foster system, there aren't a lot of options available, and they're often stuck with whatever living situation their social workers can put together. I've spoken with a variety of Social Workers at the YMC building, and community leaders in Granite Falls, and they've all pointed to this lack of foster homes as a persistent issue. There is a shortage of foster homes throughout the state, and so I'll make the same ask I made on Christmas Eve. If you have the capacity to serve as a foster parent, please consider it.

Foster parents have a huge positive impact on the youth who they work with. I know raising foster kids is hard, and it's not a request I make lightly. However, I also know that GFLC is an incredibly generous community, and full of people who are kindhearted. This community would be a great place for a foster kiddo, and we could provide a lot of support to the families that stepped up to be foster parents. If you're looking just to try it out, there's also the option of providing respite care for a day or two just to see what it could be like.

If you want more information, I encourage you to email the Yellow Medicine County Licensing Social Worker, Katie Mortenson at katie.mortenson@co.ym.mn.gov. The YMC Family Service Center's phone number is 320-564-2211, which is another great place for more information.

All the best to you and yours in this Christmas season, I hope you stay healthy, celebrate life with joy, and love all the people around you.

Pastor Paul

January 2020

Children's Church, Sunday School, & Kids' Choir's Schedule

January 5	Children's Church + Sunday School Resume 10:00 am
January 12	Kids of the Rock & Children's Church Choirs sing CC during worship, SS at 10:00 am
January 19	NO CLASSES - No school Monday
January 26	CC during worship, SS at 10:00 am

KIDZ CORNER

Thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Pageant, we had a great turnout this year and we all had a lot of fun. A special shout out to the brave kiddos who took on speaking roles, and the entire Education Committee who saved me from myself many times. For those of you wondering, Braden is doing ok now, he just got a little light-headed and fainted. I'm looking forward to seeing what kind of pageant we do next year. If you have ideas of what topics to cover, I would love to hear them.

Also, we're planning a Presidents' Day youth ski trip on Monday, February 17th. I'm not sure of the exact time yet. I made sure to schedule it so that it works with Dance and Basketball schedules. This is an event the kiddos specifically requested, and I think we're all looking forward to seeing how quickly we can fall down. I plan on falling down immediately after getting on the ski lift just to set a good example. Look out for emails for more details about the ski trip!

We also have first communion classes coming up, and with the season of Lent, we will continue our tradition of the youth and parents making Lenten meals for the congregation on Wednesdays. Stay alert for more details!

Thanks for all your support, Pastor Paul

Confirmation class schedule:

All held at 6:30 pm

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day - NO CLASS

Jan. 8 - 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th grade classes

Jan. 15 - 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th grade classes

Jan. 22 - 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th grade classes

Jan. 29 - 7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th grade classes



CHILDREN'S BULLETINS

Children's Bulletins can be found on the usher table in the Narthex. They are a great way to involve your young children in the lessons of the worship service. Two variations are available for different reading levels.

The **yellow** copies are for pre-readers.

The **blue** copies are for readers.

Feel free to take any and every combination for each service!

New Sermon Series: New Year, New Me(ssiah)

In January, Pastor Dave is going to take some much deserved vacation time. I (Pastor Paul) thought this would be a perfect time to do a series format of preaching. This is something that I did in my internship site and I found really useful as a preacher. Basically, the series format allows for the sermons to connect to each other week after week. In our case, the sermons will all be focused on the same general topic but will be explorations of different aspects of that general topic. We'll be focusing on the same topic January 5th, 12th, and 19th. What is that topic you ask?

Messianic expectations. Specifically, the messianic expectations in Isaiah. Basically, we've been hearing about this messiah figure in Isaiah for much of Advent but we haven't really talked about who this messiah figure is or what led up to this expectation. If we want to understand the Christmas story, if we want to really get the world Christ was born into, then we have to understand the messianic expectations that surrounded Christ's birth. Why were the Shepherds so excited to see a little baby? Why was King Herod so afraid of this baby? Why did astronomers from another country come and visit? We tend to take it for granted that all these things just happen but, like all events in history, there is a rich context that warrants our attention. Isaiah is a fascinating book with rich imagery and terrifying stories and it plays a huge role in our modern narrative around the infant Jesus.

Each week we'll be covering a different question. Week one asks the question, 'Why Is God Mad?' If you doubt God is mad at Israel, just read Isaiah and you'll see how furious God is. 'Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand and struck them; the mountains quaked, and their corpses were like refuse in the streets.' (Isaiah 5:25). There is no doubting that this messianic text starts with God being infuriated with the people of Israel, but the question remains: What have God's people done to infuriate God so? That groundwork we cover in the first week. In the second week we ask 'Why Would God Send a Messiah?' In the third week, we will tie this all together with the question 'Who is the Messiah?'

I'm personally quite excited for this series. For all of our talk of Jesus around Christmas time we often miss the context that Jesus was born into. That context is critically important to understanding not just the details of the birth story, but also the entirety of Jesus' ministry. You can't understand Jesus unless you understand where Jesus came from and, with this series, we aim to better understand the foundation Christ built on.



January Worship Leaders

	1/5/2020	1/12/2020	1/19/2020	1/26/2020
Greeters	Barry and Kathy Anderson	Jim and Kathy Hendrickson	Tim and Susie Johnson	Butch and Karla Imes
	Grace Zieske	Paul Hoernemann	Mark Jensen	Rachel Hagen
Usher Team	Scott Santjer	Scott Jans	Craig Opdahl	Doug Peterson
Acolytes	Aubree Enstad	Ashton Helgeson	Jacob Peterson	Evelyn Martin
	Sylvia Skjefte	Jordan Bakkelund	Gavin Torvik	Hope Foy
Projectionist	Lisa Carter	Karla Bjorndal	Shelley Loose	Lisa Carter
Videographer	Landon Anderson	Keith Sandberg	Jeff Koepke	Les Bergquist
Reader	Kathy Anderson	Craig Bakkelund	David Haroldson	Dana Baldry
Communion Assistants	Shawnn Martin*	X	Gail Aus	X
	Amy Hoernemann		Darlene Erickson	
Guitar	Roger Abel	Dallas	Michael Ohliger	Dallas
Keyboard	Tim Opdahl		Sally Ohliger	Elaine
Singers		Dick, Dan, Elaine		Taylor, Pat, Sharon, Voni

Noisy Offerings 2020



Here is the plan for our Noisy Offerings in 2020:

- ✦ January – Living at Home Block Nurse Program
- ✦ March – Granite Falls Area Food Shelf - This is Food Shelf Month!
- ✦ May – Disaster Relief (Locally, Nationally or Internationally)
- ✦ July – Vacation Bible School
- ✦ September - Granite Falls Ministerial Emergency Fund
- ✦ November – Santa’s Sleigh

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>1</i> New Year's Day Office Closed	<i>2</i> 9:30 AM Deborah Circle @ Hardee's 11:00 AM Granite Ridge HC	<i>3</i> Office Closed	<i>4</i> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's
<i>5</i> 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Take Down Christmas Decorations	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 9:30 AM Eunice Circle @ Granite Ridge 6:30 PM 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th Grade Confirmation	<i>9</i> 2:30 PM Espresso Time	<i>10</i> Office Closed	<i>11</i> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's
<i>12</i> 9:00 AM Celebration Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Mtg 6:15 PM Outreach Comm. Mtg 6:30 PM Education Committee Mtg 6:30 PM Property & Grounds Meeting 6:30 PM Worship/Music Committee Mtg 7:30 PM Council Meeting	<i>15</i> 10:30 AM Prairie Rose HC/Bible Study 6:30 PM 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th Grade Confirmation	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Office Closed	<i>18</i> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's HS Dance Competition using parking lot.
<i>19</i> 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 4:30 PM Music/Community Dinner @ GFLC	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 6:00 PM Child Care Aware	<i>22</i> 6:30 PM 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th Grade Confirmation	<i>23</i> 2:30 PM Espresso Time	<i>24</i> Office Closed	<i>25</i> 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's
<i>26</i> 9:00 AM Celebration Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School	<i>27</i> 7:00 PM Prairie Arts Chorale Rehearsal	<i>28</i> 1:00 PM Sewing Day	<i>29</i> 1:00 PM Sewing Day 6:30 PM 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th Grade Confirmation	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Office Closed	

Congregational Stewardship

Stewardship, in its simplest form, is the practice of generosity. It is essential to the daily expression of our faith. As a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life, we know that understanding personal and household stewardship is crucial in responding to God's abundant grace.

Each of us has a unique story, and we are part of a larger story that makes up Granite Falls Lutheran and the ELCA. In the Road to Emmaus story, Christ is revealed at the household table, and that is where hearts are warmed for greater sharing and generosity. Recognizing God's story in our own story shapes our lives, identity and choices. When we join with other individual and households in making daily decisions rooted in the stories of our loving and benevolent God, the result is our increased capacity to give generously and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Our stewardship begins with a healthy understanding of gratitude and generosity. We have first received and therefore we give!

Compiled from Congregational Stewardship-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY DINNER

The January Community meal will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, January 19th, at 5:00 pm with music prior to the meal at 4:30 pm.



Everyone is Welcome!

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 Birthdays

1 Chad Christianson	9 Patricia Massmann	22 Jerry Lemcke
1 Donna Olson	10 Erik Knutson	22 Mary Behr
2 Addison Fagen	11 Gregory Vos	23 Kenneth Madsen
2 David Springer	12 Jackie Torvik	24 Elaine Halverson
2 Jerry Paulson	12 Karli Santjer	24 Norman Opdahl
3 Evelyn Olson	13 Carol Nordaune	25 Scott Santjer
3 Michael Ellgen	13 Valerie Hoffman	26 Kian Christianson
4 Adelyn Lewison	14 Audrey Borning	26 Robert Balfany
4 Benjamin Stuhr	14 Kaitlin Wohlman	27 Katherine Zempel
5 Hannah Stark	15 Bradlee Burgeson	27 Mason Enstad
5 Jeff Wilke	15 Jeanette Anderson	27 Shawna Richter
5 Jesse Eisenbacher	16 Katy Lundell-Stuhr	28 Debra Waller
5 Pam Redetzke	17 David Bestland	28 Loreen Fagen
5 Tanya Friese	17 Samantha Paulson	29 Austin Friese
6 Abby Kvendru	18 Amber Schuler	29 Carolyn Olson
7 Amanda McKay	18 Jeanne Berends	29 Jeffrey Lewis
7 Elvin Thorstad	18 Owen Rude	29 Patrice Monson
7 Peggy Heglund	21 Alida Flynn	30 Steven Halvorson
7 Tamie Martin	21 Bradley Hempel	31 David Velde
8 Bobbi Enstad	21 David Cole	31 Violet Anderson



December Ministerial Acts:

Baptisms:

Blakely Rose Kvendru - December 1

Funerals:

Mark Bakker - December 27

**Saturday Men's
Breakfast**



7:00 am

Come and enjoy!

Espresso Time!

Continuing our women's gatherings around the coffee table for fellowship and scripture.

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

Christmas Decorations

Take-Down

On Sunday, January 5th, after the worship service (around 10:00 am) we will be taking down the decorations from the Christmas season! If you are able to help with this please do! All hands available are greatly appreciated.

Simply Giving – How To Sign up or Change Your Amount!

Simply Giving is our congregation's method for contributing to the church through automatic withdrawal.

There are Sign-up forms on the narthex table. Either bring these to the church office during business hours to sign-up or change your chosen amount. Or use the prompts on the form to sign-up online.



Granite Falls Lutheran Church

350 9th Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241
www.granitefallslutheran.com

Phone: 320-564-3746

Fax: 320-564-9301

Joe Rohlik
Custodian

David Wall
Interim Lead Pastor
dswall2@yahoo.com

Valerie Santjer
Parish Administrator
office@granitefallslutheran.com

Paul Drees
Associate Pastor
pastorpaul@granitefallslutheran.com

Saraya Burgeson
Office Assistant
reception@granitefallslutheran.com