



# Granite Falls Lutheran News

## March, 2024

### *Lent to Easter*

*Easter is coming and this year we will end the month of March with all the resurrection joy. Lent is an important part of waiting. We need to journey through Lent and especially through holy week to understand Easter.*

*Lent is really a wonderful time for us. It is a time of quiet and reflection. It is a time to "return to the Lord". It is a time to remember that God is God. We can never fully understand or comprehend all that God is. So take time to look around at the wonder of how the seasons renew the creation. Consider all the ways that plants and insects serve God. Consider the importance of termites for converting wood to soil. Or how the plants succeed at growing in the cracks of patios or granite rock again changing the landscape to God's newest design. God's greatness is made apparent when we open ourselves to be "altered by the Spirit" during this season of Lent.*

*Holy week expands our understanding of God's greatness. It is a really important and special time. For without Good Friday there would be no Easter. Consider how on Maundy Thursday we remember the ongoing renewal that Christ gave us with the Lord's supper. We are reminded that Christ taught us to be servant leaders.*

*We are called to continue to proclaim the good news as Christ did. We all share in being the voice and hands of Christ in our world today and every day. The joy of Easter carries us throughout the year and prepares us for springtime in April.*

*Blessings,*

*Interim Pastor Deborah Nissen*

### **Holy Week Worship Services**

***Palm Sunday: March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am***

***Maundy Thursday: March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm***

***"The Last Supper" Drama***

***Good Friday: March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm - Tenebrae Service***

***Easter Sunday: March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 am, 9:00 am & 10:30 am***





## Worship in March 2024

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, March 3, Third Sunday in Lent**

Holy Communion

Scripture: John 2:13-22

**Sunday, March 10, Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Scripture: John 3:14-21

**Sunday, March 17, Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Holy communion

Scripture: John 12:20-33

**Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday**

Scripture: Mark 14:1-15, 47

**Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday**

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8



### March's Thankful Thought:

Acts 4:32

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

*Blessings, Stewardship Committee*

### Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly-February 18, 2024

On Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 2 pm, our Lac qui Parle conference assembly was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Montevideo. Interim Pastor Deborah Nissen, Karla and Scott Bjorndal, Kathy Hendrickson and Elaine Halverson attended the conference assembly representing Granite Falls Lutheran Church. Along with the reports from the secretary, treasurer and WELCA there was a report about our companion synod, the Southeast Diocese of South Africa. The assembly voted to support scholarships for 32 students in our companion synod and to provide some funding for up to 5 adults to visit our companion synod. Bishop Dee Pederson gave a brief overview of her annual report which can be found on the synod website at the link below

<https://swmnelca.org/2024/01/04/bishop-dee-pedersons-message-for-annual-meetings/>

The conference assembly concluded with elections. Shawnn Martin and Mark Sannerud from GFLC were elected as lay male delegate and lay male alternate to attend the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona-July 28th -August 2nd. Upcoming events are the Synod Assembly, June 7th and 8th in St. Peter (in person and remote) and the Lutheran World Relief pick-up, Saturday, May 4th at Our Savior's in Montevideo.

### 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 the livestream.

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/gflcMNeLca/feed>

## Greetings GFLC Family

*Have you ever felt like you haven't been informed as to what is going on in our congregation? It has been the goal of the Executive Board & Church Council, to keep you informed with what we are dealing with. We were informed by the synod, that our Constitution needed to be updated, with the required sections from the synod's model constitution to be included. That sounded like a big project. Pastor Janel, from Christ Lutheran in Cottonwood, MN, who is the constitution expert from our synod, met with members from the council. She informed us of the process to do this task. Pastor Janel was very helpful. She welcomed questions and was willing to guide us.*

*In the fall of 2023, three of our members, Erica Martin, Elaine Halverson, and Peg Heglund, (our constitution work group), started working on this huge project. The work group went a step farther by including the bylaws that applied to the appropriate area in the constitution. Thus combining the two documents into one. At the February Executive Committee & Council meetings we were presented the working document that had been completed and sent to Pastor Janel & Bishop Dee for review. After their review, it was returned. We went through the document, asked questions and made corrections/additions. The work group then made the corrections requested and the document has been sent back to Pastor Janel and Bishop Dee for their review. As a congregation, you will have the opportunity to get a hard copy or read it digitally in the next couple weeks. We ask that you sign up for which one you would like. Watch for the announcement when it's available. This is still a working document. We will be having two sessions in the coming weeks giving you the opportunity to ask questions.*

*We will have the first vote on the Constitution at our semi annual meeting, scheduled for April 28th. Two voting events are required when making changes or updating our Constitution.*

*I am so grateful to the work group who tackled a job that needed to be done.*

*Please prayerfully consider how you would like to get involved in our church as an Assisting Minister, Stephen Ministry training, activities and committees. The nominating committee will be actively recruiting members for openings on committees.*

*I want to close with my favorite Bible verse from Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."*

*One of the best things I've come to understand is, you and I don't need to be perfect, just do your best.*

*God has blessed our congregation with members full of gifts. Come and share them with us.*

*Peggy Hardy, GFLC President*

## Consider Volunteering for a Committee

**We are seeking nominees** for the various committee openings. We will be seeking individuals who have a willingness to serve our church in various roles. If you would like to volunteer, please let the office know and they will pass along your interest!

The following are annual committee position openings:

2nd Vice-President (1 position)

Worship/Music (2 positions)

Outreach (2 positions)

Education (2 positions)

Endowment (1 position)

Church Council (2 positions)

Stewardship/Finance (2 positions)

Audit Committee (1 position)

Property Committee (2 positions)

Synod Assembly Representative (need 3)





**\$25**



## Easter Lily



Mums (Lavender, Purple, White, or Yellow)



GFLC,  
We would like to thank each of you for the overwhelming support you have given us in our efforts to go to the National ELCA Youth Gathering this summer. Thank you for your generosity with our first fundraiser, with your love and kindness, we exceeded our goal. Keep your ears and eyes open as we have started planning our next fundraiser, beignets and coffee! Keep sharing your National Youth Gathering stories with us!  
-Much thanks, Evelyn and Vanessa

<b>March 3</b>	<b>Children's Church - 9:00 am</b> <b>Sunday School - 10:00 am</b>
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Children's Church - 9:00 am</b> <b>Sunday School - 10:00 am</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Children's Church - 9:00 am</b> <b>Sunday School - 10:00 am</b>
<b>March 24</b>	<b>Children's Church - 9:00 am</b> <b>Sunday School - 10:00 am</b>
<b>March 31</b>	<b>EASTER - No Sunday School or CC</b>

Confirmation students should plan to attend Lenten Services as a Confirmation requirement. Sermon notes can be taken and used towards your yearly requirement.

Classes will resume on April 3rd.

## Noisy Offering is on March 3rd!

For the local **Neighbors United Food Shelf**.

In February we collected over \$250 for  
Family Promise of Kandiyohi!

Thank you for your generosity!

## Notice

The Granite Falls  
Lutheran Church  
Spring Semi-annual  
meeting will be held on  
April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.  
(following worship)

## March Worship Leaders

Wednesdays in Lent			
	3/6/2024	3/13/2024	3/20/2024
<b>Usher Team</b>	Doug Peterson	Jeff Koepke	Stan Santjer
<b>Acolytes</b>	Addison Fagen	Hanna Bjorndal	Mason Enstad
	Gunnar Fagen	Kalli Sannerud	Karter Horman
<b>Reader</b>	Sue Bergquist	Paul Hoernemann	Scott Jans

Sundays in Lent				Palm Sunday
	3/3/2024	3/10/2024	3/17/2024	3/24/2024
<b>Greeters</b>	Rachel Hagen Dar Hanson Norma Iverson	Mark & Jonelle Sannerud Tim & Susie Johnson	Barry & Kathy Anderson Shawnn & Erica Martin	Carl & Karla Imes Doug & Nicole Jans
<b>Usher Team</b>	Scott Jans	Mark Jensen	Scott Bjorndal	Keith Knudson
<b>Acolytes</b>	Emma Eisenbacher	Tenley Anderson	Abigale Bones	Hanna Bjorndal
	Mario Ochoa	Samantha Paulson	Kourtney Peterson	Chase Bjorndal
<b>Reader</b>	Kathy Anderson	Nicolle Kotek	Elaine Halverson	Dave Haroldson
<b>Communion</b>	*Taylor Bakkelund	X	Les Bergquist	Mark Jensen
<b>Assistant</b>	Les Bergquist		Amy Hoernemann	Dave Haroldson
	Joanelle Sannerud		Melissa Helgeson	Doug Peterson
	*Dana Baldry		Gail Aus	Connie Peterson
	Assisting Minister		Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister

	Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM	Good Friday 7pm	Easter 7:30 AM	Easter 9:00 AM	Easter 10:30 AM
	3/28/2024	3/29/2024	3/31/2024	3/31/2024	3/31/2024
<b>Greeters</b>	Paul & Pat Sheggeby	Stan & Darlene Santjer Scott & Karla Bjorndal	Jon & Pam Redetzke Tim & Susie Johnson	Kyle TeBeest Paul Hoernemann	Mike & Sally Ohliger
<b>Usher Team</b>	Di & Dale Lalim			Aaron Peterson	Al & Barb Lund
<b>Acolytes</b>	Scott Santjer	Scott Jans	Doug Peterson	Mark Jensen	Jeff Koepke
	Emma Eisenbacher	Aryn Carter	Emry Jans	Jack Mensink	Decker Ettesvold
	Mario Ochoa	Joelle Carter	Kiptyn Jans	Liam Anderson	Ian Zempel
<b>Reader</b>	Les Bergquist	Darlene Santjer	Emry Jans	Dana Baldry	Peg Heglund
<b>Communion</b>	Di Lalim	X	Nicolle Kotek	Dana Baldry	Val Hoffman
<b>Assistant</b>	Val Santjer		Gail Aus	Kyle TeBeest	Jon Tjosvold
	Joanelle Sannerud		Keith Sandberg	Shelley Loose	Peg Heglund
	Mark Sannerud		Dorian Grove	Ali Mensink	Darlene Erickson
	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister

# March Calendar

Sunday

Monday



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<div>Daylight Saving Time March 10th Don't forget to change your clocks!</div>						1 Office Closed World Day of Prayer	2 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's
3 9:00am Worship Service w/Holy Communion and Noisy Offering 9:00am Children's Church - During Worship 10:00am Sunday School	4	5 5:00pm Outreach Committee 6:00pm Executive Committee 7:00pm Property Committee	6 9:00am YMLC Office Hours 5:30pm Education Committee Meeting 5:30pm-6:15pm Lenten Meal prior to worship 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	7 5:30pm Worship & Music Committee	8 Office Closed	9 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's 9:00am Prairie Arts Chorale workshop	
10 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 9:00am Celebration Worship Service 9:00am Children's Church - During Worship 10:00am Sunday School 	11	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13 1:00pm Worship at Granite Ridge 2:00pm Worship at GFH Care Center 5:30pm-6:15pm Lenten Meal prior to worship 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	14 2:30pm Espresso Time 6:00pm Stephen Ministers Meeting	15 Office Closed	16 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's	
17 St. Patrick's Day 9:00am Worship Service w/Holy Communion, Pr. Tim S, guest pastor 9:00am Children's Church - During Worship 10:00am Sunday School	18	19 First Day of Spring	20 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am YMLC Office Hours 5:30pm-6:15pm Lenten Meal prior to worship 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service 7:15pm Chancel Choir Practice after worship	21	22 Office Closed	23 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's	
24 Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 9:00am Children's Church - During Worship 10:00am Sunday School	25	26 1:00pm MIA Quilting	27 1:00pm MIA Quilting 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	28 Maundy Thursday 2:30pm Espresso Time 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship w/Holy Communion	29 Good Friday Office Closed 7:30pm Good Friday Worship Tenebrae Service	30 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's	
31 Easter Sunday 7:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 9:00am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion	1 OFFICE CLOSED - HOLIDAY	2 5:00pm Outreach Committee 5:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00pm Property Committee	3 9:00am YMLC Office Hours 5:30pm Education Committee Meeting 5:30pm Worship & Music Committee 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Confirmation Classes Gr. 7-9 7:00pm Pre-confirmation 6th grade	4	5 Office Closed	6 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's	

# March Birthdays

1 Caral Schimming	13 Ambrea Trost	19 Jessica Johnson
3 Kory Kotek	13 Ryan Schultz	20 Barb Hagen
3 Lori O'Connor	14 Joelle Carter	20 Dar Hanson
3 Bradley Peterson	14 Morris Cross	21 Zander Johnson
4 Erica Martin	14 Keith Knudson	22 Karla Bjorndal
4 Lincoln Santjer	14 Kevin Knudson	23 Darlene Santjer
5 Caleb Hagen	14 Michelle Marthaler	23 Ryan Syring
5 Gus Richter	14 Evelyn Martin	24 Julie Luepke
6 Hutton Hoffman	14 Jerel Stenersen	24 Becky Opdahl
7 Alexandra Mensink	14 Joshua Nordaune	25 Beth Bjorndal
8 Roger Abel	15 Amber Johnson	25 Chuck Cole
8 Braden Eisenbacher	15 Lynette Bakker	25 Michael West
8 Briggs Golberg	15 Abbey Richter	25 Connie Timm
8 Steve Petersen	15 Lydia Weber	26 Jane Hauger
9 Nicole Jans	15 Tyler Nordaune	26 James Schimming
9 Gage Richter	16 Angela Olson	27 Barb Lecy
10 Chad Bones	16 Brandon Parliament	28 Abbie Winter
10 Landry Jans	18 Linda Bakkelund	29 Deb Fossan
10 Jack Mensink	18 Brad Bakken	29 Harper Parliament
11 Courtney Winter	18 Brenda Nelson	29 Emery Weber
12 Larissa Kockelman	19 Thomas Doyle	30 Greg Bakker
13 Kannon Ims	19 Carrie Eischens	31 Arlin Sneller
13 Scott Rasmusson	19 Connie Erickson	31 Howard McCalla

## *February Ministerial Acts*

### *Funerals*

*Barb Agre February 16th*

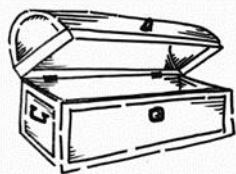
### Want to Sign Up for Electronic Giving?

Go to the Granite Falls Lutheran Website.

([www.granitefallslutheran.com](http://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](#)





*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt: 6:21*

How do we know if we're doing the right thing for the right reasons? Jesus gave us a question to help evaluate our motives: "What do I treasure?" When we pray or serve others, we can ask ourselves: "Do I treasure the praise of others? Or do I treasure God's love and serve in order to thank God?" During this season of Lent, may we prayerfully serve others with our time and resources to love God and our neighbor.

Thank you:

- ✦ For the continuing responses to the annual donation request letters!
- ✦ To Thrivent Financial for monies received for an Action Team Project to purchase 2 rolls of quilt batting.

Dates to remember:

- ✦ Executive Board Meeting: March 11, 9:30 am
- ✦ Quilting: March 25 - 27; Group 3 will furnish the snacks.

*Note the change in days – We'll set up Monday morning and invite quilters to come any time after 10:00, members of the committee will be there until 2, as well as 9 – 4 on Tuesday and Wednesday. Join us whenever you can on these days and remember;" We do on site training so, if you've never tried this, we'll help."*

- ✦ Dinner at Your Door: March 25 -29; Group 4
- ✦ Group 4 is in line to serve the next event

Women of the ELCA

## Espresso Time!

*Women gathering around the coffee table for fellowship and scripture.*

*Please join us at the  
**Church** on the  
**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**  
of the month at 2:30 pm.*



## Saturday

## Men's Breakfast

*at Hardee's  
**7:00 am***



## Granite Falls Lutheran Church

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**Pastor Deborah Nissen**

*Interim Pastor*

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