

Interim process

Settled Pastor leaves and congregation needs time to accept and start rethinking who they are and what God is calling them to do. For Granite Falls Lutheran this process requires time to reflect and starting the implementation of the recommendations from Dialog Works.

Then a Transition Team is formed. This team then helps the congregation reflect and pray about **What God is calling the congregation to do next in ministry?** The Transition Team also researches the community's demographics and resources the community has along with what the community needs. As we work through developing the ministries that God calls us to do, we will need to rethink what is the proper staffing structure to do those ministries. Also, rethink what has to be changed in the worldly documents of constitution, bylaws and policies. This all leads to the Transition Team creating the first draft of the "Ministry Site Profile".

Call Committee is formed at this time. The Call Committee will finalize the "Ministry Site Profile" and submit it to the synod. The Call Committee then meets with the Synod staff, who have been reviewing "Roster Leader Profiles." Together they will work to identify the clergy whose Roster Leader Profiles have the same ministry passions as the Call Committee have identified in our "Ministry Site Profile". Names are then given to the Call Committee.

The Call Committee then interviews these candidates hopefully finding a "candidate of choice" to recommend to the council. This leads the council to calling a congregational meeting to present the candidate of choice and with the congregation's approval issuing an offer in a letter of call.

None of this has set time frames. It takes as long as it takes. For Granite Falls the initial time of acceptance is lengthened as we deal with the conflict and all the other traumas that have complicated the congregation's understanding and vision of itself.

Lenten Journey - Spring Transition

As we continue our journey through Lent, we transition from winter to spring.

There are many contrasts as we journey to spring. We go from more hours of darkness to more hours of sunlight. Have you noticed how much longer there is daylight with each passing day. Not only is there more time between sunrise and sunset there are more days of sunshine with less clouds. This adds to the transition from snow and bone chilling winds to warm rains and gentle breezes. Then there is the change in activities from inside to outside. The joy of new life. We are renewed as we soak in the warmth and the sunshine. It is no wonder that we develop "spring fever".

Likewise our Lenten journey has times of transition as Christ continues to open us to his new light. Times when we have deep reflections on who we are as sinners. Times when we recognize how Christ sees us as saints.

Easter is still a long way off and its bright resurrection light requires us to stay the course of discerning God's calling to each of us. It will take going through the pain, turmoil, uncertainty that is a part of Holy Week and especially remembering the power of the crucifixion on Good Friday for us to let go of winter.

Likewise, our journey as a faith community continues with our transitions. With Dialog Works help we know that who we have been is not who we want to be. We know that God has new visions for us. We know that it is time for us to listen to the Spirit of God. We know we have to learn better ways of listening to each other to hear what the Spirit is calling us to do. We know that God is up to new things so we will work to grow into God's plan.

The transition will feel at times like we are still in winter or the dark days of the crucifixion. The journey will take us to place we need to go and we will be the better for God is with us. God is guiding us. God will pursue us and hold us when the journey is the hardest. There is light and warmth and spring in the days ahead. God is with us on this journey. Let us celebrate new life and the journey to Easter.

Blessings,

Interim Pastor Deborah Nissen

Fellow Pilgrims on the Lenten Journey of 2023

I like the image of Lent being a journey. A journey implies making a move or traveling from place to place. A spiritual journey is taking time to spend with God and deliberately focusing on our relationship with God and taking time to find out who we are. A spiritual journey is making time to find peace and learning where God is in our life. In some ways all of life is spiritual journey. Sometimes we feel closer to God than other times. Sometimes God seems further away from us or even silent. For me Lent is a deep spiritual journey. Our spiritual journey in Lent is the call for us to journey with Jesus his path of life and death.

The book of Jonah is one of my favorites. The book of Jonah is about his spiritual journey with God. Together we will be reading and studying the book of Jonah on Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent. I encourage you to start reading the book of Jonah. I have read it through in one sitting and it took 15 minutes. I challenge you to keep reading the book and see what you learn. Keep a journal. Write down what you notice about Jonah and what God is up to. Who is the main character? Who do you relate to in the book?

The book of Jonah is unfinished. The book of Jonah ends with Jonah being angry at God. What kind of ending is that? We do not know what happened to Jonah after this. What do you think happened to Jonah? The book of Jonah is unfinished and we do not know what happened to the sailors or the people of Nineveh. All are on a spiritual journey.

The book of Jonah is not just about Jonah but also about a persistent God who keeps pursuing wayward people to come home to a relationship with God. The book of Jonah is about a God who keeps pursuing the city of Nineveh. God keeps on pursuing us.

God is relentless in not letting Jonah go. As you read the book of Jonah look for all the ways God pursues Jonah. The theme of Jonah for me is that you can run from God but you cannot hide. God out of his great love for us keeps seeking us. Jonah and Lent are all about experiencing God's grace and love which we find in Jesus' life and death. So, come journey with us in worship on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Pastor Deborah and I look forward to accompanying you as together our spiritual journey calls us to return to the Lord our God, for he is gracious and merciful and abounding in steadfast love.

Prayer for Lent:

God who never gives up on us, journey with us through the season of Lent. Remind us we never can outrun your love and grace. May we journey with you and make time to be with you, and ponder what do we need to let go of in our lives so that we may experience your peace, hope, and grace. Finish your work within us. Amen.

Let your spiritual journey begin,
Interim Pastor Joyce



February Ministerial Acts

Baptism

Layton Kathleen Damm - February 19th

Transfers Out

Mitch & Mandy McKay - Christ Lutheran, Cottonwood.

Daylight Saving Time

March 12th



*Don't forget to
change your
clocks!*

Consider Volunteering for a Committee

The Nominating Committee has begun meeting to seek nominees for the various committee openings. This year 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 committees have positions to fill:

Worship/Music (1 position)

Synod Assembly Representative (need 3)

Outreach (1 position)

Education (2 positions)

Stewardship/Finance (2 positions)

Congregation Secretary (1 position)

Audit Committee (1 position)

Nominating (6 positions)



Calling all Families.

The Education Committee has some dates for you to put on your calendars. Lots of activities and news.

- ✝ Sunday, March 26th: SWIMMING 1-4 pm KCC
- ✝ Children will be singing on Palm Sunday-April 2nd.
- ✝ Last day of Sunday School is May 7th. Fun family activities are being planned.

We are looking for a family to host the Green Lake Lutheran Ministries counselors who will be here to lead Vacation Bible School. The dates we need someone to host them are: Sunday, August 6th- through Thursday, August 10th. There will be three to four youths. Prayerfully consider supporting this worthwhile ministry. Keep watching for more updates.

GFLC Pool Party!



March 26th, 1 - 4 pm
at the KCC
All are welcome!

Confirmation schedule

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

Children's Church & Sunday School Schedule

CC (age 4 thru 1st Grade) SS (2nd thru 6th Grades)

- March 5 Children's Church - 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am
- March 12 Children's Church - 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am
- March 19 Children's Church - 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am
- March 26 Children's Church - 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am

Healing Service- Saturday, March 25th, at 4:00 p.m.

You are invited to be part of this special Healing & Prayer Service. The Healing Service provides comfort, support and healing for many difficult life situations. Leave the busyness of the day behind and take time to humbly come before our God. There will be music, prayer, and scripture readings to remind us that God is always ready to receive our worries, concerns, illnesses and heartaches. Part of the worship will include the laying of hands and prayer for individuals. Through this special service we receive comfort in the support and prayers of others and know the Holy Spirit will be with us wherever we go.



Following the service there will be a time of fellowship and refreshment.

The Healing Service is being hosted by the Stephen Ministers of Granite Falls Lutheran. We will also have a brief introduction to the Stephen Ministry.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

We Are Church Together.

We had the distinct privilege of having Bishop Dee Pederson, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, with us this past Sunday, February 26th. Her message to us was one of connectivity to one another, co-working together in God’s service and discovering how we can be a blessing to others and help each other discern what God is calling us to be and do. She thanked us for being so welcoming to her when she arrived back at the church where she was installed as our new bishop on October 9, 2021. We are grateful for her leadership and for her intention to walk with us as a congregation as we navigate our future work together.

I had the opportunity to attend my first Lac qui Parle Conference Annual Meeting, also last Sunday, and I was so proud of the generous contribution that GFLC makes to the work of the Southeastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Our Synod has had a companion synod relationship with SED since 1990. I was heartened to learn of this continued deep relationship that is based on accompaniment and mutual respect.

The main purpose of our conference is to foster interdependent relationships between the churches of this conference; to work together in support of the ministries of this conference, institutional, synodical and churchwide units, and work in all ways to further our common ministry and mission. Our Lac qui Parle Conference has responsibility for: Joint worship, inspiration, and study; offering resources for congregational ministry; fulfilling legislative responsibilities in selecting representatives to the synod council, boards and committees; encouraging participation in and support for the entire mission of the church; and meeting in assembly at least once a year. GFLC has opportunities for our members to serve both as a representative to the Synod Assembly and to our local conference. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving in this capacity, representing GFLC.

Finally, I look forward to this time of year, new beginnings, new life. I look forward to this congregation's new life, walking together in God’s Field, planning how we will plant God’s Word in the world.

Together in Faith,
Elaine Halverson, GFLC Congregational President

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday: *April 2nd - 9:00 am*

Maundy Thursday: *April 6th - 7:00 pm*

Good Friday: *April 7th - 7:00 pm*

Easter Sunday: *April 9th - 7:30 am, 9:00 am, & 10:30 am*

MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

Wednesdays in Lent

	3/1/2023	3/8/2023	3/15/2023	3/22/2023	3/29/2023
Usher Team	Scott Santjer	Doug Peterson	Jeff Koepke	Stan Santjer	Scott Santjer
Acolytes	Kalli Sannerud Addison Fagen	Jack Mensink Mario Ochoa	Kolten Blankenhagen Gunnar Fagen	Liam Anderson Lincoln Santjer	Emry Jans Kiptyn Jans
Reader	Nicolle Kotek	Connie Peterson	Sue Bergquist	Shawnn Martin	Paul Hoernemann

	3/5/2023	3/12/2023	3/19/2023	3/26/2023
Greeters	Dale & Di Lalim Rachel Hagen	Pat & Paul Sheggeby Lori Carter	Jim & Kathy Hendrickson Carl Imes	Tim & Susie Johnson Sally Ohliger
Usher Team	Scott Jans	Mark Jensen	Scott Bjorndal	Keith Knudson
Acolytes	Kourtney Peterson Ian Zempel	Kyla Smith London Luepke	Joelle Carter Abigale Bones	Samantha Paulson Mason Enstad
Reader	Chad Friese	Darlene Santjer	Beth Sneller	Pat Sheggeby
Communion Assistant	* Gail Aus * Jon Tjosvold Mark Sannerud Joanelle Sannerud	X	Kathy Hendrickson Ali Mensink Kyle TeBeest Amy Hoernemann	X

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](#)

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Updated information?</p> <p>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!</p>			<p><i>1</i></p> <p>9:00 AM - Noon YML Office hours</p> <p>1:00 PM Sewing Day</p> <p>5:45 PM Lenten Supper until 6:15pm</p> <p>6:30 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM 6th Gr. Pre-confirmation</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Study</p>
<p><i>5</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p><i>10:00 AM Sunday School</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Prairie Arts Chamber Rehearsal</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>2:00 PM Worship/Music Committee Mtg</p> <p>5:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Property Committee Meeting</p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>9:00 AM - Noon YML Office hours</p> <p>1:00 PM Granite Ridge Worship</p> <p>5:30 PM Education Committee Mtg</p> <p>5:45 PM Lenten Supper until 6:15pm</p> <p>6:30 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>2:30 PM Espresso Time</p> <p>6:00 PM Outreach Committee Meeting</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sr. High Youth Gathering <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Study</p> <p>3:30 PM Hoememann Bridal Shower</p>
<p><i>12</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Celebration Worship Service</p> <p><i>10:00 AM Sunday School</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Daylight Saving Time</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Prairie Arts Chamber Rehearsal</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>9:00 AM - Noon YML Office hours</p> <p>2:00 PM GFH Care Center Worship</p> <p>5:45 PM Lenten Supper until 6:15pm</p> <p>6:30 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>7:30 PM Stewardship Committee Mtg</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Study</p> <p>Dialog Works</p>
<p><i>19</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:00 AM Congregation Conversation w/Dialog Works</p> <p><i>10:00 AM Sunday School</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Prairie Arts Chamber Rehearsal</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>9:00 AM - Noon YML Office hours</p> <p>1:00 PM Sewing Day</p> <p>5:45 PM Lenten Supper until 6:15pm</p> <p>6:30 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>2:30 PM Espresso Time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00 AM Prairie Arts Chorus all day rehearsal</p> <p>4:00 PM HEALING & PRAYER SERVICE</p>
<p><i>26</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p><i>10:00 AM Sunday School</i></p> <p>1:00 PM Swimming at YCC</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Prairie Arts Chamber Rehearsal</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p>5:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting</p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>9:00 AM - Noon YML Office hours</p> <p>5:45 PM Lenten Supper until 6:15pm</p> <p>6:30 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>Endowment Applications Due</p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Office Closed</i></p>	

Birthdays

1	Caral Schimming	10	Landry Jans	15	Lydia Weber	24	Julie Luepke
3	Kory Kotek	10	Jack Mensink	16	Angela Olson	24	Becky Opdahl
3	Thomas Lewison	11	Courtney Winter	16	Brandon Parliament	25	Beth Bjorndal
3	Lori O'Connor	13	Kannon Ims	17	Emily Pederson	25	Charles Cole
3	Bradley Peterson	13	Scott Rasmusson	18	Linda Bakkelund	25	Michael West
4	Erica Martin	13	Ambrea Trost	18	Bradley Bakken	25	Connie Timm
4	Lincoln Santjer	14	Joelle Carter	18	Brenda Nelson	26	Jane Hauger
5	Caleb Hagen	14	Morris Cross	19	Thomas Doyle	26	James Schimming
5	Gus Richter	14	Keith Knudson	19	Carrie Eischens	27	Barbara Lecy
6	Patricia Bakker	14	Kevin Knudson	19	Connie Erickson	27	Karen McCoss
7	Alexandra Mensink	14	Michelle Marthaler	19	Jessica Johnson	28	Hailey Pederson
8	Roger Abel	14	Evelyn Martin	20	Barbara Hagen	28	Abbie Winter
8	Braden Eisenbacher	14	Jerel Stenersen	20	Darlene Hanson	29	Deborah Fossan
8	Briggs Golberg	14	Joshua Nordaune	21	Zander Johnson	29	Harper Parliament
8	Steven Petersen	15	Amber Johnson	21	James Peterson	29	Emery Weber
9	Nicole Jans	15	Lynette Bakker	22	Karla Bjorndal	30	Gregory Bakker
9	Gage Richter	15	Tyler Nordaune	23	Darlene Santjer	31	Arlin Sneller
10	Chad Bones	15	Abbey Richter	23	Ryan Syring	31	Howard McCalla

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

Online Worship Services

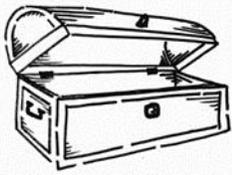
Worship services will continue to be livestreamed on the GFLC Facebook page. If you are unable to tune in live, the services will be posted to Facebook and YouTube after being streamed. Worship services are also aired on the local cable channel 8 on Sundays at 7:00 PM.

GFLC Facebook Page:

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

GFLC YouTube Channel:

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



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew: 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?" As we begin

the season of Lent, may we prayerfully serve others with our time and resources to love God and our neighbor.

Thank you:

To Thrivent Financial for monies received for an Action Team Project to purchase two rolls of quilt batting.

To WELCA members for the continuing responses to the donation request letters!

Dates to remember:

Executive Board Meeting: March 13, 9:30 am

Quilting: March 27 - 29; 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 3, 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 27 -31; Group 5

Espresso Time!

Women gathering around the coffee table for fellowship

and scripture.

Please join us at the

Church on the

2nd and 4th Thursdays

of the month at 2:30 pm.

Saturday Men's

Breakfast

at Hardee's

7:00 am

Come and enjoy!



Granite Falls Lutheran Church

Joyce Capp

Interim Pastor

pastorjoyce@granitefallslutheran.com

350 9th Avenue

Granite Falls, MN 56241

www.granitefallslutheran.com

Deborah Nissen

Interim Pastor

pastordeboraah@granitefallslutheran.com

Valerie Santjer

Parish Administrator

office@granitefallslutheran.com

Phone: 320-564-3746

On Call Phone: 320-841-1124

Ginny Dambrotten

Admin Assistant

reception@granitefallslutheran.com