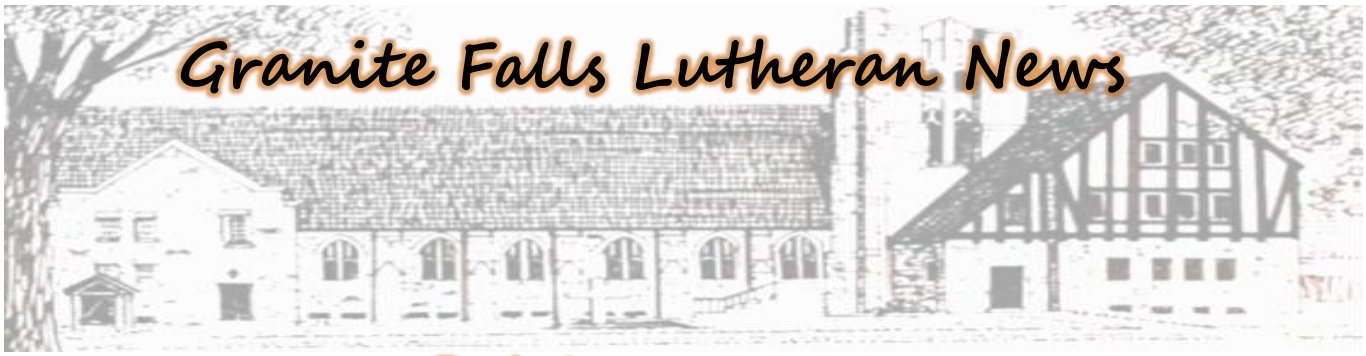
Granite Falls Lutheran News



October, 2026

JOIN GRANITE FALLS LUTHERAN CONFIRMATION STUDENTS FOR A

FOOD SHELF DRIVE-UP

PLEASE STOP BY ON

OCTOBER 7TH, 2026

FROM 6:00PM – 7:00PM

WITH YOUR DONATIONS.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS WILL BE OUTSIDE TO HELP UNLOAD DONATIONS.

GRANITE FALLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
350 9th Ave
Granite Falls, MN

YOU CAN ALSO DROP OFF YOUR FOOD ITEMS AT THE CHURCH DURING THE DAY IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT DURING THE SCHEDULED TIME.

COLLECTED DONATIONS WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE NEIGHBORS UNITED FOOD SHELF, GRANITE FALLS

GRANITE FALLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCA

FALL BAZAAR

Thursday, October 8, 2026

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Menu

Soups & Chili
Ham & Turkey Sandwiches
Bars & Beverage
Free Will Offering for the Meal

Available for Sale

Baked Goods ▫ Crafts ▫ Quilts ▫ Greeting Cards

Donated funds by Thrivent

First Communion

(5th graders)
will be during
worship on
October 4th

Volunteer Church Cleaning

Monday
October 12th
8:30am

EVERYONE WELCOME!!

Snack Provided!
Bring supplies if you have them.

Worship in October 2026

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, October 4th, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
Scripture: Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 11th Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18th Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, October 25th Reformation Sunday/Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Confirmation Sunday/Holy Communion
Scripture: John 8:31-36; Matthew 21:34-46

October Ministerial Acts

Transfer Out:
Michael and Jane Schaffran

Deaths:
September 6th - Richard Heggestad
September 24th - Nicole Ims

World Hunger Sunday

Granite Falls Lutheran Church is hosting a Hunger Sunday on October 18, 2026, in connection to "World Hunger Day" on October 16th. We will be using a special liturgy written by our synodical Hunger Team. Included are hymn suggestions, prayers, liturgical elements and more, all revolving around the issue of hunger. We will also be encouraging the congregation to bring items for our local Food Shelf and/or cash donations.
More details will follow closer to the date.

Online Worship Services

Worship services are 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.

GFLC Facebook Page: **https://www.facebook.com/GFLCGFMN/**
GFLC YouTube Channel: **https://www.youtube.com/user/gflcMNelca/feed**

Happy October! I am naming this Martin Luther Month, looking ahead to the Day of Reformation on October 31st that often gets overlooked by Halloween. We observe Reformation Sunday the Sunday prior, but that is also the day we have Confirmation. For these reasons we will sprinkle a little bit of our Lutheran heritage throughout the month!

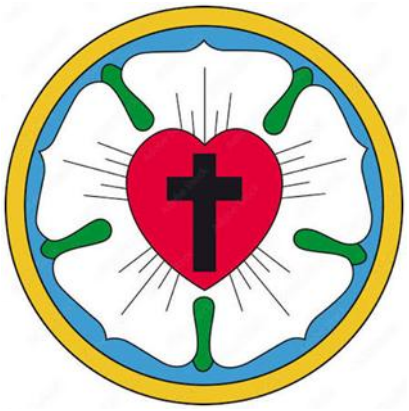
- *Why are we Lutherans?*
- *What does it mean to be a Lutheran?*
- *What happened on October 31st, 1517 in Wittenberg Germany that changed the world forever?*

This month of October we'll try to answer some of these questions.
Here are some things we have to look forward to during Martin Luther Month:

We will sing a Luther hymn every Sunday in October.
Did you know there are nineteen Luther hymns in the ELW?

We will hear about Martin Luther in the Children's Sermons.

We will learn the meaning of the Lutheran Rose!



Here are some quotes by Martin Luther, just to wet our appetite.

The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.

Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

The only way to drive away the Devil is through faith in Christ, by saying: 'I have been baptized, I am a Christian.'

I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.

I am looking forward to an excellent month with you all! *Pastor Sarah*

GFLC YOUTH IN ACTION!

Children's Church & Sunday School Schedule

CC (age 4 thru Kindergarten) **SS** (1st thru 6th Grades)

October 4	**Children's Church -**	***9:00 am**
	Sunday School -	**10:00 am**
October 11	**Children's Church -**	***9:00 am**
	Sunday School -	**10:00 am**
October 18	**No Sunday School or CC**	
October 25	**Children's Church -**	***9:00 am**
	Sunday School -	**10:00 am**

* Children's Church begins with worship, then after the children's message the students go to their classroom.

Children's Church
and
Kids of the Rock **Choirs**
will sing during worship
on **November 1st**

Children's Christmas Program
will be at *9:00 am*
December 13th
during worship

GFLC YOUTH IN ACTION!

Confirmation

We will celebrate with the following 10th graders from our congregation who will be affirming their baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 25th, during the regular worship service.

Chase Bjorndal *Emry Jans* *Kiptyn Jans*
Mason Enstad *Samantha Paulson*

Please pray for these young people as they mark this important milestone in their journey of faith..

10th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal
Wednesday, October 21st, 8:00pm

Confirmation Schedule

October 7th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Meal/Class
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Drive Up Food Drive

October 14th
No Class - MEA

October 21st
6:30 pm Meal - 7:00 Class
8:00 pm Rehearsal for
Confirmation Sunday

October 28th
6:30 pm Meal - 7:00 Class

National ELCA Youth Gathering

2027 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
IMAGINE more

Who: Current 8th – 12th grade Youth

When: June 28- July 2
(monthly meetings and fundraising)
Informational Meeting: Oct 21 @ 6:15pm

Sign up now with church office, $175 deposit by Nov 1st

The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering is more than an event — it's a movement where young people and leaders come alive in faith, grow in hope and move with purpose. This is where the church comes to life!

ALL SAINTS SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, Nov. 1st, 10:30 am.

We will be holding our annual All Saints Service of Remembrance on the first Sunday in November for all who have lost loved ones, family, or friends in the past 12 months. All are welcome to stay for this!

Each person will have a scripture passage read for them and an opportunity for family and friends to light a candle in their memory. Let the church office know by October 26th if you have a friend or family member whom you would like included in this special service.

Honoring our Veterans

There will be a special video during our November 8th worship service honoring our living military veterans.

If you have previously submitted a photo, it will be used in the video. If your loved one is not in the video, please provide a picture by emailing the office or drop it off at the office by November 2nd.

NOISY OFFERING

Sunday, October 4th

The Assistance Fund of Granite Falls Ministerial Association

GFLC Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

November 22nd, 10:00 am

GFLC Directory Update

Our part of the directory has been submitted. Now we wait for the first draft, then proofread, then corrections will be made before final production.

October's Thankful Thought

Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over…"

GFLC Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary
Tuesday, August 11th, 2026-6:30 pm

Monthly Financial Report –Income was less than expenses for July by -$5,932. However, the checkbook balance was a decrease YTD of $45,933.29.

Old Business

Call Process Update - The Call Committee has requested to put the process on hold until we have amended or rescinded the Continuing Resolutions. Council agrees to put our Call Process for an Associate Pastor on hold until the Continuing Resolutions are reviewed. We will need to inform the Synod not to distribute our MSP to candidates at this time.

Continuing Resolutions Strategy and Timeline – Council reviewed the letter that will be included in the next church newsletter. It was also discussed that it would be helpful to have an area designated in the back of the church that has all the information easily accessible regarding the review of the Continuing Resolutions. Items such as: Copies of the Continuing Resolutions, Council Minutes, the Update Letter to the Congregation, etc. - Mark is going to talk to Cassie about setting up this area. Council has decided to call the area discussed above "Your Council Corner".

Filing vacant positions/Structure of Leadership moving forward – We need to continue to try and get the vacant positions filled. We will have the open vacancies added to the bulletin to remind members of these open positions.

Current Committees Structure and meeting times were reviewed for possible changes. Continuing discussion.

Church Logo–Council selected their favorite of the three logo designs. The logos will be presented to the congregation for a vote. Voting will take place on Sunday, September 13th as well as Sunday, September 20th.

New Business

Semi-Annual Meeting date- November 22nd

Community Outreach – Building Use Approved Prairie Arts Chorale Practices (to be held from 7-9 PM on Monday nights from August 31st through November 16th) as well as one rehearsal day on an unknown Saturday.

Community Outreach – Building Use Approved for AVERA-Granite Falls to hold a Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) Class on February 9-10, 2027 from 6 AM – 6 PM

Vestre Sogn Cemetery Board – Approved the request that Vestre Sogn Cemetery Records we have been storing/ holding, be turned over to the Cemetery Board per their request.

Point of Information – Patricia Lubeck has removed her membership here. She has been attending Rock Haven in Montevideo since she has moved to Montevideo in January of 2024.

Committee Highlights

Property and Grounds Committee – Training for the new sign is 8/12 at 11am.; working on the louvers ; will need to look into upgrades/updates for the elevator in the coming years.

Worship & Music Committee - Working with the Education Committee to find a Music Director for our SS Kids.

Youth and Adult Education Committee – Had a successful VBS! Lots of fun was had by all and many memories were made.

Outreach Committee – Next Community Dinner is set for September 20th.

Endowment Committee – Talked about Family Promise ; next meeting is set for September 8th.

Stewardship & Finance Committee – No update

Complete Council meeting minutes are available upon request or on the Narthex Table.

August 2026 - Financial Overview

	Current Month	YTD Actual
Balance on Hand Jan 1, 2026		$86,267.17
Balance on Hand Aug. 1, 2026	$40,333.88	
Income:	$ 43,044.04	$ 231,210.68
Expenses:	$ (35,242.33)	$ (308,160.89)
	$ 48,135.59	$ 9,316.96
Special Income		
Thrivent Choice Dollars	$ 2,080.00	$ 12,896.00
Interest Income	$ 4.76	$ 49.83
Misc Income	$ 904.20	$ 7,796.40
YMLC Pastoral Services	$ 3,089.84	$ 24,155.20
Total Special Income	$ 6,078.80	$ 44,897.43
Balance on Hand 8-31-26	**$ 54,214.39**	**$ 54,214.39**

October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Office Closed	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's 9:00am First Communion Class w/ bread making
4 8:30am Coffee/Fellowship 9:00am Worship Service w/Holy Communion Noisy Offering 10:00am Sunday Morning Mingle w/rolls & coffee 10:00am Sunday School	5 5:15pm Outreach Committee 5:30pm Youth & Adult Education Committee 7:00pm Prairie Arts Chorale Rehearsal	6 5:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00pm Property Committee	7 6:00pm Confirmation Food Drive-Up 6:00pm Confirmation Meal/Class	8 **10:30am WELCA Fall Bazaar** 2:30pm Espresso Time Bible Study	9 Office Closed	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's
11 8:30amCoffee/Fellowship 9:00am Celebration Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School	12 **Columbus Day** 8:30am Church Cleaning Day! 7:00pm Prairie Arts Chorale Rehearsal	13 4:00pmWorship & Music Meeting - Scheduling Nov-January 5:00pmWorship & Music Committee 6:30pmCouncil Meeting	14 1:00pm Worship at Granite Ridge 2:00pm Worship at GFH Care Center 6:15pm Chancel Choir Practice	15 9:30am Lac qui Parle Conference Pastors' Meeting	16 Office Closed	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's
18 New Member Sunday 8:30am Coffee/Fellowship 9:00am Worship Service w/Holy Communion No Sunday School World Hunger Sunday Either cash or food donations accepted.	19 7:00pm Prairie Arts Chorale Rehearsal	20 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 am WELCA LQP Conference Fall Gathering @ Zion Lutheran, Appleton	21 6:15pm - 2027 National Youth Gathering Meeting with Parents and Students 6:30 pm Confirmation Meal 7:00pm Confirmation Class 8:00pm Rehearsal for Confirmation Sunday	22 2:30pm Espresso Time Bible Study	23 Office Closed	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's
25 **Confirmation Sunday** **Reformation Sunday** 8:30am Coffee/Fellowship 8:40am Confirmation Class Picture 9:00am Confirmation Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:00am Sunday School	26 9:00am MIA Quilting 7:00pm Prairie Arts Chorale Rehearsal	27 9:00am MIA Quilting	28 9:00am MIA Quilting 6:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 pm Confirmation Meal 7:00pm Confirmation Class	29	30 Office Closed	31 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's

October Birthdays

2	Noah Eggebraaten	12	Blakely Kvendru	22	Grayson Kvendru
2	Gunnar Fagen	13	Samuel Poff	22	Christina Nerdahl
2	Carol Iverson	13	Daniel Hauger	23	Tangela Lavoie
3	Margaret Holien	14	Steven Bjorndal	24	Tamara Timm
3	Karen Brovold	14	Zach Santjer	24	Derek Larsen
4	Tayte Christians	14	Amy Hoernemann	25	Leslie Bergquist
5	Beth Sneller	15	Duke Anderson	25	Nancy Knudson
5	David Hamre	15	Kay Steenson	26	Holly Ims
5	Haily Larsen	16	Kyla Smith	26	Alan Poff
6	Bernie Jahn	16	James Barber	26	Olin Knutson
6	Delaney Myers	16	Jeffrey Baker	27	Hannah Christians
7	Macie Sik	16	Jessica Foy-Skjefte	27	Carl Ohliger
8	Mark Wilson	17	Paul Hoernemann	28	Ashley Niemeyer
8	Corey Moe	17	Sarah Tadé	28	Rachel Hagen
9	Denneth Bakkelund	18	Dylan Hempel	29	Scott Tedrick
9	Holly Hempel	19	Melissa Arneson	29	Kenneth Dahl
10	Gene Buchholz	19	Jeffrey Koepke	30	Kristin Flaten
10	Dorian Grove	20	Wells Golberg	30	Steven Johnson
10	Mary Jepson	21	Jacob Munsterman	30	Mark Jensen
10	Tammy Jager	21	Katie Anderson	31	Evonne Vosberg
12	David Anderson	21	Kalli Knudson		

October Worship Leaders

Confirmation

	10/4/2026	10/11/2026	10/18/2026	10/25/2026
Greeters	Jim & Kathy Hendrickson Dar Hanson	Mark & Joanelle Sannerud Norma Iverson	Butch & Karla Imes Scott Jans	Tim & Susie Johnson Aaron Peterson
Usher Team	Scott Bjorndal	Stan Santjer	Keith Knudson	Scott Santjer
Acolytes	Elin Ettesvold	Zander Johnson	Ellery Anderson	Johnny Mensink
	Lainey Ettesvold	Ryan Martin	Tenley Anderson	Decker Ettesvold
Reader	Emry Jans	Amy Hoernemann	Lori Carter	Nicolle Kotek
Communion	*Gail Aus		Mark Jensen	Taylor Bakkelund
Assistant	*Jon Tjosvold		Les Berquist	Nicolle Kotek
	Shawnn Martin		Mark Sannerud	Ali Mensink
	Amy Hoernemann		Joanelle Sannerud	Kyle TeBeest
	Val Hoffman		Kathy Hendrickson	Shelly Loose

Underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut. 3:27

When the bottom drops out, His arms catch you. When you fall apart, He holds you together. God's grip is stronger than your fear. You may feel like you're falling – but He's already underneath you.

In this busy season of school schedules, athletic events, field work and so many other events, planned and unplanned - Close your eyes and imagine yourself resting in God's arms. Let go of control.

God, hold us close. Catch us when we fall and remind us that we are never out of Your reach.

CRU contribution: With generous contributions and participation of our membership we were able to gift Tyler Nordaune $1000 for his work with USD Cru ministries. Blessings to you, Tyler, as you go about being 'God's arms' on campus.

Thank you:

To Pat Kubly for delivering 20 Newborn kits to Global Health Ministries.

To those who served lunch for the workers on the Sept. 16th bloodmobile.

Soup/Sandwich event – Thursday, October 8:

Work group chairwomen have or will contact members. We hope you'll respond as you're able with work times and contributions of baked goods.

Remember to **invite a friend** to come along for the delicious lunch and fellowship this event offers.

LQP Conference Fall Gathering: Tuesday, Oct.20, at Zion Lutheran Church in Appleton. Program; Bryan Busch, minister at LQP Lutheran. *See poster on kiosk for more info.*

Dates to Remember:

October 5 - 9	Dinner at Your Door– Group 5
Oct. 20, 10:00 am	LQP Conference Fall Gathering
October 26 - 28	Quilting

Women of the ELCA

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 Bible Study

at Hardee's

7:00 am

Come and enjoy!

Offering QR Code

Granite Falls Lutheran Church

Phone: 320-564-3746

www.granitefallslutheran.com

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Lead Administrative Pastor
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Valerie Santjer
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