



Happy
New Year

Granite Falls Lutheran News January, 2024



ASSISTING MINISTERS

“I was glad when they said, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1

Worship is at the heart of what it means to be the church and the people of God. Worship is showing honor to God. We worship God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. As the people of God we gather on Sundays to praise God, encourage one another, and be built up to go and serve God in the week ahead.

Worship is what we do together as the body of Christ. Worship has many roles that need to be filled. Worship does not just happen. But rather there are people who use their gifts on Sunday morning in many ways. For example, we have an organist/pianist, celebration singers, choir, ushers, readers, greeters, communion servers, people who set up and clean up communion, we have sound people, we have people who record the services, and screen production people. There are youth who serve as acolytes. We have people who take communion to shut-ins, and we have custodians who prepare the sanctuary, we have office personnel who make sure we have bulletins and the order of service. Thank God for all the people who are part of leading and assisting with leading us to praise God.

Starting in January an additional role will be part of leading worship. That role is called, “Assisting Minister.” An assisting minister is one who helps lead worship by leading the liturgy in worship. The word liturgy means, “the work of the people.” As Lutherans we gather around word and sacrament. An assisting minister is one who works alongside of the pastor to lead Sunday morning worship. That person will assist with leading the confession, the prayer of the day, the creed, the prayers, the offertory prayer, the benediction, and the sending. They, like the acolytes, will wear an alb(*robe*) to show that they are leaders of the worship service. The people you may see in the coming weeks/months include: *Shawnn Martin, Elaine Halverson, Pat Sheggeby, Erica Martin, Evelyn Martin, Ashton Helgeson, Taylor Bakkelund, Peggy Hardy, Jon Barber, Mark Sannerud, Paul Hoernemann, Di Lalim, Karla Bjorndal, Elaine Hauger, and Peg Heglund.* If you would like to be part of this team of assisting ministers please contact Pastor Deborah or the church office.

Each week in our bulletin we have the phrase, “*ministers: all of us gathered to worship.*” All are called to serve the church. Let us give thanks for all who come to the house of the Lord, and all who serve in any way.



Worship in January 2024

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 7th, Baptism of our Lord

Holy Communion

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 14th, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 21st, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Holy communion

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28th, 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

December Ministerial Acts

Baptism:

Grace Krueger - December 3rd

Jett Lecy - December 10th

Transfer In:

Jamie Krueger - December 3rd

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us" Isaiah 9:6

Thank you to Jon and Brenda Barber for sharing their time, resources, and talents and making Christmas ornaments for all of our Sunday School children.

The ornaments are made from a birch tree in their yard.

Thanks for this special gift.



GFLC Call Committee updates

Our Call Committee has asked a short-term pulpit supply Pastor to help fill one Sunday a month in January through April of 2024. His name is Pastor Tim Savarese from Ham Lake, MN. He is a recently retired Pastor. He is looking forward to helping our congregation out at this time. We are prayerfully waiting to hear from the SW Synod about any new Pastor candidates for our committee to review. Please continue to pray for our congregational needs.

Thank you. Joanelle Sannerud, Chairperson

Just a reminder, here are the call committee members: Abby Richter, Jon Barber, Seth Aus, Nicole Jans, Bernie Jahn, and Joanelle Sannerud.

Online Worship Services

Worship services 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/gflcMNeIca/feed>

Are you ready?

God has a plan for us. We are in a time of waiting. The call committee is working. But they too are waiting. We join them in waiting for God's timing of a settled pastor(s).

In the meantime, what do we do? First is pray. Pray for the call committee and the congregation. Pray for the church and all the congregations who like us are seeking strong support in doing ministry with a settled pastor. Pray for the settled pastor who God wants to share in ministry with you.

Second, we do ministry. We continue gathering for worship. We continue to gather around God's word in study. We continue the caring ministries for our members. We continue sharing in community in the ways we have. We continue our mission statement "Love through Christ, Live to serve, Learn to give."

Third, we continue the reflection we started when this interim began. We continue to consider if our ministries are what God wants us to be doing now. And we continue with all the worldly work we need to do as institution in the world. We update the constitution. We update the bylaws. We review and draft updates for our policies (wedding, funeral, employee, etc.) allowing the settled pastor final input before approving. We go through our membership and verify/update all our information for a new directory.

I am here and will support you and all the committees to be the church – living out being the ministers. Just a reminder, we have in the bulletin the ministers are "All of us gathered to worship" and that includes all those who share in worship online.

Since I will be the only ordained person on staff – I will be very busy with all sorts of pastoral duties and leading worship.

My schedule will be different from what you have experienced. There will be no non-work weeks. My plan for my day(s) off is to drive into my permanent residence on Sunday evening. Spend Monday there doing chores and errands. Come back to Granite Falls on Tuesday morning. The council has recognized that bringing in a supply pastor one Sunday a month would allow me a true Sabbath day. We have a retired pastor willing to do just that. During those weeks I will be taking advantage of the time freed up by not preparing a sermon, to do other ministry activities.

The worship committee, executive committee and council, along with the council of Yellow Medicine, have worked with me to find a schedule and plan for Ash Wednesday, Lent and Holy Week so we can all share in worship.

This is a time of growth for all of you in participating in the leadership of worship. It is time for being church. It is a reminder that the church is all the people and is not dependent on clergy to do most of the ministries of being church. You have great committees who are growing in doing ministry. If you have ideas talk to them.

Celebrating Christ with us,
Interim Pastor Deborah Nissen

Thank you from Pastor Joyce

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:3-6

I vividly remember my first Sunday as I began serving with you. I thought, "This is such a large sanctuary, so many new faces, so many new committees and activities, how am I ever going to learn people's names and care for them all." People of Granite Falls Lutheran, the Holy Spirit and you have made these past 15 months a joy and privilege to serve here. You made me feel welcome and you were open with me. You have opened your lives, your homes, shared good and difficult things with me. I am grateful for your trust, support, and encouragement. I have learned from you. I have laughed and cried with you. Together we have made a difference. I leave with good memories and confident that God will continue the good work God has begun in you. I will continue to hold you in my prayers as you journey together in caring for one another and being the church.

Tusen takk, takk for alt (thousand thanks, and thanks for everything),

Interim Pastor Joyce



*Go now to live in the joy of this season, knowing that
God's peace is with you
God's love is all around you
God's hope is just ahead of you
And God is always with you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.*

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

All endowment applications are due back by February 13, 2024.

Applications are available at the church office or in the Narthex.

Any questions, contact the Endowment Committee or the church office.

GFLC Endowment Fund Scholarship Forms and Mission Request Forms

College Scholarship Forms are now available from the church office! All members of Granite Falls Lutheran church who are currently pursuing post-high school education (*not High School Seniors*) are encouraged to apply for our scholarships:

"GFLC Endowment Fund Educational Award" This is a one-time, \$1,000 scholarship grant, available to any student who is currently attending a post-high school educational institution.

Students of Lutheran Colleges or Seminaries: "The Reverend and Mrs. J.O. Wrolstad Memorial Scholarship". This is a \$350 scholarship which can be applied for each year that the student is in attendance.

For students in Health Care & Ministry related field: "Evelyn Olson Memorial Scholarship". Each year there are two scholarships available, each for \$1,000. Applicants for this are chosen based on their proximity to graduation and their responses to the questions within the scholarship form. Student, can be in undergraduate or graduate studies.

Mission Request and Buildings/Grounds Grant
Application forms are available as well.

Deadline for all forms is February 13th.



Bible Camp! Plan ahead!



Early registration for Green Lake LM Bible

Camp is now open. The GFLC week is July 14th-18th .

We would like all of our youth to have the opportunity to attend and we have funds available to help with registration costs.

There is a \$50 discount for early registration.

You can register online at: <https://gllm.campbrainregistration.com/>

Early registration ends February 15th.

Please contact the office for more information regarding cost sharing.



We are seeking volunteers to help organize and/or chaperone youth events/activities. If you have an idea for something, or if you would like to help, please let the office or someone on the Education Committee know.



"It takes a village....."



Children's Church & Sunday School Schedule

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

January 7	Children's Church - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:00 am
January 14	No Children's Church No Sunday School
January 21	Children's Church - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:00 am
January 28	Children's Church - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:00 am

Confirmation and Pre-confirmation schedule

January 3 Class
January 10 Class
January 17 Class
January 24 Class
January 31 Class

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00am Worship - Lessons and Carols	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED - HOLIDAY	2 5:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00pm Property Committee	3 9:00am YMLC Office Hours 5:00pm Worship & Music Committee 5:30pm Education Committee 5:45pm Stewardship Committee 7:00pm Confirmation Class Gr. 7-9 7:00pm Pre-confirmation (6th grade)	4 5:00pm Outreach Committee	5 Office Closed	6 Epiphany 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's
7 9:00am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 9:00am Children's Church -During Worship 10:00am Sunday School	8	9 6:30pm Council Meeting	10 9:00am YMLC Office Hours 1:00pm Worship at Granite Ridge 2:00pm Worship at GFH Care Center 7:00pm Confirmation Class Gr. 7-9 7:00pm Pre-confirmation (6th grade)	11 2:30pm Espresso Time	12 Office Closed	13 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's
14 9:00am Celebration Worship Service <i>No Sunday School or CC</i>	15 Martin L. King, Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED - HOLIDAY	16	17 9:00am YMLC Office Hours 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Confirmation Class Gr. 7-9 7:00pm Pre-confirmation (6th grade)	18	19 Office Closed	20 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's
21 9:00am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 9:00am Children's Church -During Worship 10:00am Sunday School	22 9:00am MIA Quilting <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	23 9:00am MIA Quilting	24 9:00am MIA Quilting 9:00am YMLC Office Hours 7:00pm Confirmation Class Gr. 7-9 7:00pm Pre-confirmation (6th grade)	25 2:30pm Espresso Time	26 Office Closed	27 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's
28 9:00am Worship 9:00am Children's Church -During Worship 10:00am Sunday School	29	30	31 9:00am YMLC Office Hours 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Confirmation Class Gr. 7-9 7:00pm Pre-confirmation (6th grade)	1	2 Groundhog Day Office Closed	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study at Hardee's

January Birthdays

1 Chad Christianson	7 Roger Thorstad	16 Katy Lundell-Stuhr	26 Robert Balfany
1 Donna Olson	8 Bobbi Jo Enstad	17 Samantha Paulson	26 Kian Christianson
2 Addison Fagen	9 Patricia Massmann	18 Jeanne Berends	27 Mason Enstad
2 Jerry Paulson	10 Erik Knutson	18 Owen Rude	27 Shawna Richter
2 David Springer	12 Corey Johnson	18 Kate Hegna	27 Katherine Zempel
3 Evelyn Olson	12 Karli Santjer	21 David Cole	28 Lori Fagen
4 Benjamin Stuhr	12 Jackie Torvik	21 Brad Hempel	28 Jodi May
5 Tanya Friesse	13 Val Hoffman	22 Mary Behr	28 Deb Waller
5 Pam Redetzke	13 Carol Nordaune	22 Dylan Hoffman	29 Jeff Lewis
5 Hannah Stark	14 Audrey Borning	22 Jerry Lemcke	29 Patrice Monson
5 Jeff Wilke	14 Danielle Koepke	24 Norman Opdahl	29 Carolyn Olson
6 Abby Kvendru	15 Jeanette Anderson	24 Elaine Halverson	30 Steven Halvorson
7 Peg Heglund	15 Brad Burgeson	25 Scott Santjer	31 David Velde

January Worship Leaders

	1/7/2024	1/14/2024	1/21/2024	1/28/2024
Greeters	Barry & Kathy Anderson Scott & Karla Bjorndal	Dar Hanson Lori Carter Rachel Hagen	Aaron Peterson Carl & Karla Imes Pat Kubly	Mark Jensen Tim & Susie Johnson Kyle TeBeest
Usher Team	Stan Santjer	Keith Knudson	Scott Santjer	Scott Jans
Acolytes	Brody Sannerud Kalli Sannerud	Mason Enstad Ryan Martin	Emma Eisenbacher Mario Ochoa	Abigale Bones Kourtney Peterson
Reader	Kathy Anderson	Jon Barber	Emry Jans	Mark Jensen
Communion	Darlene Erickson	X	Les Berquist	X
Assistant	*Gail Aus		Sally Ohliger	
	*Keith Sandberg		Melissa Helgeson	
	Kyle TeBeest		Mike Ohliger	
A. M.	Shawnn Martin		Mark Sannerud	

Let the light of Christ shine in and through us during the season of Epiphany and throughout 2024!



Saturday, January 6th marks the beginning of the season of Epiphany, the day the wise men offered gifts to the baby Jesus.

This is the season of the church calendar year when we see the ways the kingdom of God is revealed in the world. Epiphany can be thought of as a door opening just a little at a time and seeing the mysteries that lie behind it. As the 'door' opens we look to see where we have seen God in our lives and how we reveal Christ's love and light to others. We celebrated Christ's birth when we worshiped in the church at Christmas, now we must go out and tell what we have seen and heard as we open our hearts to what Christ reveals to each of us.

Women of the ELCA 

WELCA Board meeting: Monday, January 8th, 9:30am.

Thank you, Dar Hanson, for stepping in to be our secretary.

2024 WELCA Handbooks will be available on the table in the narthex.

*Thank you to each of you who supported GFLC WELCA with monetary donations in 2023.

*Workgroup chairs will be sending request letters for 2024 donations and we look forward to your continued support and participation.

Meals on Wheels: January 2-5; Group 1
Jan 29-Feb.2; Group 2

Note that we are on a four week rotation with four churches participating.

Quilting dates: Jan. 23 & 24, 1-4 pm; Group 1 will furnish the snacks.

Let 2024 be the year for you to participate in this mission project.

No experience needed – on the job training offered.

Group 2 will be next in line for a serving event.

Espresso Time!

*Women gathering around
the coffee table for fellow-
ship 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

Granite Falls Lutheran Church

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