



## August 2018 late summer update Granite Falls Lutheran News

### *Fall Activities & Events*

*Here are some of our upcoming church events and activities to mark on your calendars:*

Rally Sunday: Kick-off for Education Program, Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am.

10th Grade Confirmation begins Sunday evening, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm.

Worship Wednesday & Confirmation begins: Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm.

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### New Baptismal Bowl Coming Soon

Our Worship & Music Committee, with funds donated in memory of Jim Hegna, has purchased a beautiful, unique bowl which will be used in a variety of ways to enhance our worship services. The colors and shape of this large bowl will be perfect for Baptism-related events and worship services.

This wonderful addition for our sanctuary will sit on a stand which can be moved, allowing us to have some flexibility for our baptisms and special worship services. It will also give us many opportunities throughout the year to highlight the spiritual gift of our daily baptismal relationship in Jesus Christ.

Families will now have the choice to use the previous baptismal station, or this new bowl, at the time of upcoming baptisms. A dedication of this baptismal bowl will take place at a future worship service. What a wonderful gift!



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### Recent Church Property Work

You may have noticed some heavy equipment around Granite Falls Lutheran in the past few weeks. The sewer line, which runs from our basement kitchen and drains to the city sewer on 9th Ave., started backing up. It was then discovered that a portion of that 30+ year old metal pipe had deteriorated. Therefore, with the help of H&H Construction of Granite Falls, and Lauritsen Septic of Montevideo, a new PVC pipe was installed, bypassing the old line and creating better drainage for our whole system. The sidewalk has now been replaced, thanks to the quick work of Soine Construction. Our Property Committee is now looking into some landscaping ideas for that area, thanks to a generous donation from one of our members.

Also, we have continued to experience a couple of persistent roof leaks in our church building during heavy rains, especially when we receive wind from particular directions. The leaks appear to be from separate problems, some with our roof and some other leaks are perhaps coming from the stone on our bell tower. Our Property Committee is working with the company that installed our roof two years ago and will bring in other professionals if needed. Hopefully solutions can be found soon for our roof and stone issues.

## Current Financial Picture at Your Church

Offering the first 6 months of 2018	\$186,000
Offering the first 6 months of 2017	\$191,000
Operating Account Balance: Jan. 1, 2018	\$31,000
Budget Cushion Fund: Jan. 1, 2018	\$11,000
Operating Account Balance: July 1, 2018	\$ -7,000
Budget Cushion Fund: July 1, 2018	\$21,000
Projected 2018 Income: Jan-Dec	\$510,000
Projected 2018 Expenses: Jan-Dec	\$529,000

(Projected expenses take into account anticipated changes in our budget due to staffing changes.)

What a blessing our congregation is to this community, to one another, and to people in need around the world!

Thanks to all the faithful, weekly and monthly giving of our time, our prayers, our kindness and our money. God's love is definitely being shared in countless ways through our church!

Have you noticed some of the "Thank You Announcements" that run on our screen each Sunday? They list different ways every week that the sharing of our gifts have been making a difference.

Now that we are two thirds of the way through the summer, many of you are probably wondering how our church finances are looking and how your yearly giving is going. Updates will be sent out to members showing your current giving.....perhaps you have already received this!

Overall, our weekly offerings for the first half of 2018 have totaled \$186,000, which is almost identical to our first six month's offering in 2016 and 2017. So thank you!

However, our ministry expenses are significantly higher in 2018 now that we have had three full-time ministry staff persons and we are expanding our ministry work. So as a whole church, a significant increase in our giving in the second half of 2018 may be needed, but that should not be too hard when we all work at it together!!!

We are very fortunate to be able to use some of our memorial gifts and dedicated accounts for unpredicted ministry needs as they have arisen.....like the sewer line repairs! And we have a number of areas in our budget where we have been quite frugal this year and have saved some significant money for the church.

As we finish out the summer, the Church Council hopes we can avoid taking out an operating loan from the bank by using our Budget Cushion Fund, but it is getting very close.

May stewardship continue to be a growing part of each of our faith lives.

# Ministry Coordinator Corner: Shawnn Martin

## Mid/Late Summer update

**Education Update:** We've been busy working through the summer and, after review, we've selected some new curriculum materials, "Bible in Life" for the 2018 – 2019 students. During our upcoming season we will have our youth at Sunday school do a weekly offering. The youth will then pick animals from the ELCA Good Gifts to work towards purchasing with their offerings this year. Expect to see an offering container resembling their overall animal goal show up in October. What will it be? A family farm, oxen, chicks...Our screening and review process for teachers is underway for anyone who primarily works with youth in our congregation. The programming calendar for 2018 is 95% complete (I say that as we all know there are always things that pop-up during the year). Worship Wednesday begins September 12th @ 6:30 PM.

**2018 ELCA Youth Gathering:** We arrived back home safely from our trip to Houston, Texas. We had 14 youth and two adult chaperones make the journey this year. The theme was "This Changes Everything" and we looked at how God's love, hope, and grace change everything. It was a fun and exciting trip. At the conference we learned that the 2020 Gathering will be in Minneapolis! Thank you again to all the members who helped support us through many fundraisers to make this trip a success.

**WW & SS Teachers Meeting:** August 29, 2018 @ 6:30 PM. We will hold a teacher's meeting to go over the programming calendar for this year and discuss a few options during the year for group activities.

**Rally Sunday:** Join us for a back to Sunday School/Worship Wednesday Classes event on Sunday, September 9th, during worship.

**Shut-In Communion:** The Outreach committee is bringing back once-a-month communion visits for shut-ins the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested in helping in this discipleship opportunity, please see Shawnn or Val to sign-up.

**Community Meal:** The monthly community meal is moving to the Kilowatt Community Center in August. The intent is to open the meal to more members of the community and create additional opportunities for groups and organizations in the community to sign-up to lead this wonderful monthly social event. If you are part of an organization that is looking to do some meaningful community service, have them contact the church to get information about leading one of the monthly meals.

**K.O.R. Music Director.** We are in search of a music director for the "Kids of the Rock Choir". If you have a passion for music and want to work with 2nd – 6th grade youth on Wednesday evenings during the school year contact Shawnn @ email: mc@granitefallslutheran.com or (320) 564-3746.

*Mark  
Your  
Calendar*

## *Final Words From Pastor Leslie*

*To the People of Granite Falls Lutheran Church:*

*How does one say goodbye? It's been on my mind now for quite some time. It's never an easy thing. While I'm not going to be leaving town, I feel like I'm leaving my family behind. I care deeply for each and everyone of you and will miss you dearly. You have all touched my life in so many ways. Thank you for all you have been and done for me and my family over the years. It has been a pleasure serving with you.*

*My dreams are that you continue to stand together and serve God's kingdom in one mission. To love and serve the Lord wherever you are to whomever you meet each and every day. You have all been given great gifts. Each of them different. Stand strong in faith and live into the people God has called you to be, his children. I thank God for all the ways he has used all of you to touch my life.*

*May God Bless you and Keep you Now and Forever.*

*Pastor Leslie*

### **GFLC Shut-in & Care Facility Communion Ministry Reorganized**

Starting in August, congregational volunteers will once again bring communion to local members of our church on a monthly basis.

At the conclusion of each worship service on the first Sundays of the month, teams of volunteers will travel to local homes and apartments with communion elements from the service. They will share a simple order of service and have opportunities for caring conversations.

Our Ministry Coordinator, Shawnn, has already lined up volunteer families and individuals who are looking forward to helping carry out this ministry, but more volunteers would be welcomed! Anyone from our church can be a volunteer for this simple and special ministry. Just call the church office or talk to Val or Shawnn Martin for more information.

If you would like to be a household that receives monthly communion, or know of someone who would, please call the church office at 320-564-3746. We currently have a number of households who will be receiving these monthly visits, but would welcome more. The out of town shut-ins, and others who prefer to receive communion from a pastor, will also be receiving monthly communion from Pastor Steve and the Interim Pastor.

All of this will truly be an uplifting ministry for our whole congregation.

### **GFLC Hillcrest Cemetery Looking Good!**

If you haven't been out to our cemetery recently, take a minute to stop by.

After taking ownership of Hillcrest Cemetery a year ago, many hours of mowing, trimming, road work and other improvements have been made, and it really shows!

Many, many thanks to the volunteer mowing crew who help with the lawn care every other week, and to Joe Rohlik for all of his help keeping the cemetery looking good.

Also, thank you to the GFLC Hillcrest Cemetery Committee for their continuing work. Their next big step will be the building of an equipment shed at the entrance to the cemetery. Donations are still being accepted for that work. **A 'Root-Beer Float Fundraiser' will be held on Tuesday evening, August 7th, following the 5:00pm VBS closing program.** Come and enjoy our children and help support our cemetery at the same time!

## United Goals and Direction for GFLC

Over the past eight months, our congregation has been involved in a Strategic Planning process and now it is really starting to bear some fruit!

An extensive survey was completed by over 200 GFLC members last fall, revealing many of our congregational strengths, priorities, places for improvement and areas of concern.

Now, during the first seven months of 2018, a M.A.P. Task Force has been working with those survey results and has identified three primary areas of focus for our church to build on!

**Here are the Key Ministry Areas and congregational priorities the survey results revealed:**

**1) Three Key Focuses for our congregation at this time are:**

- \*Belonging
- \*Trust
- \*Discipleship

- 2) **Within these Key Focus areas, there is a congregational desire that we develop more personal and faith connections between congregational members.**
- 3) **There is also a push to improve our ministries with visitors, new members, and with people in our surrounding communities.**
- 4) **Communication, fellowship, congregational financial health and prayer are seen as important places where our congregation might deepen our sense of: *Belonging; Trust; Discipleship.***

Watch for upcoming news about how this M.A.P. work will begin to take place with the whole congregation this fall!

### ***August Worship Leaders***

	<b>8/5/2018</b>	<b>8/12/2018</b>	<b>8/19/2018</b>	<b>8/26/2018</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Gail Opdahl	Patrick Hoernemann	Jenna & Trevor Luepke	Josh & Megan Nordaune
	Tim & Susie Johnson	Paul Hoernemann	Kris & Macie Sik	Mark Jensen
<b>Usher Team</b>	Jim Erickson	Keith Knudson	Scott Santjer	Scott Jans
<b>Acolytes</b>	Ruby Bones	Violet Anderson	Riley Enstad	Patrick Hoernemann
	Lauren Fagen	Andrew Winter	Hailie Bjorndal	Andrew Flaten
<b>Projectionist</b>		Lisa Carter		
<b>Videographer</b>	Keith Sandberg	Les Bergquist	Scott Bjorndal	Jeff Koepke
<b>Reader</b>	Darlene Santjer	Jon Tjosvold	Beth Sneller	Doug Peterson
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Keith Sandberg	X	Darlene Erickson	X
	Deb Burgeson		Jim Erickson	
	Melissa Helgeson		Hannah Gullickson	
	Karen Lemcke		Doug McCoss	
	Jenna Luepke		Darlene Hanson	
	Roger Abel		Jacob Peterson	
	Mae Thielen		Val Hoffman	

## Interim Pastor to Arrive This Fall

Our Church Council is working with the Southwest MN Synod to find a good Interim Pastor for our congregation. This pastor will be with us during the process of preparing for and calling a new permanent pastor, which will take a significant amount of time.

The plan is to have a few Interim Pastor candidates interviewed in the upcoming month/s in order to find a good fit for our congregation. Until this pastor arrives, our current staff and volunteers are prepared to carry our ministry as needed, especially as the busy fall schedule arrives before we know it!!!

## Mini WELCA MEMO

*<sup>7</sup>“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8*

The WELCA Mission in Action Committee is now collecting items for school kits that are given to needy children through Lutheran World Relief. We already have some things, but still need others.

Items still needed for the kits are:

- ◇ blunt scissors
- ◇ boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
- ◇ erasers 2 ½” long
- ◇ ballpoint pens (no gel pens)
- ◇ 70 sheet notebooks 8”X10 ½” (no loose leaf)

Please place these items in the “School Kit” box in the narthex.

The WELCA Board will Meet on Monday, August 13th, 2:00 pm.

The next WELCA meeting will be on Thursday, September 20th, at 1:30 pm.

Thanks to the GFLC youth for doing Dinner at Your Door August 5th - 11th!

There will be no Global Missions until Friday, September 21st.

God's Blessings!



## Granite Falls Lutheran Church

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### **Joe Rohlik**

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