



# THE CARILLON

GraceLutheranDarlington.net  
Facebook.com/DarlingLutherans



Grace Lutheran Church  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP & MEETING ON JANUARY 31

- 10:00 am           Worship Service  
                          (online LIVE on Facebook and Zoom)
- 10:30 am           Break & Check-in for Annual Meeting
- 11:00 am           Annual Congregational Meeting (Zoom)
- 12:30-2:00 pm    Opportunity for drive-thru communion at the entrance to Grace



Out of love and concern for the safety of one another and those with whom we come in contact, the Council has determined that this year's meeting will be held **virtually**. In good Lutheran response ☺, we ask, **“What does this mean?”**

### It means –

\*As the “priesthood of all believers,” the Body of Christ, we are church together, and it is important that everyone has an opportunity to hear and be heard at the meeting. Therefore, we will be using **Zoom** to facilitate the meeting virtually.

\***Zoom** allows everyone who, at the very least has a phone with long-distance capability (even if just a land line), to participate through audio. Participants do **not** need to download a Zoom app. Those with internet capability will be able to click on a link in the email invitation to the meeting, and it will automatically take you to the meeting. Those people with poor or no internet connection will be able to call in to listen and participate. If you do not have long-distance capability, there is a way to do that, too! Just contact Pr. Kate.

\*We will be providing the following to help everyone to relieve anxiety, feel comfortable, and participate:

\***teaching/practice times** to learn, ask questions, and practice using Zoom in the way you are able (land line or cell phone, computer, or tablet)

\***written directions** via email and postal mail on how to use Zoom

(continued on next page)

- \***multiple helplines** the day of the event with our own people to answer questions and assist
- \***connections by and availability of congregational leaders** to check in with you regarding particular concerns and questions you may have
- \*a digital and a mailed **copy of the annual report** sent out several days before the meeting for participants' review

### How can I prepare?

- \* Save the date. (Jan. 31).
- \* Update the church office with any changes in your phone number, email, address, etc.
- \* Inform the church for voting purposes (via email, phone call, or by texting Pr. Kate):
  1. Your commitment to attend,
  2. How you will attend (audio/visual or audio only),
  3. The device you will be using (landline, cell phone, computer, tablet),
  4. If and which other members will be sharing your device with you, and
  5. How you plan to give your vote (Options include: visually; separate devices; need to call, email or text)
  6. Any special concerns or questions you may have.
- \* Plan to attend **at least one** practice session. (We recommend two or three to build experience and confidence and work out any snags.)
- \* Block out time on your calendar to attend practice sessions:
  - Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 am; 1:00 pm; 5:15 pm; 7:00 pm**
  - Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 am; 1:00 pm; 4:00 pm**
- \* Keep meeting information and directions accessible.
- \* Review the annual report before the annual meeting.

### Above all, please know this:

- \* we are in this together and will help one another (in other words, we're leaving no one behind!),
- \* there is always grace for you and for your neighbor,
- \* you cannot mess this up by participating, in whatever way you are able to do so,
- \* learning & participating may open up other opportunities to be "church together, &
- \*we want you ... we need you ... there! Thank you for your efforts!





## From the Keyboard of Pastor Kate...

Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace and blessings to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ in this brand-new year!

New Year's has connotations of newness, possibility and hope. It often feels like an opportunity to press the "reset button"! This year more than any other, this is our longing. We're ready to be done with the pandemic, done with the funerals, done with the heavier workload or being out of work, done with the forced physical separation from friends, family, community, and church life, and our celebratory and valued traditions that go with them. We're tired of the exhausting politicization of public health policies, not to mention the rest of the political turmoil. We want a re-fresh!

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. How appropriate for the New Year! It's a reminder that Jesus entered into our world just as it is-- not a cleaned up, sanitized version of our world, but into the mess, the murkiness, the crap -- and he did so willingly, out of love for humanity, and as one who was fully God and fully human. He immersed himself in the waters of the Jordan to identify with us, and in his suffering and death he soaked up our sin, took it upon himself, and destroyed it. Because of his resurrection from the dead...because he lives...we who are baptized into Jesus Christ and his death have been made alive in him forever!

Because of God's work in Jesus, we *have* a reset button available to us all the time. God offers new mercies to us everyday. Daily we confess our sin – our rebellion against God – and daily we are made new! *And at the same time*, to the extent to which we are growing in our relationship with Jesus, we are also in the process of being transformed into his likeness: people of grace, truth and love.

Now is a good time to take inventory on how and where you are growing in your relationship with Jesus. Where are you making time to talk to him? To listen to him? To seek God's wisdom? To serve him? How are you connected and active in his body, the Church, for the sake of others and for the sake of your relationship with God? Take time to take personal and family inventory. You can look through this and future newsletters as a starting place for how you might continue to grow as a disciple of Jesus, who **is** our hope.

Warmly,  
Pastor Kate

---

### Dear People of Grace:

Thank you so much for all your cards, prayers, and well wishes over the Christmas Season. They were a great encouragement to my Spirit! I miss you all and can hardly wait until we can safely be together again! You are GRACE!

With Love,  
Pastor Kate

---

### Pastor Kate's office hours

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor Kate is working in her study at the church or working from home. Mondays are her normal day off. It is recommended to call first or set up a time. Non-urgent messages may be left at the church (776-4462 or [Pastor.GraceDar@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.GraceDar@gmail.com)), or she can be reached on her cell phone (608/732-9688).

## WE PRAY



### A PANDEMIC PRAYER

God of presence and healing,  
Today we come to you with many thoughts and feelings swirling around us and within us as this pandemic surges on. We hold in prayer others in our life who struggle with their health (add names of ones in your life here).

We pray for all those needing you today---

- those who are personally fighting the diagnosis of the Covid-19 virus at home, in the hospital, or in a rehab facility. Give them courage, strength, patience, and sign of your love for them.
- those who are separated from their families and friends due to the pandemic. May they know deep within their hearts you unite all of us in your love.
- those who give of themselves despite risk---nurses, technicians, facility cleaners, food service workers, shelf-stockers and check-out clerks, doctors, EMS, and so many others. We give you thanks for their selflessness. Guard each one.
- those who are alone and isolated, particularly in this season of joy and celebration. Help them to know they are never alone, you are with them always.
- those who make decisions for the good of all. Give them wisdom, creativity, courage, and serenity.
- those who mourn the loss of loved ones. May the memories, stories, tears, and laughter bring comfort and peace.

You are the God who hears our sighs and counts our tears. We are filled with thankfulness for your promise of coming to be one of us in the presence of Jesus who taught us how to live and love. We place all of our prayers before you, for you are the God of mercy and grace. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

*From prayer written by Pr. Naomi Garber on behalf of our synod for Bishop Joy, her family, and others effected by the pandemic*

### IN OUR PRAYERS:

We remember in our prayers:

those with upcoming medical procedures and recovering from illness, accidents, procedures, or in special need of prayer, especially...

- those grieving loss....
  - the family of David Chellevoid who passed away December 15 from complications of COVID-19
  - the family of LaVon Chambers who passed away on January 2 from complications of COVID-19
  - the family Deanne Bennett whose funeral was December 28

Thanksgiving for...

- those celebrating birthdays: Dylan Zasada (1/3), Don Thompson (1/4), Susan Torstenson (1/4), Jody White (1/7) and Kate Chambers (1/9), Tom Johns (1/14), Tina Riechers (1/14), Sharon Ohnstad (1/19), Mildred Thompson (1/24), Patricia Vamstad (1/25), Jalaine Ruegsegger (1/26), Stacey smith (1/27), Tim White (1/27), Alana Black (1/28), Tash Opland (1/29), Lylah Norgard (1/31), Wendy Johns (2/3), Ruby Black (2/6), John Roelli (2/6), Kylie Schilling (2/7), Missy Zasada (2/7)
- those celebrating anniversaries: Duane and Barb Nelson (1/4), Bridgett and Brian Schilling (1/10)

## IN OUR PRAYERS:

We give thanks to God and celebrate:

- The past month's volunteers who served at Grace including members of the music, worship, care, Sunday school, and technology teams and to all the volunteers who helped to prepare the church during the Christmas season including those who...
  - provided special Christmas music – Mary Knellwolf and Clarey Knellwolf-Schwartz
  - provided Christmas tree and decorating – Paul and Pat Roelli
  - provided decorations and decorated the narthex and fellowship area – Jalaine Ruegsegger
  - moved snow – Paul Roelli, Tim White, and Blaze White
  - put together luminaries for the Christmas Eve worship - Barb and Ever Schilling
  - prepared outdoor Nativity – Dick Anderson
  - prepared for the Advent and Christmas Eve worship services – many volunteers!

*Prayer requests for the intercessory prayers in worship announcements, the newsletter, or confidential prayer concerns can be given to Pastor Kate or the church office.*

## PRAYER VENTURES

*Prayer Ventures* for January can be found inserted at the back of this newsletter. *Prayer Ventures* lists daily petitions and guides for prayer for the global, social and out-reach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. We encourage our readers to use this resource daily during their devotional times.

## PRAYER MINISTRY

Are you someone who is committed to a faithful prayer life and believes in the power of prayer? Are you trustworthy and committed to respecting others' desire for confidentiality? We are looking for people who would be interested in serving on a prayer team/prayer chain for communal and personal concerns. Contact Pastor Kate for information.

## WORSHIP

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** at Grace will be remain virtual through February in the following formats:

Facebook: LIVE and later, <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheran.Darlington>

YouTube: uploaded later (usually Mondays) to <http://m.youtube.com>

(search: Grace Lutheran Church Darlington, WI)



**MUSIC REQUESTS** – Mary Knellwolf, our church musician, is calling for worship songs and hymns requests to be played before and after online worship services. Requests can be made by emailing or texting Mary at [mlknellwolf@gmail.com](mailto:mlknellwolf@gmail.com) or 608/482-0116, or Facebook Messenger to Mary or to our church's page, <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheran.Darlington>.

**OFFERINGS:** In thanksgiving to God, offerings for the maintenance and mission of this church and God's greater mission in this community and world, offerings may be mailed to church (1302 Clay Street, Darlington) or can be placed under the office door.

**POINSETTIAS:** Thank you to those who purchased poinsettia plants for the sanctuary during the Christmas season. They were given:

In memory of Gronholm Family and Jacobson Family by Linda Considine

In memory of Shirley Johnson by the Carringtons and Ruegseggers

In honor of the Kammes Family by Larry and Carol Kammes.





## All the People of Grace are Ministers!

*In fact, we are all consecrated priests through baptism, as St. Peter in 1 Peter 2 [:9] says, "You are a royal priesthood and a priestly kingdom..." --Martin Luther*

Unfortunately during the pandemic, our leadership opportunities **in worship services** are taking a hiatus. However, there are many other, important, safe ways to serve in and through the church. Pastor Kate is happy to hear your interests and share the church's needs! Give her a call or email!

## Worship Committee

Grace's Worship Committee is made up of all kinds of people with differing gifts, abilities and interests! Individuals can serve through music, visual arts, hospitality, altar care, writing, assisting, and more! The committee meets monthly for devotions, decision-making and planning together, but many individuals are important and welcome to participate in serving where needed, whether on one's own or with a person or a small group. This month's meeting is Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am. Contact Linda Considine (608.482.2410) or Pastor Kate for more information.



## Epiphany and Its Season

The Church calendar year began with Advent and continued with Christmas and its season (12 days, from Christmas Eve through mid-day, January 5<sup>th</sup>).

**Epiphany** begins with the evening prayer on **January 5<sup>th</sup>** and ends the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which this year is **February 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian Church Year, second only to the Easter season. The season emphasizes **Jesus' manifestation** (or epiphany, from the Greek *epiphaneia*) **as both God and human being**. The earliest Christians called the feast of the Epiphany the *Theophany* ("revelation of God"). When the Gentile Magi come to worship Jesus, they show that everyone now has access to God. Now all people, Jew and Gentile, can come to God's temple to worship, because **Jesus is the new temple: God in the flesh**. The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6) marks the celebration of the visit of the Magi.

The Epiphany season may include as many as nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. The season, following the feast itself, is marked at its beginning and at its end by two important feasts: the Baptism of Our Lord (in 2021 – Sunday, January 10) and the Transfiguration (in 2021 – Sunday, February 14).

-- adapted from The Pastoral Desk Diary 2021

## CONGREGATIONAL and COMMUNITY CARE

**Care Team:** We are looking for people to participate in meaningful ways that connect our church to each other, to the wonderful community of Darlington, and to our world. Currently activities are being organized and carried out with minimal to no physical gathering. Fill your cup to overflowing by helping to support and encourage others. If interested contact Jalaine Ruegger at 608/432-030 or rugj21@gmail.com.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



**2021 Envelopes** have been picked up or mailed out to our members. If you have not received your envelopes, please contact the church office.

**Anniversary, Birthdates, and Gottcha Dates:** Please send us your dates. Just the month and day. The year is not needed. We would like to list them in the newsletter each month, so we can celebrate with you!

**PICTURES OF GRACE:** We're looking for pictures of the people of Grace: shots of smiling faces and faith and ministry in action wherever you are: at home, in the community, and at church! Please send your pictures to Pastor Kate and/or the church office email. We'd like to use these for newsletters and outreach. Don't be shy! Help us spread the word!



**THANK YOU** to all who donated items for and helped to deliver boxes to our homebound members during the Christmas season. The boxes were greatly appreciated by the homebound members.

## COMMUNITY CARE

**THANK YOU** to the people of Grace who sponsored 22 families of **Christmas Blessings**, the community program organized by Holy Rosary Catholic Church providing Christmas gifts to members of families going through hard times. Thank you for caring!



**THANK YOU** to all who helped with the Salvation Army Bell Ringing during the Christmas season.

**MITTEN TREE:** The mitten tree is located in the church lobby for the collection of mittens, hats, scarves, gloves and socks. Collected items will be donated to the schools to provide for students' needs. Collections will continue until mid-January.



**THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY FOOD PANTRY** is currently accepting donations. Particular needs right now are regular sized canned vegetables, canned pasta, canned tomatoes (whole, diced, stewed), family-friendly soups (such as tomato, chicken noodle; NO CREAM OF MUSHROOM), Hamburger Helper, peanut butter, non-sugared cereals such as Chex, Cheerios, corn flakes etc., personal care products (tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo, lotion, etc.). Toilet paper and paper towels are always needed!



Donations can be dropped off at Grace in the shopping cart located near the fellowship area.

The pantry is also in need of volunteers. If you are under the age of 70, able-bodied, have no underlying health conditions, and are not going home to someone with any, please contact Amanda or Liz at the pantry number (608/776-3500).

**TOILET PAPER TREE:** Grace is continuing to grow a toilet paper tree that will be donated to the Pantry at the end of January. As donations come in, the tree will GROW! KEEP IT GOING! Packages of toilet paper can be dropped off in the specified box in the narthex. Let's help it grow!



## **AGRACE Offers Free Virtual Grief Support Groups**

From January to May, Agrace will host free, bi-weekly online family grief support groups. For details or to register, visit [agrace.org/support\\_group](http://agrace.org/support_group) or call (608) 327-7135.

**Child/Teen Loss Support Group**, for adults with school-aged children/teens, meets every other Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group**, for adults with school-aged children/teens, meets every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Sibling Loss Support Group**, for children 5 to 18 who have lost a sibling, meets every other Monday, 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

**Parent/Primary Caregiver Loss Group**, for children 5 to 18 whose parent or primary caregiver has died, meets every other Thursday, 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

## Community Thank Yous



Grace Lutheran has received the following additional thank yous:

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for going out of your ways to give my daughter and me a Christmas. It made the holiday season better during this difficult time. It definitely will not go unnoticed. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With Love, Tiffany and Eve (mother and child for whom we collected items)

Thank you so much for your gift of money that you gave to help make the Thanksgiving Meal so successful. You truly are a blessing to our church and community. Becky Upmann, "Thanksgiving Meal"

We are so grateful for your continued support of the Darlington Community of Churches Food Pantry – Shari

To Grace Church Members: Thanks oodles for the box of "goodies". I 'm rationing them and trying to make them last. Yum. Sincerely, Gladys

Dear Grace, you are all so wonderful. I am blessed to work with so many caring and giving people. Thank you for always thinking of me. –Tiffany Donahoe

The Lafayette County Food Pantry would like to say "Thank You" for your continued contributions to the pantry. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. – The Lafayette County Food Pantry Volunteers.

Dear Grace Family: Wow, what an AWESOME and unexpected gift from all of you! I consider the Grace congregation my adopted family. Everyone is so kind, caring and so complimentary to me! The Lori Line Music gift certificate will be put to use and I promise it will be utilized in 2021 at Grace Lutheran! I can't wait to share my music with you! Most Sincerely, Mary Knellwolf

## FAITH FORMATION



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for Pre-K through fourth grade is held 9:00 AM via Zoom. Parents: check your email for more information, or contact coordinator and teacher Hannah Baidertscher at (608/482-0945).

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)** will resume meeting on Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15 via Zoom beginning on Wednesday, January 13.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** will be meeting in person beginning this month. Please contact Pastor Kate for details.

**ADULT AND FAMILY STUDIES** – contact Pastor Kate with your interests (to be continued...)

**SUGAR CREEK** brochures for 2021 are out and at the information center in the narthex.

**TAKING FAITH HOME** is a weekly bulletin insert based on the Revised Common Teaching for home and church use. See your weekly email for access.

**PRAYER VENTURES** is a monthly resource that offers guides to prayer for global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs of our neighbors, countries, and the world. Copies are available in this newsletter and in the narthex.





## Prayer Ventures for January

- 1 Give thanks and praise that God knows intimately our complexities, failures, accomplishments, questions, goals and hopes, and still looks upon us with loving kindness, newness and a desire for us to thrive as individuals and communities.
- 2 Pray for our companion churches and international leaders as they confront multiple waves of the pandemic. Ask the Spirit to fill them with hope, resilience and reassurance that our faith in the presence and love of God, which we share as siblings in Christ, will unify us in caring for one another and in doing God's work in the world, using our diverse gifts, cultures, languages, resources and perspectives in every circumstance.
- 3 Give thanks and praise to God that we are children of God, knowing and testifying to the good news that Jesus Christ became flesh and lived among us, and that we have seen the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth for the world.
- 4 *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* We remember and pray for victims of sex trafficking, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and forced labor in our nation and around the world, and we ask God's guidance in caring for victims and actively working to end this abuse, injustice and oppression.
- 5 Pray for Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, members of the ELCA Church Council and the Conference of Bishops. Give thanks for their humble service, their faith in Christ, their leadership and gifts, and their commitment to wrestle with difficult decisions and issues for the sake of the church and the world.
- 6 *Epiphany* As people of faith, we are not immune from wondering about God, Jesus Christ and the Spirit. Pray that God will be patient with us, illuminating the truth of who we are as baptized children of God and the reality and certainty of the good news of Jesus Christ, the true Son of God, our Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and teacher.
- 7 As the pandemic continues, pray for doctors, nurses, emergency responders and health care workers who need renewal, strength and our gratitude and recognition as they continue to serve at great personal risk and sacrifice for the sake of our health and well-being.
- 8 Give thanks for the people in our lives who inspire hope, faith and courage, and whose words and actions touch teach us the meaning of grace and move us to become bearers of mercy in the world.
- 9 In Christ we have received forgiveness of our sins and salvation through God's unfathomable grace, showered upon us every day. Praise God!
- 10 Give thanks for God's love and forgiveness in baptism, which marks the beginning of our journey with our siblings in Christ to share the good news, serve all people, grow the church and strive for peace and justice in the world.
- 11 Pray for parents, students, employees and business owners whose plans and routines change day by day and week by week due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, that they might be hopeful, resilient and able to adapt, change and endure.
- 12 Pray for our faith-based schools, early childhood education programs and day care centers as they provide experiential education, social interaction, stability and calm for the youngest of our children, who are often most vulnerable during times of uncertainty and anxiety.
- 13 God is mighty, majestic and eternal throughout the universe, generously sharing strength and blessings with us. Give glory and thanks to God, and shout for joy!
- 14 Ask God to help us practice justice, generosity and care for creation, sharing our resources with others who have few or who have lost resources or productive land as a result of natural and human-caused disasters.
- 15 Pray for the young adults who have applied for a yearlong journey in international service with our companion churches and organizations through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, which will resume in 2021-2022 after a time of sabbath during the pandemic.
- 16 Thank God for our special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997; pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.
- 17 Jesus invited Philip to follow him as a disciple, and Philip, in turn, invited Nathanael. Ask God to help us be faithful followers, students and, at the same time, disciples eager to invite others to join in God's good work in the world.

## Prayer Ventures for January 2021 continued

- 18** *Martin Luther King Day* Today we remember the life, ministry, sacrifice and activism of Martin Luther King Jr. Pray that his life and the legacies of others who have fought for civil rights and social reform will inspire our own commitment and persistence in working for racial justice, dismantling racism and combating white supremacy.
- 19** We may argue about what is legal, what we are entitled to or what we have the right to do with our bodies and lives. But Paul reminds us that we have been made one with the body and spirit of Christ; we “were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.” Pray that the Spirit will guide us to live with humility and deference for who we are in Christ and in obedience to the ways and desires of God.
- 20** *Inauguration Day* As members of society and the church who represent varied political affiliations and perspectives, pray together for our nation’s newly elected president and vice president, that the Spirit will grant them wisdom, strength, commitment to serving all people, a deep understanding of justice and mercy, and the courage to enact change for the well-being of our communities and nation.
- 21** Pray for the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering, an online event happening right now that gathers ELCA World Hunger leaders for learning, networking, sharing ideas and planning for our common ministry to address hunger and its root causes.
- 22** Pray for reconciliation, understanding and renewal in our divided nation so that we might work together for justice, compassion and generosity, serving our neighbors in need and the well-being of our communities as they struggle with vexing, deep-rooted problems. Ask the Spirit to inspire and guide our lives so that our values, decisions, actions and words reflect the gospel, the teachings of Jesus and the ways of God, who is good, gracious, merciful and just.
- 23** Praise God that, as small and insignificant as we might be in the vast universe, we are wonderfully made and God knows every little thing about us and our human ways.
- 24** In Scripture we read about Jesus’ simple, personal and compelling invitations to Simon, Andrew, James, John and the other disciples to drop everything and follow him. Pray that when God calls us to follow and serve, we will respond with faith and trust, even if we do not yet know where God is leading us or what God is calling us to do.
- 25** Pray for ministries, nonprofit organizations and agencies that serve the daily needs of communities, families and individuals; pursue justice and equity; build resilience to cope with disasters and crises; accompany immigrants and refugees; and bring the hope and love of Christ where there is despair and weariness.
- 26** When, like Jonah, we are reluctant to forgive, practice mercy or share the gospel with those we deem undeserving, ask the Spirit to help us discern God’s ways, grace and mercy for all people, and to act boldly without personal bias
- 27** *Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith* Praise God for the witness and ministry of women of the early church. Give thanks for women of all ages and backgrounds who, responding to God’s call, continue to use their gifts, life experiences, knowledge and passions to grow the church, serve all people and be bearers of hope and healing in the world.
- 28** Give thanks for the Lutheran liturgy and worship practices that equip us for daily life, helping us to praise God, listen to God’s word and experience unity in the body of Christ.
- 29** Give thanks for the self-sacrificing generosity of people who demonstrate their gratefulness for God’s gift of life and their concern for their neighbors’ well-being by donating blood, plasma and even organs.
- 30** Remember in prayer those who continue to struggle with unemployment, underemployment and job searching as a result of the economic and health impacts of COVID-19.
- 31** Though our creeds do not speak of Jesus’ teachings, miracles or example, give thanks that, through Scripture, the Spirit reveals Jesus to be the source of our redemption and a trustworthy guide, instructing us how to live with one another, serve our neighbor and do God’s work in the world today.

## CONGREGATIONAL LENTEN RESOURCE



### **A Story to Tell: Devotions for Lent 2021**

by **David L. Miller** (Contributor) ...

This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional highlights readings from the gospel of Mark with 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey.

*A Story to Tell* focuses on texts from the Gospel of Mark that show Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross. The gospel writer has a story to tell, moving quickly from one scene to the next. The urgent tone of the story grabs us and pulls us in, but all the action comes to a halt when those who see the empty tomb tell no one about this. Is this the end of the story?

**Reserve a copy today (regular or large print)! Orders will be placed soon! Contact Pastor Kate or sign up.**

## DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX



### **\*Christ in Our Home**

A devotional in available in either regular or large print edition.

### **\* Living Lutheran**

This magazine signifies this church's living, daring confidence in God's grace.

### **\* Spark Family**

Quarterly resource for families with children ages 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade

### **\* Gather**

A quarterly devotional resource

## Grace Lutheran Council Contact Information

President: Steve Fleming, 608-482-0420, [sfleming@investorscommunitybank.com](mailto:sfleming@investorscommunitybank.com)

Vice President: Don Barnard, 920-246-9534, [barndab@msn.com](mailto:barndab@msn.com)

Secretary: Bridget Schilling, 608-482-2269, [b\\_conrad03@yahoo.com](mailto:b_conrad03@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Tina Riechers, 608-482-3839, [tinariechers@live.com](mailto:tinariechers@live.com)

Financial Secretary: Laura Barnard, 920-366-4946, [barndab@msn.com](mailto:barndab@msn.com)

Technology: Hannah Badertscher, 608-482-0945, [hannahfam19@yahoo.com](mailto:hannahfam19@yahoo.com)

Members-at-Large:

Val Thompson, 608-553-9103, [valeriet1955@gmail.com](mailto:valeriet1955@gmail.com)

Jody White, 608-391-1912, [Jodywhite638@securian.com](mailto:Jodywhite638@securian.com)

Staff Contact Information:

Rev. Kate Kieckhafer, 608-732-9688, [Pastor.Gracedar@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.Gracedar@gmail.com)

Church Office Staff:

Tiffany Donahoe (bulletin)

Judy Elzen (newsletter)

Custodian: JoNell Coats

Musician: Mary Knellwolf ([mknellwolf@gmail.com](mailto:mknellwolf@gmail.com))



Grace Lutheran Church  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.  
 1302 Clay St • Darlington, WI 53530  
 Return Service Requested



### Mission Statement

We are Grace people. Jesus Christ sends us out to:

- + Feed the hungry
- + Welcome every child
- + Seek out the stranger
- + Give thanks to God in all things
- + Follow the way of the cross

Church phone: 608.776.4462  
 Church email: [GraceDar@centurytel.net](mailto:GraceDar@centurytel.net)  
 Facebook: [Facebook.com/GraceLutheran.Darlington](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheran.Darlington)  
 Website: [GraceLutheranDarlington.net](http://GraceLutheranDarlington.net)  
 Pastor's email: [Pastor.GraceDar@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.GraceDar@gmail.com)  
 Pastor's phone: 608.732.9688

### Upcoming Schedule:

January 13, 20 & 27

4:15-5:15 PM Confirmation Class

January 13

Council Meeting

January 31

11:00 AM Congregational Annual Meeting

Inside

Pg

- 1-2 | Annual Congregational Meeting
- 3 | Pastor's Letter
- 4-5 | Prayers
- 5-6 | Worship News
- 6-8 | Congregational and Community Care
- 8 | Faith Formation
- 9-10 | Prayer Ventures
- 11 | Lenten and Devotional Resources

**Newsletter Deadline**  
 Items need to be submitted for January  
 Carillon by January 25.