

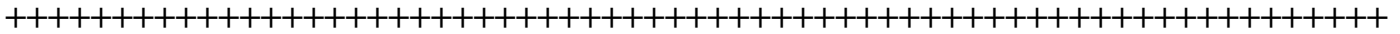
THE CARILLON



Grace Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



WORSHIP TIMES

January –June 2024

8:30 AM at Hope in Mineral Point

10:30 AM at Grace in Darlington

LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS



The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, February 14th this year. Worship will place at 5:00 PM at Hope Lutheran and 6:30 PM at Grace.

Evening Vesper Services will take place on the five followings Wednesdays from 6:30-7:00 PM at Grace around the theme of Lent: **“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart.”** When our *hearts* hunger – whether it be for peace, love, hope, truth, meaning, healing, or something more, there is only One who is capable of truly satisfying our deepest longings. Join us for a communal (as well as personal), time of reflection and nourishment for your hungry heart, and invite others to join you for the same.

“Gathered into One” Devotions for Lent 2024

“Gathered into One” provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday). Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from First Corinthians. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.



The apostle Paul writes this letter to the church in Corinth after hearing of quarreling and divisions among the people. He teaches the Corinthians that each person has a unique set of gifts from the Holy Spirit, given for the common good, and reminds them that the church is the body of Christ, joined together with one bread, one cup, one baptism, one God, and one Spirit. This theme of **unity amid diversity** is as timely now as it was when Paul wrote to the Corinthians. Copies are available in the gathering space for pick up. Also available in **Large Print** and **eBook** versions from Augsburg Fortress <https://www.augsburgfortress.org>. (Please contact the church office if you need one dropped off or mailed to your home.)

From Pastor Kate's Keyboard....

I love being called "Pastor Kate!"

For me, it's not because I believe in a hierarchy within the church. Every Christian has been called by God and through baptism have been given spiritual gifts, resources, and assignments by the Holy Spirit. None of those gifts are more important than another; they're just different.



Nor as a pastor do I have a unique "hotline to heaven." As Protestants and Lutherans, we prescribe to the "priesthood of all believers," which holds that there is no longer a priestly *class* of people within God's people, but that *all* believers share in Christ's priestly status by virtue of our union with Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Because of God's grace, we have been united into One Body ... Christ's body, the Church. When we pray for other believers, our spirits are joined as one in the spirit of Jesus who intercedes on our behalf.

Nor do I love to be called "Pastor Kate" because I believe I'm entitled to certain privileges inherent in the title ... as if it's a magic word for getting what I want (eeuuuwww!!!) We have been created equal before God, each person made in God's image, from the very beginning.

I love being called "Pastor Kate" for *three* reasons. First of all, it's a sign of respect for this particular calling as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. I have answered the call of God and God's people to this *particular* place (Grace in Darlington, and in a different manner, Hope in Mineral Point). I have committed myself to the discernment, formation, education and ordination process in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (which is also recognized and shared among our full-communion partners – currently, the Moravian, UCC, Episcopal, United Methodist, Presbyterian, and some other church bodies).

Secondly, being called "Pastor" feels like an endearment. Among my 30 nieces and nephews, I am called, "Aunt Kate," and it means the world to me. Not everyone gets to be called "Aunt" or "Auntie," nor "Aunt *Kate*." I am not just *anyone* to these 30 young people; I have a unique and very special connection and relationship to each of them. I think of being called "Pastor" in the same way. "Pastor" means "shepherd." I seek to love and care for Jesus' "sheep", with whom I have been entrusted, to the best of my ability, (which though is sincere, is also imperfect).

Finally, being called "Pastor" reminds me I have the great responsibility to assist in caring for and guiding the "sheep" I've been given in the faith. When I hear "Pastor..." I am reminded that I am of servant of Jesus, and I answer to him. I will be held especially accountable because of it. The Spirit is guiding me for God's purposes, and my job is to seek, listen and follow in faith and trust as I work to guide you in your communal and personal relationship(s) with God, each other, and God's world. Believe me, no one knows more than I do (except God's Self) the reality that I am both "sinner & saint", as Martin Luther described the status of every believer on this side of eternity. Still, I aim to please my Lord, over and above anyone else. That will not always make me popular in what I say or do, but its where my heart is called to remain, and so I seek to speak truth and grace in love – the Good News we are all called to speak and act upon in Jesus' name.

Know that what I hear is respect, Christian love, affirmation, and responsibility when you call me by my name I have been given: "Pastor Kate."

**Your sister and loving servant in Christ,
Pastor Kate**

SOUP SUPPER

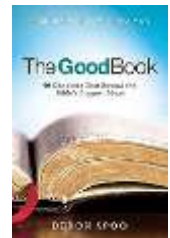


During the **month of March** – 6th, 13th, 20th (minus the last week, Holy Week). The people of Grace are inviting Hope, our community, and any visitors to join for **Soup Suppers** on **Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:15 PM** in Grace Fellowship Hall, together prior to evening vespers at 6:30 pm. Proceeds from the free-will offering at the meal will benefit the Lafayette County Food Pantry. Please watch your email/bulletin and the bulletin board by the office for ways you may contribute time, food, and service.

THE GOOD BOOK – Bible study and Discussion

Come as you're able – each session is a new topic! Reading beforehand is helpful, but not necessary. The discussion is held most Mondays at 11:00 AM with optional lunch.

February 5 - Pointer Café: Chapter 19 “Integrity Under Fire” (Daniel 6)
February 12 - Pointer Cafe: Chapter 20 “Man on the Run” (Jonah 1)
February 19 - Pointer Café
February 26 - Pointer Cafe



Monthly Bible Study and Discussion: Contact Pastor Kate for date/time

MISSING CONTAINERS

Has anyone borrowed the large beverage containers from Grace? They couldn't be found for the annual meeting lunch. If you happen to have them, please return to the church or if you brought them back, let us know where you put them. **Just a reminder** that you need to stop in the office or contact Pastor Kate to request to borrow items from the church.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We remember in our prayers:



Congregation: Gladys Christensen, Jean Belanger, Les and Sue Torstenson, David Chambers, and Pat Stauffacher (recovery knee replacement)

Friends, Family, & Neighbors: Suzi Osterday, Joan Miller (Jan Riechers' sister), Ray Meier, Richard Roelli (Greg's brother), Duane Jorgenson, and Buck Virtue (health issues), Gary and Ruthann Lewis (Jalaine's friend), and Betty Wellnitz (Leona Haven's mother), and Deb and Dave Hilby (house fire – JoNell Coate's cousin).

Deaths: family of Carmen Blosch who passed away this past week .



Celebration!



Birthdays

Wendy Johns (2/3)
Missy Zasada (2/7)
Sheila Carrington (2/28)

Ruby Black (2/6)
Vicki Johnston (2/16)

John Roelli (2/6)
Chelsea Golackson (2/22)

Anniversaries

Patty & Stu Vamstad (2/16)

Please let the office know if we have missed your birthday or anniversary in the listing so we can add your special day to our records.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

A big thank you to:

- Don Leinberger for his faithfulness in welcoming and serving others on Sunday mornings as Head Usher.
- Those involved with wrapping up our year-end finances, reports, and contributing to the 2023 annual report.
- A special thank you to Tana Risseeuw for her coordination and creation of the annual report.
- Everyone who was able to attend and participate in our annual meeting, worship, and meal together. Thank you to everyone who helped with set-up, food, and clean up! Thanks to Kris and Steve Fleming for providing the main course!
- Laura Barnard for serving as Grace's Financial Secretary (appointed position) these last several years.
- Judy Boll for keeping us connected to our county and a part of the Darlington Chamber of Commerce.
- Jalaine Ruegsegger, Mark Riechers, and others who continue to take and share photos of our worship and ministry together and share them with the church.
- Blaze and Tim White, Dave Kieckhafer, (and others) who have come by the church and cleared our sidewalk and entrances.



(Please let us know by the monthly newsletter deadline if you know of others to thank.)

Thank you Received

"I would like to thank you and all your parishioners for all the wonderful donations towards the 2023 Christmas Blessing program. We helped 35 families this year to have a wonderful holiday season. All the families were so happy and grateful. Thanks again – Karen"

SECOND-MILE OFFERING (formerly Noisy Offering)

The designation for the collection in the months of **January thru April** will be given to the **Lafayette County Food Pantry**.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for FEBRUARY

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Altar Care	Jalaine Ruegsegger Sheila Carrington	Jalaine Ruegsegger Sheila Carrington	Linda Considine Diane Bredeson	Marilyn Johns
Reader	Marta Roelli	Linda Considine	Marilyn Johns	Kris Fleming
Greeters *	Tiffany Meyers Family	Judy Boll Sheila Andrews	Alana Black Family	The Blosch Family
Ushers **	Don Leinberger Joel Meyers	Don Leinberger Marta Roelli	Don Leinberger Ruby & Bella	Don Leinberger Paul Roelli
Acolytes	Mercedes Meyers	Marta Roelli	Vera Black	Callie Blosch
Communion	Jalaine Ruegsegger	Jalaine Ruegsegger	Linda Considine	Marilyn Johns
Bread	-----	Marilyn Johns	-----	Mary Ann Roelli
Counters	February 10-14 _____ February 25-31 _____			

**Please arrive 20 minutes early. **Please arrive 25 minutes early.*

If you are unable to fulfill your role on a given weekend, please contact another person/family on the Worship Leader Schedule and swap or have someone cover for you.

Please indicate changes ahead of time on that master schedule, **or** if need be, contact the office with changes. (Office: 608.776.4462; darlinglutherans@gmail.com).

FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Thank you for those signed up to provide refreshments and conversation following worship. Directions are posted inside the cabinet in the upstairs fellowship area. If you have questions, please call Vicki Johnston (776-4572) or Pat Roelli (482-0572).



FEBRUARY

- 4 - Judy Boll/Linda Considine
- 11 - Judy Elzen/Missy Zasada
- 18 - Barb Schilling/Jody White
- 25 - Vicki Johnston/Pat Roelli

MARCH

- 3 - Laura Barnard
- 10 - Patty Vamstad/Sharan Ohnstad
- 17 - Jalaine Ruegsegger/Sheila Carrington
- 24 - Ranae Johnson/Pat Roelli
- 31 -Easter

Grace Lutheran Church Council



President: Linda Considine
Vice President Chuck Barnard
Secretary: Kris Fleming
Mary Ann Roelli

Financial Secretary:
Treasurer: Tina Riechers
Don Barnard
Jody White

Council Highlights – What your council is working on --

- We elected new officers – Linda Considine (President), Chuck Barnard (Vice-President), and Kris Fleming (Secretary).
- We will continue to look and act upon the Congregational Vitality Survey results. We welcome involvement from the congregation.
- We will be partnering with Hope Lutheran Church for another year.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Pastor and Committee reports were given.
- Discussion – spending plan was adopted by the council. Plan is to “break even” with the endowment support. Pastor’s time split with Hope is 60/40.
- Adoption of 2024 proposed spending plan
- Election of council members: Mary Ann Roelli, Linda Considine, and Kris Fleming
- 2024 Synod Assembly Voting members elected: Linda Considine and Steve Kottke
- Congregational Vitality Survey results were reviewed and discussed and ideas were shared.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting and for the wonderful food that was brought

2023 ANNUAL REPORT and CHURCH DIRECTORY



Copies of the 2023 Annual Report and copies of the Church Directory are available for congregants in the gathering area at church.

CARE COMMITTEE



The Care Committee has slowed down a bit after a busy Christmas season. We are now looking forward to Valentine’s Day. We are asking people the next two Sundays, as they enter the church, to please sign the two Valentine cards by the front door for our home-bound at the Manor and Sienna Crest. We already have a few signatures from the Annual Meeting. Easter will be our next busy season.



COMMUNITY

Lafayette County Food Pantry



The Lafayette County Food Pantry is currently in **strong need of donations**. They have had a **large increase of families in need!** All types of **groceries and household supplies** are needed. Particular needs are **Hamburger Helper, personal care products** (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, etc.), **baby wipes, diapers** (sizes 2, 3, & 5). **Toilet paper and paper towels** are always needed.

Non-perishable donations can be dropped off at Grace in the shopping cart located near the fellowship area. **Frozen products** can be dropped off at the Food Pantry on Tuesdays or Thursdays (10:00-3:00). Tell them you represent Grace Lutheran Church, and your donation will be added to our ongoing count of pounds for 2024! **January total was 101 #!**

Strongbodies Weight Training & Healthy Eating Class

This exercise class is held at Grace on Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 9-March 21 from 9:00-10:30 AM every week. The class is sponsored by the UW-Division of Extension. Please register – space is limited. Register online or call/email Bridget Mouchon (608/776-4820) or BLMOUCHON@WISC.EDU. Space is limited so register soon.



MEALS ON WHEELS



A **HUGE** thank you to the volunteers that delivered meals during the month of January with the rain, snow, and bitter cold. They are: Jalaine Ruegsegger, Sheila Carrington, Paul and Pat Roelli, Sharan Ohnstad, Gloria Blaser, Marv and Sandy Reis, Mark and Jan Riechers, and Sue Torstenson. Grace Lutheran's next time to deliver is the months of June and November. Please contact Marilyn Johns at 608/482-1771 if you would like to help these months.

MITTEN TREE

Thank you to all the wonderful people of grace who donated to the Mitten Tree. Your generosity is much appreciated. All of the donations have been delivered to Darlington schools. Thank you to Sheila Carrington for dropping them off. Totals are as follows: **30 Mittens/Gloves, 35 Hats, 4 Scarves, and 33 Socks.**



ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS WITH TAXES



The tax assistance program that is available in Lafayette County is known as the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program. It is the nation's largest volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program with a focus on taxpayers over the age of 50, particularly those with a low to moderate income. Grace Lutheran, again this year, is donating space for these volunteers to assist the seniors with their tax filing. This tax program also partners with Lafayette County ADRC in Darlington (608/776-4960) that makes all the appointments with the taxpayers.

COLLECTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS



We will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) **Personal Care Kits** during the Lenten and Easter season.

These items needed are:

- **One** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27", dark color recommended)
- **Two** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping;
- **One** adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging (toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope – no plastic bags or wrap)
- **One** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- **One** metal nail clippers (attached file optional, remove packaging).

Guidelines:

- Be sure to shop for light or medium weight towels.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" x 27" size listed is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its content in plastic bags.

GRACE IN PICTURES



Pastor Kate and Gladys Christensen



Annual Meeting



February 2024



Pastor's Schedule (608/732-9688)

Pastor.GraceDar@gmail.com
 Mondays - Thursdays
 Fridays: Pastor's Day Off

Office Hours

Tana Risseeuw, Adm. Assistant (608/558-0697)
 DarlingLutherans@gmail.com
 Tuesday-Thursday 9:00-Noon

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>AARP Tax Days Grace Fellowship Hall Feb. 19 & 26 Mar. 11, 15, & 25</p>				1	2	3
<p>8:30 AM 4 Worship/Hope 10:30 AM Worship/Grace</p>	<p>11:00 AM 5 The Good Book Study @ MP Pointer Café</p>	6	7	8	9	10
<p>8:30 AM 11 Worship/Hope 10:30 AM Worship/Grace</p>	<p>11:00 AM 12 The Good Book Study @ MP Pointer Cafe</p>	<p>10:00 AM 13 Team Mary & Martha</p>	<p>ASH 4  Ash Wednesday Worship 5:00 @ Hope 6:30 @ Grace</p>	15	16	<p>17 9:30-3:30 LEAD @ St. John's Sauk Prairie</p>
<p>8:30 AM 18 Worship/Hope 10:30 AM Worship/Grace Grace Council Installation & Feb. Mtg Hope Council Installation</p>	<p>11:00 AM 19 The Good Book Study @ MP Pointer Café</p>	<p>20 6:30 PM Hope Council</p>	<p>21 Lenten Vespers 6:30-7:00 PM @ Grace</p>	<p>22 10:30 AM Worship at MP Care Center</p>	<p>23 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>8:30 AM 25 Worship/Hope 10:30 AM Worship/Grace</p>	<p>11:00 AM 26 The Good Book Study @ MP Pointer Café</p>	<p>27 10:30 AM Worship at Laf. Manor</p>	<p>28 Lenten Vespers 6:30-7:00 PM @ Grace</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>UPCOMING Soup Supper March 6, 13, & 20 5:00-6:15 PM @ Grace</p>	



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: darlinglutherans@gmail.com
Facebook: [Facebook.comGraceLutheran.Darlington](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheran.Darlington)
Website: GraceLutheranDarlington.net
Pastor's email: Pastor.GraceDar@gmail.com
Pastor's phone: 608.732.9688

Inside

Pg	
1	Worship News
1	Devotions
2	Pastor Kate's Keyboard
3	Lenten Soup Supper
3	The Good Book
3	In Our Prayers
4	Celebration
4	Words of Gratitude
5	Worship Leaders Schedule
5	Fellowship Schedule
6	Council Information
6	Care Committee
7	Community Reports
8	LWR Care Kits
8	Grace in Pictures
9	February Calendar

Newsletter Deadline
Items need to be submitted for the
March Newsletter by February 23

