

THE CARILLON

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



From the Keyboard of Pastor Kate....

What is Lent? Have you ever tried describing to someone what the season of Lent is all about? I've been participating in Lenten practices most of my life and find it to be one of my favorite, most meaningful times of the church year, and yet, when I was in conversation with our Jr. High youth this past Wednesday, I realized that Lent, like God, is also somewhat veiled in mystery.

During the Lenten season we prepare our hearts to receive our crucified and risen Lord in the glory of his resurrection at Easter. The resurrection of Jesus gives proof that our salvation has been completed and that our hope for eternal life with God is secure. But where did the practice come from?

Originally, Lent was the period of preparation first prescribed for baptismal candidates – youth and adults. During this period, the candidates were examined in preparation for Baptism at the Easter (or Pascal) Vigil (the night before the feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. Later, these forty days of preparation were associated with Jesus' forty days in the desert prior to His temptation (Matthew 4:1-11), and with the forty years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34). It became a period of preparation for every Christian.

The Sundays *in* the Lenten season are not quite as solemn as the tone of the midweek services that congregations typically offer. They retain an Easter tone because, as Lutherans, we emphasize the Gospel of Christ as central to all things, even to this penitential season.

Some of the Lenten practices and traditions among Lutheran Christians include:

- ◊ Decorating the church in violet, the color of royalty and repentance. This period of repentance is marked by a purposeful turning *away* from our sin and turning *toward* Jesus Christ for his mercy and forgiveness.
- ◊ Ash Wednesday begins the observance of Lent. Ashes on the forehead is a sign of penitence and a reminder that we, too, shall die, and therefore need forgiveness from Jesus.
- ◊ *Alleluia* is the Hebrew word for "Praise the Lord!" It is a joyous response of faith in God. During Lent, we forgo using this joyous response in order to focus on our need for repentance and faith.
- ◊ Fasting is giving up eating at a particular meal or a time in order to devote that time to prayer and meditation on the Word of God.

In Jr. High Youth Group we talked about **mindfulness** as a way of understanding Lent. We are especially intentional in walking with Jesus on the journey to the cross. We create increased space for prayer, contemplation, reading the bible, and other Christian practices such as doing without in order to share more with others, and engaging in acts of service for those in the greatest need. As we go about our daily lives, over time we can lose our focus on what is most important to the life of a believer. Lent is a beautiful opportunity, if embraced with intentionality and mindfulness, to refresh our spirits and renew our faith.

WE PRAY



IN OUR PRAYERS:

We remember in our prayers:

- Tom and Marilyn Johns and their family on the death of Tom's sister Mary Johns from Mazomanie on January 14
- Kitty and Eldon Wilson and family on the death of kitty's aunt, Betsy Gavigan on January 20

Thanksgiving for...

- those celebrating birthdays:

Feb. 3 – Wendy Johns	Feb. 6 – Ruby Black	Feb. 6 – John Roelli
Feb. 7 – Kylie Schilling	Feb. 7 - Missy Zasada	Feb. 13 – Jack Leu
Feb. 16 – Vicki Johnston	Feb. 22 – Chelsie Golackson	Feb. 23 – Robert Johns
Feb. 23 - Rachel Suthers	Feb. 28 – Sheila Carrington	Mar. 3 – Gary Borcharding

- those celebrating anniversaries: Feb 16 - Patty and Stu Vamstad

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 in many ways including those who...

- Tim White, Blaze White and Paul Roelli – *Snow Shoveling*
- Jalaine Ruegsegger, Sharon Ohnstad, and Judy Elzen – *Collating and Mail Prep of Annual Report Mailing*
- Hannah Badertscher – *Help with Zoom practice sessions, annual meeting technology*
- Linda Considine – *Altar Care*

- Rev. Steve Kottke, Grace member and Assistant to the Bishop for the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, upon his retirement after 21 years of service as an ordained minister (12/5/1999). Rev. Kottke joined the Synod Staff on June 1, 2014.



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 February can be found on the ELCA website (www.elca.org/Resources/PrayerVentures). 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

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17.

- * **5:30 PM** Parking lot worship service with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion
- * The service will also be provided **online** via Facebook and YouTube.
- * Should the weather be **inclement**, the service will be **online only**. Call the church for a voicemail confirmation.
- * A **home kit** including a 2021 full-color Lenten devotional, the ash/oil mixture, a simple table devotion and other Lenten items will be available for pickup from the church beginning **Sunday, February 14**. One kit will be made per household.
- * Kits will be delivered to **homebound** members, as well as others with need by request.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at Grace will 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 continuing to take requests for prelude and postlude music for our online worship services. You may contact Mary at mlknellwolf@gmail.com, call or text her at 608/482-0116 or send her a message through our church's Facebook 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.

CONGREGATIONAL and COMMUNITY CARE

Care Team: Our team has been working on our next project for Valentine's Day. We will be delivering them to the homebound people very soon from Grace Lutheran. We are taking ideas for our Easter projects and if you would like to be a part of our team, please let us know. We would love to have you. If interested contact Jalaine Ruegsegger at 608/432-030 or rugj21@gmail.com.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Grace Council Highlights

The Annual Meeting is being held via Zoom on 1/31/2021. The Council will be electing new offices after the meeting. We give thanks to the leadership of the 2020 Council and appreciation for the good work that they have done. We give a **special thanks** to Val Thompson and Bridget Schilling who are leaving the Council after their three-year terms.

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!

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!

COMMUNITY CARE

Meals-on-Wheels is a community service that provides hot noon meals to the homebound that wish this service. The Darlington churches rotate with the delivery of these meals. February is the month for Grace Lutheran to deliver. The following schedule of volunteers is:

- February 1-5 – Marilyn Johns and Jalaine Ruegsegger
- February 8-12 – Marv Reis and Pat Roelli
- February 15-19 – Gary Bald and Les Torstenson
- February 22-26 – Barb Schilling and Laurie and Carol Barnard



The next month for Grace to deliver meals is June. If you would like volunteer, please contact Les Torstenson at 776-2391.

The Lafayette County Food Pantry is currently accepting donations. Particular needs right now are **mac and cheese**, regular sized canned vegetables, canned pasta, canned tomatoes (whole, diced, stewed), **canned beans for chili**, family-friendly **non-cream 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.). A steady supply of **empty egg cartons** are needed and 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 grew a toilet paper tree that was donated to the Pantry at the end of January. As donations came in, the White kids (Blaze, Brynn, and Brax) built the tree in the sanctuary with the donations. Look in our March CARILLON for the tree total.



Community Thank You's

A NOTE OF



Grace Lutheran has received the following additional thank yous:

Thank you so much for my Christmas basket. It was very nice and lots of goodies! Thank you for thinking of me. It was not the nicest Christmas but we got to see the girls opening their presents on Zoom. – Billie Ferger

I would like to thank you and your members for the wonderful donations towards the 2020 Christmas blessing Program. All the families appreciated your generosity. – Karen Reichling, Secretary, Congregation of Our Lady of Fatima

We want to thank you so much for your generous donation. It's because of organizations like yours that we are able to make these events possible! – Joy and Jeannette , Lafayette County Housing Authority

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00-9:35 AM
Currently on Zoom Preschool - 4th grades
Contact Hannah Badertscher

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP/CONFIRMATION
Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 PM
Currently on Zoom 5th-8th grades

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP
1x/month (TBD) 9th-12th grades



Jr Hi Youth Group/Confirmation Students with Pastor

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP: *“Where all generations encounter Christ, experience God’s grace, and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to go forth in faith.”* Sugar Creek brochures for 2021 are available in the church lobby. Opportunities abound for families, students K-12, and adults. A Spring Family Camp Weekend is scheduled for March 26-28 and an Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 3, to name a few. View the opportunities on their website: www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

TAKING FAITH HOME is a weekly bulletin insert based on the Revised Common Lectionary (our weekly worship texts). It includes:



- examples for each of the Four Key faith practices (caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions);
- offers suggested daily Bible readings and hymn for the week;
- designed for all ages and across generations;
- great for household devotions, family time, church groups, and more!

You will find this resource in your weekly worship bulletin/announcement email. Check it out!

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.

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX



***Christ in Our Home**

A devotional is 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 4th grade

*** Gather**

A quarterly devotional resource

Grace Lutheran Council Contact Information

Don Barnard, 920-246-9534, barndab@msn.com
Steve Fleming, 608-482-0420, sfleming@investorscommunitybank.com
Jody White, 608-574-1978, Jodywhite638@gmail.com
Financial Secretary: Laura Barnard, 920-366-4946, barndab@msn.com
Treasurer: Tina Riechers, 608-482-3839, tinariechers@live.com
Technology: Hannah Badertscher, 608-482-0945, hannahfam19@yahoo.com

Staff Contact Information:

Rev. Kate Kieckhafer, 608-732-9688, Pastor.Gracedar@gmail.com

Church Office Staff:

- Tiffany Donahoe (bulletin)
 - Judy Elzen (newsletter)
- Custodian: JoNell Coats
Musician: Mary Knellwolf mlknellwolf@gmail.com

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February	Meals-on-Wheels
Feb. 1-6	Pastor Kate's R&R
Feb. 3	Jr. High youth, 4:15 PM
Feb. 7	5 th Sunday after Epiphany Sunday School, 9:00 AM Worship, 10:00 AM
Feb. 10	Jr. High Youth, 4:15 PM Grace Council 7:00 PM
Feb. 11	Worship Committee, 9:30 AM
Feb. 14	Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday School, 9:00 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Lenten Kits available for pickup at Grace
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday Worship, 5:30 PM
Feb. 21	First Sunday of Lent Sunday School, 9:00 AM Worship, 10:00 AM
Feb. 24	Jr. High Youth, 4:15 PM
Feb. 28	Second Sunday of Lent Sunday School, 9:00 AM Worship, 10:00 AM



Who would have guessed that we would also be following Martin Luther's plague advice!

In 1527 he wrote, "No, my dear friends, that is no good. Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence or has recovered, and act like a man who wants to help put out the burning city."

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), or she can be reached on her cell phone (608/732-9688).



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



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