

July 2023

# THE CARILLON



Grace Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## WORSHIP SERVICES

July thru December

8:30 AM at Grace

10:30 AM at Hope

## What Is *True* Freedom?

*(Pastor Kate's sermon given at Grace on July 2, 2023)*

Today's reading from the Apostle Paul to the Church in Roman, is about freedom. I didn't choose them because we celebrate Independence Day in two days. These are the actual assigned readings for today. But isn't it great they are so timely! The Roman's reading addresses the question, "What is *true* freedom?"

As Americans we tend to refer to freedom a lot. But I ask you, just because a person is declared free by law, does that always mean that person is truly free?

For example, our Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776, says,

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

I ask you -- does being a citizen of the United States, a country built upon the premise of freedom and upholding individual rights, mean that our personal choices always bring life, liberty, or happiness?

I'm going to go out on a limb here by saying, "no." Doesn't it also depend, among other things, how we choose to *use* our freedom? Doesn't that also determine if we are actually free or not?

For example -- If I choose to use my freedom and all the other things I have (*time, energy, money, abilities*) on alcohol, let's say, or recreational drugs, or owning stuff, or keeping myself entertained, or keeping up appearances, or people-pleasing, or *whatever that "thing" is* -- Am I *actually* free? Will *any* of these things give me life, liberty, or happiness?

If we depend upon any of these things -- anything rather than on our relationship with God -- are we actually free? Or have we just willingly given ourselves over to enslavement of a different kind?

Jesus said, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" In other words, you will belong to whatever it is has your heart, be it a thing, a feeling, a person, or situation.

I'd like to take this opportunity to read to you again from Romans [Romans 6:1-23], but backing up to the beginning of chapter 6 and in another translation. This one is from a modern American paraphrase known as *The Message* by Eugene Peterson. Remember, God's word is directly addressing the difference between *true* freedom and the kind of *false* freedom to which we can so easily fall victim. Imagine that Paul writes *to us*--

Continued on next page

<sup>6</sup><sup>1-3</sup> So what do we do? [Knowing that God's grace will always win out,] do we keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good?

That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

<sup>3-5</sup> That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

<sup>6-11</sup> Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—we are no longer captive to sin's demands! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead, it was a signal of the end of "death-as-the-end". Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but [since he is] alive, he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

<sup>12-14</sup> [This] means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time into God's way of doing things. (Remember, you've been raised from the dead!) Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God!

<sup>15-18</sup> So, since we're out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? Since we're free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind? Hardly! You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in his freedom!

<sup>19</sup> I'm using this freedom language because it's easy to picture. You can readily recall, can't you, how at one time the more you did just what you felt like doing—not caring about others, not caring about God—the worse your life became and the less freedom you had? And how much different is it now as you live in God's freedom, your lives healed and expansive in holiness?

<sup>20-21</sup> As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right anything for that matter. But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? A dead end. [I, Kate, would even venture to say, enslaved.]

<sup>22-23</sup> But now that you've found you don't have to listen to sin tell you what to do, and have discovered the delight of listening to God telling you, what a surprise! [You can have] a whole, healed, put-together life right now, with more and more of life on the way! Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But God's gift is real life, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master, [and available to you now!]

Martin Luther would help people to understand Christian freedom in his *Treatise on Christian Liberty*. Some of you may remember his famous quote:

*A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none.*

*A Christian is most dutiful servant of all, subject to all.*

Continued on next page

Luther explains that as fully forgiven children of God through what Jesus accomplished on the cross for all, we need no longer feel compelled to keep God's laws in order to earn forgiveness or life forever with God. Instead, we are released to freely and willingly love and serve others -- not out of fear or obligation, but out of the same love God has poured into us.

It is God's will, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that ALL people in EVERY time and place, may be made free. In this place and in the hearts of everyone who puts their trust in Jesus Christ, HE is King. HE is Master. HE is Lord over all, because it is through him all things were created, and through him that we are *truly* and *eternally* made FREE.

And now I'd like to bring up a specific matter to *this* place. Almost three years ago, when I walked into this room and saw the American flag in the front of the sanctuary, next to the altar, it was in the middle of COVID. Eventually, when we were able to move from having services in the parking lot and use the sanctuary for worship (though for awhile it was on-line only), I chose to move the flag to the fellowship hall. I want to explain to you why.

I love this country, and I am incredibly thankful for those who have served this country by defending it. I am thankful for the freedoms I have because I live here. However, the flag of our country does not belong in this space. And here's why: I am an American, yes, but BEFORE THAT, I am a Child of God. You are a Child of God. WE serve the Living God, and we lift up Jesus Christ as Lord of All, over all.

This space is dedicated solely to God. That message can be confused or watered down by having our country's flag in here, especially when it is in the place of highest honor, next to the table or where the word is preached and proclaimed. Our allegiance to God is bigger than the flag. And in this space, it's not our American citizenship that matters; what matters most, above all else, is our identity as Children of God.

Not only that, but it is Christ who makes us truly and irrevocably free, whether the country where we happen to live is a democracy or not. We are free in Christ, and the cross is the symbol we hold up to proclaim that truth.

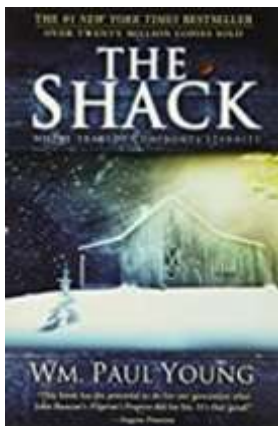
I'm not sure how many of you know, but at the time of the World Wars, there were many congregations who were founded by immigrants and many spoke and worshipped in their native tongues. The allegiance of foreign-speaking citizens -- especially Germans, but also others, were under question. Some of the English-speaking citizens thought that those others must still bear allegiance to the "enemy," even though they were filled with peace-loving Americans whose families happened to come from somewhere else. So that their allegiance was not suspect, these churches put American flags up in their churches. Before the World Wars, churches did not post the American flag, and for some time now, it has been discouraged by most Christian pastors, priests, and denominations.

There are many places where the flag is posted and honored throughout our community. Unfortunately, there are not so many places where Christ is honored, and in our culture it is becoming less so.

I would like us to place the flag in another space in our church. I welcome your input as to where. I think the best option is perhaps in the Fellowship Hall. That way if those using our gathering space, such as the scouts, 4-H, community gatherings, or others would like to us the flag, it will be available. We won't put it in a closet. It will be displayed. It just won't be displayed in the room where we gather to proclaim that Jesus is Lord of All.

Some people have the honor to die for their country, but before that, Jesus died for *them* ... and for you, and for me, and for the WHOLE WORLD. In him we are forgiven. Because of him, we are welcomed. Because of him, we have been made free. We are citizens of that country we call heaven, and we on our way home. And for all those reasons, we give GOD the glory.

-- Pastor Kate



# HOT Summer Book Read!

**Description:** Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. **What he finds there will change Mack's world forever.**

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him. You'll want everyone you know to read this book!

## Book Discussion: (Sign up/RSVP to Pastor Kate)

Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM, Pointer Café in Mineral Point  
12:30-2:00 PM, Fellowship Hall at Grace

**(Bring lunch items or snacks to share.)**

## Dessert & Movie Viewing:

Thursday July 27th 6:00 PM, Grace Fellowship Hall  
PG-13 2017 2 hrs/12 min.

- Ice cream and toppings provided.
- Feel free to bring your own comfy camping chair or a chair cushion.
- Optional campfire & conversation to follow.

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY – Sunday, July 30

Worship service will be a Christmas carol hymn-sing and other fun additions!  
Fellowship – bring your favorite Christmas treat to share! Feel free to wear something fun for the occasion!



## IN OUR PRAYERS

**We remember in our prayers:**



**Congregation:** Jean Belanger, Duane Nelson, Les Torstenson, David Chambers, Barb Schilling, and Gloria Blaser

**Friends, Family, & Neighbors:** Suzi Osterday, Penny Holum (Gloria Blaser's daughter), Clara Ruegsegger (Bob's mother), Joan Miller (Jan Riechers' sister), Gene Wilson (Eldon's brother), KC Ross (Dave & Kate's brother-in-law), and Sue Korinek (Dave's sister)

**Deaths:** Family and friends of Jack Leu

## WORDS OF GRATITUDE

### A big thank you to:

- to those who helped on cleaning day: Sheila Carrington, Linda Considine, Paul and Pat Roelli, Judy Boll, Patty Vamstad, Jalaine Ruegsegger, Carol Barnard, Diane Bredeson, Marilyn Johns, and Pastor Kate
- to Pastor Kate for hosting a fun Women's Volunteer Brunch with hymn sing. Thank you to Tana for playing the piano.



### Thank You Received

"Thank you so much for letting me use the basement for my parents' party and all your help! The party was fantastic and a great success. We even pulled off the surprise! Thanks again for everything! Take care, Amy Jene"

"Thank you for letting the Lafayette County Home & Community Education (HCE) use the basement of your church for our Spring Fling. We had a very pleasant and successful spring meeting. Thank you for letting us use your facility." – Lafayette County HCE



## Celebration!



### Birthdays

**Bella Black (7/3)**  
**Gloria Blaser (7/9)**

**Mike "Wally" Chambers (7/6)**  
**Barb Nelson (7/11)**

**Blaze White (7/7)**  
**Katie Riechers (7/22)**

### Anniversaries

**Paul & Pat Roeli (7/17)**    **Dave & Sharan Ohnstad (7/25)**  
**Harold & Judy Elzen (7/31)**

**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.

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Council Contact Information



President: Jody White  
Vice President Chuck Barnard  
Secretary: Kris Fleming  
Barb Schilling

Don Barnard  
Financial Secretary: Laura Barnard  
Treasurer: Tina Riechers  
Technology: Hannah Badertscher

### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

#### Things your Council is working on now:

Not available at this time



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for JULY

	<b>July 2</b>	<b>July 9</b>	<b>July 16</b>	<b>July 23</b>	<b>July 30</b>
Altar Care	Linda C. Diane B.	Jalaine R. Sheila C.	Marilyn J.	Pat R. Mary R.	Linda C Diane B.
Reader	Linda C.	Blaze W.	Laura B.	Paul R.	Steve K.
Greeters *		Tim White Family	Don & Laura Barnard	Jalaine R. Sheila C.	Dan & Tiffany Meyers
Ushers **	Don L.	Don L. Brax W.	Don L. Don B.	Don L. Paul R.	Don L. Gary B.
Acolytes		Brax W.	Callie B.	Marta R.	Joel M.
Communion	Linda C.	Jalaine R.	Marilyn J.	Mary R.	Linda C.
Bread	Marilyn J.	-----	Mary R.	-----	Pat R.
Counters	July 10-14 _____ July 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.

See the bulletin board in the narthex for a more extensive schedule.

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](mailto:darlinglutherans@gmail.com)).

### PASTOR KATE'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Kate will be away the following dates. In case of emergency, please contact the Council President or Vice President for the pastor-on-call.

- Afternoon of July 16-July 23 (vacation)
- Afternoon of August 7-August 13 (continuing education)
- August 14; August 17-19 (vacation/off)
- Afternoon August 20-August 28 (vacation)



# Faith Formation



## SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP ([www.sugarcreekcamp.org](http://www.sugarcreekcamp.org))

Registration for summer camp and family camp is open now! Look for camp brochures online and in your church's information center. For camperships please contact Pastor Kate or your Council President for details. Also check the narthex bulletin board for some interesting upcoming events at Sugar Creek.

## ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2024: NEW ORLEANS

The Youth Gathering for 2024 will be held in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024, (with travel time to be added). This event is for youth entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade through newly graduated high school (2024). Please contact Pastor Kate soon if you're interested!!!

## COMMUNITY

### Lafayette County Food Pantry

The Lafayette County Food Pantry is currently accepting donations. With the increasing prices of grocery/household items there is more demand for the needy families. All types of groceries and household supplies are needed.

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 2023! **June total was 5#. The total for 2023 is 267#**

## GRACE IN PICTURES



Cleaning Day  
June 4

Volunteer  
Brunch  
June 13



# July 2023



**Pastor's Schedule** (608/732-9688)  
 Pastor.GraceDar@gmail.com  
 Mondays - Thursdays  
 Fridays: Pastor's Day Off

**Church Office Hours**  
 Tana Risseuw, Adm. Assistant (608/776-4462)  
 DarlingLutherans@gmail.com  
 Tuesday-Thursday 8:00-1:00

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
8:30 AM Worship/Grace 10:30 AM Worship/Hope						
8:30 AM Worship/Grace 10:30 AM Worship/Hope	11:00 AM Book Discussion Pointer Café Min. Pt.  7:00 PM Council		No Worship Committee this month	10:30 AM Worship at Min Pt. Care Center  12:30-2:00 Book Discussion @ Grace		
8:30 AM Worship/Grace 10:30 AM Worship/Hope		6:30 PM Hope Council				
----- Pastor on vacation (PM July 16 thru July 23) -----						
8:30 AM Worship/Grace 10:30 AM Worship/Hope  Pastor on vacation	Newsletter articles due	10:30 AM Worship at Laf. Manor		6:00 PM Movie Viewing & Dessert @ Grace		
8:30 AM Worship/Grace 10:30 AM Worship/Hope						
8:30 AM Worship/Grace 10:30 AM Worship/Hope						<b>UPCOMING</b> August 12 Hope Luth. Fish Boil







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](mailto:darlinglutherans@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [Facebook.comGraceLutheran.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

Newsletter Deadline  
Items need to be submitted for the  
August Newsletter by July 24

### Inside

	Pg
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