



THE CARILLON

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

WORSHIP

NEW CHURCH YEAR BEGINS

November 28 – First Sunday in Advent – Hope
Worship with Holy Communion

December 5 – Second Sunday in Advent – Love
Worship with Holy Communion

December 12 – Third Sunday in Advent – Joy
Worship with Holy Communion

December 19 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – Peace
Worship – Service of the Word & Sunday School Program

December 24 – Christmas Eve
5:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion

December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas
Worship – Service of the Word & Hymn Sing

January 2 – Second Sunday of Christmas
Worship – Service of the Word & Hymn Sing



SUNDAY MORNINGS AT GRACE

9:00-9:40 AM – Sunday School– (K-4 grades, lower level classroom)

10:00 AM - Worship (fellowship following)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY will be shared by our Sunday School students on December 19. There will be some special surprises For everyone who comes!

ONLINE WORSHIP: Available for those who are prevented from attending in person.

- * Facebook Live (Facebook.com – search under “People”: Grace Lutheran.Darlington)
- * YouTube (YouTube.com – Grace Lutheran Church Darlington Wisconsin)

COVID-19 PROCEDURES: Masks are strongly recommended indoors among larger groups at this time due to the current recommendations of the Lafayette County Health Department and the CDC.

From the Keyboard of Pastor Kate

Welcome to the start of a brand new year in the life of the church!



Our year begins with Advent. Advent has its own purpose, separate from Christmas. It is the season of waiting, of making preparation, of recognizing and naming the deep-seated longings within us. Advent gives us permission to be **on the journey**. Rather than being completely swept away by the busy-ness and pressures of the holiday season, it invites us in and makes space for us to reflect, to experience the wonder, to contemplate where we are, where we've been, and where God's promises are leading us: into the presence of the God who comes to us as a tiny, powerless baby in a manger, as both teacher and Lord, as love pouring down from a cross, and as the glorious victor over death who will come again, bringing justice, completing the restoration of all creation, and making God's home among us. Advent also gives permission to those of us needing to name, make space, and to share the burden of grief some of us are carrying in the season and not be stifled by the pressures of society to be joyful if that's not where we are. Advent doesn't ask us to clean ourselves up before entering in, but instead it invites us to come as we are and experience the Spirit's gentle ministrations on our hearts as we wait.

Advent is also the season of **hope** (reflected in all the blue you see at church). Christian hope does not refer to something we're wishing for, but rather something that we have faith **will** take place. We put our hope and trust in Christ Jesus our Lord. We hope in the promise that he has the victory over death and sin and evil; that he has gone to prepare a place for us; that he will return in the Second Coming; that all people from every time and place will experience the resurrection of the dead; that all who live by that hope will live in God's presence forever.

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 43:18-19

Our God certainly is the God who gives new life! I am excited to see what God is calling us to as we look we enter into a new chapter in the life of our church with hope (and very possibly in partnership with Hope Lutheran). I believe that God is calling us to be church together in new and refreshing ways, and that we can anticipate God doing **a new thing** for the sake of Christ's body (the Church) and our communities. May we look back with thanksgiving and look forward with renewed hope as we live by God's grace! God bless you, and God bless the Church.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kate Kieckhafer



Heaven and Nature Sing: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2021-2022

Explore the Advent season and celebrate the joy of the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany.

Heaven and Nature Sing includes daily devotions based on year C scripture readings (in the Revised Common Lectionary) for Sundays and festival days between the first Sunday of Advent (November 28, 2021) and Epiphany (January 6, 2022). In addition to devotions, the book offers household blessings and prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations.

The story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Luke is filled with song. Luke begins with the news that Elizabeth and Zechariah, despite their old age, will have a son who will prepare people for the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. This is a prelude to the singing that follows from Elizabeth and Zechariah; Jesus' mother, Mary; the prophets Simeon and Anna; and even an angel choir! During these days of Advent and Christmas, may the good news of Jesus' birth fill our lives and our world with joy and peace. Let heaven and nature sing!

Available in regular and large print in the narthex while supplies last. Also available as an [eBook](#).

Call by the Worship Committee for Worship Ministers

Greeters, Ushers, Readers, Acolytes, Communion Assistants, Screen Techs. **A schedule & guides are being put together for 2022. Contact the church office** with the area(s) in which you are interested in serving. (e-mail: darlinglutherans@gmail.com; office phone: 608.776-4462)

WEDNESDAY SUPPERS! Everyone invited!!

Join us as our guests for dinner and conversation with our confirmation students and volunteers **OR** partner with another household to provide the simple meal, help serve, then join us for supper and conversation! *Sign up on the worship volunteer board outside of Pastor's office.*

LUNCH BUNCH CONTINUES! - Join us for lunch, devotions, and conversation at the Darlington Country Club on Thursdays through December 16 from **11:30-1:00 PM (NEW TIME)**.

COMMUNION BREAD

Those interested in helping to make communion bread. Please communicate with Pastor Kate.

HUMBLE CHOIR

The Humble Choir is making its come-back!! (Contact Sharan Ohnstad if you are interested in participating.)



FAITH IN ACTION!!!

VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
(A listing of opportunities can be found in the narthex.)

POINSETTIAS

It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas! Order forms are available in the narthex. The cost is \$10.00 per plant this year. The last day to order will be **Monday, December 13**. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church. You are welcome to bring other flowers or plants to help decorate the sanctuary as well. Contact the church office at 776-4462 with any questions.



CARE TEAM

The Care Team will be putting Christmas boxes together at 11:45 AM on Wednesday, December 15 to be delivered to our homebound people, including our people at Sienna Crest and at Lafayette Manor. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS BLESSING PROGRAM

Those who signed up to participate in the program are reminded to have the items here and ready by **December 8**. Thank you for helping to spread some Christmas cheer to this holiday season

MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree is in the narthex ready to receive collection of hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, neck gaiters, and socks to be donated to the local schools for students' needs. Collections will continue until early-January.



TOILET PAPER CHALLENGE

Let's see how big we can make a Christmas tree out of toilet paper. Our confirm-ands will build it. Donated toilet paper will go to the Food pantry. GO, GRACE, GO!



MEALS on WHEELS

December is Grace Lutheran's turn to deliver those meals to the shut-ins. Thank you to all who volunteered.

SALAVATION ARMY BELL-RINGING

This year we are sharing with Emmanuel UCC Church for the bell-ringing duty. We thank Marilyn Johns, Val & Jacqueline Thompson, Linda Considine, and Kitty Wilson for filling our spots!!



BAPTISM

On Sunday, December 5, Mercedes and Joel Meyers, children of Tiffany and Dan Meyers will be baptized during our worship service. We welcome them to our family of Grace.



WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- To the Care Team for all their work with the Christmas boxes
- To Santa’s helpers who are making out all the cards for Christmas to be delivered to our community. It takes many hands to get the job done!! You are all so appreciated!!
- Watering the mums – JalaineRuegsegger
- Fall and Christmas Decorations – Jalaine Ruegsegger and Vicki Johnston
- Don Barnard and Paul Roelli for getting window coverings up for Pastor Kate’s study.
- Altar Care Team, especially Linda Considine and Carol Kammes for All Saints preparations.
- Sharan Ohnstad and Carol Kammes for their work with congregational music.
- Those who placed flowers on the altar during the month
- Fellowship ministers for bringing and serving on Sundays: Tiffany Meyers, Sheila Andrews, Alana Black, Marilyn Johns, Wendy Johns, Renae Johnson, Pat Roelli, Jalaine Ruegsegger and Sheila Carrington
- Our regular offering counters – Don and Laura Barnard
- To Don and Laura Barnard for the new Fellowship coffee-maker

Community Thank Yous Received

“Thank you so much for donating the treat bags and buckets of candy. All of us at Lafayette Manor appreciate it! Since we didn’t have Trick or Treating with the kids this year, the gift bags brightened their spirits! It is nice to have community involvement for our residents. The staff and residents always appreciate it!!”

Thanks again,
Residents and Staff of Lafayette County Manor

“Thank you again and again,”
From Sienna Crest



FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Following are those scheduled to provide “after worship” fellowship. Guidelines are posted inside the cabinet in the upstairs fellowship area. If you have questions, call Vicki Johnston (776-4572) or Pat Roelli (482-0572).

December

- 5 – Diane Bredeson/Pat Stauffacher
- 12 - Val Thompson/Linda Considine
- 19 – Vicki Johnston/Pat Roelli
- 26 -

January

- 2 – Mary Ann Roelli/Heather Blosch
- 9 – Tina Riechers/Jan Riechers
- 16 – Kris Fleming/Kate Chambers
- 23 – Judy Elzen/Missy Zasada
- 30 – Barb Schilling/Jody White

IN OUR PRAYERS



- **We remember in our prayers:**

Congregation: (*Healing & recovery*): Billie Ferger, Barb Nelson, Sandy Reis, Linda Considine, *life transitions*: Gladys Christensen & Jack Leu.

Friends and Family: *For those friends and family battling illness and cancer*: Becky Burris, Penny Holum, Kathy Littel, Bryan Krahenbuhl, Lindsey Nyffenegger, Bernie Wedig, Dale Egeland, Marilyn Carpenter, John Kowatch, and Katherine Schultz (*mother of Val Thompson*). For Michael Thompson for increased faith and strength.

- We remember also the family and friends of Doris Boyle who passed away this past week and to the family and friends of Brian Lancaster who also passed away this past week.

- We pray for Lilly Badertscher and Mercedes & Joel Meyers as they prepare for baptism.



Celebration!



Birthdays:

Conrad Blosch (12/02)	Curtis Blosch (12/02)	Steve Kottke (12/02)
Wiley Zasada (12/05)	David Zasada (12/11)	Diane Bredeson (12/12)
Billie Ferger (12/15)	Debbie Golackson (12/16)	Stu Vamstad (12/20)
Jennifer Kottke (12/24)	Carol Kammes (12/26)	Ever Shea Schilling (12/29)

Anniversaries: None

Anniversary, Birthdates, College Graduates, Retirements, and Gottcha Dates:

Please send us your calendar dates. Just the month and day. The year is not needed unless is a calendar event. We would like to list them in the newsletter each month, so we can celebrate with you!

We continue to look 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. Help us to spread the word!
Anyone want to help be our event photographer?



Grace Lutheran Church Council

Council Contact Information



President: Don Barnard, 920-246-9534, barndab@msn.com
Vice President: Steve Fleming, 608-482-0420, sfleming@investorscommunitybank.com
Secretary: Kris Fleming, 608-482-0404, flem1989@gmail.com
Barb Schilling, 608-482-2876, bbschillings@gmail.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

Pastor's Contact Information

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

Church Staff Contact Information

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

Council Highlights – – November 9, 2021

Things your council is working on:

- National Youth Gathering is this year. So far, Pastor, Jody White, and Blaze White are planning to attend. Grace will provide some financial assistance to attend. Look for fund-raisers as well.
- Pastor and council would like congregational involvement with Confirmation because our youth are important and need to be supported. They are the future of our church. Involvement can be eating with confirmands on Wednesday nights, providing a meal, or talking to Pastor for more ideas.
- Grace is supporting Shop with a Cop again this year. The Darlington Police Department works with Darlington School to shop for gifts for veterans who are at the VA Hospital in Madison. We are donating \$250 again this year. Please contact the Darlington Police Department if you would like to make a family donation. This is a great program and supports those who made our way of life possible.
- We are still looking for people willing to serve on the Church Council. It's a way to give back to the church, serve Christ, and helps guide the church.

LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT (was emailed in earlier bulletin)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am writing because your Council has been exploring sharing Pastor Kate with Hope Lutheran Church. Our churches will still be separate, each having its own constitution and congregation. There are many advantages to sharing a pastor with Hope Lutheran. These include stability, shared liabilities, growth for Pastor Kate, diversity, shared budgeting, and increased service opportunities.

As you are aware, every three to five years, Grace Lutheran finds itself calling a new pastor. This is primarily because, as a small church, we cannot afford an experienced pastor. When our pastor leaves, it is a minimum of one year with an interim pastor before we are able to call a pastor. This prevents the congregation from experiencing a stable, familiar pastor. When we lose a pastor, we lose the personal connection with a pastor essential to foster our growth in Christ.

In sharing a pastor with Hope Lutheran, it halves our salary and religious education obligations. We are able to share our budgeting and service opportunities.

Sharing a pastor increases the richness of our church life by increasing the number of perspectives in our church, increases the number of participants for bible study/youth activities/confirmation, and diversity in thinking.

I am inviting you to meet with the Council after church on Sunday, November 28, 2021 to discuss sharing a pastor with Hope Lutheran and to answer any questions/concerns you may have about this.

Sincerely,
Don Barnard, President
Grace Lutheran Church Council

QUESTION/ANSWERS FROM CONGREGATION MEETING – NOVEMBER 28

Will church start times change? Yes, Hope Lutheran will start at 8:30 AM and Grace Lutheran will start at 10:30 AM. Grace will not change the start time for the summer.

How much time will Pastor be spending at each church? Pastor's time will be split 50/50 between the churches. However, this is an average. In any given week, Pastor may spend more time at one church or the other.

Why are we considering this? Our churches, as well as many churches in rural areas, have difficulty attracting and keeping pastors due to budget constraints. This will give both churches an opportunity to share expenses, such as salary and benefits. There are many other benefits, as well.

When would the change be made? After January 1st.

Are we merging our churches? No. Each church will remain separate, with its own budget, congregation, and constitution.



Faith Formation

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sundays, 9–9:45 AM (*preschool – 4th grade & Faithful Forum*)
(No Sunday School on Dec. 26 & Jan. 2)

CONFIRMATION - Wednesdays, 6 - 8 PM, supper is provided. (*5th – 8th grade*)
(Dec. 1 & 8 at Grace – Dec. 15 at Hope –No confirmation Dec. 22 & 29)

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Check out the opportunities at Sugar Creek. Retreats for children through adults are available at Sugar Creek. Some upcoming events are:

December 3 – Road to Bethlehem (Advent Experience)

December 6 – Yesterday's Youth (Senior Adult Day Event)

More information and registration is available at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org



Taking Faith Home -

Taking Faith Home is a weekly resource for families of every size and age for faith conversations and devotions in the home. Acrylic stands are available in the welcome center to use at home, as well as extra copies of the week's sheet.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

"Good Gifts" information with the brochures are located below the bulletin board. This information can be useful if you are considering alternative gift-giving for people this Christmas and beyond.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOSEN: THE MESSENGERS

Wednesday, December 1 – Phoenix –Kennedy Mall – 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30

Wednesday, December 1 – AMC – 4:20, 7:00

The Chosen has a new episode to launch the Christmas season this December. The Chosen has created a special episode on the birth of Christ through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. You'll also see an extraordinary line up of musicians perform both new and classic Christmas songs from the set.

Lafayette County Food Pantry

The Lafayette County Food Pantry is currently accepting donations. Particular needs right now are canned tuna fish, canned white chunk chicken, canned mandarin oranges, cooking oil, rice, Hamburger Helper, **personal care products** (tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo, crème rinse, lotion, etc.), diapers (sizes 3, 4, & 5). **Toilet paper, paper towels** and **empty egg cartons** are always 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 2021!

We are in need of a couple regular volunteers who would be able to take the donations down from the church to the pantry. Contact Pastor Kate to help.

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).



All Saints Day
November 7, 2021



November 28
Congregational Meeting
Pot Luck



December 2021

Mon-Thu. 9:00-4:00 AM (Pr. Kate's Best Availability)

Tuesdays—9:00-1:00 Church Office Hours (Tiffany)

Contact: 608/732-9688

Fridays—Pastor's Day Off

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:15-7:15 PM Confirmation at Grace	2 11:30-1:00 Lunch Bunch D'ton Co. Club	3	4
5 9:00 AM Sunday Sch. 10:00 AM Worship/HC Baptism	6	7 7:00 PM Council Exec. Committee	8 10:00 Worship Committee 5:15-7:15 PM Confirmation at Grace	9 11:30-1:00 Lunch Bunch D'ton Co. Club	10	11
12 9:00 AM Sunday Sch. 10:00 AM Worship/HC	13	14 7:00 PM Council	15 No Hospitality Comm.Mtg. 11:45 Care Team Christmas Bxs. 5:15-7:15 PM Confirmation at Hope Min. Pt.	16 11:30-1:00 Lunch Bunch D'ton Co. Club	17	18
19 9:00 AM Sunday Sch. 10:00 AM Worship Sun.School Program	20	21	22 No Confirmation	23 No Lunch Bunch	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Worship/HC	25 Christmas Day 
26 No Sunday Sch. 10:00 AM Worship/Hymn Sing	27	28	29 No Confirmation	30 No Lunch Bunch	31	



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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: 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

Newsletter Deadline
Items need to be submitted for
January Newsletter by December 27

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