

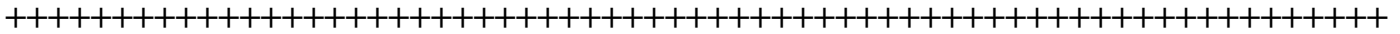
THE CARILLON



Grace Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 AM Joint Worship Service

followed by Refresh – *Food/Fellowship* for ALL ages

1st & 3rd Sundays – Hope Lutheran, Mineral Point

2nd & 4th Sundays – Grace Lutheran, Darlington

... From the Keyboard of Pastor Kate

Dear Beloved Congregations of Grace and Hope,

As 2025 begins, our ministry and mission together will be undergoing some necessary changes. I will be moving from serving full-time to 75% time as the pastor between your two congregations. This new reality was not the hope of Grace or Hope, or me, for that matter, but it is necessary.

Decline in overall church participation and support has continued to diminish. There are many contributing factors to this, but the bottom line is that the continued decline in membership, engagement, and giving has effected the churches' ability to retain a full-time pastor, even when shared.

What this looks like from a practical standpoint will become clearer as the Councils and I work out the details. Right now, it is sufficient to say that **my regular work schedule** will be **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays**, and of course **Sundays**. That means I will be **off** most **Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays**. Unless on vacation or retreat (in which case the Council President may be called, and an on-call pastor available for emergencies), I will be available **by phone for emergencies only during my days off**.

Please know that I do not love or care about you any less. Healthy boundaries are necessary in any good relationship for mutual health and well-being.

Going forward, there will be a need for the churches themselves to work together to determine with the help of faith, the Holy Spirit, and committed members of Christ's body what they will do, and subsequently be intentional about letting go where they cannot. I encourage you to pray about and engage with the leadership and each other regarding your thoughts, as well as ways you are able and willing to be involved with others to continue the ministry and mission of the church. You might also take a humble, honest assessment of your current contributions and where God may be calling you to take a leap of faith and increase your generosity, the time you allot for discipleship and growth, and who you will genuinely and sincerely invite to participate with you.

Our God is present and faithful. May we be so, too. Here's looking forward to seeing what blessings and opportunities God has in store for us in 2025!

RECORDED WORSHIP SERVICES



Grace and Hope services are being recorded by Ted in Mineral Point. Each Tuesday a link will be sent to watch the service if you would like.

Other opportunities to watch or listen to a live worship broadcast are:

TV – WKOW Channel 27 at 10:00 AM – Bethel Lutheran of Madison or on Bethel’s YouTube channel

Radio – WDMP 99.9 FM at 9:00 – Grace Lutheran Church, Dodgeville

Radio – WPVL 1590 AM at 10:00 AM – First English Lutheran, Platteville

Or – 8:00 AM on Sunday FELC Platteville YouTube or Spotify

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

A big thank you to:

- Care Committee: Jalaine Ruegsegger, Sheila Carrington, and everyone who donated items and helped with the putting together and delivery of gifts for the residents of Sienna Crest, Lafayette Manor, and the homebound in our community.
- members of the Humble Choir (Sharan Ohnstad, Carol Kammes, Carol Barnard, Patty Vamstad, Jan Riechers, Tana Risseeuw), Mary Baehler, Mary Knellwolf, Tana Risseeuw, and Jennifer Clayton Lougeflower for making beautiful music this past month.
- Steve Fleming, Tina Riechers, Jim Harris, Angie Schubert, and others who provided the legwork and brain power to wrap up the 2024 finances and prepare the 2025 budgets.
- Holiday Food Drive: Sheila Carrington for the festive collection box, Judy Elzen and Deb Finkelmeyer and others for delivering items, and all who donated towards the cause
- our December Fellowship hosts at Grace
- everyone who has been able to participate in worship services and traveling back and forth between Darlington and Mineral Point with Grace and Hope – it’s been a wonderful four months of common worship that we continue into 2025.
- all those who assisted with our Christmas Eve and Sunday services
- all who assisted in decorating the worship spaces for Advent and Christmas
- those who helped keep our spaces clean, accessible, and cared for, especially in winter weather, including (but not limited to) JoNell Coates and her son Nathan, Paul Roelli, Ted Weier, and others.



Thank You(s) Received

“Thank you for the beautiful ceremony of baptism of Nolan Barnard. The celebration of him and his unity with God was truly beautiful. I also want to express our appreciation to the beautiful quilt, books, stuffed animal and card. We are very grateful to everyone that joined in to make the celebration of Nolan special! Please accept our donation to the church as a token of gratitude for everything that was done. Thank you” - Chris, Lexus, and Nolan Barnard

“Dave and I would like to humbly thank all who remembered us this season with cards, treats, gifts, prayers, a sense of humor, and warm greetings. We are so thankful for your many kindnesses and care, partnership in ministry, and hospitality. We are so blessed through you! Thank you!!!!” - Pastor Kate and Dave



Celebration!



Birthdays

Dylan Zasada (1/3)

Kate Chambers (1/9)

Sharan Ohnstad (1/19)

Tim White (1/27)

Sue Torstenson (1/4)

Tina Riechers (1/14)

Patty Vamstad (1/25)

Janet Andrews (1/28)

Tash Opland (1/29)

Jody White (1/7)

Chuck Barnard (1/18)

Jalaine Ruegsegger (1/26)

Alana Black (1/28)

Anniversaries

Barb & Duane Nelson (1/4)

We welcome Nolan Allan Barnard to the family of God. Nolan was baptized at Grace on December 8. His parents are Lexus and Chris Barnard. Grandparents are Laura and Don Barnard and Heather and John Eriean.

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

We remember in our prayers:

Congregation/Homebound: Duane Nelson, Jean Belanger, David Chambers, Stu Vamstad, and the Kleppe family.

Friends, Family, & Neighbors: Susie Beiler and family (work injury)

Deaths:



Grace Lutheran Church Council



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

Financial Secretary: Steve Fleming
Treasurer: Tina Riechers
Don Barnard
Jody White

Council Highlights –

- Annual meeting is scheduled for January 26 with a snow date of February 9
- If anyone is interested in being on the council, please let Pastor or Linda know
- Steve and the council are working on the budget, please let them know if you have any thoughts/questions.

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering for November and December was designated to be given to the Food Pantry. The total giving for November was \$52.27. December total is not available at this time.

January “Noisy” offering is going to a needy family at Grace.



CARE COMMITTEE



It has been a very busy but a fun month for the Care Committee.

We started off with decorating the church in blue for advent season. We then delivered the presents from the Giving Tree at church to the appropriate people for delivery. Next, after two months of collecting all the items needed for our Manor, Sienna Crest and homebound Christmas bags, we packed approximately

70 bags with cards and delivered them. A shout out to ALL the wonderful people who donated items for our Christmas bags and who picked up a tag off of the Giving Tree. Next we changed from Advent to Christmas and decorated the church in red. So beautiful! Thank you to the Humble Choir for also adding their gorgeous decorations and putting up the Christmas tree and lights.

You are all angels for helping out and making all of this possible. People of Grace are so giving and amazing!!! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!!!

And last but certainly not least, the Care Team: Pat Roelli, Marilyn Johns, Diane Bredeson, Linda Considine and Sheila Carrington. None of this would be possible without your endless hours and helping hands to make this all work. You're all the BEST little elves ever and we have so much fun working together.



Thank you so very, very much for all you do. It is so greatly appreciated!!!



MITTEN TREE

The Mitten tree is up and ready for donation of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks. These items will be collected for area schools **through January**. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The Worship committee made a challenge to collect food items for the Lafayette County Food Pantry. Thank you to all that contributed to this challenge. The final result of the challenge **amounted to 223# of food items** for the Food Pantry. Thank you to all!!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING



On December 22, we went Christmas Caroling. Joining us was a group from Immanuel UCC and one family (neighbors of church and Gloria Blaser) for a total of 14 singers/musicians. We hope to make that a tradition! It was so fun and Roy Berry played guitar while Gloria Blaser played the echo harp (something like a harmonica). We visited Sienna Crest and Lafayette Manor. We enjoyed pizza and fellowship after. Thank you to all who participated and special thanks to Gloria Blaser, Kitty and Eldon Wilson, and Tana Risseeuw for coordinating efforts.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for DECEMBER

	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26
Altar Care	Worship at	Linda Considine Diane Bredeson	Worship at	Marilyn Johns
Reader	Hope	Sandy Reis	Hope	Serenedy Opland
Greeters*	↓	Alana Black Family	↓	Chuck and Carol Barnard
Ushers**	↓	Don Leinberger	↓	Don Leinberger
Acolytes	↓	Vera Black	↓	Serenedy Opland
Communion	↓	Linda Considine	↓	Marilyn Johns
Bread	↓	Marilyn Johns	↓	Marilyn Johns

**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 to those who signed up to provide refreshments following worship.
If interested in helping please contact Pat Roelli (482-0572).

- January 5 - Hope
- January 12 - Tiffany Meyers, Sheila Andrews and Alana Black
- January 19 - Hope
- January 26 - Marilyn Johns and Wendy Johns





POINSETTIAS

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias for Christmas. They are:

In Honor of:

- Ruth Vamstad by Stu and Patty Vamstad
- Ellie Janosch by Steve and Kris Fleming
- Our children Mike & Miriam, Brad & Jennie, Brian & Hillary by Stu and Patty Vamstad
- Dan and Cait Janosch by Steve and Kris Fleming
- Nate & Emma Fleming by Steve and Kris Fleming

In Memory of:

- Parents Shirley and Vernon Johnson by the Carringtons and Ruegseggers
- Grandparents Johnson and Olson by the Carringtons and Ruegseggers
- Robert and Peggy Berg, Oscar Vamstad by Stu and Patty Vamstad
- Gronholm and Jacobson Family by Linda Considine
- Ida Bredeson by Diane Bredeson
- Adler Roelli, Jakob Roelli & Jeff Krueger by Greg and Mary Ann Roelli
- Walter and Sally Roelli and Joe and Hazel Knesting by Paul and Pat Roelli
- Tom Johns by Marilyn Johns, Bob and Beppi Johns, Wendy Johns, Tash, Ryker and Serenedy Opland
- Lynda Koenig by Steve and Kris Fleming
- John and Evelyn Fleming by Steve and Kris Fleming
- Patty Elsing by Steve and Kris Fleming

FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation Classes

- 5:30 – 6:30 PM, held on designated Wednesdays in Grace Fellowship Hall
- snacks provided
- friends welcome!
- **Schedule:** January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 19, 26



“IGNITE!” Youth Group Sunday, January 19

- 4:30 - 6:30 PM
- includes simple meal and activities
- a contribution of money for pizza, supplies, &/or time are always appreciated to help cover costs and support the ministry
- Please invite a friend!
- RSVP to Pastor Kate text - 608/732.9688 by 1:00 PM



WISH LIST ITEMS

- **CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY ADVOCATES:** AAA adults (Authentic, Available, Affirming) to assist in identifying, supporting, and encouraging children's faith formation and engagement at Hope and Grace
- **PLAY KITCHEN/TOYS** for the creation of a play area for Grace and Hope Fellowship Halls. We are looking for toys that are appropriate for younger children, clean, and in good condition. A toy kitchen, train table, or something along those lines would be great!

COMMUNITY

Lafayette County Food Pantry



The Lafayette County Food Pantry is in its **NEW LOCATION** at the Meadows on Spring Street!! The pantry is in **need of donations**. They continue to have 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! **December total was 112#! The total for 2024 is 791#.**

SALVATION ARMY BELL-RINGING

A **great big thank you** to those who "Rang the Bell" for the Salvation Army on December 13 and 14. Those volunteering to ring the bell were: Marilyn Mary Ann Roelli, Judy Boll, the Rood Family, Kris and Steve Fleming and Pastor Kate. . Thank you to Marilyn Johns for coordinating the "Bell Ringers".



GRACE IN PICTURES



Baptism
12/8/24



Caroling
12/22/24



Christmas Eve



January 2025

Pastor's Schedule (608/732-9688)

Pastor.GraceDar@gmail.com

Tuesdays - Thursdays


Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays: Pastor's Day Off

Office Hours

Tana Risseuw, Adm. Assistant (608/558-0697)

DarlingLutherans@gmail.com

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00-Noon

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 	2	3	4	
9:00 AM Joint Worship w/Epiphany Lessons & Carols & Fel- lowship @ Hope	5	6	7 10:00 AM Worship Committee	8 5:30-6:30 PM Confirmation @ Grace Fellow- ship Hall	9 10:30 AM Worship at MP Care Center	10	11
Baptism of our Lord Sunday 9:00 AM Joint Worship w/Baptism & Fellowship @ Grace	12	13	14	15 5:30-6:30 PM Confirmation @ Grace Fellow- ship Hall	16	17	18
9:00 AM Joint Worship Annual Meet- ing following Worship ** @ Hope 4:30-6:30 PM Youth Night	19	20	21	22 5:30-6:30 PM Confirmation @ Grace Fellow- ship Hall	23 1:00 PM Iowa County Jail Ministry	24	25
9:00 AM Joint Worship Annual Meet- ing following Worship ** @ Grace	26	27 Newsletter Deadline	28 10:30 AM Worship at Laf. Manor	29 5:30-6:30 PM Confirmation @ Grace Fellow- ship Hall	30	31 ** <u>New Councils</u> will meet immedi- ately following the annual meetings	



Grace Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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1302 Clay St • Darlington, WI 53530

Return Service Requested



Mission/Vision 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

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Newsletter Deadline
 Items need to be submitted for the
 February Newsletter by January 27

