

# Pastor's Page

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

“When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, ‘Rejoice favored one! The Lord is with you.’”

It’s a powerful message. And if we were to continue to follow this story we would hear a promise that would transcend time, and redefine the world as we know it. So too, we would witness that defining statement of faith that would draw us into a new vision of our world. Mary speaks for all of us when she declares, “Let it be!”

Unexpectedly, I was reminded of a song, the song of a different generation, that joined in Mary’s bold proclamation, “Let it be.”

When I find myself in times of trouble  
Mother Mary comes to me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be  
And in my hour of darkness  
She is standing right in front of me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be  
Let it be, let it be

Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

And when the broken-hearted people  
Living in the world agree  
There will be an answer, let it be  
For though they may be parted  
There is still a chance that they will see  
There will be an answer, let it be

Let it be, let it be  
Let it be, let it be

Yeah, there will be an answer, let it be

Let it be, let it be  
Let it be, let it be

Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be  
Ah, let it be, yeah, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

And when the night is cloudy  
There is still a light that shines on me  
Shine on until tomorrow, let it be  
I wake up to the sound of music,  
Mother Mary comes to me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be  
Let it be, yeah, let it be  
Oh, there will be an answer, let it be  
Let it be, let it be  
Let it be, yeah, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

*Paul McCartney, Leonard Dillon, and John Lennon*

Perhaps it is now our time to take up that chorus as we proclaim our own commitment to making the world in which we live more just, more tolerant, more giving, more forgiving, more hopeful, more patient, more visionary, more gracious, more humorous, more thankful ...

Indeed, as we gaze upon the heavens this Advent season, might we cry out, “**Let It Be!**”

Pastor Dan Maiden

## Communion Preparers for Worship Needed

2016 Sign-up Sheet  
is Available



### Communion Servers/Visitors

Pastor Dan visits our shut-ins the first Friday after the first Sunday of each month to share a time of conversation as well as sharing communion. Your visits are so welcome and looked forward to. A sign-up sheet is at the church or call and leave a message in the office (320-564-2442) if you are able to accompany Pastor Dan.

You can sign up for 2016!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 5      Calvyn Mooney  
Dec. 11     Lynn Holmstrom  
Dec. 15     Ethan Ator  
Dec. 31     Melissa Bardwell

# 2015



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 28      Mike & Shelly Gaffaney

## DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

Dec. 2	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Dec. 3	6:00pm	Circle of Stones at Pearl Lenzen's
Dec. 6	9:00am	Worship/Communion
	10:30am	Budget Brunch
Dec. 9	6:30pm	Choir Practice
	7:30pm	Council Meeting
Dec. 13	9:00am	Worship
Dec. 16	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Dec. 20	9:00am	Worship/Noisy Offering
Dec. 23	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Dec. 24	7:00pm	CHRISTMAS EVE Service/Communion
Dec. 25		CHRISTMAS DAY Office closed
Dec. 25	11:00am	Community Meal at GFLC working
Dec. 27	9:00am	Worship
Dec. 27-Jan. 2		Dinner At Your Door
Dec. 30		NO Choir Practice
Dec. 31		NEW YEAR'S EVE

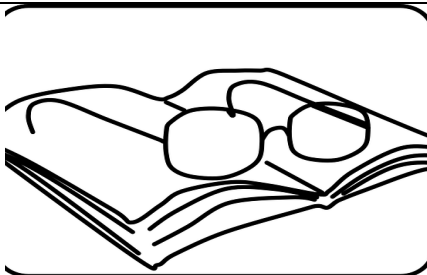


## Joy to the World!

December

## *Responsibilities*

	December 6, 2015	December 13, 2015	December 20, 2015	December 27, 2015
<b>Usher</b>	Steve & Vicke Zumhofe			
<b>Usher</b>	Mike & Shelly Gaffaney			
<b>Fellowship</b>	Budget Brunch	Sally Thoma	Dick/Sharon Anderson	Steve/Vicke Zumhofe
<b>Fellowship</b>	Budget Brunch	Bea Read	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad	Keith/Deb Koerlin
<b>Liturgist</b>	Shelly Gaffaney	Helen Stukel	Sharon Anderson	Sue Selden
<b>Clean Up</b>	Kent/Imo Sunderland	Bea Read	Cindy/Cheri Fjermestad	Gail Rohlik
<b>Clean Down</b>	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik
Please have church cleaned by the listed date				



## SUNDAY READERS

Pastor Dan is interested in having more people involved with each Sunday's worship service. Please give him a call or check with Helen Stukel for a sign-up sheet. We can't promise *no hard words to pronounce* but wouldn't it be fun to pretend you know a foreign language?

# SERVING OTHERS



The monthly Community Dinner will be served on Christmas Day at Granite Falls Lutheran Church at 11:00 AM. WE (Granite Falls UCC) are going to be helping with the serving. Your presence is requested and we get to wear our brand-new red T-shirts!

We are asked to bring dessert, a “Gelatin Poke Cake” (see recipe below) in the red or green Christmas colors. We will also be cleaning up after the meal.

Please have the cakes and yourselves at Granite Lutheran by 10:30 AM. Call UCC office or Sharon Anderson to notify us of how many cakes or bodies will be coming.

## GELATIN POKE CAKE

**1 pkg. (2 layer size) white cake mix plus the usual cake ingredients**

**1 cup boiling water**

**1 pkg. (3 oz.) RED or GREEN colored gelatin**

**1/2 cup cold water**

**1 tub (8 oz.) whipped topping, thawed**

Prepare cake batter and bake as directed on package for a 13x9” pan. Cool cake in pan 15 minutes.

Pierce cake with large fork at 1/2” intervals.

Add boiling water to gelatin mix in small bowl; stir 2 minutes until completely dissolved. Stir in cold water; pour over cake. Refrigerate 3 hours.

Frost cake with whipped topping. Refrigerate 1 hour.

## December Scripture Readings

**ANNUAL BUDGET BRUNCH  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6  
AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

### 2nd Sunday of Advent—December 6

Malachi 3:1–4

Luke 1:68–79

Philippians 1:3–11

Luke 3:1–6

### 3rd Sunday of Advent—December 13

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Isaiah 12:2–6

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 3:7–18

### 4th Sunday of Advent—December 20

Micah 5:2–5a

Luke 1:46–55 or Psalm 80:1–7

Hebrews 10:5–10

Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

### Christmas Eve—December 24

Isaiah 9:2–7

Psalm 96:1–13

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14 (15–20) **1st Sunday after**

### Christmas—December 25

Isaiah 52:7–10

Psalm 98:1–9

Hebrews 1:1–4 (5–12)

John 1:1–14

### Christmas Day—December 27

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12–17

Luke 2:41–52



## FINANCE NEWS

October Income	\$3,354.00	YTD Income	\$41,849.25
October Expenses	\$3,354.03	YTD Expenses	\$40,449.00
Water repair expenses were over \$5,000.			

Current total raised is: \$4,810. **\$190 to go!**



### CLOTHING COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS

Ray Martin is collecting winter/warm clothing for the homeless again this year. He has asked for donations of decent large size coats, hoodies, and then regular sizes of long underwear, socks, anything warm that might help those out on the streets all day and night. The larger the size jackets and sweat shirts you can provide the better.

LAYERING is the key to cold weather protection.

Ray says he will come to the church to pick the items up or call him at: 320-564-4529.

The items are needed by **December 12** at the latest.



### CIRCLE OF STONES

*When: Thursday, December 3, 6:00pm*

*Where: Pearl Lenzen's home*

*Who: All Women, Bring Friends*

*What: Light Meal & Bible study*

*Gospel of Mark Chapter 5*

*Study handouts are in your mailboxes at church*

## DINNER AT YOUR DOOR

Dinner At Your Door Drivers for November were Sharon, Dick and Amanda, Shelly Gaffaney, Janelle Komplein, Helen Stukel, John Butterbrodt, Curt Soine and Darrell and Hazel Carter.

This has to be the last week that our church will be lugging those dinner containers up those infamous stairs! I can hardly wait to put out the yellow sheet for you to sign for deliveries out of those new kitchens with no stairs.

We will close out the year with delivering December 27 - January 2. With so many activities during this time of the holidays, your willingness to help others will really be needed. It will also be a good way to start the new year by helping others.

Ruby Hieb

**STORIES OF FAITH**  
will return in the January  
issue of the ENCOUNTER.

## *Santa's Sleigh*

Yellow Medicine Co. program to provide toys and gifts to needy children age 17 & younger is asking for assistance for 2015 holiday season.

If you know a family with children that fit this category encourage them to contact Barb Jacobson at:

320-564-2211 or  
[santas.sleigh@co.ym.gov](mailto:santas.sleigh@co.ym.gov)

The county also would like monetary donations which can be dropped off at YMC Family services or mailed to:

**Santa's Sleigh**  
c/o Family Service Center  
930 4th Street, Suite 4  
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Sponsoring a family or being a volunteer shopper is also needed.





**UCC Council Minutes (Approved)**  
**Granite Falls United Church of Christ**  
**(Congregational)**  
**October 14, 2015**

Called to order @ 7:00 pm.

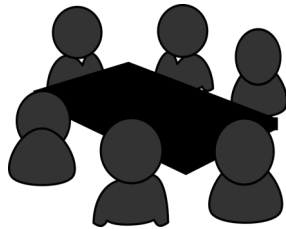
Sharon did devotions.

Present: Bryan M, Spencer K, Peggy K, Dan M, Sharon A, Steve Z, Janie A, Terry V, Karen SD, Sue S

Agenda

New business: additions

Snow Plowing  
Washing the church  
Recycling  
Fat Tuesday  
Church letterhead  
Church Secretary position will be moved to the last item and discussed in Karen's absence.



Agenda accepted with the above changes.

*Sue/Karen/U*

Minutes from September 9, 2015:

Approved with the change of Luther to Lutheran.

*Peggy/Bryan/U*

Committee reports

Christian Ed has not met. Bryan sorted through old files and archived material, disposed of duplicates. Last Bible presentation dates for Laurie and Ali, in September 2007. Simone received a pew bible. Should be replaced with a newer edition. Job description, etc.

Worship and Membership has not met. Will meet at the end of the month.

Building and Maintenance has not met. Bell tower lights are not coming on. Schedule a workday. October 24<sup>th</sup>? 9:30 AM. Power washer (Dustin) for the whole building for \$650.00. Snow plowing \$35.00 per push. Steve will talk to Curt (Eric) Soine about modifying the contract—standard is no clearing until just before Sunday, we will call if we need it sooner.

Stewardship—discussed the small group sessions and drafted some questions. E-mailed to stewardship committee meeting. Next stewardship meeting is November 1. Budget brunch is the first Sunday in December.

Memorials, Bequests, Special Gifts—Will meet on Sunday after church.

Joint Parish Council has not met.

Wider Church happenings—Lutheran monthly meal? Our name is in and we have to tell them when. January or March preferably.

Committee reports accepted as given.

*Sue/Karen/U*

Financial report

September—the annuities hit us hard but what is showing up

in the budget is only the expense side. We will receive payment for half of it from the Montevideo church. We're still in the black even with the huge water pipe bill.

All the annuity and health insurance payments should be in September. Provide a line of explanation in the bulletin so people don't panic—that represents six months of payments. Bought a new humidifier.

Report accepted with appreciation.

*Steve/Sue/U*

Pastor's Report

Written report disseminated.

Ministerium in Montevideo includes both Granite Falls and Montevideo.

Small group meetings are getting scheduled.

Book study. Well attended, well received.

Confirmation is generally 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Samone is 13.

Needs basics. Peggy K will take the lead working with her on Wednesday evenings before choir practice.

Old Business

Invite Rosalene and Dan Mooney and make a presentation of gratitude for all her years of office assistant work.

Church shirts are ordered.

Small group meetings --16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

New Business

- ♦ February 9<sup>th</sup> is Fat Tuesday. Committee can begin working.
- ♦ Recycling—I (Terry) can pick up containers.
- ♦ Letterhead—has been scanned and saved to computer now.
- ♦ Church secretary position  
Karen SD and Cindy Fox were only two applicants. Cindy only wants to work evenings and Saturdays. Karen applied for both churches. Mark Rekow is OK with it. Dan does not have concerns about boundaries.

Church Use Requests

Nov. 2, Living at Home Block Nursing—20 people to use fellowship hall and kitchen in the morning.

*Approved by consensus*

Devotions for our next meeting—Veterans Day October 14  
Terry will do devotions.

Motion to adjourn  
with Lord's Prayer  
*Peggy*

Meeting adjourned  
at 8:55pm.

Respectfully  
submitted,

Terry VanDerPol,  
clerk



**GRANITE FALLS  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
210 Ninth Avenue  
Granite Falls MN 56241  
Change Service Requested  
THE ENCOUNTER  
December Issue No. 12**



#### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY**

**PASTOR: REV. DAN MAIDEN  
OFFICE ASSISTANT: KAREN SCHMIDT-DILL  
ORGANIST: JOAN LUNDELL**

**MODERATOR: SPENCER KVAM  
TREASURER: JANIE ATOR  
CHOIR DIRECTOR: JEFF IVERSON**

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS: KAREN SCHMIDT-DILL, PASTOR DAN MAIDEN AND SUE SELDEN**

**CHURCH ADDRESS: 210 NINTH AVENUE, GRANITE FALLS, MN 56241  
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS: [uccgf@mvtvwireless.com](mailto:uccgf@mvtvwireless.com) CHURCH PHONE: 320-564-2442**

**PASTOR DAN'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: [revmaiden@msn.com](mailto:revmaiden@msn.com)  
HOME PHONE: 320-379-1051 CELL PHONE: 941-932-0163  
G.F PASTOR'S HOURS: 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 PM WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY & BY APPOINTMENT**

**OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. WED & FRI—GRANITE; MON. (optional); TU & TH —MONTE  
WEB SITE: [www.granitefallsucc.org](http://www.granitefallsucc.org)**



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING with the COMMUNITY CHOIR**

**Sunday, December 20th**

**5:30 PM Manor**

**7:15 PM Henry Hill**

**6:15 PM Granite Ridge Place**

**Following Caroling: Party at**

**6:45 PM Riverview Apartments**

**Hazel and Darrell Carter's**

**BRING POTLUCK APPETIZER TREATS TO SHARE**

**Music is Provided**

**All are Welcome!**