

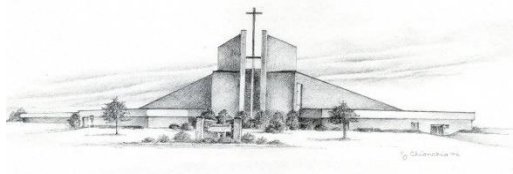
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Sunday Worship:
8:30 AM

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Hometown Broadcasting
WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



Worship Services

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gelcberlin

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbOerRk5PMk1QWI9qtZ5_g



- August 4 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- August 11 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- August 18 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- August 25 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)

**Grace Lutheran's Mission: We Gather to Worship, Grow, Care, and Share
"All Are Welcome In This Place"**

From the Pastor:

In his book *Becoming A People of Grace: An Exposition of Ephesians*, Charles Swindoll shared this story:



Just before World War II, tragedy burned its way through the little town of Itasca, Texas, scorching the hearts of nearly every family who live there. The local school caught fire, and 263 children died in its heat.

Itasca's residents had neither the drive nor the resources to rebuild the school while the war raged on. But the end of the war brought hope, and soon the walls went up on a new building. The fire was not forgotten, however. This time, the school installed the finest sprinkler system technology could design.

When the project was complete, the townspeople came out in droves to see the facility. Honor students guided visitors through a tour, the highlight of which was the reassuring sight of sprinkler heads standing guard over the heads of the pupils. Parents sent their children to class with confidence, secure in the knowledge that a school fire would never again claim young lives in Itasca.

Just seven years later, though, the town had grown, and already the school needed to be enlarged. As workmen began construction, they discovered an appalling fact.

The best sprinkler system their money could buy had never been connected.

That story makes me shudder. But too many of us live every day with a disconnection of even greater proportions. We fail to connect to our source of power.

In Ephesians 1:15-23, Paul prays for the Ephesian believers that they may know God better, understand the hope of their calling, and grasp the incredible power available to them as followers of Christ. Paul urges them and us to connect deeply to God's power. It's not just about knowing it exists but actively plugging into it through prayer, worship, and a deepening relationship with God.

When we tap into God's power, we're not just accessing raw energy; we're embracing transformation. Our lives are illuminated with wisdom and understanding, strength and perseverance. Challenges that once seemed insurmountable become opportunities for growth and testimony. We become agents of God's love and grace in a world hungry for hope.

How are you connecting to God's power in your life? Are you daily seeking His presence, relying on His strength in times of need, and allowing His wisdom to guide your decisions? As you do, you can echo Paul's prayer, knowing that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work within us, shaping us into vessels of God's glory.

May you find inspiration to deepen your connection to God's power and live out your faith boldly, knowing that in Him, we are empowered beyond measure.

Blessings,
Pastor Rebekah

GRACE ENGLISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 6.10.24

President Linda called the meeting to order at 6:59pm.

Council members present; Pastor Rebekah, Linda Reetz, Terry Wallace, Sandy Peschke, Becky Olsen, Jody Ziemann, Anita Lind, Craig Chovanec, Bob Prellwitz.

Perspective Council member; Heidi Schramer

Congregation member present; Diane Toraason

Opening Devotion. Provided by Terry Wallace.

Approval of the Agenda. Jody made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Anita, motion carried.

Audience Remarks. Diane asked permission to speak during the new business item Shared Ministry Covenant, if needed. Linda gave permission to speak as needed.

Secretary's Report. May meeting minutes were circulated via email, corrections made. Motion made by Craig to accept report as written, seconded by Bob, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. May financial report, including the check detail, provided. Sandy provided explanations to questions. Discussion held on Good Samaritan fund. Sandy will create a line item for the Good Samaritan Fund to provide clarity of the exact amount in this fund. Sandy also informed the council that the total amount of giving from January - May of 2024 is down \$5,068.00 compared to the same time period in 2023. Linda provided the council with a copy of the current investment profile. Motion made by Anita to accept the report, seconded by Jody, motion carried.

President's Report. Linda created, handed out and discussed a document entitled 'Ground Rules if Conflict Arises'. This document was initiated by Cathy Cowling and was a topic of discussion at the council retreat. Linda created, handed out and discussed a document entitled 'The Shared Interests of Grace English Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church'.

Investment Committee. Linda presented the Investment Committee's purpose and functions language, first reading. The Investment Committee language will be added to our Constitution as Continuing Resolution C13.10.B24. Discussion held. Linda will convey council's recommendations of changes to the committee for consideration prior to final council approval.

Buildings and Grounds. Linda discussed that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has completed a 5-10 year maintenance plan for our building, thanking Bob for his work in completing this plan.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Rebekah reported Pastoral Acts of visitation to Marian Ryan and two members at First. She also included a list of ongoing activities and meetings. Reporting she will be on vacation July 11-17th. Pastor and Jessica are working on a service of favorite hymns and scripture, including the history behind the hymns, for the July 14th worship service.

Committee Reports.

Fellowship and Caring. Jody reported no 6.9.24 meeting due to the congregation workshop following service. Next meeting is planned for 7.14.24, following service. She reported that the immediate responsibility for the group is to ensure Sunday fellowship is provided.

Buildings and Grounds. Bob reported ongoing lawn maintenance. Reported that another Ash tree may need removal in the near future. The parking lot cracks were resealed, some may need further filling and he will contact the company regarding additional needs. Carpet cleaning will be completed on 7.29 and 7.30. Janitors will try to remove spots from a few pew cushions. He reported that he has completed the 5-10 year maintenance plan for the building and has given the data to Linda. Next meeting is 8.12.24 at 6pm.

Christian Education. No report. Anita reported no upcoming meeting date for the group.

Worship and Music. No report. Heidi reported that they may hold a meeting in July.

Mission and Outreach. Craig reported that the mission of the month is Disaster Relief. He reported that this mission is one that our members respond to the most. In recent years we have focused on tornadoes twice, 2011 and 2017 were two of the deadliest years in history. He reported that in 2017 a tornado killed 71 in Alabama, 156 in Missouri (injuring another 900) and a tornado in Chetek, Wisconsin carved a path of destruction 83 miles long. Just a few weeks ago we had tornado sirens in Berlin, while we had no tornado many others were not so fortunate. The rebuilding process following tornadoes is long and challenging. The ELCA Disaster Relief brings hope, healing and renewal to many whose lives have been affected by disasters.

Finance Committee. Terry provided a written summary of the recent joint Finance Committee meeting held with First. The next meeting for Grace's Finance Committee is 7.23.24 at 1pm.

Unfinished Business.

Joint Parish Council. The councils have an upcoming meeting on 6.17.24 at First Lutheran at 630pm. Membership Committee. Becky reported that the group plans to meet closer to the end of the year to ensure accuracy of our annual congregation membership reporting to the ELCA, due 3.1.25.

Christian Education Committee. The Christian Education Committee's language was read for the second time. Motion made by Anita to accept the new Christian Education Committee language, seconded by Terry, motion carried. This committee will be identified in the Constitution as Continuing Resolution C13.10.A24.

New Business.

Resignation. Mary Gropp resigned from the council position, Worship and Music Liaison. Motion made by Jody to accept resignation, seconded by Craig, motion carried. Thank you note sent to Mary for her service.

Appointment of the council Worship and Music Liaison. Heidi Schramer volunteered to fill the position. Motion made by Craig to appoint Heidi to the position, seconded by Terry, motion carried. Heidi will fill this position until the next annual meeting.

Renaming of the General Investment Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund. Discussion held on the renaming of the fund. Following a lengthy discussion Becky made a motion to table the item until the July council meeting, to allow time for the gathering of more information, seconded by Sandy, motion carried. Terry will reach out to Steve Abrahamson for additional information to include the benefits and risks of changing this fund. The general fund will no longer receive \$550.00/month from RBC if the change of this fund is approved.

Shared Ministry Covenant. Discussion held at a recent meeting with First Lutheran, (representing Grace were Linda and Terry). Linda informed the council that First representatives have agreed to a 55% - 45% shared ministry agreement and that their representatives would take this figure to their council for consideration. Motion made by Terry to change Grace's financial portion of the Shared Ministry Covenant to 55% (Grace) with First Lutheran carrying the 45% of the shared finance, and to adopt line item # 7 milage changes, seconded by Heidi, motion carried. This approved motion will be discussed at the Joint Parish Council meeting on 6.17.24. If the changes to the Shared Ministry Covenant are approved by both councils (Grace and First Lutheran) these changes will become effective on 7.1.24.

Memorial Funds Form. Discussion held on a new form designed to assist families with bequests. Sandy will add additional 'areas' of designating to the form and present it at our July meeting.

Congregation workshop. Discussion held on the 6.9.24 workshop. Some members that attended stated that it was a positive event. No further workshops have been scheduled at this time.

Council Retreat. Discussion held on the event. No further action taken.

Closing Prayer. Provided by Pastor Rebekah.

Adjournment. Motion made by Jody to adjourn, seconded by Anita, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Olsen, Secretary
6.17.24

Linda Reetz – President		920-279-7899	linda.reetz0726@gmail.com
Terry Wallace – Vice President		920-344-1523	terrywallace@charter.net
Sandy Peschke – Treasurer		920-290-1551	kspeschke1950@gmail.com
Becky Olsen – Secretary		920-290-4485	olsenfamilyshorthorns@gmail.com
Heidi Schramer – Music/Worship		920-361-4097	schramer@charter.net
Anita Lind – Christian Education		920-290-1374	anita_lind@charter.net
Jody Ziemann – Fellowship/Caring		920-361-1326	lajirafa@hotmail.com
Craig Chovanec – Missions/Outreach		920-361-3727	craigfchovanec@centurytel.net
Bob Prellwitz – Building/Grounds		920-361-0669	bobprellwitz@yahoo.com



Fall Schedule for Sunday School and Confirmation

Sunday School will start on September 8, 2024. We are excited to begin the 2024-2025 school year. Sunday School is for youth going into 4K through 6th grade. Watch the mail for your registration form or call the office to sign up for Sunday School by September 1, 2024.

Confirmation Classes will start on September 11, 2024. Confirmation class is held on Wednesday evening. More information to follow.

Mission of the Month - Paige Soper

My name is Paige Soper and I am on staff full time with Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at UW-Oshkosh. I have been a part of Chi Alpha throughout my years of college and it completely changed my life!

From the first week of setting foot on campus, I was welcomed home and into the best family of people I could ask to be a part of. I was invested in, mentored, and was taught about having a personal relationship with Jesus. My faith wouldn't be what it is today if I hadn't found this community. As a missionary with Chi Alpha, I will be mentoring students in a one-on-one setting, leading a women's small group, and helping with our large group church services on Monday nights, and outreach opportunities.

I also just recently took the role of leading our Community Builders team. This is a team of students who plan and organize fun events like hatchet throwing, going to a trampoline park, an all-night lock-in and more! These events aren't as churchy as a Bible study and the idea is for them to invite friends who are non-believers to these events so they too can find community and more friends within our group.

My passion is to reach college students with the love of Jesus and help them grow in their relationship with Him. If you are interested in ways to pray for me as a campus missionary and/or considering giving financially to my ministry, I will be speaking at Grace Lutheran and will have an information table set up at the service on August 11th.

Currently, I am also trying to raise a monthly budget as well, but the donations brought in this month at Grace Lutheran will be used for meeting and getting to know new students that we will meet in September when the freshmen move in. This looks like taking new students out for coffee and food to get to know them better, purchasing Bibles for new students who lack one, and outreach opportunities on the campus.

Thank you!



Women of Grace Annual Salad Supper Tuesday, August 5th at 6:15 PM

Please bring a salad to share
Plates, silverware, dinner rolls/butter, dessert & beverages will be provided

Please join us on Monday, August 5th for our annual Salad Supper. Our guest speaker will be Pam Mork, who will share with us her recent mission trip to Africa. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Kiosk.

Also, remember that our Salad Supper also serves as a baby shower for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring items for the LWR Layettes. A list of items needed is printed in this newsletter.



“Three Weeks with My Brother” by Nicholas Sparks is the Grace Book Club’s book for August. In January 2003, Nicholas Sparks and his brother, Micah, set off on a three-week trip around the globe. It was to mark a milestone in their lives, for at thirty-seven and thirty-eight respectively, they were now the only surviving members of their family. And as they voyaged to the lost city of Machu Picchu high in the Andes. . . to mysterious Easter Island. . . to Ayers Rock in the Australian outback. . . and across the vast Indian subcontinent, the ultimate story of their lives would unfold.

Against the backdrop of the wonders of the world and often overtaken by their feelings, daredevil Micah and the more serious, introspective Nicholas recalled their rambunctious childhood adventures and the tragedies that tested their faith. And in the process, they discovered startling truths about loss, love and hope. Narrated with irrepressible humor and rare candor, and including personal photographs, **“Three Weeks with My Brother”** reminds us to embrace life with all its uncertainties. . . and most of all, to cherish the joyful times, both small and momentous, and the wonderful people who make them possible.

We will meet to discuss **“Three Weeks with My Brother”** on Tuesday, August 13th at 12:00 Noon at A.J.’s Riverside Coffee Shop. If you have already read this book, please consider joining us for discussion. If you would like to read **“Three Weeks with My Brother”** and join in the discussion on the 13th, please contact Cindy Wallace and she will get you a copy. We would love to have you join us.

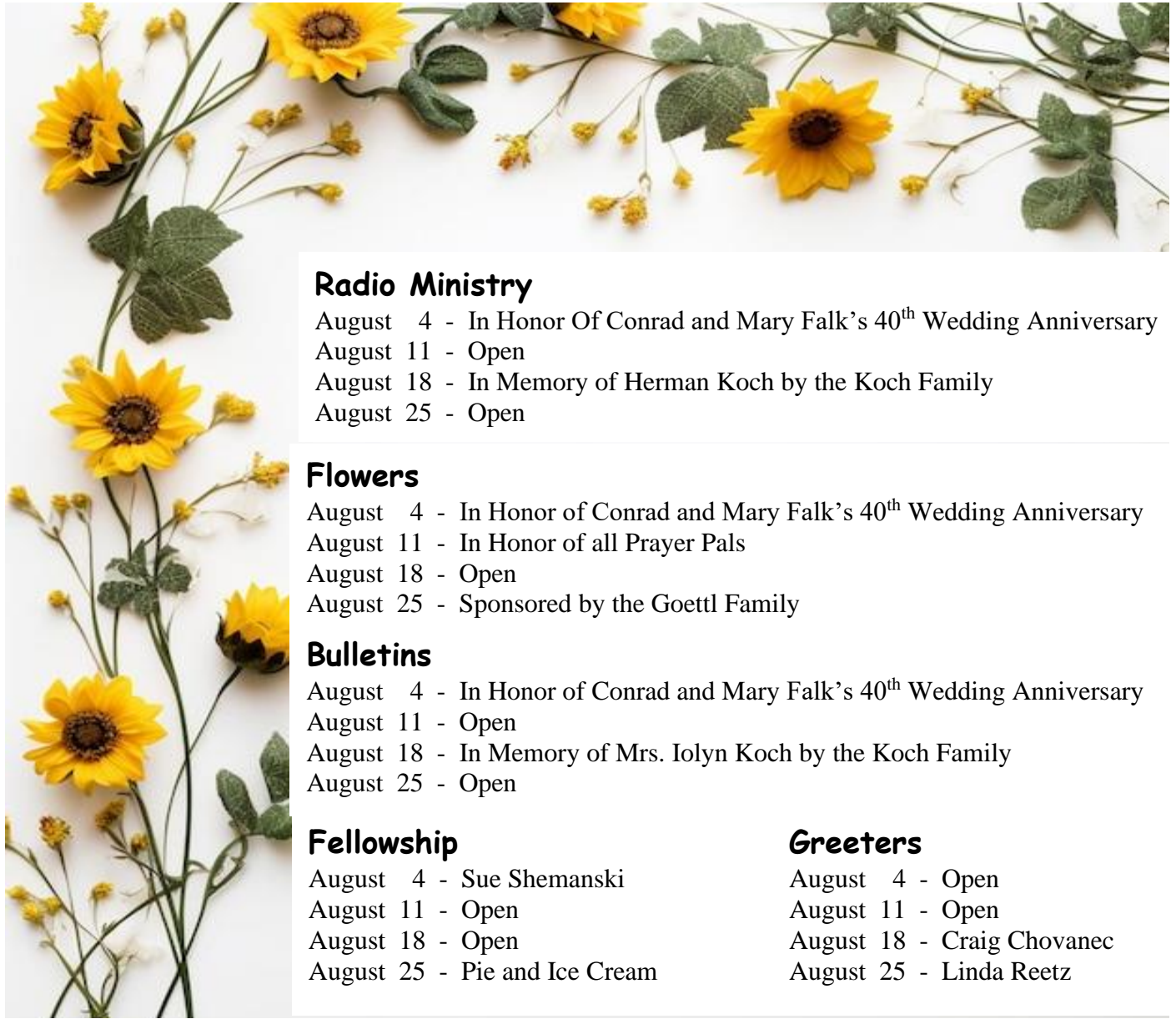


Polka Church Service - August 25, 2024 Followed by a Pie and Ice Social

On Sunday, August 25 we will once again welcome the Albright Polka Band to lead our music at the 8:30 am worship service.

Immediately following worship, the council members will provide pie and ice cream for the fellowship.

All are welcome, please invite family, neighbors, friends, members of the Berlin community to join us!



Radio Ministry

- August 4 - In Honor Of Conrad and Mary Falk's 40th Wedding Anniversary
- August 11 - Open
- August 18 - In Memory of Herman Koch by the Koch Family
- August 25 - Open

Flowers

- August 4 - In Honor of Conrad and Mary Falk's 40th Wedding Anniversary
- August 11 - In Honor of all Prayer Pals
- August 18 - Open
- August 25 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family

Bulletins

- August 4 - In Honor of Conrad and Mary Falk's 40th Wedding Anniversary
- August 11 - Open
- August 18 - In Memory of Mrs. Iolyn Koch by the Koch Family
- August 25 - Open

Fellowship

- August 4 - Sue Shemanski
- August 11 - Open
- August 18 - Open
- August 25 - Pie and Ice Cream

Greeters

- August 4 - Open
- August 11 - Open
- August 18 - Craig Chovanec
- August 25 - Linda Reetz



Church Choir Welcome Back Rehearsal

I am excited to announce that our Church Choir will be starting again on August 21!

Of course, we are welcoming back all of our members that have been with us in the past, but there may be some in our church family who are interested in joining choir that haven't been in a choir since middle or high school. You may miss singing in a group or miss having fellowship time with others who enjoy singing. We are a very flexible group, and you can come and sing when you are available. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm, and we sing two Sundays a month on average.

We would like to invite you to join us for our first rehearsal at 7 pm with time afterward to answer questions and join in fellowship and conversation. If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Fritz at fritzjkke@gmail.com.



August Birthdays

- 2 Lee Born
- 2 Cheryl Heil
- 3 Anna Falk
- 3 Lisa Lee
- 3 Brady Retzlaff
- 3 Joseph Schmidt
- 4 Tammy Retzlaff
- 5 Lincoln O'Brien
- 8 Bonnie Schenk
- 9 Logan Kline
- 10 Timothy Krentz
- 10 David Olsen
- 11 Gerald Pomplun
- 12 Ana Nelson
- 14 James Lehr
- 15 Susan Strom
- 16 Dan Roggow
- 20 William Krebs
- 22 Jean Dretske
- 24 Caylie Krebs
- 25 Austin Haedt
- 26 Judith Gallert
- 27 Mary Gropp
- 29 Diane Timm
- 29 Tanner Zabel
- 30 Ike Dobbs
- 31 Cheryl Chappa
- 31 Craig Chovanec
- 31 Lois Stark
- 31 Callyn Strebelinski



August Anniversaries

- 4 Conrad & Mary Falk - 40th
- 4 Tim & Joan Koch
- 8 Jim & Kim Lehr
- 12 Jerry & Linda Reetz
- 13 Lee & Barb Born
- 13 Bill & Lisa Lee
- 15 Scott & Tammy Greening
- 19 Paul & Candy Gravunder - 35th
- 19 Rod & Debbie Krause
- 21 Gary & Jan Knoke
- 21 Patrick & Teresa Murkley
- 22 Jerry & Phyllis Luttrupp
- 25 William & Jan Krebs

Communication and Conflict

The final workshop for the congregation this summer facilitated by Cathy Cowling will be held on Tuesday, August 6 beginning at 6 pm and scheduled to run for about 90 minutes.

If you have not attended any other session, you may still come to this one. We ask that you sign up either on the kiosk or by contacting the office.



2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30 am Worship with Communion	5 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 6:15 pm Ladies Salad Supper	6 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Meeting with Cathy Cowling	7 6:00pm Bible Study	8	9	10
11 8:30 am Worship With Communion	12 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	13 9:00 am Staff Meeting	14 6:00 pm Bible Study	15	16	17
18 8:30 am Worship With Communion	19 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	20 9:00 am Staff Meeting	21 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	22	23	24
25 8:30 am Polka Sunday with communion Pie Social to Follow Worship	26 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	27 9:00 am Staff Meeting	28 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	29	30	31