

Grace English Lutheran Church,

384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

Rebekah Tarras, Pastor

Email: pastortarras@gmail.com

Cellphone: 715-897-5393

Jessica Fritz – Worship and Music Coordinator

Jeremy Fritz – Choir Director

Sandy Peschke – Office Assistant

Penny Bahn – Office Assistant

(920) 361-1820

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Email: gracelutheranberlin@gmail.com

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Sunday Worship:

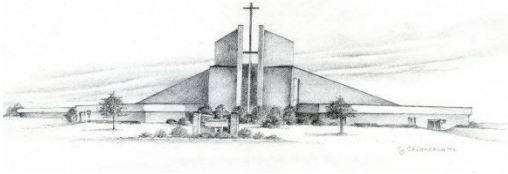
8:30 AM

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

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|--------|----|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| August | 7 | - | Worship at 8:30 am | (In person and online) |
| August | 14 | - | Worship at 8:30 am | (In person and online) |
| August | 21 | - | Worship at 8:30 am | (In person and online) |
| August | 28 | - | Polka 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"**

Hello from Intern Kathy:



Thank you all for your loving and friendly welcome, and especially for making the commitment to provide this internship opportunity. I have so appreciated the warmth that I have felt while spending time with you. Here are a few personal things about me for us to get more acquainted.

I reside west of Oshkosh near the outlet mall, within dwellings on shared family property for all but 11 years of my life. My first career of 35 years was as a computer programmer, software tester and department manager including 11 years in Milwaukee and 24 years working from my home in Oshkosh. I have remained single, and have no children, but enjoy time-spent with my 4 sibling's children and grand-children. One might say I was married to my prior career.

I have been an active church musician for over 40 years. God called me to Calvary Lutheran of Oshkosh in 2009 to be a choir director and evening worship song leader. Although I believed these to be my intended ministry, God's plan was different, and I entered into seminary study in 2020.

I openly share that seminary has been difficult for me as a sensory learner. My dyslexia creates great challenges while reading 25-30 required books each semester, and entails focused concentration and practice time for reading aloud. Through my internship, I hope you will see growth in me becoming more comfortable and natural with my speaking.

My hobbies include horses, kitties, flowers, sewing, singing, playing guitar, pencil coloring, seasonal home decorating and Charles Wysocki puzzles. I love to cook meals and clean, which I attribute to my mother as well as her gift of gab. I have many allergies including most cosmetics, metals, milk sugars and fermented or aged foods. Tyramine levels elevate in any food as it ages, so dishes with high ingredients of vinegar, soy sauce, aged cheese (years), cured meats and alcohol are among the ones I avoid. Wine and vinaigrettes are most symptomatic.

I hope to courageously experiment in my internship to find my unique genuine style, and welcome your feedback and encouragement. Internships are a time of growth and learning about who we are to be within the body of Christ. Thank you for taking this journey with me.

Up Coming Church Events

- August 7 -- Rite of Beginning for Intern Kathy.
- August 9 -- Ladies Salad Supper and Baby Shower.
- August 13 -- Men's Breakfast at Grace Lutheran.
- August 16 -- Men's Steak Fry at Dave Barbola Residence.
- August 28 -- Polka Worship Service and Pie Social. Featuring the Larry Albright Band. Public is invited.
- August 31 -- Praise Team and Adult Choir Practice begins.
- September 11 -- Joint worship in the park with First Lutheran at Poy Sippi. Pot luck to follow worship.
- September 14 -- Confirmation class begins.
- September 18 -- Sunday School starts.

**REGULAR GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING – FELLOWSHIP HALL 11
Monday, June 13, 2022**

Present: Bill Bartlett, Cindy Wallace, Tricia Prellwitz, Becky Guden, Jody Ziemann, Sue Shemanski, Matt Dretske, Linda Reetz, Craig Chovanec and Pastor Rebekah Tarras.

President Bill Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Linda Reetz led us in opening prayer.

The May Council minutes were presented. Linda Reetz made a motion to accept the minutes; Cindy Wallace seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Ministry Reports:

Pastor Rebekah's report listed her activities in May which included for Grace 1 baptism; and 1 Affirmation of Baptism. She did note that she will be taking vacation June 17 to June 24 and Pastor Becki Kindschi is on call for any emergencies. Also, Pastor may be taking the week of August 29 through September 5 as vacation with Intern Kathy leading worship.

May Treasurer's report was handed out by Cindy Wallace. Craig Chovanec made a motion to accept this report as presented; Jody Ziemann seconded. Motion approved. The May Check Detail was reviewed; Matt Dretske made a motion to approve all checks as written; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion approved.

Bill Bartlett presented an update on all investments. In May, the investments had gained back some that was lost but now in June, we may have lost that too. Still quite volatile and in a downward trend. The Investment Committee has approved Steve Abrahamson of RBC as our new consultant.

Matt Dretske handed out a list from Buildings & Grounds Committee of projects completed in the past month and those still waiting to be completed which include cleaning out the grease traps and installing the 3 new paper towel dispensers.

Sue Shemanski gave an update from the Christian Ed Committee that they met in May and have planned out the tentative schedule for the 2022/2023 school year with Sunday School starting the third Sunday in September.

Fellowship & Caring committee report was presented by Jody Ziemann. Jody advised that the committee would like a Master Event List to better plan or coordinate events; Sunday Fellowship during summer will be very basic but still need members to sign up to sponsor; June 26 will be Legacy Sunday to honor members that have been at Grace for a long period of time and the 40th anniversary of being in the current building. July 17 will be the joint service with First at Riverside Park along with a catered meal by Crossroads. August 28 will be our Polka Sunday featuring Larry Albright band and again have a pie social after service with a request that council provides the pies. This committee is always open to any other ideas or suggestions.

Tricia Prellwitz reported from the Worship & Music Committee that everything is set during Pastor's vacation to do the Service of the Word on June 19. A communion update was given that there will be an option to have communion at the rail once a month starting in October. Also, there may be a possibility to use a choir member with a mic to sing hymns during the service so the radio and Facebook listeners can better hear the song.

Craig Chovanec reported from the Missions & Outreach Committee June will be the same Mission of the Month of Funds for Leaders with Compassion Child being the Mission for July & August. But further in the meeting, this may change for coming months as needs have changed. Also, they will be looking at encouraging Berlin Food Pantry donations.

Old Business:

Pastor Rebekah gave an update on the Pastoral Internship. A Lay Internship Committee has been formed with members from Grace and First Lutheran. Intern Kathy will start August 1 with the rite being performed on August 7. Office space at Grace is being created in the east wing; Kathy does plan on attending events coming up this summer to get to know everyone plus she will write an introduction of herself in upcoming newsletter.

A volunteer coordinator position was discussed again with the position being called "Ministry Assistant". The position would be a paid position with around 10 hours per week, with duties of calling for volunteers to help with various events; help with wedding parties and with funeral directors in the church. Sue Shemanski made a motion to develop this job description and pursue to hire a Ministry Assistance; Tricia Prellwitz seconded. Motion approved.

A list of responses from the online survey that have been received so far asking for input on which direction members would like to see Grace pursue. 18 members have completed the survey, so a paper form will be handed out to members the next couple of services to better facilitate the survey.

The idea of a programmable outdoor sign was discussed to hopefully be in the same area our current sign is on the corner of Oak & Memorial. It could advertise our services, Soul Food and any other upcoming events at Grace. Council decided to start gathering the information needed to do this; including the cost, programming via wi-fi, city ordinances, etc.

New Business:

Paige Soper, granddaughter of member Barb Tollakson, has brought a request to help sponsor her during her year term with Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at UW-Oshkosh. This fellowship would help bring the gospel of Jesus to students and other Christian based outreach programs. She is currently looking for donations to help her with the \$2,000 monthly budget. Linda Reetz made a motion that Grace should send her \$100/month for the next year to help her on this mission; Jody Ziemann seconded. Motion approved. Craig will make this a Mission of the Month to help her collect more donations and will contact Paige to do a presentation to the congregation.

Bill Bartlett advised that Grace may be at the point of outsourcing the cleaning crew as the volunteer group is dwindling. An announcement will be made at upcoming services requesting more volunteers with the possibility of having two alternate crews. If not, council will start looking for a person/persons or company that will come in to clean and this would be a paid position or expense.

Pastor Rebekah led us in Closing Prayer.

Linda Reetz made a motion to adjourn; Matt Dretske seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Guden
Council Secretary

Church Council

Bill Bartlett – President	920-229-9155	wlbartlett54923@bmail.com
Linda Reetz – Vice President	920-361-2845	linda.reetz0726@gmail.com
Cindy Wallace – Treasurer	920-229-3772	cindy_wallace@charter.net
Becky Guden – Secretary	920-361-0364	bguden@live.com
Tricia Prellwitz – Music/Worship	920-572-7521	goodrich@vbe.com
Sue Shemanski – Christian Education	920-361-4506	Shemanski3@yahoo.com
Jody Ziemann – Fellowship/Caring	920-361-1326	lajirafa@hotmail.com
Craig Chovanec – Missions/Outreach	920-361-3727	craigfchovanec@centurytel.net
Matt Dretske – Building/Grounds	920-229-8653	md3boys@charter.net

Part-Time Job Opportunities

Ministries Assistant: Purpose is to assist in coordination volunteers for church activities and provide assistance with events. Main duties are volunteer coordinator, coordinate visitation ministry, wedding coordinator, funeral coordinator, learning sound system technology, and office support.

Church Custodian: Purpose is to keep the building clean, attractive and well-maintained by cleaning weekly and after special events. All jobs are to be completed before the next Sunday service.

If you are interested in either position, contact the office for a complete list of duties pertaining to each job.

Maggie the Church Mouse

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

Not long ago I heard a Grace member sharing this verse from the Psalms with a friend. One of her favorites, she said it came to mind every time she went for a walk. And now, each time I scamper outside, it comes to my mind, too. The world around me is majestic in all its beauty!

Today is one of those late-summer, brilliant-blue-sky days. I marvel at the pattern of clouds in the sky as I scurry through yards peppered with blooming flowers. Dashing through the park, I see ripples in the river sparkle as they catch the sunlight and make a joyful noise. Another Psalm from the Bible pops into my head:

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!”

Even the birds around me seem to be following those instructions to make beautiful music. Robins and bluebirds are singing their melodious tunes. A cardinal warbles his cheer-cheer-cheer. Then a chickadee darts past me saying his name, “Chick-a-dee-dee-dee!” It’s as captivating as a choir cantata – but don’t tell the choir members I said that!

Turning tail to return to Grace, the breeze picks up a bit and tickles the leaves of an adjacent birch tree. Its branches swing upward as if declaring glory to God in heaven. Suddenly the words of another Psalm are running through my thoughts:

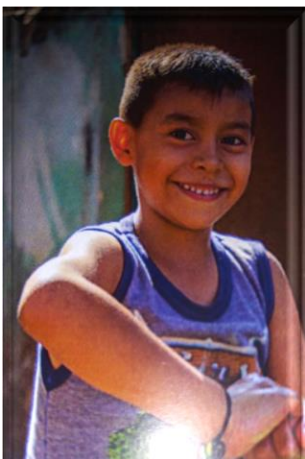
“The heavens declare the glory of God...”

I may only have a tiny mouse brain, but today I’m realizing I remember enough of the Psalms I’ve heard in church to be able to apply them in my daily life. Maybe they’re familiar to you, too. We have so much to be thankful for, each and every day!



“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Mission of the Month - Compassion Child Bryan



Grace has adopted another Compassion child. Bryan is 6 years old and is one of 67,329 Compassion-assisted children in El Salvador. He lives near San Julian, where most people speak Spanish. He lives with his father, a farmer and his mother who is sometimes employed as a homemaker. Typical homes where Bryan lives are made of tin and adobe.

Did you know that every Compassion center is run through a local church? Bryan attends the Pampanitos para Cristo Student Center.

There is not one way out of poverty because there is not just one kind of poverty. At Compassion, we fight poverty on every front – physical, spiritual, emotional, and educational.

Our gifts and prayers will help Bryan grow physically, mentally, and spiritually at the Compassion Center.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR MUSICAL



Fox Valley Performing Arts Center
Saturday, October 22, 2022 ~ 2:00 p.m. Matinee

Cost is \$75.00 per person and due by September 2, includes ticket in the Rear Dress Circle Section and roundtrip charter bus with pickup at Grace parking lot and First Lutheran Church. Times to be determined.

Please make check payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

Only 40 tickets could be reserved so First Come, First Serve! Additional tickets may be available but will not be with main group and in a different section.

If you have any questions, contact Becky Guden, 920-361-0364 or bguden@live.com

Annual Ladies Salad Supper and Baby Shower for Lutheran World Relief

Tuesday, August 9 at 6:15pm

Our guest presenter will be Pastor Connie Weiss who will share with us the recent trip she took to the Holy Land.

All women are invited, bring a friend.

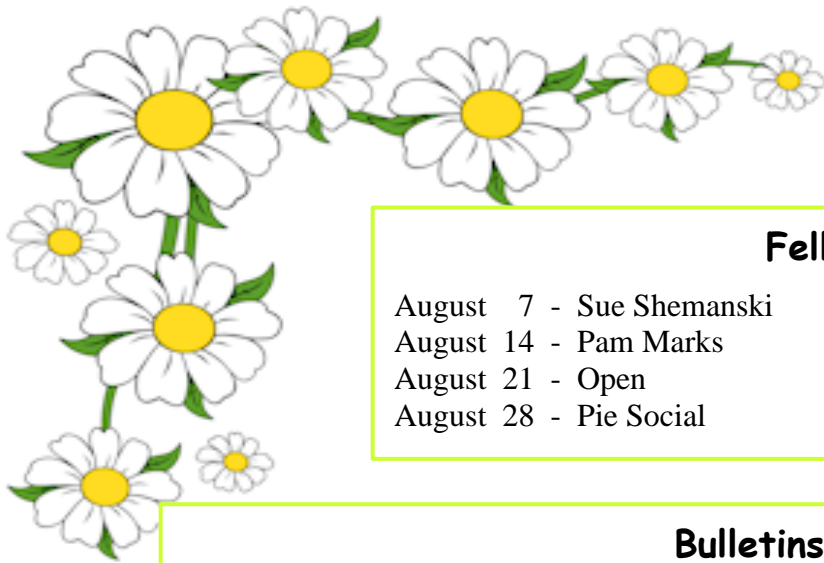
Please bring a salad to share (2 women to salad)

Bring plates and eating utensils. Rolls, drinks, and dessert will be provided

Sign up on the kiosk or call the church office

Our annual Salad Supper is also our annual Baby Shower for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring an item for the LWR baby layettes.





Fellowship

August 7 - Sue Shemanski
August 14 - Pam Marks
August 21 - Open
August 28 - Pie Social

Bulletins

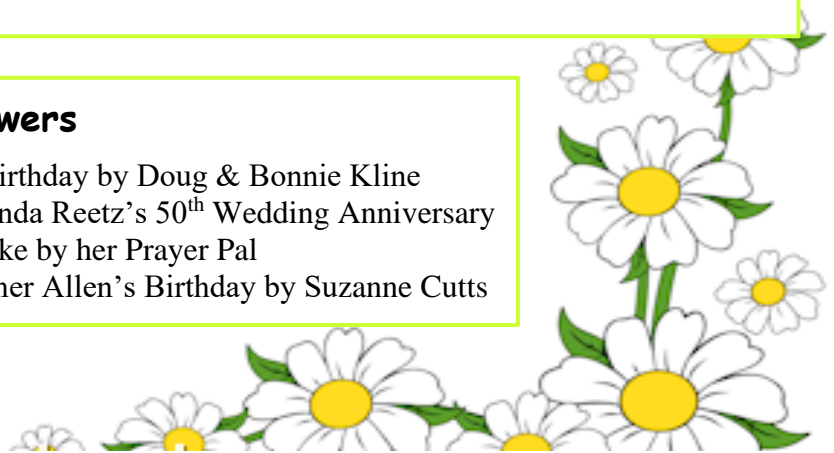
August 7 - In Honor of Logan's Birthday by Doug & Bonnie Kline
August 14 - In Honor of Jerry & Linda Reetz's 50th Wedding Anniversary
August 21 - Open
August 28 - In Memory/Honor of Sue & Stan Shemanski's Wedding Anniversary

Radio Ministry

August 7 - In Honor of Jerry & Linda Reetz's 50th Wedding Anniversary
August 14 - In Memory of her sister Peggy Murphy who passed away in February 2022 and her parents Freida & Harold Neitzke by Mary Lou Neubauer
August 21 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family
August 28 - Open

Flowers

August 7 - In Honor of Logan's Birthday by Doug & Bonnie Kline
August 14 - In Honor of Jerry & Linda Reetz's 50th Wedding Anniversary
August 21 - In Honor of Jean Dretske by her Prayer Pal
August 28 - In Memory of her brother Allen's Birthday by Suzanne Cutts



Men of Grace Events

Saturday, August 13 at 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast at Grace Lutheran

Tuesday, August 16 at 5:30 pm - Men's Steak Fry held at the Dave Barbola residence N236th Road, Berlin. Bring your own tableware, everything else will be provided. Price will be determined at the steak fry.

Please sign up on the kiosk for both events or call the church office at 920-361-1820.

LWR Summer Project - June, July, and August

As in prior years, the Ladies of Grace will be putting together kits for personal care, school supplies, and baby care. When you are out shopping, whether it be retail stores, garage sales, or flea markets, keep an eye out for the list of items needed. Any item(s) can be dropped off at church, anytime during the summer months.

Thrivent Action Cards can be applied for to purchase items for the kits. If you apply for the cards and want someone to “shop” for you, the ladies of Grace would be happy to do so. Just let the office staff know.

Kits will be assembled on September 13. If you have any questions, contact Bev Chadwick at 361-0860.

Personal Care

- 1 – light weight bath size towel dark color 20x40 or 27x52 (no larger please)
- 2 or 3 – bath size bars of soap 8 – 9 ounces total (in original wrapping)
- 1 – sturdy comb
- 1 – metal nail clipper

July School Supply Kit

- 4 – 70 sheet notebooks (wide or college rule)
- 1 – 30 centimeter ruler (or centimeters on one side inches on the other)
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – blunt pair of scissors
- 5 – black or blue pens (no gel ink)
- 1 – box of 16 – 24 crayons
- 1 – sturdy drawstring backpack (14" x 17") with shoulder straps

Baby Care Kit

- 2 – lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies)
- 2 – short or long sleeve sleepers (without feet)
- 2 – receiving blankets (between 36 – 52 inches)
- 4 – cloth diapers (flat fold preferred)
- 2 – diaper pins or large safety pins
- 2 – pairs of socks
- 1 – hand towel (dark color preferred)
- 2 – 3 bars of gentle soap (8 – 9 ounces total)

This is the last month to contribute items for the kits. So far, we have had very few items donated. Please consider what you can to make this mission project successful.



POLKA MUSIC



Polka Worship and Pie Social

Sunday, August 28 at 8:30 am. Worship service.

Invite family, friends, and neighbors to hear the Larry Albright Band and enjoy pie and fellowship after the service.



*Happy
Birthday*

August Birthdays

2 Lee Born
2 Cheryl Hein
3 Anna Falk
3 Lisa Lee
3 Brady Retzlaff
3 Joseph Schmidt
4 Tammy Retzlaff
4 Matt Werch
5 Lincoln O'Brien
8 Bonnie Schenk
9 Darran Dutcher
9 Alison Gerth
9 Logan Kline
10 Timothy Krentz
10 David Olsen
11 Gerald Pomplun
12 Vicki Konen
12 Ana Nelson
13 Courtney Kurth
14 James Lehr
15 Curt Emerson
15 Gary Knoke
15 Susan Strom
16 Dan Roggow
18 Siri Smits
20 William Krebs
22 Jean Dretske
23 Alan Hinz
24 Caylie Krebs
25 Austin Haedt
26 Judith Gallert
26 Donald Konen
26 Heather Master
29 Diane Timm
29 Tanner Zabel
30 Ike Dobbs
31 Craig Chovanec
31 Heather Hunt
31 Lois Stark
31 Callyn Strebelinski

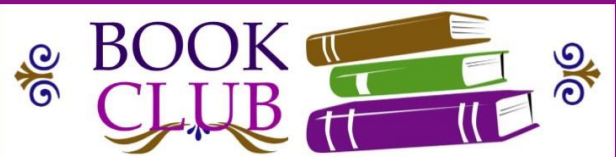


*Happy
Anniversary*

August Anniversaries

4 Conrad & Mary Falk
4 Tim & Joan Koch
8 Jim & Kim Lehr - 30th
12 Jerry & Linda Reetz - 50th
13 Lee & Barb Born
13 Bill & Lisa Lee
15 Scott & Tammy Greening - 30th
19 Paul & Candy Gravunder
19 Rod & Debbie Krause
19 Gary & Rose McGrath - 55th
19 Brian & Linda Zamzow - 50th
21 Gary & Jan Knoke
21 Patrick & Teresa Murkley
21 Jerry & Phyllis Luthropp
25 William & Jan Krebs
25 David & Bonnie Schenk
31 Eric & Tonia Krebs

If any birthdays or anniversaries were missed, please let the office staff know.



There has been interest in forming a book club at Grace this fall.

There is a sign-up sheet on kiosk if you share in that interest and would like to be part of the book club.

The day and time will be determined according to the group of people interested.

August

2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	2 9:00 am Staff Meeting	3 5:30 pm Crafters Group	4	5	6
7 8:30 am Worship with Communion	8 9:00 am Church Cleaning 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	9 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Ladies Salad Supper and Baby Shower	10	11	12	13 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Grace Lutheran
14 8:30 am Worship with Communion	15 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	16 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Men's Steak Fry	17 5:30 pm Crafters Group	18 1:00 pm Caregiver Group	19	20
21 8:30 am Worship with Communion	22 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	23 9:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Blood Drive	24 9:00 am Church Cleaning	25	26	27
28 8:30 am Polka Service with Communion and Pie Social	29	30	31 6:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice			



Joint Worship Service

Sunday, September 11 at 10:00 am First Lutheran Church will be hosting a worship in the park at Poy Sippi. A pot luck and bingo will follow the service.