

# **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:**

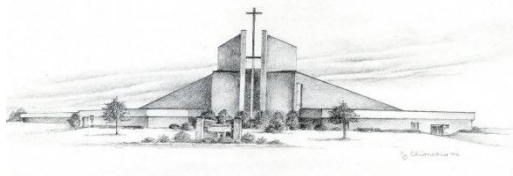
8:30 AM

## **Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Hometown Broadcasting: Sunday at 9:45 am

WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



## *Worship Services*

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/gelcberlin](https://www.facebook.com/gelcberlin)

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbOerRk5PMk1QWI9qtZ5\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbOerRk5PMk1QWI9qtZ5_g)



September 7 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 14 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 21 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 28 - 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”**

## Letter From the Pastor:

A few weeks ago, I spent 2 days participating in the Global Leadership Summit. It was two days packed with teaching and encouragement from leaders in ministry, business, and beyond. One particular message has stuck with me, and it came from a simple little verse in Acts 18.



The verse was about a man named Apollos. He had been working with the church in Ephesus and sensed God was calling him to move on to Greece. His fellow believers blessed him and sent him off with letters of recommendation. And then Acts 18:27 says, *“When he arrived there, he proved to be a great benefit to those who, by God’s grace, had believed”* (NLT).

That verse grabbed my attention: *“He proved to be a great benefit to the believers there.”*

Apollos didn’t try to make a name for himself, gather fans, or leave behind a monument. He simply showed up in a way that blessed others. His ministry encouraged and strengthened the believers. Another translation even says, *“he was an advantage to others.”*

I think this verse might be my new personal mission statement. I know that I am not perfect (just ask my family). I make mistakes - plenty of them! But at the end of the day, my hope is that my ministry here at First and Grace is a benefit to the believers.

But here’s the thing: this isn’t just about pastors. This verse is for all of us. As followers of Jesus, each of us is called to be a benefit to others. To encourage one another, to lift each other up, and to help strengthen the faith of those around us.

Hebrews 10:24 puts it this way: *“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”* That’s what being a benefit looks like - helping each other walk more closely with Jesus, offering hope when faith feels shaky, and showing love in a world that is starving for it.

So here’s my encouragement to you this month: ask yourself, *How can I be a benefit to someone else’s faith?* Maybe it’s praying with someone, or writing a quick note of encouragement. Maybe it’s finding a new way to serve at church, or simply showing up with kindness.

Apollos may not be the most famous name in Scripture, but his quiet example of faithful encouragement changed lives. And God can use you and me in the very same way.

Let’s be a benefit to each other, to our community, and to the world for the sake of the gospel, for the strength of Christ’s church, and for the glory of Jesus.

*Pastor Rebekah*

## Lay School

Did you know that our Synod offers a school specifically for you? The lay school exists to equip and challenge adults for their lives as disciples of Christ. The classes meet once a month on Friday evening and Saturday and meet in a hybrid format (in-person at two satellite locations and can be accessed remotely through a virtual link). Find out more information: <https://ecswlayschool.org/>

**Grace English Lutheran Church  
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2025**

Call to Order by Terry Wallace

Roll Call- Attending: Terry Wallace, Bob Prellwitz, Sandy Peschke, Heidi Schramer, Anita Lind, Sue Shemanski, Bonnie Kline and Pastor Rebekah

Absent: Linda Reetz and Tim Koch

Terry provided Opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda – Anita moved to approve the agenda as presented. Sue seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Terry suggested we start putting the draft of the Minutes on the kiosk again. Sandy agreed to do so. Bonnie moved to approve June Minutes as printed. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Sue moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Heidi. Motion carried.

Officer and Standing Committee Reports

- President-No report as Linda is on vacation

Pastor's Report – Pastor provided a written report for our review. Most importantly she suggested considering the option of moving to the Narrative Lectionary (vs. the Revised Lectionary we are presently using), possibly starting in December. This came about as a result of a discussion at the Lay Preaching Class where participants were asking about the present Lectionary and why it isn't more chronological, what the connections are between the readings each week (they aren't connected) and why we don't hear about many of the Bible readings in worship. After explanation and discussion, Anita made a motion to switch to the Narrative Lectionary starting in Dec with the Gospels. Second by Bonnie. Motion carried. There was discussion re: whether or not we should announce this to Congregation or just start it? To be determined.

- Committees –  
Fellowship and Caring – Bonnie shared that they haven't met since June meeting, but that the summer Fellowship schedule is filled. Their next meeting is Aug. 17 after church.

Building and Grounds – Bob distributed a written report. The new stove has been installed successfully and the old one scrapped. We discussed the problem of not being able to open the door going outside at the east side kitchen area entrance (old Youth Room) when it is hot and humid. Bob is getting tired of being asked about it! New door would be prohibitively expensive for a problem that only happens a short time in the year. We decided maybe it could be ground down a little to make it close easier as it has many layers of paint on it.

Christian Education- Anita shared that we helped sponsor 3 kids at church camp this summer (Pine Lake). This Committee will be meeting July 21<sup>st</sup> to establish a Sunday School calendar for the coming year. Sue threw out the idea of hiring a part-time paid Christian Ed. Supervisor to develop and implement programming for youth, adults and families. Would we attract more young people if we had someone dedicated to that role?

Worship and Music – Worship in the park went really well. 85 people ate and more attended the service and couldn't stay to eat. Heidi said there was some confusion re: who was in charge and next time it should just be the Council. Plans are in place for a service of hymns in July, First Lutheran's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Polka and Pie Social (Council is responsible for pies, serving and clean up).

Mission and Outreach – Tim was not here to report, but it was noted that Paige Soper presented about Compassion Child this past Sunday (Mission of the Month).

Finance Committee – Terry provided the minutes from the last Finance Committee Meeting and shared that there will not be a Finance Comm Mtg in July.

Investment Committee – Written Report provided. There was an approximate \$50,000 gain over all accounts invested in June 2025.

Outside the Box Outreach Committee-Heidi presented a written report from their 6/25/25 meeting. They are purchasing boots, snowpants, etc and we discussed taking the whole amount of \$6500 out of Leonard Jones Fund now to keep at Fortifi Bank for easier access as they purchase supplies for their outreach activities.

#### Unfinished Business

- The stove total with installation was \$8375. The Women's Group bought a new shelving rack and Soul Food purchased trays for cooking.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Anniversary Sign-up for duties/assistance Reminder.

#### New Business

- EMT Association Request – Sandy will make copies to put on table in Narthex if anyone wants to make a personal donation
- Sandy was provided a quote for the church garbage pick up once per month by Waste Mgt. and the quote was \$31.54/mo. We are presently paying GFL \$139/mo. She will do a little more exploration re: hidden fees, etc and we may decide to switch to Waste Mgt.
- Men's Steak Fry- Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>- Location to be determined.

Closing Prayer – Recited Lord's Prayer together.

Bonnie moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Anita. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sue Shemanski  
Secretary

Linda Reetz – President		920-279-7899	<a href="mailto:linda.reetz0726@gmail.com">linda.reetz0726@gmail.com</a>
Terry Wallace – Vice President		920-344-1523	<a href="mailto:tw9696@outlook.com">tw9696@outlook.com</a>
Sandy Peschke – Treasurer		920-290-1551	<a href="mailto:kspeschke1950@gmail.com">kspeschke1950@gmail.com</a>
Sue Shemanski – Secretary		920-361-4506	<a href="mailto:shemanski5@yahoo.com">shemanski5@yahoo.com</a>
Heidi Schramer– Music/Worship		920-361-4097	<a href="mailto:schramer@charter.net">schramer@charter.net</a>
Anita Lind – Christian Education		920-290-1374	<a href="mailto:anita_lind@charter.net">anita_lind@charter.net</a>
Bonnie Kline – Fellowship/Caring		920-570-2787	<a href="mailto:razn6mom@yahoo.com">razn6mom@yahoo.com</a>
Tim Koch – Mission Outreach		920-789-8358	<a href="mailto:koch6@charter.net">koch6@charter.net</a>
Bob Prellwitz – Building and Grounds		920-361-0669	<a href="mailto:bobprellwitz@yahoo.com">bobprellwitz@yahoo.com</a>

## Weekly Bible Study at Grace Resumes

The weekly Bible study at Grace led by Pastor Rebekah will resume on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. The study will be a continuation of the book of Luke. Anyone is welcome to join in this study.

**"Come One - Come All"!!  
Annual "Outside Clean Up Day"  
At Grace Lutheran Church  
Monday, September 15, 2025 starting at 9:00 a.m.**



"Many hands make light work" – come join us as we spruce up the exterior of our beautiful building and grounds. Many different tasks to complete – come ready to lend a hand!!



## **Lutheran World Relief**

**Quilts:** The ladies of Grace will resume sewing on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 9:00am. Can't sew? There is a job for you too! Come check out what the ladies do.

**Assemble and Pack:** On Tuesday, September 23, 2025 all the supplies donated will be assembled into the kits and packed for delivery on October 4, 2025. **Everyone** is invited to come and help starting at 9:00am.

**Trucks or Vans and Drivers Needed:** Vehicles and drivers are needed to deliver the kits to First English Lutheran Church in Appleton of Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, between 8:00am and 12:00 noon.



## **CHAIR YOGA**



Chair yoga exercise class will start up again on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 8:30am.

All are welcome to attend.....the majority of the class is done sitting on a chair.

Wear comfortable clothes.



## Mission of the Month – Fellowship of Christian Athletes



The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is touching millions of lives...one heart at a time.

Since 1954, FCA has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels to use the powerful platform of sport to reach every coach and every athlete with the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

FCA focuses on serving local communities around the globe by engaging, equipping, and empowering coaches and athletes to unite, inspire, and change the world through the gospel.

### Vision

To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

### Mission

To lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church.

### Values

Our relationships will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through Integrity, Serving, Teamwork, and Excellence.

### Strategy

We pursue our vision and mission through the strategy of, to, and through the coach

## Honoring Bev Chadwick

In May our very own Bev Chadwick was honored for her many years of service with a trip to Washington DC on the bus tour VetsRoll. On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, she shared with the congregation her experiences while serving in the military and on her bus trip. For her many, many years of dedication to the LWR quilt project, the storage area where all the material is kept was named, "Bev's Closet."

**Bev's Comments:** "I would like to thank all who helped in any way to welcome me home from the VetsRoll trip to DC. The banner is now hanging in the garage. The biggest surprise ever was naming the LWR storage room as "Bev's Closet." So nice to know so many wonderful people, that makes me very happy."



July Income		July Expenses	
Weekly Income	10,748.27	Wages and Payroll Expenses	\$16,624.00
RBC Earnings	3,154.00	Building & Grounds /Utilities	1,859.53
Bulletins/Radio Ministry	371.93	ECLA Quarterly	600.00
		Benevolence Support	
Out of the Box Outreach from RBC Investments	6,500.00	Radio Ministry	300.00
Shared Ministry	4,121.66	Office/Miscellaneous	486.38
		Fellowship & Caring	179.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 24,895.86</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 20,514.09</b>
Missions (In/Out)	0.00	Missions (In/Out)	\$ 1,347.00
Good Samaritan Fund	0.00	Good Samaritan	200.00
Soul Food	0.00	Soul Food	0.00
Women of Grace	15.00	Women of Grace	100.00
Men of Grace	0.00	Men of Grace	0.00
Christian Education/Youth	0.00	Christian Education/Youth	0.00
Scholarship Fund	0.00	Scholarship Fund	0.00
Endowment Fund	0.00	Endowment Fund	0.00
<b>Beginning Balance January 2025</b>		<b>Ending Balance July 2025</b>	
<b>Investments:</b>		<b>Investments:</b>	
Leonard Jones Fund	\$ 1,361,456.39		1,440,053.54
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 321,917.64		326,903.26
Endowment Fund	\$ 123,890.51		129,104.64
Auxiliary Fund (Started in April	\$ 29,841.29		28,409.20
Scholarship Fund (Started In June)	\$ 5,903.55		5,918.97

Come and  
sing with  
us!!

**JOYFUL NOISE**

No experience  
necessary



Rehearsals begin  
Wednesday,  
September 3  
at 6:00 PM

All are  
welcome!

## Youth Activities

**Soul Food:** Soul Food will start on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Grace will be hosting so please sign up on the kiosk for helping and desserts.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School will resume for the 2025 – 2026 school year on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The Christian Education Committee will host a donut and bagel bar for fellowship. All are welcome!

**Confirmation:** It is time to start thinking about confirmation classes for this coming school year. I am excited to get back to meeting with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students each week. Our weekly classes will be on Wednesdays from 6:30pm – 7:30pm at Grace in Berlin starting on September 10, 2025. This year our focus will be on the Biblical Story. Any questions, contact Pastor Rebekah at [pastortarras@gmail.com](mailto:pastortarras@gmail.com) or call/text 715-897-5393.

## Polka and Pie Sunday, Can it get any better than that?



Thank you to the Larry Albright Band for the music and the Council for the Pies!



Need something to do on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> ?

Enjoy a free concert by the Desperate Ottos and purchase some food and drinks to support some local nonprofit organizations.

The event is hosted by First Lutheran Church at the Poy Sippi Park.





## Flowers

- September 7 - In Honor of Cindy Wallace by her Prayer Pal
- September 14 - In Honor of Adalina Cynthia's Baptism by Grandpa Cary
- September 21 - In Honor of their grandchildren by Jerry and Linda Reetz
- September 28 - In Honor of Bob and Meg Roggow's 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

## Radio Ministry

- September 7 - In Honor of Spencer's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday by his Family
- September 14 - In Memory of Gram by the Goettl Family
- September 21 - In Memory of Grandpa Goettl by Sadie and Spencer
- September 28 - Open

## Bulletins

- September 7 - In Honor of DeAnna Lueptow's Birthday by Andrew, Ari, Jack, and Luke
- September 14 - In Honor of her great granddaughter's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday by Shirley Huck
- September 21 - In Honor of Tony and Tammy's 27<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
- September 28 - In Honor of Joe and Amber's 21<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary

## Fellowship

- September 7 - Sunday School
- September 14 - Pastor Rebekah
- September 21 - Open
- September 28 - Open

## Greeters

- September 7 - Open
- September 14 - Bev Chadwick
- September 21 - Open
- September 28 - Open



**“Christy”** by Catherine Marshall is Grace Book Club's read for September.

The train taking nineteen-year-old teacher Christy Huddleston from her home in Asheville, North Carolina, might as well be transporting her to another world. The Smoky Mountain community of Cutter Gap feels suspended in time, trapped by poverty, superstitions, and century-old traditions.

But as Christy struggles to find acceptance in her new home, some see her--and her one-room school--as a threat to their way of life. Her faith is challenged, and her heart is torn between two strong men with conflicting views about how to care for the families of the Cove. Yearning to make a difference, will Christy's determination and devotion be enough?

We will meet to discuss **“Christy”** on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at a location to be determined. If you are interested in reading this book, please contact Cindy Wallace for a copy. If you have already read this book, please join us on September 9<sup>th</sup> for our book discussion. We would love to have you join us.



**Happy Birthday**

## September Birthdays

1. Diane Toraason
3. Brett Hermanson
4. Cameron Falk
5. Cynthia Wallace
7. Taylor Greening
7. Anita Lind
7. David Neitzke
7. Terry Wallace
8. Bentley Cassidy
8. Spencer Goettl
8. Julie Retzlaff
11. John Koch
12. Tom Dehn
12. DeAnna Lueptow
12. Mary Lou Neubauer
12. Marion Ryan
14. Rebekah Tarras
15. Bonnie Hermanson
15. Brittany Retzlaff
15. Connie Smits
16. Helen Burch
16. Lyssa Koscher
19. James Luebke
19. Michael McElligott
19. Becky Olsen
20. Tammy Goettl
21. Carissa Fritz
21. Kansas Sroka-Pribnow
22. Jeffrey Lind
24. Emma Schroeder
26. Faith Klawitter
28. Selma Ceman
28. Scott Falk
28. Jackson Falk



**Happy Anniversary**

## September Anniversaries

1. Brian & Sara Evans
5. Brian & Sara Mildebrandt
5. Matt & Dina Dretske
8. Victor & Heidi Schramer
19. Tony & Tammy Goettl
24. Doug & Candie Strebelinski
25. Joseph & Amber Rozek
26. Peter & Tracy Kallas
26. Steven & Lyssa Koscher – 50<sup>th</sup>
27. Robert & Meg Roggow – 45<sup>th</sup>
29. Travis & Stephanie Kurth

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

## Men's Breakfast Kickoff

Guys from First and Grace, let's start the year strong. Men's Breakfast kicks off at First Lutheran on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.

Bring a friend and bring an appetite. We will eat well, share a brief devotion, and make a simple plan for the year ahead. Please sign up if you are planning to attend so we can plan enough food.





# 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Office is Closed</i>	2 9:00 am <i>No Staff Meeting</i> 9:00 am <i>LWR Sewing</i>	3 6:00 pm <i>Praise Team</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	4 11:45 am <i>Soul Food</i> <i>Grace Hosts</i>	5	6
7 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion and Sunday School</i>	8 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i> 7:00 pm <i>Congregation Council Meeting</i>	9 9:00 am <i>No Staff Meeting</i> 9:00 am <i>Pastor at Conference Meeting</i> 3:00 pm <i>Bible Study at Grace</i>	10 6:00 pm <i>Praise Team</i> 6:30 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	11 11:45 am <i>Soul Food</i> <i>River Shores Hosts</i>	12	13 8:00 am <i>Men's Breakfast at First Lutheran</i> 9:00 am - 4:00 pm <i>Craft Day at Grace Lutheran</i>
14 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion and Sunday School</i>	15 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i>	16 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i> 10:00 am <i>Finance Meeting</i> 2:00 pm <i>Investment Committee</i> 3:00 pm <i>Bible Study at Grace</i>	17 6:00 pm <i>Praise Team</i> 6:30 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	18 11:45 am <i>Soul Food</i> <i>All Saints Hosts</i>	19	20 <i>Fellowship Hall Reserved</i>
21 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion and Sunday School</i>	22 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i>	23 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i> 9:00 am <i>LWR Packing Day</i> 3:00pm <i>Bible Study at Grace</i>	24 6:00 pm <i>Praise Team</i> 6:30 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	25 11:45 am <i>Soul Food</i> <i>St. John's Hosts</i>	26	27
28 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion no Sunday School</i>	29 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i>	30 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i> 3:00 pm <i>Bible Study at Grace</i>				