

## Grace English Lutheran Church,

384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America*

Rebekah Tarras, Pastor

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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

### Sunday Worship:

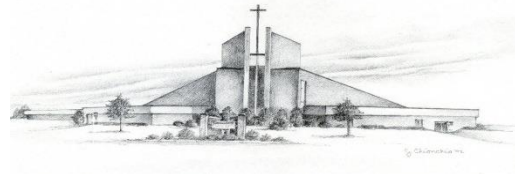
8:30 AM

### Office Hours:

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

Hometown Broadcasting

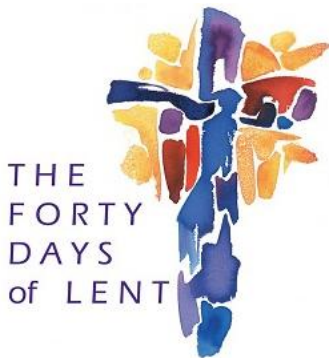
WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



## Worship Services

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

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



- March 2 - Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- March 6 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- March 9 - Wednesday Lent Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- March 13 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- March 16 - Wednesday Lent Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- March 20 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- March 23 - Wednesday Lent Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- March 27 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- March 30 - Wednesday Lent Service at 6:30 pm (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:

Many of the spiritual practices traditionally observed during Lent stem from the gospel reading for Ash Wednesday from Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18. These practices include worship prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I offered some suggestions on worship, prayer, and fasting last month. This month, I want to give you some other ideas that you might choose to experiment with during Lent this year.



Almsgiving is the act of donating money, food, or other items to the poor or needy. Almsgiving helps us experience giving freely, which can lead us to freedom from the obsession with possessing, and from the fear of losing what we have. Almsgiving is more than just charity; it is sacrificial giving that includes prayer and fasting. As we help our brothers and sisters who live in poverty, we become more connected to God and to one another. Someone told me that when they went grocery shopping, they purchased two of everything and gave all of the second items away. Another person shared that during Lent they gave a donation to a different charity every day. I had one friend who liked to eat out regularly. During Lent, she gave \$100 tips to the servers as a way of observing almsgiving. Others have doubled their church donations for the season. Yet another idea I've seen is the practice of eliminating one item from your closet or home every day during Lent. One mother told me that she had each of her children participate in this one too. How might you practice almsgiving this Lent?

Another spiritual discipline is confession. You might choose to end each day taking time to honestly and gently evaluate how you have loved God and neighbor – or not – and how the Spirit might be calling you to do better.

Mediation might be something to practice. This is intentionally making space in our lives to focus on God's faithful and sacrificial love for us.

I want to encourage you to intentionally pick one new practice for Lent this year. May you find that practice to be a gift as it draws you closer to God and helps you prepare to celebrate the greatest event of our church year, Easter.

Pastor Rebekah

P.S. If you have questions or need help getting started, let me know.



### Join Us On Wednesday's

**1:30 pm at First Lutheran in Poy Sippi**  
**6:30 pm at Grace Lutheran in Berlin**

*By My Hand, For My Sake* will ask the question "What is your role in the suffering and death of Christ?" Week by week, this question will be addressed— through homilies and monologs by biblical characters who actually did have a hand in the crucifixion of Christ. Characters include Eve, Nicodemus, Judas, Barabbas, Pilate, the father of the Thief on the Right, Peter, and the Centurion. As we take time to reflect on their stories we can see how we too are involved in the suffering and death of Christ leading us to a deeper appreciation of Jesus' death and resurrection.

**REGULAR GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING – FELLOWSHIP HALL  
Monday, January 10, 2022**

Present: Bill Bartlett, Cindy Wallace, Tricia Prellwitz, Becky Guden, Sue Shemanski, Linda Reetz, and Pastor Rebekah Tarras. Matt Dretske and Conrad Falk were absent.

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

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

**Ministry Reports:**

Pastor Rebekah presented her written report listing her activities in the past month. She advised that Confirmation classes will be moved to virtual upon the request of the confirmands families. Also, she noted that the attendance to High School Youth Bible study is very low, Pastor requested to suspend that activity for now. This will be reviewed again and possibly scheduled for a special event or go to a quarterly event. The National Youth Convention in July was then discussed with our youth and Sue Shemanski will follow up with families to see if there is any interest.

The December Treasurer's Report from Cindy Wallace was reviewed. Sue Shemanski made a motion to approve as submitted; Linda Reetz seconded. Motion approved. The December Check Detail was also reviewed and Linda Reetz made a motion to approve all checks as written; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion approved.

Bill Bartlett advised that the Buildings & Grounds Committee has been busy keeping up with the snow shoveling; and that all heaters in the entryways are turned on and working.

No Missions and Outreach report but the list of proposed monthly Missions was handed out as prepared by Craig Chovanec.

Sue Shemanski handed out the Christian Ed Committee report. She highlighted their discussion on the National Youth Convention in July; and possibility of a future Mission trip in 2023. Carrie McCarthy will now Chair this committee in 2022.

No Fellowship and Caring report.

Tricia Prellwitz presented her report from the Worship & Music Committee. She advised that the new technology is doing well and training is still being done; and the services in December went well. Several upcoming events were discussed which included suspending choir rehearsals and performances due to COVID for now; Lenten Schedule was presented with "Services By My Hand For My Sake" as the program to be used. Tentatively a joint Palm Sunday service will be held at Grace with a Brunch to follow; Maundy Thursday service will at First Lutheran and Good Friday service at Grace.

Bill Bartlett handed out the Investment spreadsheet on the 3 investment funds. December showed a rebound as predicted and all investments are doing well.

**Old Business:**

Council reviewed our current COVID policy and procedures; and if any changes should be made with the current high case numbers. After a long discussion, council agreed to keep our current procedures and felt members can

make their own decision. There will be an announcement at the beginning of next Sunday's service outlining the council's thoughts and ask for all members to give their opinion.

The Wedding Policy & Planning Guide was presented with updates and revisions. After the council reviewed the booklet, Linda Reetz made a motion to approve the revised Wedding Guide; Cindy Wallace seconded. Motion approved.

**New Business:**

Earlier in the meeting, Jean Dretske of the Audit Committee had presented the committees findings after the audit performed by her, Henry Stark and Craig Chovanec. The report consists of recommendations regarding the handling of outstanding checks; Certificates of Insurance from outside organizations, contractors or vendors using our building for non-church use; retain software backup off site; and do an inventory update. Council will follow-up with these recommendations and thanked Jean and the committee for their efforts.

The 2022 proposed budget was handed out for the council to review and discuss. Linda Reetz made a motion to approve the proposed 2022 budget; Tricia Prellwitz seconded. Motion approved. This budget will be presented at the Congregational Annual Meeting.

Bill Bartlett proposed a change in the wording of C13.10.A21, a Continuing Resolution in the Constitution regarding a Finance Committee. The proposed new continuing resolution would assign the duties of the current Finance Committee to the Executive Committee. The Finance Committee would be eliminated. Sue Shemanski made a motion to accept this change. It was seconded by Linda Reetz. Motion approved.

Council has approved the following members for the 2022 Audit Committee: Tom McCarthy for a 3 year term; Jean Dretske for a 2 year term and Henry Stark for a 1 year term. Pastor Rebekah made a motion to accept these members for the Audit Committee; Tricia Prellwitz seconded. Motion approved. Terms will be staggered in the coming years as stated in the Constitution.

The Annual Meeting and agenda are all set; committee chairpersons were reminded to get their annual reports in soon to be included in the booklet. In the future, a reminder will be sent out in December.

Pastor Rebekah led us in Closing Prayer.

Linda Reetz made a motion to adjourn; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Guden  
Council Secretary

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

## Maggie The Church Mouse

Soup suppers...I heard the words recently and stopped right in my mouse tracks. The phrase sounded familiar, but I couldn't quite remember the context. Soup suppers...it had been a long time since I had heard those words. All of a sudden, the meaning came back to me with such an abrupt jolt that the hair on my back stood on end!

Soup suppers used to happen at Grace during every Lenten season, on Wednesday evenings prior to the midweek services. Kind hearted Grace members signed up to make a single soup recipe at home, then bring it to church to combine into jumbo pots for all to enjoy. Consequently I had to live with the irresistible aroma of simmering sumptuousness all afternoon! Even a mouse's tummy growls incessantly in that kind of a situation!

Then there were the sign-up sheets for dessert makers which resulted in plates and platters of sweet treats covering the countertop in the church kitchen. The assortment was always mouthwatering, and not just for humans but for your resident church mouse as well! With crumbs of that quality dropping to the floor beneath the tables in Fellowship Hall, it would be impossible to make it through the season of Lent without gaining an entire pound!

So now I knew...Soup suppers would really, truly, honestly, beyond-a-doubt be back this year at Grace! Fellowship Hall would once again be full of people eating as a church family, sharing a time of friendship, and preparing for evening worship together. How I had missed the love and camaraderie present at each of these meals, followed by the quiet reverence of an evening service in our beautiful sanctuary. I always slept contentedly on those Wednesday nights, fed in body, soul, and spirit.

I hope you, too, hold good memories in your heart of this Grace tradition. Please shine up your soup pots, grease your cookie sheets, roll up your sleeves, and help make these gatherings a weekly highlight for yourself and your fellow church family members. I'll be watching for you, hidden in a corner of Fellowship Hall...and smiling from little ear to little ear.



- Scholarship application forms are available in the office at Grace.
- Scholarships are open to new and existing college and technical students.
- Applications are due back to the office by April 1, 2022.



## Bulletins

March 6 - Open  
March 13 - Open  
March 20 - In Honor of Tony Goettl's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
March 27 - Open

## Radio Ministry

March 6 - In Honor of her granddaughter Paige Soper's Birthday by Barb Tollakson  
March 13 - Open  
March 20 - In Honor of Tony Goettl's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
March 27 - Open

## Flowers

March 6 - Open  
March 13 - Open  
March 20 - Open  
March 27 - Open

## Fellowship

March 6 - Jean & Vic Dretske  
March 13 - Open  
March 20 - Bonnie Kline and Tricia Prellwitz  
March 27 - Goettl Family

## Holy Week Service

April 10 - Palm Sunday at Grace at 10:00 am - brunch to follow service  
April 14 - Maundy Thursday Service at First Lutheran at 6:30 pm  
April 15 - Good Friday Service at Grace at 1:00 pm  
April 17 - Easter Sunday Service at Grace at 8:30 am

## New Lent Bible Study: 24 Hours that Changed the World

**Mondays beginning March 7, 1:30 pm at First Lutheran, Poy Sippi**

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. This study, based on a DVD and book by Adam Hamilton, will help you experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death like never before.

Questions? Talk to Pastor Rebekah.



## LENTEN MISSION

### LITTLE DRESSES FOR AFRICAN GIRLS

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

9am to 12:00 noon

Grace Church Fellowship Hall

**PURPOSE:** Cut, assemble, and sew dresses from pillowcases and fabric.

If you have pillowcases in good shape, ¼ inch elastic, trim, buttons, or anything that you may wish to donate please contact Jean Dretske at 920 361-2402.

If you can cut, sew on a button, iron, or sew please come on Saturday March 26th at 9 am. If you have a sewing machine please contact Jean Dretske at 920 361-2402 so we can be certain to have enough sewing machines. Treats will be provided.



## Mission of the Month - Crossways Camping Ministries

The three camps of Crossways Camping Ministries at their current locations began in the 1940s.

**Waypost Camp** is the oldest continuously-operating site. Originally called Central Wisconsin Lutheran Bible Camp, it opened in 1942 due to the supply and demand of camping facilities for its member churches during World War II. In 1963, it became known as Waypost on Mission Lake when it merged with **Imago Dei Village** as part of the Wisconsin Association of Bible Camps of the American Lutheran Church. The association's name was changed to Imago Dei Ministries in 1975.

**Pine Lake Camp** was purchased in 1947 by a group of churches that had rented facilities for camp at Green Lake since 1929. It was known as Pine Lake Bible Camp and was a part of the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. It shared leadership with Fortune Lake Bible Camp in Upper Michigan for many years and was operated through the synod office in Milwaukee until 1982.

In 1991, the Pine Lake Bible Camp Association and Imago Dei Ministries merged into one single camp corporation called Crossways Lutheran Camping Ministries and became a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Today, Crossways Lutheran Camping Ministries is an association of nearly 190 congregations, most of which are a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and is governed by an elected Board of Directors.

A mixture of full-time and part-time staff keep the ministry of Crossways Camping Ministries moving forward throughout the entire year with programs and facilities for people of all ages.

# Lenten SOUP Suppers



*Sewing starts at 5:45pm*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Soups</u>
March 9 <sup>th</sup> .....	Women of Grace	Cheeseburger & Potato Soup
March 16 <sup>th</sup> .....	Christian Education	Chicken Pot Pie & Outback Onion
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> .....	Council	Corn Chowder & Barley Beef Vegetable
March 30 <sup>th</sup> .....	Men of Grace	Chili & Chicken Rice
April 6 <sup>th</sup> .....	Choir	Cream of Broccoli & Hamburger

**Check the kiosk for the soup recipes and to sign up to make a soup and/or dessert.**

## *Thrivent Action Cards*

If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have available Thrivent Action Cards, please consider applying for a \$250 card for our Soul Food Program. Each member can apply for two (2) cards each calendar year. If you need assistance in applying, please contact Sandy at the church office or your Thrivent agent.

## *Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31, 2022*

Did you know.....Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have accumulated Choice Dollars from January thru December 2021, have until **March 31, 2022** to direct them to a non-profit of their choice. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to **Grace Lutheran Church of Berlin.**

In 2021, Grace received **\$8,560.00** in Choice Dollars.

## Looking Ahead...



Saturday, April 23.....Women of Grace Rummage Sale (start cleaning now)  
 Sunday, May 15.....Confirmation  
 Sunday, May 22.....Recognition of High School Seniors  
 Sunday, July 17.....Joint Parish in the Park Church Service and Picnic





## March Birthdays

- 3 Dona Eury
- 5 Paul Gravunder  
Becky Retzlaff
- 6 Heather Hermanson  
Lauren Murkley
- 7 Joshua Borland  
Bronson Paulsen  
Kayla Konen
- 8 Beverly Chadwick  
Chris Krebs
- 9 Meg Roggow
- 10 Linda Bourassa
- 13 Ryan Gravunder
- 14 Sara Shattuck
- 15 Ellen Lehr  
Pam Marks  
McKala Nitzke
- 16 Susan Calabresa
- 17 Luke Dretske  
Kenneth Peschke
- 20 Jen Retzlaff  
Michael Moe
- 21 William Carpenter  
Tony Goettl
- 22 Sydney Lee  
Stephanie Malson
- 24 Brian Zamzow
- 25 Kathy Fredrick
- 26 Ryan Dobbs  
Kaitlynn Retzlaff
- 28 Steven Koscher  
Kelly Zabel  
Sally Borland



## March Anniversaries

- 18 William & Fay McMonigal
- 23 Don & Connie Koscher
- 26 Matt & Sydney Renik

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



## Upcoming Events/Camps

May 6-8, 2022 - FCA Coaches and Spouse Retreat

July 11, 2022 - Annual FCA Golf Scramble

June 28 – July 1, 2022 - Northland Sports Camp

July 28-31, 2022 - Northland Leadership Camp

Online registration at [wisconsinfca.org](http://wisconsinfca.org) or for more information on these events, please contact Jeff Tarras.



## 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1  9:00 am LWR Quilters	2  6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service  7:30 pm Choir Practice	3  12:45 pm Soul Food  6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	4	5
6  8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School  9:30 am Fellowship and Caring	7  9:00 am Church Cleaning  1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	8  9:00 am Staff Meeting	9  5:45 pm Soup Supper  6:30 pm Lent Service  7:30 pm Choir Practice	10  12:45 pm Soul Food  6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	11	12  8:00 am Men's Breakfast at First Lutheran  Daylight Savings Time Begins
13  8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School  9:30 am Worship and Music Committee	14  9:00 am Church Cleaning  1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran  7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	15  9:00 am LWR Quilters  9:00 am Staff Meeting	16  5:45 pm Soup Supper  6:30 pm Lent Service  7:30 pm Choir Practice	17  12:45 pm Soul Food  1:00 pm Caregiver Group  6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	18	19
20  8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	21  9:00 am Church Cleaning  1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran  6:30 pm Joint Council Meeting at Grace	22  9:00 am Staff Meeting	23  5:45 pm Soup Supper  6:30 pm Lent Service  7:30 pm Choir Practice	24  12:45 pm Soul Food  6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	25	26  9:00 am – Noon Mission Dress Workshop
27  8:30 am Worship with Communion - no Sunday School	28  9:00 am Church Cleaning  1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	29  9:00 am Staff Meeting	30  5:45 pm Soup Supper  6:30 pm Lent Service  7:30 pm Choir Practice	31  12:45 pm Soul Food  6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran		