

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:

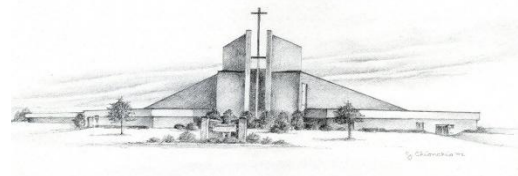
8:30 AM

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

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



- April 2 - Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- April 6 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- April 9 - Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- April 13 - Palm Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am (In person and online)
- April 17 - Maundy Thursday Service at First Lutheran at 6:30 pm
- April 18 - Good Friday Worship Service at 1:00 pm (In person and online)
- April 20 - Easter Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- April 27 - 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”

Dear Friends in Christ,

I came across this quote: “Lent is spring training. Easter is opening day”.
I have been pondering how this relates to our spiritual lives.

As we move into the month of April, there is the promise of new beginnings. The days are getting longer, my spring flowers are sprouting, and for baseball fans, it’s time for Opening Day. The season stretches ahead, filled with possibilities, hope, and the thrill of what’s to come. But before Opening Day arrives, teams spend weeks in spring training—preparing, refining their skills, and building up their endurance for the season ahead.



In many ways, our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. Lent is our season of preparation—a time to reflect, to refocus our lives, to strengthen our faith, and to practice the disciplines that shape us as followers of Christ. Like athletes in training, we commit ourselves to prayer, fasting, and acts of love and service, knowing that these practices shape us and form us into the people God calls us to be.

A story comes to mind of a young baseball player who struggled during spring training. No matter how hard he practiced, he couldn’t seem to hit the ball. Frustrated, he thought about giving up, but his coach saw his potential. "Trust the process," the coach said. "Keep showing up, keep practicing, and you will see results." Sure enough, by Opening Day, his persistence paid off, and he stepped up to the plate with confidence.

Isn’t that the way it is with our faith? There are seasons when we struggle, when we don’t feel strong in our prayer life, when doubts creep in. But Lent reminds us to keep showing up, to trust that God is at work even when we don’t see immediate results. Then comes Easter—our Opening Day! The tomb is empty, and Christ is risen! The victory has already been won, and we are invited to step into a new season of life with resurrection hope. Easter is not just one day but the beginning of a new way of living. Just as a baseball team takes what they’ve practiced in spring training and brings it into the real games, we carry the lessons of Lent into our daily lives all year long. We live as Easter people every day—filled with the joy, hope, and purpose of the risen Christ.

So this April, as you watch the first pitches of the baseball season, remember that we, too, are stepping into something new. May we embrace the fullness of the Easter season, stepping up to the plate with faith and confidence, knowing that in Christ, we are part of the greatest victory of all time.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Rebekah Tarras

Lifting Up Names in Prayer

We will now be including prayer requests in the bulletin each week. If you would like to include someone for the congregation to lift up in prayer, please fill out a blue prayer card from the pew, or call, or email the church office.

Let’s support one another in faith through the power of prayer.

Grace English Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 10, 2025

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

Attendance: Linda Reetz, Terry Wallace, Bonnie Kline, Craig Chovanec, Bob Prellwitz, Sue Shemanski, Anita Lind, Heidi Schramer and Pastor Rebekah. Absent: Sandy Peschke. No Audience

Opening Devotion provided by Terry.

Craig offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Bob. Motion carried.

Terry presented a motion to accept the January 2025 Minutes as written. Heidi seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- Anita moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Bonnie seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report-

Linda asked Council members to be at church Sunday for Installation.

Linda questioned if we should go back to putting prayer requests in the bulletins? After some discussion it was decided to bring it up at the service Sunday to see how the Congregation feels about this practice.

Pastor's Report- Pastor officiated at five funerals in the last month so has been really busy with that. Presently she is preparing for Lent. She is also in the process of planning a training program for In-home and Communion visitors. Discussion re: previously trained visitors Jeff Lind and Gene Hess and wondering if they are still interested in doing this? Pastor is also hoping to offer a training for lay people to preach when she is absent. Council members are asked to think of individuals who may be interested in either of these ministries.

Committee Reports-

Fellowship and Caring- Bonnie reported that Valentine cards have been sent to Homebound members. The committee is looking for new ideas

Building and Grounds- A new water softener has been installed. Hot water pressure in the kitchen repaired and the grease trap emptied. The furnace was checked and thermostats recalibrated. A call has been made to have the dish sanitizer recalibrated in hopes it will stop the overflow leaking.

Christian Education- Dates have been set for the Sunday School kids to sing in March and May. A First Communion class will be held March 30th and is open to 3rd graders and older. First Communion will be celebrated on April 6th. An upcoming "Easter Event" has been scheduled for April 6 right after the service. Easter decorations will be made to decorate the Fellowship Hall for Easter and for participants to take home, while sharing food during Fellowship. The last day of Sunday School will be May 11th.

Worship and Music- Scott Street Puppet Service was a success. Lent services are planned. Palm Sunday will be a joint service with First Lutheran at 10AM at Grace (followed by a potluck). Maundy Thursday will be at First (6:30PM) and Good Friday at Grace (1pm). Easter service will be at the standard 8:30 time. Worship in the park will be 7/13/25 and Grace is hosting this year.

Mission and Outreach- Paige Soper was here to speak this past Sunday about her program of Christian Fellowship at UW-Oshkosh. We will be delivering Ding Dong Dinners Feb. 16. It was advertised on social media and 30 meals were reserved quickly. Discussed maybe doing it again this year as there were at least 10 families who wanted a meal and won't get one this time. The Mission for February is Damascus Road, a program that helps individuals who have been sex-trafficked.

Finance Committee- no report as they have not met since last meeting

Investment Committee- Terry reviewed the RBC monthly report. All accounts are continuing to grow and make gains at this time.

Unfinished Business-

Auxiliary Fund-Council has approved moving a number of separate accounts (Men's, Christian Ed., Women's) to a Fund at RBC that earns interest and the money is still accessible. The quirks on how to document this in Quick-books and document funds going in and out are being worked out.

Dishwasher Update-Bob has a call in to have it recalibrated now that the grease trap has been cleaned, water softener installed and the water pressure corrected. It does seem to be cleaning better and per the Manual it is a "Dishwasher" and "Sanitizer". Hopefully, recalibrating it will make it work correctly and there will be no need to purchase a new one.

2025 Goals-

- 1) Develop Lay Leadership for Bible Studies, leading worship and preaching
- 2) Develop visitation ministry program
- 3) Incorporate more youth into worship services

New Business-

Obsolete Electronics- Sue will check with Waushara SHINES (a Peer Recovery Support Program) to see if they can use any items and let Linda know before Sunday. Then an announcement can be made Sun for members to take any items they want.

Finance Committee needs a new at-large member to replace Sue S. as she is now on the Committee as one of the Officers of the Council.

Men's Brat Fry is June 18

We are **looking for members for a new committee** to write a proposal for mission and outreach disbursements from the Leonard Jones Fund to be approved by the Council. Heidi asked if this committee could be combined or joined with the "Outside the Box" Committee. Patti Batenhorst, Carrie McCarthy and Sue Calabresa have already agreed to serve on the Committee. Heidi will check with the Outside the Box Committee to see if they would be willing to combine to form this new committee as their purpose is very similar.

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Bonnie made a motion to adjourn. Heidi seconded. The motion carried and we adjourned at 8:20PM.

Submitted by:

Sue Shemanski

Linda Reetz – President		920-279-7899	linda.reetz0726@gmail.com
Terry Wallace – Vice President		920-344-1523	tw9696@outlook.com
Sandy Peschke – Treasurer		920-290-1551	kspeschke1950@gmail.com
Sue Shemanski – Secretary		920-361-4506	shemanski5@yahoo.com
Heidi Schramer – Music/Worship		920-361-4097	schrumer@charter.net
Anita Lind – Christian Education		920-290-1374	anita_lind@charter.net
Bonnie Kline – Fellowship/Caring		920-570-2787	razn6mom@yahoo.com
Craig Chovanec – Missions/Outreach		920-420-0352	craigfchovanec@centurytel.net
Bob Prellwitz – Building/Grounds		920-361-0669	bobprellwitz@yahoo.com

Holy Week and Easter Services



April 13 – Palm Sunday Worship at Grace Lutheran at 10:00 am – Brunch follows

April 17 – Maundy Thursday Worship at First Lutheran at 6:30 pm

April 18 – Good Friday Worship at Grace Lutheran at 1:00 pm

April 20 – Easter Sunday Worship at Grace Lutheran at 8:30 pm

February Income

Weekly Income	8,273.51
RBC Earnings	3,154.00
Bulletins/Radio Ministry	280.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	909.00
Shared Ministry	4,009.99
Ding Dong Dinner	1,050.00
TOTAL	\$ 17,676.50

Missions (In/Out) \$1,050.85

Good Samaritan Fund	0.00
Soul Food	3,000.00
Women of Grace	180.00
Men of Grace	32.00
Youth Income	0.00
Scholarship Fund	0.00
Endowment Fund	4,283.88

February Expenses

Wages and Payroll Expenses	\$16,364.99
Building & Grounds /Utilities	2,918.14
Worship Expenses	833.04
Radio Ministry	300.00
Office/Miscellaneous	446.22
Postage/Advertising	25.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,887.39

Missions (In/Out) \$1,340.00

Good Samaritan	0.00
Soul Food	67.98
Women of Grace	311.06
Men of Grace	0.00
Youth Income	0.00
Scholarship Fund	0.00
Endowment Fund	4,283.88

Beginning Balance January 2025

Investments:

Leonard Jones Fund	\$ 1,361,456.39
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 321,917.64
Endowment Fund	\$ 123,890.51

Ending Balance February 2025

	\$ 1,406,465.21
	\$ 329,672.73
	\$ 124,083.89



Pine Lake Camp Spring Kickoff - Camp Prep and Preview on May 3, 2025

Join us for a day of camp prep and preview from 9am - 2pm

Camp prep includes a day of service onsite, preparing our site to welcome campers, with projects and tasks for all ages and skills. We also welcome families to come see our site, take a tour, and meet some of the community before attending a program this summer. Lunch will be served with advance registration.

Email: pinelake@crosswayscamps.org

Camp Senior- A Golden Day at Camp

Embark on an adventure-filled day at Camp! Join us for Camp Senior, a day with laughter, camaraderie, and memory making. From outdoor activities to cozy bible study chats, there's something for everyone. Embrace the spirit of youthfulness, reconnect with nature, and make new friends.

TIME: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

COST: \$25 per participant

DATES & LOCATION

June 9th at Pine Lake Camp, Waupaca

July 14th at Imago Dei Village, Clintonville

REGISTRATION: Online at CrosswaysCamp.org/senior or call 920-882-0023

Memorial Form

Last year Grace's Council established a form to let our members know of ways they can designate memorial funds to the church. If you would like to know more about it, or get a copy of the form, contact a council member or the office.

Grace English Lutheran Church Memorial Designation Form

In Honor or Memory of: _____
Person/Family Donating Memorial(s): _____
Dollar Amount of Memorial(s): _____
Endowment Fund: _____
General Fund: _____
Samaritan Fund: _____
Christian Education Fund: _____
Soul Food: _____
Scholarship Fund: _____
Buildings & Grounds: _____
Music Program: _____
Women of Grace: _____
Men of Grace: _____
Memorial: _____
Capital Improvement: _____

Special Palm Sunday Worship



We are excited to include our sister church, First Lutheran, for Palm Sunday worship on April 13 at 10:00 AM. This special service will mark the beginning of Holy Week as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Following worship, we will share in a time of fellowship with a delicious brunch.

Please sign up if you are planning to attend. To help make this gathering a success, we invite you to sign up to bring food items—look for the sign-up sheets on the kiosk.

Come worship and enjoy time together!

Easter Garden



Grace will again host an Easter Garden this year.

We invite you to bring a spring plant(s) of your choice to add to our Easter Garden!

Please have your plant at the church by 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 19, so it can be arranged in time for Easter Sunday. Thank you for contributing to this special display.

If you purchased your plants in memory of or in honor of a loved one there are forms to be filled out so we can acknowledge you in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Please return them by April 14th.



Did stationmasters on the Underground Railroad use quilts to signal to fugitive slaves?

This is the question the Grace Book Club will explore with the book they have chosen for April: **"The Runaway Quilt"** by Wisconsin author Jennifer Chiaverini.

Sylvia Compson, owner of Elm Creek Farm and the last of the Bergstrom family line, is intrigued when a quilting student shows her a quilt that complicates the family legend of her ancestors' involvement in the Underground Railroad.

She finds old quilts hidden away in the attic, accompanied by a memoir written by Gerda, the spinster sister of the Bergstrom patriarch. The quilts and the memoir raise questions about the Bergstrom family's history that trouble and intrigue Sylvia.

Chiaverini switches between passages in Gerda's memoir and current-day events at Elm Creek Farm, including genealogical and historical research, taking the reader back and forth between the present and the past to reveal a long-forgotten family secret.

We will meet to discuss **"The Runaway Quilt"** on Tuesday, April 8th at Triangle Family Restaurant, 215 Ripon Road, Berlin.

If you are interested in this title and would like to read it, please contact Cindy Wallace for a copy. If you have already read **"The Runaway Quilt"** and would like to discuss it, please join us. We look forward to seeing you on April 8th.

WE NEED YOU!

Grace's Annual Rummage Sale will take place Saturday, May 3rd

There are many ways you can help:

- **Donate** – Donations can be brought to Church beginning the Monday after Easter (April 21st) We will have areas marked for people to leave their donations. Please only put your things in designated areas.
- **Bake** – We will again have a bake sale this year and we welcome any baked goods.
- **Sign Up to help:**
 - **The Week Before the Sale:** We will need help the week prior to the sale to sort and organize the donations and arrange and set-up the fellowship hall.
 - **The Day of the Sale:** We will need help on the day of the sale during the sale.
 - **The Afternoon Following the Sale:** We will need help following the sale for clean-up.
 - **Drivers:** We will also need a couple of people willing to deliver leftovers to various places.



- **Shop** - Come and shop on the day of the sale: **8:00 am – 1:00 pm with the \$2.00 bag sale starting at noon.** You never know what treasures you will find! Tell your neighbors, your friends, everyone you know! The more the merrier.

If you have any questions or if you need your donations picked up please call Cindy Wallace @ 920-229-3772.

Mission of the Month – Scholarship Program

The mission for the month of April is Grace's Scholarship Fund. As the cost of higher education increases it becomes a greater burden for our youth and their families. This fund is designed to support our youth as they strive to become more productive members of society.

One of the requirements to receive this scholarship is the student's involvement at Grace. We are trying to encourage our youth to serve in some level here at Grace and develop habits that will support their continued involvement with God and their church.

Hopefully with all our support we can encourage their growth in their relationship with God.



Flowers

- April 6 - In Honor of Sue Cutts by her Prayer Pal
- April 13 - Palms for Palm Sunday
- April 20 - Easter Garden
- April 27 - In Memory of Kathy Chovanec by the Chovanec Family

Radio Ministry

- April 6 - In Honor of Sadie's 22nd Birthday by her family
- April 13 - Open
- April 20 - Sponsored by Pastor Rebekah in Celebration of our Lord's Resurrection
- April 27 - In honor of Penny and Sandy, our office staff, for all they do by Pastor Rebekah

Bulletins

- April 6 - In Honor of Sadie's 22nd Birthday by her family
- April 13 - In Memory of Beatrice Duerr by DeAnna Lueptow
- April 20 - Open
- April 27 - In Honor of Dawn and Chris Bludau's 20th Wedding Anniversary

Fellowship

- April 6 - Christian Education Committee
- April 13 - Brunch
- April 20 - Easter – No Fellowship
- April 27 - Open

Greeters

- April 6 - Bev
- April 13 - Open
- April 20 - Open
- April 27 - Penny



Happy Birthday

April Birthdays

2	Jayce Retzlaff
2	Candie Strebelinski
3	Sadie Goettl
4	Jon Dehn
6	Luke Schroeder
7	Carrie McCarthy
9	Dina Dretske
12	Keith Fredrick
14	Suzanne Cutts
14	Anna McCarthy
15	Kim Lehr
15	Amber Dutcher
16	Hannah Olsen
18	Jean Sprague
18	Joby Zietlow
19	Jody Ziemann
20	Vicki Hunt
21	Catelyn Olsen
22	Chloe Dutcher
23	Scott Dutcher
25	Lori Nitzke
26	Walker Goffard
26	Scott Greenig
28	Sara Mildebrandt
28	Janice Retzlaff
29	Scott Schweigert
30	Heidi Schramer



Happy Anniversary

April Anniversaries

5	Frank & Lori Nitzke
7	Henry & Lois Stark
12	Ken & Sandy Peschke
16	Pat & Kelly Featherston
25	Tim & Pat Magdanz
27	Jeremie & Jackie Schmidt
29	Dave & Angie Armatoski
30	Chris & Dawn Bludau - 20 th

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

Thank You

Grace did a fantastic job hosting a successful March Blood Drive in the canteen for donors and workers!

A huge thank you to our wonderful bakers for the delicious desserts and to everyone who helped in the kitchen and with cleanup at the end of the day. Our church family is truly amazing!

The Goettl Crew

Free Funeral Planning Seminar

Barbola and Barbola-Hempel Funeral Chapels will be hosting a free pre-planning presentation on Wednesday, May 7.

There will be presentations in three (3) different locations for convenience.

- 10 a.m. Barbola-Hempel Funeral Chapel (Poy Sippi)
- 2 p.m. Redgranite Lions Hall
- 6 p.m. Barbola Funeral Chapel (Berlin)

Pick a time and RSVP by phone to 920-361-2755 or email barbolafc@yahoo.com. Refreshments will be served.



2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 am <i>LWR Sewing</i> 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i>	2 8:30 am <i>Exercise Class</i> 5:45 pm <i>Soup Supper</i> 6:30 pm <i>Lenten Service</i> 7:15pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	3 12:40 pm <i>Soul Food</i> <i>St. John's</i> <i>Hosts</i> 6:30 pm <i>Bible Study at</i> <i>Grace</i>	4	5 <i>Fellowship Hall</i> <i>Reserved</i>
6 <i>Food Pantry</i> <i>Sunday</i> 8:30 am <i>Worship with</i> <i>Communion and</i> <i>Sunday School</i>	7 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at</i> <i>First Lutheran</i> 4:00 pm <i>Executive</i> <i>Committee</i> <i>Meeting</i>	8 9:00 am <i>No Staff Meeting</i> 9:00 am <i>Conference Pastor's</i> <i>Meeting</i>	9 8:30 am <i>Exercise Class</i> 5:45 pm <i>Soup Supper</i> 6:30 pm <i>Lenten Service</i> 7:15pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	10 12:40 pm <i>Soul Food</i> <i>Grace Hosts</i> 6:30 pm <i>Bible Study at</i> <i>Grace</i>	11	12 8:00 am <i>Men's Breakfast</i> <i>at Grace</i> 9:00 am <i>Set up for</i> <i>Brunch</i> 9:00 am–4:00pm <i>Crafting at First</i> <i>Lutheran</i>
13 10:00 am <i>Palm Sunday Joint</i> <i>Worship with</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>Brunch to follow</i> <i>worship</i>	14 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at</i> <i>First Lutheran</i> 7:00 pm <i>Congregation</i> <i>Council</i> <i>Meeting</i>	15 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i> 9:00 am <i>LWR Sewing</i> 1:00 pm <i>Finance Committee</i> <i>Meeting</i>	16 8:30 am <i>Exercise Class</i> 7:15pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	17 12:40 pm <i>Soul Food</i> <i>River Shores</i> <i>Hosts</i> 6:30 pm <i>Maundy</i> <i>Thursday</i> <i>Worship at</i> <i>First Lutheran</i>	18 1:00 pm <i>Good</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Worship</i>	19
20 8:30 am <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Worship with</i> <i>Communion</i>	21 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at</i> <i>First Lutheran</i> 6:00 pm <i>Lay Preaching</i> <i>Class</i>	22 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i> 9:00 am <i>LWR Sewing</i>	23 8:30 am <i>Exercise Class</i> 6:30 pm <i>Confirmation</i> <i>Class</i> 7:00pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	24 12:40 pm <i>Soul Food</i> <i>All Saints</i> <i>Hosts</i> 6:30 pm <i>Bible Study at</i> <i>Grace</i>	25	26
27 8:30 am <i>Worship with</i> <i>Communion – No</i> <i>Sunday School</i>	28 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at</i> <i>First Lutheran</i>	29 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i>	30 8:30 am <i>Exercise Class</i> 6:30 pm <i>Confirmation</i> <i>Class</i> 7:00pm <i>Choir Practice</i>			May 3 8:00 am-1:00 pm <i>Rummage Sale</i>