

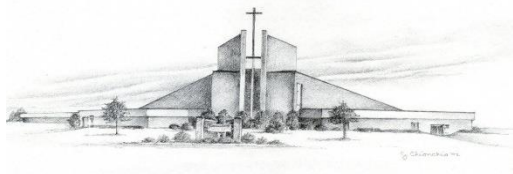
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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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



- October 1 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- October 8 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- October 15 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- October 22 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- October 29 - Worship 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:

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19



In a meeting with our synod staff a couple of months ago, Pastor Dara Clifford, the Director for Evangelical Mission, shared a document with us called Holy Conversations. She encouraged all congregations to use this resource as a tool for conversations. I gave copies of the questions to our church council and asked council members to take time to answer the questions in preparation for future conversations. Pastor Dara stated that these questions are meant to help us have conversations as part of discerning the season of our congregation's life and discerning what direction God is calling the congregation. It was suggested at the last council meeting that the whole congregation should be involved in this reflection so here are the questions for your reflection.

The first page of questions invites us to reflect on the previous 10 years in our congregation.

1. Do we have a pattern of growth in attendance?
2. Will that trend allow us to thrive and develop ministry for the future?
3. Can we maintain our own existence and provide ministry in the community?
4. Can we survive without some form of life support from bequests, or special gifts?
5. Do we have sufficient numbers of people to volunteer for ministry within the congregation and outreach into the community?
6. Are new efforts in evangelism and Christian education feasible?
7. Are there sufficient funds and interested membership to do ministry within the congregation as well as outreach and evangelism into the community and world?
8. Are we experiencing the presence of first-time visitors on a regular basis?
9. Do they return for a second or a third visit?
10. Do 20-25% of our first-time visitors eventually join the congregation?
11. Is the congregation's main focus on outreach/evangelism?
12. Is the congregation striving to do more than trying to survive/keep the doors open?
13. Has the congregation grown in the last five years?
14. Do we have enough members to do ministry well?
15. Does giving in the congregation enable "Great Commission" work, or does most of the giving go towards maintenance and survival?
16. Are there young families active in the church?
17. Are the demographics (age, race, gender, etc.) of your congregation reflective of the community you are located in?
18. Has the congregation maintained a good level of stewardship including several families (10-12) who tithe faithfully to the congregation?
19. Is the congregation willing/able to adapt its ministry and lifestyle in order to develop the ministries that will meet the needs of a changing community?
20. Is the present facility physically adaptable for use?
21. Can the congregation afford the repairs that are needed to use these facilities for ministry?

The second page of questions is more reflective:

1. What exciting thing has God done in your midst [congregation] in the last year?
2. Where is your congregation afraid?
3. What is your dream for your congregation?

I would add one more, Where do you think God is leading us, guiding us, directing us as a congregation for the future of the church?

As I have asked the council members, I now ask you to take some time and reflect on these questions.

If you are willing, jot down some of your thoughts and share them with me or a council member. Together we can discern where God is at work making all things new.

Pastor Rebekah

PS. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Drawn to the Word event such a special day.

GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 8.14.23

Council members present; Heidi Schramer, De Anna Lueptow, Cindy Wallace, Becky Olsen, Pastor Rebekah, Jody Ziemann, Gene Hess, Bob Prellwitz, Craig Chovanec.
Congregation member present, Sandy Peschke.

President Heidi Schramer called the meeting to order.

De Anna Lueptow provided opening prayer

Approval of the Agenda. Motion made by Craig Chovanec to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried

Concerns from the audience. None.

Secretary's Report. Meeting minutes from 7.10.23 reviewed, no corrections noted. Motion made Cindy Wallace to accept report as written, seconded by Gene Hess, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Printed copies of the treasurer's report, check detail and investment profile provided and reviewed. No discussion on reports, motion made by Jody Ziemann to accept reports as written, seconded by Bob Prellwitz, motion carried.

Unfinished Business.

Drawn to the Word Joint Service 9.24.23 at 10:00 am.

Council members will serve as greeters and hosts for the service and potluck following. Committee members Heidi Schramer, Cindy Wallace, De Anna Lueptow and Michelle Klawitter will meet on 8.20.23 following service to finalize potluck plans. A donor has come forth, donating 1/2 of the cost of the painting, bringing our cost to \$1925.00. The finished painting will measure 5 x 6 feet, horizontally. Discussion on the placement of the finished painting. The committee, along with the donor's input, have recommended that the painting be hung on the wall in front of and above the choir loft. The frame for the painting needs building, once built Barb Bellmer will stretch the canvas over the frame. Paul Oman requested permission to sell items at the event. Discussion included a review of the constitution, possible need of permit for selling items, and utilizing the fellowship hall to display sale items. Heidi and Pastor will follow up on permits if needed. Tricia Prellwitz is taking charge of advertising for the event. Communion will be in the pews.

Polka Service 8.27.23. Council will serve as greeters and hosts, and provide pie social following service. Will contact Berlin Journal about advertising the service. Communion will be in the pews.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service hosted by Grace on 11.21.23 at 7pm. Council will serve as greeters and hosts. The Fellowship and Caring committee will provide fellowship following service.

Shared Ministry Covenant. Tabled until December Joint Council meeting.

Winter Bingo 2.3.24. Tabled until next meeting. A committee will be formed, comprised of members from both churches.

Worship in the Park 7.21.24. Hosted by First Lutheran.

New Business.

Request from Paige Soper to become an Associate Member of Grace. Discussion included the reading of our Constitution Bylaws. Council members provided positive testimony about her current and future involvement in ministry. Motion made by Gene Hess to approve Paige as an Associate Member of Grace, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

Reformation Sunday (10.31.23) tee shirts. Discussion held on possible purchase. If members have interest, we will plan to purchase locally.

Pastor's Insurance Policy. Discussion held on current policy. Sandy Peschke was able to provide insight into the current policy for the council and states an increase in cost of 2.5 % from previous year. Pastor included that she likes the present policy. Motion made by De Anna Lueptow to continue with the current policy, seconded by Gene Hess, motion carried.

Committee Reports.

Pastor Report.

Report included Pastoral Acts of funerals for Ann Hochrein and Geraldine Robinson. Visitations to June Lubbert, Roland Bahr, Gerry Robinson and her family. Intern Kathy visited all other homebound members before she concluded her internship. List of current and ongoing activities at Grace include; studying and prepared some Sunday sermons, met weekly for supervisory sessions with Intern Kathy and finished the internship evaluation, studied and prepared for Bible study on Romans, weekly meetings with staff, attended book club discussion and lunch, worked with Christian Ed committee to plan upcoming Sunday School year, wrote a letter to Sunday School families, worked on a letter and outline for the Confirmation year, pre-recorded worship for online and radio on Worship in the Park Sunday, worked with the Drawn to the Word planning team, met with the Worship and Christian Education Committees, wrote article for newsletter, met with Robinson family for funeral planning, attended the Global Leadership Summit for continuing education, a 90th birthday party, and lunch with the internship committee, and took two weeks of vacation. Pastor also reported that the Synod has shared a document called Holy Conversations. Included in the document was a questionnaire regarding congregations vitality and sustainability. She requested members to review and hold discussions at upcoming meetings.

Buildings and Grounds.

Bob Prellwitz reported the group met this date. Ongoing activities include; lawn and landscape maintenance. The dead ash tree and stump have been removed, grass seed will be planted and the Women of Grace have asked to purchase the replacement tree. The group is looking at top dressing and seeding the rough portions of the lawn. Martens Heating and Cooling has replaced the heat exchangers and one motor, and completed AC check. The northeast door maintenance is upcoming, along with touch up painting in the hallways. The group will reach out to the snow plowing service for upcoming winter and service the snowblower. Next meeting is 10.9.23 at 6pm.

Christian Education.

Sunday School will begin 9.10.23, with a 'build a donut or bagel bar' following service. Registration forms have been sent out and are due back to the office on 9.1.23. Sunday School curriculum has been electronically ordered and will align with the weekly lesson/sermons. Teachers are looking to incorporate music into Sunday School and are looking for a volunteer to assist with music.

The upcoming Tailgate Event is planned for October 15th from 3-6pm. In addition to the Tailgate Event, an Advent Event and Fat Tuesday Event are planned. A member suggested a monthly event, possibly in the winter months, to gather kids and families for a craft or event of some kind. The group is open to ideas. Confirmation classes are set to begin on September 13th. The next meeting is September 7th at 430pm.

Fellowship and Caring.

Jody Ziemann reported that summer fellowship ran smoothly, noting some issues with duplication of foods at times. New Member Class will be formed in October, Pastor, Tricia and De Anna will coordinate the formation of the class. Tricia is coordinating homebound visitations. Barb Tollaksen will be moving in September and was recognized for her years of service at the Salad Supper last week. Our group will provide fellowship following Ecumenical Service on 11.21.23. Next meeting date is 9.10.23, following service.

Worship and Music.

Gene Hess reported that Choir Practice begins August 23rd at 7pm. A tentative Choir schedule is set-up through the end of the year. A tentative Cantata date is set for December 17th. Jessica will work on a schedule for the Praise Team to sing on Sundays that the Choir does not sing. Communion Set-Up/ Guild is in need of more assistance, as we will need two assistants every Sunday. Council suggested a shout out to the congregation for the need of assistants. Gene inquired about Ken and his weekly altar and communion duties, Sandy reported that Ken is good with his Sunday duties. Upcoming special events include; Polka Sunday, Drawn to the Word, and tentative Cantata. Next meeting date is 10.4.23 following choir rehearsal.

Mission and Outreach.

Craig Chovanec reported that July's Mission Cause was the Berlin Food Pantry. A total of \$404.00 was given and sent to the food pantry. The group decided to designate the first Sunday of each month as Food Pantry Sunday, encouraging members to bring canned goods to put in the shopping cart in the Narthex. The August Mission Cause is the Christian Fellowship at UW-Oshkosh. Craig informed the council that Paige Soper, who spoke this past Sunday, is a major part of this growing ministry. Paige reported that she has been involved with the organization for the past 4 years and is continuing her work. She reported that student participation has doubled in size during her time there and that new attendance records have been set. Paige currently mentors students and leads weekly small groups, as well as taking advantage of outreach opportunities and mission trips. Craig also reported that her work is very important, as the youth of today will become the leaders of our church tomorrow.

motion to adjourn the meeting by Jody Ziemann, seconded by Cindy Wallace, motion carried.

Pastor Rebekah led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Olsen

Heidi Schramer – President	920-361-4097	schramer@charter.net
DeAnna Lueptow – Vice President	920-229-4857	delueptow@gmail.com
Cindy Wallace – Treasurer	920-229-3772	cindy_wallace@charter.net
Becky Olsen – Secretary	920-290-4485	olsenfamilyshorthorns@gmail.com
Gene Hess– Music/Worship	920-290-2023	gene2023@outlook.com
Sue Shemanski – Christian Education	920-361-4506	shemanski5@yahoo.com
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



ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Do you ever wonder who Jesus is? Maybe you've read the Gospels before, but you still feel like you don't have a deep understanding of how they are different.

If you're looking to connect with Jesus on a deeper level, I encourage you to check out the newest free online course from Luther Seminary called Exploring the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John exists for all of us —to transform our belief when we recognize the difference Jesus makes in our everyday lives.

Martin Luther even once said, “Should a tyrant succeed in destroying the Holy Scriptures and only a single copy of the epistle to the Romans and the Gospel according to John escape him, Christianity would be saved.”

The five-session bible study is completely online, with a new session emailed to you each week, to be explored at your convenience. You can start faithfully exploring the free online course today: <https://www.luthersem.edu/resources/book-of-john/> I encourage you to sign up for the free online course and explore this amazing book of the Bible for yourself.

ELCA Missionaries

This summer the ELCA welcomed 10 new missionaries who are now on their way to serving in eight countries around the world. They bring different skills, interests, and experiences, but they share a deep passion for global service.



ELCA missionaries are serving as teachers, healthcare workers, communicators, pastors, and more. The relationships they form build the foundation of our global community of faith. For even more stories about our new missionaries, follow the ELCA on Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to the “Global Links” newsletter.

Berlin Lions Club - Diabetes Awareness Event



Date: November 1, 2023
Time: 12:00 Noon to 7:00 pm
Place: Grace Lutheran Church



Constitution Corner

Our congregation has a constitution, that in addition to the Bible, serves to guide our life together as a church. This constitution reflects the theology and polity of this church as it organizes itself to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the sacraments, reach out to the neighbor with good news, and share the love of God in the world. Each month we plan to highlight a part of our constitution. The full constitution is found under resources on the website.

Chapter 12 of the constitution outlines the role and responsibility of the church council.

C12.01.A21 Election to a Congregation Council carries with it the respect and trust of the constituency of your congregation. The value of your willingness to make a contribution to the life of your congregation is significant and appreciated. Your contribution involves your time, expertise, enthusiasm and energy. Saying yes to this responsibility brings some basic duties.

Congregation Council Member

1. Be a member in good standing of the congregation, regularly attending worship services and involved in congregational life.
2. Attend all meetings of the council.
3. Attempt to discover, through prayer and discernment, what is best for the congregation.
4. Consider the well-being of the council when dealing with specific issues and ministries.
5. Treat all matters relating to council deliberations as confidential, until such time as the information is determined a matter of public record.
6. Assist the pastor in nurturing the spiritual life of the congregation.
7. Care for the congregation's membership.
8. Ensure that the decisions of the congregation are carried out.
9. Be a part of a united body by supporting all decisions of the council, even if you don't agree with the decision.
10. Treat members of the council and staff as brothers and sisters in Christ.
11. Be familiar with the governing documents of the congregation.
12. Be a leadership presence in the congregation.



Men's breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Grace Lutheran will be hosting with breakfast starting at 8:00 am. Please sign-up on the kiosk by Sunday, October 8.

Mission of the Month - Lutheran Social Services

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc. (LSS) traces its roots to 1882 when Pastor E. J. Homme founded a home for orphaned children in Wittenberg, WI. In 1963, Homme Home merged with Martin Luther Social Services (founded in 1889) and Lutheran Welfare Society of Wisconsin (founded in 1936) to form Lutheran Welfare Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The current name was adopted in 1966. In the intervening years, the agency has grown to be one of the largest faith-based human services providers in the Midwest.

What We Do

LSS offers a variety of services throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. With the help of over 700 employees, LSS provides services across a person's lifespan, addressing a variety of conditions. Services are available for children and families, adults, older adults and persons with disabilities. Services are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation or background. LSS currently offers programs in 614 communities; agency programs touch over 20,000 lives annually.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to creating healthy communities filled with people using their God-given gifts to serve!



Grace's Book Club has chosen the book "**Wake Up with Purpose**" by Sister Jean as their book club read for October. Part life story, part philosophy text and part spiritual guide, Sister Jean has written a remarkable memoir filled with history, wonder and common-sense wisdom for this century and beyond. As Sister Jean wisely says, "I've seen so many changes in the last 102 years, but the important things stay the same."

"Wake Up with Purpose" is the narrative of Sister Jean's fascinating life – from teaching at a Catholic school during the Second World War to serving on a Chicago college campus in the sixties and beyond to cheering from the sidelines of a men's basketball tournament in March 2018. As you learn about Sister Jean's century-long life, you'll feel just like the Loyola students do when they knock on her office door, plop down in a chair and ask if she would have time to chat, an activity that she still does daily!

We will meet to discuss this Book on Tuesday, October 10th at 12:00 Noon at AJ's Riverside Coffee Shop. If you would like to read this book, please contact Cindy Wallace for a copy. If you have already read "Wake Up with Purpose" and would like to join our discussion, please join us.



Berlin Community Blood Drive

Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Time: 10:30 am – 5:30 pm

Place: Grace Lutheran Church

Call Nancy at 920-361-3679 to make an appointment.

Walkin's are always welcome!

Maggie the Church Mouse

I'm licking up communion crumbs around the altar rail, serenely humming one of the Praise Team songs and reflecting on yesterday's service. Though I don't tend to boast about myself, I can honestly say I'm quite adept at sniffing out the bread crumbs and eliminating them. It's one of the tasks I happily perform each week at Grace. The front of this church is beautiful, and I take pride in helping keep it that way

Lately I've taken special note of the altar flowers on these autumn Sundays – mums of gold one week and purple another, sunflowers with deep yellow petals encircling coffee-colored centers, hydrangeas tinted a soft pink or green. It would be impossible to choose a favorite one! No single color is any more pleasing than another. They all enrich our senses with the beauty bestowed upon them by nature....and there is truly an abundance of beauty in this season of fall.

At the risk of sounding like an intellectual mouse, I find myself drawing a parallel between the flowers I've been admiring and the people of Grace. You each have traits, talents, and pastimes unique to yourselves, but when combined with other members you design and create a bouquet of wonderful projects and events for your church family to enjoy. There are people in your midst who can sew, crochet, and quilt; bake, cook, and clean; sing and play instruments; build, fix, shovel, mow and paint; organize and lead groups and committees; handle office work, finances and bookkeeping; strike up conversations and lend listening ears; instruct children and teens; draw pictures and posters; write articles; and – last but not least – you have a pastor with the invaluable gift of preaching. Mind you, this is unquestionably far from being a complete list. But it begins to represent the many talents God has assembled within one church.

Like the rich array of colors in the flowers and leaves of autumn, our congregation is a palette of individual contributors who combine their potential to make the world around us a better and more beautiful place. Even a drab little mouse like me can clean up communion crumbs. No talent is more important or credible than another.

Together we work, **together** we pray, **together** we serve a God who watches over us in all seasons.



Community Tailgate Event

Sunday, October 15 at
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin
3:00-6:00 p.m.

Games, activities, & devotion time
Supper provided (tailgate fare)
All ages invited

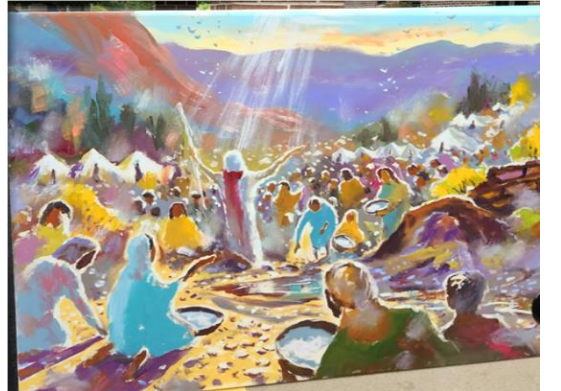
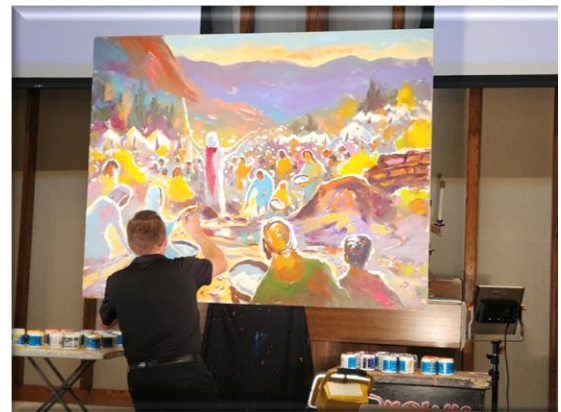
Registration requested so we have
enough food and equipment

RSVP (920) 361-1820

By Monday, October 9



Drawn to the Word September 24, 2023





Radio Ministry

- October 1 - In Honor of Bill & Sue Bartlett and Doug & Bonnie Kline's Wedding Anniversary
- October 8 - Sponsored by family and friends in memory of Roy Chadwick's 93rd birthday
- October 15 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family
- October 22 - In Honor of Bev Tarras 90th Birthday
- October 29 - Open

Flowers

- October 1 - In Honor of Bill & Sue Bartlett and Doug & Bonnie Kline's Wedding Anniversary
- October 8 - In Appreciation of Pastor Tarras by the Council
- October 15 - In Honor of Tom and Carrie McCarthy's 23rd Wedding Anniversary
- October 22 - In Honor of Ryan & Grace Dobb's Wedding Anniversary by Jeff & Anita Lind
- October 29 - Open


Bulletins

- October 1 - In Honor of Bill & Sue Bartlett and Doug & Bonnie Kline's Wedding Anniversary
- October 8 - In Appreciation of Pastor Tarras by the Women of Grace
- October 15 - Open
- October 22 - Open
- October 29 - Open

Fellowship

- October 1 - Mary Falk
- October 8 - Goettl
- October 15 - Jean Dretske
- October 22 - Pastor Tarras
- October 29 - Penny Bahn

Greeters

- October 1 - Tricia Prellwitz
 - October 8 - Kelly Boening & Allison
 - October 15 - Sue Bartlett
 - October 22 - Open
 - October 29 - Open
- 



Happy Birthday

October Birthdays

- 1 Scott Zabel
- 3 Londynn Pibnow
- 4 Joshua Strebelinski
- 10 Patrice Magdanz
- 11 Mary Fredrickson
- 12 Cynthia Laudolff
- 12 Colton Schenk
- 14 Donald Peschke
- 16 Victor Dretske
- 16 Dylan Gravunder
- 16 Denise Krentz
- 16 Brooks Paulsen
- 20 Jill Jahn
- 20 Roderick Krause
- 20 Jan Krebs
- 20 Beverly Tarras
- 21 Sophia Lehr
- 22 Barb Bellmer
- 23 Katie Malson
- 25 Sara Evans
- 26 Zander Beck



Happy Anniversary

October Anniversaries

- 1 Robert & Jill Jahn
- 4 Doug & Bonnie Kline
- 6 David & Becky Olsen
- 6 Bill and Sue Bartlett
- 11 Mark & Kristine Labbus
- 11 Dale & Emma Schroeder
- 13 John & Mary Lou Neubauer
- 14 Tom & Carrie McCarthy
- 15 Jon & Sabrina Pierstorff
- 18 Karl & Sarah Guenther
- 21 Scott & Kelly Zabel
- 24 Ross & Alexandria Johnson
- 24 Scott & Darlene Wolfe
- 25 Ryan & Grace Dobbs

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

First Lutheran Invites You To Join Them For Polka Sunday!

Get ready to kick up your heels and dance to the lively tunes of polka music on Sunday, October 1 at First Lutheran Church. It's a day of fun, fellowship, and fantastic music for the whole community to enjoy! This is a family-friendly event, so bring your loved ones along for a memorable worship with polka music and stay for a potluck following. We look forward to seeing you there!

Date: October 1

Time: 10:30 am

Place: First Lutheran Church, W2314 Prospect St, Poy Sippi, WI

Join Us For

Live Polka Band - Delicious Potluck following worship - Fellowship with Friends and Neighbors



October

2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	2 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	3 9:00 am LWR Quilters 9:00 am Staff Meeting	4 5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	5 12:40 pm Soul Food All Saints Host	6	7 8:00 am Deliver LWR Kits to Appleton
8 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	9 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	10 9:00 am Staff Meeting	11 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	12 12:40 pm Soul Food River Shores Hosts	13	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Grace Lutheran
15 8:30 am Worship-with Communion and Sunday School 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Community Tailgate Party	16 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	17 9:00 am LWR Quilters 9:00 am Staff Meeting	18 5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	19 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts	20	21
22 8:30 am Worship with Communion - No Sunday School	23 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	24 9:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30am – 5:30 pm Blood Drive	25 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	26 12:40 pm No Soul Food	27	28
29 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	30 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	31 9:00 am Staff Meeting				