

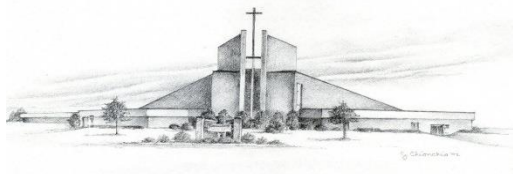
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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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



- May 5 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- May 12 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- May 19 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- May 26 - 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"**

From the Pastor:



Max Lucado, shared the following story in his book *Before Amen: The Power of A Simple Prayer*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2014)]. A woman died in labor leaving behind a premature baby and a 2-year-old girl. The clinic had no incubator or electricity, so the doctor told a nurse to get a hot water bottle. The nurse returned with bad news: the hot water bottle had burst when she filled it and that was the last one. The doctor instructed the nurse to sleep with the newborn that night to keep her warm and they would seek a solution the following day.

A solution was not easily found. The clinic was in the heart of the jungle. Help was many miles away. The life of the newborn was in jeopardy. The following noon the doctor mentioned the concern to the children. She told them of the frail baby and the sad sister. And they prayed.

A ten-year-old girl named Ruth decided on her own to take the problem to Jesus. "Please, God, send us a hot water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby'll be dead; so please send it this afternoon. And, while you are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl, so she'll know you really love her?"

The doctor was stunned. That prayer could only be answered by the arrival of a parcel from home. After nearly four years at the clinic, she hadn't received even one parcel. And even if one came who would send a hot water bottle to the equator?

Someone did. Later that afternoon a twenty-two-pound package was delivered to the doctor's door. As she called the children, she felt tears in her eyes. Could it be? They pulled off the string and unwrapped the paper. In the box they found bandages, jerseys, raisins, sultanas, and a brand-new hot water bottle. And at the bottom of the box, a doll for the little girl. The box had been shipped five months earlier. The Lord had heard the prayer before it was even offered."

When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, he gave them a blueprint to follow. He began by teaching that we have the privilege to turn to the creator of the entire cosmos in prayer and call him our daddy. We are to acknowledge that this Father is different from our earthly Father – he is the one in heaven, the one who rules and reigns over all things, the one who is holy and deserves our honor and praise, the one whose will and guidance we are to follow as we live so that God's ways will be lived out here on this earth.

The order of the prayer is intentional – we honor God before raising personal needs. Jesus expressed this order when he said "*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you.*" (Mt. 6:33) Our perspective changes when we begin with a view of God and God's purposes. Then we make our requests known, admitting we have needs that only God can fill.

That reminds me of another story about the power of prayer: Two women co-owned and operated a seaside inn. They were getting ready for the busy summer season and were faced with a dilemma-not enough help in the kitchen. They desperately needed a pastry chef and a dishwasher. One of the two women prayed asking God for help. She said, "Lord, I haven't the least idea where to find help; this hotel is Your business as well as mine. Please lead me to a dishwasher and a pastry chef."

She then went to her car. Her partner asked what was up, and she said, "I don't know, but somehow God will show me." She headed downtown and spotted two men at a bus stop. On an impulse, she stopped at the curb. She explained, "I run a hotel on the beach and need some extra help. You men wouldn't be needing jobs, would you?" Big grins appeared on the men's faces. "Yes, ma'am, we do. We've been looking for work but haven't found any. We were about to try elsewhere." "What can you do?", the woman asked. "Sam here, he's a first-rate pastry cook, and I'm a dishwasher." "Climb in", the woman said. The two men stayed the entire season and proved to be the best help the inn had that year. For that little seaside inn, a pastry cook and a dishwasher were the "daily bread" needed. (source: Catherine Marshall).

May we be people who are bold in prayer.

Pastor Rebekah Tarras

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
3.11.2024

President Linda called the meeting to order.

Members present; Linda Reetz, Terry Wallace, Sandy Peschke, Becky Olsen, Pastor Rebekah, Anita Lind, Jody Ziemann, Craig Chovanec, Bob Prellwitz, Mary Gropp.

Audience members present Jeremy and Carissa Fritz.

Devotion given by Terry Wallace.

No audience concerns.

Approval of the Agenda. Becky added the Joint Council Meeting on 3.18.24. Terry added the Men's Brat Fry. Motion made by Jody to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

Secretary's Report. February meeting minutes sent out via email, corrections documented. Motion made by Anita to accept February meeting minutes as written, seconded by Bob, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. The February report, including the check details, was presented. Motion made by Terry to accept report as written, seconded by Jody, motion carried.

President's Report.

Finance Committee. Linda shared that Diane Torasson, Jean Dretske and Sue Shemanski have come forward to serve on the newly formed committee, along with the council executive members. The Finance Committee will replace the current (C13.10.A21) Executive Committee as outlined in the Constitution. The purpose and the functions of this committee will remain the same as written in (C13.10.A21).

Synod Financial Handout. Linda shared a handout generated by the East Central Synod. This information was part of the 'Wave', a weekly email put out by the East Central Synod. Sandy informed the council that she has added their email addresses for them to receive this weekly email. Congregation members can also sign up to receive the weekly email.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Rebekah reported official acts including the funeral of Roland Bahr. Is completing visits with communion to our homebound members. She provided a list of ongoing activities including planning for Holy Week services, and various meetings she has attended.

Committee Reports.

Fellowship and Caring. Jody reported that the group met yesterday. Members are planning for the upcoming Palm Sunday Brunch, sign up sheets are on the kiosk. Gave thanks to those that participated in the Meal Train. Group is planning a spring activity for homebound after Easter. Next Meeting is April 14th following service.

Buildings and Grounds. Bob reported that the group is planning for spring lawn care to include rolling and top dressing of rough patches. He will contact Moriarty's for the kitchen sanitizer not holding water. Will follow up with the Exit sign not functioning properly, outside of Jess's office. Next meeting is April 8th.

Christian Education. Anita indicated no report. Worship and Music. Mary indicated the group has not had any formal meeting and no report.

Mission and Outreach. Craig reported that the March mission is Grace Scholarships. The goal of this is to support the youth of Grace especially due to the high cost of continuing education. He also reported that the final Ding Dong Dinner was yesterday, numbers were down from the February delivery but that remaining items were delivered to the Berlin Food Pantry. They are planning for two dinners next year and Linda will put a received thank you in the bulletin and in the weekly eblast.

Unfinished Business.

ELCA Membership. The 2024 ELCA Membership Report has been completed and sent to the synod. The committee to study Grace's definition of membership has not met.

Shared Ministry Covenant. No updates

New Business.

AED Unit. Discussion held on the need for AED maintenance. Motion made by Craig to purchase a new battery for the unit, seconded by Mary, motion carried. Anita stated that the Women of the Church are considering purchasing the needed battery and or replacement of the unit in the future.

Buildings and Grounds Committee. Discussion held on asking the committee to devise a 10 year plan for budgeting. Bob agreed that he would take the request back to the group for consideration and further planning.

Scholarship Committee. Discussion held on the Scholarship language to be placed in the constitution. Motion made by Becky to table the item until Diane could provide clarification input, seconded by Mary, motion carried.

Finance Committee. Information and discussion as documented in the above President's Report. Motion made by Jody to add the Finance Committee to the Constitution, seconded by Anita, motion carried.

Game Night. Discussion held on hosting a game night, a time for members and families to get together for a fun social event. Members will consider and plan for this type of event during the cold weather months.

Joint Council Meeting. Meeting is set for 3.28.24, starting at 6:30pm. Linda indicated this will be a get to know each other type of meeting.

Brat Fry. The Men's Group will sponsor and host this annual event on June 19th, 2024 at Riverside Park. All members are invited to attend.

Dresses for African Girls. Dress sewing day is planned for Saturday April 13th, 2024.

Rummage Sale. The Woman's Group will have their rummage sale on Saturday April 20th, 2024.

Closed Session. Motion made by Jody to enter in closed session, seconded by Terry, motion carried.

Return to Open Session. Motion made by Anita to return the meeting to open session, seconded by Jody, motion carried.

Closing Prayer. Given by Linda.

Adjournment. Motion made by Jody to adjourn, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Olsen, Secretary

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Sandy Peschke – Treasurer	920-290-1551	kspeschke1950@gmail.com
Becky Olsen – Secretary	920-290-4485	olsenfamilyshorthorns@gmail.com
Mary Gropp – Music/Worship	920-279-4054	jim_marygropp@yahoo.com
Anita Lind – Christian Education	920-290-1374	anita_lind@charter.net
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



- ◆ Grace Men's Sponsored Brat Fry Wednesday, June 19 at 5:30 pm
- ◆ Joint Worship in the Park Sunday, July 21 at 10:00 am

Details will follow closer to the events

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.

The 8th Chapter of the Constitution defines membership. “Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.”

Membership carries both privilege and responsibility.

***C8.04.** It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. support the work of this congregation, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

***C8.05.** Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
 - b. resignation;
 - c. transfer or release;
 - d. disciplinary action in accordance with Chapter 20 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
 - e. removal from the roll due to inactivity in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
- Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.

C8.05.01 Those who have not participated in worship during the current or preceding year, not including those who are homebound, or absent due to special circumstances, may be moved to inactive status with the understanding they are people for whom we have care and concern and they may be restored to active status at any time by participating in the life of the congregation.



Grace’s Book Club has chosen the book “**Winter Garden**” by Kristin Hannah as their choice for May. This novel explores the relationship two sisters, Meredith and Nina Whitson, have with their cold, disapproving mother Anya as they deal with their father’s illness and death. On his deathbed, their father extracts a promise to the women in his life: the Russian fairy tale the girls always heard as children would be told one last time – and all the way to the end.

This begins an unexpected journey into the truth of Anya’s life in war-torn Leningrad, more than five decades earlier. Alternating between the past and present, Meredith and Nina will finally hear the singular, harrowing story of their mother’s life and what they learn is a secret so terrible and terrifying that it will shake the very foundation of their family and change who they believe they are.

We will meet to discuss “**Winter Garden**” on Tuesday, May 14th at 12 Noon at a location to be determined. If you would like to read “**Winter Garden**” and join us for discussion, please contact Cindy Wallace for a copy. If you have already read this novel, please consider joining us on May 14th. We would love to have you join us.

Mission of the Month - Compassion Child

Compassion Child's mission is to release children from poverty in Jesus' name through a holistic approach to child development. Holistic child development means they assist a child in poverty, in some cases, when the child is still in the womb, and it goes through young adulthood with the child. Holistic child development is tailored to a child's age, gender, health, culture, and family situation.

Compassion Child works with thousands of local churches around the world. In a world where hundreds of millions of children live in extreme poverty, connecting one child with one sponsor is the most strategic way to end child poverty.

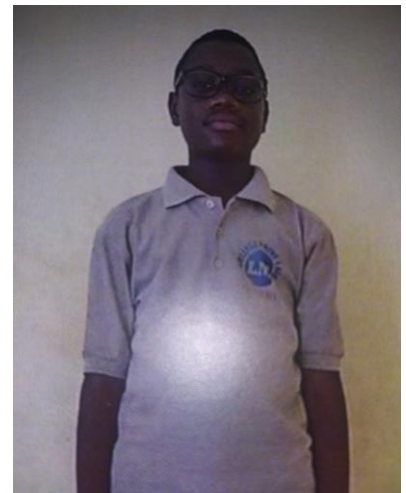
To help young people finish well, they provide youth ages 12 and older with customized training and educational paths according to their own unique potential and God-given talents and purpose.

Here at Grace Lutheran we sponsor two boys.



Bryan was born on September 14, 2015. Grace has been providing hope and love to Bryan as his sponsor since April 2022. He enjoys Bible stories at the Pampanitos Learning Center.

Kelly was born on March 20, 2010. Grace has been providing hope and love to Kelly as his sponsor since January 2021. He is interested in art, drawing, reading, drama, soccer and running.



Our gifts and prayers give Bryan and Kelly the ability to grow spiritually, cognitively, and emotionally.



Sunday Sundaes May 12, 2024

It is the last day of Sunday School for this school year. The Christian Education Committee will be serving ice cream sundaes, with toppings, following worship. Please come and enjoy some ice cream!

Thank you to all the teachers for their time and talents!



The Berlin Food Pantry is looking for volunteers.

Call Mike Griffin at 920-203-5067 or stop in on Thursdays at River Shores Church at 253 S. Church Street, Berlin or email: berlinfoodpantry@gmail.com

Radio Ministry

- May 5 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family
- May 12 - In Honor of Mother's Day and Gretchen's 18th Birthday by the Mildebrandt Family
- May 19 - In Honor of Shirley Huck's 85th Birthday
- May 26 - Open

Flowers

- May 5 - In Honor of Terry and Cindy Wallace's Anniversary
- May 12 - In Honor of Patti Batenhorst's Birthday by Gary
- May 19 - In Honor of Rose McGrath's Birthday by John and Michelle Klawitter
- May 26 - In Honor of Jeff and Anita Lind's Anniversary

Bulletins

- May 5 - In Memory of Gig Langenhorst by Vic and Heidi Schramer
- May 12 - In Memory of Beatrice Duerr by De Anna Lueptow
- May 19 - In Honor of Shirley Huck's 85th Birthday
- May 26 - In Honor of Dr. John Koch

Fellowship

- May 5 - Goettl Family
- May 12 - Sunday Sundae
- May 19 - Bill and Sue Carpenter
- May 26 - Graduation Cake

Greeters

- May 5 - Tammy Goettl
- May 12 - Phyllis Luttrupp
- May 19 - Open
- May 26 - Open

Grace's Rummage Sale

A Huge Thank You to everyone for your tremendous support of the Women of Grace's Annual Rummage Sale on April 20th. The donations of items for the sale, the delicious treats that were baked for the bake sale, the time that so many of you donated to help sort, organize, and run the sale all combined to help us raise **over \$2,000!**

A special thank you to Cindy Wallace for coordinating the entire event!



Happy Birthday



May Birthdays

- 4 William Nelson
Angie Armatoski
- 5 Jared Labbus
- 8 Blake Hilke
Tracy Kallas
Jennifer Koscher
- 9 Patti Batenhorst
Rebecca Guden
- 12 Gretchen Mildebrandt
- 12 Cody Retzlaff
- 13 Tricia Prellwitz
- 14 Kristin Koch
Michael Retzlaff
- 16 Robert Prellwitz
- 17 Kenzie Retzlaff
- 18 William Bartlett
Robert Sillanpaa
Mercedes Zabel
- 19 Kathy Cartwright
Peggy Ferrel
Karl Guenther
Mason Hilke
Rose McGrath
- 20 Courtney Hilke
- 23 Shirley Huck
Terry Wepner
- 24 Joshua Nitzke
Hunter Schmidt
- 27 Jackie Schmidt
Mark Calabresa
- 29 Patrick Ferron
Connie Koscher

Happy Anniversary



May Anniversaries

- 4 Terry & Cindy Wallace
- 9 Daniel & Roxanne Haedt
- 14 William & Susan Carpenter
- 18 Brett & Kristin Hermanson
- 19 Ronald & Penny Bahn - 45th
- 22 Gary & Patti Batenhorst
- 27 Bill & Laura Nelson - 35th
- 31 Jeff & Anita Lind

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



Berlin Community Blood Drive

May 14, 2024 at Grace Church
10:30 am – 5:30 pm

Call Nancy at 920-361-3679 for an appointment. Walk-ins are always welcome!

Ladies Spring Social

The Stampin' Ministry is inviting all ladies of First and Grace to a Ladies Social at First Lutheran on May 19 beginning at 2:00 pm. They will have light refreshments while you create fun projects along with reading and discussing a devotional study. To plan for enough supplies for each participant at this event, they ask that you sign up on the sheet on the kiosk.

May

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30 pm Crafters Group	2 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts	3	4
5 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	6 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	7 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilting	8 7:00 pm Choir Practice	9 9:00 am Bible Study at Grace Lutheran 12:40 pm Soul Food All Saints Hosts 6:30 pm Metting with the Conflict Consultant	10	11 8:00 am Men's Breakfast At Grace Lutheran
12 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School 	13 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	14 9:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Community Blood Drive 12:00 noon Book Club	15 5:30 pm Crafters Group	16 9:00 am Bible Study at Grace Lutheran 12:40 pm Soul Food River Shores Hosts	17	18 8:00am – 2:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
19 8:30 am Worship with Communion	20 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	21 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilting	22	23 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship with Communion	27 Office Closed 	28 9:00 am Staff Meeting	29	30 12:40 pm Soul Food All Churches 	31	