

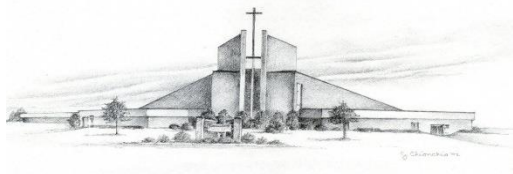
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

Rebekah Tarras, Pastor
Email: pastortarras@gmail.com
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Jessica Fritz – Worship and Music Coordinator
Jeremy Fritz – Choir Director
Sandy Peschke – Office Assistant
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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



- August 6 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- August 13 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- August 20 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- August 27 - Polka 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:

As I was preparing for worship in the park, the words from Psalm 139 stood out to me. They are such beautiful and reassuring words. Verses 7-10 in particular stood out to me.



Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast. Psalm 139:7-10

Isn't that an incredible statement of faith? There is no place we can go that God is not. One of the books I enjoy sharing with my grandchildren is Margaret Wise Brown's book, *The Runaway Bunny*. It is a book for children of all ages. The story is about a little bunny who dreams about running away from home, only to find "home" wherever he ends up. His mommy does not stop him from running away, but she does not leave him either. When he climbs a tree, the tree is in the shape of Mommy. When he travels the ocean, the wind is in the shape of Mommy. When he joins the circus, the trapeze artist is shaped like Mommy. Finally, little Bunny gets the point. "Aw, shucks!" he says, "I might just as well stay home and be your little bunny." Which he does.

Like the little bunny in the story, we will never find ourselves out of God's presence. We cannot run away from God. God is our home and is with us wherever we go. Whatever the circumstances of our lives, God is with us – in peace, in war, in hope, in fear, in joy, in suffering, in sickness, in health, in life, in old age, and even in death. Wherever we live, wherever we work, wherever we go God is forever with us.

Friends, where ever you find yourself today, in whatever situation you are facing, God is with you.

Pastor Rebekah

PS. I want to take a moment to say thank you to all of you for allowing me the opportunity to work with intern pastor Kathy over the past year. As a person who often struggles with confidence, I never thought of myself as being an intern supervisor or even as having something to offer to someone beginning in ministry.

But over this past year, I learned a lot about myself and discovered I had things to offer a pastor just beginning their ministry.

It was a good experience and I am grateful to have had the opportunity. Thank you.



August 23 - Choir Practice begins at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join the choir.

August 27 - Polka Service at 8:30 am with Pie and Ice Cream Social to follow.
Invite family and friends.....all are welcome.

September 10 - Sunday School begins.

September 13 - Confirmation Classes begin.

September 24 - Drawn to the Word Service at 10:00 am with potluck to follow.

October 15 - Family Tailgate Party at 3:00 pm. More information to follow.

**GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
5.8.23**

Council members present; Heidi Schramer, DeAnna Lueptow, Becky Olsen, Pastor Rebekah, Craig Chovanec, Bob Prellwitz, Gene Hess, Jody Ziemann. Absent members; Sue Shemanski and Cindy Wallace. Congregation members present; Sandy Peschke, Carissa Fritz, Sue Bartlett.

President Heidi Schramer called the meeting to order.

Opening prayer given by DeAnna Lueptow.

Approval of the Agenda with one addition of the Turkey Living 'Pod'. Motion made by Craig to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Jody, motion carried.

Concerns from the audience. Sue Bartlett spoke on behalf of the Mutual Ministry Committee. Sue gave an explanation of the origin and purpose of the committee. The group was formed, per recommendation of the synod, when our two churches joined in the sharing of Pastor duties. The committee consists of members from both Grace and First Lutheran, they meet periodically, act as a support group and sounding board for issues that may arise, serving both the pastor and congregation members. She encouraged the council and Pastor to reach out to the committee as needed.

Secretary's Report. Meeting minutes read from 4.10.23. Motion made by Craig to accept the report as read, seconded by DeAnna, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Printed reports of treasurer's report, check detail and investment profile provided. Explanations of questions provided by Sandy. Motion made by Gene to accept report as written, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

Unfinished Business.

Shared Ministry Covenant. This item will be tabled until the 6.5.23 meeting of the Joint Councils. At this June meeting the document will be reviewed and discussed, with the potential for approval and signing at that time.

Worship on Wednesdays. Following discussion at both church's council meetings it has been determined that we will not offer services on Wednesday evenings. Rational include, added workload for Pastor and possible decrease in attendance at Sunday services.

Worship in the Park. The event is Sunday, 7.23.23. The service will be followed by a Potluck Luncheon. Grace council members will host and are creating a committee to finalize the plans for the event. DeAnna will post a sign-up sheet for the potluck on the kiosk.

Polka Service on 8.27.23, with Pie Social following the service. Council members will furnish the pies.

Turkey Disaster Living 'Pod'. The final amount given by the congregation was \$1,828.00. Matching funds from the general fund will be \$1,828.00, for a total of \$3,656.00 sent to the Turkey Disaster.

New Business.

Radio Ministry. Discussion held on whether to continue the radio ministry and whether to continue it at the current sponsorship of \$60.00/week. Pastor and other members were able to identify members that listen to the weekly service on the radio. We are unable to determine the number of individuals that partake in this ministry. Upon further discussion council members agreed to continue the radio ministry at the current sponsorship of \$60.00/week for 2023. Will plan to review the item prior to 2024 for possible increase in the cost of sponsorship. Gene also stated the Men's Group has funds available as needed.

Joint Council Meeting. The Joint Council will meet 6.5.23 at First Lutheran Church starting at 7pm.

Intern Contract review. Discussion held on Intern contract. Pastor addressed the council with a written statement, stating that the Intern Contract is a 60 page handbook set forth by the seminary, and will make copies of the contract for anyone who would like a copy. Upon further discussion with the seminary, Pastor noted that the word ‘agreement’ should replace the word ‘contract’. Going forward, a committee will be formed to address the Intern agreement and our present constitution. At present our constitution does not include provisions to include Interns as members of our church council.

Committee Reports.

Pastor Report. Pastor authored and read a document entitled; Update on Internship requirement. “From the agreement with the seminary: The Intern is expected to attend all meetings of the Congregational Council and some meetings of the auxiliaries and committees.

At no point has intern pastor Kathy made a motion or seconded a motion or voted. As part of her learning experience, she was doing what she was expected to do as part of her internship by providing input and asking questions. However, considering the question that has arisen over the intern attending and sharing input at Grace council meetings, and in an attempt to avoid further tension, I have consulted with the Seminary and the Synod. Intern Kathy will not be required to attend any more council or executive meetings at Grace. We have been instructed to base her requirements on her interactions with the council at First Lutheran.

Pastor’s report of Pastoral Acts at Grace included the Affirmation of Baptism Service for Caelyn Fritz and Arriana Rozek, the funeral of Dick Fortnum. Visitations to members Joby Zietlow and June Lubbert. Pastor also reported on current and ongoing activities at both Grace and First Lutheran Churches. She will be on vacation the week of May 10-16th, Intern Kathy will be covering service and pastoral needs that week.”

Buildings and Grounds. Bob Prellwitz reported that the group met 5.8.23. Sanctuary chairs are reupholstered, reported that the lawns, landscaping and building maintenance are ongoing. Reported that the automatic doors are being addressed on an as needed basis for intermittent issues. The East kitchen door will be repaired by members with the assistance of Ray Bosveld. Painting of the sanctuary will be completed following the color palette choice. Next meeting date 6.12.23.

Christian Education. Sue Shemanski provided the report. Sunday School wrapped up on 4.30.23 with the planting of flowers for Mother’s Day, 4 year olds were invited to attend, and the day ended with ice cream sundaes for fellowship. Corsages and cake were ordered for the confirmands. Cake will also be purchased for fellowship on 5.21, to celebrate our graduating seniors. New Sunday School materials will be purchased for next year's lessons, it will align with our weekly services. VBS is planned for July and plans are being finalized. Bulletin Board is completed. No upcoming meeting date.

Fellowship and Caring. Jody Ziemann reported that the group is planning goodie plates for homebound members, assembling them June 11th. Group is planning for Fellowship on July 30th. Summer fellowship following services will be donut holes, coffee and juice. Donut holes have been ordered from Cross Roads Market, members will provide pick up and a Thrivent Action card will cover the cost of the donuts. Tricia spoke with Pastor Rebekah about providing some type of Respite Care services, discussion is ongoing. Pastor Rebekah also suggested a New Member Committee, Tricia will gather information from the past and discussion will continue. Next meeting date 6.11.23.

Worship and Music. Gene Hess provided a detailed report of their 5.3.23 meeting. Choir will be performing May 7th and May 21st. The Praise Team will perform May 14th. Both groups will then be off for the summer months, rejoining in August. Jessica Fritz will oversee special summer music. Jessica provides organization for communion set up and assistants. Upcoming special services being planned include the July 23rd Worship in the Park with a picnic to follow. August 27th Polka and Pie Service and September 24th Drawn to the Word Service. Pastor will be on vacation May 14th, June 18th and July 16th, Intern Kathy will provide coverage on those dates. Jessica will check for a supply pastor to provide service on August 6th. No upcoming meeting date.

Mission and Outreach. Craig Chovanec provided the report. The April Mission was Crossways Camp. The May and June Mission Cause is Compassion Child. We now support two children, Kelly from West Africa and Bryan from El Salvador. This 70 year old global ministry has sponsored over two million children. Support for these

children includes education, nutrition, emotional and spiritual support. Faith based learning is a major component of the organization. The bulletin board has been updated featuring our various missions.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Craig Chovanec, seconded by Gene Hess, motion carried.

Pastor Rebekah led the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Olsen
5.30.23

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

Thank You from Kathy

As my internship comes to closure, it is with utmost gratitude that I extend my thankfulness to God’s people of Grace English Lutheran church. I have grown more than I expected in ways I did not anticipate.

The year was full of many “first times I ever did this,” and as I finish this year, it has become the “last time I will do this here with you.” I greatly appreciate the loving kindness that you have extended to me in so many ways, including your words, and through so many gifts. I have been deeply touched and humbled by your generosity, and you will all remain in my heart, and in my prayers.

I begin my final year of study on September 4th at Wartburg seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, but primarily as an online student. I am working through the final stages of my candidacy approval process that should be completed in December, and I anticipate graduation in mid-May of 2024.

Please know that you have contributed to my future success in these remaining formalities.

God’s blessings and peace to you all,

Intern Kathy

Maggie The Church Mouse

This is the season of wild chicory, purple clover, and Queen Anne's lace. They crowd the rural roadsides with spots of color winking among all the greens of the grasses and crops. This morning, under a brilliant August sun and a sky of fluffy clouds, I ventured out into the countryside, further away from Grace than I usually go – curious but timid, unsure of myself yet drawn to continue to explore and experience more of God's amazing world.



I never would have known the names of the wildflowers had I not encountered many welcoming field mice along my way. They happily answered all my questions, pointing out characteristics and showing me around one field to the next. What a joy to feel so much more aware and appreciative of the little things that help make up the whole of God's creation. Next year I'll not only be looking for those beautiful wildflowers, but I'll even be able to call them by name. I'm so much better informed!

Have you ever felt timid about asking for information, as I did when I set out on my journey today? Perhaps, as a member of Grace, you have occasionally wanted to learn more about a particular program, event, or meeting. Well, take it from me: it feels great to be informed! Think about all the resources at hand: Pastor Rebekah, Church Council members, committee participants, music leaders – not to mention two helpful secretaries in the office who probably know more about the workings of Grace than most people! There are also many Grace members who have belonged to the church for decades and are a wealth of historical details.

So – if you want to know details about the Women's Salad Supper this month, ask Cindy Wallace, President of the Grace Women, or Sandy and Penny in the office. If you want to know which Sunday in August is for Polka & Pie, ask Pastor Rebekah, Jessica Fritz, or any Church Council member. Sometimes a simple question can lead to a productive conversation, even a new connection.

It's important to ask questions in order to understand as much as we can around us. Knowledge and communication are prerequisites for understanding. I learned so much from my friends, the field mice, on a beautiful August day, and my heart is happy for having asked.



“At Home in Mitford” by Jan Karon is the August pick for Grace's Book Club. This delightful novel takes place in the fictional town of Mitford, and centers around Father Tim, a bachelor rector in the village. As the back of the book states:

It's easy to feel at home in Mitford. In these high, green hills, the air is pure, the village is charming, and the people are generally lovable. Yet, Father Tim, the bachelor rector, wants something more. Enter a dog the size of a sofa who moves in and won't go away. Add an attractive neighbor who begins wearing a path through the hedge. Now, stir in a lovable but unloved boy, a mystifying jewel theft, and a secret that's sixty years old. Suddenly, Father Tim gets more than he bargained for. And readers get a rich comedy about ordinary people and their ordinary lives.

We will meet to discuss this book on Tuesday, August 8th at 1:00 PM in the Grace Church Library. If you have read this book, please consider joining us. If you are interested in reading **“At Home in Mitford”** please contact Cindy Wallace @ 920-229-3772

Women of Grace Annual Salad Supper

Tuesday, August 8th at 6:15 PM

Please bring a salad to share (2 people to a salad)

Plates, silverware, dinner rolls/butter, dessert & beverages will be provided

We hope you can join us on Tuesday, August 8th to hear Amy Krause tell us about her trip to Liberia, West Africa. In Amy's words:

"I am so excited to be able to share with you the life changing things God is doing in West Africa! I look forward to meeting you all!"

Also, please remember that our Salad Supper also serves as a baby shower for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring items for the LWR Layettes. A list of items needed is printed in the newsletter.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Kiosk.



Save the Date!

Sunday, September 24 at 10:00am for Drawn to The Word



Get ready for an amazing event with visiting Pastor and professional Wisconsin artist Paul Oman.

Paul will be creating a live audience mural called Drawn to The Word. Drawn to The Word offers churchgoers an unusual opportunity to see a painting take place with images representing Christ's ministry on earth, come to life before parishioners' eyes.

The artist Paul uses a 7'x5' canvas, stretched and mounted on an easel. He begins painting a religious mural to be completed before the worship ends. A testimonial stated, "It was a profound coming together of the audible and visual Word." The completed mural will be hung in the Church.

The event will be open to the public with a potluck gathering after the service. Our Church has been gifted payment for half of this awesome event. Remember to save the date, September 24. Bring family and friends and be mesmerized, absorbed, fascinated, delighted, and captivated.

LWR Summer Project - June, July, and August

As in prior years, the Ladies of Grace will be putting together kits for personal care, school supplies, and baby care. When you are out shopping, whether it be retail stores, garage sales, or flea markets, keep an eye out for the list of items needed. Any item(s) can be dropped off at church, anytime during the summer months.

Thrivent Action Cards can be applied for to purchase items for the kits. If you apply for the cards and want someone to “shop” for you, the ladies of Grace would be happy to do so. Just let the office staff know.

At this time we have plenty of rulers, pencil sharpeners, scissors and backpacks for our school kits.

At kits will be assembled on August 22 at 9:00 am. All available help is appreciated.

Personal Care

- 1 – light weight bath size towel dark color 20x40 or 27x52 (no larger please)
- 2 or 3 – bath size bars of soap (8 – 9 ounces total in original wrapping)
- 1 – sturdy comb
- 1 – metal nail clipper

School Supply Kit

- 4 – 70 sheet notebooks (wide or college rule)
- 5 – unsharpened #2 pencils
- 5 – black or blue pens (no gel ink)
- 1 – box of 16 – 24 crayons
- 1 – 30 centimeter ruler (or centimeters on one side inches on the other)
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – blunt pair of scissors
- 1 – sturdy drawstring backpack (14" x 17") with shoulder straps

Baby Care Kit

- 2 – lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies)
- 2 – short or long sleeve sleepers (without feet)
- 2 – blankets (between 36 – 52 inches)
- 4 – cloth diapers (flat fold preferred)
- 2 – diaper pins or large safety pins
- 2 – pairs of socks
- 1 – hand towel (dark color preferred)
- 2 – 3 bars of gentle soap (8 – 9 ounces total)



Mission of the Month - Paige Soper

My name is Paige Soper and I am an intern with Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at UW-Oshkosh.

I was involved in Chi Alpha all four years of school and joined the staff team full-time last year as an intern upon graduating. It was such a wonderful year of personally watching God move in and through the students at Oshkosh. Our group almost doubled in size compared to the year before, and set new records in attendance for our fall and spring conferences.

I was able to mentor and disciple students, lead a weekly small group, preach a sermon, attend a mission trip to Chicago, and help with our large group services and outreach opportunities. This year, I will be continuing with these responsibilities to reach college students and help them fulfill their calling in God's global plan.

If you are interested in ways to pray for me as a campus missionary and/or considering giving to my ministry, I will be speaking and will have an information table set up at the service on August 13th in the narthex.

P.S. Paige is Barb Tollakson's granddaughter.



Radio Ministry

- August 6 - In Honor of her grandchildren and great grandchildren's birthdays by Lorraine Hetchler
- August 13 - Men of Grace
- August 20 - In Honor of the faithful radio listeners by the Goettl Family
- August 27 - In Honor of all teachers by Henry & Lois Stark

Flowers

- August 6 - In Honor of Conrad and Mary Falk's wedding anniversary
- August 13 - In Honor of Jerry & Linda Reetz's 51st wedding anniversary
- August 20 - Garden Flowers
- August 27 - Garden Flowers

Bulletins

- August 6 - In Honor of Joseph Schmidt's Birthday
- August 13 - Open
- August 20 - Open
- August 27 - In Memory of Stan and Sue Shemanski's wedding anniversary

Fellowship

- August 6 - Mary Falk
- August 13 - Open
- August 20 - Open
- August 27 - Polka Service and Pie Social

Greeters

- August 6 - Open
- August 13 - Open
- August 20 - Open
- August 27 - Open



Polka Worship Service August 27, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.



Invite Family and Friends

**All are welcome to stay
for Pie and Ice Cream
following the service**



Worship in the Park, Sunday July 23, 2023

A beautiful service led by Pastor Rebekah and Intern Kathy



Thank you Heidi, Cindy, and Deanna for organizing the potluck.





August Birthdays

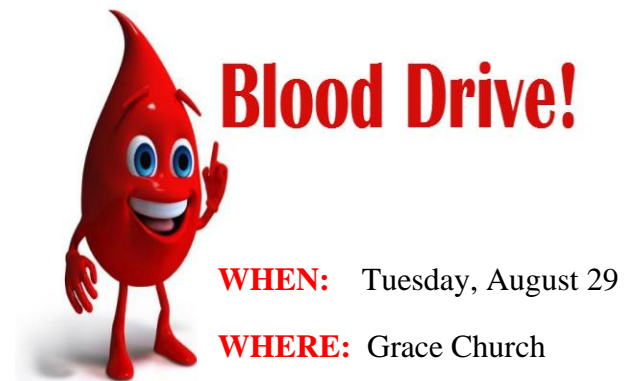
2	Lee Born
2	Cheryl Heil
3	Anna Falk
3	Lisa Lee
3	Brady Retzlaff
3	Joseph Schmidt
4	Tammy Retzlaff
5	Lincoln O'Brien
8	Bonnie Schenk
9	Darran Dutcher
9	Alison Gerth
9	Logan Kline
10	Timothy Krentz
10	David Olsen
11	Gerald Pomplun
12	Vicki Konen
12	Ana Nelson
13	Curtney Kurth
14	James Lehr
15	Gary Knoke
15	Susan Strom
16	Dan Roggow
18	Siri Smits
20	William Krebs
22	Jean Dretske
23	Alan Hinz
24	Caylie Krebs
25	Austin Haedt
26	Judith Gallert
26	Donald Konen
26	Heather Master
27	Mary Gropp
29	Diane Timm
29	Tanner Zabel
30	Ike Dobbs
31	Craig Chovanec
31	Heather Hunt
31	Lois Stark
31	Callyn Strebelinski



August Anniversaries

4	Conrad & Mary Falk
4	Tim & Joan Koch
8	Jim & Kim Lehr
12	Jerry & Linda Reetz
13	Lee & Barb Born
13	Bill & Lisa Lee - 35th
15	Scott & Tammy Greening
19	Paul & Candy Gravunder
19	Rod & Debbie Krause - 45th
19	Brian & Linda Zamzow
21	Gary & Jan Knoke
21	Patrick & Teresa Murkley - 30th
21	Jerry & Phyllis Luthropp
25	William & Jan Krebs
25	David & Bonnie Schenk
31	Eric & Tonia Krebs

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



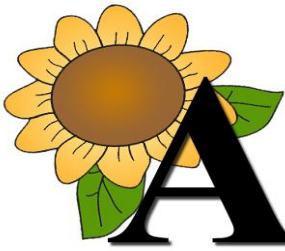
WHEN: Tuesday, August 29

WHERE: Grace Church

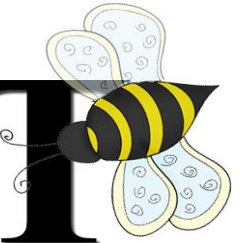
TIME: 10:30am – 5:30pm

Help save a life.....give the gift of blood!

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



AUGUST



2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 am Staff Meeting	2 5:30 pm Crafters	3	4	5
6 8:30 am Worship with Communion	7 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	8 9:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Book Club Meeting 6:15 pm Ladies Salad Supper	9	10	11	12
13 8:30 am Worship-with Communion	14 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	15 9:00 am Staff Meeting	16 5:30 pm Crafters	17	18	19
20 8:30 am Worship with Communion 1:00 pm Music Recital 7:00 pm Mutual Ministry Meeting at Grace	21 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	22 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am Pack Lutheran World Relief Kits	23 7:00 pm Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 8:30 am Polka Service with communion Pie and Ice Cream Social to follow the service	28 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	29 9:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30 – 5:30 pm Blood Drive	30 7:00 pm Choir Practice	31		