

## Grace English Lutheran Church,

384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America*

Rebekah Tarras, Pastor

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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

### Sunday Worship:

8:30 AM

### Office Hours:

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

Hometown Broadcasting

WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



## Worship Services

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

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

November 7 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

November 14 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

November 21 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

November 28 - 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:

***Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. - Luke 17:15-16***



I have the honor of preaching at both the Berlin Ecumenical Thanksgiving service (Tues, Nov. 23) and the Poy Sippi Ecumenical Service (Wed. Nov. 24) so I have been thinking a lot about giving thanks. This seems like a challenging topic in our world today filled with stress, anxiety, and fear.

As I was looking through my folder of notes for thanksgiving, I found one I had made several years ago. I attended the Global Leadership Summit that year and heard Sheryl Sandberg, the CEO of Facebook speak. Sandberg lost her husband suddenly at a young age and found the grief and loss incredibly overwhelming. Turning to a psychologist friend she asked if she would ever experience joy again. Her friend told her, yes, but she would have to look for it each day – writing down the moments of joy that she experienced and giving thanks for them. This practice was at first hard but, as she continued each day to notice the moments of joy and the moments of blessing, she was soon able to give thanks for what she had rather than what she had lost. Soon she began to experience joy once again.

One of my favorite scripture passages about giving thanks is found in Luke 17:11-19. Jesus heals ten lepers but only one comes back to thank him. Rev. Dr. David Lose, in a blog post on *Working Preacher*, wonders what it is about this one who returns. The fact is all ten were healed. All ten had their lives restored, even the nine who didn't return to say "thanks". So what made the one different? Lose concludes, "He noticed." That's pretty much it. "Yes, I know he returned to say thanks but he only did that once he noticed. And I think that was kind of inevitable, or even almost involuntary. I mean, once you notice something spectacular, it's hard not to say something. "I've got good news; the cancer is in remission!" "He proposed; look at my ring." "I just saw the best movie. You've got to see it." I think it was like that for the leper who was healed: once he noticed, once he realized his life had been restored, he couldn't help but turn back, share his joy and give thanks to Jesus. God's blessings are all around us and as we notice them and give thanks to God for them, we are blessed yet again.

So, what does that have to do with all the stress, anxiety, and fear in our world today? The anecdote is cultivating an attitude of gratitude. Gratitude doesn't come naturally to us. Self-pity does. Bellyaches do. These are signs we've made ourselves big and God small. And that attitude leads us down a slippery slope into stress, fear, and anxiety.

Gratitude, however, leads us back to a right perspective. Thankful people focus less on what they lack and more on the blessings they have. Gratitude reshapes our attitude. So, may we be people who are more intentional about gratitude, noticing all the blessings around, and giving thanks to God.

Thank you, God, for the jam on my toast and the milk on my cereal. For the blanket that calms us and the jokes that delight us. For the warm sun that reminds me of your love. For the thousands of planes that did not crash today. For the spouses who didn't cheat. For the kids who choose to honor their parents despite pressure not do. For cheetahs, pickles, fairy wings, moms and dads, ladybugs, old people, Hallmark movies, cookies, and even the mean kids. Thank you, God, for being with us in change, in faith, in need, in life, and in all seasons.

Thankful for you,  
Pastor Rebekah Tarras

# **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING – FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## **Monday, September 13, 2021**

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

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

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

### **Ministry Reports:**

Pastor Rebekah handed out her written report on activities in the past month. Pastor had three funerals; three hospital visits and eight homebound visits either in person or on the phone. She did note that she will be attending the Oshkosh Conference on September 14 and the Synod Fall Theological Retreat October 25 – 27.

Cindy Wallace handed out the August Treasurer's Report and August Check Detail. After reviewing and discussing the General Fund Balance, Tricia Prellwitz made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion approved. Council reviewed the check detail and Becky Guden made a motion to approve the checks as written; Matt Dretske seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Bartlett presented a spreadsheet on the Investment Profile showing each category and that each fund is still gaining even with our monthly withdrawals from the General Fund and Jones Fund.

Matt Dretske presented the Buildings & Grounds project spreadsheet noting that the heaters in the entryways should work now as the breaker was off; the cabinets are now installed in the west room; and railings by the south entry have been painted. He advised that more rock may have to be added in the landscaping to prevent further loss. Bill Bartlett advised a professional cleaner was contacted for a quote on cleaning the pew cushions which council gave the approval for \$480.00. Tricia Prellwitz gave an update on the altar carpet replacement and hopes to get it scheduled in the next month.

Sue Shemanski handed out the Christian Education Committee report. She stated that Sunday School will start Sunday, September 19 and will be held during the service with two classes; one being for 4 year olds through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and the other for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. There will be no Sunday School on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month but Pastor will provide a Children's Sermon at that service.

The Worship and Music Committee report was presented by Tricia Prellwitz. She recapped the Polka Service which had good reviews; and the HOPE program which includes banners, prayer books and other items, will start Sunday, September 19 and run for four weeks. Choir has started practicing and will continue as long as it is safe; new technology is up and running with Jess Fritz creating the slides to go along with the service. Pastor has suggested a Blue Christmas service on December 19. Sunday, October 31 has been set aside for a Don Timm recognition with the approval of his family to recognize all his great wood creations donated to Grace.

The Endowment Committee report was presented by Bill Bartlett advising the council they are considering a \$3,000 distribution in the next year which may be divided between religious activities or organizations, education (scholarships) and charitable activity or organizations. Diane Torraason will create the application to request an award from the Endowment Fund

Conrad Falk from the Mission and Outreach Committee thanked Jeff Tarras for the Mission Minute this month on FCA which he is a part of.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Council briefly discussed the current COVID policy we are following of maintaining 6 feet apart, masks recommended and only singing the closing hymn. It was decided we will remain with these procedures to be reviewed again next month.

Soul Food held in the Grace Fellowship Hall was reviewed. Council was advised that Mary Falk has contacted all the churches in the area regarding participation with only River Shores responding to date and Methodist church declining. This activity is still on hold to review the COVID quarantine numbers at the school district.

Bill Bartlett presented the Profit & Loss Report as of August 31, 2021 for council to review where we stand on the budget. This item will be a quarterly report moving forward. The report showed we are maintaining within our budget with the exception of the new technology and storage cabinet projects.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bill Bartlett brought to council four motions from the Investment Committee. First motion was to suspend the monthly distributions received from the General Fund and Jones Investments. After review of financial reports created by the church bookkeeper showing our General Fund balance went down after the payment of projects, council denied the request for this motion but to review it at a later date and possibly adjust the monthly payments. Three other motions suggested were to invest some General Fund RBC cash into Schwab Dividend Equity Fund; in the Jones Fund to move RBC cash to Global Balanced Fund; and amend our target portfolio in the General Fund and Jones funds to increase equity allocation. All these items were recommended by Dylon Seubert from RBC. Sue Shemanski made a motion to approve these three motions/recommendations from the Investment Committee on moving funds; Linda Reetz seconded. Motion approved.

Earlier in the meeting, Chuck Salibi from Tentmakers did a presentation on their service and youth ministry program. A team of four are assigned to serve, which usually consist of two males and two females, after they have completed their 40 day Leadership Training. They are assigned to a community or parish for nine months where they will serve up to 100 hours a week also work outside the ministry at a part time job to help with housing and living costs. Once the 9 months are completed, they will serve one month as an International Leadership; then back for one week for further training and hope to bring along any recruitments. At the high end of the cost to bring a Tentmaker team in would be \$25,000 but could be lower if parish provides housing and other living expenses. After discussion, council will keep this on future agendas since the request for teams fill up quickly.

With the success of the last month's Polka Service, council decided to schedule it again for the last Sunday in August 2022. Bill Bartlett had talked with Larry Albright regarding this and the band will tentatively reserve that Sunday for Grace.

The topic of non-member building usage was presented since it was noted that a non-member is using our facility for piano lessons. Linda Reetz made a motion that the non-member can continue usage of a room and complete our Building Usage form to have on file in the event of a liability issue; Conrad Falk seconded. Motion approved.

A new member request was presented to the council by Pastor. Linda Reetz made a motion to accept Karen Goemer as a new member at Grace; Cindy Wallace seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor Rebekah led us in Closing Prayer.

Cindy Wallace made a motion to adjourn; Tricia Prellwitz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Guden  
Council Secretary

## *Maggie The Church Mouse*

Tuesday morning....staff meeting time! I enjoy the conversation and laughter, so I usually sneak into the office before everyone else arrives, parking myself in an obscure corner where I can watch, listen, and learn.

At the most recent meeting I learned that this is not only the month of Thanksgiving, but later in the month it will also be time to celebrate the first Sunday in Advent. It makes me think about this time of year as a season of seasons!

As the staff discussed plans for the upcoming weeks, they used a word I'm not sure I've heard before. I perked up both ears to try to pick up on it more carefully, because it was all about a special service.

Now I'm having trouble remembering the word that I wanted to share with you!

The ending sounded like the ending of popsicle. But it wouldn't have been a popsicle service!

A mathematical service? I hope not, because I'm barely able to count all my little toes.

Maybe it was a biblical service...that would make sense. But it's still not the right word. It kind of sounded like mechanical.....Or a little like commonsensical.....I'm sure it wasn't a hysterical service they were talking about!

Hmmm...What other clues will help me bring this new word back to mind? Well, I do know that the service will take place right before Thanksgiving and will involve other churches in our area. So.....what is a word that describes a gathering in which members of different Christian churches worship together and give thanks to God like one big family? Oh! Now I remember!

ec - u - men - i - cal

It's a word with a lot of syllables, so it's not easy for me to pronounce. But I'll practice saying it in the coming days, and then I'll practice its meaning when I find my way to River Shores Church on Tuesday evening, November 23, to attend Berlin's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. I'll sit with some of my friends from other churches as we listen to Pastor Rebekah who will be delivering the message to our community. Then, within a few days, we will be back in our own church to celebrate the beginning of Advent on Sunday, November 28.

It is truly a season of seasons, a time of year for thanksgiving and preparation in our hearts, homes, and churches. What a wonderful time to focus a little less on ourselves, a little more on others.....to be ecumenical.



## Mission of the Month Lutheran Social Services

Committed to the growth of others, we are united by the shared belief in the infinite worth of every individual.

LSS supports vulnerable populations each and every day to provide a path to recovery for emergency disaster relief, housing needs, health or social service needs, youth mentoring, refugee and immigrant services, family services of all types. LSS builds programs as unique as the people we serve.

Each individual experiences their own unique combination of challenges. We attempt to equip them with tools and access to networks of resources to provide help for their family at different points along the continuum of care, enabling them to move toward independence and find encouragement.

We are living our best lives when we empower individuals, families, and communities to find healing through courage and a path to sharing their God-given gifts with the world.

Thankoffering Service  
Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
At 8:30 a.m.



Please remember to return your Thankoffering Envelope.



**ECUMENICAL**  
WORSHIP SERVICES

An Ecumenical Service will be held at  
River Shores Church on  
Tuesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.

And

An Ecumenical Service will be held at  
Methodist Church in Poy Sippi on  
Wednesday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m.

**All are Welcome**



## Bulletins

November 7 - Given by Vic & Jean Dretske in honor of their 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
November 14 - Open  
November 21 - Open  
November 28 - In Honor of Aubree, Ariana and Jack by DeAnna Lueptow

## Radio Ministry

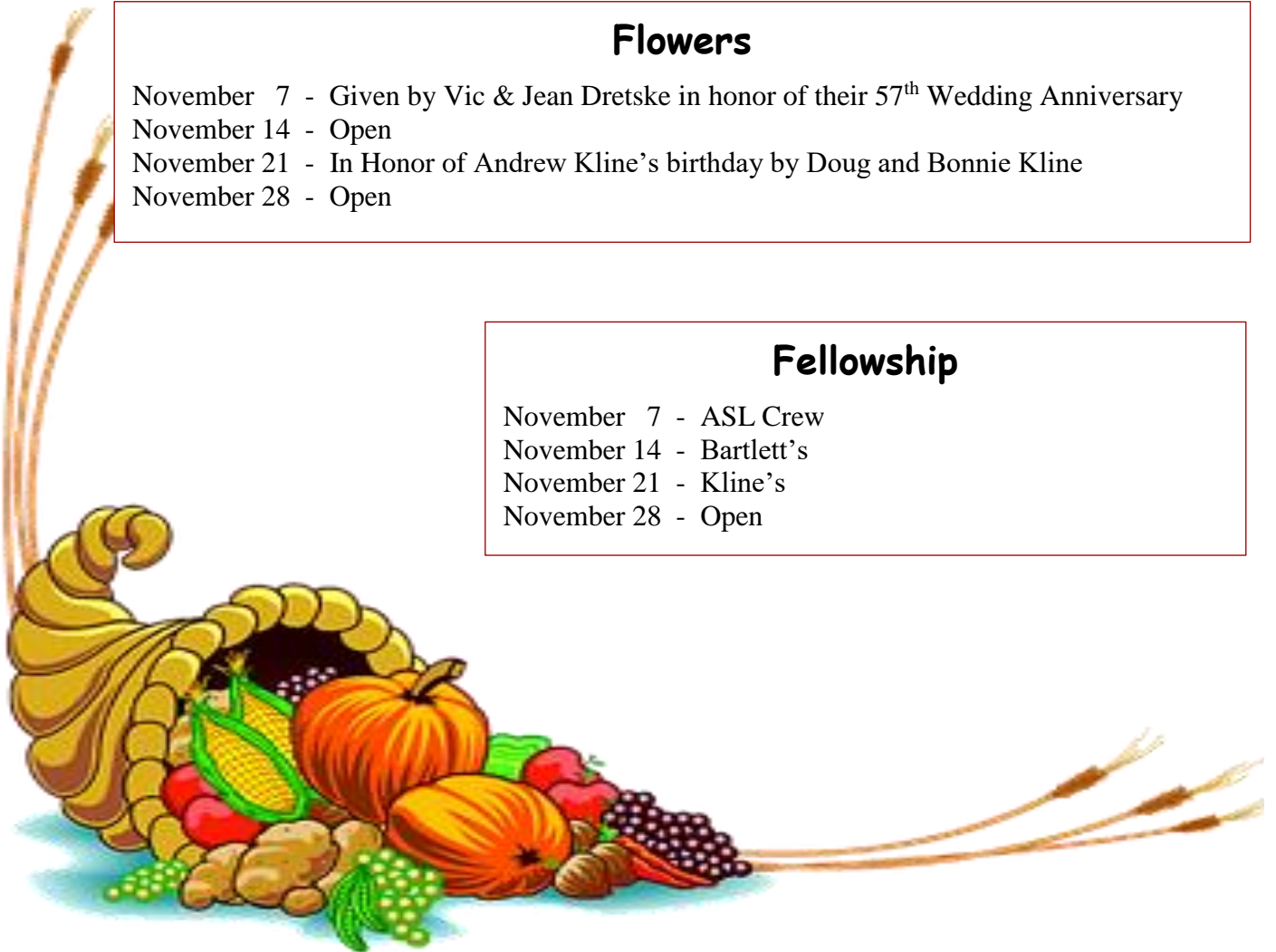
November 7 - Given by Vic & Jean Dretske in honor of their 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
November 14 - Given by the Goettl Family  
November 21 - Open  
November 28 - Open

## Flowers

November 7 - Given by Vic & Jean Dretske in honor of their 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
November 14 - Open  
November 21 - In Honor of Andrew Kline's birthday by Doug and Bonnie Kline  
November 28 - Open

## Fellowship

November 7 - ASL Crew  
November 14 - Bartlett's  
November 21 - Kline's  
November 28 - Open



## Ladies Advent Party

- Sunday, December 12, 2021. Dinner at 12:00 noon
- A Christmas Recital by Jessica Fritz's Students will follow dinner
- 2021 Prayer Pals will be revealed and new Prayer Pals chosen for 2022
- Information on dinner menu and cost to be determined



## Fellowship Committee

On Sunday, November 7 the Fellowship Committee will be making gnomes. These gnomes will be made for our home bound members.

Join us right after the service in the fellowship hall and make a gnome for a home bound member, someone that needs a little pick me up, and one for yourself.

Please sign up on the kiosk so the correct number of supplies can be purchased.

## Upcoming Events

- November 23 - Ecumenical Service at River Shores Church at 7:00 p.m.
- November 24 - Ecumenical Service at Methodist Church in Poy Sippi at 7:00 p.m.
- December 12 - Ladies Advent Party at 12:00 noon
- December 15 - Cantata Service at 7:00 p.m. - Open to the Public
- December 19 - Cantata Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.
- December 19 - Blue Christmas Service at 6:30 p.m.
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 p.m.





*Happy  
Birthday*

## November Birthdays

- 1 Marcus Peschke
- 1 Marilyn Voeltner
- 2 Mary Falk
- 3 Timothy Magdanz
- 4 Caelyn Fritz
- 5 Barbara Born
- 6 Brandon Schenk
- 8 Timothy Krentz, Jr
- 9 Dawn Betler
- 9 Bryn Hermanson
- 10 Henry Stark
- 11 Rachel Cox
- 12 Joan Koch
- 12 Robert Roggow
- 13 Laura Nelson
- 14 Makena Betler
- 17 Patrick Murkley
- 18 Andrew Kline
- 19 Allen Schmidt, Jr.
- 20 Tyler VanGuilder
- 21 Michael Falk
- 22 Allison O'Brien
- 23 Robert Jahn
- 23 Jerome Luttrupp
- 24 Alexandria Johnson

## November Birthdays (Continued)

- 26 Renee Neitzke
- 26 Sandra Peschke
- 27 Justin Mildebrandt
- 29 Penny Bahn
- 29 Cody Murkley
- 30 Donna Kirk
- 30 Ariana Rozek



*Happy  
Anniversary*

## November Anniversaries

- 1 Bill & Kathy Fabricius - 35<sup>th</sup>
- 3 Keith & Kathy Fredrick - 15<sup>th</sup>
- 7 Vic & Jean Dretske
- 11 Alan & Valerie Hinz

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

## LWR Quilting Group



The Quilting Group will  
meet on Tuesday,  
November 2, 2021  
and then not until  
Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

All are welcome, there is something for  
everyone to do.



**2021**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		9:00 am LWR Quilters	5:30 pm Craft Group  6:00 – 7:00 pm Confirmation Class  7:00 pm Choir Practice	6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30 am Worship with Communion & Sunday School  12:00 Noon Youth Bible Study	1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran  7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting		6:00 – 7:00 pm Confirmation Class  7:00 pm Choir Practice	Veterans Day  6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran		8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Grace Lutheran
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30 am Worship with Communion & Sunday School	1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	No LWR Quilters	5:30 pm Craft Group  6:00 – 7:00 pm Confirmation Class  7:00 pm Choir Practice	6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30 am Thankoffering Worship Service with Communion & Sunday School  12:00 Noon Youth Bible Study	1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	7:00 pm Ecumenical Service at River Shores Church in Berlin	7:00 pm Ecumenical Service at Methodist Church in Poy Sippi			
28	29	30				
8:30 am Worship with Communion & No Sunday School	1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran					