

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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Jessica Fritz – Worship and Music Coordinator

Jeremy Fritz – Choir Director

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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Sunday Worship:

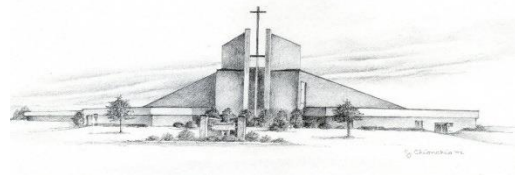
8:30 AM

Office Hours:

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

Hometown Broadcasting

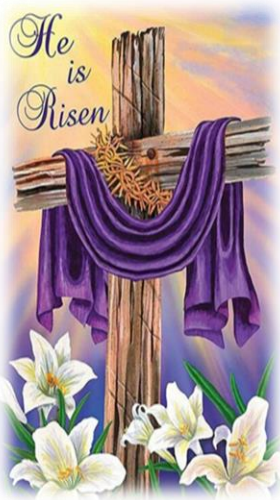
WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



Worship Services

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gelcberlin

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



- April 2 - Palm Sunday Worship at 10:00 am (In person and online)
- April 6 - Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 am at First Lutheran
- April 7 - Good Friday Worship at 1:00 pm (In person and online)
- April 9 - Easter Sunday Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- April 16 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- April 23 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- April 30 - 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 Intern Pastor Kathy:

God's Love Dwells In Us



As 40 days of our lenten journey come to a close and 50 days of the Easter season begin, I pray that “God’s Love Is Shown” more noticeably in each of your lives. God has provided many in our daily lives who we love, and who love us, yet we cannot measure God’s love for us. God’s love is so incredibly vast, full of grace, and unconditionally given to all of us. Our lenten series has guided us through God’s everlasting love of redemption, compassion, steadfastness, enrichment, living among us, holiness, saving our souls, selflessness, sacrifice and overwhelming joy. I pray that you have found examples of God’s immense love in your lives through this lenten journey that will carry you through your ongoing journey of life.

With the brokenness of the world around us, understanding how our prayer life, our devotionals, our attention to biblical verses, and reading/hearing God’s Word through these, through songs, and through our daily conversations, reminds us of God’s presence and essence surrounding us. Surrounding us in exciting times and in challenging times. Giving us courage and strength to live in faith knowing that God’s love is greater than the brokenness of the world. With that we also find God’s peace.

There is joy and satisfaction for us in God’s love. Knowing our eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus grants that destiny. In our baptism, we share in this with Jesus, and God’s mark is upon our foreheads. Recognize God’s joy as we go forward through the season of Easter. The season of newness, new life, and new growth in our faith as God’s created world around us also comes to new life with buds, sprouts, blossoms, and offspring. These can be reminders to us that we are growing in faith and wisdom through God’s love in the example of Jesus. Knowing God’s love dwells within us, to be a joyous light in this world as Jesus taught us.

Blessings, peace, and wisdom on your journey. Intern Pastor Kathy



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2...Palm Sunday at Grace Lutheran at 10:00 am - Brunch to follow service

April 6...Maundy Thursday Service at First Lutheran at 6:30 pm - W2314 Prospect Street, Poy Sippi.

April 7...Good Friday Service at Grace Lutheran at 1:00 pm – 384 Oak Street, Berlin

April 9...Easter Sunday Worship at Grace Lutheran at 8:30 am

Come Worship With Us!



Flowering Plants are Needed for our Easter Garden

Forms are in the office to be filled out to have your name listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Flowers should be brought to church before 10:00 am on Saturday, April 8.

GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, 02.13.2023

Members present- Heidi Schramer, DeAnna Lueptow, Becky Olsen, Cindy Wallace, Lisa Lee, Craig Chovanec, Sue Shemanski, Jody Ziemann, Bob Prellwitz, Intern Kathy Cartwright, Pastor Rebekah Tarras

President Heidi Schramer called the meeting to order. Opening prayer led by DeAnna Lueptow. Approval of Agenda. Motion made by Sue Shemanski to accept agenda as written, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion approved.

No concerns from the audience.

Secretary's Report: January council meeting minutes discussed. Motion made by Cindy Wallace to accept report as written, seconded by Sue Shemanski, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Wallace presented the January report, members reviewed and explanation of the report provided. Motion made by Jody Ziemann to accept report as written, seconded by DeAnna Lueptow. January check detail reviewed, motion made by Sue Shemanski to approve all checks as written, seconded by DeAnna Lueptow, motion approved.

Old Business: The next Parish Joint Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20th at Grace starting at 6:30pm. Pastor informed council members that the Joint Council executive board members meet quarterly. The agenda is generated mutually by the council presidents.

New Business: Updated picture of council members for Web site completed. Council members contact information reviewed, updated, and shared.

Church Door codes: Members instructed to contact Jess to acquire a code if needed. Pastor informed the group that council members should have access to the church as needed. A member inquired about doors being unlocked for Sunday services. Pastor indicated that she will follow-up with the office to ensure all doors are unlocked for Sunday services.

Fellowship Hall bulletin boards: Discussion was held on potential ideas for updating the seven current combination chalk and bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall. Ideas included; using the boards to showcase committee and church events, decorating with holiday themes, removing and or replacing the boards. Following lengthy discussion, committee representatives agreed to take tonight's discussion, information and ideas about the boards, back to their respective committees for input and willingness to maintain, then report findings back to the council. Council members will also seek input from congregational members for possible ideas and assistance in the transformation of the boards in this highly utilized space.

CD Investment Interest money: Cindy Wallace shared the history of the recent CD investment with members. Following the discussion it was recommended that the interest generated from the CD be deposited back into the general fund, as the initial CD investment money was withdrawn from the general fund. Motion made by DeAnna Lueptow to deposit the earned interest from the CD into the general fund, seconded by Craig Chovanec, motion approved.

Good Samaritan Fund: Members discussed ideas of how to rebuild this account and the best practice to effectively disperse the funds. Potential ideas on how to generate additional funds for the account include; designating one Sunday's offerings during the year to be ear-marked for this specific fund, constructing an article for the church newsletter informing members about the fund, its purpose, and how funds were utilized in the past, and ways to support it.

Committee Reports

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rebekah reported on her past months' pastoral acts including the funeral of Gary McGrath on February 7th. Pastoral visits included Judy Gallert, June Lubbert, Dick Fortnum and his family and the McGrath family. In addition to the pastoral acts, she provided an extensive list of her ongoing activities at

both parishes. Pastor encouraged members to reach out to church staff for the sharing of information to ensure effective communication. She informed the group that Jess maintains the digital information outlets for the church, including emails, Facebook and the screens, Jess also creates the weekly bulletins. Sandy generates the monthly newsletter and updates the calendar, if unsure who to reach out to, reach out to both. Pastor Rebekah shared an update on her husband, indicated that surgery went well, planning home tomorrow for recovery and thanked everyone for their prayers. She will be working from home this week.

Investment Profile Update: Report reviewed as written. It was noted that Bill Bartlett will continue to provide written updates of the investments to the council.

Building & Grounds Report: Bob Prellwitz reported the committee met on this date, prior to the council meeting. He gave praise to the committee for their planning and maintenance of the church buildings and property. Ongoing and upcoming maintenance projects for the group include; contacting Jerimiah Ryf of Mertens Heating to complete an annual systems checks of furnace. Jackson Glass will be contacted for the exterior kitchen door corrosion issue, with potential replacement. Weather stripping will need to be replaced on exterior south doors of the church, the kitchen bathroom faucet requires maintenance or replacement. New kneelers for the altar have been ordered, anticipated six weeks before delivery, the fabric has been chosen for the altar chairs reupholstering project, and the group is planning for a painting project within the sanctuary. Next meeting is Monday April 10th at 6pm.

Christian Education Report: Sue Shemanski reported the committee met on Sunday, February 12th, following service. Plans are set for the Mardi Gras Family Event on Tuesday February 21st, starting at 530pm. The event includes a pancake supper and a Lenten craft activity. Sign-up sheets are on the kiosk. Members are planning for a Sport Themed VBS, the event dates are Tuesday, July 11-13th from 530-830pm. In addition to the lessons and fun, the group will also provide a supper for the attendees. Next Meeting date, Sunday, March 5th following service.

Fellowship Sharing & Caring Report: Jody Ziemann reported the committee met on Sunday, February 12th. At that meeting members assembled twelve Valentine cookie plates along with cards, then delivered them to home-bound or members in need of a Valentine blessing. No help is needed from this committee for the Mardi Gras Event. Upcoming special dates and events include the 90th Church Anniversary on March 5th, Lenten Soup Suppers and Palm Sunday Brunch. Jody requested Pastors input in recognizing the 90th Anniversary, Pastor agreed with the special recognition. Other events the committee will lend support to include the Lenten Soup Suppers prior to worship in March and our Joint Palm Sunday Service with brunch on Sunday April 2nd. Becky Olsen will contact Sue Bartlett regarding the church anniversary and Palm Sunday brunch, and Mary Falk for Lenten Soup Suppers. Next meeting date, Sunday, March 12th following service.

Worship & Music Liaison Report: Lisa Lee reported the committee met Sunday, February 12th. She presented the Choir and Praise Team/Joyful Noise schedules through the month of May. The Lenten Service Theme is 'God's Love is Shown' and will use the Holden Evening Prayer Service Book following Ash Wednesday service. Lenten Services begin February 22nd and conclude on Wednesday March 22nd, all services begin at 630pm. Palm Sunday Service on April 2nd, Joint Service at Grace at 10am with brunch following. Maundy Thursday Service, April 6th, Jointly at First Lutheran at 630pm. Good Friday Service April 7th, Jointly at Grace at 1pm. Easter Sunday Service will be at 830am. At the rail communion will be offered each Sunday beginning on Palm Sunday and moving forward, with the in the pew communion option continuing. Lisa reported that Jess is looking into a variety of alternate service events including; Scripture painting during the service, Acapella groups to lead worship, Christian Rock worship service, Polka service and the Ripon Community Church band. The committee is also exploring the return of Worship on Wednesday, 'WOW', during the summer months.

Mission & Outreach Report: Craig Chovanec reported that the February Mission of the Month is World Hunger. Anita Lind presented the statistics and the reality of hunger in our world during service today. The committee has changed the March Mission of the Month to Disaster Relief-Turkey Earthquake. Craig informed the council that it is not uncommon to alter Missions of the Month to reflect sudden tragedies. Craig reported the committee's 2nd Ding Dong Dinner Event was held yesterday. The group had more help this month and acquired

a Thrivent card for added financial support. They assembled, then delivered 50 meals in the community. He reported that Linda Reetz posted the event on the Berlin Community website which received a tremendous response; the group may consider posting it again. The next Ding Dong Dinner is planned for Sunday, March 12th.

Next meeting date is Monday, March 13th at 7pm. Pastor Rebekah led the closing prayer.

Adjournment motion by Jody Ziemann, seconded by Cindy Wallace, motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Olsen, Council Secretary

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
Lisa Lee – Music/Worship	920-572-9010	lisajlee2000@yahoo.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

Maggie The Church Mouse

Drip, drip, drip....whoosh....KABOOM!

To a tiny, timid church mouse like me, these are the sounds of a spring rainstorm. The raindrops make me think of tears falling from heaven. The wind feels like it will blow me off my feet. The thunder claps so suddenly that it shakes every one of my little bones!

I far prefer the sunshine of beautiful spring days....the days when warmth is calming, birdsong brings joy, and everyone's spirits are in harmony while God's world presents its peaceful face. Often I can accurately guess the weather before I've even peeked outside a church window, because church members coming and going reflect the way they're feeling as the weather either calms or riles them.

My simple little mouse brain can't help but feel the Easter season in terms of springtime weather. We shed tears of agony as Jesus hangs on the cross to bear all of our earthly sins. Our hearts are broken, and the world feels dark and ominous. But then we bask in the good news of his resurrection made possible by God's brilliant, all-encompassing, redeeming love. His love is for every one of us, as powerful and abundant as the warmth of the sun on a spring day.

I am ready to hear the special word you all use on Easter morning: Hallelujah! I know how much I need this celebration, and I'm pretty sure you do, too. I offer an Easter blessing to every member of my Grace family, hoping and praying that whether it's a stormy day in your life or a sunny one, you always carry in your heart the reassurance of God's love. I join my paws in prayer...asking God to calm the raging winds and the rumbling thunder in all of our lives....praising Him for his steadfast love and forgiveness when we strive and when we stumble....and trusting Him to guide and watch over the work that we do as the family of Grace.

I am ready for Easter. Hallelujah!



**THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY 4/16/23
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.**



PURPOSE: Introduction and approval of a proposal brought to the church council to host the gospel trio "SELAH".

There will be a presentation of their music and all details pertaining to this event.

Vote to follow discussion.

Grace's Rummage Sale

Grace's Annual Rummage Sale will take place Saturday, April 22nd starting at 8:00 am and **We Need You!** There are many ways you can help:

- **Donate, Donate, Donate** – Donations can be brought to Church beginning the Monday after Easter. We will have areas marked for people to leave their donations. Please only put your things in designated areas.
- **Sign Up to Help** – We will need help the week prior to the sale to sort and organize the donations and arrange and set-up the fellowship hall. We will also need help on the day of the sale both during the sale and clean-up after. Please watch the Kiosk for sign-up sheets.
- **Shop, Shop, Shop** - Come and shop the day of the sale, you never know what treasures you will find! Tell your neighbors, your friends, everyone you know! The more the merrier.

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

***** **\$2.00 bag sale begins at 12:00 Noon**



Grace's Book Club members have chosen "In My Father's House" by Corrie Ten Boom to read for April. Corrie Ten Boom was a key figure in the Dutch Underground Christian Resistance movement during World War II, helping to smuggle many Jews to safety.

"In My Father's House" is the story of Corrie's life with her mother, father, her siblings and aunts before World War II began. The book is a true testament to how God prepared one family through a father's faithfulness to his Savior and Word of God for the most sacrificial service a family could do. Beginning in the years before Corrie was born, "In My Father's House" paints a beautiful story!

We will meet to discuss "In My Father's House" on Tuesday, April 11th at 1:00 PM in the Church Library. If you are interested in reading this book, please contact Cindy Wallace for a copy. We would love to have you join us.

Radio Ministry

- April 2 - In Honor of Sadie's 20th Birthday by Mom, Dad, and Spencer
- April 9 - In Honor of Henry and Lois Start's 67th Wedding Anniversary
- April 16 - In Honor of their daughters by Dave & Becky Olsen
- April 23 - In Memory of Gram's 100th Birthday by the Goettl Family
- April 30 - Open

Flowers

- April 2 - Palms
- April 9 - Easter Garden
- April 16 - Easter Garden
- April 23 - In Honor of Anna's 18th Birthday by the McCarthy Family
- April 30 - In Memory of Kathy Chovanec by the Chovanec Family

Bulletins

- April 2 - In Honor of Sadie's 20th Birthday by Mom, Dad, and Spencer
- April 9 - In Honor of Ken & Sandy Peschke's 54th Wedding Anniversary
- April 16 - In Honor of their daughters by Dave & Becky Olsen
- April 23 - In Memory of Beatrice Duerr
- April 30 - In Honor of Jeremie & Jackie Schmidt's 27th Wedding Anniversary

Fellowship

- April 2 - Palm Sunday Brunch
- April 9 - Easter
- April 16 - Open
- April 23 - Open
- April 30 - Open

Greeters

- April 2 - Vic & Jean Dretske
- April 9 - Open
- April 16 - Open
- April 23 - Open
- April 30 - Open

Holy Humor Sunday - April 16

What is Holy Humor Sunday? It has a long history in many congregations around the world. Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as Risus Paschalis (God's Joke, or the Easter Laugh). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to get their congregations to laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories.

It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. The observance of Risus Paschalis was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun! In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions – to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gifts of laughter and joy. G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. He who has the faith has the fun."

Mission of the Month - Crossways Camp Ministry

Crossways Camp is a multi-site outdoor ministry organization rooted in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), offering year-round faith-based programming for children, youth, families, and adults in northeastern Wisconsin. We are also proud to offer high-quality retreat and event facilities for private group rentals.

The three camps of Crossways Camping Ministries at their current locations began in the 1940s. Separate Lutheran groups owned each of the camps. Imago Dei Village in Clintonville, WI was owned by the former American Lutheran Church; Pine Lake Camp in Waupaca, WI was owned by the United Lutheran Church (which eventually became a part of the old Lutheran Church in America); Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI was owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In 1991, the Pine Lake Bible Camp Association and Imago Dei Ministries merged into one single camp corporation called Crossways Lutheran Camping Ministries and became a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Today, Crossways Lutheran Camping Ministries is an association of nearly 190 congregations, most of which are a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and is governed by an elected Board of Directors.

A mixture of full-time and part-time staff keep the ministry of Crossways Camping Ministries moving forward throughout the entire year with programs and facilities for people of all ages. Crossways hires approximately 50 young adults during the summer camping season and is blessed with many volunteers from the surrounding areas who assist with camp workdays, construction projects, property projects, providing leadership in programming, and participating on various boards and committees.

Grace Celebrates 90th Anniversary





April Birthdays

- 2 Jayce Retzlaff
- 2 Candie Strebelinski
- 3 Sadie Goettl
- 4 Jon Dehn
- 6 Luke Schroeder
- 7 Carrie McCarthy
- 9 Dina Dretske
- 10 Kevin Retzlaff
- 12 Keith Fredrick
- 13 Benjamin Hinz
- 14 Suzanne Cutts
- 14 Jacob Lesniak
- 14 Anna McCarthy
- 15 Kim Lehr
- 15 Amber Dutcher
- 16 Hannah Olsen
- 17 Paul Retzlaff
- 18 Valerie Sprague
- 18 Joby Zietlow
- 19 Jody Ziemann
- 20 Vicki Hunt
- 21 Catelyn Olsen
- 22 Chloe Dutcher
- 23 Scott Dutcher
- 25 Lori Nitzke
- 26 Walker Goffard
- 26 Scott Greening
- 26 Kurtis Kirk
- 28 Sara Mildebrandt
- 28 Janice Retzlaff
- 30 Amy Malzhan
- 30 Heidi Schramer



April Anniversaries

- 5 Frank & Lori Nitzke
- 6 Jim & Sherry Luebke
- 7 Henry & Lois Stark
- 12 Ken & Sandy Peschke
- 16 Pat & Kelly Featherston
- 25 Tim & Pat Magdanz
- 27 Jeremie & Jackie Schmidt
- 29 Dave & Angie Armatoski

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

A Personal Note from Pastor Rebekah

Jeff and I want to thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and words of comfort following Jeff's surgery for prostate cancer and hernia repair.



We are very appreciative. Jeff is recovering well (slower than he wants of course). He has received a report of clear margins following surgery so no additional treatment is needed at this point.

From the ELCA: A study on civic life and faith

The ELCA Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith has released a six-session study about government, democracy and how Christians are called to participate in civic life. After each session, participants are asked to give feedback on the content — by Oct. 15 — to help the task force write a draft social statement. [Learn more](#)



Because of Easter, the Men's Breakfast will be held on the 3rd Saturday in April at Grace Lutheran Church at 8:00 am.



2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 am Joint Palm Sunday Worship with Communion - no Sunday School Palm Sunday Brunch following worship	3 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	4 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilters	5 5:30 pm Craters Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice	6 12:45 pm Soul Food All Saints Hosts 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service at First Lutheran	7 1:00 pm Good Friday Service at Grace Lutheran	8 10:00 am Set-up Easter Garden
9 8:30 am Easter Sunday Worship with Communion - no Sunday School	10 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	11 9:00 am Staff Meeting	12 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice	13 12:45 pm Soul Food River Shore Hosts 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	14	15 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Grace Lutheran
16 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	17 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	18 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilters	19 5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice	20 12:45 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	21	22 8:00 am Women of Grace Rummage Sale
23 8:30 am Worship with Communion - no Sunday School 11:30 am Intern Committee Meeting at First	24 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	25 9:00 am Staff Meeting	26 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice	27 12:45 pm Soul Food All Saints Hosts 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	28	29
30 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School						