

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:

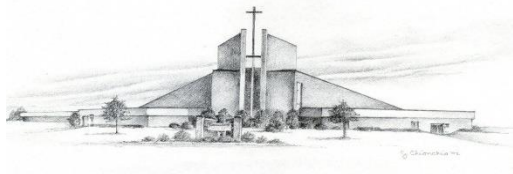
8:30 AM

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

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

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|-----------|----|---|---|
| September | 4 | - | Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online) |
| September | 11 | - | Joint Worship at 10:00 am at Poy Sippi |
| September | 18 | - | Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online) |
| September | 25 | - | 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"**

Pastoral Article

A few weeks ago, we took our grandson to a Dock Spiders game in Fond du Lac. As the game entered the fifth inning, I noticed a light appearing on the horizon. The light continued to grow and soon the top edge of the moon appeared. Over the next couple of minutes, I was in awe at how quickly the whole moon appeared. It happened to be a full moon that night and it was a glorious sight. I can't tell you anything about the game at that point because I was in complete awe. As I continued to watch the rising moon, I was overwhelmed with gratitude to God for the amazing creation in which we are fortunate to live. I was reminded of the words from Psalm 19:

The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.

They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.

Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world. – Psalm 19:1-4



As human beings, we are unique from other creatures. Unlike other creatures, we have a choice of whether or not we will respond to our creator. Saying to God “thank you!” and “I love you” is the essence of worship. Catholic writer Evelyn Underhill in her 1936 book, *Worship*, offered this definition: “Worship, in all its grades and kinds, is the response of the creature to the Eternal.”

Worship may take many different forms, but the purpose of worship is to give glory and honor to God our Creator and Redeemer. We worship God individually each time we offer gratitude and praise to God. It is important for us to have daily time alone with God. But it is also important for us to gather with others for worship. When we worship together, we lay our burdens before God, we ask for and receive God's mercy, and we are filled anew with God's Spirit. We hear God's word, our marching orders for life. We feast on the Lord's supper. And then we leave renewed, inspired, and ready to serve God and serve others for another week. Gathering with others inspires us and reminds us that we are not living this Christian life alone. When we are feeling down, others can help lift us up. When we are doing well, our presence is support for those who are struggling.

Years ago, a woman told me she didn't want to come to worship because she might start crying and she didn't want to cry in front of people or tell them what was going on in her life. I encouraged her to come anyway so she could feel the support of her faith community. She did come to worship, and she did start crying. Then I witnessed something beautiful. Three women in the congregation came and sat with her and cried with her. After worship, they hugged her before she left. I talked with her later and she thanked me for urging her to be in worship. The women didn't ask her what was going on, but through their presence and their hugs, she felt as if God was there, and it gave her the encouragement she needed to keep going for one more week.

Friends, “let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” – Hebrews 10:25

Pastor Rebekah

**REGULAR GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING – FELLOWSHIP HALL
Monday, July 11, 2022**

Present: Bill Bartlett, Cindy Wallace, Becky Guden, Jody Ziemann, Sue Shemanski, Matt Dretske, Linda Reetz, Craig Chovanec and Pastor Rebekah Tarras. Tricia Prellwitz absent.

President Bill Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Linda Reetz led us in opening prayer. The June Council minutes were presented. Matt Dretske made a motion to accept the minutes; Cindy Wallace seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Ministry Reports:

Pastor Rebekah's report listed her activities in June with 1 funeral at First Lutheran and her upcoming events with Intern Kathy starting August 1 and her vacation August 29 to September 5. June Treasurer's report was handed out by Cindy Wallace. Sue Shemanski made a motion to accept this report as presented; Craig Chovanec seconded. Motion approved. The June Check Detail was reviewed; Jody Ziemann made a motion to approve all checks as written; Matt Dretske seconded. Motion approved. Bill Bartlett presented the June update on all investments. As expected, the funds show a loss with June being a rough month but RBC advised to leave accounts as is and ride this market out. Matt Dretske handed out a list from Buildings & Grounds projects completed in June. The 3 paper towel dispensers were installed and grease trap was cleaned. The Christian Ed Committee report was given by Sue Shemanski and noted Sunday School for the coming school year is being planned and letters will go out to parents first part of August. Pastor and Sue noted that the Synod is working on two separate youth gatherings and they will be divided between high school youth and middle school youth. Also, reminder that Crossway camp fees will be reimbursed to any Grace youth attending. Fellowship Caring committee report was presented by Jody Ziemann. Reviewed was the Summer Fellowship and the July 17 Joint service at Riverside with over 100 attending. The Polka Service on August 28 was discussed with ads to be placed in the paper inviting the public to the service and Pie & Ice Cream Social to follow. It was decided that the council members will provide the pie and ice cream, serve and clean-up for this fellowship. Ding-Dong Dinner may be an event again this fall. Worship Music Committee report was handed out stating the Legacy Sunday went well with the special songs and bible verses; the July 17 Joint service at Riverside is all set with Jess prerecording music; August 7 will be the Rite of Beginning for Intern Kathy and other upcoming events of Polka Sunday; First hosting worship in Poy Sippi Park in September and in October, parishioners will have the option to commune at the rail once a month. Craig Chovanec reported from the Missions Outreach Committee on Paige Soper as July Mission of the Month and her ongoing mission during the school year. August mission is Compassion Child with Grace sponsoring two children now. The mission schedule is being worked on to conclude the year.

Old Business:

The topics of Cleaning Crew and a Job Description was discussed. A Church Custodian Job Responsibilities outline was presented listing all the duties. The current volunteer cleaning crew is reaching a burn-out point being the same volunteers and it may have come to the point of looking for a paid janitor position. Council members were asked to look for any leads and/or options in the coming month and report back to the Executive Committee. Bill Bartlett advised that the Men's Steak Fry will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 5:30p.m. at Dave Barbola's home. More information to follow. A draft copy of a job description for a Ministries Assistant was handed out and discussed. With some minor changes of adding number of hours to this part-time position of 8 to 10 hours/week; change the wording of the coordinator duties to read "...organize volunteers for church activities" in the first item; and under Coordinate Visitation Ministry to add the working "for Pastor" under Communion Visits; Linda Reetz made a motion to accept this Job Description, Jody Ziemann seconded. Motion approved. Sue Shemanski made a motion to advertise for this position and hire the assistant; Craig Chovanec seconded. Motion approved. Bill Bartlett handed out a quote from Creative Sign Company regarding the upgrade to a LED electronic moving sign and another quote from Fox Valley Sign is to be expected soon. This project is just starting to be explored with a minimum cost of \$20,000. Creative Sign suggested that we would need 2 circuits out to the sign, which would be an additional cost. This project is tabled for now.

New Business:

Handouts were reviewed on survey results and all suggestions were briefly discussed and council will visit this survey every month to discuss the suggestions. Per one of the suggestions, a Greeter will be brought back starting in August. Linda Reetz and Pastor will make up a list of duties for the Greeter and a sign-up sheet will be posted. Bill Bartlett advised that a Joint Parish Council Meeting of the Whole will be September 19, 6:30 p.m. at Grace Fellowship Hall. Cindy Wallace handed out Income and Expense statements for January 1 to June 30 to review. Council reviewed and discussed with the conclusion Grace is doing OK.

Pastor Rebekah led us in Closing prayer. Cindy Wallace made a motion to adjourn; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Guden
Council Secretary

Church Council

Bill Bartlett – President	920-229-9155	wlbartlett54923@bmail.com
Linda Reetz – Vice President	920-361-2845	linda.reetz0726@gmail.com
Cindy Wallace – Treasurer	920-229-3772	cindy_wallace@charter.net
Becky Guden – Secretary	920-361-0364	bguden@live.com
Tricia Prellwitz – Music/Worship	920-572-7521	goodrich@vbe.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
Matt Dretske – Building/Grounds	920-229-8653	md3boys@charter.net

Special Worship Services at Poy Sippi

September 11 - A joint worship at the Poy Sippi park will take place at 10:00 am. The M-Team of First Lutheran is providing hot dogs, ice cream treats and beverages of coffee, water, and Kool-aid. The tableware will also be provided. It is a pot luck, so they are asking for anyone who would like to bring a dish to pass.

October 2 - First Lutheran is hosting the Mel Albright Band for worship with polka music at 10:30 am.

Confirmation Class



It is time to start thinking about confirmation classes for this coming school year. I am excited to get back to meeting with the 7th and 8th grade students each week. Our weekly classes will be on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Grace in Berlin starting on September 14, 2022.

This year our focus will be on the Small Catechism learning the basics of our Christian faith. Families should have received a mailing with more information. Please make sure to return your registration form. Any questions, contact Pastor Rebekah at pastortarras@gmail.com or call/text 715-897-5393.

Sunday School

The first day of Sunday School will be September 18th. Sunday School is open to ages 4K – 6th grade. Parents, please return the registration forms, no later than September 12th, in order that we can adequately plan for teachers and materials. As always, please contact the church office with any questions.

Weekly Bible Study

The weekly Bible study at Grace led by Pastor Rebekah will resume on Thursday, September 15th at 6:30 pm. The study will be a continuation of the book of Acts beginning with chapter 17. Anyone is welcome to join in this study.

Maggie The Church Mouse

Sometimes I wish I could laugh like humans do. The closest I can come is a grin-like expression from one furry ear to the other. If I'm really feeling giddy, I might flick my tail and roll over...but that's a lot of work. For people, smiling and laughing come naturally – even within the walls of Grace! I love the feeling of joy in this church.

One of my favorite examples is when Pastor Rebekah tells funny stories or jokes in her sermons. The sound of laughter from all corners of the sanctuary is heartening. It feels like we're all joined together in harmony.

Another example was the recent Polka and Pie worship service. I observed many in the congregation smiling through every song the band played, and the pie selection afterward was good reason to continue beaming. A couple weeks earlier, during the service when intern Kathy was presented with gifts of welcome, her smile expressed deep joy and appreciation. Everyone smiled because of her smile.

Soon there will be more special opportunities for joyful gathering. On September 11th Grace and First Lutheran will worship together in the Poy Sippi Park, followed by a potluck and bingo. A couple days later you'll have the chance to help put smiles on faces in other parts of the world: on September 13th the Lutheran World Relief kits will be assembled for shipping. It will take a crew of kind and compassionate people to help with the packing, and I've witnessed time and again that generous, willing folks are usually fun folks to work with. What a great opportunity for the people of Grace to help a good cause and go home with a smile.

Even at times when I expect to see serious faces at work in the church building, I'm always pleasantly surprised when discussion erupts into smiles and laughter. At Church Council meetings and at Bible Study sessions, there's an inviting combination of deliberation and humor that reminds me how inspiring it is for all of us to work with joy in our hearts.



The writer of Proverbs tells us that a joyful heart is good medicine. If your heart needs some perking up, join a project, event, or group at Grace where you can work with others who like to share joy and fellowship. All are welcome in this place, a church that celebrates joy!

Scholarships

The school year is getting ready to begin and we want to take this opportunity to wish our students a very successful and fulfilling year. Especially the recipients of our \$500 scholarship from the Endowment fund. The following students: Anna Falk, Kaiden Fritz, Kara Fritz, Sadie Goettl, Emily Klawitter and Alianna Labbus are this year's beneficiaries. As everyone starts their new adventure may the Lord be with you!

Custodian Position

Kelly Timm has been hired as the new custodian. She will be responsible for keeping the building clean and ready to use. Some of you may know her family. Her parents owned The Curve Inn restaurant in Redgranite for many years. Welcome to Kelly!

Many thanks to the members of Grace that volunteered to clean the church the past three years!



Intern Kathy has begun her internship time with us. This year is a time for Kathy to learn the essential practices of ministry by doing and to deep her pastoral identity and embrace the call God has placed upon her.

As we accompany Kathy through this year, I ask you to uphold her in prayer, and to continue to encourage her as she learns and grows. If at any time this year you have questions or concerns, please feel free to talk with pastor Rebekah or any of the internship committee members: Dave Ziemann (chair), Patti Batenhorst, Amber Rozek, Jody Ziemann, Patti Lankau, Steve Macijeski, Karin Macijeski and Brianna Macijeski.

To the Community of Grace Lutheran Church: I so dearly thank you for your very generous welcome gifts. What a beautiful blessing full of love! I have already enjoyed a couple of the gift cards and a few of the packaged goodies. As a matter of fact, I woke up from my Pastor's nap on Sunday with a handful of trail mix (opps). The vegetables have been so tasty and fresh. The canvas bag will be great for traveling between churches and I know the pot holders and dish towels will be put to good use soon. I have plans for that cute pail too!

Thank you for your warm and loving welcome! I am looking forward to growing and learning while serving with all of you over the next year of internship!

God's Blessings and Peace, Intern Pastor Kathy



September 6: The ladies group will resume sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief on the first and third Tuesdays of the month starting at 9:00 am. Can't sew? All are welcome, Bev will find a job for you.....

September 13 at 9:00 am: Volunteers are needed to pack the personal care, baby, and school kits. Many hands make light work.

Mission of the Month



The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is touching millions of lives...one heart at a time. Since 1954, FCA has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high, and youth levels to use the powerful platform of sport to reach every coach and every athlete with the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

FCA focuses on serving local communities around the globe by engaging, equipping, and empowering coaches and athletes.

VISION: To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

MISSION: To lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church

VALUES: Our relationships will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through Integrity, Serving, Teamwork and Excellence.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2022

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gathered for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Aug. 8-12 in Columbus, Ohio. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly is the highest legislative body of our denomination and meets every three years. The Assembly is composed of more than 900 voting members serving on behalf of the 3.3 million members of the ELCA. The voting members are elected by each of the 65 synods at synod assemblies. Meeting under the theme “Embody the Word,” the assembly participated in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They also spent time in worship and Bible study.

You can read a summary of the assembly here: <https://www.ecsw.org/wavelength/the-work-of-the-churchwide-assembly>. But here are some of the highlights

- The 35th anniversary of the ELCA was observed.
- A new vice president was elected. Imran Siddiqui of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Atlanta, was elected to a six-year term as vice president of the ELCA. The Vice President is the highest position a layperson can hold in the ELCA.
- Voted to establish the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church which will review the ELCA constitution, church structure and make recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly for amendments and changes.
- Called on the ELCA Church Council to consider commissioning a study of pay gaps among ELCA rostered ministers.
- Affirmed a churchwide organization commitment to limit the use of nondisclosure provisions.
- Directed the ELCA Church Council to establish a process for examining policies, procedures and constitutional provisions related to specialized ministry calls and on-leave from call status, as well as protocols for removal from rosters and communication on such actions.
- Reaffirmed the church’s commitment to engage in creation care and to act in support of 50% reduction in 2005 U.S. levels of greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, including having the churchwide organization meet these goals.
- Archived nine social policy resolutions in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns,” which directs a review of social policy resolutions that are older than 25 years.
- Authorized the ELCA Church Council to provide for an external audit of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA to examine diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in the church’s governing documents.
- Honored and celebrated Indigenous people through presentations and worship.
- Made a public apology to Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina and made a public commitment to be an anti-racist church.
- Heard the first in-person pronouncement of “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People” and received an update on the work of the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force.
- Adopted en bloc 19 memorials that covered topics such as gun violence, parental and family medical leave, and Holy Communion practices.



Lay School: Did you know that our Synod offers a school specifically for you? The lay school exists to equip and challenge adults for their lives as disciples of Christ.

The classes meet once a month on Friday evening and Saturday and meet in a hybrid format (in-person at two satellite locations and can be accessed remotely through a virtual link). Find out more information: <https://ecswlayschool.org/>



Fellowship

September 4 - Peschke
September 11 - Joint Worship at Poy Sippi
September 18 - Mildebrandt
September 25 - Open

Bulletins

September 4 - In Honor of Lois Stark's 85th Birthday
September 11 - Joint Worship at Poy Sippi
September 18 - In Honor of Bob & Sandy Londowski's 53rd Wedding Anniversary by the Goettl Family
September 25 - Open

Radio Ministry

September 4 - In Honor of Spencer's 18th Birthday by Dad, Mom, and Sadie
September 11 - In Memory of Grandma Neitzke by the Goettl Family
September 18 - In Memory of Grandpa Goettl by the Goettl Family
September 25 - Open

Flowers

September 4 - In Honor of Matt & Dina Dretske's 30th Wedding Anniversary
September 11 - Joint Worship at Poy Sippi
September 18 - In Honor of Tony & Tammy Goettl's Wedding Anniversary
September 25 - In Honor of Faith Klawitter's Birthday by her Family

Communion at the Rail



Beginning the first Sunday of October, the option of going forward to the communion rail will be offered in worship on the first Sunday of each month. For those who prefer to commune in their seats or have difficulty going up front, individual communion elements will still be provided.



Happy Birthday

September Birthdays

- 1 Diane Toraason
- 3 Brett Hermanson
- 3 Brittany Soda
- 4 Cameron Falk
- 5 Cynthia Wallace
- 7 Taylor Greening
- 7 Anita Lind
- 7 David Neitzke
- 7 Terry Wallace
- 8 Jodi Ahlers
- 8 Bentley Cassidy
- 8 Spencer Goettl
- 8 Julie Retzlaff
- 11 John Koch
- 12 Thomas Dehn
- 12 Deanna Lueptow
- 12 Mary Lou Neubauer
- 12 Marion Ryan
- 14 Rebekah Tarras
- 15 Bonnie Hermanson
- 15 Brittany Retzlaff
- 15 Connie Smits
- 16 Lyssa Koscher
- 16 Helen Burch
- 17 Barbara Tollakson
- 18 Kelly Featherston
- 19 Jenna Emerson
- 19 James Luebke
- 19 Michael McElligott
- 19 Becky Olsen
- 20 Tammy Goettl
- 21 Carissa Fritz
- 21 Kansas Jahnke
- 22 Jeffrey Lind
- 24 Emma Schroeder
- 26 Brayden Dutcher
- 26 Faith Klawitter
- 28 Selma Ceman
- 28 Scott Falk
- 28 Jackson Falk



Happy Anniversary

September Anniversaries

- 1 Bryan & Sara Evans (10th)
- 2 Jack & Sharon Reeves
- 5 Matt & Dina Dretse (30th)
- 5 Brian & Sara Mildebrandt
- 6 Jeremy & Clara Voigtlander
- 8 Jim & Pam Marks
- 8 Victor & Heidi Schramer
- 19 Tony & Tammy Goettl
- 24 Doug & Candie Strebelinski
- 25 Joseph & Amber Rozek
- 26 Peter & Tracy Kallas
- 26 Steven & Lyssa Koscher
- 27 Robert & Meg Roggow
- 29 Travis & Stephanie Kurth (10th)

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



A Grief Share Support Group will be offered this fall on Tuesday afternoons beginning on September 20 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. GriefShare is a biblical, Christ-centered grief support group ministry. The group is led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life. To sign up, call or email the church office.



2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30 am Worship - no Communion	5 Labor Day Office is Closed	6 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Sewing Day	7 5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	8	9	10 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at First Lutheran
11 10:00 am Joint Worship with First Lutheran at Poy Sipp Grandparents Day	12 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	13 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Packing Day	14 6:00 pm Praise Team Practice 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice	15 1:00 pm Caregiver Group 6:30pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	16	17
18 8:30 am Worship with Communion First Day of Sunday School Display and Blessing of the Quilts	19 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 6:30pm Joint Parish Council Meeting at Grace Lutheran	20 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Sewing Day 1:00 -3:00pm Grief Share Group at Grace Lutheran	21 5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:00 pm Praise Team Practice 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice	22 6:30pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	23	24
25 8:30 am Worship with Communion – no Sunday School 3 rd Graders Receive Bibles	26 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	27 9:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 -3:00pm Grief Share Group at Grace Lutheran	28 6:00 pm Praise Team Practice 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice	29 6:30pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	30	