

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:

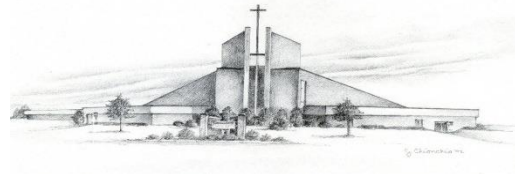
8:30 AM

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

October 3 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

October 10 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

October 17 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

October 24 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

October 31 - 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"**



Fall into A New Habit



It has been nearly 20 years since I was in school full time, yet I am amazed every year how my life seems to revolve around the school year. Summertime seems much more laid back and relaxed. There is less structure and the warmer weather seems to invite spontaneity. When fall arrives I find myself getting back into a rhythm and routine. This summer I found my devotion life became a bit lax and I'm ready to try something new. This fall I want to invite you to join me in falling into a new habit to help you grow deeper in your faith. Here are some ideas to get you started. Try one out for a couple of weeks and if it works, stick with it. If it doesn't, try something different.

- ❖ Read one chapter of Proverbs each day and notice one piece of wisdom that you could apply to your life. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs and 31 days in October so one for each day. Coach Les Steckel says he has done this for the past nearly 30 years month after month and is still finding wisdom for life.
- ❖ Read one Psalm each morning and reflect on what you notice about God. How about doing this as a couple or family and talk with each other about it.
- ❖ Try Seven Minutes with God each morning. This practice was outlined by Richard Foster. First thing in the morning, after caring for our personal needs, find a quiet place for seven minutes with God. Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart by thanking God for the good night of sleep and the opportunities of this new day. Take four minutes to read the Bible. A Gospel is a good place to begin. Allow God to speak to you through the word. Perhaps reading just 20 verses or one story. Use the remaining 2 ½ minutes to speak with God in prayer.
- ❖ Download the YouVersion Bible App on your phone or tablet and use the Verse of the Day study. There is a short video clip along with a devotion and prayer. Or select one of hundreds of reading plans to guide you through a topical study or a book of the Bible.
- ❖ Another app is The Daily Office from Mission St. Clare. It offers morning prayer, noonday prayers, evening prayer and compline prayers. Each day guiding you in prayer and worship. You can use all of them or pick one to get you started.
- ❖ Check out the Bible in One Year. It is available as an app on your phone or at bibleinoneyear.org. You can read the daily readings and a short commentary, or you can listen to them as a podcast.
- ❖ Check out the weekly World News in Prayer blog at worldinprayer.org. Each Thursday a new prayer is published that includes prayers for world events of the past week. I find this helps me to be more aware of what is happening in the world, and gives me words to pray about it.
- ❖ Try a new prayer practice like using a prayer journal, walking prayers, praying out loud, pray with your spouse or a friend. The best way to strengthen your prayer life is by actually praying.
- ❖ In your daily readings, try writing out the scripture passage. There is something about slowing down to write out the words that can have a powerful impact.
- ❖ Try Bible journaling. You can do this with a simple notebook and jotting down notes or thoughts or questions as you respond to scripture readings. Or you can be more creative in your devotional practice of *responding to the Biblical text*— with art, prayers, or notes. Here is a helpful webpage to provide inspiration. <https://saralaughed.com/how-to-start-bible-journaling-for-beginners>

I hope there is at least one idea to get you started. I'd love to hear what you are finding to be a helpful new habit.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Rebekah

**REGULAR GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING – FELLOWSHIP HALL
Monday, August 9, 2021**

Present: Bill Bartlett, Tricia Prellwitz, Cindy Wallace, Matt Dretske, Karen Macaulay, Sue Shemanski, Linda Reetz, Pastor Rebekah Tarras.

Absent: Becky Guden, Conrad Falk

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

The July Council meetings were present. Cindy Wallace motioned to accept the minutes and Tricia Prellwitz seconded. Motion approved.

Ministry Reports:

Pastor Rebekah presented her written report where she informed the council she had 1 baptism, 3 funerals to preside over. Some of her other activities besides being on a 2 week vacation included attending the monthly Synod Zoom meeting, posting messages on Facebook, led Bible study with both congregations, met with the children's ministry team at First, commented that perhaps the worship in the park should become an annual event, attended the Global Leadership Summit virtually as part of continuing education.

Cindy Wallace presented the July Treasurer's report. Karen Macaulay moved to approve and Matt Dretske seconded. Motion passed. The July check detail was also approved with Matt Dretske moving to approve and Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Bartlett indicated that all investments are doing well. The first distribution from the endowment fund will be dispersed at the next annual meeting. This committee will be meeting within the next month to propose making some asset allocation changes.

Matt Dretske reported that the Building and Grounds committee will be checking the heaters between all the double doors. The breakers had been turned off and they will investigate why and if any repairs are required. The cabinets in the west room will have doors installed the week of August 16, and the outside railings on the south side will be receiving a fresh coat of paint.

Sue Shemanski, Christian Education chairperson, reported that they are having some success with getting parts of their program going. Sunday School teachers are still being recruited, the number of students responding to wanting to participate in Sunday School have been low in numbers but there is still time to register. Bibles are going to be presented to children in grades 3,4,5 as a way of getting distribution equalized due to COVID interference.

Tricia Prellwitz reported from Worship and Music committee that Polka and Pie service on August 29 is all planned. There will also be an ad placed in the local paper promoting this event. Back to Church Sunday is September 18. Premade packages of materials have been ordered. Confirmation and high school students will be used as greeters and ushers. All members of the congregation will receive a postcard informing them of this special Sunday. The committee is also discussing distributing small bags with information about our church, as well as devotional materials to be handed out to those who attend. Adult choir will resume practice August 25. The new technology system will be used in full on August 15. There is a training session for those who indicated to Jeremy they were interested in learning how to use the new equipment. That date is TBD. As for numbers of people using the online platforms – there are a consistent 20 live listeners during the service and up to almost 600 people signing in during the week. Pastor shared some ideas on a different way to collect offering with fixed, locked boxes on the wall and some wording giving the church permission to allow children or any congregation

members to be filmed either during services or any special events. Pastor will also try to include a children's message into the service before the readings.

Karen Macaulay of the Fellowship and Caring Committee reported that there will be donut holes yet for the first 2 Sundays in September. Then we will go back to members volunteering to host Fellowship and provide a treat. Nov. 7 after the service, the committee and any other members wanting to participate will be creating gnomes. They will be distributed to our homebound members with a Bible verse included. Sign-up sheet will go up in September. "Souper" Bowl Sunday which happens on Super Bowl Sunday will have members being encouraged to bring a can of soup for the local food pantry, Pie making will happen again in February.

Old Business:

President Bill Bartlett shared that he had contacted the Green Lake County Health Officer. Her recommendation is that congregations go back to wearing masks indoors. Green Lake County is at 50% vaccination rate, case numbers have been rising due to the Delta variant. After discussion, council members chose to continue on the path we have been on without making any changes.

We are waiting for a bid on the pew upholstery cleaning. There are more frequent spills now that communion is in the pews. The damaged carpeting in the altar area will be replaced in September.

New Business:

A general discussion was held on how to encourage young families to attend Grace Lutheran to give this congregation a chance. This is a struggle and will continue to be discussed.

The Council will also be exploring the creation of a part-time position for Outreach and working with youth. More discussion must be held as to job responsibilities, job description for the position.

Pastor Rebekah led in Closing Prayer Motion made by Tricia Prellwitz to adjourn; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Reetz

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Conrad Falk – Missions/Outreach	920-229-2838	cmfalk6@gmail.com
Matt Dretske – Building/Grounds	920-229-8653	md3boys@charter.net

Maggie The Church Mouse

Slowly, silently, brilliantly it rose, inch by inch, higher and higher in the deep blue sky. Round and orange, the harvest moon filled the growing darkness with light that tipped the wisps of clouds with gold. I was so in awe that I almost stopped taking my little mouse breaths while this miracle of nature unfolded before me a couple of weeks ago.

Maybe you saw it, too. I was burrowed in the grass outside of Grace, enjoying the warm evening breeze but sensing the approach of a storm. The wind was strengthening, and my nose quivered with the smell of rain. Eventually the clouds covered the great beacon of light and the night sky blackened entirely. My little heart skipped a beat in temporary concern: was the moon gone forever? Would it return another night? With a bit of trepidation, I scurried back into my church home as the first raindrops fell, then gratefully said my prayers before falling asleep, safe and protected.

In the morning, as always, I awoke in the magnificent silence that so reverently fills a beloved church. Because I thrill to see the daylight filtering through stained glass, I squatted on my little haunches in the doorway to the sanctuary, taking a few moments to absorb the sunlit glory of the golden wheat and purple grapes in the panels flanking the cross above the altar. I was well aware that beyond the edges of town farmers were harvesting crops like wheat, and jam and wine makers were picking ripe, juicy grapes from loaded vines. Once again a flutter of doubt stirred my heart: do the fruits of the harvest expire forever? Will they grow again next year to nurture and sustain us?

My wealth of knowledge doesn't even begin to measure up to all of yours, but deep in my little mouse brain I knew the answers to my questions. The moon is always somewhere in our world, sometimes bold and bright though other times hidden by clouds. Likewise with plants of the earth which produce abundantly in the appropriate season but rest unseen at other times of the year. My brain understood the facts, but my heart struggled with feeling sure.

The sun flared through the stained glass for a moment and prompted one final thought: ***without having faith in the presence of things we cannot always see, it would be difficult to wake with hope and eagerness every day.*** We wonder where God is sometimes, but truly I think we find him in numerous places. I have seen him in the face of a child being held by a loving parent. I've felt his presence in the hugs exchanged by friends. I have experienced his power when people contribute their time and talents for the greater good of their neighbors and the world. All these things make me a creature of faith.

In this season of changing colors and glorious blue skies, celebrate the gifts of autumn -- and celebrate the gifts of faith!

Bulletins

- October 3 - In Honor of Bill & Sue Bartlett's 42nd Wedding Anniversary
- October 10 - In Honor of Mark & Kristine Labbus 35th Wedding Anniversary
- October 17 - In Honor of all the people who work so hard for Grace by Bill & Sue Bartlett
- October 24 - In Honor/Memory of Lavern & Mary Pomplun's 59th Wedding Anniversary
- October 31 - Open

Radio Ministry

- October 3 - In Honor of Bill & Sue Bartlett's 42nd Wedding Anniversary
- October 10 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family
- October 17 - In Honor of all the people who work so hard for Grace by Bill & Sue Bartlett
- October 24 - In Memory of Cindy Eckstein
- October 31 - In Honor/Memory of Lavern & Mary Pomplun's 59th Wedding Anniversary

Flowers

- October 3 - In Honor of Bill & Sue Bartlett's and Doug & Bonnie Kline's Wedding Anniversary and Flowers on the Choir Rail for Hillary Kline's Birthday
- October 10 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family
- October 17 - Open
- October 24 - In Honor of Ryan & Grace Dobbs Wedding Anniversary
- October 31 - Sponsored by Mary Pomplun

Fellowship

- October 3 - Sponsored by Sue Shemanski
- October 10 - Open
- October 17 - Open
- October 24 - Open
- October 31 - Open



Grace hosted yet another successful Blood Drive on August 31. A huge shout out to our bakers for the yummy desserts and those that helped in the kitchen and clean-up at the end of the day. Our church members are amazing! Until June of 2022...

Your co-chairs, Jodi Ahlers and Tammy Goettl

Mission of the Month

ELCA Disaster Response

The headlines were filled with the devastations from recent hurricanes and tornados as strong torrential rains and strong storm surges caused widespread flooding and wind damage. Homes were flooded, either damaged or completely destroyed and residents awaited rescue, which was hampered by the aftermaths of the storms leaving more than 1 million people without power. In some areas, electricity was not restored for weeks. These storms caused damage in many states.

The road to recovery is long, and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response assists families and communities in the aftermath of natural disasters like tornadoes, hurricanes, floods or wildfires. We offer financial assistance for basic needs in the short term and case management and spiritual care over the longer term to individuals and families. We work continually to ensure we are ready to meet the needs of our communities if and when disaster strikes. Lutheran Disaster Response will be there to accompany those impacted through every phase of a disaster on the journey of rebuilding their homes and lives.

Your support is needed to launch continued recovery efforts. Together, we can show our neighbors that they are not alone.



Thank You Candi Neumeier

This is one of many fall table decorations Candi made for our September 19, "Welcome Back to Church Sunday."
Thank you for sharing your talents!

Give the gift of life.
Donate blood

Blood Donation
Give Blood. Give Life.

Tuesday, October 26 from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm
Grace Lutheran Church.....Walk-ins Welcome

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the birthday cards. I am very blessed to be your pastor.
Thank You, Pastor Rebekah

Introducing Our New Member – Beverly Tarras



We welcome Beverly (Bev) Tarras to the Grace family. Most are aware that she is the mother to Jeff Tarras and mother-in-law to Pastor Rebekah Tarras. Bev has recently moved to Berlin and is living with Jeff and Rebekah.

Bev's family history indicates how earlier families had many children; partly to help with whatever endeavor a family took on. Her father had 10 brothers and sisters, her mother came from a family of 11 sisters and brothers. In Bev's case she had 7 siblings. She was very familiar with the farm life at that time, being born on the farm, working on their family farm, cooking on a wood stove, helping with 25 cows. That same farm is now the location of a mega-farm with over 1000 cows being milked.

Bev met Harold Tarras at Birnamwood WI high school and they married in 1953. He went on to serve in the US Navy and learned to be a skilled mechanic. But he was not interested in making the Navy into a career. He wanted to establish roots and Harold wanted to own his own automotive service business and that is what he set out to do. During the early years of the business, Bev was the paperwork expert and the bookkeeper. The business became very successful and Harold had visitors from around the world come to talk to him and learn how he was able to build his business (ask her how Harold got his nickname!). She also raised 7 children and followed all their activities. 6 of her children are alive and are scattered in Texas and Wisconsin: Clam Lake, Rothschild, Eau Claire, Berlin. She also has 13 grandchildren (10 are boys) and 17 great grandchildren (12 are boys).

Bev worked outside the home once her youngest was in school. She then became a seamstress for a department store for 14 years, worked in food service in a school district for 14 years, and also was a volunteer grandparent at an elementary school sharing her love and care to any child who needed the attention.

As a young child, church was not part of her original faith journey. Her parents did not attend church but her aunt Sophie and uncle Herman would take her to Sunday school. When they started having children, Bev made a conscious decision to have everyone start going to church regularly. By then, they had moved the family to Eau Claire for business and Harold met a pastor from St. John's Lutheran who was coming to him for car repairs. It was a good fit and Harold and Bev chaperoned many Luther League events as their children grew, it is where Jeff began his journey into becoming a pastor.

When Harold passed away in July 2004, Bev made the decision to sell the house and move closer to family. She has lived in Birnamwood and then the Wausau area. She also continued sharing her talents. When she was living in senior citizens community housing, Bev was the seamstress for anyone who needed a little something fixed or altered. Over the years she made prom dresses, bride dresses, mother of the bride/groom dresses for her children. She continues to embroider pillow cases, dresser scarves, dish towels to share with family members.

Since moving to Berlin and attending Grace Lutheran, Bev has tried the crafters and the quilters groups. We are very grateful for her talents and look forward to continuing to welcome Beverly Tarras as a valuable member of our Grace community.



October Birthdays

- 1 Scott Zabel
- 3 Londynn Pibnow
- 4 Joshua Strebelinski
- 5 Roy Chadwick
- 8 Elizabeth Magdanz
- 10 Patrice Magdanz
- 11 Roger Emerson
- 11 Mary Fredrickson
- 12 Cynthia Laudolff
- 12 Colton Schenk
- 14 Donald Peschke
- 16 Victor Dretske
- 16 Dylan Gravunder
- 16 Denise Krentz
- 16 Brooks Paulsen
- 20 Joan Emerson
- 20 Jill Jahn
- 20 Roderick Krause
- 20 Jan Krebs
- 20 Beverly Tarras
- 21 Sophia Lehr
- 22 Barb Bellmer
- 23 Katie Malson
- 25 Sara Evans
- 26 Zander Beck
- 31 Alexandria Borland

Happy Anniversary!



October Anniversaries

- 1 Robert & Jill Jahn
- 2 Dennis & Mary Meyer
- 4 Doug & Bonnie Kline
- 6 David & Becky Olsen
- 6 Bill and Sue Bartlett
- 11 Mark & Kristine Labbus (35th)
- 11 Dale & Emma Schroeder
- 13 John & Mary Lou Neubauer
- 14 Tom & Carrie McCarthy
- 18 Karl & Sarah Guenther (35th)
- 21 Scott & Kelly Zabel
- 24 Scott & Darlene Wolfe
- 25 Ryan & Grace Dobbs
- 25 Roger & Joan Emerson

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





2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30 am Worship with Communion & Sunday School	4 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	5 9:00 am LWR Quilters	6 5:30 pm Craft Group 6:00 – 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	7 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	8	9 No Men's Breakfast
10 8:30 am Worship with Communion & Sunday School 12:00 Noon Youth Bible Study	11 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	12	13 6:00 – 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	14 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	15	16
17 8:30 am Worship with Communion & Sunday School	18 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	19 9:00 am LWR Quilters	20 5:30 pm Craft Group 6:00 – 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	21 1:00 pm Support Group 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	22	23
24 8:30 am Worship with Communion - No Sunday School 12:00 Noon Youth Bible Study	25 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	26 10:00 am – 5:30 pm Community Blood Drive	27 6:00 – 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	28 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	29	30
31 All Saints Sunday 8:30 am Worship with Communion & Sunday School						