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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Jeremy Fritz – Choir Director
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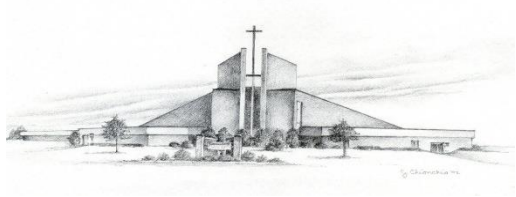
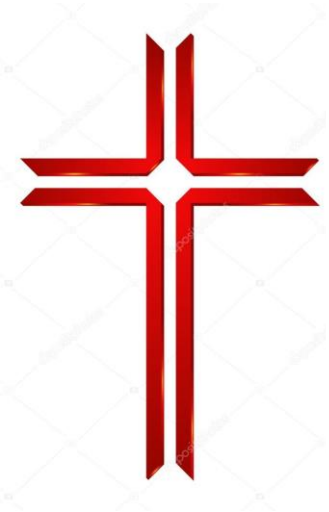
Sunday Worship:
8:30 AM

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Hometown Broadcasting
WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR



Worship Services

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gelcberlin
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbOerRk5PMk1QWI9qtZ5_g

June	5	-	Worship at 8:30 am	(In person and online)
June	12	-	Worship at 8:30 am	(In person and online)
June	19	-	Worship at 8:30 am	(In person and online)
June	26	-	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"

Living Among God's Faithful People

On May 14 and 15, I participated in our Synod Assembly along with Linda Reetz from Grace. The theme for the assembly was the first line of the baptismal promise "to live among God's faithful people." We were part of 231 voting members from 120 churches in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Over the two days we experienced singing led by the Keynote presenters "Music that Makes Community." In addition to guiding us through singing, they talked about how music can help us process our feelings, allow space for survival and growth when everything around us seems like it is falling apart or overwhelming. Singing together helps us remember God's steadfast love and remember we are God's beloved.

We participated in a Dinner Church. This was a worship service that took place while we ate dinner. We began by remembering our baptism, we sang a song and prayed together. We heard the scripture readings. Instead of a traditional sermon, each table was provided a list of questions for discussion while we ate our meal. Following the meal, we wrote prayer requests on slips of paper that became part of a chain in the gathering space, and we shared in communion at our table.

In addition to the keynote speakers, we heard from a number of ministry partners including Crossways Camping ministry, Mission Investment Fund, Portico Benefit Services, and Lutheran Office for Public Policy WI. We heard from Barbara Lund, the director of ELCA Global and Domestic Ministries. She shared updates about ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, and AMMPARO. Lund shared that in 2021, ELCA World Hunger dispersed 14.5 million dollars through 286 grants in 66 countries. I was surprised to hear that 167 of those grants were in the US. In 2021, Lutheran Disaster Response worked with partner ministries and gave out 97 grants 37 of which were in the US. In addition, Lund provided an update on Lutheran Disaster Response working with Lutheran World Relief in helping Ukrainian refugees. Since March 1, over 5 million was given out in emergency needs like beds, blankets, shelter, food, water and basic hygiene items. In addition, LDR and LWR are working to provide protection and safeguarding those most vulnerable and providing psychosocial and pastoral support.

We also conducted business on behalf of the synod. This included considering and approving Compensation Guidelines for 2023; elections of synod council members, members on the synod committee on discipline and the consultation committee; receiving the financial report for the synod; approved the synod budget for 2023; learned more about the sale of the synod office building; and considered 6 resolutions all of which were approved by the majority. These resolutions included an encouragement for congregations and members to PACE (pray, act, connect, and educate) in order to reduce hunger near and far; an encouragement for all women of the ELCA to be bold to act out their faith and participate in Women of the ELCA initiatives; a commitment to work towards all the congregations of our synod to be safe gathering spaces for all of God's children by December 2023 that includes background checks for all staff and volunteers working with children and youth as well as regular training for the congregation and volunteers; a commitment to work towards racial equity and further education about systemic racism; a resolution that urges congregation libraries to include more diverse books to support cross-cultural literacy; and consideration of recommending a memorial to the Churchwide Assembly on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Our congregation has already begun working towards being a safe gathering space for all God's children by developing an abuse prevention policy. We are implementing background checks for all volunteers and staff working with children and youth. We are working on plans to provide training for volunteers and working on other steps to ensure that we are a safe space for all of God's children. The resolution calling us to work towards reducing hunger near and far is one that will need help from some of you. Would you be willing to be part of a team to help our congregation learn more and act? Let me know.

Pastor Rebekah Tarras

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

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

President Bill Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and Linda Reetz led us in opening prayer.

The March Council minutes were presented. Sue Shemanski made a motion to accept the minutes; Jody Ziemann seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Ministry Reports:
Pastor Rebekah did not have anything new to report.

March Treasurer's report was handed out by Cindy Wallace. Tricia Prellwitz made a motion to accept this report as presented; Linda Reetz seconded. Motion approved. The March Check Detail was reviewed; Sue Shemanski made a motion to approve all checks as written; Matt Dretske seconded. Motion approved.

Bill Bartlett advised that our Investments with RBC are coming back slow and steady.

Matt Dretske handed out a list from Buildings & Grounds Committee of projects completed in the past month along with a few spring projects that need to be completed yet. A new sanitizer/dishwasher has been ordered for the kitchen but may be a couple more weeks before it comes in and installed.

Sue Shemanski reported from the Christian Ed Committee that everything is going smooth; no new items to report.

Jody Ziemann reported from the Fellowship & Caring Committee that the Palm Sunday Brunch was successful with serving approximately 120 and there were a lot of good comments.

The Worship & Music report was given by Tricia Prellwitz that Lenten services went well; April 24 has been set as honoring our New Members with Jean Dretske taking lead on that project; May events are set; and the Sunday to honor our "Seasoned Treasures" was discussed on how to honor our older members without offending them. Possibly change to "Legacy of Faith" and honor as a group, not as an individual.

Craig Chovanec handed out a report on the Crisis in Ukraine which is the April Mission of the Month. Lutheran World Relief has already met their limit on their matching funds, so the rest is up to each individual congregation. Bill Bartlett and Cindy Wallace indicated Grace has received donations from people outside our congregation also and our match will come out of the General Fund instead of the Leonard Jones Fund. Craig also noted that some monthly missions have been changed around and after contacting Compassion Child, we have extra funds in our account so the committee decided to sponsor another child which is a 6 year old boy from El Salvador.

Old Business:
Council again reviewed the Child & Youth Abuse Prevention Program with changes to Volunteers in the booklet. Linda Reetz will work up the wording changes and a Volunteer form to bring back to the May Council Meeting. Various items and wording were either struck or changed in the program to better facilitate for Grace.

Craig Chovanec and Sue Shemanski worked on a survey to be handed out to members next month. Discussion on various topics to be added or deleted to give us a better focus on Grace members. Craig and Sue will make these changes and present the revised survey at May Council Meeting

The idea of hiring a Volunteer Coordinator was discussed regarding duties; the process of hiring and how many hours possibly this job would entail. Pastor will get a list of duties from the office and bring back to the council in May.

New Business:
Grace has received a request from the Berlin School District Superintendent to do a presentation in the fall regarding a referendum that will be coming up. He would do this during fellowship after a Sunday service and be available to answer questions. Cindy Wallace made a motion to allow the Berlin School District to come in to do this presentation; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion approved. Date to be determined.

Pastor Rebekah had emailed all council members information regarding the opportunity to consider taking on an internship. Wartburg Seminary had contacted Pastor stating they had a candidate that is in need of a church/parish to work with for her internship and is geographically restricted to the Oshkosh area. An estimate on cost would be $21,000 plus ministry mileage and program would run for 12 months starting August 1. If First Lutheran agrees, the cost and duties would be split. The seminary is in a time crunch and needs to know our intentions as soon as possible. Pastor would be their mentor and supervisor which would include her training for this. After discussion regarding the program and the extra duties that would for Pastor, Linda Reetz made a motion to pursue the possibility of a Pastoral Internship for the 2022-2023 term; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion approved. Pastor will let the seminary know of our decision. Next step would be to call a Congregational Meeting to approve the change in our budget which Bill Bartlett will schedule for Sunday, May 8. There will be an interview process which will be conducted by the Executive Council Committee.

In other concerns, Mary Falk has requested to purchase a new Nesco roaster for the kitchen which will replace one that is malfunctioning and can not be trusted. Council gave the go ahead for Mary to purchase.

Another concern was the Good Samaritan Account Fund at Grace. Clarification on the use of these funds was discussed. Linda Reetz made a motion that the Good Samaritan Fund is to be used at the discretion of the pastor for needs as requested; Jody Ziemann seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor led us in Closing Prayer.

Jody Ziemann made a motion to adjourn; Sue Shemanski seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:50p.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	Shemanski3@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

The Perfect Church

I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be;
A church whose members never stray
Beyond the Straight and Narrow Way;
A church that has no empty pews,
Whose Pastor never has the "blues."
A church whose deacons always deak,
And none is proud, and all are meek,
Where gossips never peddle lies,
Or make complaints or criticize,
Where all are always sweet and kind,
And all to others' faults are blind.
Such perfect churches there may be,
But none of them are known to me.
But still we'll work and pray and plan
To make our own the best we can!

Maggie the Church Mouse

Last night I had a dream about my Grandma Millie.

We had just finished Sunday morning breakfast and she was scurrying us along toward the sanctuary. I was upset because I'd forgotten my bread crumb for the offering plate…but there was no turning back. We had to be on time. Beneath our favorite pew, my siblings and I lined up alongside one another with Grandma Millie smack in the middle where she could keep an eye on all of us.

When I awoke from my dream, I laid quietly in thought, considering all the ways in which my grandma had nurtured my faith.

I recalled the stories of my baptism…how I whimpered through the entire ceremony until she smoothed my damp fur and snuggled me to sleep, safe in her paws, during the sermon.

I remembered my first day of Sunday School and the nervousness that rumbled in my little tummy…until I discovered my teacher was my very own grandma! I thought over all the tips she gave me for helping the mouse clean-up crew in Fellowship Hall, gathering crumbs and threads after coffee hours, meals, and quilting sessions…she has always loved working alongside her mouse friends for the sake of her church. Additionally, my grandma was once known to many of you as Millie the Church Mouse. She imparted much wisdom to her church family during her years in that role, sharing her faith journey and inspiration with the people of Grace. Grandma Millie is one of the many figures who make up the heritage of Grace Lutheran Church.

There are people – and church mice – all around us who help and inspire others to do God's will…who walk faithfully and humbly alongside members of their church family in a spirit of love. Many of you have been members of Grace for decades…many of you are newer members yet equally special to the mission of Grace. Together we are creating a legacy of faithfulness to pass on from generation to generation. Join in the celebration of this legacy at the service on June 26. Our heritage is rich and inspiring.

Thanks be to God!

Legacy Sunday
June 26, 2022

Please join us Sunday, June 26 to celebrate our long-standing members of Grace Lutheran.

While we celebrate every one of our members, we are paying special tribute to those who have been with our church for many years. They are what we would like to call our Legacy members, those who have passed down the value of their faith to others in our Church.

We will be celebrating with special bible verses, hymns, memories, and fellowship. Special picture boards will be available to see some of our history. Grace will not only honor our Legacy members on June 26, but we will also celebrate forty years of worshiping in our present location.

Graduating High School Seniors

Kara Fritz: Gradating from Berlin High School

Favorite Memory: Mission trip to West Virginia. I found it to be a great experience because of how we impacted others during our time there.

Future Plans: Attending UW-Oshkosh majoring in Physical Education

Justin Mildebrandt: Graduating from Ripon High School

Favorite Memory: Confirmation, Mission trip to West Virginia, and High School Youth Group!

Future Plans: Attending UW-Madison for pre-med nursing

Kaden Fritz: Graduating from Berlin High School

Favorite Memory: My first Christmas Cantata, because it was very special feeling to perform something so amazing."

Future Plans: Attending UW-Madison majoring in Bio Medical Engineering

Luke Schroeder: Graduating from Berlin High School

Future Plans: Attending Moraine Park College for a dual degree of Web design developer and Mobile app developer.

God's Blessings To The Graduates

Grace Church is hosting the next blood drive on Tuesday, June 21.

We need you to share your homemade goodies (2 dozen or more) with the donors and workers.

I'll use a Thrivent card so the rest of the food will be covered. Along with desserts, we'll need a few workers for the day.

Please look for the sign-up sheets mid June on the kiosk or contact Tammy at 290-1145 or tlondowski@yahoo.com. All baked goods can be dropped off in the kitchen on Monday, June 20 (9-12) or Tuesday, June 21 (9-10).

Tammy Goettl

On Sunday, May 15, 2022
Thomas Aloysius McCarthy V
celebrated his confirmation.

Congratulations Thomas!

New Member - Pam Marks

We just celebrated our new members from over the last year at the end of April and are wanting to introduce them all to our congregation. Pam Marks joined us in the fall of 2021.

She grew up here on a farm with her 5 siblings and was introduced to her faith in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. She married Jim Marks in 1989. Jim was raised Catholic and attended Catholic Church in Berlin all his life. Pam converted to Catholicism after they married to attend church as a family. They raised their two children, Katelyn and Sam here. They are now adults living in Florida and Los Angeles.

Now that the kids are grown it was Pam's turn to choose a church and after checking out several churches and hearing Pastor at a funeral Grace Lutheran seemed like a good fit. Jim agreed to come along with her and they felt welcomed and enjoyed the friendliness of our members. They also appreciate our choir and their beautiful music.

Pam decided to join and they have hosted Fellowship and made soup for a soup supper. Pam works at Berlin Hospital as a Surgical Tech and is looking forward to retiring in October when they hope to have time to visit their children more often. Say hello to Pam when you see her and, yes, Jim will probably be here with her. She is also the sister to our very own Sandra Peschke! Welcome Pam! We are so glad to have you as a part of our church

Free Seminar – Funeral Pre-Planning
Thursday June 16, 1:30 -3:00 pm at Grace in the Fellowship Hall

Over the years, I have worked with many families when a loved one has died. One of the most helpful things has been a loved one who has written down information ahead of time making it easier on their loved ones to give the funeral director the information needed to complete the death certificate, write the obituary, and plan for the funeral.

Think about your loved ones for a moment whether that is a spouse or parent, a sibling, aunt or uncle. If you had to meet with a funeral director today, would you be able to answer these questions about them? Date and place of birth. Social Security number. Highest level of schooling? Name of high school and college? How about their mother's full name including her maiden name? Father's full name? How about military service would you be able to identify the branch, enlistment date, serial number, highest rank, discharge date, etc.? Would you be able to list their siblings, children, grandchildren, or at least know how many? These are just some of the questions that need to be answered when it comes to completing a death certificate and preparing an obituary.

How about planning a funeral? Do you know your loved ones wishes? Do they know yours? What might be favorite Bible passages? Hymns? Any special requests for a service? How about your faith legacy – what would you like people to most know about your faith? These are all important details to think about and write down. It will be helpful for you and your loved ones when the time comes.
Join us on Thursday, June 16 at 1:30 pm for a funeral pre-planning seminar presented by Barbola Funeral Chapel. Let's begin the conversation as a gift to our loved ones. Feel free to invite anyone to come.

Questions, talk with Pastor Rebekah.

Flowers

June 5 - In Honor of Michelle Klawitter's Birthday by Her Prayer Pal
June 12 - In Honor of his Children Bill Jr, Craig, and Sue by Bill Drecktrah
June 19 - In Honor of Jody and Dave Ziemann's 31st Wedding Anniversary
June 26 - In Honor of Charlie's 11th Birthday

Bulletins

June 5 - In Honor of June Birthdays
June 12 - In Honor of his Children Bill Jr, Craig, and Sue by Bill Drecktrah
June 19 - In Honor of Dave and Jody Ziemann's 31st Wedding Anniversary
June 26 - In Memory of Lavern Pomplun's Birthday and In Honor of Mary Pomplun's Birthday by Jackie and Jeremie Schmidt

Radio Ministry

June 5 - In Memory of Grandma Goettl by the Goettl Family
June 12 - In Honor of Edmund and Carol Roehl's 62nd Wedding Anniversary
June 19 - In Honor of Dave and Jody Ziemann's 31st Wedding Anniversary
June 26 - In Memory Henry Grams by his Wife, Son, and Daughter

Fellowship

June 5 - Open
June 12 - Open
June 19 - Open
June 26 - Legacy Sunday

Hosting Summer Fellowship

Summertime used to mean doughnut holes at Grace fellowship on Sunday mornings, attempting to simplify the hosting process. Since we no longer have a handy source for doughnut holes in Berlin, we will instead purchase treats from Kwik Trip or Walmart to have on hand for fellowship, placing them in the freezer during the week so the fellowship hosts simply need to plate them and arrange on the serving table, along with making coffee and pouring juice.

No baking or buying necessary! Of course, if you would like to bring homemade goods, they will be joyfully received and appreciated! We hope the ease of this system will encourage more people to sign up as hosts so we can keep our vibrant fellowship hours alive during the summer months. Find a friend and sign up on the kiosk or online.

Thank you! –Caring and Fellowship Committee

LWR Summer Project - June, July, and August

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

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

Kits will be assembled the end of August. If you have any questions, contact Bev Chadwick at 361-0860.

Personal Care

1 – light weight bath size towel dark color 20x40 or27x52 (no larger please)

2 or 3 – bath size bars of soap 8 – 9 ounces total (in original wrapping)

1 – sturdy comb

1 – metal nail clipper

July
School Supply Kit

4 – 70 sheet notebooks (wide or college rule)

1 – 30 centimeter ruler (or centimeters on one side inches on the other)

1 – pencil sharpener

1 – blunt pair of scissors

5 – black or blue pens (no gel ink)

1 – box of 16 – 24 crayons

1 – sturdy drawstring backpack (14″ x 17″) with shoulder straps

Baby Care Kit

2 – lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesis)

2 – short or long sleeve sleepers (without feet)

2 – receiving blankets (between 36 – 52 inches)

4 – cloth diapers (flat fold preferred)

2 – diaper pins or large safety pins

2 – pairs of socks

1 – hand towel (dark color preferred)

2 – 3 bars of gentle soap (8 – 9 ounces total)

Mission of the Month - Funds for Leaders

The ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program supports students of tremendous promise attending ELCA seminaries. By making seminary more affordable, the ELCA Fund for Leaders enables more future ministers to go to seminary and helps them graduate with less debt, empowering those whom God calls into ministry to go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Fund for Leaders has been offering scholarships for students at ELCA seminaries who are pursuing rostered ministry in the ELCA since 2000. In the 2021-2022 academic year alone, the fund will provide over $3.2 million in scholarships to 317 ELCA seminary students.

We are church, and each of us has a unique role to play in furthering the mission and ministry of the church. Your gift to the ELCA Fund for Leaders ensures that highly talented individuals will be able to answer the call to leadership for this church and for our future.

June Birthdays

1	David Ziemann
2	Doug Christensen
	Olivia Kurth
	Georgia Malzhan
3	June Lubbert
4	Gary Battenhorst
	Hannah Hunt
5	Michelle Klawitter
	Alyse Paulsen
6	Brian Mildebrandt
	Victor Schramer
9	Teresa Murkley
10	Wilbur Drecktrah
11	Suzanne Ferron
	Dennis Retzlaff
	Carol Roehl
13	Bryce Dretske
	Allison Kessen
	Gary McGrath
	Andrew Rodgers
15	Kailee Betler
18	Patsy Hanson
	Evan Hein
	Denise Nelson
	John Klawitter
19	Hayden Hunt
	Torry Putzkek
	David Schenk
20	Kathy Eid
	Naomi Resop
	Adam Schenk
23	Connor Nelson
	Frank Neitzke
	Mary Pomplun
	Maverick Retzlaff
25	Sarah Guenther
26	Travis Wepner
28	Valerie Hinz
	Charles McCarthy
30	Fay McMonigal

June Anniversaries

1	Julie & Mike Sroka
3	Mark & Mindy Goffard
5	Dave & Renee Neitzke - 40th
8	Robert & Mary Sillanpaa
11	Edmund & Carol Roehl
14	Don & Dawn Betler
14	John & Sue Koch
15	David & Jody Ziemann
27	Mark & Susan Calabresa - 35th

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

Brat Fry
Hosted by the Men of Grace

On Wednesday, June 15 the Men of Grace will be hosting their annual brat fry at the North Shelter in Riverside Park.

Meat, beans, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass (salad or dessert).

Everyone is invited! Please sign up on the kiosk, or call the church office, to give the men an approximate number to plan for.

2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am Church Cleaning	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Worship with Communion	6 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	7 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilters	8	9	10	11 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Grace Lutheran
12 8:30 am Worship with Communion	13 9:00 am Church Cleaning 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	14 9:00 am Staff Meeting	15 5:30 pm Men's Brat Fry	16 1:00 pm Caregiver Group 1:30 – 3:30 pm Funeral Pre-Planning	17	18
19 8:30 am Worship – no communion	20	21 10:00 am-5:30 pm Blood Drive	22	23	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship with Communion Legacy Sunday	27 9:00 am Church Cleaning 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	28 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Joint Parish Council Meeting at First Lutheran	29	30		

On Sunday, July 17, 2022 there will be a joint worship at the North Shelter in Riverside Park with First Lutheran. Fellowship and a meal will follow the 10:00 am worship.

More details will be coming.