

Grace English Lutheran Church,
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

Rebekah Tarras, Pastor

Email: pastortarras@gmail.com

Cellphone: 715-897-5393

Jessica Fritz – Worship and Music Coordinator

Jeremy Fritz – Choir Director

Sandy Peschke – Office Assistant

Penny Bahn – Office Assistant

(920) 361-1820

Web site: www.gracelutheranberlin.org

Email: gracelutheranberlin@gmail.com

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Sunday Worship:

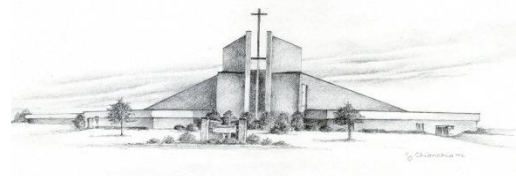
8:30 AM

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



May 2 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

May 9 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

May 16 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

May 23 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

May 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 the Pastor:

Jesus: ⁴⁰ Anyone who welcomes you welcomes Me, and anyone who welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. ⁴¹ Anyone who welcomes a prophet and surrenders to his prophecy will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who welcomes a righteous person and conforms to the righteousness that surrounds him and proceeds from him will receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And anyone who has given so much as a cup of cold water to one of the little ones, because he is My disciple, I tell you, that person will be well rewarded. (Matthew 10:40-42)



A cup of cold water. It's such a simple thing. Yet, it's something I realize I often take for granted. I can walk into the kitchen open the tap and get a cup of water to quench my thirst. But can you imagine not having access to water?

When I was in seminary, I had the opportunity to travel to Ethiopia for a cross-cultural learning experience. Talk about culture shock! As we traveled around the country and observed how people lived, many of the Bible stories became more real to me. For example, the story of the woman at the well who had to go to a well each day to collect water for the household to use became more real to me as I observed people who had to walk to a water source to obtain water for their family each day. There are no kitchen taps to provide water, only the water carried home from the well. In some of the villages, there were actual wells where they could collect water. But more often, the people in villages had to travel sometimes miles to collect water for the family each day and the source of water they collected from looks more like the pond out in the pasture or even a mud hole. I admit I gagged when I saw some of the water sources people had to use to stay alive.

Fortunately, there are organizations like ELCA World Hunger that are working to help provide access to safe water. One of the villages I visited in Ethiopia was celebrating a brand new well. Those who went to collect water sang songs of joy and praise for the gift of the well and the refreshing water it provides. Having a well meant they now had access to clean water that was safe to drink.

The lack of access to safe water is one of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty. It's also one of the most powerful opportunities to create change. With a well, spring box, or water point, as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water. Communities are healthier. People spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children have time for work and school. Talk about a future filled with hope!

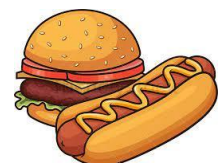
The mission for this month is the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts. One of the Good Gifts options is A Simple Water Well. The cost for one well is \$2500. At the April council meeting, a letter from a congregation member was read that suggested an idea for the congregation could be collecting loose change and found coins and use them towards a mission. The council seemed to think this was a good idea, but we didn't make any plans. In the same week, the church council at First Lutheran set a goal to raise funds to purchase A Simple Water Well through the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts. I'd like to propose that in addition to regular mission giving, we collect those loose coins and any found money and also put it towards A Simple Water Well. I think I will probably find several coins when I clean out my car from the winter and do some spring clean at home, and I will gladly give those towards a well so that we can give a cup of cold water in the name of Jesus to those who desperately need it. I hope you will join me in this project. Look for the glass jar in the narthex starting in May and add your found coins.

Pastor Rebekah Tarras

Youth Picnic and Games

When: Sunday, May 2 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Where: Pastor Rebekah's House, 299 E. Moore Street



**REGULAR GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING – FELLOWSHIP HALL
Monday, March 8, 2021**

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

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

The February Council minutes were presented. Cindy Wallace made a motion to accept the minutes with Matt Dretske seconding the motion. Motion approved.

Ministry Reports:

Pastor Rebekah reported she had 1 Baptism in February with possibly 2 more in April. She attended a synod conference meeting via zoom in the past month and has been busy implementing the Lenten services leading up to Holy Week.

Bill Bartlett gave a brief Investment summary on the three accounts with RBC. He noted that the Jones and General Fund investments had a decline but the Endowment investment had increased; so overall it leveled out to be a steady portfolio.

Cindy Wallace presented the February Treasurer's Report and noted the loss under the General Fund was due to the down payments for the cabinetry and technology projects. Karen Macaulay made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; Tricia Prellwitz seconded. Motion approved. The February Check Detail was reviewed and with no questions Matt Dretske made a motion to approve checks as written; Karen Macaulay seconded. Motion approved.

Matt Dretske handed out the updated list of Buildings & Grounds projects and noted several projects that have been either completed or currently being worked on. He has received quotes for new entry way mats; thermostats have been replaced; the heaters in the entryway do not work so has contacted an electrician to check them out; has requested Evans Cabinetry to recalk countertops in the kitchen and is checking into Marty's Blue Sky Nursery for a price to come in with a roller to even off the lawn.

Conrad Falk reported on the Mission & Outreach Committee that he had requested to sit on in the Mission Committee meeting as the council liaison. Craig Chovanec agreed to provide a summary of the meeting to him for review and bring to council.

Karen Macaulay reported from the Fellowship & Caring Committee that she has 2 more members and will start meeting as a committee now.

Tricia Prellwitz handed out her report from the Worship & Music Committee indicating Jessica Fritz is working on Holy Week and would like to be included in any discussion regarding a timeline to start singing in church. Jeremy Fritz also is working on Holy Week with the Handbell Choir to perform on Easter Sunday. As with Jess, he would also like to be included on any discussion of singing again and when it will be safe to resume normal practices. Tricia reported that an average attendance on for a Sunday Service for in-person worship is between 45-55 people with over 200 viewing the service online. Lenten Services for in-person averages around 30 in attendance. The Women of Grace is coordinating the Lily Garden for Easter Sunday.

Meeting was then opened up to the audience and no one had concerns to bring to the council.

Old Business:

Bill Bartlett advised the Leonard Jones Checking Account at Farmers & Merchants Bank has now been closed and money was transferred to the General Fund Checking Account at Fortifi Bank. Also, the lockbox at Farmers & Merchants Bank has been cancelled.

Bill Bartlett asked for an update on the 2021 Giving Envelopes that have not been picked up. Sandy Peschke advised that some have been picked in the past month and the quantity ordered will be reduced for the 2022 order of envelopes.

New Business:

Bill Bartlett advised that he has been in contact with the synod Bishop regarding the installation of Pastor Rebekah. The Bishop advised this is not a requirement but if we chose to have it, she recommended an outdoor service possibly in June which would be a separate service from our regular Sunday service. Pastor Rebekah felt it was not necessary, so after discussion Linda Reetz made a motion to have a Thank You Celebration in lieu of a formal installation this summer; Cindy Wallace seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor Rebekah advised she will be gone on Sunday, May 16 and needed direction whether to get a supply pastor or we would do "Service of the Word". After discussion, the council advised Tricia Prellwitz to work with Jessica Fritz in having the "Service of the Word" and not hire a supply pastor.

An updated Member Directory which would contain member pictures was brought up. It has been over 10 years since we had one and Pastor would find it beneficial. Pastor advised there were 3 options which a professional photography company would come in; members submit their own photo to be downloaded in the church's database through Servant Keeper software; or use Instant Directory website and we still do our own printing. After discussion, council decided to do our own directory and Becky Guden will help the office look into how to do it through Servant Keeper.

Bill Bartlett requested representatives to attend the Synod Assembly May 14-15 via Zoom. The conference runs 4:30 to 8:30pm on Friday, May 14; 8:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday, May; with a 10:30 service on Sunday. This request will be put out to the congregation to see if anyone is interested in participating via online only.

The criteria for COVID policy and procedures were reviewed. Bill Bartlett has talked with the county nurse and even though the Green Lake County numbers are low, she advises to stay with current practices. Events like hosting Men's Breakfast and Fellowship were reviewed; and Pastor Rebekah reported on responses she received from area churches on what they were doing. Council decided to keep our current procedures to be safe with this topic being reviewed monthly by the council.

Pastor Rebekah advised of possible changes that may be happening in the altar décor once the screens are installed. We may have to move our candelabras and flags to accommodate the new technology so will be looking for recommendations.

As other concerns, Bill Bartlett advised he was looking for one volunteer to help host a dinner for the High School members on March 21. His wife, Sue, will make the dinner but would like help. Tricia Prellwitz and Linda Reetz advised they would help. Also, Bill wanted to remind the council of the Bloodmobile the next day, March 9, and they will be using the Fellowship Hall for blood draws.

Pastor Rebekah led us in Closing Prayer.

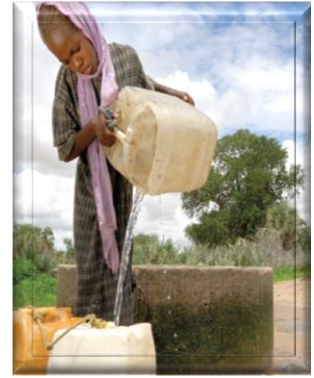
Tricia made a motion to adjourn; Conrad Falk seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Guden
Church Council Secretary

Mission of the Month ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts A Simple Water Well

Lack of access to safe water is one of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty. It's also one of the most powerful opportunities to create change. With a simple water well, spring box or other water point, as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water. Communities are healthier. People spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children have time for work and school.

Talk about a future filled with hope!



Maggie The Church Mouse

Lately I've learned a few things about Grace that I never knew before! They have been wonderful discoveries – almost like I've been on an unintentional scavenger hunt to find out more details about my church home. It works well that I'm a quiet little creature, because I've happened upon people doing tasks I've never been aware of. I will no longer take these things for granted: my beady little eyes have been opened!

First of all, I've never given any thought to who might be changing the altar paraments when we transition from one church season to the next. Someone needs to know which color to display at the appropriate time during the church year, and I happened to discover the person who changes them, quietly going about that task, when I scurried through the sanctuary one sunny day. Another day I came across the member who sets up the communion elements for Pastor Rebekah, and I realized how foolish I've been to take for granted that the wine and the wafers appear on the altar every Sunday. Someone has willingly committed to that task, too.

Next came a surprise on the afternoon of some recent baptisms. I found out that someone carefully stitches names and dates by hand onto all the baptismal banners given to families as keepsakes. Sneaking up close to examine the tiny stitches, I could see they're neatly spaced and as fine as the whiskers on my face! What a beautiful gift from Grace, courtesy of a talented stitcher who has assumed that responsibility on behalf of the church.

Another form of heartfelt gifting happens because of the efforts of a group of seamstresses who create quilts for Grace's graduates. From some recent conversations I overheard, I gathered that not only do they put in hours of sewing, but they try to match favorite colors and hobbies with each young person. I am in awe of their talents, for it would be impossible for a mouse with clumsy paws to thread a needle; and it would take a full army of mice to spread out a sea of colorful pieces of cloth and assemble a beautiful quilt from them. What a special gift for graduates to receive as a reminder of the love and support of their Grace family.

No doubt there are many more discoveries to be made as I travel the territory of my church home. Next time you may be the one to open my eyes! I look forward to the continued surprises of Grace.

Congratulations Class of 2021

Graduate Information

Name: Sadie Goettl

Graduation: Berlin High School on May 30, 2021

Future Plans: I will be attending UW-Madison majoring in Agriculture Business Management and Political Science.

Favorite Memories From Grace Lutheran: Is Singing in the Christmas Cantata and participating in youth retreats.



Graduate Information

Name: Joanna Schmidt

Graduation: Berlin High School on May 30, 2021

Future Plans: Attending Fox Valley Technical College to Study Professional Communications

Favorite Memories From Grace Lutheran: Is anything to do with the youth group. I always loved our get togethers and mission trips. Most of the kids in youth group didn't talk in school or went to a different school and I loved getting together with them and having fun with people who love Jesus as much as I do!



Graduate Information

Name: Catelyn Olsen

Graduation Date: Berlin High School on May 30, 2021

Future Plans: Attending Ripon College for Elementary Education

Favorite Memories From Grace Lutheran: Are going to church camp



No information was returned from graduates Kean Hermanson and Hayden Hunt.

THANK YOU

Thank you, Grace Family, for help in making the Women's Rummage Sale a success. Your help with donations, promotions, sorting, organizing, assisting the day of the sale, and cleaning up when it was all over, everyone contributed to a successful event. Total sales were \$1,268.76. We are very blessed to have you all as part of our Christian family.

Thank you!
Mary Falk & Cindy Wallace

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" Helen Keller



It has been 10 years since Grace has put together a Church Photo Directory. The Office Staff is working to create a directory using our Servant Keeper software. In order to make that happen we need **all** of our members to submit a photo via email, or drop off a photo that we can scan. Please no photos that are copyrighted. If you need help, stop in the office during office hours or after a church service.

Also, at the same time we are working to update members contact information. If you have had any changes in address, telephone/cellphone numbers, or email addresses please let us know. The office is open Monday – Thursday 9:00 am to 12 noon. The church email is gracelutheranberlin@gmail.com. Once completed, printed copies will be available to all members.

Deadline to submit photos is May 15, 2021.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank You to members and friends of Grace that dedicated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to support Grace Lutheran. A total of \$4,295 Thrivent Choice Dollars from members accounts and a \$4,157 contribution from Thrivent earned a total of \$8,452 this year. We are very blessed to have so many individuals dedicate their Thrivent Dollars to Grace Lutheran. Again, thank you!

Easter Sunday April 4, 2021



Thank you to all the members that contributed to the Easter Garden. A special thank you to the members of the bell choir, and Jeremy, for their time and talents!



Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth. We give thanks to you for all the women of faith who have done your will throughout the ages.

God of our ancestors in faith, we ask your blessing upon the faithful women of this congregation, our daughters and sisters, our mothers and grandmothers, our aunts and friends.

Bless them and all women who place their trust in you. Kindle in them the fire of your love, call forth in them the strength to serve you. Keep them steadfast in your Word. Look with favor upon their lives in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FELLOWSHIP IS COMING BACK!



The Fellowship & Caring Committee has presented the idea of hosting Fellowship again after Worship starting in June to the Church Council. What a great way to start getting back to some normalcy! The Council agreed the committees plan to start Sunday, June 6th with individually wrapped treats and with that cup of coffee already poured for you. It was decided to start with this and see how it goes. Instead of everyone congregating in the Narthex after the service to visit, you will be able to enjoy each other's company in the Fellowship Hall. Or take your treats outside if you feel more comfortable. Remember, it is always your choice to participate or not, depending on how you feel.



Attention All Men!

Please put Saturday, June 5th on your calendar for the first Men's Breakfast of 2021.

After some discussion and prayers, the Church Council gave the go-ahead to the Men of Grace to start hosting their monthly breakfast event. Breakfast will start at 8:00 a.m. and watch for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk. This will be a joint event with First Lutheran of Poy Sippi and First is considering to host this event every other month. So please watch the church calendar and kiosk for more information!

Berlin Community Blood Drive

The next Berlin Community Blood Drive will be held at Grace Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, May 5** (one time only date change to Wednesday) from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. Please call 920-361-3679 to schedule your life-saving donation. Social distancing and masks are required.



Memorial Day



Our flag doesn't fly because the wind moves it, but because of the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.

All gave some, some gave all.

Remember Our Veterans This Memorial Day.



Bulletins

- May 2 - In Memory of Daughter Chris by Henry & Lois Stark
- May 9 - In Memory of Beatrice Duerr by Deanna Lueptow
- May 16 - Sponsored by Lavern & Mary Pomplun
- May 23 - In Honor of the High School Graduates Sadie, Catie, Joanna, Kean & Hayden by the Goettl Family
- May 30 - In Honor of the High School Graduates Sadie, Catie, Joanna, Kean & Hayden by the Goettl Family

Radio Ministry

- May 2 - In Honor of Grandpa Bubba's Birthday by Sadie & Spencer
- May 9 - In Memory of Charles Sr. & Charles Jr. by Dona Eury
- May 16 - In Honor of Luna Grace Ahlers 1st Birthday by the Goettl Family
- May 23 - In Memory of her parents Frank & Vira Palombi by Karen Macaulay
- May 30 - In Honor of the High School Graduates Sadie, Catie, Joanna, Kean & Hayden by the Goettl Family

Altar Flowers

- May 2 - In Honor of Terry & Cindy Wallace's Wedding Anniversary
- May 9 - In Honor of College Graduates Drew, Bryce & Luke
- May 16 - Open
- May 23 - In Honor of the High School Graduates Sadie, Catie, Joanna, Kean & Hayden by the Goettl Family
- May 30 - In Honor of the High School Graduates Sadie, Catie, Joanna, Kean & Hayden by the Goettl Family



May Birthdays

- 3 Grace Werch
- 4 William Nelson
Angie Armatoski
- 5 Jared Labbus
Carrie Neubauer
- 8 Blake Hilke
Tracy Kallas
Jennifer Koscher
- 9 Patti Batenhorst
Rebecca Guden
- 12 Gretchen Mildebrandt
Cody Retzlaff
- 13 Tricia Prellwitz
- 14 Kristin Koch
Michael Retzlaff
- 16 Robert Prellwitz
- 17 Clara Voigtlander
Kenzie Retzlaff
- 18 William Bartlett
Robert Sillanpaa
Stephanie Kurth
Mercedes Zabel
- 19 Robert Dean
Peggy Ferrel
Karl Guenther
Mason Hilke
Rose McGrath
- 20 Courtney Hilke
- 21 Michael Koch
Dennis Meyer
Kristopher Kirk

May Birthdays Continued

- 22 Travis Kurth
- 23 Shirley Huck
Terry Wepner
- 24 Joshua Nitzke
Hunter Schmidt
- 26 Michael Prellwitz
Brenda Hartzke
- 27 Jackie Schmidt
Mark Calabresa
- 29 Patrick Ferron
Connie Koscher



May Anniversaries

- 4 Terry & Cindy Wallace
- 6 David & Sara Shattuck
- 9 Daniel & Roxanne Haedt
- 14 William & Susan Carpenter
- 18 Brett & Kristin Hermanson
- 19 Ronald & Penny Bahn
- 22 Gary & Patti Batenhorst
- 27 Bill & Laura Nelson
- 31 Jeff & Anita Lind
- 31 Bob & Pam Alf

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



2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 am Worship with Communion 4:00 - 6:00 pm Youth Picnic at Pastor's House	3 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	4 9:00 am LWL Sewing Day	5 10:30 am – 5:30 pm Blood Drive 6:00 pm Virtual Confirmation Class	6 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	7	8
9 8:30 am Worship with Communion <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	10 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	11	12 6:00 pm Virtual Confirmation Class	13 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	14	15
16 8:30 am Worship with Communion	17 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	18	19 6:00 pm Virtual Confirmation Class	20 1:00 pm Support Group 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	21	22
23 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Honor High School Graduates	24 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	25	26	27 6:30 pm Bible Study at Grace Lutheran	28	29
30 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Confirmation	31 					