

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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Cellphone: 715-897-5393

Jessica Fritz – Worship and Music Coordinator

Jeremy Fritz – Choir Director

Sandy Peschke – Office Assistant

Penny Bahn – Office Assistant

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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Sunday Worship:

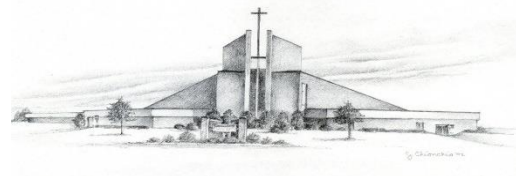
8:30 AM

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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|----------|----|---|---|------------------------|
| December | 1 | - | Worship Service at 8:30 am | (In person and online) |
| December | 8 | - | Worship Service at 8:30 am | (In person and online) |
| December | 15 | - | Worship Service at 8:30 am | (In person and online) |
| December | 22 | - | Worship Service at 8:30 am | (In person and online) |
| December | 22 | - | Blue Christmas Worship Service at 6:30 pm | (In person and online) |
| December | 24 | - | Christmas Eve Worship Service at 4:00 pm | (In person and online) |
| December | 29 | - | Worship Service 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:

Dear Church Family,



As December begins, we enter into the season of Advent, a season of waiting, preparation, and hopeful expectation. This time of year draws our hearts to the coming of Christ—both in the humble birth in Bethlehem and the promised return of our Savior. It is a season rich with hope, peace, joy, and love as we reflect on the light that shines in the darkness.

The lights on our trees, candles in our windows, and festive decorations are not merely beautiful symbols of the holidays but also reminders of Christ, the Light of the World, who breaks into our lives with hope and renewal. I encourage you to take time this Advent to pause in the busyness, reflect on Christ's presence with us, and anticipate His continued work in and through our lives.

This month, our worship will offer many opportunities to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. From joyful Advent songs, to the choir cantata, a special paper bag Christmas program, and the candlelight Christmas Eve service - we will celebrate together the story of God's love breaking into the world. Be sure to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we hear the story of Jesus' birth and share in the joy and hope it brings.

We also recognize that for some, this season may be difficult—marked by loss, loneliness, or uncertainty. Join us for the Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 22 at 6:30 pm at Grace. Let us be especially mindful of one another during this time. Reach out to those who may be struggling, offer a listening ear, or extend an invitation to share in the warmth of community. The light of Christ is meant to be shared, especially when the world feels dark.

As we move through Advent toward Christmas, let us remember the powerful truth that God is with us. This is the essence of our faith: Emmanuel, God with us, bringing peace, hope, and joy.

May the love of Christ fill your hearts this Advent and Christmas season. I look forward to celebrating this holy time with all of you.

Blessings,
Pastor Rebekah



December 1 - 8:30 am First Sunday of Advent and Advent Wreath making following worship

December 8 - 8:30 am Second Sunday of Advent with Women's Advent Brunch

December 15 - 8:30 am Third Sunday of Advent featuring the Grace Choir Cantata

December 22 - 8:30 am Fourth Sunday of Advent with the Paper Bag Christmas Program

December 22 - 6:30 pm Blue Christmas Service

December 24 - 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 29 - 8:30 am First Sunday of Christmas – Service of Lessons and Carols

**GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
10.14.24**

President Linda called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Opening Devotion. Terry.

Roll Call. Present; Linda Reetz, Terry Wallace, Sandy Peschke, Becky Olsen, Pastor Rebekah, Jody Ziemann (late), Craig Chovanec,

Anita Lind, Heidi Schramer. Absent; Bob Prellwitz.

Approval of Agenda. Motion made by Craig, seconded by Anita, motion carried.

No audience remarks.

Secretary's Report. September meeting minutes circulated via email. Motion made by Anita to accept the report as written, seconded by Terry, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Sandy presented the report including the check detail. Discussion held. Motion made by Anita to accept the reports as written, seconded by Terry, motion carried.

President's Report.

Safety Plan. Linda reported that the safety plan draft has been given to Ryan Dobbs for review. When returned, the council will have further discussion. Linda also indicated that a safety team will be created once the plan is completed.

Christmas Services. Christmas Eve service at Grace will be at 4pm, and at First will be 630pm.

Committee 2025 budgets requested to the office by 11.1.24. Finance committee will then review.

History Binder. Linda has compiled a binder of documents following the 'split'. The binder is located in the office.

Pastor's Report.

Accomplishments/Activity Highlights. Hosted the Oshkosh Conference pastors gathering and worship, met with a Lutheran World Relief representative for updates. Attended various leadership and committee meetings, attended various church activities and sporting events for congregation youth. Lead the Funding Forward course and teaching confirmation. Participated in the installation of Pastor Tews at St. Andrew's in Oshkosh, and attended the 150th Anniversary at St. John's in Eau Claire. Met with a family for funeral planning and continue to visit homebound members.

Priorities for the next period. Oshkosh Conference Assembly on October 19th. Preparing sermons for the community Thanksgiving services, working with Jessica on upcoming services including; All Saints, Veterans Recognition, Thankoffering, Advent and the Christmas season.

Challenges/Roadblocks. I'm still processing the healing circle experience.

Lessons Learned/Opportunities for Improvement. I found the exercise in the Funding Forward course on the history of Grace helpful in hearing more about chapters of history. I also found it insightful for us to identify how God was at work in each of these chapters of history.

Committee Reports.

Buildings and Grounds. Bob provided a written report. Security System estimate bid is \$6,269, no action taken. The Safety Plan recommendation from the Buildings and Grounds Committee is to go with the shorter, more concise version. Furnace filters were changed and the thermostat is set to heat mode. Stump removal from the south island was addressed, a replacement tree has been donated by a member, and will be planted when possible. Cobwebs will be removed, fall cleanup will be completed and preparation has begun for winter weather. Next meeting 12.9.24 at 1800.

Christian Education. Anita reported that Sunday School is going well, kids are enjoying the addition of music with Caelyn and Carissa Fritz. An interactive Advent Event will be Sunday, 12.1, following service, the Wreath making will be for all members. The Christmas Program will be held December 22nd. 'Once Upon a Manger', a paper bag interactive program including kids and adults. Next meeting 10.27, following service.

Fellowship and Caring. Jody reported that the committee will be serving Fellowship on 11.10, and making goodie plates for homebound members. The group is also planning to make cookie plates for homebound members in December. Next meeting will be 12.22, following service.

Worship and Music. Heidi reported upcoming Services to include; All Saints Service 11.3, Veterans Recognition Service with guest speaker Reverend Peter Muschinske 11.10, Women's Thankoffering Service 11.24, Thanksgiving Service at River Shores 11.26 at 7pm, Cantata Service 12.15, 'Once Upon a Manger' Service 12.22, Blue Christmas Service 12.22 at 630pm. Christmas Eve Service 12.24 at 4pm, and Puppet Ministry Service (joint service with potluck following) on 2.9.25. Live streaming of services will now be on YouTube, and a link will be provided. A slide will be created to assist members with newsletters and E-news mailings for church information. If you have questions regarding the technology please contact the office. The handbells and some music will be moved to the upper sacristy to provide additional storage space for current music. The group will work on updating the bulletin board with current photos, and work continues on creating a master list of Worship tasks/duties. Next meeting TBA.

Mission and Outreach. Craig reported that the mission cause for October is the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. This sports ministry began in 1954, touching lives all over the world. This international organization serves in 114 countries. The powerful platform of sports is used to reach athletes and connect them to Jesus Christ. Athletes at all levels are part of the FCA; pro, college, high and jr. high schools and youth. Values of integrity, service and teamwork are emphasized along with honoring Jesus in all we do. Programs include daily meetings, devotionals, team building and bible study. Connecting with young people is a way for our church to survive going forward. The committee will be finalizing its 2025 Mission Causes soon. Craig also stated that hurricane relief may be a mission at the start of the year, as the affected will have needs for a long time to come.

Finance Committee Report 09-17-24. Terry provided the following report.

1. It was decided that any expenses connected to the Christian Ed fund should be taken from that fund rather than the General fund.
2. The Budget vs. Actual Report was presented by Sandy with changes recommended at the last meeting.
3. Discussed moving the \$11,671 from the capital improvement fund into the new operating fund. At the last congregational council meeting there was approval given to create a new fund through RBC that would be an interest bearing account and also would be able to have those dollars easily accessible. Until the approved council minutes have been received, the account cannot be set up. The uncertainty right now centers around how to do the accounting procedures and maintaining a balance in the checking account. More discussion is needed. Currently nothing needs to be done with the \$11,671. It is not needed for operating expenses.
4. The premium notice for the church's insurance will be coming in November with the premium to be paid in December. There is a possibility that an increase of up to 40% might occur.
5. A 2025 health insurance update was provided. The church will provide Pastor Tarras the silver + plan through Portico. Although her individual contribution will increase, the plan contains a health savings account which is an attractive benefit.
6. The RBC accounts continue to make gains. Investment decisions will need to be made in December when some CD's are maturing.
7. The next couple months will be spent creating a proposed 2025 budget. All church committees will be asked to submit their projected budget requests by November.
8. The next meeting has been set for October 15, 2024, at 1pm.

Investment Committee. A written report of the current investments was provided. The investments continue to show gains at this point.

Unfinished Business.

Council Terms Suggestions. Linda provided a list of three possible options for changing term limits for the office of President and Vice President. Discussion held. Motion made by Becky to keep term limits for the offices of President and Vice President as presently defined in the constitution, seconded by Anita, motion carried.

New Business.

Finance Committee's Recommendation for Creation of a New Account. Terry provided an explanation of transferring a portion of funds from the current checking account into some type of investment account. Terry stated that this would provide a potential way to manage our money and earn interest that we cannot on a traditional checking account. The funds would be derived from the present accounts of the Women of Grace, Christian Education Fund, Soul Food, and the Men of Grace. At this time, there is no set amount of funds to be transferred into this unnamed account. Motion made by Terry to

transfer an unknown amount of funds from the checking account into some type of an unnamed investment account, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

Church Insurance. Terry reported that he has received two quotes from potential new insurance agencies, he is awaiting a third quote. No decision made. Will further discuss at the November meeting.

Tree in the Park. Discussion held. Linda and Heidi will lead the decorating of a tree and will ask for more volunteers.

Audit Committee. Linda reported that one member will need to be added to the committee before our yearly auditing of accounts.

Scholarship Committee. Linda will check with Diane to ensure what is needed for the committee.

Dollar Transfer Error. Linda reported that an error was completed in decision making at the September council meeting. Per the Capital Improvement Fund's definition, funds cannot be transferred and utilized for general operating expenses. Motion made by Terry to reconsider the moving of the \$11,671 from the Capitol Improvement Fund into a new unnamed operating account, seconded by Becky, motion carried.

Closing Prayer. Provided by Pastor Rebekah

Adjournment. Motion made by Craig to adjourn, seconded by Jody, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Olsen, Secretary

11.1.24

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|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Linda Reetz – President | | 920-279-7899 | linda.reetz0726@gmail.com |
| Terry Wallace – Vice President | | 920-344-1523 | terrywallace@charter.net |
| Sandy Peschke – Treasurer | | 920-290-1551 | kspeschke1950@gmail.com |
| Becky Olsen – Secretary | | 920-290-4485 | olsenfamilyshorthorns@gmail.com |
| Heidi Schramer– Music/Worship | | 920-361-4097 | schrumer@charter.net |
| Anita Lind – Christian Education | | 920-290-1374 | anita_lind@charter.net |
| Jody Ziemann – Fellowship/Caring | | 920-361-1326 | lajirafa@hotmail.com |
| Craig Chovanec – Missions/Outreach | | 920-361-3727 | craigfchovanec@centurytel.net |
| Bob Prellwitz – Building/Grounds | | 920-361-0669 | bobprellwitz@yahoo.com |

Constitution Corner

In this month's Constitution Corner, we explore *C2.02a, which defines a foundational aspect of our faith:

*C2.02.a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

At the heart of this statement is the declaration that Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate. This reminds us that the Jesus we know and worship is not only a historical figure but also the living presence of God in the world. As John 1:14 tells us, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Through Jesus, God became truly human, experiencing life with us and revealing God's character in a deeply personal way.

Furthermore, it is through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that God is at work, fashioning a new creation. This new creation is not only the hope of the future but also a present reality, unfolding through the Gospel's power in the lives of believers. In this new creation, the brokenness of our world is healed, relationships are restored, and we are invited to live in the light of God's love and grace.

C2.02a encourages us to remember that everything was made through Christ. From the very beginning of creation to the renewal of the world, Jesus stands at the center of God's plan. As a congregation, we are called to live out this confession, sharing the good news of salvation with all and participating in God's work of renewal.

Let us be bold in proclaiming Jesus Christ as the living Word and in witnessing to the transformative power of the Gospel in our lives and in our community.

Reverse Advent Calendar

What is a reverse advent calendar? Traditionally, Advent calendars are used to count down the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. In church, we celebrate weekly the themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy as we anticipate God's gift of Jesus. Traditional Advent calendars consist of a series of doors or windows to open, revealing a picture, a scripture verse, a small chocolate, or a little gift for each day.

But the Reverse Advent Calendar is different! Instead of receiving a daily gift, those taking part in a reverse calendar **DONATE** an item each day, thus giving instead of receiving. This year I'd like to encourage you to participate by following this list of food items to donate to our Food Pantry.

You can also do this in a different way. It doesn't have to be food that you are donating. Maybe put \$1 in a basket each day for your reverse advent calendar and then donate the money to our Food Pantry or World Hunger. It is also completely fine to add an item every few days or weekly instead of daily. No matter how you choose to participate, consider doing something small for those in need this Advent season. We are blessed to be a blessing to others as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Put your food items in a box or bag that can be plain or decorated. You can bring the food items to church weekly or wait until Christmas Eve whichever works best for you. We will have a table in the fellowship room for donations.

Thank you for your participation in this Advent ministry.

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX

| | |
|--|--|
| December 1 - box of cereal | December 13 - complete pancake mix |
| December 2 - jar of peanut butter | December 14 - box of crackers |
| December 3 - jar of jelly | December 15 - package of rice |
| December 4 - boxed potatoes | December 16 - package of oatmeal packets |
| December 5 - macaroni and cheese | December 17 - package of pasta |
| December 6 - canned fruit cocktail | December 18 - spaghetti sauce |
| December 7 - box of Jello or instant pudding mix | December 19 - canned soup |
| December 8 - canned tuna | December 20 - box of pudding mix |
| December 9 - jar of applesauce | December 21 - box of tissue (Kleenex) |
| December 10 - canned vegetable | December 22 - bottle of dish soap |
| December 11 - canned pork and beans | December 23 - toilet paper |
| December 12 - bottle of pancake syrup | December 24 - paper towels |

Angel Tree

Grace will participate in Green Lake County's Angel Tree Program again this year. The Angel Tree program is a program that helps make the holiday season a little brighter for individuals and families who are experiencing financial difficulties.

Each Angel contains the age of the participant and a gift suggestion. Once you have chosen an angel, shop for the participant, attach the angel to the gift, and place the **unwrapped** gift back under the tree by December 2nd.



Family Event: Advent Wreath Making



The Christian Education Committee of Grace will be sponsoring an Advent Wreath making Event on the first day of Advent, December 1, 2024, immediately after the 8:30 Sunday Worship Service.

Participants will be given the option of making a fresh pine wreath or an upcycled wreath. The wreaths will be able to be taken home that day and Brunch will be served by the Committee during the event.

Along with your wreath, each participant will be given an Advent devotional to take home. We are asking individuals and families to sign up on the kiosk in the front Narthex so we know what kind of wreath you want to make and the amount of supplies we need to have available.

We can also use donations of materials to make the wreaths such as: ribbon, artificial flowers, holly, pine cones, shiny ornaments, clear glasses (4 for ea. upcycled wreath) round trays or 11x14 frames (glass in) or trays to use as the base for the upcycled wreaths. We can use 3 - 6 inch real or battery-operated candles.

Look for a box in the Narthex to drop your donations off and for pictures of sample upcycled wreaths. We encourage participants to sign-up, so we have plenty of food and wreath supplies, but if you decide to come at the last minute, you are Welcome!

There is no charge for this event.

Christmas Decorating Time



Needed! Volunteers! It's that time of year when our church becomes transformed for the Christmas season. We don't have access to Santa's elves so we rely on our members to help with the decorating process.

First, there is a tree to be found. We have the generosity of Sue Shemanski's family in providing a tree. That tree has to be selected, cut down, and brought back to church. If you have an interest in tree gathering, that will happen on **Wednesday, December 4**. Gather at 10:00 am at church and we will travel to our tree spot.

Once the tree has been put up, the decorating begins. There are lights to string and ornaments to hang on the tree. There are wreaths to be hung, garlands to be put up. All the materials are found at church with pictures of where things go. The work is not difficult when we have enough hands. Church decorating will take place **Friday, December 6** beginning at 5:00 pm.

Please check your schedules and consider helping to make our church beautiful for the holiday season.



***Grace Women's Advent Party
Sunday, December 8th
11:30 AM
Dinner served at 12 Noon
\$15.00/person***

Please join us on Sunday, December, 8th for our Annual Women's Advent Party. We will meet at 11:30 AM to reveal our 2024 Prayer Pals and choose Prayer Pals for 2025. A delicious dinner catered by Moose Inn will be served at 12 noon, following dinner we will be entertained with a Christmas Recital featuring the students of Jess Fritz.

A full dinner menu and sign-up sheet is posted on the kiosk. Someone will be available to collect money after services on November 24th and December 1st or can be paid in the office.

We hope to see you there.

Outside the Box

This is an announcement letting the congregation know you will be seeing posters and announcements labeled "Outside the Box." This is a subcommittee that has formed from the "Funding Forward" meetings led by Pastor Rebekah the past six weeks.

Approximately 20 members met each week listening to and sharing ideas on how to help us move forward at Grace. Many good conversations occurred on how as a congregation we can grow and what that might look like in our future. Mission was, and is a priority at Grace. Mission can take on many different looks and can also help raise monies to help with meeting our budget. We all agreed that reaching out to our community and within our congregation is one way we can grow. We discussed the many missions Grace already has in place. We also discussed many possible future missions that Grace could become involved in.

"Outside the Box" committee will be sharing with the congregation a list of our current on-going missions. I think you will all be surprised at how many missions we already have in place, I know I was. We are also working on prioritizing the list of future missions we can look at offering here at Grace.

The first mission project we are working toward is a cookie bake for the holidays. We will have a sign-up sheet for anyone willing to gather and bake cookies for shut-ins and for sale on December 8 after service. We will gather at Church on December 7th at 9:00 am.

Current members of the committee are Karen Schweigert, Heidi Schramer, Jean Dretske, and Patti Batenhorst.

Please feel free to contact any of us with any ideas for missions you might have. Better yet, please join us in exploring and starting new mission projects at Grace.

Watch for posters and future announcements from "Outside the Box"



The Grace Lutheran Choir Presents:

"The Ballad of Bethlehem"

A Christmas Cantata by Pepper Choplin

Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:30 AM Grace Lutheran, Berlin

10:30 AM First Lutheran, Poy Sippi

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

6:30 PM Grace Lutheran, Berlin

presented without a worship service



Blue Christmas Service

a time of reflection for those who are
grieving, sad, or lonely this holiday season

Sunday, December 22, 2024 6:30pm

Grace Lutheran Church

384 Oak St. Berlin

live-streamed at

www.gracelutheranberlin.org

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time.

The Blue Christmas service is a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

Mission of the Month - Good Gifts



As people of God, we are called to share in God's work, which includes caring for those living within hunger and poverty conditions around the world. ELCA Good Gifts offers a multitude of ways to reach those in need at a global level. Unique gifts of farm animals, water jugs, school supplies, fees and textbooks, health and dental care, and vaccinations are just a sampling of what can be provided

A donation to "God's global barnyard," allows the ELCA to decide where it is needed most, whether supporting livestock, agriculture or other sustainable development projects that help families have maintainable sources of food, and potential sources of income for survival. A donation to "where needed most" provides funds to the ELCA to respond where and when needed most, reaching globally to share God's love through ministry. Any of these wonderful gifts can save lives, and ELCA Good Gifts can truly make a global difference while providing critical support to many.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we believe that God is calling us into the world—together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

Please support our December mission effort toward ELCA Good Gifts



Grace's Book Club has chosen "**Mrs. Miracle**" by Debbie Macomber as their book for December: Seth Webster is a single dad, raising wild twin boys since his wife's death in a car accident. The twins are out of control, the house is in chaos, and he has a long line of exasperated housekeepers who have quit in disgust. Seth needs more than help to keep his family together, he needs a miracle! And then, one arrives on his doorstep. Her name is Mrs. Merkle, but the kids call her "Mrs. Miracle" - and from the moment she arrives, everything is different. Her sassy spirit is infectious, and it gives Seth the courage to approach Reba, a beautiful travel agent who's been hurt and betrayed and is afraid to ever love again. Through the magic of faith, and with a little help from a children's Christmas pageant and a lot of encouragement from Mrs. Miracle, Seth and Reba might just be able to find a Christmas miracle of their very own.

We will meet to discuss "**Mrs. Miracle**" on Tuesday, December 10th at 12:00 Noon in the Grace Church Library. We will discuss the book, enjoy a delicious potluck lunch and watch the movie "**Mrs. Miracle**." If you have already read "**Mrs. Miracle**" and would like to discuss it, please join us. If you would like to read a copy, please contact Cindy Wallace. And, if you would like to join us on December 10th to watch the movie "**Mrs. Miracle**" we would love to have you.

Save the Date for Some Special Upcoming Events

February 1 - Bingo fundraiser for food pantries

February 2 - Annual meeting following worship

February 9 - The Scott Street Puppets will be back

Confirmation Update

The confirmation students will be wrapping up their unit on the Apostle's Creed. There will be no confirmation class on December 18, 25 or January 1. Classes will resume on January 8.

Thank You From the Batenhorst's

It is nearly a year since I had my accident playing kickball. I started to draft this thank you letter back on January 4th. The next day I was back in the hospital after the quadricep tendon tore off my right knee. I have been a bit skeptical to start writing the thank you again. I am still in the healing process, but improving. This has been an extremely humbling experience for me.

I will not name individuals, as I am sure I would miss someone. So, to all the members of Grace I am deeply grateful. My church family has been so awesome this year. I am so grateful for your prayers, visits both while I was in the hospital and at home. I received many cards, phone calls, text message conversations, people sent flowers, brought over meals and in the meal train. That was so wonderful and all the meals were delicious!! Gary especially loved all the generosity (the fewer meals to prepare while I was laid-up).

People helped me out with chores around the house, gave me rides to church and some appointments when Gary was at work. All of your support has been helpful for my recovery and so greatly appreciated. Words do not express how much it has benefited me over the past year.

Thank you to All,
Gary and Patti Batenhorst

October Income

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|--------------------------|-----------|
| Weekly Income | 12,721.75 |
| Shared Ministry | 4,054.99 |
| RBC Earnings | 3,154.00 |
| Bulletins/Radio Ministry | 360.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 5.00 |

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| TOTAL | \$ 20,295.74 |
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| Missions (In/Out) | \$1,287.00 |
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| Youth | 96.63 |
| Women of Grace | 0.00 |
| Men of Grace | 51.00 |

Beginning Balance January 2024

Investments:

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Leonard Jones Fund | \$ 1,293,585.52 |
| Capital Improvement Fund | \$ 280,692.00 |
| Endowment Fund | \$ 115,812.37 |

October Expenses

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|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Wages and Payroll Expenses | \$ 16,012.40 |
| Building & Grounds /Utilities | 2,309.71 |
| Worship Expenses | 13.72 |
| Radio Ministry | 300.00 |
| Office/Postage/Misc. | 647.45 |
| Insurance – Background Checks | 32.75 |

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| TOTAL | \$ 19,316.03 |
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| Missions (In/Out) | \$525.00 |
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|----------------|--------|
| Youth | 0.00 |
| Women of Grace | 129.64 |
| Men of Grace | 0.00 |

Ending Balance October 2024

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| | \$ 1,388,082.39 |
| | \$ 321,670.57 |
| | \$ 123,759.43 |

Radio Ministry

December 1 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family
December 8 - In Honor of Brian's Birthday by Selma Ceman
December 15 - In Glory to God for the Cantata
December 22 - In Honor of Jeff Tarras's Birthday
December 29 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family

Flowers

December 1 - In Honor of the Kline Kids by Doug and Bonnie Kline
December 8 - In Honor of Drew's Birthday by Terry and Cindy Wallace
December 15 - Poinsettias
December 22 - Poinsettias
December 29 - Poinsettias

Bulletins

December 1 - In Honor of Andrew, Ari, Jack, and Luke by DeAnna Lueptow
December 8 - In Honor of son Wes's Birthday by Sue Shemanski
December 15 - In Honor of the Amazing Choir Members
December 22 - In Honor of Roehl Family December Birthdays by Ed and Carol Roehl
December 29 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family

Fellowship

December 1 - Christian Ed Committee
December 8 - Outside the Box Group
December 15 - Fellowship Committee
December 22 - Christian Ed Committee
December 29 -- Open

Greeters

December 1 - Open
December 8 - Open
December 15 - Open
December 22 - Open
December 29 - Open

The **2025 sign-up sheets** are posted on the kiosk for radio ministry, bulletins, altar flowers, greeters, and fellowship.

Many, many thanks to everyone for your very generous sponsorships in 2024.



2025 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are ready to be picked up after church on Sundays or during office hours.



Happy Birthday

December Birthdays

- 1 Susan Carpenter
- 2 Leighton Cox
- 3 Jeremie Schmidt
- 4 Andrew Rozek
- 6 Jeremy Fritz
- 8 Eric Krebs
- 8 Megan Snyder
- 11 Ann Dehn
- 11 Grace Dobbs
- 11 Tayler Peschke
- 12 Kean Hermanson
- 12 Gene Hess
- 12 Kristine Labbus
- 12 Drew Wallace
- 12 Darlene Wilkes
- 13 Alaina Labbus
- 13 Kaden Fritz
- 13 Kara Fritz
- 14 Heather Schmidt
- 15 Allan Janes
- 17 Destiney Krebs
- 19 Tammy Greening
- 19 Jeff Tarras
- 20 Edmund Roehl, Jr.
- 21 Bonnie Kline
- 25 Scott Wolfe
- 26 Susan Bartlett
- 26 Kristen Hermanson
- 26 Ryan Retzlaff
- 28 Joshua Koscher
- 29 Gracie Pence
- 29 Edmund Roehl, Sr
- 30 Conrad Falk
- 30 Elias Klawitter
- 30 Tom McCarthy
- 31 Rachelle Pribnow



Happy Anniversary

December Anniversaries

- 3 Phil & Karen Pik
- 6 Matthew & Alissa Gies – 10th
- 12 Michael & Kristine McElligott
- 30 Scott & Amber Dutcher
- 30 Frank & Cindy Laudolff

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



Thank you to everyone that helped decorate the tree in Nathan Strong Park this year!

DECEMBER

2024

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1 <i>First Sunday In Advent</i> Food Pantry Sunday 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion and Sunday School</i> 9:30 am <i>Family Advent Wreath Making</i> | 2 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i> 4:00 pm <i>Executive Committee Meeting</i> | 3 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i> 9:00 am <i>No LWR Sewing</i> 3:00 pm <i>Investment Committee</i> 6:00 pm <i>ASL Class</i> | 4 8:30 am <i>Exercise Class</i> 1:00 pm <i>Finance Committee</i> 6:00 pm <i>Joyful Noise</i> 6:30 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i> | 5 12:40 pm <i>Soul Food All Saints Hosts</i> | 6 5:00 pm <i>Decorate the Church</i> | 7 9:00 am <i>Cookie Bake</i> |
| 8 <i>Second Sunday In Advent</i> 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion and Sunday School</i> 11:30pm <i>Women's Advent Brunch</i> 1:00 pm <i>Recital</i> | 9 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i> 7:00 pm <i>Congregation Council Meeting</i> | 10 9:00 am <i>No Staff Meeting</i> 6:00 pm <i>ASL Class</i> | 11 8:30 am <i>Exercise Class</i> 6:30 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i> | 12 12:40 pm <i>Soul Food St. Johns Hosts</i> | 13 | 14 8:00 am <i>Men's Breakfast at Grace</i> |
| 15 <i>Third Sunday In Advent</i> 8:30 am <i>Cantata Service and Sunday School</i> | 16 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i> | 17 9:00 am <i>Staff Meeting</i> 9:00 am <i>No LWR Sewing</i> 6:00 pm <i>ASL Class</i> | 18 8:30 am <i>Exercise Class</i> 6:30 pm <i>No Confirmation</i> 6:30 pm <i>Cantata Service</i> | 19 12:40 pm <i>Soul Food Grace Hosts</i> | 20 | 21 |
| 22 <i>Fourth Sunday In Advent</i> 8:30 am <i>Paper Bag Christmas Program</i> 6:30 pm <i>Blue Christmas Worship Service</i> | 23 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i> | 24 4:00 pm <i>Christmas Eve Service at Grace</i> 6:30 pm <i>Christmas Eve Service at First Lutheran</i> | 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>  | 26 <i>No Soul Food</i> | 27 | 28 |
| 29 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> 8:30 am <i>Service of Lessons and Carols – No Sunday School</i> | 30 1:30 pm <i>No Bible Study at First Lutheran</i> | 31 9:00 am <i>No Staff Meeting</i> |  | | | |