

**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](mailto: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](http://www.gracelutheranberlin.org)

Email: [gracelutheranberlin@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranberlin@gmail.com)

THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

**Sunday Worship:**

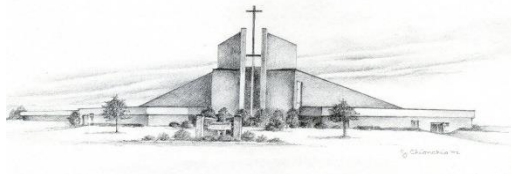
8:30 AM

**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](https://www.facebook.com/gelcberlin)

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbOerRk5PMk1QWI9qtZ5\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbOerRk5PMk1QWI9qtZ5_g)



- July 7 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- July 14 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- July 21 - Joint Worship Service at Poy Sippi Park at 10:00 am
- July 28 - 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:



One of my favorite books in the Bible is the book of Ephesians. It is a treasure trove of wisdom, encouragement, and guidance that speaks powerfully to us today, just as it did to the early Christians in Ephesus.

Ephesians begins with an exploration of the spiritual blessings we have in Christ (Ephesians 1:3-14). Paul reminds us that we are chosen and redeemed by God's grace. He highlights the immeasurable love God has for us, a love that predates the foundation of the world. In these verses, we are reminded of our identity in Christ – an identity rooted in grace, love, and divine purpose.

One of the central themes of Ephesians is unity. Paul speaks of the unity of the church, a body of believers from diverse backgrounds and cultures, all brought together through Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22). This unity is not merely a call to coexist peacefully but to actively love, support, and grow with one another. It is a call to break down barriers and build bridges, reflecting the reconciliation we have received through Jesus.

In Ephesians 4:1-16, Paul shifts his focus to the practical outworking of this unity. He urges us to live a life worthy of our calling, characterized by humility, gentleness, patience, and love. He speaks of the diversity of gifts within the body of Christ, each one given for the building up of the church. This diversity should not lead to division but to a richer, more vibrant community where each member contributes to the growth and health of the whole.

Paul also provides clear guidance on how to live out our faith in everyday life. In Ephesians 5:1-21, he exhorts us to be imitators of God. He gives practical advice for relationships – between husbands and wives, parents and children, and masters and slaves – emphasizing mutual respect, love, and submission (Ephesians 5:22-6:9). These teachings remind us that our faith should permeate every aspect of our lives, transforming our relationships and interactions with others.

As we navigate the spiritual battles of life, Paul explains how we are equipped with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). He describes the full armor we need to stand firm against the schemes of the devil: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. This vivid imagery underscores the reality of spiritual warfare and the divine protection and empowerment we have in Christ.

We will hear readings from Ephesians throughout July and August. I encourage you to delve deeply into this book. Reflect on its teachings, meditate on its truths, and allow it to transform your heart and mind. Let us strive to embody the unity, love, and purity that Paul speaks of, building a community that reflects the glory of God.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Rebekah Tarras



A joint worship service with First Lutheran will be held on July 21st at the Poy Sippi Park shelter at 10:00 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch.

First Lutheran will provide the meat; everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass.

Please sign up on the kiosk or call the church office so we can plan the appropriate amount of food.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
4.8.2024**

President Linda called the meeting to order at 6:58pm.

Council members present; Pastor Rebekah, Linda Reetz, Terry Wallace, Sandy Peschke, Becky Olsen, Bob Prellwitz, Anita Lind, Craig Chovanec, Jody Ziemann, Mary Gropp. Congregation member present, Jean Dretske.

**Opening Devotion.** Provided by Terry Wallace.

**Audience Remarks.** None.

**Secretary's Report.** April meeting minutes circulated via email, amendments made. Motion made by Craig to accept report with amendments, seconded by Sandy, motion carried. Brief discussion on ensuring all members are receiving the report via accurate email addresses.

**Treasurer's Report.** April's report including check details provided. Question asked regarding the Church Mutual Insurance. Sandy will send out an email with details on the insurance. Motion made by Anita to accept the report, seconded by Bob, motion carried.

**President's Report.** Scholarship Committee. Bonnie Kline will serve as the new member of this committee. 2025 Bingo. The 2024 Bingo committee members are willing to serve again for the 2025 event.

**Pastor's Report.** Report included Official Acts of the funeral for Bill Huck and visitation to Cheryl Chappa. Pastor provided a list of many ongoing activities and meetings. Two of those meetings included the Berlin Food Pantry Annual Meeting, (serving as a board member), and the Winnebago Housing Coalition, Green Lake County Subcommittee. Pastor reported that the food pantry has had a 20% increase in their clients since 2022 and a 41% increase in the pounds of food and grocery items dispersed since 2022. In addition to the financial support and in-kind donations, the pantry is in need of additional volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help with food distribution and to serve in leadership roles on the board of directors. The Winnebago Housing Coalition's goal is to bring awareness to the homeless and housing issues in Green Lake County. The group is in the process of gathering data on the homeless in our area and potentially having an emergency shelter during cold weather months. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee or serving the food pantry contact Pastor Rebekah.

**Committee Reports.**

**Investment Committee.** Jean Dretske provided a detailed report of our current investment profile. She informed the council that the committee continues to review current investments to ensure we are maximizing our investments. The next meeting of the group will be at the end of June.

**Fellowship and Caring.** Jody Ziemann reported the committee reviewed and made changes for the 2025 Palm Sunday Brunch. Potential future plans include a shut-in project, a Halloween Hallway, a Puzzle Saturday, and serving of food at a local craft fair. Next meeting 6.9.24.

**Buildings and Grounds.** Bob Prellwitz reported that outside grounds maintenance continues, members will spot clean the pew cushions and discussion continues on parking lot options. The group is creating a safety plan for the church and is creating a five year plan on the possible replacing of large appliances. Next meeting is 6.10.24

**Christian Education.** Anita Lind reported that the committee met in April, discussed developing a policy for the current 'Youth Fund', planned for the last day of Sunday School, hosting fellowship that day and planned for a Mother's Day project for Sunday School kids. There are 2-3 possible summer camp attendees, families will be reimbursed for ½ the cost of camp. The committee will host and serve cake for Fellowship on Graduation Sunday 5.26.24, there are two graduating seniors this year. Next meeting to be announced.

**Worship and Music.** Mary Gropp reported no needs and no written report.

**Mission and Outreach.** Craig Chovanec reported that the Ma y Mission is the Compassion Child, the organization has existed for 72 years. The program focuses on education, religious training, medical care and employment assistance. We currently support two boys until they reach adulthood, Kelly in West Africa and

Bryan in El Salvador. Each boy spends a good amount of time at their learning centers and are thriving in their impoverished environments because of our financial and spiritual support. Letters received show their gratitude and happiness. We at Grace are making a huge difference in their lives.

**Finance Committee.** Terry Wallace reported the group met on 4.23.24. They reviewed the purpose and functions of the committee as written in the constitution, reviewed the Leonard Jones Fund, and the General Investment Fund history. Discussed the possible renaming of the General Fund to the Capitol Improvement Fund and possible ways to generate more income. Next meeting date is 7.23.24.

#### **Unfinished Business.**

**Executive Committee Language.** The purpose and functions of the Executive Committee were read for a second time. Motion made by Craig to adopt the language for the Continuing Resolution C13.01.A24, seconded by Terry, motion carried.

**Shared Covenant.** Discussion held on the need to plan a meeting date now that the finance committee has met and per the every 6 month review as written in the Shared Covenant guidelines. Linda will contact Mark Henn for possible meeting dates.

#### **New Business.**

**Christian Education.** Discussion held on the new language for the Christian Education Committee, C13.10.A24. This is the first reading of the new language with no action taken at this meeting. This item will be added to the June agenda for possible approval. Discussion held on changing the 'Youth Fund & Faith Formation Fund' to the 'Christian Education Fund'. Motion made by Anita to make this change, seconded by Terry, motion carried.

**Deaf Community Request.** Discussion held on a request to add a second Sunday of Signing each month. Sara has agreed to a trial of Signing twice a month during the summer months. Motion made by Terry Wallace to add a second Sunday of Signing each month during the summer months, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried.

**Rolland Bahr Bequest.** Grace has received a \$16,390 bequest in honor of Rollie, from family and friends. Pastor reported that they did not have a request of how the bequest was to be utilized. Motion made by Jody Ziemann to place the bequest in the General Investment Fund, seconded by Bob Prellwitz. Following further discussion Jody rescinded the original motion. Motion made by Jody Ziemann to place the bequest into the Memorial Fund, seconded by Mary Gropp, motion carried.

**Consultant's Report.** Discussion held on the report. Council Retreat with Cathy Cowling is planned for 6.5.24.

**Closing Prayer.** Given by Pastor Rebekah.

**Adjournment.** Motion made by Craig to adjourn, seconded by Anita, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Becky Olsen, Secretary  
5.23.24

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



## Constitution Corner

Our congregation has a constitution, that in addition to the Bible, serves to guide our life together as a church. This constitution reflects the theology and polity of this church as it organizes itself to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the sacraments, reach out to the neighbor with good news, and share the love of God in the world. Each month we plan to highlight a part of our constitution. The entire constitution is found under resources on the website.

Chapter six of the Constitution explains our affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Each congregation is considered an interdependent part of the ELCA. We accept the Confession of Faith and agree to the purposes of the ELCA.

Each congregation is independently responsible for its life as a Christian community. However, we are better together and recognize that our life and mission are enhanced by being part of the larger church. As part of the ELCA, we pledge financial support and participation in the life and mission of the larger church both at the synod level and the churchwide level. We agree to call pastoral leadership from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the ELCA and follow the call procedures of the ELCA. This chapter also provides guidance on relocation, partnerships, developing additional ministry sites, and seeking assistance from the synodical bishop when needed.

## The Brat Fry Was Well Attended On June 19, 2024





## Women's Salad Supper

**Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 6:15 pm**

**Please bring a salad to share (2 people to a salad)**  
**Plates, silverware, dinner rolls/butter, dessert & beverages will be provided**

Please consider attending the Grace Women's Annual Salad Supper on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>. Pam Mork will be our guest speaker; she will talk about her recent mission trip to Africa.

Also, remember that our Salad Supper also serves as a baby shower for Luthera items for the LWR Layettes. A list of items needed is printed in the newsletter.



More detailed information and a sign-up sheet will be posted on the Kiosk.



The Grace Book Club pick for July is **"The Music of Bees"** by Eilleen Garvin. In this book we meet Alice Holtzman, a 44-year-old beekeeper struggling with the recent unexpected death of her husband; Jake, a troubled paraplegic teen who has the tallest mohawk in the county; and Harry, a 24-year-old man with debilitating social anxiety.

The three of them come together through different circumstances, but unite over the love of Alice's honeybees. This is an emotionally powerful story of three lonely strangers who meet by happenstance and find themselves together on a small local bee farm. All three of them end up on an inspiring journey of surprising friendship just when they least expect it.

We will meet to discuss **"The Music of Bees"** on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon at a location to be determined. If you have already read this book, please consider joining us for discussion.

If you would like to read **"The Music of Bees"** and join in the discussion on July 9<sup>th</sup>, please contact Cindy Wallace and she will get you a copy. We would love to have you join us.

## Men's Steak Fry

**When:** July 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 pm.

**Where:** Barbola Residence at N235 36<sup>th</sup> Road, Berlin.

**Who:** All Men of Grace and Frist Lutheran are invited, bring a guest.

**Cost:** Will be determined the night of the event.

Bring your own tableware (plate, steak knife, etc) everything else will be provided.



## 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 in September. If you have any questions, contact Bev Chadwick at 361-0860.

### Personal Care

- 1 – light weight bath size towel dark color  
20x40 or 27x52  
(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
- 1 – toothbrush

### 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 – unsharpened #2 pencils
- 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 Onesies)
- 2 – short or long sleeve sleepers (without feet)
- 2 – blankets  
(between 36 – 52 inches)
- 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)

## Grace Lutheran Scholarship Fund

Two \$500.00 scholarships have been awarded through the Grace English Lutheran Scholarship Fund.

Emily Klawitter has been accepted into the graduate program at Carroll College. She will be completing the requirements for a degree in occupational therapy.

Sadie Goettl will be starting her senior year at the University of Wisconsin Madison, pursuing a degree in agricultural business and communication arts.

Congratulations to both of these young women!

## Special Church Services

### **Special Service of Hymns and Stories**

On Sunday, July 14 we will have a special service of favorite hymns and their stories. You can suggest a favorite hymn by adding it to the basket in the lobby at church or by emailing Jessica Fritz at [singinsoprano1977@gmail.com](mailto:singinsoprano1977@gmail.com)

### **Polka Sunday**

On Sunday, August 25 we will once again welcome the Albright Polka Band to lead our music.



### **Radio Ministry**

July 7 - Open  
July 14 - In Honor of our anniversary by Jeff and Rebekah Tarras  
July 21 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family  
July 28 - In Memory of Bill Huck's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### **Flowers**

July 7 - In Honor of their Grandchildren by Doug and Bonnie Kline  
July 14 - Open  
July 21 - Worship in the Park at Poy Sippi  
July 28 - In Memory of Joyce Ziemann by Suzie Ferron and Family

### **Bulletins**

July 7 - In Honor of Joanne Bush and Jeannette Koch  
July 14 - Open  
July 21 - Worship in the Park at Poy Sippi  
July 28 - In Memory of Bill Huck's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### **Fellowship**

July 7 - Open  
July 14 - Open  
July 21 - Worship at Poy Sippi  
July 28 - Open

### **Greeters**

July 7 - Bob Prellwitz  
July 14 - Jody Ziemann  
July 21 - Worship at Poy Sippi  
July 28 - Craig Chovanec

## **Mission of the Month - Good Samaritan Fund**

Today, the term "Good Samaritan" is often used to refer to any person who does a selfless good deed for a stranger or someone who is in need.

The term "Good Samaritan," which is recognizable to most westerners and other people living in historically Christian cultures, comes from a passage in the Bible where Jesus is talking about what it means to be a neighbor. The context of the parable is in Luke 10:25-29.

Synonyms of Samaritan are compassionate, sympathetic, kind, kindly, humanitarian, good-hearted, unselfish, generous, considerate.

Jesus asks us to be "Good Samaritans", to love people by helping them and acting neighborly towards them when they need help.

Here at Grace Lutheran we have an established Good Samaritan Fund. The funds are used for individuals or families in our area that are in need of assistance.





## Happy Birthday

### July Birthdays

5	William Carpenter
6	Kristine McElligott
6	Amberlee Perry
7	Joanna Schmidt
10	Debbie Krause
13	Katelyn Cox
13	Jake Schroeder
14	Candace Neumeier
15	David Barbola
16	Brady Krebs
17	Emily Klawitter
17	Derek Retzlaff
18	Timothy Koch
19	Bryce Greening
20	Lisa Lee
22	Bonnie Olsen
24	Aidan Pierstorff
24	Karen Pik
26	Phyllis Luttrupp
26	Linda Reetz
26	Kathy Roehl
26	Mary Sillanpaa
27	Lorraine Groveau
27	Michael Hermanson
30	Mindy Goffard



## Happy Anniversary

### July Anniversaries

11	John & Michelle Klawitter
14	Jeremy & Carissa Fritz
14	Edmund & Kathy Roehl Jr.
15	Jeff & Rebekah Tarras
16	Clint & Brenda Hartzke
21	Jim & Candace Neumeier
23	Robert & Deb Dean
23	Donald & Vicki Konen – 30th
28	Robert & Tricia Prellwitz – 45th

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



**Donate on Tuesday, July 9  
from 10:30am to 5:30pm  
at Grace Church.**

**Call Nancy at 920-361-3679  
for an appointment. Walk-in's  
are always welcome.**

## Berlin Community Blood Drive

Grace Church is providing the food for the next blood drive on **Tuesday, July 9**. We need you to share your homemade goodies (2 dozen) for the donors and workers.


We'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 sheet on the kiosk or contact Tammy at 290-1145 or [tlondowski@yahoo.com](mailto:tlondowski@yahoo.com). All baked goods can be dropped off in the kitchen on Sunday during church or Tuesday, July 9 (8-10).

Goettl Crew (Tammy, Sadie & Spencer)

# JULY

2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	2 9:00 am Staff Meeting	3	4  HAPPY 4TH OF JULY	5	6
7 8:30 am Worship with Communion -	8 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	9 9:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30am – 5:30 pm Community Blood Drive	10 6:00 pm Bible Study	11  Pastor	12  On	13  Vacation
14 8:30 am Worship No - Communion  Pastor	15 No Bible Study at First Lutheran  On Vacation	16 No Staff Meeting	17	18	19	20
21 10:00 am Joint Worship at Poy Sippi  Pot Luck to Follow	22 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	23 9:00 am Staff Meeting	24	25	26	27
28 8:30 am Worship with Communion	29 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	30 9:00 am Staff Meeting  5:30 pm Men's Steak Fry				



I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards, called, and visited me after my surgery.

A special thank you to Bill & Sue Bartlett, Gary & Patti Batenhorst, Doug & Bonnie Kline, and Jim & Pam Marks who provided me with equipment that is helping with my recovery.

Thank you all very much, Ken Peschke