

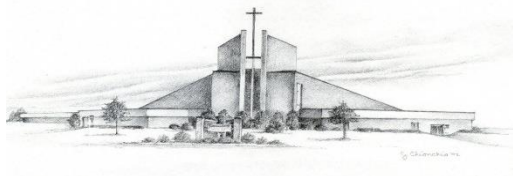
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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

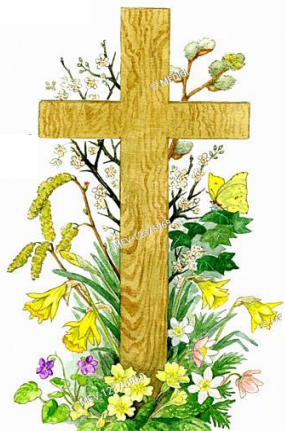
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Hometown Broadcasting
WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



Worship Services

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gelcberlin

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbOerRk5PMk1QWI9qtZ5_g



- May 7 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- May 14 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- May 21 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- May 28 - 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"

What is Grace?

Spiritually speaking, grace is defined as the free and unmerited favor of God.

Scripture teaches that the “wages of sin is death”. But that is not what we receive. The apostle Paul writes in Romans 3:23 “*we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s hopes for us, but we don’t receive death we receive God’s grace.*” John 3:16 tells us that *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.*”

Grace is God’s Gift of love! It is undeserved, unearnable, unrepayable. It is God’s gift freely given with no strings attached. (*read that again*).

According to the Bible, Grace is the nature of God. We often talk about humans seeking God, but how opposite that is to what the scriptures tell us. God seeks us! Consider these examples:

- In Genesis, after Adam and Eve eat of the fruit they hide from God. God comes looking for them, calling out “Adam & Eve, where are you?”
- Abraham and Sarah were called by God, not vice versa. (Can you imagine 2 old folks wishing to become first time parents? They were chosen by God to be the parents of God’s chosen people.)
- Then there is Moses to whom God speaks from a burning bush.
- And it’s not just in the OT, in the early part of the gospels, Jesus called out to Peter and Andrew, 2 fishermen picked off the beach, chosen to follow Jesus, to come as you are.
- The apostle Paul was blinded by the light of God on the Damascus road and called to be an apostle on mission for Jesus.
- God’s nature is to love us no matter what we do just like the prodigal father.
- We hear it in the Christmas story, God sent his Son.
- And ultimately there is the crucifixion and resurrection! God was willing to go all the way to pay for our sins through the crucifixion of his son and offers eternal life through the resurrection.

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:6-8 that at the “right time,” while we were still weak and lost in our sin, Christ died for us. In this crazy way, God “proves his love for us!”



This is the framework for everything else we say and do and are. God was willing to go all the way to the cross to pay for our sins and offers us eternal life by his resurrection. This is the nature of God. God loves you! Christ died for you! There is no other message.

God’s grace also gives us the power to love others and to share the message of God’s love with others. We can be so confident in God’s love and grace that we are able to try new things and welcome new people and embrace new ideas and dream new dreams.

We are saved by God’s grace, as a gift, through our faith in the one who came down to set us free and not because of a single thing we have ever said or thought or done. We are here because of God’s unconditional love in Jesus Christ. If we realize we are the lost sheep that the shepherd left the other 99 to go and find, when we are found and restored, then we know the results of God’s grace.

As God’s people we have been set free through Jesus, from sin, from death, and all the other rotten stuff that messes up our lives – that doesn’t mean the struggle is over, but it does mean that every day we have a chance to start over, to remember our baptism and God’s grace. We are saved, we are loved, and we are set free.

So let’s be people of Grace.

Pastor Rebekah

GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 3.13.23

Council members present; Heidi Schramer, DeAnna Lueptow, Cindy Wallace, Becky Olsen, Pastor Rebekah, Intern Kathy, Sue Shemanski, Lisa Lee, Bob Prellwitz, Jody Ziemann and Craig Chovanec

President Heidi Schramer called to order at 7:05 pm Opening Prayer led by DeAnna Lueptow

Approval of Agenda, motion made by Sue Shemanski to approve agenda as written, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried No concerns from audience

Secretary's Report February council meeting minutes offered. Motion made by Cindy Wallace to accept report as written, seconded by Craig Chovanec, motion carried Treasurer's Report Cindy Wallace presented the February report, members reviewed. Motion made by Jody Ziemann to accept report as written, seconded by DeAnna Lueptow, motion carried. February check detail report reviewed, motion made by Sue Shemanski to approve all checks as written, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried.

Old Business Joint Council meeting with Grace and First Lutheran's executive board is Tuesday March 21st, 6:30pm, hosted by Grace. Fellowship hall bulletin board discussion, committees have agreed to decorate boards, highlighting their respective committee's work and involvement. Samaritan Fund discussion tabled until April meeting.

New Business Jessica Fritz presented information on a performance concert by the contemporary Christian group Selah. The concert would be held at Grace, lasting approximately 1 ½-2 hours, tentative date of November 4, 2023. Approximate cost of the event is \$8500.00, with additional costs of airfare, hotel rooms, and meals. Following a lengthy discussion on needs and tasks to be completed to host this event, Jody Ziemann made a motion to designate \$5000.00 to host the Selah concert, motion seconded by Lisa Lee, motion carried. Funds for the event will be derived from the church general fund.

Information shared and discussion on Grace sponsoring a container house ('pod') for Turkey earthquake survivors. The request for assistance came from Lutheran World Relief. Turkey Disaster Relief is our mission of the month for March. The total cost of the container house is \$5300.00. Sue Shemanski made a motion to have the church match a dollar to dollar fundraising campaign by the congregation up to \$2650.00, seconded by Craig Chovanec, motion carried. Fundraising will continue until the congregation raises the \$2650.00. Funds will be derived from the general fund.

Discussion on hosting a "Drawn to the Word", a painting of scripture lesson during a special service. Cost of the event is \$4,625.00 or \$3,850 if wooden frame and stretching of canvas is completed by the congregation. Motion made by Sue Shemanski to allocate up to \$4625.00 for the event, seconded by Lisa Lee, motion carried. Funds will be derived from the general fund.

Committee Reports Pastor's Report. Pastor Rebekah reported on her past months' pastoral acts including a baptism at First Lutheran, and pastoral visits included visits with June Lubbert and Joby Zietlow. In addition to pastoral acts she provided the council with an extensive list of activities completed and ongoing for both Grace and 1st Lutheran churches.

Investment Profile Update. Report presented by Cindy Wallace. No questions regarding profile. Bill Bartlett will continue to generate the monthly report for the council.

Building and Grounds. Bob Prellwitz reported that there had been a leak from the roof near the baptismal font. Water was noted to be on one day only, following a warming trend and may be an ice jam, will continue to monitor and address if further leakage. Marten's Heating and Cooling will conduct annual furnace and air

conditioner checks and cleaning. 5 of the 6 furnaces require heat exchanger replacement, the parts are warranted, we would be responsible for the labor. Bathroom faucet near the choir room has been repaired. Jackson Glass has been contacted regarding door repairs, no return calls as of our meeting tonight. Committee continues to complete much snow removal. Bulletin board is complete. Cobwebs will be addressed, awaiting new kneelers, painting in the sanctuary will be completed after new kneeler installation. Next meeting 4.10.23 at 6pm.

Christian Education. Sue Shemanski reported that the Mardi Gras event was well received with 35 attendees. Sunday School has two new participants. The group will start a 4yr old class this fall! A sports themed Vacation Bible School is planned for July 11-13th, from 5:30-7:30pm, starting with a supper at 5:30pm. Bulletin board work is ongoing.

Fellowship and Caring. Jody Ziemann reported that the group met on Sunday to finalize Palm Sunday brunch plans. Sign up sheets for congregation donations are on the kiosk, sheets have also been sent to 1st Lutheran. Members will meet on Saturday April 1st at 9am to set up the fellowship hall and start food prep. Upcoming events include a Mothers Day or other Spring project. Next meeting is 4.16.23, following worship service.

Worship and Music. Lisa Lee presented an in depth report of the upcoming music schedule through May. Jess is planning for the summer music schedule. A special cross presentation will be offered during Good Friday Service. Communion will be offered every Sunday following Palm Sunday. Upcoming events include; a Polka Service at the end of August. The 'Drawn to the Word' painting presentation on 9.24.23. The Selah concert is tentatively booked for Saturday, 11.4.23. Jess continues to look for and plan alternate service events. Discussion on donating old kneelers to rummage sale if new arrive prior to the sale. Group will work on the bulletin board. Next meeting will be after Easter.

Mission and Outreach. Craig Chovanec reported that the group completed their third and final Ding Dong Dinner event yesterday, this delivery was made to more random people in various sections of town, random congregational members also took dinners for delivery. Members will think about how to get more people involved next year, and they would also like to get youth involved in this mission. The group delivered approximately 150 meals over three months! Thrivent cards offered were very helpful in defraying cost. The March mission of the month is Disaster Relief and plans are in place to fundraise for the building of a container house for Turkey's earthquake survivors. Bulletin board display is up focusing on our monthly missions. April's mission of the month will be Crossways, Craig is gathering information, Carrie McCarthy will provide the congregation presentation.

Next council meeting is planned for Monday, April 10th at 7pm. Intern Kathy led closing prayer Adjournment motion made by Cindy Wallace, seconded by Sue Shemanski, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Olsen, Secretary

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Heidi Schramer – President | 920-361-4097 | schramer@charter.net |
| DeAnna Lueptow – Vice President | 920-229-4857 | delueptow@gmail.com |
| Cindy Wallace – Treasurer | 920-229-3772 | cindy_wallace@charter.net |
| Becky Olsen – Secretary | 920-290-4485 | olsenfamilyshorthorns@gmail.com |
| Vacant– Music/Worship | | |
| Sue Shemanski – Christian Education | 920-361-4506 | shemanski5@yahoo.com |
| 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 |

Message from the Council President

Dear Grace Family,

April 14, 2023

Explanation of the Selah Concert proposal...

A proposal/presentation was brought before the church council for consideration.

Because of my/our inexperience and limited knowledge of our constitution we accepted the proposal not realizing we had exceeded our authority by entering into a contract without holding a congregational meeting to seek approval.

Upon realization of this error, we put the entire proposal on hold and scheduled the congregational meeting.

After much feedback from the congregation the council made the decision to cancel the Selah Concert proposal.

We do sincerely apologize for any and all disruption this has caused.

Thank you,

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi Schramer

Council President

Maggie The Church Mouse

I am a weary church mouse today. I can't put a claw on the reason for it, but the wag is out of my tail...the skip is out of my scamper...the beady twinkle is out of my eye. Perhaps some of you can identify with this feeling that sometimes overcomes our bodies and our spirits....

I know some of you are in the midst of health battles, fighting unwelcome illnesses and bodily failings that fill your days with worry and pain.

I know some of you have children and grandchildren who are trying to navigate a difficult world, and their struggles lodge in your hearts, too.

I know some of you have lost loved ones whose absences loom large on special days, dark days, and even the ordinary days.

No doubt some of you are troubled by disagreements, perhaps bogged down by a situation where your heart longs to receive forgiveness, or your conscience nudges you to ask for it.

I'm guessing that even our pastor has days of struggle. She cannot simply focus on the needs and wants of a few but must be attuned to all, even when she has worries, sorrows, commitments, and longings of her own.

Suddenly I feel less alone in my weariness. I can roll over and hold my head up again. Upon considering the trials and hardships of others around me, I am reminded that life presents challenges to us all. We may prefer to stride through each day with confidence, but inevitably we stumble and bumble. It helps to have others to lean on, rather than trying to navigate life alone. I would never want to be a church mouse in an empty church!

We are strengthened by the love and support of our church family, and we all lean on a God who promises forgiveness, comfort, and love – and teaches us to do the same for one another.



Grace's Rummage Sale

Thanks to all the generous donations and the hard work of many dedicated ladies, this year's rummage sale total was \$1,761.18, over \$600.00 more than last year!!

An extra special "thank you" to Cindy Wallace for organizing the event.



"Nurturing Healing Love: A Mother's Journey of Hope and Forgiveness" by Scarlett Lewis is the Grace Book Club's book to read for May.

December 14, 2012, began like any other, but when a gunman opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the author's life changed forever. Her six-year-old son, Jesse, was one of the victims. However, this is not a story about a massacre. It is a story about love and survival. It's about how to face the impossible, how to find courage when you think you have none, and how to choose love instead of anger, fear, or hatred.

We will meet to discuss this book on Tuesday, May 16th at 1:00 PM in the Church Library. If you have read this book and would like to be part of the discussion, please join us.

If you would like to read this book, please contact Cindy Wallace @ 920-229-3772 and she will get you a copy. We Look forward to seeing you on the 16th.

Radio Ministry

- May 7 - In Honor of Grandpa Bubba's Birthday by Spencer & Sadie
- May 14 - In Memory of Charles Eury Sr. by Dona Eury
- May 21 - In Honor of Spencer's graduation by his family
- May 28 - Sponsored by Diane Toraason

Flowers

- May 7 - In Honor of Terry and Cindy Wallace's wedding anniversary
- May 14 - In Honor of Patti Batenhorst's birthday by Gary
- May 21 - In Honor of the graduates by the McCarthy Family
- May 28 - In Honor of Jeff and Anita Lind's wedding anniversary

Bulletins

- May 7 - In Honor of Joseph and Joanna Schmidt's college graduation
- May 14 - In Honor of her daughter, Clara Voigtlander's birthday by Sue Shemanski
- May 21 - In Honor of Spencer's graduation by his family
- May 28 - In Honor of all who provide music in the church by Henry & Lois Stark

Fellowship

- May 7 - Open
- May 14 - Michelle Klawitter
- May 21 - Cake In Honor of the Graduates
- May 28 - Sponsored by Bill and Sue Carpenter

Greeters

- May 7 - Open
- May 14 - Open
- May 21 - Open
- May 28 - Open



- Men's Brat Fry -- Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 5:30 pm
- Vacation Bible School -- July 11 – 13. Starting at 5:30pm
- Joint Church Picnic -- Sunday, July 23, 2023 at 10:00 am

Mission of the Month - Compassion Child

Compassion Child's mission is to release children from poverty in Jesus' name through a holistic approach to child development. Holistic child development means they assist a child in poverty, in some cases, when the child is still in the womb, and it goes through young adulthood with the child. Holistic child development is tailored to a child's age, gender, health, culture, and family situation.

Compassion Child works with thousands of local churches around the world. In a world where hundreds of millions of children live in extreme poverty, connecting one child with one sponsor is the most strategic way to end child poverty.

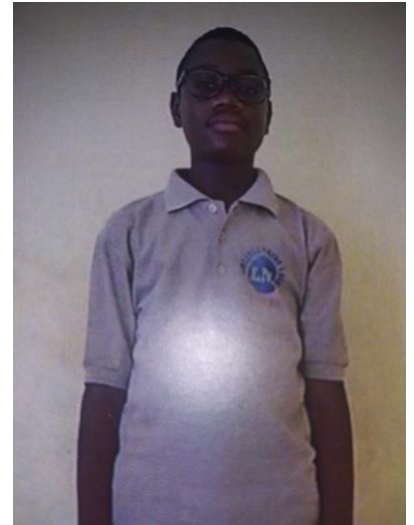
To help young people finish well, they provide youth ages 12 and older with customized training and educational paths according to their own unique potential and God-given talents and purpose.

Here at Grace Lutheran we sponsor two boys.



Bryan was born on September 14, 2015. Grace has been providing hope and love to Bryan as his sponsor since April 2022. He enjoys Bible stories at the Pampanitos Learning Center.

Kelly was born on March 20, 2010. Grace has been providing hope and love to Kelly as his sponsor since January 2021. He is interested in art, drawing, reading, drama, soccer and running.



Our gifts and prayers give Bryan and Kelly the ability to grow spiritually, cognitively, and emotionally.

Thanks to the members
of Grace,
our altar was beautifully
decorated for Easter
Sunday Worship





*Happy
Birthday*

May Birthdays

- 4 William Nelson
Angie Armatoski
- 5 Jared Labbus
- 8 Blake Hilke
Tracy Kallas
Jennifer Koscher
- 9 Patti Batenhorst
Rebecca Guden
- 12 Gretchen Mildebrandt
- 12 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 Kathy Cartwright
Robert Dean
Peggy Ferrel
Karl Guenther
Mason Hilke
Rose McGrath
- 20 Courtney Hilke
- 21 Michael Koch
Kristopher Kirk
- 23 Shirley Huck
Terry Wepner
- 24 Joshua Nitzke
Hunter Schmidt
- 27 Jackie Schmidt
Mark Calabresa
- 29 Patrick Ferron
Connie Koscher



*Happy
Anniversary*

May Anniversaries

- 4 Terry & Cindy Wallace
- 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.



Berlin Community Blood Drive

May 2, 2023 at Grace Church
10:30 am – 5:30 pm

Call Nancy at 920-361-3679 for an appointment. Walk-ins are always welcome!



2023

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|------------|------------|
| | 1 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran | 2 9:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Blood Drive | 3 5:30 pm Craters Group 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 4 12:45 pm Soul Food River Shores Hosts | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:30 am Worship with Communion Affirmation of Baptism Recognition | 8 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting | 9 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilters | 10 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 11 12:45 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:30 am Worship- no Communion Happy Mother's Day 1:00 pm Music Recital | 15 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran | 16 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilters | 17 5:30 pm Craters Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 18 12:45 pm Soul Food All Saints Hosts | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8:30 am Worship with Communion High School Graduates Recognition 12:00 Noon Intern Committee at Grace | 22 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran | 23 9:00 am Staff Meeting | 24 | 25 12:45 pm Soul Food All Churches Host | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:30 am Pentecost Worship with Communion | 29 Memorial Day – Office Closed | 30 9:00 am Staff Meeting | 31 | | | |