

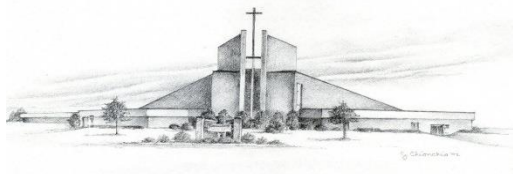
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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



- March 3 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- March 6 - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- March 10 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- March 13 - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- March 17 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- March 20 - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm (In person and online)
- March 24 - Palm Sunday Service at 10:00 am (In person and online)
- March 29 - Good Friday Service at 1:00 pm (In person and online)
- March 31 - Easter Sunday 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:



This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. Hebrews 6:19

Do you know what the earliest Christian symbol was? You probably guessed the cross, right? Nope. According to Hugh Halter in his book *Flesh: Learning to Be Human Like Jesus*, “The cross became a well-known symbol about three hundred years after Jesus as the Roman Empire conquered countries and kingdoms in the name of Jesus. Before that, the main symbol was an anchor. Why an anchor? It was because God’s people, the true Jesus followers, were constantly on the run, on mission, in trouble, in prayer, building community, experiencing sacrifice and loss - and they were in need of a symbol that reminded them that they were safe and secure. While the symbol of the cross became and still remains a symbol that focuses on what Jesus did for us, the anchor is a symbol of what He is for us while we live for Him.”

Anchors are nautical devices that provide stability to ships during harsh storms, protecting them from being tossed around at sea. Throughout history, anchors have served as a much-needed device for sailors. In the Bible, an anchor is used as a symbol of our hope in Jesus which gives us stability and steadfastness in life.

According to Hebrews 6:19, the anchor of our souls is our hope of God’s inheritance in Christ. Unlike the feelings-based, doubt-infused definition of hope common in our world, the Christian’s hope is “a strong and trustworthy anchor”. Our hope is “firm and secure” because it is based on Jesus and the promises of God. Our hope anchors us during the stormy seasons of life. We have been given an anchor for the soul, a lasting hope both sure and unshakable. All else is fleeting and changing, but Jesus remains the same (Hebrews 13:8).

As the words of the great hymn by Edward Mote proclaims “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.”

When the storms of life flood us with fear, worry, or doubt, we can hold onto God’s promises and find stability in the salvation Jesus has provided. No matter what happens, God’s promises remain. God does not want His children to be set adrift; He wants them to be fixed in a secure place. Just as an anchor grounds a ship to protect it from going adrift at sea, so also does our hope in Jesus keep us grounded and secure during the difficult, uncertain, and often painful tempests of life.

May your faith in Jesus be the anchor of your life.

Pastor Rebekah

**GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
1.8.2024**

Council members present; Pastor Rebekah, De Anna Lueptow, Cindy Wallace, Becky Olsen, Jody Ziemann, Sue Shemanski, Bob Prellwitz, Craig Chovanec, Gene Hess. Absent Heidi Schramer.

Other members present; Sandy Peschke, Bill Bartlett, Carissa and Jeremy Fritz.

Opening Prayer given by De Anna Lueptow.

Approval of the Agenda. Becky Olsen added Lenten Soup Suppers to the agenda. Motion made by Cindy Wallace to approve agenda with the addition, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried.

Audience Concerns. None

Secretary's Report. December Secretary's Report circulated via email, two corrections made to the report. Motion made by Sue Shemanski to accept report with corrections, seconded by Craig Chovanec, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. December Treasurer's Report presented. Motion made by Sue Shemanski to accept Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried. Motion made by Craig Chovanec to accept the check detail, seconded by Sue Shemanski, motion carried. Investment profile also presented.

Unfinished Business.

Shared Ministry Covenant. Discussion held on unsigned document. Tentative plan is to revisit the signing of the covenant following both respective churches budget and annual meetings. Motion made by Cindy Wallace to keep this item on our agenda, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried

Puppet Service. Service is set for 1.28.24.

Winter Bingo. The committee met on 12.31.23. De Anna reported that each congregational committee will be asked to create a basket for the basket raffle. Larger items may also be donated for the raffle. In addition, approximately 35 donated bingo prizes are needed. There will be no cost to play bingo and food will be available for purchase. Proceeds earned from the event will be split and donated to the Berlin and Poy Sippi Food Pantries.

Proposed Bylaw. The bylaw regarding interns and his/her participation at council meetings will be presented at the annual meeting for possible approval.

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) monthly allocation. Per discussion at the budget meeting, it was recommended to not give the monthly \$150.00 allocation to the FCA. Craig Chovanec reported that the FCA will be a Mission of the Month in 2024.

New Business.

Advent Art. De Anna reported that Barb Bellmer was contacted and recommended the best way to preserve the work is to lay it flat.

2024 Budget. The budget was reviewed. Bill Bartlett provided a breakdown of the investment figures to the group. Following much discussion a motion was made by Sue Shemanski to present the proposed budget to the congregation at the annual meeting for possible approval, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried.

Radio Ministry. Discussion held on the present cost of this weekly ministry. Motion made by Jody Ziemann to increase weekly radio sponsorship to \$70.00, beginning February 1, 2024, seconded by Cindy Wallace, motion carried. This is an increase of \$10.00/sponsorship.

Scholarship. Diane Toraason provided the council with a detailed informational document on behalf of the Scholarship Committee. The document included an outline of the group's purpose, definitions of its processes and procedures. Discussion held on adding the Scholarship Committee and its information to Grace's Continuing Resolutions. Cindy Wallace made a motion to table this item until the February council meeting to allow members time to review the document, seconded by Gene Hess, motion carried. In addition we will request a report to be written for the annual meeting.

Lenten Soup Suppers. Discussion on soup suppers. Council members are in support of this fellowship during Lent and we will plan for the event.

Committee Reports

Pastor's Report. Pastor Rebekah provided a detailed report of her activities. Official acts at Grace included the funerals of Kelly Boening and June Lubbert. Visitations to Bonnie and Doug Kline, Roland Bahr, Dona Eury, Judy Gallert and Helen Burch, also had several phone conversations with members following accidents and hospitalizations. Ongoing activities included; preparing for and assisting with many Christmas season services and activities, teaching confirmation classes, attended a variety of meetings, including staff, congregation committee and council meetings. Prepared letters for the monthly newsletter, the annual giving envelopes and the annual report. Helped at Soul Food, attended the Oshkosh Conference meeting, and is researching for our upcoming Lent midweek services.

Buildings and Grounds. Bob Prellwitz reported that ongoing projects include snow removal, weather stripping, furnace maintenance, trailer repair and bathroom maintenance. Completed a report for the budget and annual meetings. The next meeting is 2.6.24 at 6pm.

Christian Education. Sue Shemanski reported that Sunday School is going well and had nine kids in attendance yesterday. Reports were completed for the budget and annual meeting. The group is planning for a Mardi Gras event on 2.13.24 and their next meeting is 1.14.24.

Fellowship and Caring. Jody Ziemann reported that the committee created and delivered Christmas greetings and treat plates for 'homebound' members in December. Reports were completed for the budget and annual meetings. The next meeting is 1.14.24 following service, one item of discussion will be a Valentine project.

Worship and Music Liaison. Gene Hess provided a detailed report of the committee's activities. Choir will perform on 1.21, 2.4, and 2.25.24. In addition they will perform on Ash Wednesday, every other week at midweek Lent services, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Joyful Noise will perform 1.14 and 2.21.24. The Seventh Day Praise Band from Grace in Omro will perform on 3.3.24.

Upcoming Worship Plans include; The Puppets on 1.28.24, communion will be in the pews that day. Lent begins on 2.14, with Ash Wednesday Service at 630pm. Joint Palm Sunday Service is 3.24.24 at 10am. Maundy Thursday Service is at First Lutheran. Good Friday Service is at Grace. Easter Sunday Service is 3.31.24. Live streaming continues on Facebook and YouTube. Reports have been written for the budget and the annual meeting.

Missions and Outreach. Craig Chovanec reported that our current Mission of the month is Lutheran World Relief, a cause we have supported for many years. Starting in 1945 following WWII, Lutheran World Relief supplied food and clothing to war torn Europe, it has now expanded to 35 countries, including Africa, Asia and Latin America. Its goal is to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. It works to create peace and justice by working on human rights issues, providing emergency response with both cash and material resources. Health, education, clean drinking water and sanitation are areas of emphasis. Lutheran World Relief promotes sustainable farming practices and assists in natural disasters helping people rebuild their lives. Please donate and make a difference in someone's life. The February Mission of the month will be the Damascus Road Project, Paige Soper will present the mission. A total of \$15,053 has been raised for missions this year! The annual report will have a breakdown of our mission figures for 2023. World Hunger, Disaster Relief for the Turkey Earthquake and Compassion Child were the top three causes with the highest donation totals.

Adjournment. Motion made by Craig Chovanec to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sue Shemanski, motion carried. Closing Prayer provided by Pastor Rebekah

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Olsen, Secretary
1.12.24

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
Mary Gropp – Music/Worship	920-279-4054	jim_marygropp@yahoo.com
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

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 full constitution is found under resources on the website.

Chapter 4 of the Constitution outlines our purpose as a church.

- *C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- *C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
 - a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
 - b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
 - c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
 - d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
 - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
 - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.
- *C4.03. To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:
 - a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.
 - b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry.
 - c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.
 - d. Teach the Word of God.
 - e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.
 - f. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
 - g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for this congregation's ministry and the ministry of the other expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy.

March Mission of the Month - Grace Scholarship Program

The mission for the month of March is Grace's Scholarship Fund. As the cost of higher education increases it becomes a greater burden for our youth and their families. This fund is designed to support our youth as they strive to become more productive members of society.

One of the requirements to receive this scholarship is the student's involvement at Grace. We are trying to encourage our youth to serve in some level here at Grace and develop habits that will support their continued involvement with God and their church.

Hopefully with all our support we can encourage their growth in their relationship with God.

Maggie the Church Mouse

This year – more than any other year that I’ve been your church mouse – Lent has felt like Lent. I may be tiny, but even the smallest animals have keen senses. This year I am especially sensitive to the feelings of Lent – betrayal, pain, and hurt.

Yet on Easter morning, we all expect to wake with feelings of hope, joy, and renewal. How do I make the leap from one set of feelings to the other?

I know that part of the process includes forgiveness – both the giving and the receiving. It has to be part of the process when there have been harsh words, lies, and transgressions that settle deeply in one another’s hearts. Suffering is the inevitable result, and the only way out is to seek forgiveness. If forgiveness is the focus of Lent, then self-examination is required of each of us as a prerequisite. That’s the hard part.

Jesus sets the supreme example of suffering and forgiveness during the season of Lent. If you are like me, and this season of Lent has felt a little more than ever like Lent, let us pray that our sorrow, remorse, and repentance might lead us toward an Easter that feels a little more like Easter.

Have you ever found yourself pondering any of these questions?



- How do we build enduring and honest relationships?
- How can we discover strength and community inside our differences?
- What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness?
- What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much?

Grace Book Club’s choice for March, **“The Light We Carry”** by Michelle Obama is an open frank and honest dialogue with readers considering these questions. There may be no tidy solutions or pithy answers to life’s big challenges, but Mrs. Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us navigate change and remain steady. She offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress.

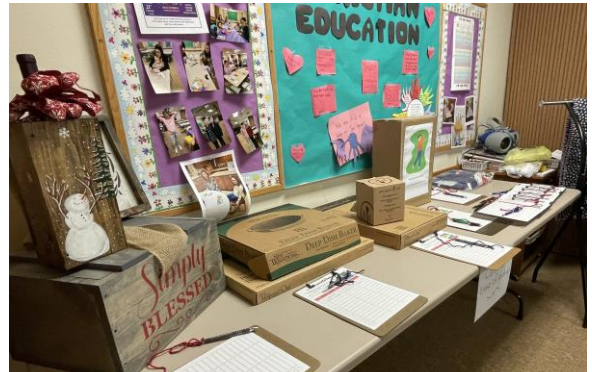
We will meet to discuss **“The Light We Carry”** on Tuesday, March 12th at a location to be determined. If you are interested in reading this book, please contact Cindy Wallace to get a copy. If you have already read it and would like to join us for our book discussion, please do, we would love to have you.



Mark Your Calendars! Grace Women's Annual Rummage Sale Saturday, April 20, 2024

It is again time to clean out your closets, your garage, and anywhere all those great treasures are stored! We will not accept any shoes, appliances, electronics or computers, but anything else will be welcomed.

Lunch, Bingo and Silent Auction. All were a huge success!!



Everyone Enjoyed the Puppets During Worship on January 28



Radio Ministry

March 3 - Open
March 10 - Open
March 17 - Open
March 24 - In Memory of Henry Grams by his family
March 31 - In Honor of Sadie Goettl's 21st Birthday by her family

Flowers

March 3 - Sponsored by Vic & Jean Dretske
March 10 - Sponsored by Vic & Jean Dretske
March 17 - Sponsored by Vic & Jean Dretske
March 24 - Palms
March 31 - Easter Garden

Bulletins

March 3 - In Honor of Bev Chadwick by her Prayer Pal
March 10 - In Honor of Meg Roggow's 75th Birthday
March 17 - Open
March 24 - Open
March 31 - Open

Fellowship

March 3 - Vic & Jean Dretske
March 10 - Open
March 17 - Tammy Goettl
March 24 - Palm Sunday Brunch
March 31 - Easter

Greeters

March 3 - Open
March 10 - Open
March 17 - Open
March 24 - Open
March 31 - Open

Worship Services During Lent

Wednesday Lenten Services: 1:30 pm at First Lutheran
6:30 pm at Grace Lutheran

Palm Sunday: 10:00 am Joint Worship Service at Grace Lutheran, Berlin
with brunch to follow service

Maundy Thursday: 6:30 pm Joint Worship Service at First Lutheran, Poy Sippi

Good Friday: 1:00 pm Joint Worship Service at Grace Lutheran, Berlin

Easter Sunday: 8:30 am at Grace Lutheran
10:30 am at First Lutheran



Thank You to Webster's Marketplace in Ripon, WI and the Webster Foundation for a \$2,000 donation to the Soul Food Program.



March Birthdays

- 3 Dona Eury
- 5 Paul Gravunder
Becky Retzlaff
- 6 Heather Hermanson
Lauren Murkley
- 7 Bronson Paulsen
- 8 Beverly Chadwick
Chris Krebs
- 9 Meg Roggow
- 10 Linda Bourassa
- 13 Ryan Gravunder
- 15 Ellen Lehr
Pam Marks
McKala Nitzke
- 16 Susan Calabresa
- 17 Luke Dretske
Kenneth Peschke
- 20 Jen Retzlaff
Michael Moe
- 21 William Carpenter
Tony Goetl
- 22 Sydney Lee
Stephanie Malson
- 25 Kathy Fredrick
- 26 Ryan Dobbs
Kaitlynn Retzlaff
James Gropp
- 28 Steven Koscher
Kelly Zabel

Palm Sunday Brunch

Palm Sunday Brunch will follow the joint worship service on March 24. Sign-ups are on the kiosk. All are welcome!



March Anniversaries

- 18 William & Fay McMonigal
- 23 Don & Connie Koscher
- 26 Matt & Sydney Renik

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

Soup Suppers

- March 6....Chili and Cream of Broccoli
- March 13....Cheeseburger and Taco
- March 20....Lasagna and Chicken and Rice

A signup sheet is on the kiosk and recipes are on the table in the narthex.

Whether you prepare a soup or dessert or help with serving, it is greatly appreciated.

Come and nourish your body with soup, then your soul with the Lenten Service.



Ding Dong Dinners



Sunday, March 10 the Mission Outreach Team will be filling fifty (50) bags with a “dinner” after the Sunday worship service and randomly dropping them off in the community.

Any help will be greatly appreciated. Contact Craig Chovanec for more information.



2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	4 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	5 9:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am– 5:30 pm Blood Drive	6 5:45 pm Soup Suppers 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir Practice	7 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts	8	9 8:00 am Men's Breakfast At Grace Lutheran
10 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	11 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	12 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilting	13 5:45 pm Soup Suppers 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir Practice	14 12:40 pm Soul Food All Saints Hosts	15	16
17 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	18 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 6:30 pm Joint Council Meeting at Grace Lutheran	19 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilting	20 5:45 pm Soup Suppers 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Choir Practice	21 No Soul Food	22	23
24 10:00 am Palm Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Palm Sunday Brunch	25 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	26 9:00 am Staff Meeting	27 7:00 pm Choir Practice	28 No Soul Food 6:30 pm Maundy Service Worship at First Lutheran	29 1:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service at Grace Lutheran	30
31 8:30 am Easter Sunday Worship with communion						