

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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Jessica Fritz – Worship and Music Coordinator

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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Sunday Worship:

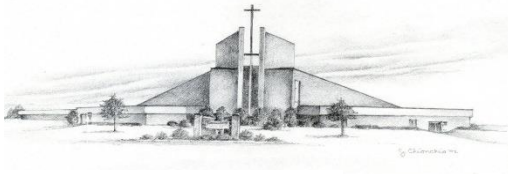
8:30 AM

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

September 5 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 12 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 19 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 26 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

**Grace Lutheran's Mission: We Gather to Worship, Grow, Care, and Share
"All Are Welcome In This Place"**



From the Pastor:

Join Us For Back To Church Sunday September 19

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit – Romans 15.13



What is Back to Church Sunday?

Back to Church Sunday is part of a national movement of intentionally inviting people to church. Now, more than ever, people need Jesus and a caring community where they can belong, grow and flourish. Whether you are a regular worship participant, someone who has fallen out of the practice of coming to worship regularly, or simply curious, we invite you to be part of Back to Church Sunday on September 19.

We will begin a four-week sermons series called Hope is Here. After a year of world changing events that have affected everyone, we can all use some hope. Jesus offers hope for the weary, hope for the broken, hope for the underdog and hope even for the doubter.

This is also a great opportunity to invite someone to come to church. We will have postcard invitations available for you to use. You can personally hand it to someone and invite them to join you for worship or you can send it in the mail. Maybe you want to invite a member you haven't seen in a while, or a family member, friend or co-worker who doesn't have a church home. Maybe you know someone who hasn't gone to church in a long time or ever, and wants to visit a church. Invite them. Let's share the hope of Jesus with our friends, family and neighbors.

Pastor Rebekah Tarras

**REGULAR GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING – FELLOWSHIP HALL
Monday, July 12, 2021**

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

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

The June Council minutes were presented. Linda Reetz made a motion to accept the minutes with Cindy Wallace seconding the motion. Motion approved.

Ministry Reports:

Pastor Rebekah presented her written report where she highlighted that she had 1 Baptism; 2 Funerals in July; did 5 Hospital visits and 6 Homebound Communion visits. Including her monthly activities, she did host a High School youth evening at the coffee shop with 5 participating; a young adult dinner with 1 attending; Pastor attended the Brat Fry; met with family for counseling; followed up on prayer requests and had fun with youth and family for Day at the Lake with total of 12 attending.

Cindy Wallace presented the June Treasurer's Report and after reviewing it, Karen Macaulay made a motion to approve it; Matt Dretske seconded. Motion approved. The June Check Detail was reviewed, Matt Dretske made a motion to approve all checks as issued; Tricia Prellwitz seconded. Motion approved.

Bill Bartlett reported from the Investment Committee that all accounts are holding steady and advised that if anyone wishes to review the investment profiles, to contact him.

Matt Dretske reported from the Buildings & Grounds Committee that all locks have been changed and noted the west entrance door handle is being replaced. They are still working on a date to bring in fill for the lawn and have it rolled out and the storage cabinets are almost done in the pass through room to the working sanctuary, since they are waiting for the doors.

Sue Shemanski presented her detailed report from the Christian Ed Committee. They have advised that the first day of Sunday School will be September 19 with new materials ordered by Pastor; classes will be divided into 2 groups of Preschool to 2nd Grade being one and 3rd Grade through 6th Grade being the other; classes will be held during the service as in the past; 4th Sunday of every month will be no class so children can fully participate in the worship service; and are looking for more volunteers to teach. September 26 will be 3rd Grade Bible day and April 14, Maundy Thursday will be First Communion. There was discussion on making Faith Chests again for 4 year olds and hope to start that tradition next fall with Men of Grace helping in the construction.

Tricia Prellwitz reported from the Worship & Music Committee that all summer worship plans are booked and being planned. They recommend that the pay to Larry Albright for the August 29 Polka & Pie Service should be \$500 and requested that each council member make 2 pies to bring for fellowship and help serve. Council was in agreement. The National Back to Church Sunday in September was discussed and Jess will be looking into a premade package of items to aid in implementing the service. Jeremy advised he hopes to bring back choir this fall along with singing the final hymn of the service starting Sunday, July 18. Jeremy also advised that the mic Pastor use are failing and recommends we replace it; council agreed to proceed in purchasing 1 replacement now if the availability of needing a spare can be obtained in a timely manner when needed. People listening to services on Facebook or YouTube has increased with one service having up to 595 tuning in. The possibility of bringing back a Head Usher including other ushers was discussed which coincided with the possibility of communion at the rail

Karen Macaulay advised from the Fellowship & Caring Committee that all is set for the joint service at the park this Sunday; the need for hosts on Sunday Fellowship is still a concern; and the project in November will be making gnomes from various materials to give to the homebound for Christmas. This project will be open to anyone wishing to help make them.

Conrad Falk presented information from Craig Chovanec and the Mission & Outreach Committee regarding the summer mission of Compassion Child. Council agreed the video shown at last Sunday's service was very good, informative and great to use our new technology.

Old Business:

The Joint Worship Service in the Park on Sunday, July 18 is being taken care of with 140 dinners ordered; both congregation councils will be present and act as ushers and greeters since service programs will be handed out and name tags will be required. There will be offering plates for each congregation to avoid confusion or the need to separate envelopes after service and in event of bad weather, the service and dinner will be moved to Grace.

In updating our COVID guidelines, the council reviewed singing a hymn during service and communion at the rail. Sue Shemanski made a motion to start singing the closing hymn as of July 18; Cindy Wallace seconded. Motion approved. The topic of communion at the rail was discussed with a survey presented to the congregation on their feelings to commune at the rail or in the pew as currently practiced. If at the rail method is suggested, that practice will not start until fall or when the COVID guidelines change for social distancing. It was brought up that the communion in the pews is causing wine stains on the pew cushions and carpet. Bill Bartlett has contacted a cleaning company regarding shampooing these items.

New Business:

Planning of the Polka & Pie Service in August is underway and council members agreed to help make the pies and serve.

Confirmation Class for the upcoming session was discussed with a possibility of 3 from Grace and 3 from First taking instructions. Pastor will move from Zoom classes to in-person classes to be held at Grace.

The topic of starting a Grief Support Group was discussed. Bill Bartlett advised he has been in contact with Dave Barbola to help or give us direction. A grief counselor has been contacted but is currently not taking any new clients and declined to facilitate. This project will be continued to be worked on with the hope of opening the group up to the public.

A disclaimer for member photos to be published on all types of media used by the church was discussed. The disclaimer is already on the Sunday School Registration Form to be signed by parents. A form for all members may be developed only if they wish not to have their photo used or published verses asking to give permission.

Cindy Wallace read a letter from Cherrie Eichsteadt the church received requesting any funds to help her family since her son was involved in a bad vehicle accident in Chicago at the end of April and he is still in ICU down there. Funds would be used for gas or travel expenses from Berlin to Chicago. Motion made by Linda Reetz to purchase 2 \$50 gas cards with funds from the Good Samaritan Account to help the family, Karen Macaulay seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor Rebekah led us in Closing Prayer. Motion made by Cindy Wallace to adjourn; Conrad Falk seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Guden
Council Secretary

Maggie The Church Mouse

If my elementary reading skills serve me correctly, the new posters on the church doors spell out **HOPE IS HERE!** in large letters. When these words caught my attention on one of my walks around the church yard, I was prompted to think about how often I find myself hoping:

- I hope to find enough to eat each day so my belly will be full and my body strong.
- I hope to feel the love of family and friends every day as I scurry about my routine.
- And nowadays I'm hoping to step outside soon and discover that all the mosquitoes are gone!

Hope carries us through a lot of challenges, and we can learn much about it right here at Grace. Comfortably curled up in the sanctuary each Sunday, I soak up not only sunshine but also Pastor Rebekah's messages of hope. Her sermons encourage me to follow the example of Jesus, to help wherever I can, and to surround myself with others who depend on hope just as I do. In our church community, we are able to bring hope to one another when it's difficult to find it within ourselves.

Glancing at the church calendar as I recently scurried across the office desk, I spotted some of the upcoming events highlighting hope. The September 19th Back to Church Sunday kicks off several weeks of focusing on the theme of hope. The choir will begin singing again, bringing hope to all through music. Bibles will soon be distributed to third, fourth, and fifth graders, bringing hope to those children. Boxes of baby sweaters, layettes, school and personal supplies - made or donated by the members of Grace - are packed and on the verge of being shipped to people around the world by Lutheran World Relief, bringing hope to others who live far beyond our church doors. I am limited by my short little legs as to how far I can travel, but there are no boundaries for hope. It is needed everywhere!

Grace is a special place in which to serve as church mouse, and I observe every day that it's a special place for a church family to gather in, learn and work together, and support one another. Let us celebrate and share with others our message of joy:

HOPE IS HERE!



On Tuesday, August 24 seventy-one (71) school kits, thirty (30) personal kits, and fifty-two (52) baby layettes were packed for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all, for the donations of supplies and your time for sorting and packing the kits.

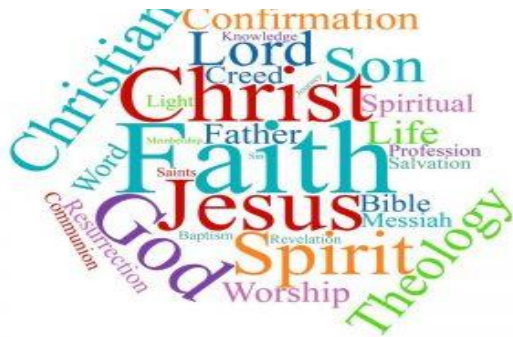
In 2020 we packed fifty-six (56) school kits, eighteen (18) personal kits and fifty-six (56) baby layettes. Many, many thanks for everyone's continued support of this program.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Begins again on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am

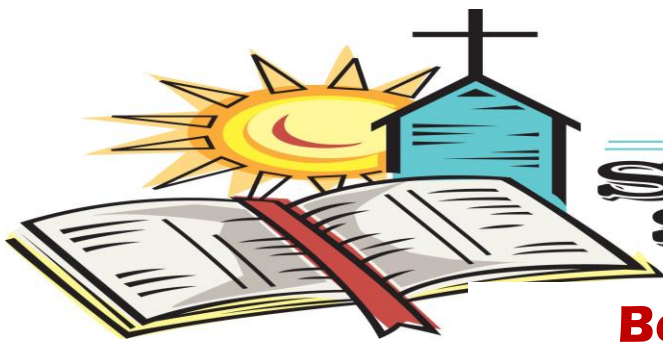
Can't sew? There is a job for anyone. Come join the fun!

Confirmation Classes Begin September 15



Confirmation classes for all 7th and 8th grade students will be on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm at Grace in Berlin.

This year students will be studying the Bible. Any questions, talk with Pastor Rebekah.

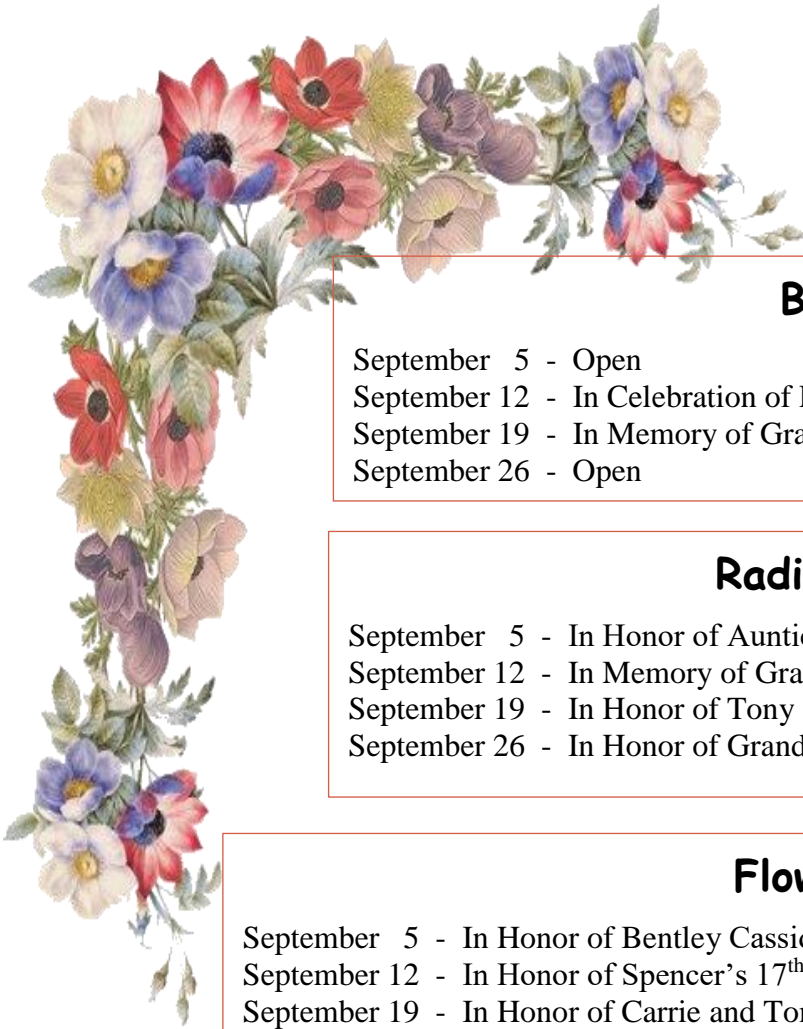


SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Begins on September 19
for children ages 4 thru 6th Grade**



Students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will be receiving Bibles during worship on Sunday, September 26.



Bulletins

September 5 - Open
September 12 - In Celebration of Pastor Rebekah's Birthday
September 19 - In Memory of Grandpa Goettl by Sadie and Spencer
September 26 - Open

Radio Ministry

September 5 - In Honor of Auntie Jo's 50th Birthday by Sadie and Spencer
September 12 - In Memory of Grams by the Goettl Family
September 19 - In Honor of Tony and Tammy's 23rd Wedding Anniversary
September 26 - In Honor of Grandsons Wesley & Trevor by Candie Neumeier

Flowers

September 5 - In Honor of Bentley Cassidy's 4th Birthday by the Klawitter Family
September 12 - In Honor of Spencer's 17th Birthday by Mom, Dad, and Sadie
September 19 - In Honor of Carrie and Tom McCarthy's 23rd Wedding Anniversary
September 26 - Open

Fellowship

September 5 - Open
September 12 - Open
September 19 - Caring and Sharing Committee
September 26 - Open



Homebound Ministry

Are you aware of any members needing communion delivered at home, or a visit? Please contact the church office to have them added to our homebound list.

Would you be interested in being a lay communion visitor? Please contact Pastor Rebekah.

Mission of the Month



The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is touching millions of lives...one heart at a time. Since 1954, FCA has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high, and youth levels to use the powerful platform of sport to reach every coach and every athlete with the transforming power of Jesus Christ. FCA focuses on serving local communities around the globe by engaging, equipping, and empowering coaches and athletes

to unite, inspire, and change the world through the gospel.

VISION: To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

MISSION: To lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church

VALUES: Our relationships will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through Integrity, Serving, Teamwork and Excellence.



Thank You

I am so very grateful to be serving along with all of you in ministry. Thank you for the special day as we gathered together – both congregations – to worship in the park (I hope we can make that an annual event). Thank you for the special meal to honor my being here as your pastor. And a special thank you for the generous gift to Bloch's to help with our landscaping. It is so thoughtful of you and Jeff and I are so grateful.

I'd also like to say thank you for all of your prayers for us and my mother-in-law Beverly. In case you didn't hear, Bev fell and broke her hip while visiting family up north. She had surgery and was able to return home after a short time in rehab. Unfortunately, she had a heart attack the next day and ended up in the hospital for a few days. She is back home with us and doing better every day.

Pastor Rebekah

Happy Birthday



September Birthdays

- 1 Steve Ewald
- 1 Diane Toraason
- 3 Brett Hermanson
- 3 Hayden Madell
- 3 Brittany Soda
- 5 Cynthia Wallace
- 7 Taylor Greening
- 7 Anita Lind
- 7 David Neitzke
- 7 Terry Wallace
- 8 Jodi Ahlers
- 8 Bentley Cassidy
- 8 Spencer Goettl
- 8 Julie Retzlaff
- 10 Joshua Ferron
- 11 John Koch
- 12 Gavin Bately
- 12 Thomas Dehn
- 12 Deanna Lueptow
- 12 Mary Lou Neubauer
- 12 Marion Ryan
- 15 Bonnie Hermanson
- 15 Brittany Retzlaff
- 15 Connie Smits
- 16 Helen Burch
- 16 Lyssa Koscher
- 17 Craig Batley
- 17 Barbara Tollakson
- 18 Kelly Featherston
- 19 Jenna Emerson
- 19 James Luebke
- 19 Michael McElligott
- 19 Becky Olsen
- 20 Tammy Goettl
- 21 Connor Batley
- 21 Emma Danay

September Birthdays (Continued)

- 21 Carissa Fritz
- 21 Kansas Jahnke
- 21 Kathleen Prellwitz
- 22 Jeffrey Lind
- 24 Emma Schroeder
- 25 Alexander Brunke
- 25 Debra Dean
- 26 Brayden Dutcher
- 26 Faith Klawitter
- 28 Selma Ceman
- 28 Scott Falk
- 28 Jackson Falk



September Anniversaries

- 1 Bryan & Sara Evans
- 2 Jack & Sharon Reeves
- 3 Adam & Amanda Hein (15th)
- 4 Kevin & Naomi Resop
- 5 Matt & Dina Dretske
- 5 Brian & Sara Mildebrandt
- 6 Jeremy & Clara Voigtlander
- 8 Victor & Heidi Schramer
- 19 Tony & Tammy Goettl
- 24 Doug & Candie Strebelski
- 25 Joseph & Amber Rozek
- 26 Peter & Tracy Kallas
- 26 Steven & Lyssa Koscher
- 27 Robert & Meg Roggow
- 28 James & Linda Bourassa
- 29 Travis & Stephanie Kurth

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



2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30 pm <i>Craft Group</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	2 6:30 pm <i>Bible Study at Grace Lutheran</i>	3	4
5 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion</i>	6 <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i>	7 9:00 am <i>LWR Quilters</i>	8 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	9 6:30 pm <i>Bible Study at Grace Lutheran</i>	10	11
12 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion</i> Grandparents Day	13 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i> 7:00 pm <i>Congregation Council Meeting</i>	14	15 5:30 pm <i>Craft Group</i> 6:00 – 7:00 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	16 1:00 pm <i>Support Group</i> 6:30 pm <i>Bible Study at Grace Lutheran</i>	17	18
19 <i>Back to Church Sunday</i> 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion</i>	20 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i>	21 9:00 am <i>LWR Quilters</i>	22 <i>Frist Day of Autumn</i> 6:00 – 7:00 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	23 6:30 pm <i>Bible Study at Grace Lutheran</i>	24	25
26 8:30 am <i>Worship with Communion</i> <i>Bibles to 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders</i> <i>Display LWR Quilts</i>	27 1:30 pm <i>Bible Study at First Lutheran</i>	28	29 6:00 – 7:00 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i> 7:00 pm <i>Choir Practice</i>	30 6:30 pm <i>Bible Study at Grace Lutheran</i>		