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

Sunday Worship:

8:30 AM

Office Hours:

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



THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Worship Services

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gelcberlin

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



September 3 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 10 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 17 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

September 24 - Worship at 10:00 am Drawn to the Word (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:

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been reading through the book of Exodus. You may recall that this book of the Bible talks about how the Israelites were slaves in Egypt until God heard their cries for help and rescued them from their bondage. Moses led these people out of Egypt and towards a place God promised to them. God did all kinds of miraculous things to show God's power and strength. God sent plagues of various kinds, God led the people with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, and God parted the red sea so they could walk through on the dry ground.



But they weren't out of Egypt very long before the people began complaining that they didn't have water or food. God heard their cries and met their needs. God provided water from a rock, God sent quail for their supper, and provided manna for them to eat. They had to gather this manna every morning (except on the Sabbath) and there was enough for everyone's needs.

The people couldn't create this bread for themselves, they could only gather it. At first, a few tried to keep some of this bread overnight only to find it filled with maggots the next morning. They had to receive it each day. The lesson they had to learn was that God would provide for their needs – but one day at a time.

I read a story about a family that adopted a little boy from Russia. They got him when he was about 1-1/2 years old. One day they discovered in his crib hunks of food from their last several night's suppers. He was eating well at the table, so they were confused as to why he carried his food to his crib. Finally, they realized that where he came from, he didn't know from one meal to the next if there would be more. So, he would hoard. He had learned by 16 months, to take extra food, stick it in his clothing, and stash it in his crib.

He hadn't yet learned to trust that every day his new parents would feed him again. Every day they would provide for his needs. Soon, he did learn to trust. He learned that he had parents who would provide, and he stopped carrying food to his crib. When manna was given in the wilderness, the Israelites were permitted to gather only as much as they needed for that day (except for the day before Sabbath). This made it necessary for them to rely on God day by day. In Deuteronomy, we're told, "[God] did this to humble you...so you would never think that it was your own strength and energy that made you prosperous" (Deuteronomy 8:17).

As I read these accounts in Exodus, I am reminded that God has been faithful, is faithful, and continues to be faithful. I might not be able to see the whole picture, but each story reminds me to trust God. Each story encourages me to step out in faith trusting that God will provide for my needs today and each day yet to come.

Blessings to you as we trust in God, Pastor Rebekah

PS. I am so excited for the special Drawn to the Word event on September 24, 10 am at Grace! Rev. Paul Oman (a seminary classmate of mine) will be painting a large portrait during our worship service. Plan to join me for this special event. There will also be a potluck following worship.

GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 7.10.23

Council members present; Heidi Schramer, DeAnna Lueptow, Cindy Wallace, Becky Olsen, Pastor Rebekah, Craig Chovanec, Sue, Shemanski, Bob Prellwitz, Gene Hess. Absent; Jody Ziemann. Congregation member present, Sandy Peschke.

President Heidi Schramer called the meeting to order.

DeAnna Lueptow gave opening prayer.

Approval of the Agenda. Motion made by Cindy Wallace to approve the agenda, seconded by Bob Prellwitz, motion carried.

Concerns from the Audience. None

Secretary's Report. Meeting minutes from 5.8.23 read. Motion made by Gene Hess to approve minutes, seconded by Craig Chovanec, Cindy Wallace abstained from vote due to absence on 5.8.23, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Printed reports of the treasurer's report, check detail and investment profile provided. Explanations of questions provided by Cindy Wallace. Discussion on monthly deficits, will move \$15,000 from the RBC Wealth Management into the general fund. Motion made by DeAnna Lueptow to accept report, seconded by Sue Shemanski, motion carried.

Unfinished Business.

Shared Ministry Covenant. The Joint Council will meet in December to finalize the Covenant before the 2024 budget.

Worship in the Park. This Joint Service event is 7.23.23, starting at 10:00am, with Potluck following. Grace is hosting, providing the tableware, meat and rolls. A sign up sheet is on the kiosk for those planning to attend and for food items. Motion made by Becky Olsen for Grace to pay for the shelter reservation, tableware, meat and rolls, seconded by DeAnna Lueptow, motion carried. Committee members Cindy, DeAnna and Heidi, will meet this week to finalize plans.

Polka Sunday. Service will be 8.27.23 at 8:30am, with Pie Social following service. Council members will supply the pies and fellowship following service.

Drawn to the Word Sunday. This will be a Joint Service on 9.24.23 at 10:00am with Potluck following. Committee members include Cindy, DeAnna and Heidi.

Winter Bingo. Date is set for 2.4.2024. Event details to be announced closer to the event.

New Business. Parishioners' concerns directed at individual council members, create a standardized method for dealing with any/all that arise- Sue Shemanski. Sue Shemanski discussed creating a policy on how to address concerns from parishioners. Many members spoke in favor of developing a standard on how to approach concerns. During discussion Bob Prellwitz suggested publishing pieces of the church's constitution bylaws in the monthly newsletter. Following much discussion by council members and input by the audience member, the council agreed to place points of the constitution bylaws in the monthly newsletter, going forward.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service. Grace to host the service on 11.21.23. The Fellowship & Caring Committee will be asked to provide fellowship following the service.

Committee Reports.

Pastor Report. Report included Pastoral acts of funerals for Jeanette Bulchuck, and Judith Meier. Visitations to Dona Eury, Judy Gallert, June Lubbert, Lois Stark and Ron Harke. Ongoing activities include; studying and preparing for Sunday sermons and weekly bible study on the book of Romans, also studying Roberts Rules.

Attended Berlin High School graduation and some members' parties. Created June and July liturgies. Continues weekly supervisory meeting with Intern Kathy and worked on Kathy's final evaluation. Attended the Synod Assembly, the Mutual Ministry committee meeting, the Christian Education committee meeting, the Executive Council meeting, the Regular Council meeting, and the weekly staff meetings. Pastor also reported that she has taken two of her four weeks of vacation while Intern Kathy is here to help save expenses. Pastor will be on vacation July 14th-20th, Intern Kathy will cover Sunday worship and pastoral needs during her absence. Pastor will be off August 3rd and 4th for continuing education, then be on family vacation August 4th-10th. Jessica will arrange for a supply Pastor for service on Sunday August 6th, 2023.

Buildings and Grounds. Bob Prellwitz reported that the group met 7.10.23. The committee's completed activities include; lawn and garden maintenance, the planting of new shrubs, window washing, and pesticide application around the building. Completed interior projects include; the painting of the back sanctuary wall, furnace filter replacements, thermostats are regulated for summer, water fountain repaired, and kitchen grease traps cleaned. Upcoming projects include; door maintenance, touch up painting in hallways, heat exchanger maintenance, and cleaning of AC units. The dead ash tree is scheduled to be removed. The Women of Grace have offered to replace the ash tree. The next meeting is 8.14.23 at 6:00pm.

Christian Education. Sue Shemanski reported that the group met 7.5.23. The committee canceled VBS due to the lack of registrations. Due to the success of hosting family events earlier this year, the group is planning for another family event on Sunday, October 15th from 3:00-6:00pm. The event will feature a Tailgate Party, to include group sports activities, a devotion and a meal of tailgate foods. Sue will work on a flyer for the event to be sent out with Sunday School registration forms and congregation financial reports. The group is also planning for a family Advent activity on November 29th, 2023. Sunday School Rally Sunday is set for September 10th. New this year is 4 year old Sunday School. The Group is looking for teachers three Sundays a month, the 4th Sunday kids worship with their families, if interested contact Sue. Pastor will order materials needed. Next meeting Monday, July 31st at 5:00pm to finalize Rally Sunday, Tailgate and Advent Event plans.

Fellowship and Caring Committee. The group reported that summer worship is going well. July 30th we will provide fellowship honoring Intern Kathy's last day. Tricia Prellwitz has drafted an informational letter for our new church members. With the departure of Intern Kathy we have been asked to assist with the Homebound visitations. Linda Reetz, Jeff Lind and Bill Bartlett are also willing to assist. The group may need education on the giving of communion, if communion is a component of the homebound visitation. Next meeting Sunday, August 13th, following service.

Worship and Music. Gene Hess reported that the committee has not met. Will plan for a meeting in the near future to get schedules going for fall. Mission and Outreach. Craig Chovanec reported that Jeff Tarras is leaving the committee due to other commitments. Penny Bahn and Paige Soper have joined the committee. July Mission is the Berlin Food Pantry, this will be a yearly mission as the need is great for this local mission. We continue to update the bulletin board, this month featuring pictures from the food pantry. Discussion followed on church membership and the eligibility of serving on church committees. Will continue to research the eligibility and discuss at a future meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Olsen 7.13.23

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
Gene Hess– Music/Worship	920-290-2023	gene2023@outlook.com
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

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.

Each year at the congregation annual meeting we elect congregation members to serve on the church council. This includes the four officers: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer plus five voting members along with the option of adding a youth or young adult member. The president and vice-president are elected annually. Each of the other positions has a two-year term and half are elected each year. The secretary, Worship & Music Liaison, Caring & Sharing, and Buildings & Grounds terms begin and end in odd years. The treasurer, Christian Education, Mission Outreach begin and end in even years.

This coming January we will need to elect people for each of the following positions: president, vice-president, treasurer, Christian Education, Mission and Outreach plus a one-year term for Worship and Music Liaison. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected to the Congregation Council. The nominating committee will begin seeking out candidates later this fall. In the meantime, prayerfully consider how you might serve in a position on the church council.

Book Club News



For September the Grace Book Club has chosen to read "The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride" by Joe Siple:

With all his family and friends gone, 100-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies. Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one.

Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upsidedown, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.

We will meet to discuss this Book on Tuesday, September 12th at a location to be determined. If you would like to read this book, please contact Cindy Wallace for a copy. If you have already read the "**The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride**" and would like to join our discussion, please join us.



Men's breakfast will resume on Saturday, September 9, 2023. First Lutheran will be hosting with breakfast starting at 8:00 am. Please sign-up on the kiosk by Sunday, September 3.

Maggie the Church Mouse

If you've ever had a summer cold, then you know how I've been feeling the past few weeks. I coughed and wheezed, I dragged my tail and languished miserably in my nest. Desperate to soothe my throat, I lapped water out of any puddle I could find. My haunches ached, and my nose ran more than my feet did!

I could use something to look forward to. Focusing on my own aches and pains is not a productive exercise. Instead, I'm going to enjoy anticipating special services at Grace this fall, and the uplifting messages and music that are a part of them.

One special service will take place on September 24 when Grace will host "Drawn to the Word." Apparently a very talented painter will be at church that morning to illustrate the Sunday message on a canvas which will then be hung in the church. Few Grace members ever sit in the front row, but on that morning I plan to be in one of those pews! It doesn't hurt my feelings at all that a potluck will follow the service. The memory of pie crust crumbs on Polka Sunday is still fresh in my mind, and the prospect of a potluck is equally exciting for a church mouse who's been ill and needs to gain back a few ounces.

Another September highlight is that both the choir and the praise team will be back in the loft again. I know I'm not the only one who looks forward to the music when the fall schedule brings those groups back together. I love listening, I love singing, and I love the feel of our sanctuary when it fills up with beautiful songs that stir our hearts.

We all need things to look forward to, especially when life or health has taken a downturn of any kind. After a summer cold sidelined me for a while, I'm ready and anxious to gather with all of you again. Maybe you, too, look forward to being back with your church family after a busy summer or a series of challenges in your life. I'm glad to be a healthy church mouse again so I can scamper among you all. Look closely if you catch a glimpse of me: I'll be smiling from whisker to whisker.



Save the Date! Sunday, September 24 at 10:00am for Drawn to The Word



Get ready for an amazing event with visiting Pastor and professional Wisconsin artist Paul Oman.

Paul will be creating a live audience mural called Drawn to The Word. Drawn to The Word offers churchgoers an unusual opportunity to see a painting take place with images representing Christ's ministry on earth, come to life before parishioners' eyes.

The artist Paul uses a 7'x5' canvas, stretched and mounted on an easel. He begins painting a religious mural to be completed before the worship ends. A testimonial stated, "It was a profound coming together of the audible and visual Word." The completed mural will be hung in the Church.

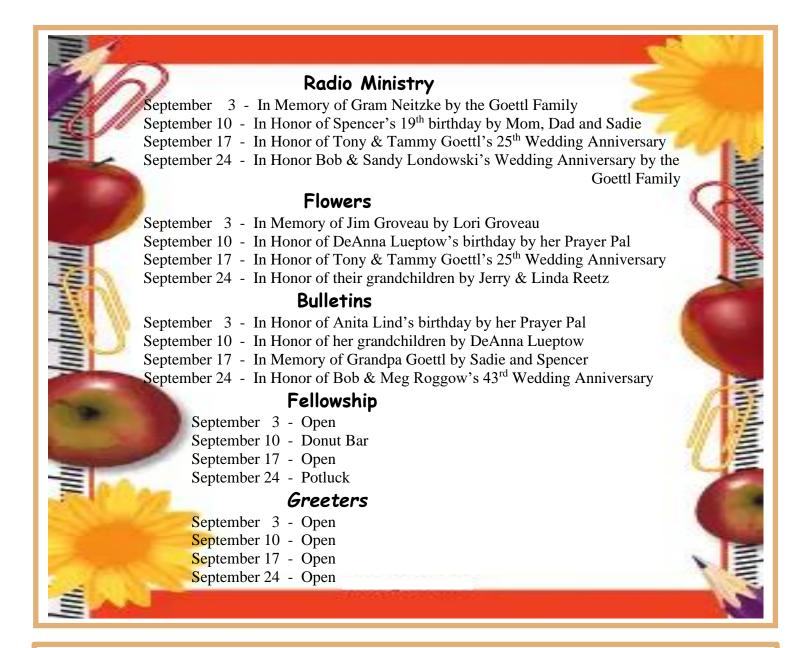
The event will be open to the public with a potluck gathering after the service. Our Church has been gifted payment for half of this awesome event. Remember to save the date, September 24. Bring family and friends and be mesmerized, absorbed, fascinated, delighted, and captivated.

Mission of the Month - Funds for Leaders

The ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program supports students attending ELCA seminaries. By making seminary more affordable, the ELCA Fund for Leaders enables more future ministers to go to seminary and helps them graduate with less debt, empowering those whom God calls into ministry to go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Fund for Leaders has been offering scholarships for students at ELCA seminaries who are pursuing rostered ministry in the ELCA since 2000. In the 2022-2023 academic year alone, the fund provided over \$3.4 million in scholarships to 375 ELCA seminary students.

We are church, and each of us has a unique role to play in furthering the mission and ministry of the church. Your gift to the ELCA Fund for Leaders ensures that highly talented individuals will be able to answer the call to leadership for this church and for our future.



Library News

The next time you find yourself in the Church Library take a quick look around. There have been a couple of new additions that I would like everyone to know about:

- Barb Tollakson has donated a beautiful drop leaf table that can be used for whatever is needed crafting, quilting, putting a puzzle together, reading, the possibilities are endless. There are pads for the table in lower cupboard and there are two additional leaves that are currently stored under the couch.
- In August, The Grace Book Club read "At Home in Mitford" by Jan Karon, the first book in a 14-book series. Thanks to Penny Bahn, the Library now owns the complete series. If you are unfamiliar with the Mitford books, or if you have read some of them, but not all, please stop in the library and get caught up.
- If you might be interested in what the Grace Book Club has read, check the black book cart that is in the back left corner of the library. A copy of each of the titles (with one exception) read by the Book Club is there. The exception is the book "The Day They Gave Babies Away" by Dale Eunson. This book is out of print and has been very difficult to find at an affordable price.

Lutheran World Relief Kits

On August 22, Bev's Crew (Becky G, Sandy L, Sandy P, Cindy W, Dianne T, Sue B, Spencer G and Kenny P) gathered to pack the Lutheran World Relief Kits. A total of 60 health care kits, 65 school kits, and 75 baby layettes were assembled with this year's donations.

To give you an idea of the supplies needed:

For the health kits: 60 bath towels, 60 combs, 60 toothbrushes, 60 clippers, and 120 bars of soap.

For the school kits: 65 school bags, 260 notebooks, 325 pens, 325 pencils, 65 rulers, 65 boxes of crayons, 65 erasers, 65 scissors, and 65 pencil sharpeners.

For the baby layettes: 150 t-shirts, 150 sleepers, 300 diapers, 150 diaper pins, 150 blankets, 150 pair of socks, 75 sweaters and hats, 75 hand towels, and 225 bars of Ivory soap.

This project would not have been successful without all the donations from our members and four \$250 Thrivent Action Cards. A Great Big Thank You to All that contributed to this project.

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's kits. We are going to need knitters/crocheters to work on sweaters for the baby layettes. Becky Guden has an easy pattern for knitting or crocheting, or you can use any pattern for a small baby's sweater.

Also, if you have a Thrivent account and have not used an action card this year, we can purchase diapers or other supplies now, that can be stored until next year. Call the office or see Sandy with any questions.

Polka Worship Service and Pie Social.

Thank you to the Mel Albright Band for the music, all who attended the service and the council for the pies.





Greeter - stands by the main entrance door for about a half hour to greet everyone who arrives for worship. This friendly face may be the first person a guest sees on Sunday morning.

Bread Baker - makes bread for communion. There are a couple of different recipes available that you can use. It is helpful if the volunteer can cover a whole month.

Altar Guild - two people are assigned a month to set up communion before each Sunday worship and clean up following the service.

Communion Assistant - Two people are needed each week to help the pastor serve communion at the rail. One person serves the wine and the other follows with the empty tray to collect the empty cups.

Reader - proclaims the scriptures during our worship service. This usually includes an Old Testament reading, leading the responsive psalm, and a New Testament reading. The readings are provided in advance to allow time to practice.

Acolyte - lights the candles before worship and extinguishes them following worship.

Coffee & Fellowship Host - provides refreshments, makes coffee, and serves the coffee and refreshments following the Sunday worship service.

Sound and Technology - Two people are needed for each worship service to operate the sound system, slide presentations, cameras, and live stream.

Choir Member - anyone who likes to sing is invited to be part of the choir. The choir rehearses each week on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. They sing in worship 2 - 3 times a month and present a cantata in December.

Joyful Noise Praise Team Singer - anyone who likes to sing is invited to sing in the praise team. The praise team helps to lead the congregation in singing more contemporary style music. They practice each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and generally lead worship once a month.

Special Music - Individuals are invited to share their musical talent on Sundays when the choir or praise team is not providing music.

If you have questions in ways you can serve Grace, talk to Pastor Rebekah, Jessica, a council member, or call the office.



September Birthdays

- 1 Diane Toraason
- 3 Brett Hermanson
- 3 Brittany Soda
- 4 Cameron Falk
- 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
- 11 John Koch
- 12 Thomas Dehn
- 12 Deanna Lueptow
- 12 Mary Lou Neubauer
- 12 Marion Ryan
- 14 Rebekah Tarras
- 15 Bonnie Hermanson
- 15 Brittany Retzlaff
- 15 Connie Smits
- 16 Lyssa Koscher
- 16 Helen Burch
- 17 Barbara Tollakson
- 18 Kelly Featherston
- 19 Jenna Emerson
- 19 James Luebke
- 19 Michael McElligott
- 19 Becky Olsen
- 20 Tammy Goettl
- 21 Carissa Fritz
- 21 Kansas Jahnke
- 22 Jeffrey Lind
- 24 Emma Schroeder
- 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
- 5 Matt & Dina Dretske
- 5 Brian & Sara Mildebrandt (25th)
- 6 Jeremy & Clara Voigtlander
- 8 Jim & Pam Marks
- 8 Victor & Heidi Schramer
- 19 Tony & Tammy Goettl (25th)
- 24 Doug & Candie Strebelinski (35th)
- 25 Joseph & Amber Rozek
- 26 Peter & Tracy Kallas
- 26 Steven & Lyssa Koscher
- 27 Robert & Meg Roggow
- 29 Travis & Stephanie Kurth

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

Soul Food

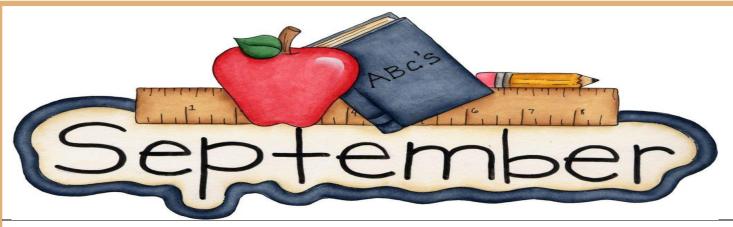
Soul Food is starting on Thursday, September 7 and will go through Thursday, May 30, 2024.

Again this year, Grace, River Shores, and All Saints will host, with Grace hosting on September 7.

It takes several volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean-up each week starting around 11:00. Lunch is served at 12:45 pm.

Sign-up sheets for volunteers and baked goods for September 7 are posted on the kiosk.

Also, we are always looking for members to apply for a Thrivent Action Card to offset the costs. Talk to Mary Falk or call the office at 920-361-1820.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
8:30 am Worship with Communion 10 8:30 am Worship-with Communion and Sunday School	11 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation	9:00 am LWR Quilters 9:00 am Staff Meeting 12 9:00 am Staff Meeting	5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 7:00 pm Choir Practice 13 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	7 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts 14 12:40 pm Soul Food All Saints Hosts	15	9 8:00am Men's Breakfast at First Lutheran 16
17 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	Council Meeting 18 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	19 9:00 am LWR Quilters 9:00 am Staff Meeting	7:00 pm Choir Practice 20 5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	21 12:40 pm Soul Food River Shores Hosts	22	23
24 10:00 am Drawn to the Word Worship Service Potluck to follow the service	25 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	26 9:00 am Staff Meeting	27 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	28 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts	29	30