

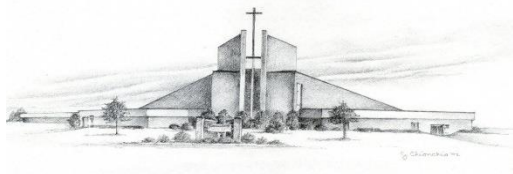
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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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



- October 6 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- October 13 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- October 20 - Worship Service at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- October 27 - 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:



“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” - Matthew 7:12

It feels as though our world is growing more divided by the day. Political, social, and cultural differences seem to drive us further apart, often leading to anger, frustration, and a lack of understanding. But as followers of Christ, we are called to live differently. Jesus commanded us to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). This “Golden Rule” seems even more relevant and urgent for our world today.

Loving our neighbor doesn’t mean we will always agree, but it does mean that we are called to treat one another with respect, grace, and compassion—no matter our differences. Jesus modeled this perfectly by ministering to people from all walks of life, including those who were often marginalized or viewed as enemies of the culture. His love transcended barriers, showing us that our common humanity outweighs any ideological or political divisions.

When Jesus said, “Do to others what you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12), He was inviting us into a way of life that values empathy, kindness, and understanding. This principle, often referred to as the Golden Rule, is not just a polite suggestion but a challenge to actively seek the well-being of others, even when it’s difficult. In a polarized environment, this can feel countercultural. It’s easier to retreat into our echo chambers, to avoid those who think differently, and to label others as “the opposition.” Yet, Jesus calls us to a higher standard—one that prioritizes love over division.

As the body of Christ, the Church has a unique opportunity to be a light in these divisive times. By embracing love for our neighbors, we can model a different way of being—a way that seeks reconciliation over hostility, dialogue over debate, and unity over discord. It’s important to remember that every person we encounter, regardless of political beliefs, is made in the image of God and is deeply loved by our Creator.

This doesn’t mean we ignore or suppress our convictions. Instead, it means we approach conversations and relationships with humility, curiosity, and a willingness to listen. We can stand firm in our values while still engaging others with love and respect. In doing so, we reflect the heart of Christ and build bridges where others might seek to build walls.

As we navigate this polarized landscape, especially in these weeks leading up to the elections, let us ask ourselves: How can I show love to my neighbor, especially when we disagree? How can I live out the Golden Rule in my daily interactions, both online and in person? These questions can help us cultivate a spirit of love that transcends division and embodies the Kingdom of God here on earth.

May we be known not by the sides we take, but by the love we give.

Pastor Rebekah

GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
8.12.24

President Linda Reetz called the meeting to order at 6:56 pm.

Opening Devotion. Given by Terry Wallace.

Roll Call. Members present; Linda Reetz, Terry Wallace, Sandy Peschke, Becky Olsen, Pastor Rebekah, Craig Chovanec, Bob Prellwitz, and Heidi Schramer. Absent; Jody Ziemann and Anita Lind.

Approval of the Agenda. Linda added Joint Council gathering and Becky added Good Samaritan Fund to the Agenda. Motion made by Craig to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Bob, motion carried.

No audience.

Secretary's Report. July meeting minutes circulated via email. Motion made by Sandy to accept the report as written, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Sandy presented the July financial reports, including the check detail. Motion made by Terry to accept the reports as written, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

President's Report.

Time and Talent Sign Up. Linda informed the group that Terry and Pastor created a Time and Talent survey for members, tentatively planned for distribution in early October. This sign up is a means of how members can utilize their time and talents in serving the church and our community.

Funding Forward. The webinar learning sessions are planned for 9.16, 9.23, 9.30, and 10.7.24, starting at 6:30pm. All congregation members are invited to attend the learning sessions.

Conflict Ground Rules. Signed forms returned to members.

Joint Council Gathering. The gathering is planned and members attending were asked to sign up for food items.

Pastor's Report. Accomplishments included; a grant submission to the ELCA Disabilities ministry for additional funds for signing twice a month and an interpreter for Christian education events. She has finalized the confirmation schedule, is studying Ephesians for sermons and bible study, participated in the Global Leadership Summit, various meetings and church activities. Priorities for the next period include; sermon series plan for September, preparing for the Funding Forward course, and fall worship planning. Reported that she appreciated the sessions with Cathy Cowling and is planning a vacation day on Sunday, 10.6.24 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. John's Lutheran in Eau Claire. Pastor will reach out for Pastoral support for that day.

Committee Reports.

Buildings and Grounds. Bob reported that lawn, shrub and tree maintenance is ongoing. Carpet cleaning is completed in the fellowship hall. East hallway carpet cleaning was not completed, contact will be made with the cleaning company for completion. Oven grates are cleaned. New business included; questioning the need for a security system, questioned the replacement of the fellowship carpet with laminate, and the replacing of some of the old bushes. (Bob will donate the new plants needed) He also briefly reported on information regarding solar panels, he will gather more information. Next meeting 10.14.24.

Christian Education. No report. Pastor stated that Sunday School and Confirmation letters have been sent.

Fellowship and Caring. No report.

Worship and Music. Heidi reported that choir practice begins 8.21.24. The next meeting will be planned after choir practice start date.

Mission and Outreach. Craig reported the mission of the month is Christian Fellowship at UW Oshkosh. Paige Soper has graduated and is now serving as a full-time intern for Chi Alpha. The group has doubled in size in one year and set new attendance records for the fall and conferences. Paige serves as a mentor and disciple to students, leads weekly small groups, preaches sermons, attends mission trips, helps with large group services and outreach opportunities. Paige would appreciate your prayers for her campus missionary work, as well as any

monetary donation you are able to contribute. The youth of today will become the church leaders in the years to come.

Finance. Terry provided a written report from the committee. The committee will meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1pm, next meeting 8.20.24.

Investment. No report. Linda will reach out to Jean Dretske for the monthly report.

Unfinished Business.

Investment Statement Policy. Second reading of the language completed. Motion made by Terry to accept the Investment Statement Policy as written, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

Polka Service and Pies. Event is 8.25.24. Council members will provide pies.

Memorial Fund Form. Revised form presented. Motion made by Bob to accept revised form, seconded by Craig, motion carried.

New Business.

Finance Committee language. Final language presented and reviewed. Motion made by Terry to accept the Finance Committee language as written, for the constitution, seconded by Sandy, motion carried. (Will be listed as C13.10.A24 in the constitution)

Signing. Discussion on having signing twice monthly through December 2024. Pastor reported that deaf members are very appreciative of signing twice a month. Motion made by Terry to offer signing twice monthly through December, seconded by Bob, motion carried.

Rolland Bahr Memorial. Discussion held on the bequest. Motion made by Terry to move the \$16,400 bequest into the Capitol Improvement Fund, seconded by Heidi, motion carried.

Undesignated Memorial Funds. Discussion held on the funds. Sandy will research these funds and present her findings at next month's meeting.

Council member's office terms. Discussion held on current council officer terms. No action taken.

Good Samaritan Fund. Becky discussed member's concerns with the recent elimination of the fund's guidelines. In addition, discussed the need for accountability and a paper trail for the yearly audit of this fund. A small group of members will meet and create a simplified guideline for this fund. The guidelines will be brought back to council for possible approval.

Closing Prayer. Given by Pastor Rebekah.

Adjournment. Motion made by Craig to adjourn, seconded by Bob, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Olsen
8.17.24

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Becky Olsen – Secretary		920-290-4485	olsenfamilysorthorns@gmail.com
Heidi Schramer – Music/Worship		920-361-4097	schramer@charter.net
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

SYNOD LEARNING *Day*



East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**CURIOUS.
COURAGEOUS.
CHRIST
TOGETHER.**

Workshops, collaboration, and networking in cohorts for church people to inspire, strengthen, and nourish your ministry.

Save the Date!



NOV

9th

2024

Ascension Lutheran Church

(2911 Libal St, Green Bay)

Registration opens October 1st and caps at 120 participants

\$40/person includes lunch and materials

QR code or www.ecsw.org/upcoming-events/SLD
for more information and to register

Constitution Corner

In our church constitution, chapter 3 explains the Nature of the Church. In the first provision of this chapter, it states “All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.”

This provision emphasizes that the Church is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and rooted in the Word of God. The congregation’s mission is to respond to God’s call by proclaiming the gospel, serving others, and living in faithful witness.

This section of the constitution reminds us that our congregation is also part of a larger body, united in faith, purpose, and service. Rooted in Christ, we are called to live out our faith together, sharing the love of God with the world. As we embrace this, we embody the heart of our mission—reflecting Christ’s love through worship, service, and outreach.

Funding Forward: A Pathway to More Sustainable Models for Ministry

Recap from Class 1 - Linda Reetz

A group of Grace Lutheran congregants has begun a class called **Funding Forward**. The class will help members understand why offerings and tithing no longer meet the needs for most of our congregations. The class also focuses on thinking outside the box when it comes to how a church building and its resources can be used. Since most church buildings sit empty numerous days each week, what are more creative ways to expand the use of a building and perhaps fill a need in the community or generate some revenue?

During the first session, the focus was on identifying at least ten assets our congregation possesses. There were four asset areas of finances, skills, time, network provided and the task was to determine what we have done in the past, continue to do, or may do in the future as it relates to those areas. Any ideas not fitting neatly were categorized as others.

Finances(actual and potential)

Jones fund
events
Checking account
Investments
Endowment fund
Individual groups' funds
Thrivent Choice dollars
Building/property
Musical equipment(music library, pianos, hand bells, chimes, etc.)
Commercial kitchen/contents
Classrooms
Fellowship Hall
Sanctuary
Sound system/equipment

Skills

Music program
Sewers, knitters, quilters
Cooking volunteers

Book club
Card makers
Artists
American sign language interpreter
Prayer team
Gardeners
Altar Guild

Other

The Caring Closet
Good Samaritan Fund

Time

Cards mailed to congregation for life

Prayer Ministry
Visit homebound
Soul Food
Building/Grounds group
Soup suppers
Cleaning
Various volunteers/cooks
Oil fillers for candles
Committees
Teachers
Technology volunteers
Church decorators
Bread makers

Network

Other churches for Soul Food
Mens' Group
1st Lutheran breakfasts, brat fry
steak fry
Womens' Group
Advent Dinner, Salad Supper
Email blast
Newsletter
Fellowship time
Sense of comraderie
Cantata as outreach to community

Funding Forward: A Pathway to More Sustainable Models for Ministry Recap from Class 1 - Linda Reetz

(continued)

There also was time provided to brainstorm all the ways the growth of our church has been potentially impeded:

1. There are less young people/families with children.
2. The general make up of Berlin and newcomers feeling there is nothing for them here.
3. The city is smaller so there are less potential members to draw from.
4. Leaders have been lost.
5. Friendships have been lost.
6. There are less and less founding members left.
7. More people are worshipping online rather than in person.
8. An aging community can impact the amount of giving.
9. A core group does much of the work leading to burnout.
10. We have forgotten the history of this church and the hard work it has taken to get this far.
11. There used to be 2 services.

The class meets on Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 pm. It is not too late for anyone to join. The group has already discovered that with the varied perspectives and rich history within the participants, so many possibilities have already emerged.



Mission of the Month Fellowship of Christian Athletes

What We Do

We seek to make disciples through our strategy of engaging, equipping and empowering coaches and athletes to know and grow in Christ and lead others to do the same.

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 athlete with the transforming power of Jesus Christ. FCA focus 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 relationship will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through Integrity, Serving, Teamwork, and Excellence.

As the Mission of the Month, FCA appreciates your generous donations towards their program.

30

Acts of Kindness in Thirty Days



Let's spread kindness throughout our communities!

We challenge you to complete at least one act of kindness each day for the next 30 days. We've gotten you started with our list of small ways you can positively impact those around you. Feel free to be creative and come up with your own acts of kindness!

Kindness is a ripple effect — encourage others to join the challenge by sharing your acts on social media!

- List 30 people and pray for one each day.
- Take a walk in your neighborhood and pray for each house.
- Leave the largest tip you can afford for a kind server.
- Write a letter to someone who has made a difference in your life.
- Chalk a sidewalk with uplifting messages.
- Send encouraging text messages to 5 people.
- Write cards for a local hospital.
- Pay for the person behind you at a drive-thru.
- Donate seasonal clothes to a clothing pantry.
- Compliment the first 3 people you talk with today.
- Reconnect with someone you haven't spoken with in a while.
- Donate towels, blankets and toys to an animal shelter.
- Surprise a neighbor or friend with freshly baked treats.
- Give parents a night out by offering to babysit for free.
- Give a thank-you treat to your mail, delivery and sanitation employees.
- Donate new socks and underwear to a local shelter.
- Post an encouraging sticky note message on a mirror or door.
- Host a clean-up party at a nearby park.
- Donate books to your local library or a book drive.
- Send a 'Thank You' card to your local police or fire station.
- Leave your server an encouraging note on their receipt.
- Post a positive and encouraging message on social media.
- Help your neighbor with their yard work.
- Donate packages of diapers and wipes to a local agency supporting families.
- Pause to hold the door open for someone behind you.
- Surprise someone with flowers.
- Participate in a blood drive.
- Donate food to a local food pantry.
- Write a positive review online for a local business.
- Pray for government leaders and send a note thanking them for their public service



“Once Upon A Farm” Through The Eyes Of A Wife by Lois Stark is the Grace Book Club’s choice for October.

The cow had died of milk fever. My husband was depressed. Later that day, in the spring of 1987, he talked with a neighbor who was also feeling helpless after not being able to save his top cow from the same misfortune. My husband instantly felt better, not because the neighbor’s cow died, but because he realized he was not in this alone. This led me to question how many other farmers needed to share. It prompted the start of the column, “The Farmer’s Wife,” which appeared in the *Berlin Journal Newspapers*.

Lois’s book contains essays of how farmers and their families were torn between technology and tradition, having a way of life and making a living, keeping their sons on the farm and giving them an “easier” way. The essays share the sorrows, fears, and frustrations, as well as the joys, satisfaction, and pride of farm life.

The pages of her book record and reflect on an era that is being destroyed by uncertainties and regulations, and by the ill-fated trend to expansion in pursuit of

better returns.

We will meet to discuss **“Once Upon A Farm”** Through The Eyes Of A Wife by Lois Stark on Tuesday, October 8th 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 and join in the discussion on the 8th, please contact Cindy Wallace and she will get you a copy. We would love to have you join us.

August Income

Weekly Income	7,873.38
Shared Ministry	4,009.99
RBC Earnings	3,154.00
Bulletins/Radio Ministry	110.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00

TOTAL \$ 15,147.37

Missions (In/Out) \$ 1,972.56

Youth	0.00
Women of Grace	0.00
Men of Grace	545.00

Beginning Balance January 2024

Investments:

Leonard Jones Fund	\$ 1,293,585.52
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 280,692.00
Endowment Fund	\$ 115,812.37

August Expenses

Wages and Payroll Expenses	\$ 15,498.38
Building & Grounds /Utilities	1,509.84
Worship Expenses	2,197.28
Radio Ministry	300.00
Office/Postage/Misc.	707.52

TOTAL \$ 20,213.03

Missions (In/Out) \$ 0.00

Youth	0.00
Women of Grace	774.72
Men of Grace	553.37

Ending Balance August 2024

	\$ 1,395,957.32
	\$ 321,781.37
	\$ 123,258.88



Radio Ministry

- October 6 - Sponsored by Jerry & Linda Reetz
- October 13 - Open
- October 20 - In Honor of Bev Tarras's Birthday by Jeff & Rebekah
- October 27 - Open

Flowers

- October 6 - In Honor of Malnory Warwick's Birthday by John & Michelle Klawitter
- October 13 - In Honor of Carrie and Tom McCarthy's 24th Wedding Anniversary
- October 20 - In Honor of the grandchildren by Jerry & Linda Reetz
- October 27 - In Honor of Ryan and Grace Dobb's Wedding Anniversary by Jeff & Anita Lind

Bulletins

- October 6 - Sponsored by Jerry & Linda Reetz
- October 13 - Open
- October 20 - Open
- October 27 - Open

Fellowship

- October 6 - Tammy Goettl
- October 13 - Open
- October 20 - Open
- October 27 - Open

Greeters

- October 6 - Bev Chadwick
- October 13 - Open
- October 20 - Open
- October 27 - Open



Dear Members of Grace,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for the thoughtful birthday cards and warm wishes I received. Your kind words and expressions of care mean more to me than I can adequately express.

Being part of this community is a blessing, and your generosity and thoughtfulness remind me of how fortunate I am to serve alongside such wonderful individuals. Your support encourages me greatly and strengthens my commitment to our shared journey of faith.

Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and for making my birthday truly special.

Blessings,
Pastor Rebekah Tarras



Happy Birthday

October Birthdays

- 1 Scott Zabel
- 3 Londynn Pribnow
- 4 Joshua Strebelski
- 5 Macallen Gerth
- 10 Patrice Magdanz
- 11 Mary Fredrickson
- 12 Cynthia Laudolff
- 12 Colton Schenk
- 14 Donald Peschke
- 16 Victor Dretske
- 16 Dylan Gravunder
- 16 Denise Krentz
- 16 Brooks Paulsen
- 20 Roderick Krause
- 20 Jan Krebs
- 20 Beverly Tarras
- 21 Sophia Lehr
- 22 Barb Bellmer
- 23 Katie Malson
- 25 Sara Evans
- 26 Zander Beck



Happy Anniversary

October Anniversaries

- 4 Doug & Bonnie Kline
- 6 David & Becky Olsen
- 6 Bill and Sue Bartlett – 45th
- 11 Mark & Kristine Labbus
- 11 Dale & Emma Schroeder
- 13 John & Mary Lou Neubauer
- 14 Tom & Carrie McCarthy
- 15 Jon & Sabrina Pierstorff
- 18 Karl & Sarah Guenther
- 21 Scott & Kelly Zabel
- 24 Ross & Alexandria Johnson
- 24 Scott & Darlene Wolfe
- 25 Ryan & Grace Dobbs – 10th

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

Veteran's Recognition Worship Service on November 10, 2024

Join us on Sunday, November 10 for a special Veterans Recognition Worship Service as we come together to worship God and honor and thank the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces. The service will feature a guest preacher with a distinguished background in both faith and military service: Pastor-Chaplain Peter Muschinske, Deputy Chief of Chaplains with the U.S. Navy.

We here at Grace also want to recognize all members who have served in the military, by displaying your picture and other service memorabilia you may have. Please stop into the office for more information and for a form to fill out.



2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Sewing 6:00pm ASL Class	2 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	3 12:40 pm Soul Food St. John's Host	4	5 10:00 am Fellowship Hall Reserved
6 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	7 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 6:30pm Funding Forward	8 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00pm ASL Class	9 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	10 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts	11	12 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Grace Lutheran
13 8:30 am Worship With Communion and Sunday School 6:30 pm Mutual Ministry at Grace	14 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	15 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00am LWR Sewing 1:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:00pm ASL Class	16 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	17 12:40 pm Soul Food River Shores Hosts	18	19
20 8:30 am Worship With Communion and Sunday School	21 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 6:30pm Funding Forward	22 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00pm ASL Class	23 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	24 12:40 pm No Soul Food	25	26
27 8:30 am Worship With Communion – No Sunday School	28 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	29 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00pm ASL Class	30 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	31 12:40 pm Soul Food All Saints Hosts		