

Grace English Lutheran Church,

384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

Dione Miller – Interim Pastor

Jessica Fritz – Worship and Music Coordinator

Becky Guden – Bookkeeper

Sandy Peschke – Bookkeeper

Jeremy Fritz – Choir Director

(920) 361-1820

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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Sunday Worship:

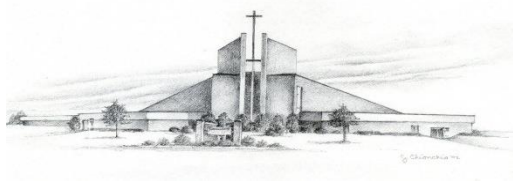
8:30 AM Worship with Communion

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Hometown Broadcasting

WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



Worship Services

February 2 – Worship at 8:30 am

February 9 – Worship at 8:30 am

February 16 – Worship at 8:30 am

February 23 – Worship at 8:30 am

February 26 – Ash Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Grace Lutheran's Mission: We Gather to Worship, Grow, Care, and Share

“All Are Welcome In This Place”



Feel the Buzz



¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. – Colossians 3:14-16

There is an energy buzzing about Grace. Can you feel it? Do you see it in the smile of your neighbor? Have you heard it in the singing of the hymns? Can you taste it in the wine and the bread? It's definitely there, and it feels, looks, sounds, and tastes like being clothed in the love of Christ.

This faith community has been through a lot over the past several years. In the short time I have been here, I have heard stories of pain, joy, new friendships, broken relationships, fellowship, laughter and witty banter, anxiety, hope, and joy. And, shockingly, in the midst of it all, that buzzing, hopeful energy fills the community. Something wonderful is going on here, and it's taking place between all of you.

In the midst of transitions and uncertainties, it can be easy to forget who we are and why we're doing what we're doing. It can be tempting to focus on the logistics and the challenges in ways that lead us away from our purpose. However, when we clothe ourselves in love and come together with gratitude in our hearts to sing and worship, something happens. We remember why we do what we do – why we worship, why we serve, why we care at all. We remember for whom we do what we do. We remember that we do everything in the name of Jesus, who calls us together into one body.

That is what this community is all about. The buzz isn't new. It's not something that I brought with me (though many of you kindly suggest that that's the case). It's that we are remembering, together, what we are to do *above all* – be clothed in love and come together.

Remembering and being reminded of that over and over will lead this congregation forward. It will help that buzz continue within the body of Christ gathered together, even as leadership changes, even as time passes and traditions evolve. The one who calls us to be the body of Christ remains at the front of our minds. And we will remember why we do what we do, and who we are as people of God.

In Christ,

Pr. Dione

Interim Pastor Dione Miller

Phone: 715-281-5755

Email: pastor.dione.miller@gmail.com

**REGULAR GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 9, 2019**

Present: Karl Guenther, Bill Bartlett, Linda Reetz, Karen Macaulay, Conrad Falk, Cindy Wallace, Matt Dretske, Becky Guden and Pastor Ted Johanson.

Absent: Sue Shemanski

President Karl Guenther called the meeting to order at 6:58p.m. and Pastor Ted led in the opening prayer.

President Karl Guenther presented the November Council minutes. Bill Bartlett made a motion to accept the minutes as presented with Matt Dretske seconding the motion. Motion approved.

Congregational Input: No one present

Ministry's Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ted reviewed the following upcoming items:

- *Confirmation Retreat Saturday December 14 at Grace. He has ordered books for the students and will order lunch that day.

- *Christmas Eve service will be the Children's program

- *He will keep the 3rd Sunday of every month next year as Youth Sunday where the youth will participate in the service.

- *Epiphany season coming up, he will continue with current liturgy and if congregation members have special prayers, they will be able to offer them up in the service

- *Lenten Service calendar will be shared with First Lutheran. Grace will host the Ash Wednesday service, the following Wednesday service will be at First and so on with Maundy Thursday at Grace. A calendar will be published accordingly. Motion was made by Linda Reetz to approve this change in Lenten Service for 2020; Cindy Wallace seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Wallace presented the November Treasurer's Cash Report. Bill Bartlett made a motion to accept this report as presented; Conrad Falk seconded. The November check detail was handed out for review. Bill Bartlett made a motion to approve the checks as presented; Linda Reetz seconded. Motion approved. Pastor Ted handed out the General Fund progression through November.

Other Ministry Reports: Prior to the council meeting, Sue Shemanski had presented a request to provide Christmas treat bags to the youth after their program on Christmas Eve. Cindy Wallace made the motion to approve this request; Karen Macaulay seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Bartlett briefly presented current earnings on the RBC Management statements showing our current balances. He also advised the next Finance Committee Meeting will be on December 19. The idea of Christmas caroling was brought up and confirmed that Grace will do this on Sunday, December 22, meeting at church by 1:00; an invite will also be extended to First Lutheran to join.

Old Business:

Finalize Pastor Ted's 2019 contract: As discussed at previous council meeting, the question arose to mileage reimbursement and other items. Pastor Ted provided a worksheet showing his expectations and Bill Bartlett counteroffered what the figures showed and compared those with his contract. Bill discussed those items and how they should be handled per advice from the synod office. Pastor Ted accepted Bill's offer from the congregation. Pastor's 2020 contract will be discussed at a later date and in closed session.

2020 Budget was presented by Cindy Wallace. Council reviewed the items and noted a lower budget compared to 2019 due to the shared ministry with First Lutheran. Bill Bartlett made a motion to accept the 2020 Budget as presented; Conrad Falk seconded. Motion approved.

Call Committee Report: Bill Bartlett and Karl Guenther said there was nothing new but at their last meeting. David Howie was present. He is a pastor headhunter and offered his services to Grace.

Sabbatical Policy: Karl Guenther presented a template with standard language from the ELCA synod and advised we have this in place prior to new pastor. Linda Reetz made motion to accept this policy as presented; Bill Bartlett seconded. Motion approved.

Website: Our new website is up and running but still needs a little more work on some links. Council thanks Luke Dretske for all his work on this. Bill Bartlett made a motion that we have a person to review all items before they are posted to the website; Linda Reetz seconded. Motion approved. Bill advised that Dave Ziemann has volunteered to be this clearing house person to check for grammar and proper wording.

Employee Contracts: Per our new payroll outsource company, contracts will be written up and presented to all employees. The contracts will include their duties and salary.

New Business:

Christmas Gifts for Employees: As in the past, the council agreed to give Christmas gifts to employees of Grace. Deadline to get these items to the office is December 22.

2020 Christmas Prep: Better organization for next Advent and Christmas season needs to be in place, so items can be displayed in a more timely manner. This will be added to the church's calendar far in advance with possible chairperson to coordinate everything.

Motion made by Cindy Wallace to adjourn; Linda Reetz seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Council moved to Closed Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Guden

2020 Council Information

Karl Guenther - President	920-290-2994	upnorthpp@gmail.com
Bill Bartlett - Vice President	920-361-3053	wlbartlett54923@gmail.com
Cindy Wallace - Treasurer	920-229-3772	cindy_wallace@charter.net
Becky Guden - Secretary	920-361-0364	bguden@live.com
Linda Reetz - Music/Worship	920-361-2845	linda.reetz0726@gmail.com
Sue Shemanski - Sunday School	920-361-4506	shemanski5@yahoo.com
Karen Macaulay - Caring/Sharing	920-361-1821	Kigcooper9@gmail.com
Conrad Falk - Missions	920-229-2838	cmfalk6@gmail.com
Matt Dretske - Building/Grounds	920-229-8653	md3boys@charter.net

Grace English Lutheran Church

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 27, 2019 (Minutes approved at January 26, 2020 annual meeting)

Meeting was called to order at 9:47 a.m. by President Karl Guenther and he led the congregation in an opening prayer. Total of 80 members in attendance.

Minutes from last year's Annual Congregational Meeting were presented as included in the Annual Report. No questions or discussion. Henry Stark made a motion to approve minutes. Dave Ziemann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee presented their recommendations for 2019 congregational council and ballots were handed out. Victor Dretske made a motion to accept the recommendations. Jody Ziemann seconded. Motion carried.

Finance Committee report was presented by Bill Bartlett. He explained and updated the congregation on the Leonard Jones and General Fund investment project with RBC Management. The committee would like to reserve the principle of these investments for future needs and project a monthly interest of \$3150 to help in the general fund to meet expenses. But even with that and member givings, we will still have a monthly shortfall. Robert Sillanpaa made a motion to give the Council permission to withdraw from the General Fund Investment Principle up to \$100,000 if needed for emergency. Luke Dretske seconded this motion. There was discussion on this and if this met constitution requirements. Stan Shemanski seconded the motion again. Motion carried.

Auditors Report was presented. Motion made by Donna Kirk to accept the report as written in the Annual Report. Gene Hess seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented regarding the revised Statement of Balances. Jean Dretske made a motion to accept the report. Jean Sprague seconded. Motion carried.

2019 Budget was presented and President Karl Guenther pointed out that our budget was reduced by \$72,412.59. This reduction was due to a few positions eliminated and with the help of all volunteers. Carrie McCarthy made a motion to accept the 2019 budget with Henry Stark seconded. Motion carried.

Mission information was presented by Craig Chovanec and referred everyone to the annual report. He advised that the Mission Committee for 2019 will consist of four members and the Mission of the Month outreach will be cut to eight times a year.

President Karl Guenther gave his report which highlighted how the church and council are looking to build the future. He will be looking for members to be on the Ministry Profile Committee and the later on the Call Committee. Karl also thanked all the volunteers that have stepped up and supported the church in all areas. He advised everyone to sign up either on the new Stewardship or Evangelism Committee, which includes the Men of Grace, Women of Grace, Worship & Music, or Quilting/Sewing mission projects.

Pastor Ted presented his report, which highlighted the membership project and how important that was; which include the Evangelism and Stewardship committees.

President Karl Guenther received the ballot results. All council nominees were re-elected with no write-ins. The Advisory Poll Question regarding if Grace English Lutheran Church continue the practice of first communion being offered to children starting at fifth grade after some instruction, or change to making communion available to children at any age. Results were 39 voting to offering communion to children at any age, with 35 voting to keep the fifth grade instruction.

Old Business: President Guenther presented the minutes from the Special Congregational Meeting and Vote held on October 14, 2018. Meeting was called to vote on leaving the ELCA synod and President John Emanuele opened the meeting and a resolution was made by Gordon Moldenhauer that Grace English Lutheran Church should terminate our affiliation with the ELCA and Scott Schellin seconded. Resolution failed with 151 members voting not to terminate our affiliation with the ELCA and 127 to terminate. Motion was made by Luke Dretske to adjourn the meeting and Victor Dretske seconded. Special meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. Linda Reetz made a motion to accept these minutes from the special meeting and Donna Kirk seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: President Karl Guenther opened the floor to any new business which included members for the Nominating Committee for 2020 and Audit Committee for the 2019 records. Anita Lind, Sue Bartlett and Bonnie Hermanson volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. Jean Dretske and Henry Stark volunteered to be on the Audit Committee.

Pastor Ted closed the meeting with hymn "All are Welcome" and prayer.

Motion to adjourn the Annual meeting was made by Jody Ziemann, seconded by Cindy Wallace.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Guden, Secretary



Sundae Sunday and Bingo!

On Sunday, February 23 Grace will be having a "Sundae Bingo" and lunch at 12:30 pm.

We want to welcome Pastor Dione and to enjoy fellowship with members of First Lutheran Church as well as our church members.

We will be serving a light lunch with sundaes for dessert. This will be followed by bingo with some great prizes.

If you plan to attend, please sign up in the narthex so we have an estimate of those planning to enjoy an afternoon of fun.

We also have sign-up sheets for those willing to help obtain prizes, help with the meal by setting up on Saturday and providing some food for our lunch and serving it.



Maggie the Church Mouse – February 2020

CATS??!!



Someone in the pulpit was talking about CATS! My ears perked up immediately when I heard that word. I may be only a tiny, lowly church mouse, but I'm smart enough to know that when there's talk of cats, I'd better be on the alert! So I kept listening while scrambling under a front pew for a better look at this speaker.

In the pulpit was a young woman teaching about baptism, and just a few glances with my beady eyes was all it took to see that everyone in church was captivated. All were listening intently, especially as she drew in her audience with an amusing reminiscence of baptizing all the barn cats during her childhood on her family's farm. When I pictured the scene, I must admit I was hoping there might have been a spot or two at her makeshift font for some field mice as well, because it sounded like a ceremony of great assurance and acceptance.

I had never watched a baptism before, so it was a wonderful experience for me to see a loving family, cradling a precious new baby and gathering with the pastor at the front of the church. It looked a little to me like a fancy bath, but I could tell from the hush within the church that it was much more than that. This was an important choice these parents had made for their child. This was an important promise everyone at Grace was making that day, to help teach this little boy the Christian faith as a church family.

As the sanctuary emptied and I considered all I'd seen and heard, it occurred to me that these are special days in my church home. It's a new year, and Grace has a new pastor. The new year began with lessons about baptism and the blessed opportunity to witness one. Sometimes it takes something out of the ordinary to get our attention – like the word **CATS!** Or the invitation of a friend. Or maybe the struggles of someone you love. And I think that's when it's up to us to pay attention to what God is calling us to do – to live out the promise made to each of us in our baptism. "Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

Mission Of The Month For February Compassion Child

Why Your Gift Matters:

The mission for the month of February is Compassion Child. We live in a broken world where millions of children live in poverty, but by sponsoring a compassion child we have the opportunity to make a difference in their lives.

The child Grace Lutheran is currently sponsoring is an eight (8) year old girl, Anahi Salvatierra from Nicaragua. In Mathew chapter 25, Jesus says "truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Please support the mission this month.



(First) Communion Classes

All who would like to begin taking Communion, or have already begun taking Communion but would like some education about what it means and why we celebrate it, are invited to join Pastor Dione from 5:30-6:45 p.m. on February 12 and 19 at Grace.

This class is open to people of all ages, with a special invitation to fifth graders. Parents, please plan to attend with your child. RSVPs with names and ages can be sent to Pastor Dione at pastor.dione.miller@gmail.com so there are enough supplies and age appropriate activities ready.



CROSSWAYS

CAMPING MINISTRIES

Building Youth Groups (3rd-6th grade)

Youth: \$110 | Adults \$45

Looking to build a solid foundation of faith and friendship in your upper elementary school youth? Consider coming to BYG! Our "Building Youth Groups" Retreat engages campers and adult chaperones alike in fun activities, worship, Bible study, group building (yes, even with elementary youth!), crazy games, and more! Be sure to reserve your space soon because this weekend fills up, and quickly.

March 27-29, 2020 @ Imago Dei Village

Group reservation deadline: February 28

Registration/payment deadline: March 9

*****If you are interested in attending, check with the church office to see if a scholarship is available to cover some of the fees.

Bakeless Bake Sale

February is the month for the Women of Grace's Bakeless Bake Sale. This sale allows women to contribute to the needs of others even though they may be very busy.

All Bakeless Bake Sale monies contributed will go toward projects the Women of Grace support. You will be receiving a letter with an enclosed envelope.

Please return your Bakeless Bake Sale Envelope by placing it in the collection plate on Sunday, or, drop it off in the Church office by March 31st.



Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31, 2020

Did you know.....Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have accumulated Choice Dollars from January thru December 2019, have until **March 31, 2020** to direct them to a non-profit of their choice. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to **Grace Lutheran Church of Berlin**. Go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt to ask if any of your accounts qualify for Choice Dollars.

It is very easy to do, so don't let this slip by.

In 2019, Grace received **\$6012** in Choice Dollars which was used for general expenses.

Another Way to Help Support Activities at Grace Lutheran Thru Thrivent Action Debit Cards

If you are looking for a way to support one of the many activities happening at Grace, please consider applying for a Thrivent Action Debit Card. All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team.

However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type. **Benefit members** are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and **associate members** are eligible to lead one per calendar year.

You must be 16 years or older to lead a Thrivent Action Team. To apply log on to your account and follow the easy steps to create an Action Team. Once your team is approved, you will receive a debit card worth \$250 to be used for your activity. For assistance in applying or for more info contact the church office.

Here are a couple of upcoming activities happening at Grace that could benefit from a Thrivent Action Card: Easter Breakfast...Rummage Sale...Soul Food...Quilts for High School Seniors...Bloodmobile



ALTAR FLOWERS

February 2.....In honor of Doug's Birthday by Bonnie & Doug Kline
February 9.....In honor of Thomas McCarthy's 12th Birthday
February 16.....In honor of Pastor Dione
February 23.....In honor of Gene & Lynn Hess's 55th Wedding Anniversary

RADIO MINISTRY

February 2.....Sponsored by the Goettl Family
February 9.....In memory of their grandson Noah, by Gene & Lynn Hess
February 16.....Sponsored by Dona Eury
February 23.....Sponsored by Dona Eury

BULLETINS

February 2.....Sponsored by Lavern & Mary Pomplun
February 9.....In honor of their great grandchildren by Bill & Sue Carpenter
February 16.....In memory of her parents and in-laws by Candy Neumeier
February 23.....In memory of Carl Hanson by Pat Hanson

FELLOWSHIP

February 2.....Sponsored by Goettl Family
February 9.....Sponsored by Guenther & Bartlett Families
February 16.....Sponsored by Sponsored by Sunday School Kids
February 23.....Open



Valentine Treats for Our Shut-Ins

On Saturday, February 8th at 10am, we will be making miniature pies as a valentine treat for our shut-ins. If you don't know how to make a pie, no problem, there will be help available to teach you

You may also make a pie for yourself! Please bring rolling pin or pastry blender and pie tin if you have them. The children who are attending Sunday School will be making valentines to accompany the pies.

If you have questions, please get in touch with Karen Macaulay at 361-1821.



February Birthdays

- 2 Alissa Gies
Douglas Kline
- 3 Kathleen Krentz
Stanley Shemanski
- 5 Matthew Dretske
Thomas McCarthy
- 6 James Groveau
- 7 Alexander Konen
- 8 Amber Rozek
Ray Sprague
- 9 Andrew Detloff
Cary Eckstein
- 10 Brian Retzlaff
- 12 Brandon O'Brien
- 14 Mark Labbus
Jagger Borland
- 15 Preston Morgan
- 19 Mara Ferron
Mark Goffard
Susan Shemanski
Sydney Shemanski

February Birthdays Continued

- 22 Kaitlyn Eastberg
- 23 Emily Carpenter
- 24 Curtis Olson
- 28 Edward Carpenter
Connor Emerson
Lois Mattice



February Anniversaries

- 14 Roy & Beverly Chadwick
Kristin Koch & Timothy Seaman
- 20 Steven & Connie Smits
- 23 Scott & Karen Schweigert
- 27 Eugene & Lynette Hess - 55th

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

Important Dates for Members of Grace



- February 1.....Men's Breakfast
- February 4 & 18.....LWR Sewing Days
- February 6.....Soul Food, Grace Hosts
- February 8.....Pie Making for Shut-Ins
- February 10.....Confirmation Planning Meeting
- February 12 & 19First Communion Classes
- February 23.....First Communion & Sundae Lunch with Bingo
- February 26.....Ash Wednesday

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Church
2 Dedication of the Cross 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	3	4 9:00 am LWR Ladies Sewing Group	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 11:40 am Soul Food Grace Hosts	7	8 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Crafters Group 10:00 am Pie Making
9 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	10 5:30 pm Confirmation Planning Meeting 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	11	12 5:30 – 6:45 pm First Communion Classes 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 11:40 am Soul Food River Shores Hosts 5:30 pm Stitchers	14 	15
16 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	17	18 9:00 am LWR Ladies Sewing Group	19 5:30 – 6:45 pm First Communion Classes 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 11:40 am Soul Food Methodist Church Hosts 1:00-2:30 pm Caregivers Support Meeting 2:00 pm Worship at Patriot Place	21	22
23 First Communion Sunday 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School 12:30 pm Sundae Lunch and Bingo	24	25	26 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 11:40 am Soul Food All Saints Church Hosts 5:30 pm Stitchers	28	29