

# In the Loop with Pastor Clay –

## Christmas Reminders

May the Christmas presents remind you

Of God's greatest gift – His only begotten Son, Jesus.

May the Christmas Candles remind you

Of Him who is the Light of the world.

May the Christmas tree remind you

Of another “tree” on which He died for you.

May the Christmas cheer remind you

Of Him who said, “Be of good cheer.”

May the Christmas feast remind you

Of Him who is the bread of life.

May the Christmas snow remind you

Of the cleansing power of Christ.

May the Christmas bells remind you

Of the glorious proclamation of His birth.

May the Christmas carols remind you

Of His glad tidings which we are to proclaim to all humankind.

May the Christmas season remind you

Of Jesus Christ, our Prophet, Priest, and King.

*Matthew 1:20-23 An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."*

**Wishing you and yours a safe and blessed Advent and Christmas!**

*Pastor Clay*

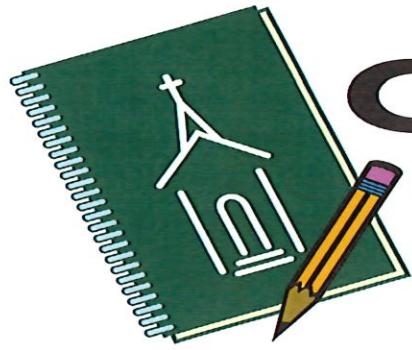
# Church Council 2025-26



The Council of Grace Church wants to be sure the congregation understands and is updated on the work and decisions of the Council. We will continue to publish the minutes of each Council Meeting after they are approved at the next Council Meeting. However, the Council wants to make sure you are up to date on decisions we make. Each month - after the Council Meeting - we will publish Council at a Glance - a quick summary of actions taken by the Church Council at its regular meeting. Council at a Glance will be published in a bulletin insert and Grace Notes.

## MEMBERS

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# Council Notes

## November 2025 Council Meeting at a Glance

- Reviewed the proposed budget for 2026
- Discussed the required use of the tax exempt form and the necessity that all expenditures be accompanied by a receipt
- Established a routine for monthly coffee hour on the last Sunday of the month celebrating birthdays and anniversaries of congregation members
- Viewed Episode 1 and approved the establishment of a new Virtual Ministry at Grace; Episode 1 will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, Nov. 23
- Began the process of exploring possible Constitution and By-law changes to be presented at the Annual Meeting
- Authorized a fun activity to accompany the Pie and Ice Cream Social following Thanksgiving Service
- Discussed the activities scheduled for Dec 21 including Song Fest at 9:00 am, Cookie Walk at 10:00 am, Cantata at 2:00 pm, Reception to follow
- Discussed the need to have a check out system for items borrowed from the church

Thank you again for your generous donation to the Sgt. Andrew Wallace Scholarship Fund. These scholarships continue to keep Andrew's spirit alive in the lives of young adults pursuing a future in teaching. We are grateful to be able to present these scholarships every year in Oshkosh and Ripon. We appreciate your continued support.

Blessings,  
Janie and Joel Brockman



# Christian Education - Info and Updates

## December 2025

### Christian Education Team Meetings

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. in the Youth and Sunday School Office.

### All Are Welcome!

### Events/Activities:

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Classes

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program Rehearsals

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Movie

December 21<sup>st</sup> – Children's Christmas Program

### Nursery:

The nursery will be available during church service. After the children's sermon, any children that would like to go to the nursery for the remainder of the church service will be led to the nursery with the nursery worker for that week to play together until service ends. Parents can then pick their children up after service, or we will take them to their Sunday School class.



### Sunday School:

Classes are available to everyone beginning at 10:15 a.m. Registration is always open so feel free to come join us any Sunday you are available.

Children ages 2-4 can join us in the nursery for a Bible story, craft, and social time. Parents are welcome to stay.

Grades K-5 will meet in a classroom each week for games, videos, and stories.

Grades 6-8 can help assist with the preschool and K-5 classes.

Adults meet in the Lounge for Wired Word.

If anyone is interested in teaching or assisting with Sunday school or the nursery or is just curious to what it all involves, please contact:



Laurie Parks

Maddy Pinnow

[Laurieparks26@gmail.com](mailto:Laurieparks26@gmail.com) or [madelyn@graceripon.com](mailto:madelyn@graceripon.com)

## WOMEN OF GRACE

**CIRCLES:** Interested in joining others for fellowship and bible study? The Eve circle currently meets on the first Monday of the month at 1pm. The Bethany circle meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the church lounge to play different games members bring. Please visit either group during meeting times to find out more.

**Women of Grace Christmas Tea:** All Women of Grace are invited to join in an afternoon of fellowship on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. We will exchange Prayer Pal names for the upcoming year, find out who had whom from last year and enjoy some tasty treats.

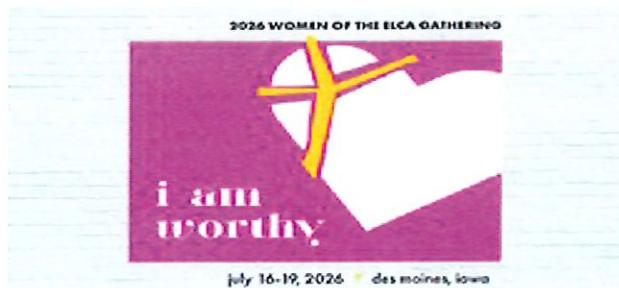
### **Blue Christmas Service:**

Our Blue Christmas Service offers a safe place to bring your grief, fear, and loss. Brief readings. Quiet and reflective music. Prayers. All are welcome. Spanish translation provided. The service takes place at 7 p.m. CST on Sunday, December 21, 2025. Register for the webinar <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/event/blue-christmas-service-3>

Monies are available to Women of Grace wishing to attend events. Please contact Lisa Beuthin, Peggy Beuthin, or Sheri Bradshaw.

### **2026 Upcoming Events:**

Stay tuned for upcoming Spring Event Dates



\*\*\*\*Plan ahead for the 2026 Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa! Event registration is now open. Go to [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) for more information. For anyone interested in attending the Gathering in Iowa, there is will be a bus available from this area heading that way. Stayed tuned for more information.

# Social Concerns Committee

**5 November 2025**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jolene Nelson at 10:04 AM

Present: NELSON-CHAIR, TABBERT-SECRETARY, THIEM, HOLLENBACK

Absent: EBBERT

Minutes of October 2025: MSA no additions or corrections

Old Business: none

New Business: ELCA Good Gifts donation drop box was placed out this past Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Missing was any announcement at the beginning of service. A request to pastor for an announcement will be sent to him by HOLLENBACK in charge of this publicity.

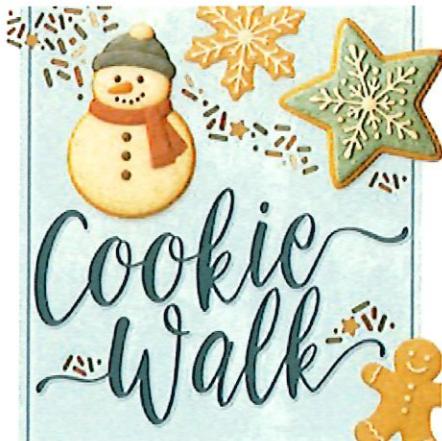
The donation box will remain displayed in the narthex before services and in the church office on the counter thru the November 30<sup>th</sup> service. Donations will be counted on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and the order will be constructed and placed.

The tree for the Stars and Angels will be brought up on November 10<sup>th</sup> in the morning, followed by hanging the Stars & Angels on it. This early display is because each program will be picking up the packages on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Angels and Dec 8<sup>th</sup> for the Stars. This will allow those wishing to pick either or both, ample time to shop at their leisure.

The Cookie Walk continues to be scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of December after worship service with drop off and displaying to be before the service. HOLLENBACK will create an announcement for the December Grace Notes.

Next meeting date to be announced in the future.

Meeting closed at 10:25AM with the Lord's Prayer.



**2025 COOKIE WALK**  
**DECEMBER 21st-after service**  
**Please have cookies to church**  
**by 8:30 am**



**Thank you!!!** Thank you to everyone who has been bringing in plastic for us to recycle!! Please be sure you are following the guidelines of SOFT plastic. If you need a list – stop at the table on Sunday. And if you question a certain plastic – bring it in and we'll show you how to test it!!

## ***Keep the plastic coming!!***

Our total of plastic recycled in the last three plus years is over 11,000 pounds. Yes – that's over 5 tons of plastic kept out of the waterways and landfills. Over 5 tons used for decking and benches and other products made by the Trex company. Our goal **1,000 pounds** in a **12 month** time frame to receive a bench... we will continue because we know this is a good program for our environment. Please encourage others to join our cause.

***Saving the World...One "Old Bag" at a Time***

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Dear Fellow Members of Grace,

What a pleasant surprise! One that was deeply appreciated.

It was indeed an honor to be remembered with the beautiful arrangement of flowers on the 60th anniversary of my becoming an Associate in Ministry, now a Deacon (retired).

All my years were spent right here at Grace, Ripon. 47 years of wonderful memories made here.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your thoughtfulness.

God Bless you all,

Ruth Ann Smith





# RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip

**December 2025**

**PLEASE JOIN US!!**

This is the fundraiser where you only buy what you need and will use. For every gift card sold, a rebate comes back to Grace - those rebates range from 2% to 12% - with some companies offering special rates up to 15%.

It's a win-win because you only purchase the cards you will use.

If you would like to order specific cards to give as gifts...make sure I have your order by **December 8th**.

**2025 GOAL**

\$45,000 Sales

\$ 1,350 Profit

\$ 3,750 Monthly Average

**2025 To Date (11/16/2025)**

\$ 30,920 Sales

\$ 937 Profit

\$ 2,945 Currently Monthly Average

**Thank You** to everyone who continues to purchase RaiseRight (formerly SCRIP).

We are asking everyone to update their registration form and indicate a preference for donating the rebates. The options are **General Operational Fund, Improvement Fund, Youth Fund**. Please see the table on Sunday to check your registration and complete a new form.

We have set a goal of \$45,000 for sales for the year. Our sales to date are below the average needed to meet that goal. In order to reach \$45,000, we need a monthly average of \$3,750. To date through the second Sunday in November, our monthly average is only \$2,945. **Let's make December reach our goal!!**



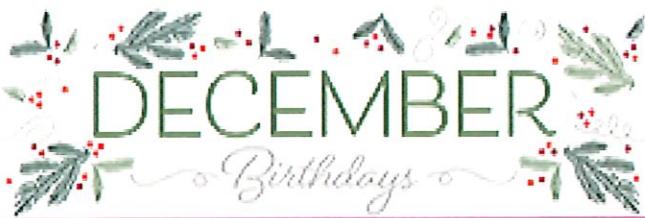
This year Will has composed another Christmas Cantata premiere. The focus of this year's cantata is the various aspects of Christmas – family, Jesus, nostalgia, festivities, and Christmas carols.

The cantata this year will feature six vocalists from around the state, a large orchestra, and will be conducted by Ripon College's Paul Thompson – the chair of choral activities. Tim McCarthy will be playing saxophone, and our choirs director, Lily Hoffmann, will be on flute.

Instrumentalists from the Beaver Dam Area Orchestra, the Oshkosh Symphony, Ripon College; singers from Milwaukee, Sun Prairie, Ripon, and Necedah are all coming together to bring this amazing concert to you!

It will be premiered on Sunday afternoon, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2PM, at Grace Lutheran Church. Please invite your friends and family, coworkers and colleagues to help cheer this Christmas season on!





# DECEMBER

Birthdays

Stephanie	Bradshaw	12/01
Michael	Wargula	12/02
David	Weinkauf	12/04
Justin	Jahnke	12/06
Dan	Meyer	12/07
Tom	Davis	12/08
Robert	Eidahl	12/08
Gloria	Gelhar	12/08
Lee	Jess	12/11
Jason	Kimpel	12/12
Sara	Simonis	12/12
Kathleen	Webster	12/13
Maxwell	Huseboe	12/14
Rachel	Zills	12/14
Jessica	Johnson	12/16
Jon	Hillier	12/18
Suzanne	Leitz	12/18
Alyssa	Lind	12/19
Kristine	Miller	12/19
Shirley	Hinz	12/21
Lennon	Simonis	12/21
Marion	Wittchow	12/24
Lauren	Martinez	12/26
Emma	Draeger	12/27
Abigail	Slate	12/28
Douglas	Pinnow	12/29
Angela	Draeger	12/30



# DECEMBER

Anniversaries

12/23/1983 Mathias, Lynn & Terry

### VISIT THE HOMEBOUND...

Maplecrest-Inez Bryden &  
Faye Zacharias

Prairie Place-

Arlene Thiem & LeRoy Holl

Russell Manor-

Jackie Steifner & Jean Zeto

Valley VNA-

Mary Jane Schanke

## 8:15 Club

### Holiday Get Together

The next event for the 8:15 Club will be held on *Friday, December 12* at the home of Doug and Kathy Kelm at 826 Layton Drive in Ripon. We'll begin at 2:00 p.m. for our friends who may not wish to drive after dark...and do another round (or a continuous round if you wish) starting at 5:00 p.m. You're welcome to come for 30 minutes – or all five hours!! It's a time just to share all of our Holiday Joy with each other!

Snacks and "heavy" hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the event and will be catered in. There is not an expectation that you need to bring anything to share but your Holiday Spirit!! **BUT** if you would really like to bring something to share - your favorite Christmas cookie to share would be appreciated!!

If you have been joining us fairly regularly – welcome back! But we would also like our group to grow – so please invite someone from church to join us!! We've also had some questions about is this a group for "seniors" and that answer is a definite NO...we welcome all Grace adults to join us.

ALL adult members of Grace are invited to join us for fellowship and fun!! We chose this name because of the message in Ecclesiastes 8:15:

***"And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun."***



# December

2025

# Grace Notes

## Grace Lutheran Church

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Ripon, WI 54971

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
**@ [www.graceripon.com](http://www.graceripon.com)**  
**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

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