

In the Loop with Pastor Clay –

The Four Chaplains

Colossians 3:12-15 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Every February the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps commemorates Four Chaplains Day. We remember and honor four particular Army Chaplains who gave their lives on 3 February 1943, in the middle of World War 2. On that day, four Chaplains were among over 900 men on the troop transport ship SS Dorchester, traveling in a convoy in the North Atlantic Ocean. The Chaplains were 1st Lieutenant George L. Fox (Methodist), 1st Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), 1st Lieutenant Clark V. Poling (Reformed Church in America), and 1st Lieutenant John P. Washington (Roman Catholic). At 12:55 a.m. a torpedo from a German submarine struck the ship. The electrical system was immediately knocked out and there were no lights on the ship. As frantic soldiers and crew scrambled to escape the sinking ship, the four chaplains worked together to pass out life jackets and get men into lifeboats. When accessible life jackets ran out, all four chaplains gave away their own life jackets. When all available lifeboats had been filled and launched, there were still some men left aboard the sinking ship, to include the four chaplains. Witnesses in the lifeboats reported that as the ship was sinking the four chaplains linked arms, sang hymns, said prayers, and then went down with the ship.

In our polarized, contentious, opinionated, stressful, and even violent times, we can learn a lot from the four chaplains. Just like in our country today, back then there were plenty of different religious beliefs, politics, and ideas on which directions people and our country should go. Undoubtedly, the four chaplains had different religious beliefs, different backgrounds, different nationalities, and different political views. But they didn't allow those differences to be excuses for putting up barriers between themselves and others. Despite those differences they sought and found common ground. They realized that every person onboard the SS Dorchester was a valued human being made in the image of God. Consequently, they worked, served, and sacrificed their lives for the benefit of as many people as they could, without regard to personal differences.

Jesus gave us his Greatest Commandment – to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves, not just those neighbors who agree with us. (Matthew 22:37-40) In these days when too many people are stoking divisiveness, derision, and arrogance through belittling and even untrue comments (much to the delight of our foreign adversaries), we as people of faith are called to a better way – the way of unity which was demonstrated by the four chaplains and by Jesus himself. Yes, we have differences in our country, in our communities, and in our churches. (We always have.) However, we have much more in common that can unify us than that which can separate us. We will do well to follow the Apostle Paul's writing above, the way of Jesus, and the way of the four chaplains.

May you enjoy a happy, blessed, and love-filled February!

Pastor Clay

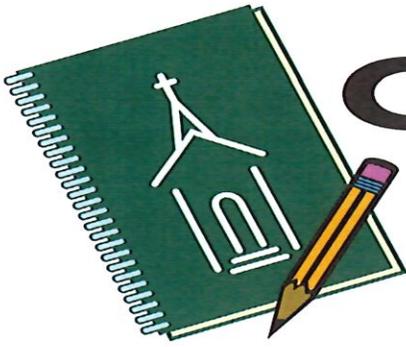
Church Council 2026



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

KATIE WORTHING (2026)	920-203-5886	worthingkatie@gmail.com
MELANIE OPPOR (2027) (P)	920-896-3133	jmdopp86@gmail.com
JAMIE JAHNKE- (2027) (SEC)	920-392-4650	Skiesareblue44@gmail.com
SUSAN MOKLER (2028) (VP)	920-279-1573	samokler49@gmail.com
WILLIAM LOUIS-BRUX (2028)	920-344-4381	williamclouisbrux@gmail.com
RUTH DODSON (2028)	414-299-9645	dodruth@gmail.com
LILY HOFFMANN (2028)	920-279-3695	lilyraymusic@gmail.com



Council Notes

January 2026 Council Meeting at a Glance

- Approved Treasurer's report including envelope offerings and loose offering for 2025.
- Reviewed the coffee hour for this Sunday celebrating birthdays and anniversaries of congregation members.
- Discussed the report from the Cantata committee and the options for the 2026 Cantata. The suggestions are to have no other activities on Dec 20, 2026, to continue with the 2:00 PM performance with reception following, and to reach out to get corporate sponsors in addition to selling tickets for the event. Future discussions will take place as the planning continues.
- Approved the sending of a gift to Pastor Sue's church on behalf of Grace Lutheran Church - Ripon; celebrating Pastor's Sue's faithful service to our congregation.
- Discussed and prepared for the Annual Meeting agenda and PowerPoint to be used.
- Confirmed that the Constitution changes must be approved by two consecutive congregational meetings (January and May) and be approved by the Synod following congregational approval.



**-A special THANK YOU
to everyone who
attended our Annual Meeting .
We appreciate your feedback and
your time!**

Christian Education - Info and Updates

*No article was submitted

Lent

I Z V R P R A Y E R K B E B V W M
H C P B F R I E N D S H I P O H S
S B X R I S P I R I T Z H Z F O E
T N U F D M N Z G O D S Z A Q Z Y
H K O U S E W O R S H I P F K G F
F C H F O R G I V E N E S S R G L
A H E L G C Z M D I X H G L R K X
S U A V C Y D G L U K E O E V T J
T R L M C G Q N E P C J D Y T R E
I C I Q B H G I N A B E K D Q O S
N H N G F G A T T I E R Z H U V U
G J G Q Y R R O B B L U L O K B S
A X J V V O W M M F I S R P M Q G
F C U N A W H N K T E A G E C C P
G M H Y T T O Y A E V L V E T F T
J R H Y Y H L P Z B E E N T A M N
T U E J I Q Y I F A O M O G B S C

Forgiveness
Fasting
Growth
Mercy
Luke

Friendship
Healing
Prayer
Holy
God

Jerusalem
Worship
Spirit
Hope

Believe
Church
Jesus
Lent

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.

“Bakeless” Bake Sale: The WOG will be holding a “Bakeless” Bake Sale February through March. Proceeds from the “Bakeless” Bake Sale will raise money for the high school senior scholarship fund. Please check your mailbox for a donation envelope. You may place your envelope in the offering plate or gray mailbox outside the church office. Thank you for generosity!

The Women of Grace are encouraged to stay informed by visiting the womenoftheelca.org website.

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

2026 Upcoming Events:

One Heart Women’s Seminar: February 28th, 2026. The Wisconsin Hotel, Lake Dalton, WI 9am-3pm. A day of fellowship, three faith-filled speakers, live worship, morning refreshments, and a complimentary meal! Tickets are \$49 www.oneheartseminar.com

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 for more information. For anyone interested in attending the Gathering in Iowa, there is a bus available from this area heading that way.

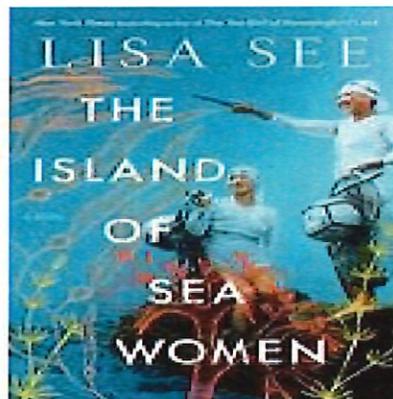
GRACE READERS



Please join us on **February 24th @ 6:30 pm** for Grace Readers, as we enjoy a lively discussion of

“The Island of Sea Women” by Lisa See.

This book takes us on a journey to a place and time of which few of us are familiar. It also celebrates women’s strengths and the strength of their friendships.



February 2026

We will continue with our fundraising effort to find and donate G dollars.

Keep looking for those G dollars!! G for Grace!!

Congregation members will have the choice of:

- putting the G Dollars in the offering plate on Sunday

- putting them in the container in the narthex

- putting them in an envelope. If members put their name on the donation, it will be recorded for their annual giving and you choose the ministry!!





Keep the plastic coming!!

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!!

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, from January to December 2026. Trex has changed up the program and we will continue to strive to receive a bench as well as other prizes quarterly... we will continue because we know this is a good program for our environment.

Please encourage others to join our cause.

And.....we can always use extra help on Sunday mornings....and when we load the trailer for delivery to Festival Foods.

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



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip

February 2026

We've set the goal for 2026 at \$45,000 sales with \$1350 rebates to Grace. Each week, our progress will be posted in the announcements.

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.

A number of local business options are available for you to have immediately. Cards are available Sunday mornings and in the office Monday through Thursday. There are also over 700 other retailers who participate in the program. So if you're looking for something special, please ask!! We can order it!! However, each order shipping costs are \$11 so we don't order every week – so please plan ahead as much as possible with special orders.

If you wish a copy of the list of cards that can be purchased – just stop at the table on Sundays and pick one up. We have three options for you to designate your preferred ministry of Grace Church. Your rebates will help the Youth Fund, General Operational Fund, or the Improvement Fund.

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



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Data Update 2026

Please complete the following for ALL members in your household.

Family Last Name _____

Address _____

City, St, Zip _____

1. First Name _____ Birthdate _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

2. First Name _____ Birthdate _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

3. First Name _____ Birthdate _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

4. First Name _____ Birthdate _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

5. First Name _____ Birthdate _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Thank you for assisting us in keeping our records up to date. If you need to add additional names and information, please use the back side of the sheet.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Kennedy	Gabrielski	02/02
Claire	Washkoviak	02/04
Jackson	Kimpel	02/06
Dustin	McCarroll	02/06
Ruth	Cornwell	02/08
Reid	Stolfuss	02/08
Arlene	Williams	02/08
Adam	Franke	02/10
Kaitlyn	Worthing	02/11
Laura	Albright	02/12
Peter	Franke	02/15
Tyler	Draeger	02/17
Logan	Slate	02/17
Nicole	Trochinski	02/17
Linda	Preissner	02/18
Herman	Leitz	02/20
Tessa	Zills	02/20
Barb	Becker	02/21
Virgil	Zills	02/21
Mary	Karsnia	02/23
Aiden	Pick	02/24
Cooper	Christopherson	02/26
Luther	Olsen	02/26
Aaron	Otto	02/26
Peggy	Salmela	02/27
Aaron	Zimdars	02/27
Nathan	Zimdars	02/27
Marta	Teletzke	02/28

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

2/14/1956	Ott, Betty & Edgar
2/18/1989	Wallace, Peter & Suzanne
2/25/2006	Olsen, Luther & Joan Wade

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

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 *Worship 9 am *Sunday School 10:15 am *Wired Word 10:15 AM	2 *Eve Circle 1pm *Bethany Circle 6:30 pm	3	4 *Handbells 4:15 pm *Choir 5 pm *Confirmation 6:30 pm	5 *MAGIC 6:30 pm	6	7
8 *Worship 9 am *Sunday School 10:15 am *Wired Word 10:15 am	9	10 *Sharing Table 5 pm	11 *Handbells 4:15 pm *Choir 5 pm *Confirmation 6:30 pm	12 *MAGIC 6:30 pm	13	14 *Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:30 am Ripon Family Restaurant
15 *Worship 9 am *Sunday School 10:15 am *Wired Word 10:15 am	16 *Church Council 6 pm	17 *BLOOD DRIVE 12:30-5:30 PM	18 *Handbells 4:15 pm *Choir 5 pm *Ash Wed. Service 6:30 pm *Confirmation 7:15 pm	19 *MAGIC 6:30 pm	20	21
22 *Worship 9 am *Sunday School 10:15 am *Wired Word 10:15 am	23	24 *Grace Readers 6:30 pm	25 *Handbells 4:15 pm *Choir 5 pm *Soup Supper 5:45 pm *Lent Service 6:30 pm *Confirmation 7:15 pm	26 *MAGIC 6:30 pm	27	28 *Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:30 am Ripon Family Restaurant

Social Concerns Committee

February 2026

Since it has been our lot to find, at every parting of the road, the helping hand of comrade kind, to help us with our heavy load: and since we have no gold to give, and love alone must make amends, our humble prayer while we live is; 'God, make me worthy of my friends'.

Tomorrow is not promised us, so let us take today and make the most of it. Just speak aloud the kindly thought and do the kindly deed. Try to see and understand some fellow man's troubles. Your own burden will lose some weight and you will both be better prepared to meet the pathways ahead.

January, the time of year to go over our records and see what we want to change for the coming year. Tax season, when we share our fortunes with the government, when we share our fortunes with the land of the free. Let us gladly share for not everyone has the opportunities that we do.

February, is also that time of the year for The Committee's Souper Bowl of Caring. Those *unexpired, non-perishable food items* for the food pantry or monetary consideration. The food pantry that is a life line for sustaining the body with nourishment for exactly those less fortunate than we. As in the past, The Committee will also have the soup stock pot available if a monetary contribution might be your preference. Whichever you may choose to do, please remember that you are giving that helping hand to share your fortune with someone who is in need.

The shopping cart and soup stock pan will be available Jan 25th thru Feb 8th. Feb 8th, the other Super Bowl.

Do you have something that the Social Concerns Committee should know about? Please let us know so that we may take it under consideration and discuss.

As we give greetings to this New Year, we should pledge ourselves to follow the light from above: the light of Truth wherever it may lead. The light of Freedom, revealing new opportunities for self and neighborhood service. A light of Faith, opening new visions of better world to be. The light of Love, daily binding brother to brother and man to God in ever closer bonds of friendship and affection. Guided by this light we shall go forward to the work of another year with steadfastness and confidence.

Shalom:

Jolene Nelson-Chair, Charlotte Tabbert-Secretary, Steve Hollenback-Publicity.





Grace Lutheran Church

430 W Griswold St
Ripon, WI 54971

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
@ www.graceripon.com
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Grace Lutheran Church

Clay Salmela-Pastor

pastor@graceripon.com

Andrea Washkovick-Office Manager

office@graceripon.com

Luther Olsen-Treasurer

finance@graceripon.com

Herm Leitz-Property Manager

herm.leitz@myself.com

Lily Hoffmann-Choir & Handbells Director

LilyRayMusic@gmail.com

William Louis -Brux-Music Director

williamclouisbrux@gmail.com

Maddy Pinnow-Youth Director

madelyn@graceripon.com