

In the Loop with Pastor Clay

What do Germanfest and Kids Church Camp (VBS) have in common?

Last week I was on vacation and on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday family, friends, and I enjoyed the annual Germanfest in Milwaukee. We experienced great company, visiting, German music, culture, food, and beer. This week I'm back at work and four Ripon Churches came together to offer the Ripon Area Kids Church Camp (a.k.a., VBS) Monday - Thursday at Immanuel United Methodist Church. What could these two seemingly unrelated events have in common? Well, hopefully it's not enjoying good German beers, but there are a lot of commonalities!

To be successful, both events required a lot of vision, planning, coordination, training, set-up, and execution from a lot of caring, dedicated people, both paid and volunteer. Both events had a focus. With one, the focus was on German culture and *Gemütlichkeit* (the German word for good cheer, warmth, friendliness, a sense of belonging, and well-being springing from social acceptance.) With the other, the focus was on Christian faith, the culture it encourages, and a kind of holy "*Gemütlichkeit*."

Many different kinds of people gathered at Germanfest. (They weren't only Germans!) All well-intentioned people were welcome to come and enjoy Germanfest. And many came – people from different backgrounds.... ethnicities, ideologies, politics, young, old, Wisconsinites, out-of-staters, religions, no religion, wealthy, not-so-wealthy, retired, working (in many different fields), etc. All these different people gathered together at a specific geographical area, and we all got along and had a great time. Kids Church Camp was a lot like that – all kinds of interesting and different people gathered together at a specific geographical area to interact as friends, explore the nature of God and God's Gospel message, enjoy our time together, praise God and reflect his glory through learning, collaborative interaction, fun, supporting a charity (Sleep in Heavenly Peace, beds for kids), and seeing how each person can follow in Jesus's footsteps as an individual and as a member of a group/church to bring the kingdom of heaven near.

Both Germanfest and the Ripon Area Kids Church Camp sound like great models for our communities, churches, country, and world. Each had a different main focus, but each demonstrated how people can reflect Jesus's love, passion, respect, and dignity to accomplish great and holy things.

Thank you to all who made the Ripon Area Kids Church Camp and Germanfest such great events through your various forms of generous support!

Romans 15:5-7 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

God's blessings to you for a safe and enjoyable August!

Pastor Clay

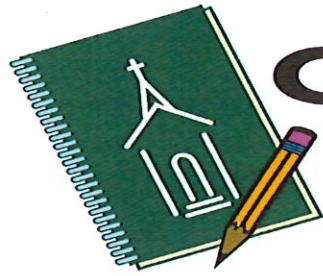
Church Council 2026



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
LILY HOFFMANN (2028)	920-279-3695	lilyraymusic@gmail.com



Council Notes

July 2026 Council Meeting at a Glance:

- Tabled the Treasurer's report for June 2026 as the year to date reports were not available because of moving up the Council Meeting date.
- The Church Council will use part of the August meeting time to implement the newly created Council New Member Orientation program.
- Motion to maintain the Sunday School time for the 2026-27 school year to approximately ½ way through the service (about 9:20) to allow parents and children to finish up with their Church experience at about the same time. m/s/c Katie Worthing/Will Louis-BruX
- The Council is exploring photography companies to update the Church Directory.
- A meeting of the Church Council, Committee Chairpeople and Members, and all interested congregation members will be held on August 30 in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service to explore ideas for committee restructuring. All are welcome!
- Approved a motion to open a new Grace Lutheran Church checking account at Fortifi Bank for the Cantata to be managed by Melanie Oppor and Luther Olsen. m/s/c Katie Worthing/Will Louis-BruX
- Accepted the resignation of Ruth Dodson from Church Council effective on July 12, 2026. m/s/c Jamie Jahnke/Katie Worthing
- The Council is seeking a Grace member to fill a one-year vacancy on the Council.
- Approved motion to terminate the soft plastic/plastic bag collection project. m/s/c Will Louis-BruX/Katie Worthing Thank you to Sue Mokler and the late Peter Christianson for having brought this recycling ministry to Grace and to all the volunteers and participants who made it a success! Please continue recycling by dropping off your plastic bags at HyVee , Immanuel Methodist Church, or Our Saviors UCC.

Conversation, Coffee, & Cookies

Who? All members of Grace, Committee Chairs & Members, Church Council

When? Immediately following the service on August 30 **Where?** Fellowship Hall



Why? Grace does amazing ministries through our various committees and organizations. However, we are finding ourselves spread thin. This can make carrying out our essential ministries a bit more challenging. Let's discuss how we can work together to streamline our responsibilities so that our essential ministries can successfully continue. This time of fellowship and brainstorming will be facilitated by the Church Council.

Christian Education

August 2026

Christian Education Team Meetings

Sunday, August 9th at 10:15 a.m. in the Sunday School Office **All Are Welcome!**

Events/Activities:

July 27th - July 30th VBS (Kids Church Camp)

Register at riponvbs.org or speak to Laurie Parks
Welcome Back Bonfire – Date TBD



No Sunday School (Classes will resume in September)

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

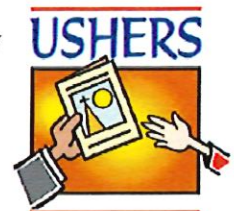
Laurie Parks Maddy Pinnow

Laurieparks26@gmail.com or madelyn@graceripon.com



Help needed on Grace Usher Teams:

We are still looking for ushers! If you are interested in serving on an Usher Team or have additional questions about the position, please call or stop by the Church office and leave your name and contact information.



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. Please watch announcements as times may change during the summer.

****Eve Circle:** Ladies, our first gathering will be **Monday, September 14th** beginning at 1 pm in the Church Lounge. Please mark your calendars! Our Lesson will be Session Two, God's Name, God's promise from the March/April/May 2026 Gather magazine. **All ladies are welcome~**

****Bethany Circle** will meet August 3rd, at 6:30pm. **

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.

The Triennial just concluded in Des Moines, Iowa. Several ladies from area Oshkosh and Appleton churches took part in the event. We look forward to seeing pictures posted on the WELCA website.

2026 Upcoming Events:

FALL RETREAT: Saturday, November 7 2026, at the Mt. Morris Conference Center
"Walking by Faith and Tripping Constantly"

Featuring Franki Moscato, singer and speaker. Franki is an American singer/songwriter, actress and national speaker. She believes her music is a form of ministry, and her passion for praising the Lord through her voice has shaped her entire career. There will be crafts and fellowship, Tai Chi, and Labyrinth practices. See WOG board for more details on how to sign up.



Grace Lutheran Church is proud to present the world premiere of *When Life Awakened: A Christmas Cantata*, an original Christmas work by composer **William C. Louis-Brux**, featuring six professional vocal soloists and orchestra, under the direction of **Dr. Paul Thompson**, Chair of Choral Music at Ripon College.

Sunday, December 20, 2026 • 2:00 PM

Ripon High School Auditorium

Choose your own seats!

Tickets from: \$10-\$20

Tickets available online only: [gracelutheranchurch1.ticketspice.com/when-life-](https://gracelutheranchurch1.ticketspice.com/when-life-awakened-a-christmas-cantata)

[awakened-a-christmas-cantata](https://gracelutheranchurch1.ticketspice.com/when-life-awakened-a-christmas-cantata)

Come and celebrate the season with family, friends, and neighbors as we gather to

witness a remarkable new Christmas tradition.

Joy has come. Christmas awaits. Life has awakened...



OLD BAGS FOR GRACE August 2026



Thank you to all who have been so diligent to bring in plastic on a regular basis. We believe we have made a difference and have kept soft plastics out of landfills and waterways. However, we have experienced a shortage of members able to sort, weigh, and transport the plastic. And the Church Council has carefully considered how we need to be utilizing our volunteers to the betterment of the church community. The decision has been made to suspend the program at this time.

Please share this news with your friends and neighbors who have been utilizing our program, especially our outside bin – which has been removed.



**THANK YOU at ALL the Grace Church Staff/
and members who volunteered for VBS 2026**



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

August 2026

Grace Lutheran participates in the Raise Right program providing gift cards for over 700 businesses. You buy the cards at face value and Grace receives a percentage rebate for our ministries.

For 2026, we have set a goal of \$45,000 in total sales and a rebate of \$1350.

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.

We are always open to new ideas....and I have received several suggestions to continue to provide cards from Crossroads Market in Green Lake as well as to add Pick N Save cards that can be used anywhere in Wisconsin. I will pursue both....and am open to additional suggestions for improvements to the program.

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..

8:15 Club

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."

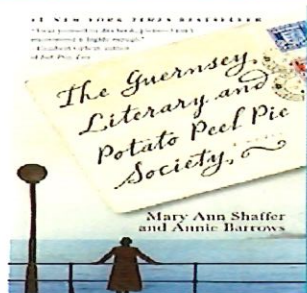


The June 8:15 Club gathering was a successful one!! We met at Grace and had a great potluck picnic as well as great conversation!! Thank you to everyone who was able to join us!!

Plans for the August gathering are still in the works...so pay close attention to your email, bulletin inserts, and announcements. Sometimes plans materialize on short notice and we'll let everyone know. If you have any ideas – please be sure to share them with Bob Eidahl or Sue Mokler.

The 8:15 Club is open to ALL adults at Grace. We plan a variety of events to encourage fellowship and interaction. We would also like our group to grow – so please know ALL adults are encouraged to join us.

Sometimes plans materialize on short notice and we'll let everyone know... Sometimes we are able to plan far enough ahead to make sure it's in Grace Notes... either way, YOU are always welcome!!



Grace Readers will meet on Tuesday, August 25 at 6:30 pm in the lounge to discuss ***The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*** by **Annie Barrows**. Join us for great conversation, lots of laughs & heart-warming fellowship.



Bradley	Gabrielski	08/01
Scarlet	Hernandez	08/01
Brady	Albright	08/02
Linda	Huth	08/02
Melanie	Simpkins	08/02
Judith	Gustafson	08/05
Patti	Albright	08/06
Paul	Trochinski	08/07
Josh	Novitske	08/08
Dan	Amdahl	08/10
Sidney	Hernandez	08/10
Jensine	Salmela	08/11
Max	Saylor	08/11
Alyssa	Bradley	08/12
Eliza	Stephenson	08/13
Josh	Rieder	08/14
Allyn	Gryske	08/15
Douglas	Kelm	08/15
Dennis	Fulwider	08/16
Vicky	Stollfuss	08/17
John	Perr	08/18
Jamie	Jahnke	08/19
Pam	Werth	08/19
Lisa	Wiese	08/19
Moniqua	Worthing	08/19
Brad	Larschied	08/20
Joanna	Salmela	08/20
Ryan	Metoxen	08/21
John	Perr	08/21
Jacqueline	Peterson	08/21
Robert	Webster	08/21
Jackson	Gabrielski	08/23
Jeffrey	Hunger	08/23
Andrew	Heatley	08/24
Karen	Hillier	08/26
Zach	Kelm	08/29
David	Duehring	08/30

8/1/1980	Eidahl, Cindy & Robert
8/5/1995	Wargula, Michael & Gail
08/10/0000	Slate, Mark & Anja
8/10/1974	Kelm, Doug & Kathy
8/14/2004	Trochinski, Paul & Nicole
8/15/1971	Becker, Greg & Barb
8/23/1972	Saylor, Terry & Max
8/25/2018	Christopherson, Sarah & PJ
8/28/1965	Langeberg, Marjorie & Roger
8/30/1975	Krauss, Diane & Norton

VISIT THE HOMEBOUND:

Maplecrest -

Faye Zacharias

Prairie Place-

Arlene Thiem & LeRoy Holl

Russell Manor-

Jackie Steifner & Jean Zeto

Valley VNA-

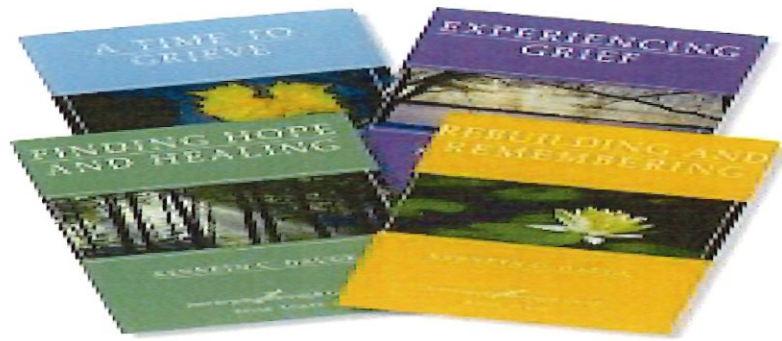
Mary Jane Schanke

Whispering Pines-

Jeannine Tomaszewski

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 *Worship 9 am	3 *Bethany Circle 6:30 pm	4	5	6	7	8 Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:30 am
9 *Worship 9 am	10	11 *Sharing Table 5 pm	12	13 *Knuth's Trivia Night 6 pm	14	15
16 *Worship 9 am *Coffee Hour- Birthdays & Anniversaries	17 *Church Council 6 pm	18 *Blood Drive 12:30 pm-5:30 pm	19	20	21	22 Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:30 am
23 *Worship 9 am	24	25 *Grace Readers 6:30 pm	26	27	28	29
30 *Worship 9 am	31					



Thank you to the Grace Lutheran Endowment Committee for approving grant funds to start a new **Journeying Through Grief** program at Grace. This new caring outreach is another way we can offer our ongoing support to grieving families in our congregation. With the grant funds, we were able to purchase booklets, published by the Stephen's Ministry, and postage to start the program. The grief support booklets are mailed or delivered four times during the first year, following the loss of a loved one. A sample of the booklets will be in the church office, if you would like to learn more. As you become aware of members who have recently lost a spouse, child or parent, please let the office know so we can reach out to them.

**For more information, please
contact Andrea, Pastor Clay,
or Melanie Simpkins.**



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