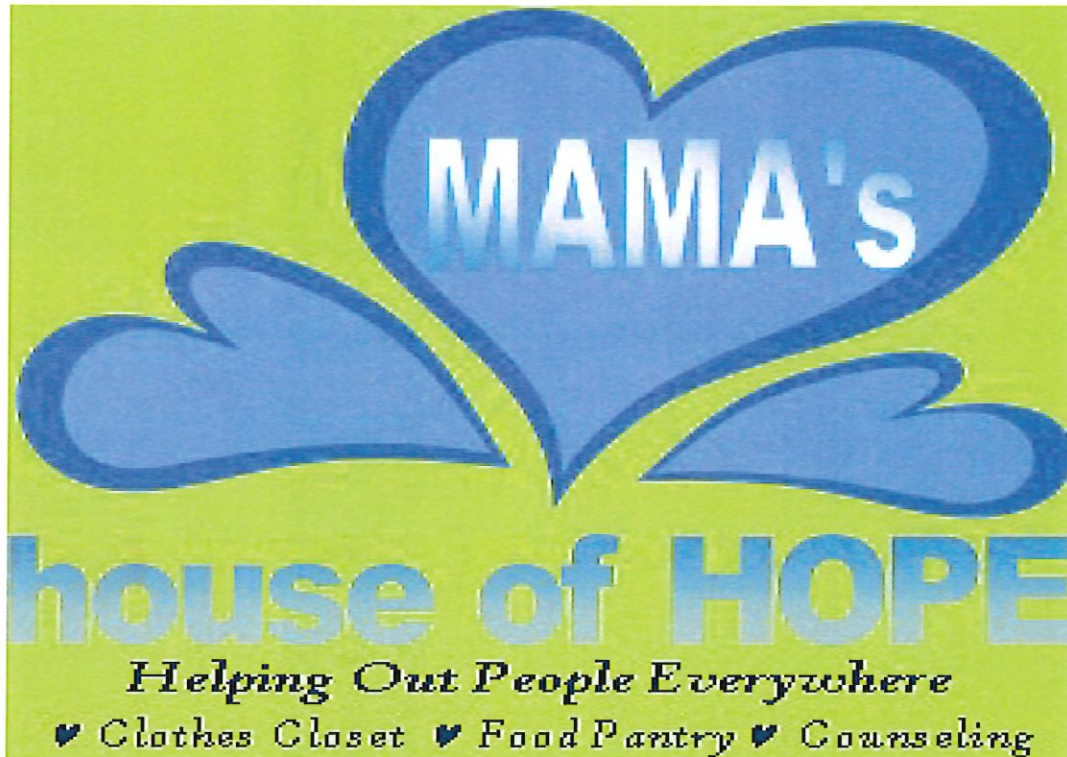


In the Loop with Pastor Clay –



MAMA'S House of Hope

was a project Pastor Sue Sheffer-Meyer started when she was Pastor in Marion, WI in the early 2000's.

It continues today to serve the Marion community .

Let's honor Pastor Sue!!!

The Council is pledging \$200.00 and challenging the Congregation to match the donation to MAMA'S House. Donations of gently used household items are also being accepted. There will be a donation container in the Narthex and household donations should be stacked in the coatroom

Donations will be accepted through March 15th.

THANK YOU!

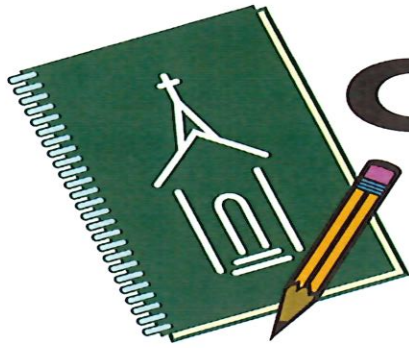
Church Council 2026



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

February 2026 Council Meeting at a Glance

Approved Treasurer's report including envelope offerings and loose offering for January 2026.

Reviewed the coffee hour for this Sunday celebrating birthdays and anniversaries of congregation members.

Sue Mokler reported on her conversation with Pastor Tom Meyer to determine an appropriate gift in remembrance of Pastor Sue. Approved a plan to make a donation to MOM's service in Marion, WI. This was a program to provide for children in need while she was serving as Pastor in Marion. The Council approved announcing this to the congregation and asking for monetary donations as well as clothing, shoes, and other items. More details will be announced during upcoming services.

Discussed and tabled to the March meeting: consideration of reorganization of

Congregation committees and looking at specific duties necessary for the growth of Grace.

Considered New Council Member and New Congregation Member Orientation

Received a presentation from Maddy Pinnow, Youth Ministry, on the recent survey of parents as well as current research data on youth participation in church.

Approved a pilot program to begin March 1 and continue for the rest of the Sunday School year to have the Sunday School students attend the church service and then depart after the Children's Sermon and attend Sunday School. This was based on parent survey results and the recommendation of the Christian Education Committee. Sunday School will end at the same time as the Service.

Approved the registration of a Class B Raffle License at an annual cost of \$50.

Approved the resignation of Will Louis-BruX as organist at Grace.

Approved the revised Job Description of Organist for the application process.

NEW ADDRESS:

Jeannine Tomaszewski would like to share her new address:

Jeannine Tomaszewski

Wolverton Glen

50 Sunset Ave #115

Ripon, WI 54971

Christian Education - Info and Updates

March 2026

Christian Education Team Meetings:

Sunday, March 8th at 11:15 a.m. in the Lounge **-ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Events/Activities:

Glow in the Dark Mini Golf – March 1st 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation – No Classes in March

Lent/Soup Supper – March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

No Sunday School – March 22nd (Spring Break)



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 will be doing an online discussion board throughout the week.

Adults meet in the Lounge for Wired Word.

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

Laurie Parks

Maddy Pinnow

Laurieparks26@gmail.com

or

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.

"Bakeless" Bake Sale: Women of Grace will be holding a "Bakeless" Bake Sale February-March. Proceeds from the sale will raise money for the high-school senior scholarship fund. If you are interested in donating, please pick up a donation envelope from the information table in the Sanctuary or stop in the office during office hours.

You may place your envelope in the offering plate or gray mailbox outside the church office. Please make checks payable to: Women of Grace Thank you for generosity!

Women of Grace Scholarship Applications: are now available in the church office. **Applications are due back to the church office by April 27th, 2026.**

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:



****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.



Looking for funeral luncheon helpers...

Ladies, Gentlemen, we are in need of additional workers for funeral luncheons. If you are available during the day please send your name and telephone number to Judy DeWar at bob.judy96@charter.net or give your name and telephone number to Andrea.

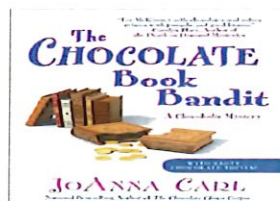
Background - workers arrive one hour before the time for lunch, set the table, receive the food from the caterer, make sure the serving line has continuous food, plates, etc. Then afterwards we clean up. This involves usually three hours. We rotate people so that you will not be called for every luncheon.

GRACE READERS

Join us in the Church lounge **March 24th**

@ 6:30 pm to discuss **"The Chocolate Book Bandit"**

This book is a mystery that centers around chocolate and includes tasty chocolate trivia!





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

March 2026

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



8:15 Club

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 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.

In the most recent months, we have held gatherings at Christiano's, Vines and Rushes, and China 1 as well as a wonderful Christmas Open House at the Kelm's new home. We've learned and played games as well as spent time learning about each other.

As we move forward, we will continue to plan activities and gatherings determined by the group for the group.

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."

Watch for the next gathering and please join us and invite others!!

Next event: Sunday, March 1st

CHINA 1 (Ripon)

MEET AT 5 PM IN THE MAIN DINING ROOM AND ORDER OFF THE MENU





March

BIRTHDAYS

Betty	Liefke	03/01
Todd	Bradshaw	03/02
Diane	Heatley	03/02
Terry	Zimdars	03/02
Sheri	Bradshaw	03/04
Ruth	Langenhorst	03/04
Jayden	Trochinski	03/07
Nicole	Johanknecht	03/09
Owen	Thiem	03/09
Lisa	Beuthin	03/10
Aubrey	Schoff	03/10
David	Albright	03/11
Emily	Hunter	03/11
Jason	Johanknecht	03/11
Clay	Salmela	03/11
Cole	Slark	03/12
Quinn	Ernst	03/13
Steve	Hollenback	03/14
Kathleen	Kelm	03/14
Norine	Zimdars	03/14
Kenneth	Rivers	03/15
Julie	Lind	03/16
Joan	Wade	03/16
Patrick	Christopherson	03/17
Judy	DeWar	03/17
Laura	Heatley	03/17
Cody	Merrill	03/17
Mary	Weich	03/17
Dakota	Paulson	03/18
Brock	Stollfuss	03/20
Jessica	Repka-Hunter	03/21
Faith	Albright	03/22
Richard	Clausen	03/23
Karla	Spinks	03/23
Elizabeth	Brown-Merritt	03/24
Linda	Jess	03/26
Traci	Merrill	03/27
Tammi	Beier	03/28
Lisa	Belau	03/28
Jason	Pick	03/31



March

ANNIVERSARIES

3/2/2012	Zills, Dana & Shelley
3/11/1995	Rosenau, Kevin & LuAnn
3/20/2010	Gabrielski, Tom & MacKenzie
3/22/1975	Stollfuss, George & Vicky
3/31/1985	Rivers, Terry & Kenneth

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

Wolverton Glen-

Jeannine Tomaszewski

March 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 1 pm *Bethany Circle 6:30 pm	3	4 *Handbells 4:15 pm *Choir 5 pm *Soup Supper 5:45 pm *Lent Service 6:30 pm *Confirmation	5 *MAGIC 6:30 pm *Living Last Supper Rehearsal 6:45 pm	6	7 *Property Committee LIGHTS
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 *Soup Supper 5:45 pm *Lent Service 6:30 pm *Confirmation	12 *MAGIC 6:30 pm *Living Last Supper Rehearsal 6:45 pm	13	14 *Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 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	18 *Handbells 4:15 pm *Choir 5 pm *Soup Supper 5:45 pm *Lent Service 6:30 pm *Confirmation	19 *MAGIC 6:30 pm *Living Last Supper Rehearsal 6:45 pm	20 April Grace Notes Articles Due	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	26 *MAGIC 6:30 pm *Living Last Supper Rehearsal 6:45 pm	27	28 *Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am @ Ripon Family Restaurant
29 *Worship 9 am *Sunday School 10:15 am *Wired Word 10:15 am	30	31				

Social Concerns Committee

To begin with a report for the Souper Bowl of Caring; \$124 was collected in monetary contributions. In cans/boxes 135 items were collected. Five personal hygiene items were collected. And unfortunately, 9 expired items appeared. Kay Kelch was kind enough to create a display in the front of the church for the Feb 15th service. Items were delivered to the food pantry that week.

March. This month is the 3rd in the year. Meaning one fourth of the year is now gone. What have you accomplished so far?

March also draws near the end of the winter months. Months of cold, gray skies, illness abound from the weather and the health risks associated with snow removal, and conditions in any abusive/controlling relationship. We have had some really cold weather. Other parts of the country received winter weather many are not equipped to handle.

February was a short month according to the calendar, but it still brought winter weather. The wood piles diminished for the wood burners and fireplaces. Was there enough stock piled? The February thaws bring promise that winter is almost over, the final phase of nature in the natural order of the universe.

It is a combination of these winter factors that have an effect on many people. Whether you live in a metropolitan area or in a rural agronomy setting. May is designated as Mental Health Awareness Month with September designated as Suicide Prevention Month, these things are present all year long. The gray winter days sometimes seem to be accelerant in feeling of doom and gloom. There are other factors in this condition such as the loss of a loved one during the season or even a long time, an end of a relationship, and other life changing events that same at the time, unsurmountable, including the winter fires causing loss of living quarters.

These mental health conditions should be many of ours concerns. It is 'ours' Social Concerns. The two aforementioned prevention and awareness months always promote the resources available including the 9 8 8 for professional help. However, there is nothing wrong is talking it out with someone in your inner circle. Or it might be that someone of your inner circle has noticed a change. First reaction might be to become upset at the thought. But, instead take a moment and be most grateful that there is someone who cares. There is not, any problem that can't be worked, which is temporary, with an action that is permanent with not reversal.

Spring is to come. A new season is to come. Along with it, the Easter Season. Remember Christ died for us. But he is risen.

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





Grace Lutheran Church

430 W Griswold St

Ripon, WI 54971



Inside This Issue:



In the Loop,, Church Council	1-3
Christian Education, Women of Grace	4-5
Looking for Volunteers ,Grace Readers, Old Bags	6-7
Raise Right, 8:15 Club	8-9
Birthdays & Anniversaries, Calendar, Social Concerns	10-12

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