

# In the Loop with Pastor Clay –

## Thank You from Ukraine

Grace Lutheran Church (that includes you!) is making a big positive difference in the lives of children and families in Ukraine who have suffered terribly due to the Russian invasion which began in 2014. That war intensified in February 2022 and, tragically, thousands of families and children (many of them orphaned) need various forms of care and support, to include adoption services. In 2025 we/Grace contributed \$3,091.78 to Kidsave-Ukraine. What follows is a Thank you letter from Randi E. Thompson, CEO, President, and Adoptive Mom from Kidsave, so you can see that our donations are supporting great and compassionate work to love our neighbors and to follow in Jesus's footsteps of concern, care, and generosity:

Dear Pastor Clay. Thank you very much for Grace Lutheran Church's generous gift to support Kidsave's work in Ukraine. In 2025 we served more than 347 children through our Family Visit and Pathway to Success programs. Through our emergency service response efforts, we provided critical support to over 13,000 Ukrainian children and families.

For many children in Ukraine, war is all they have ever known. Your support helps us provide refuge for these children at our Kidsave Miracles Center in the Carpathian Mountains. There these children can play outside without fear, and rest in the comfort that only comes from knowing they are safe. When the children first arrive at the Miracles Center, it can be hard for them to accept that they are safe. Every day the children meet with trained psychologists who provide war trauma therapy. The children also participate in activities like art and play therapy to help them process what they've been through.

Children without families have suffered the most. Weathering the ongoing war in an orphanage or institution only compounds their trauma. While the children are at the Miracles Center, our team works tirelessly to ensure they can leave with a family rather than return to a shelter or orphanage.

Thank you so much for your needed support for our Ukrainian friends.  
With gratitude, Randi

Since a high percentage of Ukraine's resources must be allocated to their war effort to protect and maintain their freedom and independence, only scant resources are left for social services to help those in need. Therefore, Kidsave-Ukraine depends on financial support from generous and caring people in other countries to help pay their Ukrainian staff, build and maintain facilities, and provide the services on which so many families and children depend. We're part of that faithful team! We plan to collect and send financial contributions to Kidsave-Ukraine for at least the remainder of 2026. Along with Randi, I gratefully thank you for your continuing life-changing and generous support!

May you have an enjoyable, safe, and peaceful May!

*Pastor Clay*

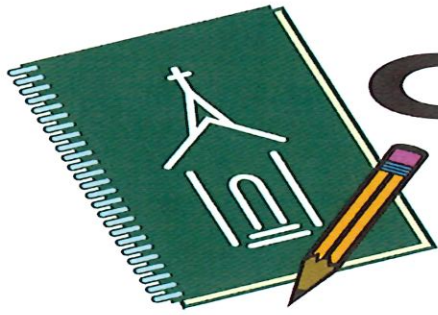
# Church Council 2026



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

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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

## April 2026 Council Meeting at a Glance

- Approved Treasurer's report including envelope offerings and loose offerings for March 2026.
- Reviewed the coffee hour for this Sunday celebrating birthdays and anniversaries of congregation members.
- Discussed and tabled to future consideration the reorganization of Congregation committees and looking at specific duties necessary for the growth of Grace. Postponed a possible Congregation listening session in regard to committees.
- Continued discussion on our long term goal of being a more welcoming church and new ideas for continued growth and success.
- Approved the Job Description of Youth Coordinator, Organist, and Choir/Handbell Director.
- Discussed the focus of the May congregational meeting and election of church council members.



**Church Council will be holding a Listening Session immediately following Worship**

**5/17/26**

# Christian Education

May 2026

## Christian Education Team Meetings

- Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:15 a.m. in the Sunday School/Youth Office –ALL are welcome

## Events/Activities:

- Confirmation Class @ 6:30 p.m. – May 6<sup>th</sup> & May 13<sup>th</sup>

- Last Day of Sunday School - May 10<sup>th</sup>



Classes are available to everyone beginning after the Children's Sermon beginning around 9:15 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+ are encouraged to assist in the nursery or in the Sunday School classroom.
- 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**



# 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.

***NOTE: EVE CIRCLE WILL NOT MEET IN JUNE, JULY, OR AUGUST- WE WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER –ENJOY YOUR SUMMER !***

**“Bakeless” Bake Sale:** Thank you to everyone for the generous contributions to the Bakeless Bake Sale! These monetary donations will go towards the High School Scholarship fund. You may continue to donate to the fund anytime throughout the year.

**Women of Grace Scholarship Applications:** Were due back to the church office by April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The Scholarship winner will be announced in May.

**Appleton/Oshkosh Conference Spring Event;** Was held April 25, 2026 at All Saints Lutheran Church in Oshkosh. We had 14 ladies from Grace attend to learn about the enchanting Labyrinth.

The Women of Grace are encouraged to stay informed by visiting the [womenoftheelca.org](http://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](http://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.

**FALL RETREAT:** Walking by Faith and Tripping Constantly  
Speakers, worship, and all the things you look forward to at the ECSW Women of the ELCA fall retreat. More information to come with details and a few surprises, of course!  
Date of the fall retreat is being finalized—stay tuned.

## 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 know all adults are encouraged 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.

We try to plan to gather for dinner once per month. We're also planning a potluck picnic for summer. We've had some great gatherings at China 1, Margaritas Mexican Grill, Christiano's, and Knuth's. We had a wonderful Christmas gathering hosted by Doug and Kathy Kelm.

Please watch Facebook, announcements, bulletin inserts, and your email for updates. 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!!

ALL adult members of Grace are invited to join us for fellowship and fun!!

**NEXT OUTING: MINESHAFT (2041 S. KOLLER, OSHKOSH)**

**5:30 PM-MEET THERE or 4:45 PM CAR POOL @ GRACE**

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."*

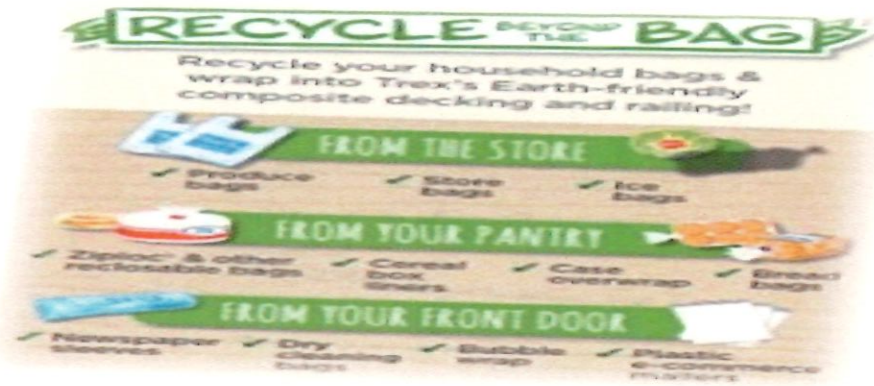


## **Let's plan for MORE fellowship at Grace!!**

The Church Council has put a plan into place to have a coffee hour on the last Sunday of every month to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month.

HOWEVER....if you or someone in your family has a birthday that month and you would like to sponsor...sign up on the Board to do so. If you are signed up for a specific month... it is totally up to you what you want to serve!!

We'd also like to get back to the days before Covid when we had a coffee hour almost every week....so please sign up and bring whatever you wish to serve.



## May 2026

We continue with our program to recycle SOFT plastics. Thank you to all who have been so diligent to bring in plastic on a regular basis. And here's an invitation to all of you who have not yet caught on to the excitement. Start saving your soft plastic and you'll be surprised at how quickly you have a considerable amount to provide.

Remember, this is only SOFT plastic ...NO pop bottles, milk jugs, or stiff plastic containers for this project...only soft plastic. Also no plastic bags that have aluminum threads or fiberglass threads woven in them. But think about all the places there is plastic in your life... including produce bags, store bags, and ice bags as well as Ziploc bags, cereal box liners, and bread bags. Bubble wrap, newspaper covers, and plastic e-commercial covers as well as water softener salt bags and dry cleaning bags. Keep watch...you'll find more than you think!! Recently, we have encountered garbage and dirty diapers in the donations...PLEASE pay close attention and make sure that ONLY SOFT plastic make it into our containers.

Thank you in advance for all your donations!! You can bring in your donations on Sundays or whenever the building is open...OR there is a container outside of the Youth/Sunday School entrance that can be used to donate plastic when the building is not open. You may encourage friends and neighbors to use that container as well.

When we weigh and turn in 1000 pounds of plastic...we are entitled to a bench. Thank you to all!!





# RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip

May 2026

Monthly update on progress toward our goal....

Three weeks into April, sales to date are \$9,745 with rebates totaling \$286. 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** use your cards within a reasonable amount of time!! We have had some instances recently where cards- especially Kwik Trip GAS cards - start to charge a fee and go down in value. So please check the back of your card for any usage details!! And on my end, I will start documenting the date of purchase and making sure I give you a valid card.

We also have some cards that have been in inventory for quite some time...and although they are NOT cards that lessen in value, but still cards that I would prefer to have them in your hands being used!! Please pick up the list of available cards...and let's talk about what works for you! Thank you for your participation!!

**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.

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

## Grant Application Instructions

The Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Committee is accepting applications for grants to be awarded in June 2026. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Endowment Fund, grants are to provide support for missions, outreach, education, and youth. Endowment Funds will not be granted for church budgeted items.

### Grant application guidelines:

**Applications are to be received by May 31, 2026. If all available funds are not distributed in June, special grant requests will be considered through the year.**

Submit a typed proposal. The proposal must include: -

-applicant(s) name

-organization

-address

-phone number

-e-mail address

-amount requested

-how the money will be used

-an explanation how the proposal fits with church mission, outreach, education, or youth.

**The applications may be placed in the church mailbox of Cindy Eidahl, e-mailed to [eidahlc@yahoo.com](mailto:eidahlc@yahoo.com) or left in the church office (Attn: Endowment Fund Committee)**



Diane	Krauss	05/01
Brett	Lind	05/02
Ed	Mauermann	05/02
Noah	Hanson	05/05
Philip	Karsnia	05/05
Alfred	Huth	05/06
Mitchael	Perr	05/06
Sophia	Walheim	05/08
Kannon	Happel	05/09
Creed	Klein	05/09
Judi	Lund	05/11
Henry	Walheim	05/12
George	Stollfuss	05/13
Joyce	Foss	05/14
David	Schoff	05/14
Amy	Slark	05/14
Shelley	Zills	05/15
Melanie	Oppor	05/17
Austin	Franke	05/18
Dan	Gabrielski	05/18
William	Louis-BruX	05/19
Dana	Zills	05/21
Robert	Krauss	05/22
Lisa	Brown Hunger	05/23
Cynthia	Eidahl	05/24
Ruth	Gross	05/24
Vivian	Stephenson	05/24
Tom	Gabrielski	05/26
Kennedy	Johnson	05/29
Julia	Jahnke	05/30

5/3/2008 Larschied, Tonia & Brad  
 5/5/1979 McConnell, Douglas & Luanne  
 5/9/1970 Gabrielski, Gale & Mary  
 5/12/1973 Webster, Kathy & Rob  
 5/13/2000 Heatley, Jon & Diane  
 5/13/2005 Rieder, Josh & Sara  
 5/14/1983 Liptow, Sherry & Roger  
 5/22/1985 Huth, Alfred & Linda  
 5/24/1987 Zimdars, Norine & Terry  
 5/28/1988 Meyer, Dan & Jolene

**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**

# Social Concerns Committee

## May 2026

Spring has sprung and the warmer sunshine brings forth new colors from the bulbs underground. We see Nature's glory unfolding day by day, like a big book opening before us. Each morning as we rise we find new words printed on the hills and valley the earth

With the beginning of Spring, so came Easter, and just as Nature is finding a new season, so can we in spirit find joy and new awakenings as we ponder the marvels that God provides. A new day, a fresh start lies before us each morning.

Waking for the day in April as well as May, we may hear rain pounding on the roof, wind whistling around the house and drops of rain drumming on the windows, we welcome these showers of living liquid. Even when we may choose the nice Spring sunshine for any day, the clouds of gray and gloom are a vital part of the awakening new life in our realms. A balanced dose of sunshine & rain is what it takes for everything to grow.

And so it is in our daily lives, to keep our spirit alive. We may choose the sunny path, yet we need the storms of life to temper our souls, to help us find feeling & compassion for those with lesser fortunes in life. To yield to traces of sorrow, then arise with a song in the sunlight makes us better people

Begin your day with friendly thoughts & deeds, and all those you meet will feel the cheer & may greet you in turn & wish you a happy day.



# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Wired Word 10:15 am	4 Eve Circle 1 pm Bethany Circle 6:30 pm	5	6 Choir 5 pm-Last Day Confirmation 6:30 pm	7 National Day of Prayer @ Grace 12 pm MAGIC 6:30 pm	8	9 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am -Ripon Family Restaurant
10 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Wired Word 10:15 am <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	11	12 SHARING TABLE 5 PM	13 Last Day of Confirmation 6:30 pm	14 MAGIC 6:30 pm	15	16
17 Worship 9 am Listening Session- after worship	18 Church Council 6 pm	19 8:15 Club 5:30 pm-Mineshaft 4:45 -Car pool @ Grace	20	21 Last day of MAGIC 6:30 pm	22	23 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am -Ripon Family Restaurant
24 Worship 9 am POLKA SUNDAY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	25 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 9 am Coffee Hour- Celebrate Birthdays & Anniversaries						



# Grace Lutheran Church

430 W Griswold St

Ripon, WI 54971



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

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