In the Loop with Pastor Clay –

The Christian Voter's Guide

Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.

In case you hadn't noticed we are at the tail end of an election cycle. (But how could you not have noticed, what with all the seemingly non-stop political advertising?!) Election Day is Tuesday, November 3 rd . We people of faith have a duty to be reasonably informed about what's going on in our country and community, about candidates' character and their political positions, and then to vote for the candidates we think will be best for us and for our neighbors near and far. But how do we know what votes are the "best"? Here's a pretty good 10-point guide I ran across by Pastor Brian Zahnd from Word of Life Church in St. Joseph, Missouri.

1. The political process, while necessary, has little to do with how God is saving the world.
2. The fate of the Kingdom of God does not depend upon political contests.
3. Don't be naïve. Political parties are more interested in Christian votes than they are in Christian values.
4. The bottom line for political parties is power. The bottom line for a Christian is love. And therein lies the rub.
5. While in pursuit of the Ring of Power, you are not permitted to abandon the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5, 6, and 7.)
6. If your political passion makes it hard for you to love your neighbor as yourself, you need to turn down your political passion a notch.
7. Your task is to bring the salt of Christian civility to an ugly and acrimonious political process.
. To dismember the body of Christ (the church) over politics is a grievous sin.
9. Exercise your liberty to vote your conscience and conviction, while accepting that other Christians will do the same and vote differently than you.
10. It is more important that your soul be filled with love than it is for your political team to win the game.

Even though our system of government isn't perfect, it is a blessing from God and we're blessed and privileged to be able to participate in it. We read in the Bible that the Prophets, Jesus, and his disciples/apostles were involved in politics. We have seen throughout history that when, on the one hand, countries and their leaders were unfaithful, those counties (the people) invariably suffered. When, on the other hand, countries and their leaders followed the ways of Christ, God invariably blessed them and they prospered in the areas that truly matter. On November 3 rd. , I encourage you to allow the ways of Jesus and our Christian faith to be your Voter's Guide!

God's blessings to you for a Thankful November!

Pastor Clay



The congregation members of Grace Lutheran will meet on ***Sunday, November 15th immediately following the service.*** The agenda item for the meeting is the approval of allocating $11,000 to install an Auto-Operator at the front door to accommodate those with wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility concerns. The council is recommending approval of this expenditure and has secured a bid from Tri City Glass and Door, who currently maintains all our exit doors .



COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Melaine Oppor-President (2027)	920-896-3133	jmdopp86@gmail.com
Sue Mokler-Vice President (2028)	920-279-1573	samokler49@gmail.com
Jamie Jahnke-Secretary (2027)	920-392-4650	Skiesareblue44@gmail.com
William Louis-Brux (2028)	920-344-4381	williamclouisbrux@gmail.com
Lily Hoffmann (2028)	920-279-3695	LilyRayMusic@gmail.com
Bob Zahn (2029)	920-290-1638	kaybobzahn@gmail.com
Steve Sell (2029)	920-718-3532	selco7448@gmail.com

Council At A Glance

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.

While some discussion/issues/actions having to do with personal information will remain confidential, Grace & Council is committed to being as open and transparent as possible and making sure we communicate with the congregation members. Please feel free to communicate with Council members and/or Pastor Clay if you have any questions or comments.

As always, Council meetings are open to congregation members. You are welcome to join us!!

MISSION OF THE MONTH:

FOND DU LAC COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

October 2026 Council Meeting at a Glance:

- Approved Treasurer's report including envelope offerings and loose offerings through Sept 2026.
- Evaluated financials as compared to budget for 2026.
- Received confirmation that InFocus will be taking Photo Directory and family purchase photos on June 7, 8, 10, and 11 of 2027. Information for congregation members will start to be circulated soon.
- Approved the goal of restarting the Evangelism/Fellowship Committee to define and implement improvements at Grace gleaned from the recent special joint committees meeting.
- Approved the bid from GuideOne Insurance company for insurance for the church property.
- Forwarded the recommendation to the congregation to exceed spending of more than $5,000 for Tri City Glass and Door to install Auto-Operator door at the front entrance.
- Set the date for a special congregation meeting for November 15 at 10:15 a.m. Agenda item is the approval of exceeding the spending limit of $5,000 for Auto-Operator door installation. Request will be to spend up to $11,000.
-Approved procedures for budget approved credit card spending and process for using the church credit card.
- Approved Youth & Family Director's attendance at the ELCA Extravaganza in January 2027.
- Received the Property Committee report on possible upcoming replacement and repairs of the boilers (company out of business/no replacement parts) and possible water leaking into the boiler room.
-Tabled possible changes for the monthly schedule of Mission of the Month. Agreed to evaluate which MOM missions resonate best with the congregation as well as survey congregation members. Agreed to ask for suggestions from the congregation on possible MOM missions
-Approved the designation of G-dollars to the installation of the Auto-Operator doors if the congregation approves the expenditure.
-Accepted the resignation of Sharing Table leadership in Sept of 2027 and began discussion for leadership plans moving forward.



Grace Church Council is initiating Fellowship Hour EVERY week after our service. This was initiated on October 25 and is scheduled through the end of 2026. However, the hope is that it will continue into and through 2027. We need the help of congregation volunteers to make the plan work...so please consider hosting a Fellowship Hour in the near future. The sign up list will remain on the bulletin board in the entryway. Sign up today!!

Please know that we are putting the emphasis on the interaction and fellowship that is such an important part of our ministry and our congregation.

That being said – some fellowship hours will be coffee and donuts....some will be the decision of the hosts....but the most important reason to get together is communication and interaction between congregation members.

The Church Council will still host on the Sunday immediately following our Sharing Table every month to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month. A cake will be ordered from Hy-Vee and leftovers will be finished up.

For November and December – the 1 st Sunday of the month will be donuts and coffee, milk, and juice.

You are welcome to sign up for any of the other weeks.....so please sign up and bring whatever you wish to serve. Maybe you can partner with other congregation member(s) and share the responsibility.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

November 2026

Events/Activities:

-November 4 th , 11 th , 18 th – Confirmation Classes
-November 8 th – Christmas Program Rehearsals Begin
-November 29 th – No Sunday School



-Classes are available to everyone beginning after the Children Sermon. 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 or madelyn@graceripon.com

Women's Circles

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.

Fall Retreat: Is scheduled for November 7, 2026 at Mt. Morris Conference Center. Six women from Grace will be attending.

Christmas Outing:

ALL WOMEN OF GRACE



DECEMBER OUTING

You are cordially invited to have breakfast or lunch ***on Tuesday, December 1, 2026*** at WISCO, 307 main street Ripon starting at 11:30 AM. After you select and enjoy eating the item you chose, we will have some games and a reading. At that time, if you wish, you may select a prayer partner, someone to secretly keep in touch with in 2027.

Any questions, please contact Judy DeWar at 920-602-0922 or Peggy Beuthin at 920-748-5697

-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: 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.

Music Ministry — Upcoming Events

There is plenty of music to look forward to at Grace as we move into November and the Christmas season! We invite you, your family, and our community to join us for these upcoming musical celebrations.



Song Fest Sunday — Sunday, November 8

9:00 AM | Grace Lutheran Church

Join us for a special Sunday morning worship service celebrating music and congregational singing! Come ready to lift your voice as we share our faith through familiar hymns and songs.



Community Christmas Hymn Sing — Friday, December 11

5:45 PM Warmups | 6:00 PM Hymn Sing

Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of Christmas music and fellowship!

We'll be singing Christmas favorites straight from the hymnal, with opportunities for everyone to participate. Whether you love to sing or simply enjoy listening, we hope you'll join us.

Can't attend in person? The Hymn Sing will also be broadcast on Grace Lutheran Church's YouTube channel so you can enjoy the music from home.

This event is open to the entire community!



Choir & Children's Christmas Program — Sunday, December 13

9:00 AM Worship Service | Grace Lutheran Church

Our Grace Choir will be singing during the morning worship service alongside our Children's Christmas Program. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season through the voices of our choir and children!



Christmas Handbell Concert — Sunday, December 13

2:00 PM | Grace Lutheran Church

Join us for a special afternoon of Christmas music featuring **original handbell compositions by William C. Louis-Brux (Will).** This concert will bring together handbells, organ, and cello, along with a featured handbell soloist, for a unique musical celebration of the Christmas season.

A freewill offering will be collected during the concert, with proceeds donated to the local food pantry in Ripon. We invite you to enjoy the music while helping support our neighbors in need this Christmas season.

Help Make the Music Happen!

Would you like to help support the production of this special concert? Our music ministry welcomes contributions to help cover concert expenses and make this musical celebration possible.

If you would like to contribute, please select an envelope from the **owl wreath outside the church office.** Include your name, email address, and donation, and place your envelope in the locked **gray mailbox to the left of the office door.**

Your generosity helps us bring beautiful music to our congregation and community while allowing the freewill offering collected at the concert to benefit the food pantry.

Thank you for supporting music at Grace!



Christmas Cantata — Sunday, December 20

2:00 PM | Ripon High School

Celebrate the Christmas season with an afternoon of music at the Christmas Cantata! Join singers and musicians as they come together to share the joy and message of Christmas through music. Get Your Tickets here: 

We hope to see you there!

Music brings us together in worship, fellowship, and celebration. Thank you to everyone who sings, rings, plays, volunteers, and supports our music ministry. We look forward to sharing this wonderful season with you!

Lily Ray Hoffmann
Music Ministry | Grace Lutheran Church
LilyRayMusic@gmail.com

WHEN LIFE AWAKENED

A Christmas Cantata — Six Years of Music, Faith, and Inspiration

Sunday, December 20, 2026 | 2:00 PM | Ripon High School Auditorium

Six years ago, a musical tradition began at Grace Lutheran Church. What started as a Christmas cantata has grown into an annual celebration of faith, music, and community, bringing together musicians, singers, and audiences to experience the Christmas story in an extraordinary way.

This year, that tradition reaches an exciting new milestone!

Composer and Grace Lutheran Church member **William C. Louis-Brux** presents his sixth annual Christmas cantata, *When Life Awakened*, an original musical work that explores one of the most profound moments in human history: the arrival of Christ into a world longing for hope.

But this is much more than a traditional retelling of the Nativity.

When Life Awakened begins in a world consumed by darkness—a world of uncertainty, division, fear, and spiritual longing. Through powerful orchestral music, expressive vocal performances, and an unfolding visual presentation, audiences will journey from that darkness into the extraordinary light of Christ's birth.

The cantata will feature a **23-piece orchestra, six professional vocal soloists from across Wisconsin, and conductor Dr. Paul Thompson.** Musicians representing several area orchestras will come together for this special performance, creating a musical experience rarely encountered in a community Christmas celebration.

Adding another dimension to the presentation, the large screen above the performers will display carefully selected images, video sequences, and text that complement the music and illuminate the story as it unfolds.

This year's performance will take place at the **Ripon High School Auditorium**, allowing us to welcome an even larger audience while providing improved accessibility, comfortable seating, and a stage spacious enough to accommodate our growing musical ensemble.

Tickets are available for purchase online at: 

https://gracelutheranchurch1.ticketspice.com/when-life-awakened-a-christmas-cantata

Complimentary Cantata Tickets Available to Grace Members

Through the kindness and generosity of anonymous donors, a limited number of

complimentary tickets have been made available for Grace Lutheran Church members

and their guests for our sixth annual original Christmas Cantata, When Life Awakened.

Please see Andrea in the office or Pastor Clay to receive your tickets so you too can

experience... A Gift of Christmas Music — From the Heart!

Social Concerns Committee

We welcome the golden mornings that arrive like the pages of a book, each one brings a glory of its own. At and early hour the waning moon hangs in an ebony sky just loaded with stars. Autumn's call is loud and stiffing, evident by the flaming crowns on the trees, the restless and nippy breezes and an empty garden plot.

Of course the golden colors will give way to the black and white and bare leaf trees and piles of snow for the months to come.

This is also the busy holiday season time. The Committee is busy at work with the ELCA Good Gifts program. Your contributions to this effort will be collected through the 29th of November. Order for our products will be made when Good Gifts has their 'Matching Gifts Day'.



While Good Gifts is going on through November, the Share The Love Tree will also begin on Sunday the 8th of November and run through the 1st of December for the Angel Program and December 6th for the Santa Club program. The two agencies involved request that the gifts purchased as described on their respective tree hangers, be returned unwrapped with the gift ID tag attached. Please be diligent on the deadline return dates for each program and help Father Christmas out this season?

LOVE: Love is a passion which kindles honor into noble acts.

And, don't let worries ruin your **faith**, let your **faith** ruin your worries.

8:15 Club - YOU are always welcome!!

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."

THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with our Brat Fry in October. We served 180 community members, but much more importantly, shared Grace with everyone. It was really a neat experience to provide the food – and especially the delicious desserts – and spread the good word about our Grace congregation.

NEXT OUTING: 11/15/26 @ 5PM @ CHINA ONE IN RIPON



Thanksgiving Eve Service 11/24/26 @ 6:30 pm

Pie & Ice-cream social will be held immediately following the service. If you would like to donate a pie, please signup on the Church bulletin board

New Church Directory Coming in 2027



It has been a number of years since our current Grace Lutheran Directory has been published. We have new members, children have grown and changed, and our activities and missions have been updated. It's time for a new directory. This also provides an opportunity for members to have professional photos taken with an opportunity to make purchases of the photos.

Council members along with Steve Hollenback have evaluated several bids from companies providing the photography and the directory. We have selected In-Focus Photography from St. Francis, Wisconsin. We have scheduled June 7, 8, 10, and 11 of 2027 for photos to be taken. Members of the In-Focus staff will be present at Grace for pictures, but they will also travel to the homes of our home-bound members for photos.

Please save the dates....more details to come

RaiseRight

Thank you to all of you who have made purchases in our RaiseRight

Program in 2026. As we approach the end of the year – there are a few updates for all!!

1 – If you do not already have an account with RaiseRight.. the registration forms are at the table on Sundays. Or you can register directly with RaiseRight on line at https://www.raiseright.com/ Be sure to also ask for the registration code.

2 – We do have some cards in inventory that we would like to move and reduce what we have in the box. Please consider buying these cards which will automatically provide the rebates to Grace.

Amazon	$25	1.6% Rebate
Bath & Body	$25	12.0% Rebate
Buffalo Wild Wings	$50	8.0% Rebate
Dominos Pizza	$25	8.0% Rebate
Target	$25	2.5% Rebate

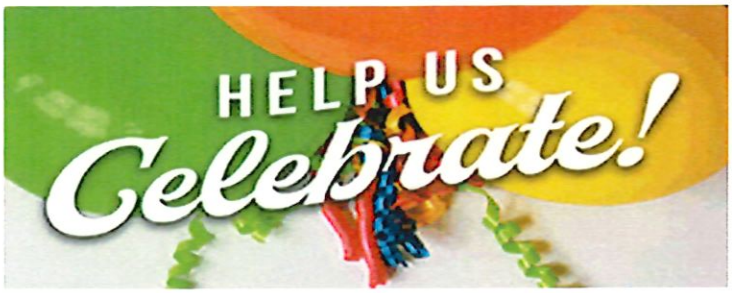
3- Many of you purchase cards for the holidays as gifts. Remember to give us plenty of time to order and get them here for your celebrations. We do have a shipping charge – so I don't order every week...but want to make sure I can accommodate your needs.

4 – Remember, there are over 700 retailers who participate in the RaiseRight program. We only keep in inventory what we use most often...but many, many others are available. There is a PARTIAL list on the back of our order form...and even more on the website.

5 – If you order from the website, your order can be delivered directly to your home....and as long as your account is linked to Grace, your rebate will still come to Grace missions.

6- 2026 GOAL	2026 ACTUAL 10/25
$45,000 SALES	$31,170 SALES
$ 1,350 PROFIT	$ 910 PROFIT

Remember – purchasing RaiseRight cards is the fundraiser that allows you to buy and use ONLY what you want and will use!!



Ruth Ann Smith, Grace Lutheran Church's oldest living life-long member, and longtime church office manager, is celebrating her **90th birthday.** You are invited to join family and friends for an open house celebration in her honor.

Saturday, November 28

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Light refreshments will be served.

No gift is necessary.



Your Work. The Big Screen. Priceless Pay!

Join our worship PowerPoint team! We're seeking volunteers to create the slides for one Sunday morning service per month, with approximately 3–4 hours needed per PowerPoint. You'll work with a team to help bring worship to life.

The paycheck? Seeing your work on the "big screen"—priceless!

Interested? Contact **Joan Wade at** 920-420-8822 or **Pastor Clay in the church office.**



11/2/1968	Albright, Wayne & Patti
11/2/2002	Karsnia, Philip & Mary
11/3/2018	Roesch, JoAnne & John
11/6/2010	Heatley, Chase & Laura
11/7/1998	Albright, David & Laura
11/9/1968	Leitz, Herm & Sue
11/17/2007	Johanknecht, Nicole & Jason

Maxwell	Belling	11/02
Chase	Washkoviak	11/02
Laurie	Parks	11/04
Lisa	Jorgenson	11/06
Joyce	Amdahl	11/07
Mary	Gabrielski	11/07
Douglas	McConnell	11/07
Lydia	Wargula	11/07
Mark	Peterson	11/11
Sarah	Christopherson	11/12
Branden	Langeberg	11/13
Matthew	Belling	11/14
Brenden	Boe	11/17
Ron	Wittchow	11/17
Landon	Benson	11/18
Micah	Schoff	11/19
Seth	Zimdars	11/19
Curt	Belau	11/20
Andria	Novitske	11/20
Madison	Johanknecht	11/22
Laila	Simonis	11/22
Jane	Bradley	11/23
Jenifer	Perr	11/23
Charlotte	Tabbert	11/24
Stella	Hernandez	11/26
Charlotte	Sherman	11/26
Reagan	Metoxen	11/27
Aiden	Johanknecht	11/28
Patrick	Brown	11/30
Ruth	Smith	11/30
Ari	Stephenson	11/30

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9 am Sunday School Wired Word	2 Eve Circle 1 pm Bethany Circle 6:30 pm	3	4 Handbells 5:30 pm Choir 6:40 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	5 MAGIC 6:30 PM	6	7
8 Worship 9 am Songfest Sunday School/Wired Word	9 Property Meeting 6:30 pm- Fellowship Hall	10 Sharing Table 5 pm	11 Handbells 5:30 pm Choir 6:40 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	12 MAGIC 6:30 PM	13	14 Men's Bible & Breakfast 7:30 am
15 Worship 9 am Congregational Meeting Packer Party	16 Church Council 6 pm	17	18 Handbells 5:30 pm Choir 6:40 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	19 MAGIC 6:30 PM	20	21
22 Worship 9 am Sunday School Wired Word	23	24 Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 pm Pie & Ice-cream social	25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 Men's Bible & Breakfast 7:30 am Ruth Ann 90th Birthday Party Open House 1pm-4pm
29 Worship 9 am Sunday School Wired Word	30					

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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