

In the Loop with Pastor Clay – Tense Times

What's been one of the hot topics of conversation over the past couple of weeks? I've been hearing a lot about the assassination of Charlie Kirk, the public speaker, podcaster, and founder of Turning Point USA, among other things. In the aftermath of his assassination there were, regrettably, too many who either jumped to unfounded conclusions or used this terrible event for attempted political gain. Among the allegations levelled at the alleged assassin, Tyler Robinson: He's from the radical left; he's from the MAGA right; he's a groypner; he's politically unaffiliated and didn't like Charlie Kirk and his messages; he was radicalized by extreme online gaming. And the list could go on. Who's correct? Only time and the investigative process will tell.

Because Charlie Kirk was very popular with large segments of our society, his shocking assassination had an outsized impact in our country and even around the world. Yet Kirk's death wasn't just a singular event. It was a symptom of a wider problem. Did you know that on average 40+ people are murdered with firearms every day in our country? These homicides are also tragic, morally reprehensible, and a reflection of the divisiveness, polarization, and whipped up emotions in our country. What can we do to work to make things better? I don't have room on one page to list a long laundry list of strategies and tactics. But the first thing we can do is recognize that the devil tempts us to dehumanize other people who have different viewpoints, beliefs, political affiliations, lifestyles, ethnicities, religions, genders, etc. than us and to label them as threats and enemies. Of course, there are threats and people doing terrible things which warrant the use of extreme and/or deadly force, e.g., an active shooter. But that's not what I'm talking about here. I'm talking about judging, castigating, hating, accusing, demonizing, dehumanizing, harboring contempt toward, and assaulting (verbally or physically) those who are on a different "team," often before enough facts and circumstances are known to enable people to make well-informed conclusions.

We do well to understand that the #1 priority of bloviating politicians (and their aids) is usually their own political gain. We do well to understand that the #1 priority of most "news" sources and social media sites is usually market share and higher profits. Understanding that all news sources have biases (some more than others), I put more trust in National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) because to me they seem less influenced by the afore-mentioned misguided priorities. That's me. What reliable sources do you trust?

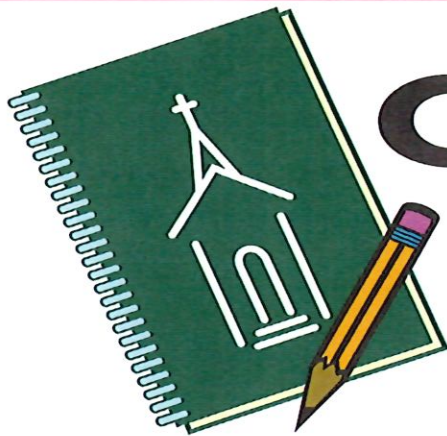
There's more that faithful Christians can do. We are called to prioritize our loyalties, words, and actions to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ over our preferred political parties, politicians, ideologies, news networks, websites, social media, friends, and even family. When we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit guiding us in following Christ and when Christ is the main filter we use in deciding what is righteous and what is evil, then we'll be on our way to journeying on a holy, faithful path and helping to improve the acrimonious and dangerous situations most of us are experiencing. Specifically, how can we do this? Here are a couple suggestions: One, keep in mind Jesus' Greatest Commandment – to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:34-40.) Two, read and take to heart Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the Gospel of Matthew.) Here's just a snippet. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; (Matthew 5:43-45)

The well-being of our country and of our lives will be better when we prioritize following Jesus! Here are yet more examples that the ways of Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit are still pertinent in our world and in our lives!

I pray that you enjoy a safe, colorful, and beautiful October!

Pastor Clay

Church Council 2025-26



Council Notes

NOTHING SUBMITTED THIS MONTH



MEMBERS

DOUG PINNOW (2025)	920-896-2563	dougforth2175@hotmail.com
KATIE WORTHING (2026)	920-203-5886	worthing@gmail.com
MELANIE OPPOR (2027)	920-896-3133	jmdopp86@gmail.com
JAMIE JAHNKE- (2027)	920-392-4650	Skiesareblue44@gmail.com
SUSAN MOKLER (2028)	920-279-1573	samokler49@gmail.com
WILLIAM LOUIS-BRUX (2028)	920-344-4381	williamclouisbrux@gmail.com
RUTH DODSON (2028)	414-299-9645	dodruth@gamil.com
LILY HOFFMANN (2028)	920-279-3695	lilyraymusic@gmail.com



IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT???

It is important that the Church office has accurate contact information for each household. Please make sure you communicate any changes to office by simply filling out the form below & return to the Church office/ or mailbox:

YOUR NAME _____

NEW PHONE NUMBER: _____

NEW ADDRESS: _____

NAME CHANGE: _____

OTHER _____



**THANK YOU TO WOMEN OF GRACE FOR YOUR GENEROUS \$3,000.00
DONATION TOWARDS THE NEW KITCHEN A/C**

Christian Education - Info and Updates

October 2025

Christian Education Team Meetings:

Sunday, October 12th at 11:15 a.m. in the Youth and Sunday School Office.

All Are Welcome!

Events/Activities:

October 5th – Kalahari

October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th – Confirmation Classes

October 26th – Trick or Treat Service

October 26th – Confirmation Sunday

Nursery:

The nursery will be available during church service. After the children's sermon any children that would like to go to the nursery for the remainder of the church service will be led to the nursery with the nursery worker for that week to play together until service ends. Parents can then pick their children up after service or we will take them to their Sunday School class.



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 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 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.

QUILTING: Due to the lack of interest, the quilting group at Grace will no longer be meeting. The materials that have been so graciously donated throughout the years will be sent onto other churches or organizations that have quilters in need of the items to complete their projects.

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

2025 Upcoming Events:

The Biennial Convention is Saturday, November 8th at St. Mark's in Neenah. Gather for breakfast, fellowship, a business meeting, worship service, lunch, and featured speaker, Jacqueline Bussie. The registration fee is \$35.00

Register online at rebrand.ly/biennial2025



****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 will be a bus available from this area heading that way. More information on the bus soon.

8:15 Club

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."

Next Meeting:

October 21st @ Margarita's Mexican Grill @ 6 PM-Taco Bar (Upper room)

102 E Fond du Lac Street, Ripon



ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund still has grant funds available for this year. Our goal is to support things that are not in the church budget to benefit outreach, youth, mission, and education.

There is \$2,969.00 available, so please let any committee member or the Church office if you have a request!



OLD BAGS FOR GRACE

October 2025

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 in the donations...PLEASE pay close attention and make sure that ONLY SOFT plastic make it into our containers.

Each week we go through the donations and find materials that DO NOT belong in this recycling effort. PLEASE help us reduce our work by making sure you are only giving us the SOFT plastics. We have removed pop bottles, deli containers, and dirty diapers!! PLEASE double check your bags!!

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 Grace Preschool/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.



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip



October 2025

We have set a goal of \$45,000 for sales for the year. Our sales to date are below the average needed to meet that goal. In order to reach \$45,000, we need a monthly average of \$3,750. To date through the second Sunday in September, our monthly average is only \$2,898.

Let's make October reach our goal!!

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!!

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.

2025 GOAL

\$45,000 Sales

\$ 1,350 Profit

\$ 3,750 Monthly Average

2025 To Date (9/14/2025)

\$ 23,185 Sales

\$ 701 Profit

\$ 2,898 Currently Monthly Average

Thank You to everyone who continues to purchase RaiseRight (formerly SCRIP).

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.



CHURCH SERVICE

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ALTAR
BALCONY
BELIEF
BELL
BENCH
BIBLE
BOOKS
BULLETIN
CANDLES
CHOIR
COMMUNITY
DOORS
FAITH
FLOWERS
FOYER
GOSPEL
LISTEN
ORGAN
PEACE
PEW
PIANO
PRAYER
SERMON
SING
SOLACE
STATUES
WORSHIP

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

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.





Austin	Langeberg	10/01
Nelson	Hinz	10/02
Milee	Simonis	10/02
Roger	Langeberg	10/04
Sandra	Thiem	10/04
Noah	Boe	10/05
Kay	Kelch	10/05
Kylie	Slark	10/05
Cynthia	Ebert	10/06
Emersyn	Karsnia	10/06
Olivia	Brown	10/07
Gail	Wargula	10/08
Robert	DeWar	10/09
Ruth	Dodson	10/09
Daryl	Hoefs	10/09
Anja	Slate	10/09
Warren	Sherman	10/10
Mark	Bradley	10/11
Danial	Hanson	10/11
Catherine	Hunter	10/11
Sara	Rieder	10/11
Gale	Gabrielski	10/13
Kelly	Langeberg	10/13
Kelly	Hanson	10/14
Mark	Slate	10/15
Carol	Beier	10/17
Michelle	Franke	10/19
Theresa	Saylor	10/19
Judy	Stibb	10/20
Julia	Boe	10/23
Madison	Huseboe	10/25
Asher	Johnson	10/26
Rachel	Metoxen	10/26
Bryce	McCarroll	10/29
LuAnn	Rosenau	10/29
Jon	Heatley	10/30
Morgan	Pinnow	10/30
Mark	Preissner	10/30
Annagene	Schultz	10/30
Renee	Schoff	10/31

10/6/2006	Hunter, Michael & Jessica Repka-Hunter
10/7/2000	Perr, John & Jenifer
10/8/1994	Pinnow, Douglas & Danforth
10/11/1997	Huseboe, Kent & Jennifer
10/12/2002	Hunger, Jeff & Lisa Brown Hunger
10/13/1990	Schoff, David & Renee
10/16/1982	Hillier, Karen & Jon
10/24/1981	Stibb, Howard & Judy
10/28/2000	Slark, Dean & Amy
10/30/2004	Stollfuss, William & Jessica
10/31/1953	Sherman, Charlotte & Warren

VISIT THE HOMEBOUND...

Maplecrest- Inez Bryden &
Faye Zacharias

Prairie Place-

Arlene Thiem & LeRoy Holl

Russell Manor-

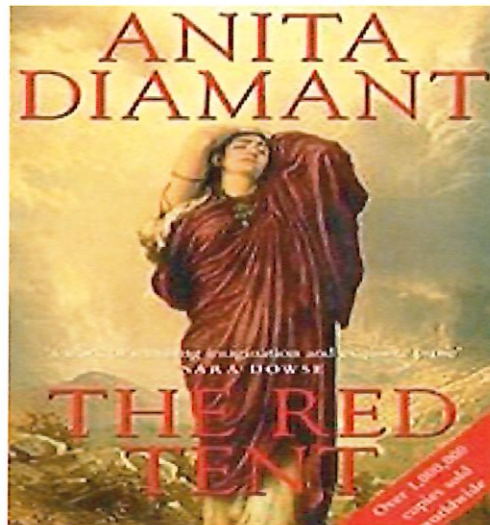
Jackie Steifner & Jean Zeto

Valley VNA-

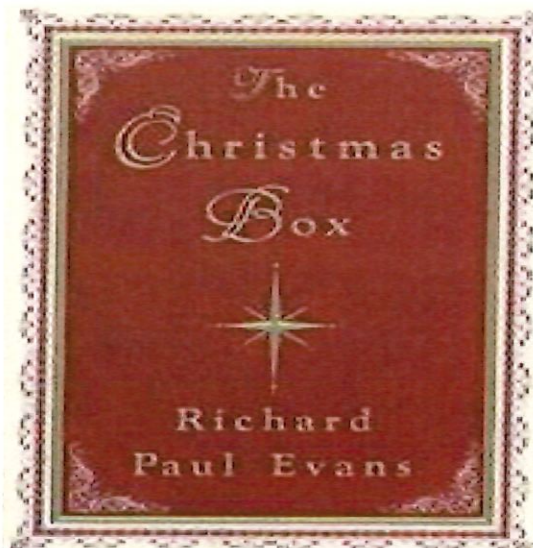
Mary Jane Schanke

Grace Readers

Grace Readers will meet on
Tuesday, October 28th at 6:30 PM, in the Church Lounge.
Please join us for a lively, thoughtful, discussion of
"The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant.



There will be NO November meeting.
We will meet again on December 2nd to discuss
"The Christmas Box" by Richard Paul Evans.



October

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				MAGIC 6:30 PM		
5 Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Wired Word 10:15 AM	6 Eve Circle 1 PM Bethany Circle 6:30 PM	7	8 Handbells 4:15 PM Choir 5 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM	9 MAGIC 6:30 PM	10	11 Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Ripon Family Restaurant 7:30 AM
12 Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Wired Word 10:15 AM	13 Property Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	14 Social Concerns Meeting 10 AM SHARING TABLE 5 PM	15 Handbells 4:15 PM Choir 5 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM	16 MAGIC 6:30 PM	17	18 Oshkosh Annual Conference Assembly 9 AM-NOON
19 Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Wired Word 10:15 AM	20 Church Council Meeting 6 PM	21 BLOOD DRIVE 12:30 PM-5:30 PM 8:15 Club-Taco Bar 6 PM (Mexican Grill)	22 Handbells 4:15 PM Choir 5 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM	23 MAGIC 6:30 PM	24	25 Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Ripon Family Restaurant 7:30 AM
26 Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Wired Word 10:15 AM	27	28 Grace Readers 6:30 PM	29 Handbells 4:15 PM Choir 5 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM	30 MAGIC 6:30 PM	31	





Grace Lutheran Church

(920) 748-5433

Clay Salmela, Pastor

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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