

In the Loop with Pastor Clay

Revelation 12:7-11 And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world-- he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death."

Have you ever had a back-stage pass at a play? If you've had that special privilege, you got to see that there are a lot of people working hard (sometimes frantically) behind the scenes and you got to see at least some of what's necessary to put on the play. Some of the mystery of the world of the stage was revealed to you. You observed that without the work of the people back-stage, the play would not progress from act to act or from scene to scene. The performers on-stage – as important as they are - can't put on the play by themselves.

In today's reading from Revelation 12:7-11, we get a peek behind the cosmic scenes. This account as recorded by John who had a back-stage pass, so-to-speak, is part of a larger section from Revelation (chapters 12 – 14) which is an exposé on evil. It reads like an epic fantasy novel, but it gives us some insight on what happened behind the scenes and how our lives are affected today.

A common theological question is why there is evil in our world. Here we learn part of the answer. At first blush this may seem depressing, knowing that the great dragon (the Devil/Satan) is here among us. But keep reading. The salvation (from sin, death, and the Devil) and the power and the kingdom of our God and his Messiah have also come, and they have defeated the Devil/Satan by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us and by the word of their testimony. What was, and is, their testimony? Jesus is the Savior and Lord who defeated sin, death, and the Devil for us by dying on the cross and proving his victory by his resurrection from the dead. And... all believers in Christ are beneficiaries of this power and have access to this holy power through faith in him.

To some, this might sound like esoteric theology, but it's not. Rather, it's supremely pertinent, applicable, relevant, and powerful in our lives and in our world today! Look around! Do you see the Devil and his evil angels at work in our world today? We all, even those with the most steadfast faith, must contend with the evil we've just read and learned a bit about. Later this month (Sunday, 25 October to be exact) we'll celebrate **the Reformation**, begun in 1517 by Martin Luther and other reformers. Some of their main goals were to help the Church better proclaim Christ and his Gospel, to help people better engage with their faith, to show that our Christian faith can be a hugely positive factor in our lives, and to invite people to access holy resources when they/we are contending with the wiles of the Devil. **The Reformation** continues to this day and will continue until Kingdom come! Guess what! You have a back-stage pass to see and learn more about what goes on at and with Grace Lutheran Church. Perhaps you mostly see me as your pastor "on-stage" on Sunday mornings, but there's so much more that goes into Grace's proclamation of Christ's Gospel! Come and explore how you can be an important member of the holy cast and/or crew of the greatest production in history! And then after the last performance, the cast and crew party will be out of this world!

A Happy and Blessed October to You!

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.

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



August 2026 Council Meeting at a Glance

- Approved Treasurer's report including Budget vs Actual income and expenses along with envelope offerings and loose offerings for July 2026 as well as year to date.
- Approved Vanco as the new online payment system to replace PushPay per the Treasurer's recommendation.
- Appointed Steve Sell to fill a one-year vacancy on the Church Council.
- Tabled the PrayGround Pilot proposal. The Council will send out an email to all Grace members with more information about the PrayGround. A Grace member listening session will be held on Sunday, August 30 at 12:15 p.m. during a Special Church Council meeting prior to acting on the PrayGround Pilot proposal.
- At the Special Church Council Meeting on August 30, approved the implementation of a trial period of the PrayGround from September 27th, 2026 to January 31st, 2027 with an evaluation of the pilot to be held at the Congregational Meeting.

MISSION OF THE MONTH:

Alzheimer's Association

Christian Education

October 2026

-No article submitted



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

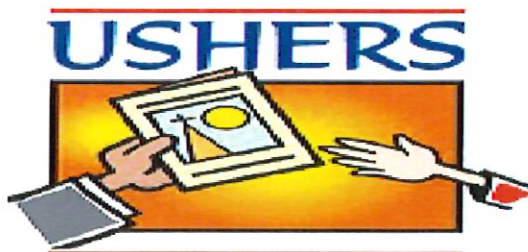
Laurie Parks Maddy Pinnow

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.

Fall Retreat:

Sign up for the retreat is up on the WOG board. Registration is due early, please let Sheri Bradshaw know if you would like to go if you missed the deadline. 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.

Let's plan for MORE fellowship at Grace!!



The Church Council has put a plan into place to have a coffee hour on the Sunday immediately following our Sharing Table each month to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month. We'll have cake for sure....but the rest of the food selections will vary.

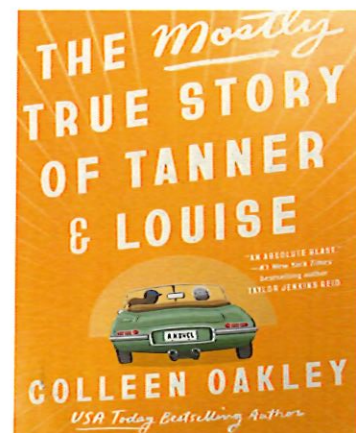
~~ October celebration will be held on Sunday, October 18th~~

HOWEVER,...if you or someone in your family has a birthday/anniversary/other special occasion that month and you would like to sponsor...sign up on the Church Bulletin Board

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. You can partner with another member and share the host duties.

**The most important part is for us to be together, network,
enjoy each other's company, AND appreciate the fellowship!**

Grace Readers Book club will meet on Tuesday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m., in the Grace Library.
We'll discuss *The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise* by Colleen Oakley. Join us for lively conversation, fellowship & fun!



Grief Support Resources (August 2026)

Grace Evangelical Lutheran, Pastor Clay 920-748-5433

www.GriefShare.org In person and online Christian grief support. Search the website for a local group that fits your schedule. (often in Lutheran, Methodist, Evangelical Free & Community churches)

Your Healthcare provider

Your Medical Insurance provider

United Way Resource Number: 211

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8255 or 988

Aging and Disability Resource Center where you reside:

- Fond du lac Co. 920-929-3466
- Winnebago Co. 877-886-2372
- Green Lake Co. 920-294-4070

Aurora Behavioral Health Oshkosh, North Fond du lac or Fond du lac: 920-456-2030
1:1 Counseling available.

Aurora Health at Home: www.aurorahealthcare.org "grief sharing support group" online on Tuesday mornings at 9 . Preregistration required.

Behavioral Health Departments where you reside:

- Fond du lac Co. 920-929-3500
- Winnebago Co. 920-233-7707
- Green Lake Co. 920-294-4070

Berlin Senior Center: 920-361-5422. New support group starting in September, the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Facilitated by a Green Lake County Therapist, but open to older adults in the surrounding communities regardless of their county of residence. Pre-registration required.

Mercy Oshkosh : 920-223-2000

No bereavement services, but 1:1 counseling available through Behavioral Health

NAMI Fond du lac: 920-979-0512

SSM Ripon Medical Center Behavioral Health: 920-748-3101

No current support group but individual appointments available

SSM St. Agnes Behavioral Health: 920-929-2300

No current support group but individual appointments available

Thedacare Berlin Support Group: 920-361-1313 or thedacare.org-bereavement

Thedacare Appleton: 920-422-7581 Grief Resource Center & 1:1 Counseling, pre-reg required

Veteran Services:

- Fond du lac Co. 920-929-3117
- Winnebago Co. 920-232-3400
- Green Lake Co. 920-294-4123



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

October 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. The rebates vary from 2% to 12% and specials as much as 15%!

PLEASE JOIN US!! This is the fundraiser where you only buy what you need and will use.

We have **NEW** cards available....Pick N Save (\$25 and \$50). If you have a suggestion for other cards we should add to inventory, be sure to let us know!.

We are always open to additional suggestions for improvements to the program.

A number of 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."*

NEXT EVENT:

BRAT FRY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

8AM-2PM @ Hy-Vee in Ripon



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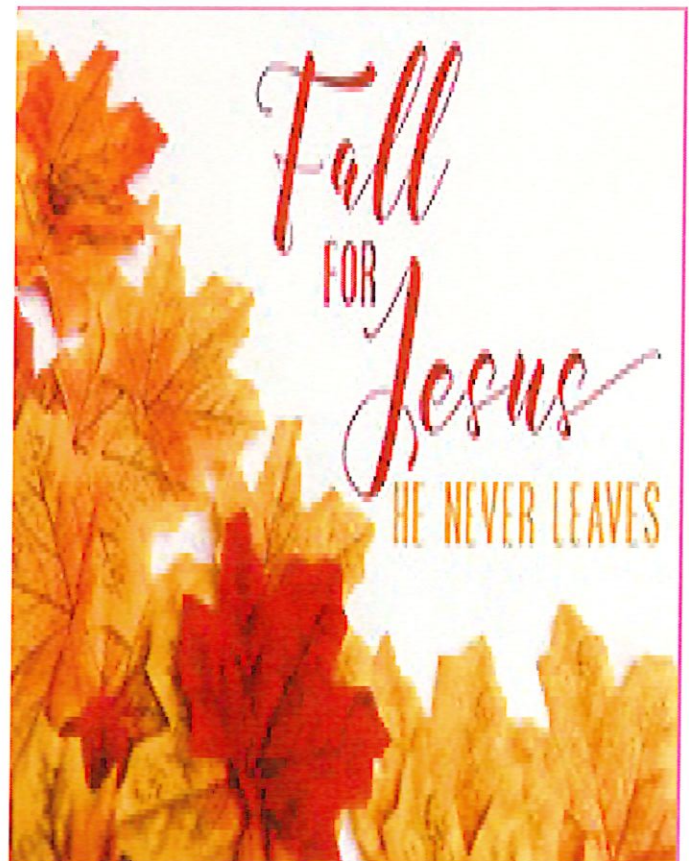


The 8:15 Club is open to ALL adults at Grace. We plan a variety of events to encourage fellowship and interaction. We would also like our group to grow – so please know ALL adults are encouraged to join us.



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
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



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				*Choir 5:15 pm *MAGIC 6:30 pm		
4 *Worship 9 am (Steve) *Sunday School/Wired Word	5 *Eve Circle 1 pm *Bethany Circle 6:30 pm	6 *Handbells 5:30 pm *Confirmation 6:30 pm *Girl Scouts 6:30-8pm	7 *Choir 5:15 pm *MAGIC 6:30 pm	8	9 *Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:30 am *Terry Saylor Service 11am 9:30 am-Visitation	10 *Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:30 am
11 *Worship 9 am *Sunday School/Wired Word *Youth Trip to Kalahari	12 *SHARING TABLE 5 PM	13 *Handbells 5:30 pm *Confirmation 6:30 pm *Girl Scouts 6:30-8pm	14 *Social Concerns gam *Choir 5:15 pm *MAGIC 6:30 pm	15	16 *Fall Huddle-Grace Staff *Brat Fry (8:15 Club) 8am-2pm-Hy-Vee	17
18 *Worship 9 am *Sunday School/Wired Word *Oct. Birthdays/Anniversaries *Handbell Practice 2 pm	19 *Synod Fall Conference -Door County Oct 19 th -21 st	20 BLOOD DRIVE 12:30 PM-5:30 PM *Handbells 5:30 pm *Confirmation 6:30 pm *Girl Scouts 6:30-8pm	21 *Choir 5:15 pm *MAGIC 6:30 pm	22	23 *Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:30 am	24
25 *Worship with Choir gam *Sunday School/Wired Word	26	27 *Handbells 5:30 pm *Confirmation 6:30 pm *Girl Scouts 6:30-8pm	28 *Choir 5:15 pm *MAGIC 6:30 pm	29	30	31

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

September 9, 2026

Meeting called to order at 9:10AM by Chairperson HOLLENBACK

Members present, Steven HOLLENBACK, Chair, Charlotte TABBERT, Secretary, Sandy THIEM, Julie SELL, Melanie OPPOR, Council Liaison/President

Members absent: Cindy EBERT

The Chair requested our liaison OPPOR explain how the meeting with council and the committees came about that was held on the 30th of August after the church service. OPPOR also explained how some items on the posted list will be prioritized. Matters of evangelism might be combined with other areas of activity. There are some listed committees that have no members and/or are currently inactive.

In review of this committee's yearly activities, liaison OPPOR stated that it appears that these are exemplary activities to continue with.

Old Business: HOLLENBACK mentioned that the Cookie Walk can be moved back to the original date of December 20th as there no longer exists any conflict with room set up for the Cantata performed that same afternoon, now not being held in church.

ELCA Good Gifts donation collection will be had from 11th of October through the 29th of November. This time period will enable the program of matching gifts of the Good Gifts program. That date will be explored during the collection time.

Share The Love Tree. The Ripon Santa Club which provides the gift request 'stars', will drop off 25 on or about the 13th of November and will pick up the unwrapped gifts on the 6th of December.

For the Green Lake County Health & Human Services program of the 'angels', the chair has made contact with the office and is awaiting a call back with information. That information is: Drop off Nov 3-5th, Pick up Dec 2-4th.

For 2027, the Souper Bowl of Giving food drive will conclude on Super Bowl Sunday of February 14th. Both monetary and non-perishable unexpired food items will be collected. There was a brief discussion on the thought of any collaboration with council's mission of the month food drive with this committee. No action was taken at this time.

Next meeting:

October 15, 2026 @ 9:00AM



Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Charlotte Tabbert, Secretary



Grace Lutheran Church

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Ripon, WI 54971



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
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