

In the Loop with Pastor Clay **Happy 250th Birthday, United States of America!**

Psalm 33

¹ Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise *befits the upright*. ² Praise the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. ³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ⁴ For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth. ⁷ He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. ¹⁰ The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. ¹¹ The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. ¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. ¹³ The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind. ¹⁴ From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth-- ¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds. ¹⁶ A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ¹⁷ The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save. ¹⁸ Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ¹⁹ to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. ²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield. ²¹ Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

July 4th will be a huge day for our country – the 250th anniversary of our forefathers and foremothers declaring independence from Great Britain! I'm looking forward to the festivities and celebrations, and I hope you are too! As people of faith, what's the best way to celebrate? First, we hopefully won't thump our chests and believe that all the great things we have accomplished as a country since 1776 are because of how smart, brave, witty, strong, tough, independent, innovative, hard-working, industrious, entrepreneurial, and patriotic we are. While each of these attributes can be impressive on some level, they aren't virtuous and the source of greatness on their own. Second, Psalm 33 helps us to understand that all we have and all we've accomplished is ultimately from the LORD. Some might argue that the LORD has only provided the raw materials and it was through our own smart decisions and hard work that we were good stewards and became a great country. Psalm 33 teaches that we're good stewards of the LORD's abundance to us only when we incorporate the LORD's counsel into our hard work. Hopefully, we're all proud of our armed forces today and of our military veterans going all the way back to "the shot heard round the world" at the battles of Lexington and Concord on 19 April 1775. That being said, we see that true strength and might don't come from impressive military equipment, a financially strong economy, clever tactics, insightful strategies, and brave actions alone. Psalm 33 helps us to understand that humbleness, fearing the LORD, loving the LORD and our neighbors as ourselves, recognizing that all good things come from the LORD, thanking and praising the LORD, and incorporating the ways of the LORD into everything we do is what produces true greatness (on both individual and national levels) and makes our country virtuous.

As we celebrate our country's 250th birthday, let's read Psalm 33 again, give the LORD the credit that is his due, and invite him to be an integral part of our next 250 years!

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you. May you enjoy a happy and safe Independence Day!

Pastor Clay

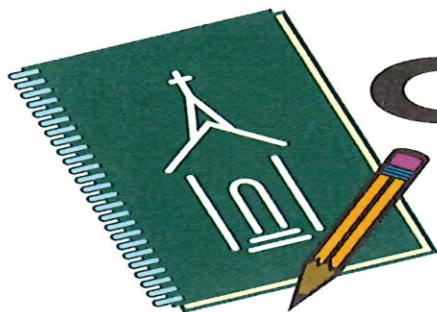
Church Council 2026



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

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

June 2026 Council Meeting at a Glance

- Heard the report from Pastor Clay on the Grace representation at the recent Synod Assembly for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin - first time attending for Grace delegates Laurie Parks and Lily Hoffmann.
- Heard from Pastor Clay the results of the Bishop election confirming Bishop Anne Edison-Albright to a second six-year term.
- Approved the Property Committee recommendation to enter an agreement with MI Tech for a TDS Cabinet Easement with a payment of \$5,000 to Grace.
- Approved the appointment of Bob Zahn to fill the open Council position beginning in September.
- Approved Treasurer's report including Budget vs Actual income and expenses as well as envelope offerings and loose offerings for May 2026 as well as year to date.
- Reviewed the June Birthdays and Anniversaries Coffee Hour change and noted the positives and recommended continuing.
- Additional discussion and plans for New Council Member and New Congregation Member Orientation suggesting an in-person social time as well as a packet of materials.
- Made a recommendation to edit the Committee Decision Making Document and recommend to the next Congregational Meeting, circulate to all committee chairs, and agreed to hold an all Committee and Council Orientation no later than September 15, 2026.
- Approved revised Job Description for Custodian
- Approved a pilot plan recommendation from the Worship Committee to create Sponsor a Song program to add additional music options and funding for our special musical performances.
- Accepted the report of the Endowment Committee and their most recent grants totaling \$6,600.



Christian Education

July 2026

Christian Education Team Meetings:

- ♦ Sunday, July 19th at 10:15 a.m. in the Sunday School/Youth Office -
 - ♦ ALL Are Welcome!

Events/Activities:

- ♦ Ripon Area Kids Church Camp – VBS – July 27 th – July 30 th

There are no Sunday School classes during Summer. Classes will resume in September.



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 most grateful for all who currently serve on our Usher Teams!

Our 4 Usher Teams are in need of some additional members. The basic duties our Ushers perform are greeting Grace members, guests and visitors to our Services and distributing the Worship Service bulletins. Taking and recording Worship Service attendance. Lighting and extinguishing the Sanctuary candles. Collecting offerings. Guiding Grace Worshipers to receive Holy Communion. Collecting the signed pages from the pew pads. Each team is scheduled just one or 2 Sundays per month. If you or anyone you know would be interested in serving on one of Usher teams or have any questions please call or stop by and leave your name and contact information at the Church office.

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.

**NOTE: EVE CIRCLE WILL NOT MEET DURING SUMMER –
WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.**

The Women of Grace are encouraged to stay informed by visiting the womenoftheelca.org website.

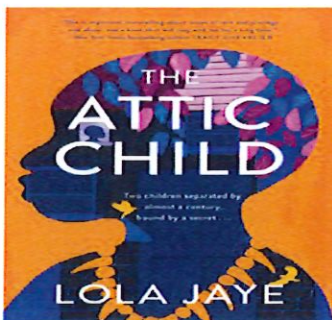
Monies are available to Women of Grace wishing to attend events. Please contact Lisa Beuthin, Peggy Beuthin, or Sheri Bradshaw.

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.



Grace Readers - 6:30 pm

Tuesday, July 28th

The Attic Child

By: Lola Jaye



Grace Lutheran Church is proud to present the world premiere of **When Life Awakened: A Christmas Cantata**, an original Christmas work by composer **William C. Louis-Bruux**, featuring six professional vocal soloists and orchestra, under the direction of **Dr. Paul Thompson**, Chair of Choral Music at Ripon College.

More than a concert, *When Life Awakened* is a musical journey through the wonder of Advent and the miracle of Christ's birth. Through soaring melodies, powerful orchestral music, and moving storytelling, audiences will be invited to experience the anticipation, joy, and hope that changed the world on that first Christmas night.

Presented in the beautiful Ripon High School Auditorium, this special community event will feature stunning music, professional performers, and an opportunity for the audience to join in singing a beloved Christmas carol as part of the finale.

Whether you attend every year or are discovering the cantata for the first time, this years premiere promises to be the most ambitious and memorable production yet.

Sunday, December 20, 2026 • 2:00 PM

Ripon High School Auditorium

Choose your own seats!

Tickets from: \$10-\$20

Tickets available online only: gracelutheranchurch1.ticketspice.com/when-life-awakened-a-christmas-cantata

Come and celebrate the season with family, friends, and neighbors as we gather to witness a remarkable new Christmas tradition.

Music Ministry Updates



Coming Soon: Sponsor a Song

The Worship Committee will be piloting a new Sponsor a Song program during August and September. This program will provide opportunities to dedicate hymns, special music, and guest musician sponsorships in memory, celebration, honor, or thanksgiving while supporting worship music at Grace Lutheran Church.

Sponsor a Song will complement our existing music ministry and does not replace the regular music already provided during worship. Watch for additional information, request forms, and sponsorship opportunities in the coming weeks.

RiponFest Parade Outreach

Grace Lutheran Church participated in the RiponFest Parade on June 21, 2026, with a music float featuring William C. Louis-Bruix on keyboard, Lily Hoffmann on flute, and Tim McCarthy on saxophone. The trailer was provided by Mike and Cindy Hoffmann, and Herm Leitz generously drove the truck. The musical performance included an original patriotic arrangement by William C. Louis-Bruix in honor of America's upcoming 250th birthday.

The parade also served as an outreach opportunity, promoting the church's upcoming cantata and sharing information about Grace Lutheran Church and Church Camp (formerly Vacation Bible School). Malachi and Landon distributed candy and informational pamphlets along the parade route. Pastor Clay and Jamie Jahnke also rode on the float, helping represent Grace Lutheran Church in the community.

Choir and Handbells

Choir and handbell preparations for the fall season are underway at Grace Lutheran Church. Handbell choir members will receive music in late August, with regular rehearsals beginning in September. Practices will be held on Wednesday evenings, with the final rehearsal time to be announced. In addition to regular rehearsals, we anticipate holding two Sunday afternoon ecumenical handbell rehearsals in 2026 with neighboring congregations as we prepare for a community handbell concert during the first half of December.

Choir rehearsals are also expected to resume in September. Current plans are for Thursday evening rehearsals from approximately 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., allowing singers to participate while accommodating other church activities.

If you would like to participate in choir or handbells for the season, for the Christmas Season, for a special music selection, or even for just a month, opportunities are available for both experienced musicians and those who would simply like to give it a try.

Choir Accompanist Needed

Grace Lutheran Church will be seeking a piano accompanist for the choir. Anticipated responsibilities include approximately two rehearsals per month and one worship service per month. If you know someone who may be interested, we would love to hear from them.

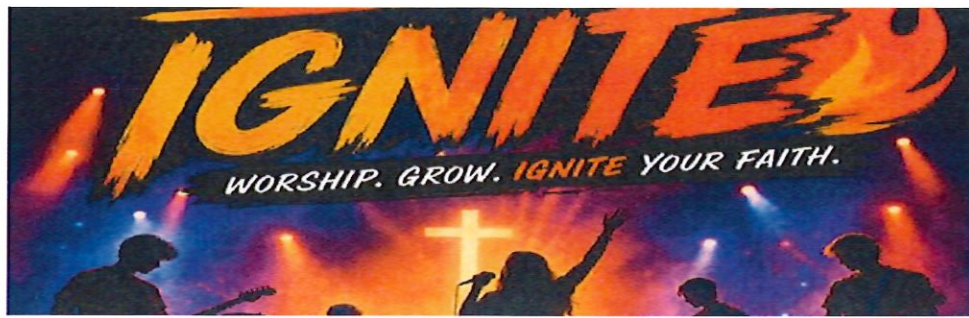
Special Music Opportunities

We are always looking for individuals interested in sharing special music during worship. Whether you are a high school student, college student, adult musician, vocalist, or instrumentalist, we would love to hear from you. Opportunities are available throughout the year, and we are happy to help coordinate music selections and scheduling.

Music Ministry Contact

For questions about Sponsor a Song, choir, handbells, special music opportunities, guest musicians, or the choir accompanist position, please contact:

Lily Hoffmann
LilyRayMusic@gmail.com



IGNITE Youth Praise Band

Music Instructor Christina Muenchow is again organizing and directing a Youth Praise Band this July. They will gather at 3 pm each day and perform during Kids Camp - VBS.

Ignite is open to students from 5th grade through 12th grade. Practice will begin on Sunday, July 26 and supper on Sunday will be provided....snacks provided the rest of the week...with family meal on Thursday.

*****More information and register at the IGNITE REGISTRATION TAB on the VBS registration website.**

Grace Missions



G dollars - G is for Grace. And G dollars are printed at the Federal Office in Chicago – so they are plentiful in the Midwest. Let's continue to have fun finding them and sharing them!!



Noisy Offering – Our support for Kids Save Ukraine began when Pastor Clay was deployed with the National Guard to Ukraine. It continues today as the children need our support and concern. Each month, on the first Sunday of the month, we have a Noisy Collection. Bring your change and dump it in the bucket !



Grace Evangelical Lutheran
Tipton
https://www.gechurch.org/

QR Code – We encourage donations to support our operations and all ministries. If you are one of our online viewers and want to support us...use the QR code to manage your donations. Thank you in advance for your continued contributions.

8:15 Club



The June 8:15 Club gathering was a successful one!! We met at Vines & Rushes Winery and had a wonderful dinner and great conversation!! Thank you to everyone who was able to join us!!

Plans are in the works for the July potluck picnic. We'll gather at the home of Max and Terry Saylor on July 20. Please watch for further details and sign up sheet for potluck items in bulletin inserts, emails, and announcements. If you have questions, please contact Bob Eidahl or Sue Mokler. This gathering was a highlight of our first year....so let's make 2026 even better!!

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.

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!!

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.”





Addisyn	Johnson	07/01
Chase	Heatley	07/02
Richard	Ehrenberg	07/03
Margaret	Jeske	07/03
Daniel	Kelm	07/03
Sue	Mokler	07/04
Maverick	Larschied	07/06
Michelle (Shelley)	Tidemann	07/08
Payton	Draeger	07/09
Janis	Zills	07/11
JoAnn	Wittwer	07/12
Jeffrey	Langeberg	07/14
Patricia	Walheim	07/14
Kylie	Larschied	07/15
Ryder	Larschied	07/16
Peggy	Beuthin	07/17
Dean	Slark	07/18
Julia	McCarroll	07/19
Jane	Redman	07/19
Marlene	Buslaff	07/20
Brian	Thiem	07/20
Tonia	Larschied	07/21
Jennifer	Clausen	07/22
Micah	Rieder	07/24
Terry	Mathias	07/25
Terri	Otto	07/27
Kelci	Thiem	07/27
Hunter	Merrill	07/28
Gayle	Fulwider	07/29
Lynn	Mathias	07/30

7/7/2012	Thiem, Brian & Karla
7/10/2009	Stephenson, Eliza & Bruce
7/17/1993	Salmela, Clay & Peggy
7/23/2010	Novitske, Josh & Andria
7/24/2004	Bradley, Jane & Mark
7/28/1984	Peterson, Jacqueline & Mark
7/29/2006	Jorgenson, Alan & Lisa

VISIT THE HOMEBOUND

Maplecrest -

Faye Zacharias

Prairie Place-

Arlene Thiem & LeRoy Holl

Russell Manor-

Jackie Steifner & Jean Zeto

Valley VNA-

Mary Jane Schanke

Whispering Pines-

Jeannine Tomaszewski

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 9 am	6 Bethany Circle 6:30 pm	7	8	9	10	11 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am
12 Worship 9 am	13 Church Council 5:30 pm	14 Sharing Table 5 pm	15	16	17	18
19 Worship 9 am	20 8:15 Club- Potluck Picnic	21	22	23	24	25 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
26 Worship 9 am MASA Speaker	27 VBS JULY 27-30	28	29	30	31	



To register as a volunteer OR To register a participant
Visit our website: www.riponvbs.org

Preschool - ages 3-5
Elementary K-5
Middle School

Theme: Rainforest Fall – Exploring the Nature of God

Where: Immanuel United Methodist Church, Ripon

When: Monday July 27 – Thursday July 30

Time: 5:45 – 8:00 p.m.

Family Night Thursday: Meal, activities, concert

We are in need of volunteers!!

- We need crew leaders to assist in guiding the young participants.
- We are in need of adults to assist in activities, programs, and snacks.



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is **Ripon Area Kid's Church Camp-VBS's mission** for 2026. SHP is a nationwide non-profit movement with a local chapter that serves Fond du Lac and parts of Dodge Counties. Groups of volunteers build and deliver, free of charge, twin beds complete with mattresses and bedding to 3-17-year-old children who do not have a bed to call their own.

The Fond du Lac SHP Chapter's website states that the chapter has built and delivered 1,404 beds totaling over 3,000 volunteer hours. Nationally, over 369,000 children have been given a bed, and more than 100,000 children are waiting.

Will you help ensure that NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN? The Ripon Area Kid's Camp-VBS team invites each family, student, and staff member to help this worthwhile cause by bringing **NEW TWIN SIZE** sheets and pillowcases, pillows, bed-in-a-bag, other bedding items, and/or cash to VBS.*

Cash/check and bedding donations will be accepted each night of Camp.

Your donations will go to the Fond du Lac SHP Chapter and will stay in our local community. They are normally tax deductible.

***Please make checks payable to **Ripon Area VBS** with "**SHP**" in the memo.**

***Please have all donations (all types) at church BEFORE July 26. They will be presented at Kids Church Camp during the week.**

Donating is NOT a requirement to attend Ripon Area Kids Church Camp- VBS.



Grace Lutheran Church

430 W Griswold St

Ripon, WI 54971



Inside This Issue:



In the Loop, Church Council	1-3
Christian Education , Ushers Needed, Women of Grace , Grace Readers	4-5
Christmas Cantata, Music Ministry	6-7
Ignite Praise Band, Missions , 8:15 Club	8-9
Birthdays & Anniversaries, Calendar, VBS	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