

# In the Loop with Pastor Clay – The Hand

Thanksgiving Day was near. The 1st grade teacher gave her class a fun assignment – to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful. The teacher expected that the subjects of the students' art would be those things we associate with the holiday such as family, turkeys, other favorite foods, trees with autumn colors, maybe even a pet. And they were. But Brian made a different kind of picture. The teacher knew that he came from a family that was struggling, financially and otherwise. Brian was withdrawn, quiet, shy, and often seemed unhappy. At recess, when other students were playing, Brian was more likely to spend most of his time standing by her side. He received time and age-appropriate resources from the school counselor, but because the teacher was somewhat familiar with Brian's home situation, she was still concerned about his seeming sadness.

Yes, Brian's picture was different. When asked to draw something for which he was thankful, Brian drew a hand. Nothing else. Just the outline of an empty hand. His abstract image caught the imagination of his classmates and a discussion ensued. Some guessed the image represented the hand of a farmer because farmers provide our Thanksgiving feasts. Others thought it was the hand of a police officer because the police protect us. Still others suggested it was the hand of God because God blesses us with those things for which we are thankful. And so the discussion went, until the teacher squatted next to Brian's desk and asked him share whose hand it was. In a soft voice, Brian said, "It's your hand, Miss Anderson."

As tears began to well up in her eyes and her throat tightened, Miss Anderson recalled the times she had taken Brian's hand in hers and walked him here or there. How often she had said, "Take my hand, Brian, let's go outside." Or, "I'll show you how to hold your pencil." Or, "Let's do this together." Douglas was most thankful for his teacher's hand!

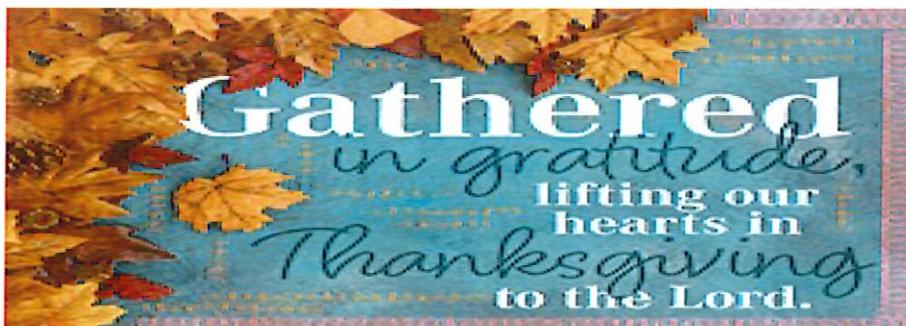
This story speaks about more than thankfulness. It says a lot about good teachers teaching; good parents parenting; good grandparents encouraging, and good friends sharing friendship, and how much it means to the Brians of the world, children and adults alike. It says a lot about the hand of God which he extends to us with blessing after blessing, with his offer to take our hand when we're walking through a dark valley, and ultimately with the offer of eternal life with him when we grasp his hand in trust and faith, just like Brian trustingly took his teacher's hand.

This Thanksgiving we give thanks for God's hand in our lives.

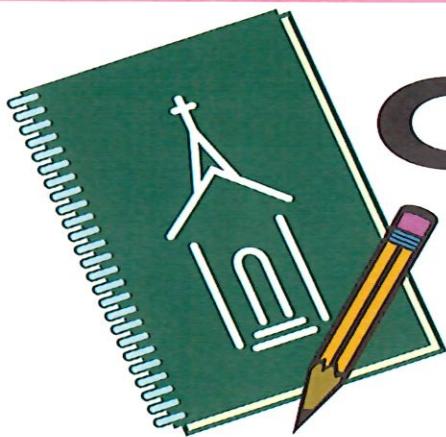
*Deuteronomy 8:17-18 Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.*

May you enjoy a Blessed Thanksgiving!

*Pastor Clay*



# Church Council 2025-26



## Council Notes

*Council Notes are posted in the Fellowship Hall OR  
Available upon request in the office*



### MEMBERS

DOUG PINNOW (2025)	920-896-2563	dougforth2175@hotmail.com
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LILY HOFFMANN (2028)	920-279-3695	lilyraymusic@gmail.com



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH**  
**6:30 PM**

Join us immediately following service for our  
**Pie & Ice Cream Social**

If you would like to donate a pie to share,  
please sign up on the Church bulletin board



# Christian Education - Info and Updates

## November 2025

### **Christian Education Team Meetings:**

\*Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. in the Youth and Sunday School Office.

**All Are Welcome!**

### **Events/Activities:**

\*November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Classes

\*November 9<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program Rehearsals Begin

### **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.

### **Sunday School:**



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

[Laurieparks26@gmail.com](mailto:Laurieparks26@gmail.com)

Maddy Pinnow

[madelyn@graceripon.com](mailto: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.

**2025 LWR Kits:** LWR kits were packed and sent to a local ingathering for pickup. Women of Grace sent 22 Quilts, 6 Sewing Kits, and 8 Layettes. Thank you for the past year of hard work and to Wayne Albright for transporting the kits to the pick-up location.

**Holiday Tea Party**—save the date Wednesday, December 10th @ 1:00 PM—more details to come.

## Campus Ambassador Program

The Campus Ambassador program aims to connect young adult students with girls aged 7-12 and women active in WELCA within ELCA congregations. Thus, creating opportunities for learning about life and faith, and bridging the age gap from girls and young women to women over 55. Visit [womentheelca.org](http://womentheelca.org) website for more information on this new program.

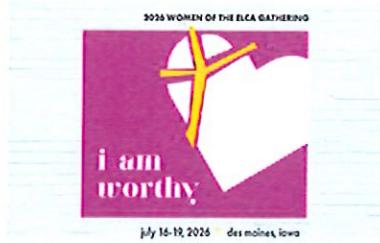
Monies are available to Women of Grace wishing to attend events. Please contact Lisa Beuthin, Peggy Beuthin, or Sheri Bradshaw.

## 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](http://rebrand.ly/biennial2025)



\*\*\*\*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 will be a bus available from this area head-

# Social Concerns Committee

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Meeting called to order @ 10:05 AM

Present-Nelson, Chair, Tabbert, Thiem, Ebbert

Absent-Hollenback



## Old Business: None

New Business: Nelson called Green Lake County for Angels-15 for tree for Christmas coming November 3-6. Return by Dec 2-3  
-Santa Club Stars November 9<sup>th</sup> -due back Dec 7-8-they will pick up

-Good Gifts box will be put out on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

We have decided to have the minutes from our meetings put in Grace Notes.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Meeting Closed 10:15 AM

**Next Meeting: November 5, 2025 @ 10:00 AM**



**2025 Cookie Walk  
December 21st-  
After service**



## OLD BAGS FOR GRACE

### November 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-commerce 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

## NOVEMBER 2025

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT OUR INVENTORY OF GIFT CARDS FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

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.





## Christmas Cantata 2025

This year Will has composed another Christmas Cantata premiere. The focus of this year's cantata is the various aspects of Christmas – family, Jesus, nostalgia, festivities, and Christmas carols.

The cantata this year will feature six vocalists from around the state, a large orchestra, and will be conducted by Ripon College's Paul Thompson – the chair of choral activities. Tim McCarthy will be playing saxophone, and our choirs director, Lily Hoffmann, will be on flute.

Instrumentalists from the Beaver Dam Area Orchestra, the Oshkosh Symphony, Ripon College; singers from Milwaukee, Sun Prairie, Ripon, and Necedah are all coming together to bring this amazing concert to you!

It will be premiered on Sunday afternoon, **December 21st, 2PM, at Grace Lutheran Church**. Please invite your friends and family, coworkers and colleagues to help cheer this Christmas season on!

Like last year, a sponsorship board will be placed in the narthex starting in November so you will have the opportunity to share the sponsorship of this concert!

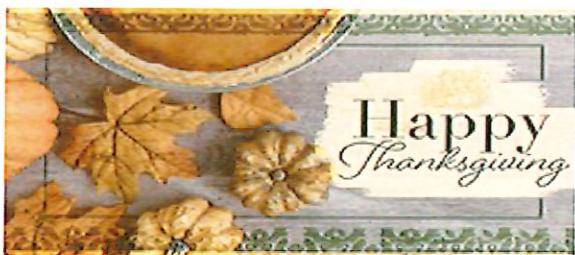
**Ding Dong Merrily On High!**



# NOVEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

Maxwell	Belling	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

## ANNIVERSARIES

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
11/30/1985	Tidemann, Fred & Michelle (Shelley)

### VISIT THE HOMEBOUND...

Maplecrest- Inez Bryden &  
Faye Zacharias

Prairie Place-

Arlene Thiem & LeRoy Holl

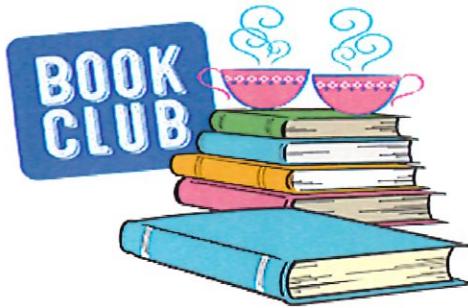
Russell Manor-

Jackie Steifner & Jean Zeto

Valley VNA-

Mary Jane Schanke

# Grace Readers

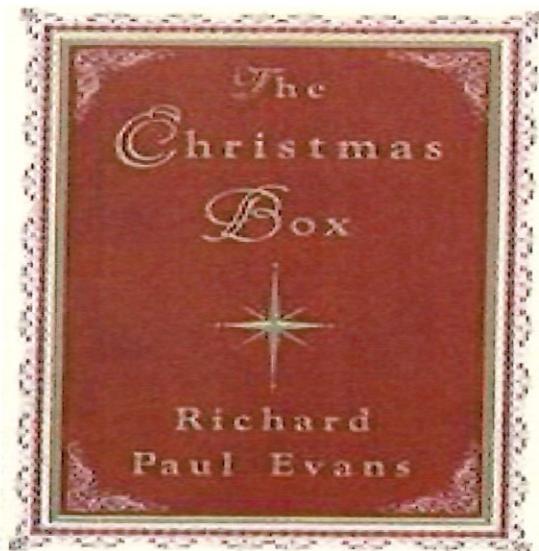


**There will be NO November meeting.**

Our final meeting for 2025 will be  
**Tuesday, December 2nd, at 6:30 PM in the Church  
Lounge.**

We will discuss "**The Christmas Box**"  
by Richard Paul Evans, a heartwarming story of miracles,  
hope, and healing.

Please join us for this modern holiday classic



# November

2025



## Grace Lutheran Church

430 W Griswold St

Ripon, WI 54971

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
**@ [www.graceripon.com](http://www.graceripon.com)**  
**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

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