

In the Loop with Pastor Clay – The Deck of Cards



One Sunday morning an Army Chaplain was leading a chapel service for members of his unit while they were deployed overseas. During his sermon, the Chaplain noticed one of the soldiers looking at a deck of playing cards. The Chaplain was a bit miffed by this and after the service he asked the soldier why he wasn't paying attention to the sermon. The soldier explained that on a recent long-range patrol he had neither his Bible nor his Lutheran Prayer Book for the Armed Services, so he used his deck of playing cards instead.

The soldier explained, "When I look at the Ace, it tells me that there is one God and no other. When I see the 2, it reminds me that there are two parts to the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The 3 tells me of the Holy Trinity – God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The 4 reminds me of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. When I see the 5, I'm reminded of the five unwise bridesmaids who were lost and the five who were saved. (Matthew 25:1-13) The 6 and the 7 remind me of the Creation Account, during which God created the Earth in six days and rested on the seventh. (Genesis, chapter 1) The 8 calls to mind the great flood, in which God destroyed all land-dwelling life except for eight people: faithful Noah, his wife, their three sons, and the three sons' wives. (Genesis, chapters 7 and 8) When I see the 9, I think of the nine lepers that God healed. There were ten lepers in all who were healed, but only one turned back to praise God and thank Jesus. (Luke 17:11-19) The 10 reminds me of the Ten Commandments carved in the stone tablets by God. (Exodus 20:1-21 and Exodus 31:18) The Jack makes me remember the Prince of Darkness. Like a roaring lion, your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8) When I look at the Queen, I see the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25) As I look at the last card, the King, it reminds me that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Revelation 17:14) The sum of all the cards (Ace = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack/11, Queen/12, King/13, plus one Joker) equals 365 and that's the number of days in a year. There are 12 face cards and that's the number of seasons in a year. You see, Chaplain, my deck of cards can serve as my Bible, my prayer book, and my almanac. My deck of cards reminds me that I need Jesus 365 days, 52 weeks, and 12 months a year, and that I should pray "4" others.

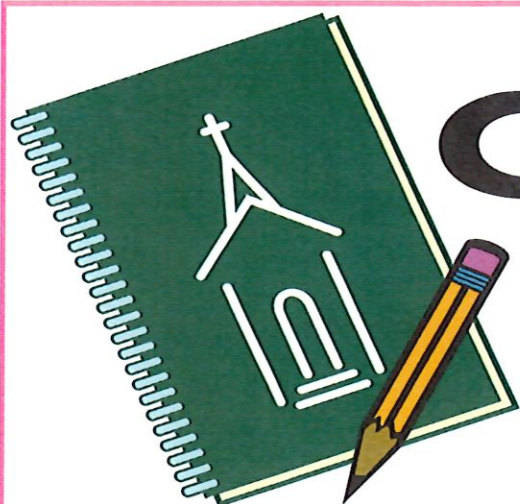
The Chaplain was amazed. He commended the soldier for his faithfulness and thanked him for providing the sermon material for next week's Chapel service!

*"Just when you think you're playing your cards right, God shuffles the deck."
- Mark Sheppard*

God's blessings to you for a super September, a lovely Labor Day, and a hand of cards that will make you smile!

Pastor Clay

Church Council 2025-26



Council Notes

Council minutes are attached to the end of Grace Notes

SEEKING NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

-CONTACT PASTOR CLAY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

COUNCIL MEMBERS

DOUG PINNOW (26)-President	920-896-2718	Dougforth2175@hotmail.com
KATIE WORTHING (26)-Vice President	920-203-5886	worthing@gmail.com
JAMIE JAHNKE- (27)-Secretary	920-392-4650	Skiesareblue44@gmail.com
HERM LEITZ (25)	920-851-7610	herm.leitz@myself.com
SHELLY ZILLS (25)	920-210-7133	Shelleysnacks@yahoo.com
PENNY TEBO (25)	920-872-9900	penny-tebo@charter.net
DAN KELM (25)	920-748-7743	dan@graphicssignandletter.com
MELANIE OPPOR (27)	920-896-3133	jmdopp86@gmail.com

VBS for Sept. GRACE NOTES

VBS 2025 – TRUE NORTH

The camping gear is packed up and VBS is heading to the Tropics for 2026!



WE HAVE OUR OWN LOGO to represent the combination of Five churches (Federated Church of Green Lake, Grace Lutheran, Hillside Assembly, Immanuel UMC and Our' Saviour's UCC) working together on this wonderful outreach mission. We have just completed our 15th year of cooperative VBS! Thanks to all of you for your continued support with donations and participation. The VBS mission this year was KIDSAVE UKRAINE. The students raised \$827.11 during the week of VBS and the five participating churches donated an additional \$334 - as of now - for a total of \$1161.11!

Next year's theme is **RAINFOREST FALLS!** The decorating crew is already hard at work creating the scenery. **We have a list of items needed:** grass skirts and/or grass table skirting – **NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** - anything still hanging around after a Hawaiian party?); artificial plants, vines & large flowers; old bamboo or wooden shades, screens, placemats or .. ?; any tropical themed decorations you might have around that need a good home. As decorating ideas continue to develop, we may ask you to be on the lookout for more items.

**Thank you for all your support,
The Ripon Area VBS Planning Team**

**Thank
You**

Thank you to Mark & Jackie Peterson for providing and taking care of the beautiful flowers outside by our Grace Sign!

Christian Education - Info and Updates

September 2025

Christian Education Team Meetings

Sunday, September 14th at 11:15 a.m. in the Youth and Sunday School Office. **All Are Welcome!**

Events/Activities:

September 7th – Education Sunday (Blessing of bags and Sunday school registration)

September 9th – Christian Education Team Hosts Sharing Table

September 14th – First Day of Sunday School

September 17th – Confirmation Parent Meeting

September 21st – Fall Fest

September 24th – Confirmation Classes Begins

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 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 in the church lounge (September 8th)...everyone is invited to attend. See you soon!

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.

*Bethany circle will meet September 15th due to the holiday this month.

Monies are available to Women of Grace wishing to attend events.

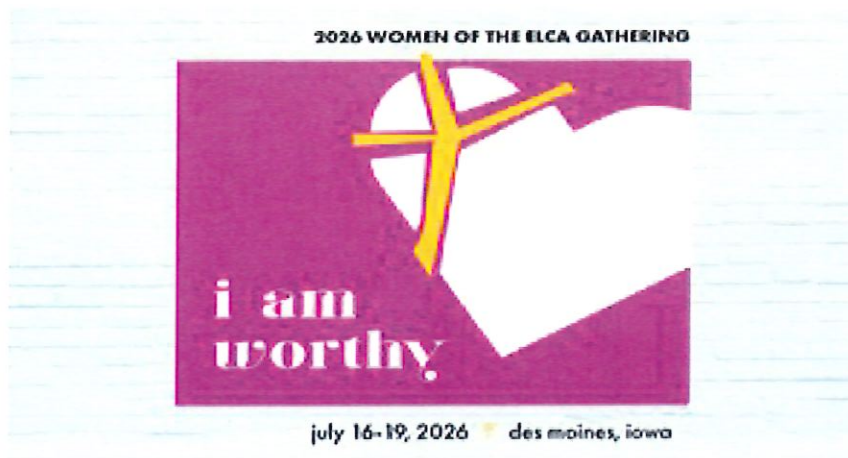
Please contact Lisa Beuthin, Peggy Beuthin, or Sheri Bradshaw.

2025 Upcoming Events:

****Registration for the Biennial Conference is now open! The **Saturday, November 8th** event at St. Mark's in Neenah will include breakfast, fellowship, a business meeting, worship service, lunch and featured speaker Jacqueline Bussie, author of "Love Without Limits": Jesus' Radical Vision of Love with No Exceptions.

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.



815 Club

Our August gathering at Vines & Rushes was a fun evening!! Thank you to Sue Mokler for sharing the game Rummikub and its history – we had a lot of laughs playing the tiles. 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."

Our September 18 gathering will be at Grace at 6:00 pm.

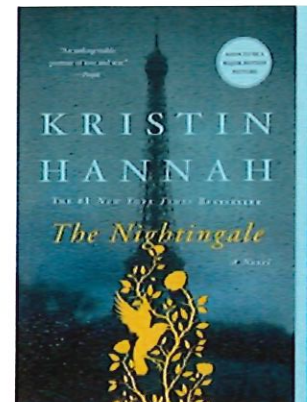
One of our members has agreed to bring sloppy joes for everyone....and all others are invited to bring a snack to share. We will be inviting the MAGIC participants to join us. Stay tuned for the activity plan for the evening!!

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!!



Grace Readers:

Please join Grace Readers on **Tuesday,**
September 23 @ 6:30 p.m. to discuss
"The Nightingale: A Novel " by
Kristin Hannah. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

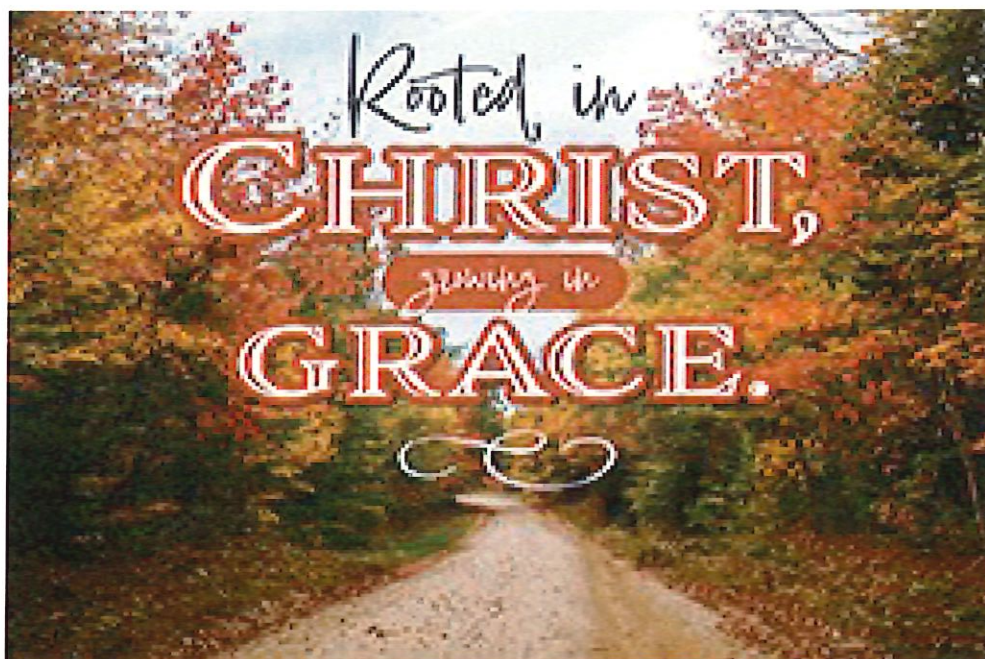




September 2025

Help us keep plastics out of the waterways and landfills!! We recycle SOFT plastics – and receive benches for our efforts. Bring your SOFT plastics with you on Sunday – or drop them near the box at the Sunday School door.

We have a wonderful crew of volunteers that help us bag plastic on Sunday mornings...and help us weigh and load for the trip to Oshkosh. We appreciate their help...but could always use more folks to assist. If you are interested, please stop and see Sue Mokler at the table on Sunday morning or reach out to Max and Terry Saylor for details.





RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip



September 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 fourth Sunday in August, our monthly average is only \$2,683.

Let's make September 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!

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 2025 To Date (8/25/2025)

\$45,000 Sales \$ 21,460 Sales

\$ 1,350 Profit \$ 641 Profit

\$ 3,750 Monthly Average \$ 2,683 Currently Monthly Average

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

G Dollars 2025

Keep looking for those G dollars!! G for Grace!



Congregation members will have the choice of:

- ☐ putting the G Dollars in the offering plate on Sunday
- ☐ putting them in the container in the narthex
- ☐ putting them in an envelope. If members put their name on the donation, it will be recorded for their annual giving

And someone asked me last week if they had some money they wanted to donate and it wasn't G dollars, could they still donate to the Audio Video system...and the answer was "OF COURSE"! Put your donation in one of the envelopes and it will get credited to your giving account and help us reach our goal!!

NEW PLAYGROUND

Enjoy our beautiful new playground located by our firepit.

THANK YOU.....

To everyone who helped work on this project.





Betty	Ott	09/01
Mary	Pick	09/02
Gavin	Slark	09/02
Suzanne	Wallace	09/02
Miranda	Cluppert	09/05
Leonel	Baird	09/06
Luanne	McConnell	09/09
Jeffrey	Paulson	09/09
Jim	Tebo	09/09
Kim	Merrill	09/10
Aidan	Thiem	09/10
Diane	Zacharias	09/10
Kathryn	Baird	09/13
Lyn	McCarthy	09/13
Aidan	Schoff	09/16
Michael	Hunter	09/17
Gerald	Lind	09/17
Donald	Paulson	09/18
Danforth	Pinnow	09/18
Rachel	Bradshaw	09/19
Diella	Langenhorst	09/19
Steven	Wammer	09/19
Kent	Huseboe	09/20
Jennifer	Oppor	09/21
Annette	Peters	09/21
Kira	Schoff	09/21
Jessica	Stollfuss	09/21
Micah	Christopherson	09/24
Ella	McCarroll	09/25
Ron	Liptow	09/26
Wayne	Albright	09/28
Kyler	Rieder	09/28
Dean	Augustine	09/29
Todd	Langenhorst	09/30

9/1/1984	Simpkins, Melanie & Tom
9/4/2004	Kelm, Dan & Erin
9/6/1980	Preissner, Linda & Mark
9/8/1979	Schleicher, Boyd & Kathy
9/8/1990	Franke, Peter & Michelle
9/17/2005	Otto, Terri & Aaron
9/20/2008	Belau, Curt & Lisa

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

Social Concerns Committee

September 2025

Dawn comes a little later now and the heavy dew lingers longer underfoot. Abundant rain this summer has rendered our little acre of God's world to lush growth everywhere. High humidity and summer sons bring on early maturity to produce yields and field crops. We are blessed.

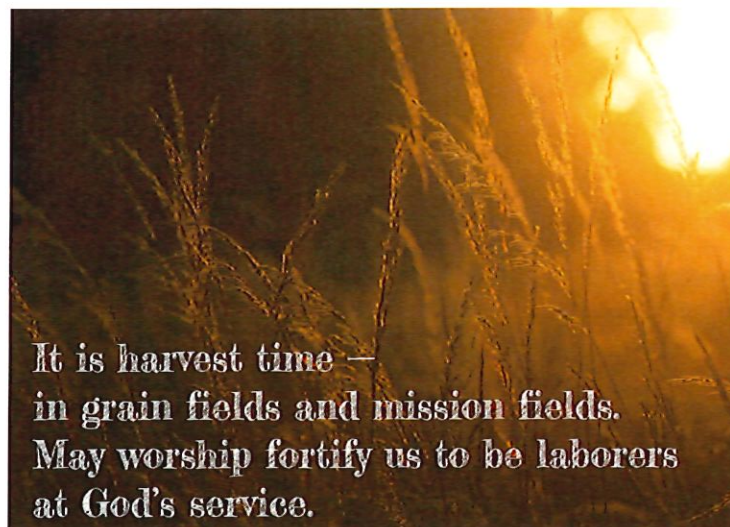
Life is a continuing process. The thoughts we have in youth gradually change as we grow older. We see more truth in what our parents tried to tell us many years (decades?) ago when we were younger. We see that it's up to each of us to be happy, to be useful, to make good out of each day.

None of us knows where our life began or where it will end. We did not know what we will be when we were born, and we don't know what will be after our death. Let us make it good so that the good can follow us.

In your daily lives, what 'good' might you do for others? Doing 'the good' is a part of the social concerns of all of us. To what you can to help your fellow humans. Do you hold the door open for the person entering behind you or coming out? Do you speak in a kind, pleasant tone when placing a food order or at a checkout lane? What's the difference in 'can' or 'may, when requesting something? Might your politeness when speaking with someone include the use of 'sir' or 'ma'am regardless of the junior or senior age of the person to whom you are speaking with?

The committee held its last meeting in August. We discussed questions presented to School Resource Office, Lindsay Michels of the City Of Ripon Police Department on inquires to any homeless population in the City of Ripon and any back pack program(s) in the city. Ranges of dates for the ELCA Good Gifts, Share The Love Tree was discussed including the 2 for 1 sale connected with the ELCA Good Gifts Program. The Cookie Walk bake sale is set for the 21st of December. Additional information on these activities will shared with everyone as the times arrive closer.

Please bear in mind that there is something for all of us here. There's work to be done and we've all got our part on the way that is sincere. It's not by your size that you win or fail ... it's just be the best of whatever you are.





Grace Lutheran Church

(920) 748-5433

Clay Salmela, Pastor

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
@ www.graceripon.com
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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William Louis -Brux-Music Director

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Maddy Pinnow-Youth Director

madelyn@graceripon.com

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 Handbells 4:15 pm Choir 5 pm	3	4	5 6
7 Worship 9 am Blessing of the Backpacks God's Work. Our Hands.	8 Eve Circle 1-3 pm Church lounge	9 SHARING TABLE 5 pm	10 Handbells 4:15 pm Choir 5 pm	11 MAGIC 6:30 pm	12 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am Location: TBD	13
14 Worship 9 am 1 st Day of Sunday School/ Wired Word	15 Bethany Circle 6:30 pm Church Lounge	16 Church Council Meeting 6 pm	17 Handbells 4:15 pm Choir 5 pm	18 8:15 Club @ Grace 6 pm MAGIC 6:30 pm	19	20
21 Worship 9 am FALL FEST	22 Grace Readers Book Club 6:30 pm-Church lounge	23 Handbells 4:15 pm Choir 5 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	24 MAGIC 6:30 pm	25	26 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am Location: TBD	27
28 Worship 9 am	29	30				

Grace Lutheran Church

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2025

In Attendance: Pastor Clay, Doug Pinnow, Maddy Pinnow, Jamie Jahnke, Will Louis-Brux, Herm Leitz, Katie Worthing, Melanie Opper, Luther Olsen, Shelley Zills, Penny Tebo, and Lily Hoffmann.

1. Call to Order by Doug Pinnow, President at 6:00 pm
2. Prayer Concerns and Celebrations: The Ott Family, Confirmation Camp, 12 new members to Grace.
3. Devotion: by Herm, regarding God creating the world to be perfect.
4. Consent Agenda (Action). m/s/c Herm/Penny
5. Items to be removed from Consent Agenda to be acted on separately (Action): None
6. Review and Approve Year-to-Date Treasurer's Report and Review and Approve Envelope Offerings. m/s/c Penny/Herm
7. Pastor's Report: Pastor Clay reported on his various counseling, at home/in office/outside visits, any funerals, marriages, and baptisms, as well as all prospective and new members. He also reported on his fellowship opportunities and meetings outside the church. He then reported on items of interest including the 815'ers and reviewing Sunday morning worship e.g. adding an Assisting Minister.
Sue is looking for ways to expand sales.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review 2025 Church Council Goals and Create Summary of 2025 Accomplishments (Information/Action): Men's Ministry in February and meeting bimonthly, 815'ers in April and meeting at least monthly with smaller events in between to be determined. Potential new success-partnership with ADVOCAP.
2. Showcase Facebook and Website-reports were due yesterday, just waiting on a few that will get handed in shortly
3. Update on Diverse Options Internship (Information/Action) by Lily/Katie-the job shadow went well, and new hire will work approximately 4 hours/week.

4. Adult Social Group-Bob and Cindy Eidahl (Information)- need to RSVP to Bob by June 20th for event at Christianos to be held on June 25th at 6pm. – July cookout to be held at Max and Terry Saylor's home.
5. Coffee hour will be held on June 29th to celebrate all birthdays, anniversaries, and new members for the month. Katie is the sponsor and Penny & Jim will assist.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review new timeline and process for hiring a custodian (Information). J & J Cleaning Service was hired on 6/12/25 and will start on 6/16/25 at a rate of \$100/week.
2. Create Council Member email accounts for church business (Action)-m/s/c by Melanie/Herm to have Andrea generate Google emails for all staff and council and committee members. This will happen with the support of the tech committee, m/s/c by Melanie/Katie for Andrea to explore all options for ALL church members (not just 1 person in household) to be able to receive church emails e.g. Grace Notes.
3. VBS Update Summer of 2025 (Information)-Kay Kelch, Grace will be hosting this year.
4. Overview of Synod Assembly-Kay and Melanie. The Assembly focused on Inclusivity of Tribal communities, and resolving the hard feelings from their past treatment. The Synod's question is "How can we serve ALL people?"
5. Coin Purses-Noisy Offering-Have coin purses ready for Rally Sunday, people can take a coin purse if they want to use it.
6. Playset for backyard area by fire pit-risk management was discussed, with signage, maintenance, and fencing being key issues
7. Tender Heart T-shirt Day (Information/Action)-August 3rd, Katie, Lily, and Melanie will spearhead this event.
8. Last Call-None

Lord's Prayer and Dismissal: m/s/c Herm/Katie to Adjourn at 6:56 pm.

Mission of the Month 2025

January - Endowment Fund

February - Crossways Camp

March - UW Madison/Am Fam Children's Hospital in Madison

April - Lutheran Social Services

May - Area Food Pantries

June - Boys & Girls Club

July - National Alliance on Mental Health

August - Gabriel's Wings Foundation

September - Andrew Wallace Foundation

October - Alzheimer's Association

November-FDL County Veteran's Service Office

December-Sharing Table