

Equippier

Equipping God's people as we celebrate, teach, and share God's Grace.



October 2020

Three Certainties for Uncertain Times

Uncertainty. If there's one word we would use to describe this year and life during a worldwide crisis, it's uncertainty. The dictionary defines uncertainty as "being in a state of regular or constant change." Sounds about right.

Just about everything is uncertain these days. Health. Jobs. The economy. Things change on a daily basis so there seems little in which to plant our hopes or expectations for the future. It's hard to know what or who to depend upon—or believe. And with all the uncertainty comes a host of questions which swirl around our minds each day. Will I get sick? Will someone in my family get sick? How bad will it be? What will happen to my job—will I even keep it? What will school be like for our children this fall?

And always in the back of our mind is the big unknown: When will things ever return to normal?

As believers, we are not left on our own to navigate through uncertain times. While uncertainty is hard and challenging, we do have hope. We have certainty even in uncertain times.

1. God does not change

At times of uncertainty we have to return to what is true about God. We have to remind ourselves of his character. One of God's attributes is that he does not change. [Malachi 3:6](#) says, "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

"God's people had sinned against him but he did not destroy them because of the covenant he made with them. His promises stood firm. Theologians called this unchanging nature of God his immutability. Nothing about God can change. He can't become less holy or righteous or merciful than he is. He can't gain more wisdom or be more just than he already is. He won't stop loving us or providing for us. He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever ([Heb. 13:8](#)).

In times of chaos and constant change, God's immutability is a fixed and steady truth for us to cling to. We can trust his promises for us will stand secure. We can know his word remains forever. We can trust that who God is in his character and being is the same today as it was when he called Abram out of Ur and when Isaiah saw him seated on the throne of heaven. He is the same God who sent the eternal Son to live and die in our place. God is the same promise-keeping, grace-showing, life-giving God, today and always.

2. God reigns

God is not surprised by all this uncertainty. He is not taken off guard or caught unawares by the chaos. He has not gotten busy with some other task in the universe and returned to find the world a giant mess. God reigns. He is the supreme ruler. "For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'" ([Isaiah 46:9–10](#)).

The One who flung the stars across the galaxy, the One who breathed in man the breath of life, is the One who rules over all he has made. As Christians, we can take great hope in knowing that God is the one watching over all the details of our lives. Nothing and no one can thwart his good plans for us. He is at work in the midst of all the chaos, confusion, and uncertainty, orchestrating all things for our good and his glory ([Rom. 8:28–29](#)).

3. God is with us

Even more, God is present with us in the chaos. The promise of Scripture, "I will be their God and they shall be my people" was fulfilled in Christ when he took on human flesh and lived the life we could not live and died the death we deserved. Immanuel—God with us—brought order to the chaos of this world by healing all that was broken. He reconciled us to God. There are now no barriers between us; we can come to throne in confidence and find help and grace in our time of need ([Heb. 4:16](#)).

Before our Savior returned to heaven, he promised a Helper would come. The Spirit has come and now lives within us. The very presence of God resides in our hearts. He comforts, guides, teaches, convicts, and trains us in righteousness. God is with us! Whatever the chaos, whatever the uncertainty, whatever the unknowns, we are not alone. We are held safe and secure. No evil can threaten to undo us. Let our hearts rejoice that God is near.

This is an uncertain time. There's no telling how long it will go on. But as believers, we are not without hope. In the midst of uncertainty, we have a certain hope in our great God who is unchanging, sovereign, and present with us. May we rest in these certainties today.

See you in worship!

Pastor John M. Taggatz



What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.

Stephen Leaders are the ones who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize and supervise our Stephen Ministers, identify people in need of care, and match them with a Stephen Minister. We have 5 Stephen Leaders. They are Jeanne Meyer, Lisa Kamprath, Lori Kachelmeier, Chris Cotter & Pastor Taggatz.

Stephen Ministers are the caregivers. They have been through 50 hours of initial training, and ongoing training in Christian care giving, including general topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries, assertiveness, and using Christian resources in care giving. In addition, their training covered specialized topics such as ministering to the divorced, hospitalized, bereaved, and aging, and many more. There is no need that is too small.

Care Receivers are the recipients of Stephen Minister's care. They are people from our church or the community who are experiencing divorce, grief, loss of a job, loneliness, hospitalization, terminal illness, or any of an endless number of other life difficulties. Stephen Ministers usually meet with their care receivers once a week for about an hour for as long as the care receiver will benefit by the relationship.

Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or tough time. They will walk with and beside you through your needs.

Stephen Ministers are not counselors: they are trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care -- not to give advice or counsel. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receiver's need exceeds what they can provide. When that happens they work with care receivers to help them receive the level of care they really need.

TRUST IS ESSENTIAL to a caring relationship, and Stephen Ministers are people you can trust. confidentiality is one of the MOST important principles of Stephen Ministry, and what a receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

Our Pastor will always be the primary caregivers, but there is no way pastors can meet all the needs for care. God has called all of us, not just pastors, to minister to one another. Stephen Ministry multiplies ministry by turning pastors into equippers, so they can enable lay people to provide caring ministry as well.

How can you get a Stephen Minister? If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Pastor Taggatz or to one of our Stephen Leaders, Jeanne, Lisa, Chris, Lori or if you want another Stephen Minister, Pat Lemmer, Gail Olen, Bob Morgan, Jan Barrett, Donna Wenzel, Beth or Dick Jackson, Adam Voss or Pauline Parker, our leaders are also Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministry is free of charge to our church or community.

If you would be interested in being a Stephen Minister please talk to one of our leaders or Pastor Taggatz.

October Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS—Adult Bible Study will be held in the Entrance to our Church building from 9:15-10:15am. In the Adult Bible Study, we will be studying the Sunday morning Bible Readings for worship. Our Sunday School Students will be meeting in our Church Sanctuary from 9:15-10:15am. *Please sign up your children for Sunday School on the table to the entrance to our sanctuary, please also consider helping with Sunday School this year as a teacher or aide for this year. Let our Church Office know if you would like to help out with Sunday School this year.*

Voter's Meeting at Grace—The Grace Church Council has set the date of Sunday, October 18th for our next Voter's Meeting. The meeting will be brief. The Voter's Meeting will be taking place following our late Sunday morning service. Thank you for all of your prayers and support of Grace Lutheran Church, School, and ECC! We greatly appreciate it!!!

Choir at Grace

Choir practice will be starting soon on Thursday evenings. Please contact Kathy Kolb for further details.



All Saints Day-Any members who would like to recognize those of Christian faith who have fallen asleep in Jesus this last year from November 2019 to the present, please let our church office know by Monday, October 26th. We will be remembering the saints who have gone to heaven in a special All Saints Day worship service on November 1, 2020.

Ladies Guild

Socktober is coming!

As we celebrate LWML Sunday this month we look to those in need at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

This month Ladies Guild will be collecting new pairs of socks- of all sizes- to be donated to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Look for the donation box in the narthex to help us meet our goal of 100 pairs of socks!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

Ladies you are invited to join us this month for our study
October 10 & 24 8am -9:30am at church.

Our Way Home: A Journey through the Lord's Prayer by Daniel Paavola

Any questions please contact Jennifer Olen 414.305.3740

CELEBRATING LWML SUNDAY - OCT 1 & 4

The power of God is evident in the dimes and quarters you put in your Mite Box and this is celebrated each fall on LWML Sunday. **We thank you for your support of LWML.**

Read our LWML Vision Statement: *"The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness."*

This is what LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) has been doing for 78 years and will continue to do with the help of the Holy Spirit and your support.

Help us celebrate by joining us in worship, giving of your change in the Mite box and wearing **PURPLE!**

FALL RALLY

Our meeting this month will be to attend the **Zone 1 Fall Rally**

Saturday-Oct 10, 9am-11am

St John's Lutheran Church

4850 S Lake Dr, Cudahy, WI 53110



Come hear about the Comfort Dog Ministry!

Safety measures will be taken at the event.

Contact Jennifer Olen with any questions



5th Annual Grace Lutheran Panther Golf Outing

Sunday, October 11th-12:30 PM (*Packer Bye*)

Grant Park Golf Course

All levels of skill encouraged

We are playing a 9-hole Scramble format
(everyone in your group hits then you take the best shot and proceed).

Reduced price this year as we will be having minimal raffles
(this year is a FUNraiser more than a fundraiser).

\$30 Price includes Golf, Cart, 2 drink tickets, hole prizes and a wonderful
opportunity for fellowship.

Sign up as a team or an individual (if you don't have a team we will pair you up).

Name	Email
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Please make any checks payable to Grace Lutheran School. Any question can be directed to Tom Hengst at thengst@wi.rr.com.

The background of the entire poster is decorated with several realistic-looking pumpkins in shades of orange and yellow, with green stems and leaves. The pumpkins are scattered around the text, with some partially cut off by the edges of the image.

Social Distance

TRUNK OR TREAT!

Presented by Grace Lutheran Church,
School, and Early Childhood Center

Friday, October 30th

4:30-7:00 pm

All children are welcome to our school parking lot to receive some Halloween Candy, some Christian tracts, and fellowship with other children and members of our congregation.

Because this is a Christian event, please leave all goblins, witches, and other occult attire at home.

Interested in helping out?

Have questions?

Contact our church office

414-762-8990

**8537 S PENNSYLVANIA AVE OAK
CREEK, WI 53154**

SUPPORT OUR MILITARY

Help us send the Word to men and women serving around the world.



Cost of each
Biblestick: \$25

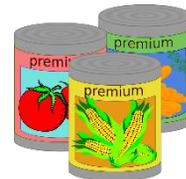
Our Goal: 40
Bible Sticks

Envelopes and additional information are on the table in the church narthex.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

We would like to show our appreciation for Pastor Taggatz by throwing the family a **PANTRY SHOWER**.

Look for the list of items we want to shower them with on the white board in the narthex.



Items will be collected through this month.

Please drop off the items in the designated box in the narthex.

“THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP,
JUST AS YOU ARE DOING.”
1 THESSALONIANS 4:18 ESV

Grace's Social Media Corner

Why is Grace Lutheran on Facebook and Instagram?

***Aren't those just for funny cat videos and
political rants?***

We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center.

However, most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!

We enjoy using this technology to continue the work of spreading the
Good News of God's Riches At Christ's Expense!

Join us in this work!

LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!



Facebook:

*Grace Lutheran Church School &
Early Childhood Center, Oak Creek,
WI*



Instagram:

gracelutheran_oakcreek

- 2 Abigail Dachel
- 2 Anthony Puetz
- 2 Matthew Rodgers Jr.
- 2 Kristin Toth
- 3 Aaron Cotter
- 5 Amanda Prelewicz
- 5 Jerry Urbaniak
- 10 JoEllyn Pfeilstifter
- 12 Chase Kelley
- 12 Anniston Svicek
- 12 Natalie Vitek
- 13 Sharon Iseli
- 14 Nicole Kisley
- 16 Marnie Beier
- 17 Carson Mallon
- 21 Doc Medek
- 23 Brandon Dachel
- 23 John Tindall
- 24 Virginia Schmeiser
- 25 Clare Sauer
- 27 Brian Curran
- 27 Chris Edgerton Jr.
- 29 Isabelle Morgan
- 29 Dachs Poellet
- 30 Carsen, Serdynski
- 30 Isabelle Smith
- 30 Nicole Tindall



Anniversaries



- 10/04 Tony & Suzie Mirenda
- 10/05 Ryan & Annie Olen
- 10/09 Kevin & Emily Kelley
- 10/13 Jareb & Emily Zunker
- 10/14 Jeff & Lynn Hartig

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Radio Worship Service

"*The Lutheran Hour*" can be heard every Sunday Morning at 6:00 AM on WGN 720 AM, Chicago or at 6:30 AM on WTMJ 620 AM or at 11:00 am WRRD 540 AM, Milwaukee.

"*The Lutheran Hour,*" which began in 1930, is the world's oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.



Prayer Hot Line



In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members if our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Taggatz.

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC
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