

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20th, 2020

“By His Grace you are saved through faith”

Ephesians 2:8

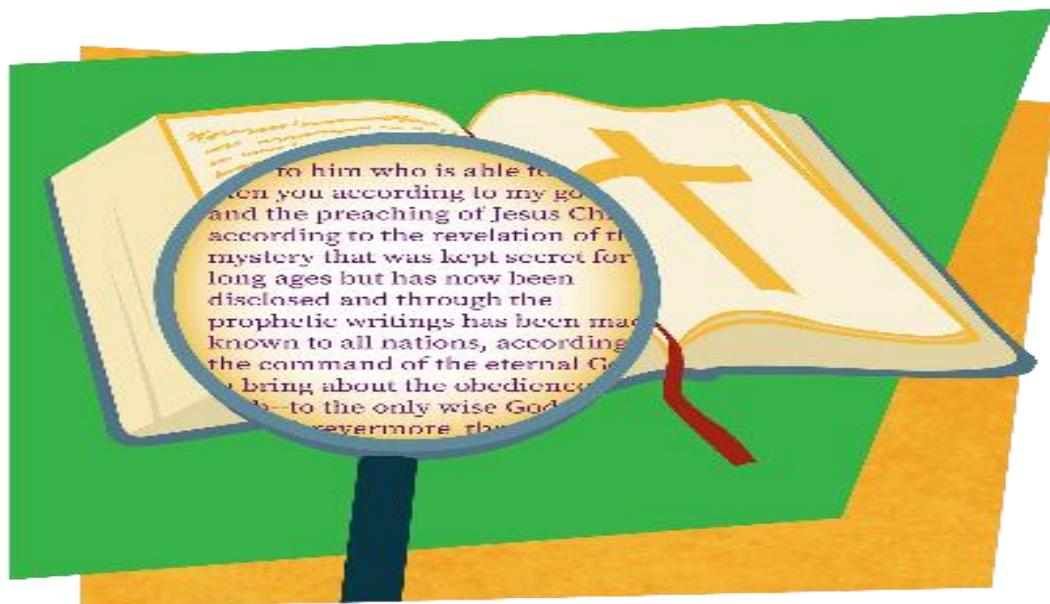


Image: “Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (Romans 16:25-27)

Welcome to Grace! We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins (age 3-6) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our Church Narthex and Entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the Prayer Request Sheet found on the podium in the narthex.

A few minutes prior to the start of worship, our organist will begin playing the "Prelude". At this time we set aside our personal conversations and use this as a time to prepare for worship. Consider offering a silent prayer (sample prayers are offered on the opening page of our hymnal), reading through the Scripture lessons for the day, or listening to the music as we prepare ourselves to enter God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

We're glad you're with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather-*"The Best Mystery, Revealed"*

We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It doesn't appear on any list of greatest novels or plays written by earthly authors. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But as we prepare to review the mystery of God—the Son of God becoming incarnate in our human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary—the greater mystery is that He, Jesus, looks over your shoulder now in the retelling and hearing of Christmas. The greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. The Gospel—the wisdom and mystery of God—is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Order of Service—Divine Service Setting 4 pg. 203

We Invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer** (Suggested prayers prior to worship may be found on the opening page of your hymnal) and meditation. Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder (vs. 1-5)



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky,
Re - joi - ce, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Ps. 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Is. 45:8a, b

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*

and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*

and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

- C Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
 C **And also with you.**

- P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 C **Amen.**

Sit

Installation of a Lutheran School Teacher (10:30 svc.)

Those to be installed are presented before the altar.

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 C **Amen.**

- P Beloved in the Lord, [name(s)] [has/have] been properly elected and called to serve as (a) teacher(s) of [place]. This office has been established in love by the Church to support the Office of the Holy Ministry and to assist and strengthen Christian fathers and mothers in their God-given responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord.

Hear the Word of God concerning this office.

3For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

25But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

P Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

R *Yes, I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.*

P Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely, the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

R *Yes, I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds because they are in accord with the Word of God. I also reject all the errors they condemn.*

P Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—as these are contained in the Book of Concord—are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?

R *Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.*

P Do you solemnly promise faithfully to serve God’s people in the teaching ministry in accordance with Holy Scripture and with these Confessions?

R *Yes, I promise, with the help of God.*

P Will you, trusting in God’s care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have heard the confession and solemn promise of [name(s)], who [has/have] been called to the office of teacher in the Church. I ask you now, in the presence of God: Will you receive [him/her/them], show [him/her/them] fitting love and honor, and support [him/her/them] by your gifts and fervent prayer? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C **We will, with the help of God.**

P The almighty and most merciful God strengthen and assist you always.

P Are you ready and willing to assume the work of this office?

R *I am.*

P [Name], I install you as teacher of [place] in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

The newly installed may kneel.

P Let us pray. Gracious and most merciful Lord, we thank You for providing faithful men and women in Your Church to assist and support the Office of the Holy Ministry and its work among us. Grant Your Holy Spirit to [name(s)], and adorn [him/her/them] with wisdom and power from on high. Incline both young and old to godliness and obedience, and let them so benefit by instruction in Your holy Word that they may serve You all their days and finally obtain eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace and joy. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and bless and strengthen you for faithful service in His name.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

(The Lord's covenant with David)

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

(Paul gives a Doxology of praise to God)

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- P Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

(The birth of Jesus foretold)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

- C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.
 And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Children’s Message—“The Mystery” (Rom. 16:25-27) *The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)*

Sermon Hymn 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1-4)



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Sermon—“The Amazing Conversation” (Luke 1.26-38)

Offerings

During this Covid-19 Pandemic, we will not be passing the offering plates during worship, but will have them at the entrance of the church for people to drop their offerings off before or after the worship service. Thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our mission. Text the word: graceoc to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site: graceoakcreek.org. You may give a on etime gift or set up your regular weekly/ monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.)



Stand

Prayers of the Church (*Each petition of the prayers ends by the pastor saying: “Lord, in Your mercy” and the congregation responding: “Hear our prayer”*)

✕ SACRAMENT ✕

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.
 C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
 C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord’s Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to “*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*” the Good News of God’s Grace!

Grace Continuous Line Communion—*During this Covid-19 Pandemic we are doing continuous line communion here at Grace, we will do the Pulpit side first and then the lectern side, Pastor Taggatz and the Elder on duty will be using a mask and hand sanitizer before and after communion, and if you would like the Elder and Pastor to commune you in the pew, please be sure to let an Elder or an Usher know.*

Distribution Hymn

353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring (vs. 1-4)



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C O Lord, now let Your servant
 Depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory
 Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles
 Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people,
 Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever Three in One;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn 387 Joy to the World (vs. 1-4)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.

Logan (healing & strength) Great Grandson of Pauline Parker
Joy Lussier (thanksgiving for the 1st year anniversary of her new kidney)
Pastor Bill Wurm, Pastor Taggatz's father-in-law
Angela Strasse (cancer) friend of Taggatz family
Leigh Schmeiser (healing)
Mark Pulkownik (hospice)
Rev Paul Pett (thanksgiving for successful kidney transplant surgery)
Dave Vitek (serving on the Greenfield Police Department) and Milw. Police Officers
Norma Manoil (cancer)
Jeanne Meyer (healing & strength)
Eleanor Taggatz (healing & strength) Pastor Taggatz's Grandma
Tom Janes (healing & strength) Diane Pielsnik's brother
Cindy Riemer (cancer)
Valerie (fighting cancer), Cathy Week's niece
Paul Carpenter (hospitalized) relative of Stephanie Gulizia
Ronnie Boyd (healing & strength)
Art Hartsmandorfer (healing & strength) friend of Doc Medek
Paul Carpenter (COVID-19) relative of Stephanie Gulizia
Steve & Joy Gettelman (healing & strength) Parents of Mr. Gettelman
Dan Gettelman (healing & strength) Brother of Mr. Gettelman
Delores Riemer (physical therapy on her knee)
Bob Morgan (healing & strength)
Valinda (hospice) Glen Dotson's aunt

For our Homebound Members at Grace:

Betty Lemmer, Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, June Roewer, Art Steinborn, Ernst & Patricia Groth, Gloria Kilponen, and Mark Pulkownik.

We mourn with the families of Glen Dotson, Mr. Gettelman, John Tindall, and Gertrude Wenzel as they grieve over the recent deaths of Glen's Aunt Tippy, Mr Gettelman's Grandpa, *Everett Schade*, John Tindall's dad, *Paul Tindall*, and Gertrude Wenzel, who was called home to heavenly rest on December 10th. Oh Lord, we pray that we may not grieve as those who have no hope, but that we may rejoice in the promise of the resurrection to life everlasting, and that we may encourage one another with these words, *we pray especially for Gertrude Wenzel, John Tindall, the Dotson family and Mr. Gettelman's families* as they mourn their loved one's recent deaths, that casting every care upon you, they may know the consolation of your love. Amen.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! We thank the Lord for the birth of *Annabeth Lois Jackson*, the new Granddaughter of Beth & Dick Jackson and daughter of Wade & Rachel Jackson. We praise the Lord for this precious gift of new life and we pray for the health of both mother and baby. We pray that you would bring little *Annabeth* to the saving waters of Holy Baptism and grant to her that previous inheritance awaiting her in Your eternal kingdom. Amen.

**All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issue;
Hear our prayer.**

**We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by
emailing:**

Paulinemom@aol.com

If you do not have access to a computer you may call:

Prayers for worship:		Church Office	414-762-8990
Requests on prayer line:	10am-3 pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Thursday 6:30 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Brandon Dachel	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Miranda	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<u>Acolytes</u>		Evie Gamroth	Dachs Poellet
<u>Communion Set Up</u>		Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Linen Care</u>			Jennifer Olen

Pastor Taggatz Office Hours for Grace Lutheran Church

Monday 8:30 am-1:00 pm
Tuesday 8:30 am-1:00 pm
Wednesday 8:30 am-1:00 pm
Thursday 8:30 am-1:00 pm
Friday (Pastor's Day Off)

Visitations: Monday-Thursday afternoons

***For appointments, call Grace Lutheran's church office or Pastor's cell phone.
For emergencies, call Pastor Taggatz: 715-467-1231***

Church Secretary, Sarah Anderson: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:15 am-1:15 pm



Holiday Office Hours from 12/21/20 through 1/4/21

Pastor Taggatz will be on vacation December 26th through December 30th. While he is on vacation Pastor Chris Lockie from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Racine, WI will be taking his pastoral calls. Pastor Lockie can be reached at: 262-977-5077.

Pastor Roy Peterson from Concordia University Mequon will be leading worship on Sunday, December 27th. Sarah Anderson, our Church Secretary, will be working 1-day a week during the weeks of Christmas and New Year’s. She will be in the office 12/22 and 12/29.

Merry Christmas to all of you!!!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR —“**Experience God** ” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn't keep us from experiencing God's love for us in Christ. (John 1:1-18) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: lhm.org** scroll down the page and click on, “listen now.” Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	103.3	FM	Sun	6:30 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	5:30 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	6:30 AM

2021 Altar Flowers

- The sign-up sheet for 2021 Altar Flowers is posted on the white board in the narthex.
- Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral: 414.762.0246
- Flowers should be brought or delivered to church before the Thursday service
- You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca will provide you with a vase liner.
- Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will stay fresh for Sunday's services.

Sunday School Break-We will be taking a break from Sunday School on Sunday, December 27th and Sunday, January 3rd. We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, January 10th, 2021 at 9:15am. Thank you for your continued support of Christian Education here at Grace Lutheran!!!

Power Point Team

Pastor Taggatz is looking for a few people that would like to help him with running the Power Point during our worship services. If interested, please contact him directly at 715-467-1231 or jtaggatz@yahoo.com.

Grace Lutheran Oak Creek Youth Group Meeting-On Friday, January 15th at 4:30pm we will be having a Youth Group Meeting at Grace Lutheran Church to talk about our plans for the year of 2021. We will be discussing when our Youth Group will be meeting on a monthly basis here at Grace, about future events for our Youth Group, and the possibility of attending the 2022 LCMS National Youth Gathering. Youth at Grace ages 5th through 12th Grade are eligible to attend.

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH SERVICE ATTENDANCE—Last year of 2019 we had just over 200 people in attendance at Grace Lutheran’s Christmas Eve Worship Services. In order to make sure that both Christmas Eve services are socially distanced we would like to have our members sign up for which Christmas Eve Service they will be attending, either the 4:00pm or 5:30pm Candlelight Services. Please also let us know if you will have other family members or friends attending as well. Thank you very much for your input so that we can properly prepare for our upcoming Christmas Eve Services here at Grace!!!

Scrip Coordinator needed for the church. If you are interested please contact our church office at 414.762.8990. It will require only a minimal amount of work. Scrip is Fundraising while you shop. Grace Lutheran Church will raise money instantly when families use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases, like gas and groceries, instead of credit or debit cards, cash or check. *This volunteer must be a member of Grace Lutheran Church.*

Your 2021 Grace Lutheran Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex of the Church. Please feel free to pick your envelopes up and we thank you for your continued support of our Church, School, and Early Childcare Center through the stewardship of your time, talents, and treasures! God bless you! **Please do not use until January 2021.**

Mitten Tree

For the month of December, we will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens and gloves to keep others warm this winter. Items will be donated to South Milwaukee Human Concerns.



Altar Guild

There are a few openings on the Linen Care and Communion Set-up team we are looking to fill for the upcoming year. If you are interested in serving the Lord and Grace church in this way, please contact Jennifer Olen at 414.305.3740, olenjennifer@aol.com

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT IS A GREAT COOK? We are still looking to hire a hot lunch coordinator for our school hot lunch program. Duties would include, but not limited to:

- Creating a healthy, well balanced monthly hot lunch menu.
- Order food and supplies required for daily meals.
- Cook, serve, and clean up daily for the hot lunch program.

Interested individuals should contact Mr. Gettelman directly at: principal@graceoakcreek.org or 414-762-3655

Adult Membership Class at Grace Oak Creek – “God Connects”

We are forming a new adult membership class. It will be on Sundays in January and February 2021 starting on Sunday January 10th at 1pm and it will go till 3pm each Sunday until Sunday February 7th, 2021. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Please let us know if you need childcare to attend this new members class. Watch an introductory video at www.lhm.org/GodConnects.

We have a new program at Grace. It’s called, “Pastors and Elders Caring for the Church and Each Other.” In order to better serve our parishioners spiritual, mental, and emotional needs Grace’s Elders will be regularly contacting our members through phone and email. Please don’t be caught off guard by this. We are just trying to better serve our members spiritual needs and also develop a closer relationship with the families of our congregation.

Greeting Card Ministry

The greeting-card ministry consists of volunteers mailing cards and notes of encouragement to people in nursing facilities, who are homebound, or otherwise can’t be at church regularly. *‘Think of your neighbor, love your neighbor.’* This is the way people answer that message, letting people know they haven’t been forgotten. If you would like to share in this ministry please take a card which is provided for you on the table in the narthex. Remember...you are giving joy to these people.

Stewardship Minute

What a truly awesome night that was in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago when Jesus was born! In the Gospel story, we read about the shepherds who are in their fields when they see a bright light that comes from the sky. Then they see a form, and they’re scared! The angel speaks calming words: *“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy...”* (Luke 2:10) and he tells them about the Baby in Bethlehem. Then the sky is filled with *“a multitude of the heavenly host”* (Verse 13) who join the angel in praising God. We are like those shepherds. We’ve had this message revealed to us, too, not by an angel, but by the Word of God. Unlike the shepherds, we know the rest of the story. We know that the Baby grew up to be a Man Who chose to be the sacrifice for our sins so that we could be justified in God’s sight. As the shepherds shared the Good News, we are to as well.

Like the shepherds who traveled to Bethlehem in response to the Good News the angels brought, we have the greatest message to share.

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:20).



Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries, “God with Us” What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God’s Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.” The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He *knows* us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives. *These Advent Devotions are available in the Narthex of our Church and include our Holiday Worship times here at Grace. Please feel free to pick one up and share it with a neighbor, coworker, friend, or family member to invite them to worship with us at Grace during this Holiday Season as we celebrate the birth of our dear Savior Jesus Christ.*

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday Dec. 24th 4:00pm, 5:30pm-Christmas Eve “O Come, Key of David” Isaiah 22:22

Friday Dec. 25th 9:30am-Christmas Day “O Come, Dayspring” Isaiah 9:2

Thursday Dec. 31st 4:00pm-New Year’s Eve “O King of the Nations, You Have Come” Matthew 2:2

IN THE WORD FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Catechism: Creed—The Second Article of the Creed and Explanation

Verse of the week: Titus 3:4-5a, *“When the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 103

Hymn of the week: (LSB 359) “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (stanza 1-2)

Bible Stories for the Week:

Sunday— John Prepares for the Redeemer—John 1:19-28

Monday— St. Thomas, Apostle: John 20:24-29

Tuesday— The Annunciation: Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday— The Birth of Christ Foretold to Joseph: Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday— Christmas Eve: The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-20

Friday— Christmas Day: The Word Became Flesh—John 1:1-18

Saturday— St. Stephen, Martyr: Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60

“As we look forward to Christmas dinner and the celebration of our Savior’s birth, let us remember that Christ’s coming into the world began with an unexpected pregnancy. Mary of Nazareth was unmarried and certainly had reason to be confused and afraid when she was asked to carry the Son of God. But she courageously let God’s plan unfold for her and her Child and brought our Savior into this world, despite her uncertain circumstances.” *Right to Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org* “Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

Growing In Grace December 10 and 13, 2020

<u>Offering</u>			<i>Attendance</i>	<i>124</i>
<i>General Offering</i>		<i>\$4,012.25</i>	<i>Communed</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>		<i>883.10</i>		
<i>Missions</i>		<i>0.00</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>		<i>0.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>		<i>0.00</i>		
<i>Lutheran High</i>		<i>0.00</i>		
<i>Bible Study/Sunday School</i>		<i>0.00</i>		
Total		\$4,895.35		

OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Sunday	12/20	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Service Sunday School @ church Adult Bible Study @ church Divine Worship Service
Monday	12/21	2:30 pm 6:30 pm	NO Confirmation Class, school children NO Confirmation Class, public school
Tuesday	12/22	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ OC Diner
Wednesday	12/23	9:30 am	NO Ladies Bible Study @ church
Thursday	12/24	4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service Christmas Eve Worship Service
Friday	12/25	9:30 am	Christmas Day Worship Service
Sunday	12/27	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Service NO Sunday School NO Adult Bible Study Divine Worship Service

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990(O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
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Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445

Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
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Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Sarah Anderson, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC
3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office
Mailing Address
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

