

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## The Third Sunday in Advent

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**“By His Grace you are saved through faith”**

Ephesians 2:8



*Image:* “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!”  
(Zechariah 9:9)

# **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-*"Rejoicing Always"***

We hear John the Baptist coming to prepare the way for the Lord, whose earthly birth we are preparing to celebrate and whose coming again on the Last Day is the promise of resurrection and eternal life for all who believe. Between our coming to faith and His coming again, we are called to lives of faith that continue to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks in every circumstance. We can do that because we have come to the light of our salvation and hope of eternal life. Now certainly it's easier to rejoice, pray, and give thanks when things are going well. It's another thing when we suffer illness or persecution, the reverses, challenges, and disappointments of life. Nevertheless, the Spirit of Christ seeks to enable us to do just that—to rejoice always, to pray always, and to give thanks to God always in all circumstances. This is holy living, constantly keeping the eyes of faith on the sure and certain Word and promises of God for His people, the God who blesses, keeps, comforts, and strengthens us every day. We rejoice with the psalmist, saying, *"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"* (Psalm 118:24).

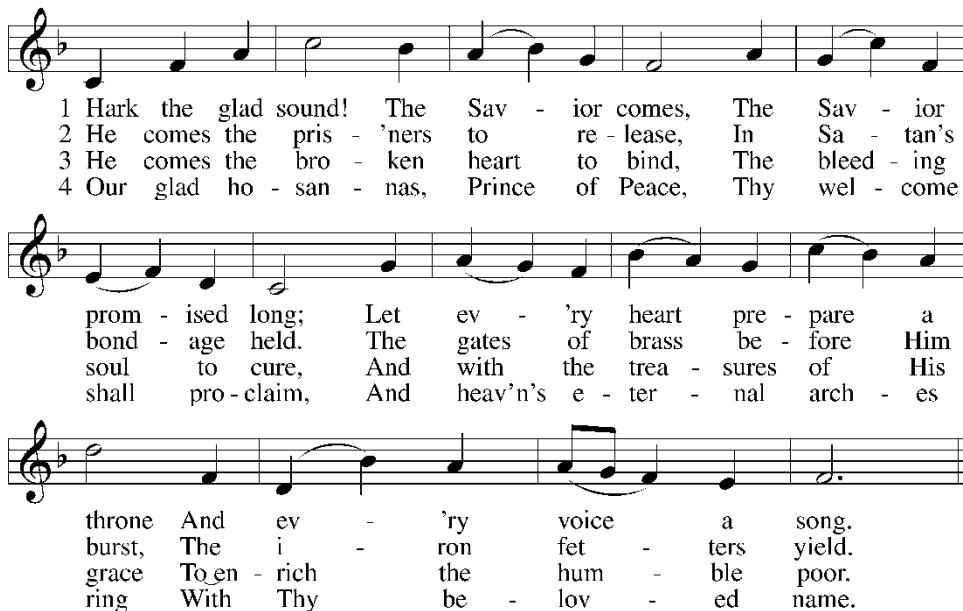
## Order of Service—Divine Service Setting 4 pg. 203

### 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—349 Hark the Glad Sound (vs. 1-4)



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

*Stand*

*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.

*Kneel/Stand*

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.**

*Stand*

## ✂ WORD ✂

**Introit**

*Ps. 85:8-9, 12-13; antiphon: Ps. 85:7*

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
**and grant us your sal- | vation.**  
Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,\*  
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.**  
Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*  
**that glory may dwell | in our land.**  
Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\*  
**and our land will yield its | increase.**  
Righteousness will go be- | fore him\*  
**and make his foot- | steps a way.**

**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 us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

## Kyrie

LSB 204

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

LSB 204

*During Advent the “Gloria in Excelsis” is omitted...*

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

*(The year of the Lord's favor)*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations... <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

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

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

*(Rejoice always)*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

- 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, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

*(The testimony of John the Baptist)*

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>19</sup>And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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 T of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Children’s Message—“Come, Lord Jesus!” (1 Thess. 5:16-24)** *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 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding (vs. 1-5)**



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

## Sermon—"A Witness to the Light" (John 1:6-8, 19-20)

### 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 one time 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*

**PRAYER 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:

- 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**

- 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."**
- P 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**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.**
- C Amen.**

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

### 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (vs. 1-8)



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the  
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with  
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther  
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom-y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day-light's  
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -  
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price-less gifts of  
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.  
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.  
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.  
bound-less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un-bound - ed This a - maz - ing  
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you  
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the  
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and  
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -  
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you  
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.  
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.  
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
Peace beyond all understanding,  
Joy into all life expanding:  
Humbly now, I bow before You;  
Love incarnate, I adore You;  
Worthily let me receive You  
And, so favored, never leave You.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,  
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
Jesus, joy of my desiring,  
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
At Your feet I cry, my maker,  
Let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from heaven,  
For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,  
You once left Your throne in heaven  
On the cross for me to languish  
And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness  
And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living,  
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,  
Let me gladly here obey You.  
By Your love I am invited,  
Be Your love with love requited;  
By this Supper let me measure,  
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
Through the gift of grace You give me  
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

*Stand*

**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 921 On What Has Now Been Sown (vs. 1-3)



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;  
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou  
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par-don what is ours. Our prais -  
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!  
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.  
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

## 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  
**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)**  
**Aleksander (hospitalized)** Karina Penn's father  
**Artur (hospitalized)** Karina Penn's brother  
**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**  
**Gertrude Wenzel (stroke)**

### **For our Homebound Members at Grace:**

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

**We mourn with the families of Mr. Gettleman and John Tindall** as they grieve over the recent deaths of Mr Gettelman's Grandpa, *Everett Schade*, and John Tindall's dad, *Paul Tindall*. 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 John Tindall 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 that on Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>, *Maximus Mark Mendez*, son of Justin & Jennifer Mendez, will be baptized into the Christian faith through both water and the power of God's Word in a private baptism here at Grace! We praise the Lord that *Max's* name is written in God's book of life!!!

***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>	Mark Olen	Heinz Poellet	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Connie McKeag	Glenn Dotson	Derek Poellet
<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**

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

**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**

## **THE LUTHERAN HOUR — "The Prophet's Paradox" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

The prophet Daniel illustrates how to face the facts while never losing faith in how the story ends. (Daniel: 10, 11 and 12) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:15am. Thank you for your continued support of Christian Education here at Grace Lutheran!!!

**Grace Lutheran Oak Creek Youth Group Meeting-On Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**Christmas Cheer Care Packages**—Our students at Grace Lutheran School are looking to spread some Christmas Cheer this year. They will be making Christmas cards and assisting in packing small care packages to give to people who might need a little extra cheer this Christmas season! These packages will be delivered to some shut in members of Grace Lutheran, as well as residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and retirement homes. We could use your help! We are looking for donations of specific items to pack in our care packages. Below is a list of these items:



- Word Search books, Crossword Puzzle books, or other activity books of this style
- Small tabletop Christmas decorations
- Puzzles (preferably with larger pieces)
- Packaged Christmas Candy
- Small Devotion books
- Monetary donation to purchase any of the items above

Donations are needed in the school office by Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your help and Merry Christmas!!!

### **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 and possibly editing the Power Point slides for worship each week. If interested, please contact him directly at 715-467-1231 or [jtaggatz@yahoo.com](mailto:jtaggatz@yahoo.com).

**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.\*\***

Grace Early Childhood Center Christmas Fundraiser

## CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Order today - December 18th

Colors:  
All red  
All gold  
Red and gold mix  
or custom!



Order forms can be found in  
the back of church or at ECC.

**We are very excited to announce our Grace Lutheran Early Childcare Center Christmas fundraiser for the year!** Our teachers and kids are excited to put wreaths together for you! Please check the display in the Narthex of the Church and order today before they sell out!

\*We are able to ship!\*

\*\*We can add shipping costs to the total\*\*

**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](mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org) or 414-762-3655

### **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](mailto:olenjennifer@aol.com)

### **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**

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving gifts. After all, Christmas is when God gave the greatest gift you will ever receive: the gift of His Son. While that gift remains uppermost in our minds, we still enjoy receiving and giving other gifts to our families and friends. Sometimes, with limited funds, it's difficult to make our money stretch so we can give to all you love. Some of the greatest gifts cannot be bought with money. What's easier: to take \$20.00 to the mall and find a tie for your dad or sit down and ask him what his life was like when he was a teenager? What's easier: to buy your wife a sweater or treat her and your family to a special dinner that you cook? What's easier: to find the latest toy for your son or daughter or to coach them in soccer in the back yard or on a team? Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35).

**WE ALL ENJOY OPENING THE GIFTS  
PLACED BENEATH THE CHRISTMAS  
TREE, BUT NONE CAN COMPARE TO  
THE GIFT GOD GAVE US IN CHRIST.**



*"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!"*  
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

**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.*

## IN THE WORD FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Catechism:** Lord's Prayer—Fifth and Sixth Petitions

**Verse of the week:** Galatians 5:17, *"The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 102:12-28

**Hymn of the week:** (LSB 346) "When All the World Was Cursed" (stanzas 1-2)

**Bible Stories for the Week:**

Sunday—"Go and Tell John What You Hear and See"—Matthew 11:2-11

Monday— Christ's Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday— The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-7

Wednesday— Raised at Christ's Coming—1 Thess. 4:13-18

Thursday— The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds—Luke 2:8-14

Friday— The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem—Luke 2:15-20

Saturday—The Lord Will Raise up a Prophet Like Moses—Deut. 18:15-19

"Will you be without loved ones this holiday season? Will you be struggling with illness or discouragement? Will you feel the pressure to make the holiday season great? You are not alone. You are not on your own. Read John 10, a great chapter about a Good Shepherd. Listen to His voice comfort and strengthen you." *Rev. John Boeder, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*  
"Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

### HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-Advent Midweek 3 "O Come, Branch of Jesse" Isaiah 11:1

Thursday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm, 5:30pm-Christmas Eve "O Come, Key of David" Isaiah 22:22

Friday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-Christmas Day "O Come, Dayspring" Isaiah 9:2

Thursday Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 4:00pm-New Year's Eve "O King of the Nations, You Have Come" Matthew 2:2



## Growing In Grace December 3 and 6, 2020

<u><b>Offering</b></u>			
<i>General Offering</i>		\$5,887.25	<b>Attendance</b> 117
<i>On-Line Giving</i>		1,405.99	<b>Communed</b> 57
<i>Missions</i>		0.00	
<i>Debt Fund</i>		0.00	
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>		0.00	
<i>Lutheran High</i>		0.00	
<i>Bible Study/Sunday School</i>		0.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7,293.24</b>	

## OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday</b>	12/13	<b>8:00 am</b> 9:15 am 9:15 am <b>10:30 am</b> <b>10:45 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship Service</b> Sunday School @ church Adult Bible Study @ church <b>Divine Worship Service</b> <b>Private Baptism: Maximus Mendez</b>
Monday	12/14	2:30 pm 6:30 pm	Confirmation Class, school children Confirmation Class, public school @ church
Tuesday	12/15	7:00 am 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ OC Diner Stephen Ministry Meeting @ church
Wednesday	12/16	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study @ church Council Meeting @ church
<b>Thursday</b>	12/17	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Advent Worship Service</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	12/20	<b>8:00 am</b> 9:15 am 9:15 am <b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship Service</b> Sunday School @ church Adult Bible Study <b>Divine Worship Service</b>

## 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) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
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
Pastor		<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Church Office	Sarah Anderson, Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office

#### Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

