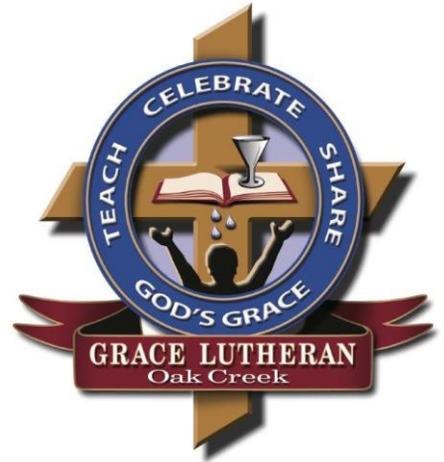


Equippier

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

May



All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

"All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all, Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.

"Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall. Go, spread your trophies at His feet, And crown Him Lord of all. Go, spread your trophies at His feet, And crown Him Lord of all." (This devotion is based on the hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," which is found on page 549 of the *Lutheran Service Book*).

On May 12, 1937, the coronation of George VI took place in London's Westminster Abbey. As the crown was placed on his head, the crowd shouted, "God save the King!" Forty days after Easter, the church will celebrate the coronation of our Lord as we remember Jesus' ascension to rule at the right hand of the Father. The Church observes Ascension Day on Thursday, May 13th of this month. The angels rejoiced as the Lamb slain for our salvation was enthroned: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever" (Revelation 11:15B).

Before Jesus was crowned with glory, the Lamb of God was crowned with thorns. Bearing our sins in His body, Jesus was nailed to a cross. A notice above His head declared the alleged "crime" for which He was condemned: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (John 19:19b). The watching crowds mocked Him because Jesus, who had saved others, would not save Himself. No one cried out, "God save the King!" Instead, they shouted, "He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He desires Him" (Matthew 27:43a). But God did not save this King from death. We, the sinners for whom He died, cannot forget "the wormwood and the gall" or His mournful cry, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46b).

Jesus did not save Himself. By His suffering and death, the King saved us. His body was taken down from the cross and sealed in a tomb. But then, as foreknown before the foundation of the world, God did save the King. On the first Easter morning, "God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it" (Acts 2:24). Jesus, the thorn-crowned King, obeyed His Father, even to the point of death on a cross. "Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name, so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

With our sins washed away in His blood, we celebrate what our Lord did to save us. We could never do enough to be worthy of such a sacrifice. We take our own attempts to be righteous, our best works and, in repentant humility, spread these trophies at the feet of the Jesus. We hail the power of His exalted Name and acknowledge Him as Lord forevermore.

See You in Worship,
Pastor John M. Taggatz

THE PRAYER: Jesus, King and Lord, You have created us anew as Your holy people. Lead us to live in love and service toward others so that we will bring honor to Your holy Name. Amen.



I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY (A man's story)

Fourteen months ago, I was at a point where I needed someone to talk to about the struggles in my life. My Pastor recommended I consider meeting with a Stephen Minister...another man, trained as a care giver, who would walk with me during this difficult time. Trusting someone with personal information about my life was something I feared at first, but my pastor reassured me that everything was confidential, so I agreed to give it a try. I'm so glad I did!

Soon after meeting my Stephen Minister, I quickly sensed I could trust him. Part of that trust came from knowing he was trained to help people through their problems. He made me feel comfortable by not prying for information, but instead just letting me share what was on my mind. Any questions he did ask fit our conversation appropriately. Probably the thing he did for me was not judging me for my past decisions; rather, he was there to help me move forward.

I think another significant trust-building factor was being able to talk with someone who was not in my regular circle of friends. My friends certainly continued to have a very important place in my life, but I also needed someone who could see me objectively. That helped make it easier to share personal parts of my life. Also, knowing my Stephen Minister would be there for me "next week" (we usually met for an hour each week) gave me confidence. I see now how much I needed regular encouragement as I rode the roller coaster of emotions that came during this period of instability in my life.

I really appreciated our times together. Our weekly visits were more than just meeting to talk. They also helped keep me accountable between times, to carry through with the changes I said I wanted to make. My Stephen Minister often went out of his way to help me in my struggle. My life experience during the 10 months I met my Stephen Minister was not always one of progress. It took courage for me to honestly share when I had my failures and setbacks too. Even then my Stephen Minister was there for me. He encouraged me not to give up, but to pick up and keep going forward.

The genuine acceptance spoke to me the most; not to accept failure, but to confess, turn, and receive forgiveness. Having someone assure me of that biblical truth was really encouraging and was exactly what I needed.

My Stephen Minister walked with me through a really dark part of my life, pointing me to the truth and love that is in Christ. I thank the Lord for my Stephen Minister who did not try to solve all my problems but lovingly, as a Christian brother, walked along with me through this valley in my life.

If you are dealing with some type of crisis or difficulty in life, I encourage you to meet with a Stephen Minister. You won't regret it.

Stephen Ministry is a way congregations can provide high-quality care and outreach to hurting people in the congregation and community. Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. Each Stephen Minister is matched with a hurting person...men are paired with men, women with women and meet weekly with that person to listen, care, pray and encourage.

Stephen Ministers care for those dealing with grief, divorce, job loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness and many other life difficulties.

How can you get a Stephen Minister at Grace?

If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Pastor Taggatz | 715-467-1231 or to one of the Stephen Leaders: Jeanne Meyer 423-0010, Chris Cotter 324-9768, Lori Kachelmeier 828-0290 or one of our Stephen Ministers, Bob Morgan, Jan Barrett, Pat Lemmer, Donna Wenzel, Beth or Richard Jackson, Adam Voss, Gail Olen, or Pauline Parker. Our Stephen Leaders are also Stephen Ministers.

Stewardship Corner

God's Love Draws Us to Him

Only Jesus, the Savior, on whose suffering, death, and resurrection we focus during this time of Lent, can meet all our needs. His love for us and the salvation he has earned for us draw us away from the pull of the world, away from our own selfish desires, away from that which leads to sin and death. His love draws us to Himself, to service to others, to using our gifts as we have been blessed in the building up of the Church. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

Come and See

On His way to Galilee, Jesus called Philip to be one of His 12 disciples. After receiving Jesus' call, Philip, pleased to be a disciple, told his friend, Nathanael, that he had found Jesus of Nazareth, the person whom Moses and all the prophets had foretold in the Old Testament. Nathaniel responded, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" (John 1:46). Philip responded, "*Come and see.*" Jesus calls us to be like Philip and to say to our families, co-workers, neighbors, friends, and all people, "*Come and see.*" As God's people, we have been given a wonderful privilege and a responsibility to be the hands, feet, and mouth for Jesus. We are His instruments through whom He works so others can hear the Good News of the Gospel.



In our conversations, we could use the words "*come and see*" in many different ways. When we acquire new furniture, a dress, or a car, we may say, "*Come and see.*" How much more important it is that we ask others to "*come and see*" Jesus as He has revealed Himself to us in His Word. We have the opportunity to introduce people to Jesus Who has given the world the greatest miracle that has ever occurred. Jesus, the Son of Man, condescended to come to earth to live as one of us, to be humiliated and die for the sake of those He loves, and then to rise victoriously, the "*firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*" (1 Corinthians 15:20). This miracle is one to be shouted from the housetops, for it is meant for all humankind. Christ has died for our sins and risen again so that we might live forever with Him. We are called to go and invite people to "*come and see*" Who Jesus is and what He has done for us. We invite people, and the Holy Spirit does the rest.

So why are we often hesitant to invite people to "*come and see*" Jesus? Do we fear we'll be rejected? That we won't have the answers to questions we're asked? That we'll look foolish? All these things may happen but that's God's business. Not everybody is going to want what we have to offer, but many do. Our task is to invite, "*Come and see.*" If we love God, we will love His people (1 John 4:20), and, if we love people, we will be compelled to witness. Our love will overcome our discomfort. Our compassion will overcome our inhibitions.

We should all be encouraged to pray that the Holy Spirit will make us aware of the opportunities He lays before us, the people He places in our lives—people we know and sometimes complete strangers. As Philip invited his friend, let us invite all who will listen, "*Come and see.*" The investment of our time and effort will be an investment that pays eternal dividends.

Grace Ladies Guild

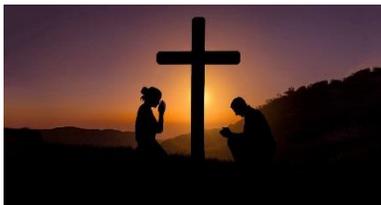


Prayer Service May 8 ~ 10:00a.m.

Pastor Tagatz will be leading us in the 2021 LWML Prayer Service.

“He Prayed *with* Them”- Acts 20:36b

When was the last time you prayed with someone? Not for someone, *with* someone?



We are encouraged in Scripture to be people of prayer, and prayer marks us as children of the heavenly Father. He has promised to hear us and to answer our prayers.

**Women, men and children
are invited to attend!**

LWML SWD Heart to Heart Sisters Virtual Event

Join the virtual cruise around
the world!



Throughout April and May the Heart to Heart Sisters have posted videos (stops) on the LWML SWD Facebook page to share and enrich us about various cultures on this virtual cruise.

We have a Bible study on Ruth, dancing, cooking and many more to come.

Grab your passport (kidding you don't need one) and join us on the cruise!

Facebook page: LWML-South Wisconsin

RISE & SONSHINE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

May 8 and 22
8:00am-9:30am
(at church)



This month we be studying some
LARGER THAN LIFE Bible mentors:
David, Paul, Job & Abraham

Join us as we look to these amazing examples
of people trusting God!

May Announcements

ADULT BIBLE CLASS: Adult Bible Study is held in the narthex of our Church building from 9:15-10:15am on Sunday mornings. In the Adult Bible Study, we are studying the Sunday morning Bible Readings for worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Sunday School Students are meeting in our Church Sanctuary from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday mornings. Please join us as we study God's Word together!

Please Note: ←

The last day of Sunday School and Adult Bible Study will be Sunday, May 23rd. Thank you for your participation this year and for the help of our Sunday School Volunteers!!!

Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990...

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your group plans to hold a meeting, so it can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding or baptism.

REMINDER: If you have any announcements and/or additions for the *Equipper* please forward to Sarah Anderson at church@graceoakcreek.org by the 17th of each month.

Pastor Taggatz Office Hours

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)

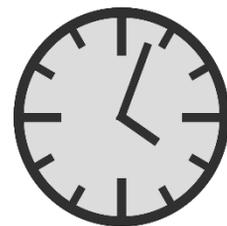
Visitations: Monday-Thursday afternoons

For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.

Pastor John M. Taggatz: 715.467.1231

Sarah Anderson, Church Secretary: 414.762.8990 | T-W-TH 8:15am-1:15pm

➤ *Note: Sarah will be on vacation the week of May 10th*



Congratulations to our New Members Here at Grace Lutheran!

We look forward to your fellowship with us in God's Word and Sacrament. When you have a moment, please feel free to introduce yourself to our new members and welcome them here at Grace!!! The new members we have received at Grace recently are:

- ❖ Tim & Christine Cooksy and their children: Patrick and Claire
- ❖ Leigh Schmeiser
- ❖ Mary Savarino
- ❖ Paul & Nina McKinster and their son: Jack
- ❖ Amber Kendrick and her son: Dylan
- ❖ Craig & Courtney Salzer and their children: Gabriella & Drew
- ❖ Alexandra & Cory McIntosh and their children: Cameron & Everly
- ❖ Joel & Jalee Banach and their son: Watson

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

We will be switching to our Summer Schedule here at Grace starting Memorial Day weekend. This means that our Sunday morning worship time will be at 9:00am starting on Sunday, May 30th and this will go through Labor Day Weekend. There will not be Sunday School and Adult Bible Class during the summer. Thursday evening worship at 6:30pm will remain the same throughout the summer.

We look forward to seeing you in worship!!!



Congratulations to our new Confirmands here at Grace Lutheran!

Our new confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, May 16th during the late service at 10:30am. Our new confirmands this year are *Matthew Campbell* and *Carsen Serdynski*. God's blessings to these young men as they continue in their journey of faith with Jesus through His Word and Sacrament throughout all the years of their life!!!

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. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex for you to choose which worship service you would like to help with PowerPoint during worship. We have had two people sign up to help run PowerPoint so far. However, we still need individuals to help out for the 8:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday mornings and the 6:30pm Thursday night worship service as well.

Radio Worship Services

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 | Sunday | 6:30pm |
| WTMJ | Milwaukee, WI | 620 | AM | Sunday | 5:30pm |
| WTMJ | Milwaukee, WI | 620 | AM | Sunday | 6:30pm |

ATTENTION

Our Board of Properties has determined the need to replace one of the rooftop furnaces at our school, and the boiler in church needs repairs. The estimated cost for both projects will be approximately \$11,000.



Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to support the completion of these necessary projects.

We thank you for your ongoing ministries at Grace!

****There will be envelopes in the narthex for your donations towards this project.****

UPDATES TO THE GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please see the current Church Directory on the table in the Narthex of the Church. We are currently trying to update our Church Directory and we would like you to make sure that we have your current email address, physical address, and phone number(s). Also, if you have a family or friend here at our congregation that you see needs their information revised and updated please let us know changes to their information as well. We would like to print up a new Church directory by June of 2021. Also, please let us know if you would like certain information in the directory private from the officially published directory that we plan on giving to our congregation members.

Please Support Your Local Thrift Store!—LCFS operates five thrift stores which help to support services for adoption, mental health, family counseling and substance abuse. Each store is run by amazing volunteers and support their communities by providing an outlet for clothing and household items to be reused and repurposed, offering affordable prices and by donating surplus items to local homeless or veteran shelters. All stores are now open with new safety and sanitation policies for donations and shopping. Please consider supporting these essential stores and the mission they support. Volunteers are in need at each store for a variety of tasks and services.

Hours and additional information can be found at www.lcfswi.org.

[The Economy Center](#) - 7814 W. Burleigh, Milwaukee, WI (414) 442-2272

Tele-health (virtual) counseling now available...did you know that the counselors of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin are available for virtual counseling sessions? For those struggling with any mental health issue such as depression, anxiety, trauma, an addiction or relationship issues, professional help is just a phone call away. Through faith-based Christian counseling, there is an opportunity to model Christian faith and share the promises of the Gospel while utilizing clinical expertise and skill. Speaking with a counselor can help reduce anxiety, monitor depression, control addictive behavior, identify triggers and create solutions to instill hope and faith. Most insurance plans accept telehealth/virtual counseling as a viable option to conduct therapy. Check with your plan in advance to see if this is covered or the staff at LCFS can assist you. Call 800-291-4513 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Adoption Services-Whether you or someone you love is facing an unplanned pregnancy or you are considering growing your family through adoption, the professional counselors at Lutheran Family and Counseling Services of Wisconsin (LCFS) can help. Our staff helps everyone involved explore the social, financial and emotional issues involved in a decision to keep and raise a child or placing a child for adoption. All of the children served in our adoption program are placed in strong Christian families and we ensure we provide the best outcome for all involved - the birth parents, the adoptive families and most importantly, the child. LCFS is proud to serve the entire state of Wisconsin and welcomes all who are considering adoption. Learn more at www.lcfswi.org/adoption-services, where you can send a confidential message, or contact us at 800-291-4513.

SWD Student Financial Aid

Students attending a Concordia University or Seminary, preparing for full-time church work in the LCMS (pastor, teacher, DCE, DCO, DCM, deaconess, DFLM, DPM) and are a member of a congregation in the South Wisconsin District - LCMS are eligible to apply for financial assistance from SWD. For more information and the two applications required to be considered for Financial Aid, visit the SWD website - swd.lcms.org - under Resources. The deadline is May 15.

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



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 ministries here at Grace!!! Text the word: [graceoc](https://www.graceoakcreek.org) to 206-859-9405, use this [QR Code](#) or head to our web-site: [graceoakcreek.org](https://www.graceoakcreek.org). You may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Vayda Flower
- 1 Lynn Hartig
- 1 Ally Hengst
- 1 Barb Huber
- 1 Matthew King
- 2 Carol Stewart
- 3 Paige Vitek
- 4 Jennifer White
- 5 Alyssa Eggert
- 6 Betty Lemmer
- 7 Taylor Haines
- 7 Orion Moeller
- 7 John Penn Sr.
- 8 Amanda Perez
- 9 Jim Pieper
- 9 Caleb Ratliff
- 10 Archer Gulizia
- 10 Beth Jackson
- 10 Joanne Jaeger
- 10 Darlene Pethke
- 11 Kayla Flower
- 11 Emily Patzer
- 12 Aaron Schmidt
- 15 Mark Miliacca
- 15 Suzie Mirenda
- 15 Lisa Smith
- 18 Lisa Hengst
- 18 Karen Puetz
- 18 Travis Voss
- 20 Alexandria Umaske
- 23 Lauren Meyer
- 23 Kristopher Vangalis
- 24 Myles King
- 28 Nicole Miszewski
- 30 Connie McKeag
- 31 Dick Schaefer



May Wedding Anniversaries

- 5/11 Jim & Sue Block
- 5/11 Greg & Gail Nowakowski
- 5/12 Erik & Sarah Anderson
- 5/13 Peter & Lori Eggert
- 5/19 Jim & Janine Pieper
- 5/22 Lance & Sue Kopperud
- 5/26 David & Erica Vitek
- 5/27 Dick & Joanne Schaefer
- 5/30 Bill & Kathy Szefflinski



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MAY



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--------|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service | 3 10:00 AM Private Communion | 4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Brkfst (OC Diner) 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed | 5 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM All Board's Meeting | 6 6:30 PM Worship Service 7:30 PM Choir Practice | 7 | 8 8:00 AM Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 10:00 AM LWML Prayer Service |
| 9 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service | 10 5:30 PM 8th Gr. Confirmation Pictures/ Rehearsal | 11 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Brkfst (OC Diner) | 12 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Council Meeting | 13 6:30 PM Worship Service 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Last one until Fall) | 14 | 15 5:00 PM 8th Gr. Confirmation Private Questioning |
| 16 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service/ Confirmation | 17 | 18 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Brkfst (OC Diner) | 19 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study | 20 6:30 PM Worship Service | 21 | 22 8:00 AM Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 1:30 PM Youth Group Church/School Clean-up |
| 23 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM (Last one) Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service | 24 | 25 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Brkfst (OC Diner) | 26 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Last one until Fall) | 27 6:30 PM Worship Service | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:00 AM Summer Worship | 31 | | | | | |

NOTE:
Confirmation is:
May 16, 10:30am

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 of 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