

# Equippier

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

## AUGUST



## Christ is Our Rescue

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*“Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” (Matthew 14:22–33)*

We are so much closer to Peter in our flaws than his virtues, and Christ is still our rescue. If there is one thing I like about Peter, it's his failures. He was bold and passionate about following Jesus, and yet he would also at times fall flat on his face. I could only imagine all the things that weren't written about him. It seemed to be a part of his nature. This carried on even after the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. We know this because Paul had to challenge Peter on at least one occasion about playing favorites. Again, it just makes me wonder what a fuller picture of Peter's life would reveal. This was a guy who knew who Jesus was by the revelation of the Holy Spirit and still couldn't always do the right thing. Let's look to Peter as our example. Not following him as a pillar of righteousness, but as an example of failure who over and over again receives rescue, mercy and grace. Here is a great picture of this for us in the story of Peter sinking in the water.



*Pastor's word continued...*

If you've been a Christian for any length of time, you've heard the story. Yes, it's true that you might have heard it referred to as, "*Peter walking on water.*" or "*Peter stepping out of the boat by faith.*" I suppose, that's accurate. That's usually where most pastors and teachers go with it. We are encouraged to keep our eyes on Jesus. "*Peter only sank because he took his eyes off Jesus, so if our focus is always on Jesus, we won't sink when we face difficulties, and then we'll be able to accomplish all we want, or are called to do.*" It sounds nice but I don't know anyone that has had that experience. I mean, we don't struggle? We don't despair and doubt at times? We look to the virtuous characteristics of the Old Testament saints and forget the shadier parts of their stories, or at least we gloss over them with the best parts. We forget David was a murderer and adulterer, Noah a drunk, and even Isaiah knew how unclean his lips were and the list could go on.

In the same way, we look at Peter's life and see the things he did and try to follow those examples. We make the story about Peter's faithfulness. We make this story of Jesus walking on water about Peter's faith and subsequently our own. We turn a simple story about Christ into a call to arms for us to have great faith or even a "*greater faith*", so we don't sink. We certainly don't forget Peter's failings, but it often gets overlooked in favor of seeing it as a stepping stone to something greater for Peter, and eventually us. We miss the great grace of God by focusing on what Peter is doing and then making it what we are supposed to be doing. That's fine. Then let's really focus on what Peter was doing. He was sinking!

Peter stepped out onto the water by faith, but it wasn't a perfect faith. It was shaky and doubtful. It had to be. Peter's faith was the kind of faith that denied Jesus three times. Peter's faith was the kind of faith that is sometimes more concerned with how he looks in front of his own people. Peter's faith was the kind of faith that was determined to justify itself by actions over and over again. But it is still the same faith that hopes in Christ. He displayed hope that day. It was that hope that made him step out of that boat and begin to take steps atop the waves. It was that same faith that was tested and found lacking as the winds came and Peter quickly sank. But it was also that hope, that faith, though shaky that remained as it cried out, "*Lord help me!*" In that moment, Jesus did for Peter what he has always done for all of us. He saves him. In that shaky, barely-holding on faith, Christ is still present, and he grabs him not because of how laser-focused Peter's eyes were on Jesus in that moment, but because even if we only catch a glimpse of him from the corner of our eye, on a bad day, it is the object of that faith that matters most. The object of that faith, Jesus, always rescues, always saves, and always encourages us towards hope.

With such a focus on telling people to "*keep our eyes on Jesus*", we forget no one does this all the time. We all have wandering eyes. We all turn our heads, we all have moments of wavering faith. We all have moments when we cry out to God for help in our unbelief. Finally, we all have moments that Christ has to reach down and rescue us in the little faith that we have. For the longest time all I could see in this story is Peter. Peter stepping out, Peter sinking, Peter crying out. I used to think, "*I'd better keep my eyes on Jesus or I'll drown.*" My Goodness, what a burden to bear! I see it so differently now! I see Jesus walking on the water, Jesus calling Peter out, and Jesus rescuing Peter. Even in his rebuke, "*You of little faith,*" he said, "*why did you doubt?*", Jesus is grabbing hold of Peter and pulling him up. In that moment, Jesus is still encouraging him towards faith in him.

This is a picture of everyday faith. At least it is for me. It's not faith in our abilities as Christians, but in Christ, who is our continued rescue despite our failings. Jesus is always there, not hitting us over the head with condemnation, but encouraging us through each difficulty, even the ones that never seem to go away. I make that point so you might understand it's not specifically about the end result in this life, but about the one who holds us and rescues us. For some of us, in our specific situation, that rescue has to be daily. But, there is Christ, who is always saying to us, "*I am here, why do you doubt? Keep trusting me. I will hold fast to you.*" God is always telling this story in so many different ways. He is always saying you need a rescue, and I have a provided it. It has never been about "*great faith*", but a **GREAT SAVIOR!** How great a Savior would he be, if he didn't take care of those of us with a shaky, barely holding on, pin-needle sized faith? His grasp is firm, and we can be sure that he does hold us.

*Pastor's word continued...*

When we do these Bible character studies, we can see the faith and the hope of these men and women, but ultimately they are flawed characters. These flawed characters should always be pointing us to Jesus, whose character is flawless. In Peter, we see a flawed man. A man who repeatedly, throughout his life, could not keep completely focused on Jesus in the midst of trouble. A man who, as he walked on the waves, quickly began to sink. A man who was rescued by Jesus. Even today, we are still so much closer to Peter in our flaws than his virtues, and Christ is still our rescue. May that never change.

There is no story in the Bible that we read where we can claim that we walk like this saint or that saint in some form of righteous good standing by our actions. We are all, at times, the Prodigal Son and the one who remained, the proud Pharisee and the tax collector who beat his chest, and like Peter, we are the ones who step out of the boat, AND the ones who sink. We wrestle with our two natures, *sinner and saint*, and while we wrestle, Christ saves. He comes and lifts us up, comforts us and loves us.

I do encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus. If you do, you just might see how often he has rescued you with forgiveness and grace.

See you in worship,  
Pastor John M. Taggatz



### **Summer Reflection**

As we look back at past summers, we see a trail of beautiful and bittersweet memories. There have been summers that overflowed with joy and summers filled with deep sadness and pain. The common thread is that every summer is unique and has its own tale to tell.

Just as every *natural* summer has a story, so does every *spiritual* summer. We will each walk through the spiritual seasons many times. Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of barrenness and preparation. Spring is a time of rebirth. And summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

The key to embracing our spiritual summer is to remember to seize the joy of the season. This is a time to feel the heavenly warmth on our face and revel in the beauty that surrounds us. Relax, have fun, celebrate, and abide in gratitude for the blessings that surround. Fall and winter will come, but don't let thoughts of the unknown rob you of the joy of the moment.

Summer is a season known for cultivating and bearing good fruit. There is nothing like a sweet, sun-ripened, summer strawberry. It is like a taste of heaven on earth! Our spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control must also be cultivated and ripened so it can taste even sweeter than the best summer strawberry. There is one sure way to do this, and that is to remember *who* our spiritual gardener is and to remain in him always.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

*Lord, thank you for the gift of summer. Thank you for ice cream cones, backyard barbecues, and sun-drenched memories. May we seize each moment of joy and remember that you are the true cultivator of our harvest and author of our stories. Amen.*



# August Announcements

## 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, baptism or funeral.

### 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 8:15am-1:15pm (summer hours)*



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

### Worship Services at Willowcrest Nursing Home

Grace Lutheran Church members have helped out with leading worship services here prior to COVID on Sunday mornings. Recently, we started leading these worship services again and could use some volunteers to help out with this. The services are roughly 30-minutes long and are held at 10:00am on Sundays at Willowcrest Nursing Home located at: 3821 Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pastor Taggatz at: [jtaggatz@yahoo.com](mailto:jtaggatz@yahoo.com)

# Grace Lutheran Church Picnic

**Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at  
Henry Miller Park Oak Creek!!!**

Please join us for our church picnic on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have our Christian Education Sunday Worship Service at 10am in our Church Sanctuary. Then the picnic will start at 11:30am at Henry Miller Park in the pavilion located at 315 E Groveland Dr (behind Oak Creek High School). We will be recognizing the new members we have received at Grace over the last year, as well as showing honor to our staff for their anniversaries of service.

**Please register by Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**. You can register on the sign up sheet in the church narthex, or by contacting the church office via email [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org), or calling 414-762-8990. Please note that food and beverages will be provided for this event. You are also encouraged to bring a lawn chair with you for comfortable seating. Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

# Grace Ladies Guild



The **2021 LWML Convention** met in Lexington, KY,  
June 24-27 under the theme  
“Running the Race...Looking to Jesus”  
All praise to God that the convention was a success!  
The 2021-2023 LWML Mite Goal has been set at:  
\$2,150,000.00  
A full convention report will be given at the  
Zone 1 Fall Rally-October 16 to be held here at Grace Lutheran

## Family Fellowship & Fun Day August 14 – 10:00am to 1:00pm

Trinity Lutheran Church  
728 Church Street  
Wisconsin Dells

Sponsored by the LWML SWD Young Women Committee

- Craft activities • Bible story time • Sing-a-longs
- Parents, children & grandparents are welcome!

Register today at [www.lwml-swd.org/events/workshop](http://www.lwml-swd.org/events/workshop)

## RISE & SONSHINE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Saturday, August 14**  
**8-9:30a.m.** 

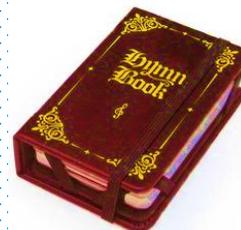
Lake Vista Park Overlook

\*\*if inclement weather, meet at church\*\*

## LWML SWD Fall Retreat September 17 & 18, 2021

Best Western Premier Hotel & Conference Center  
Oshkosh, WI

*Jesus is the Light!*



### Retreat Speaker:

- International Hymnal Consultant Deaconess Sandra Rhein
- Deaconess Rhein will share how the Lord has called her to this unique ministry and how the hymnal creating process works.
- Assisted in the development of the Kenyan Hymnal, Ethiopian Hymnal, Chinese Hymnal and currently the Indonesian Hymnal.

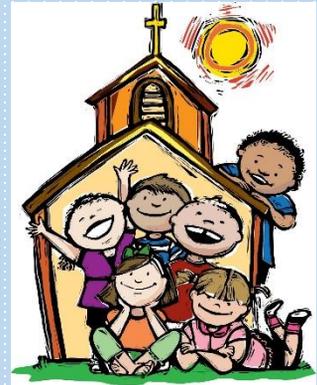
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!

**Registration is OPEN!**

Registration form is available at: [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org)

## Sunday School Teachers Needed

Sunday School at Grace begins on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping out with teaching Sunday School this Fall, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Nowack at: 414-412-8381. Sunday School is for children preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.



### UPDATE ON THE PARKING LOT PROJECT AT CHURCH

Currently we have about \$38,500 in dedicated funds to go towards the repair and replacement of our church parking lot. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to support the repair and replacement of our parking lot. We would like to start on this project sometime in the late Summer months of this year. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries at Grace!!!

## **How to Worship with Us at Grace Virtually During the Covid-19 Pandemic**



*We do realize that, due to this Covid-19 pandemic, some families may not be worshipping with us because of health concerns in their own family, and/or in their extended family and friends, or for reasons pertaining to their line of work. We do have the option of worshipping virtually... (the CHILDREN'S MESSAGE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY)*

For those who are worshipping virtually please go to our church website at: [graceoakcreek.org](http://graceoakcreek.org) and there on the homepage you will find the link to our worship service along with each week's worship bulletin. New worship services are streamed on our Facebook page every Thursday evening starting at 6:30pm. Please note: you do not need to have a Facebook account to watch these videos. To find our Facebook page just copy and paste our URL:

<https://www.facebook.com/Grace-Lutheran-Church-School-Early-Childhood-Center-Oak-Creek-WI-108150349226557>

Also, if you would like to receive private communion with Pastor Taggatz, please contact him on his cell phone at: 715.467.1231 and he will arrange an appointment with you and/or your family.

### **Radio Worship Services**

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

## Giving Tree is up in our Church Sanctuary

The Giving Tree is currently up in our Church Sanctuary. Please consider making a donation to our Grace Lutheran Ministries to help us to continue the mission work of our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center. The needs of our ministries are on the Giving Tree for you to take a look at. Also, this year we are offering special gifts of puzzles, devotional literature, and other gift items that we would like to give to our homebound members. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries here at Grace!!!

## LWML 39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) welcomed 2,787 people to the LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24–27, 2021, under the theme "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus." The convention theme was based on Hebrews 12:1–2. The voting body adopted a \$2,150,000 mission goal for the 2021–2023 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 28 mission grants as women and men respond in prayer and mites (offerings) during the next two years. The following grants were chosen:

1. Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, \$81,680
2. Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses — Spirit Warrior, Central Maine, \$95,000
3. Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa's Children — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$100,000
4. Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life — LCMS Life Ministry, \$92,000
5. Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach — Lutheran Deaf Outreach, \$50,000
6. Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients — Phil's Friends, \$70,000
7. Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia — Lutheran Theological Seminary, Novosibirsk, Siberia, \$100,000
8. Light of Christ in Eastern Europe — Mission Central, \$56,000
9. Propelling the Gospel — LAMP Ministry, Inc., \$65,000
10. Educating Pastors in Africa — Mission Central, \$100,000
11. Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion — Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, \$100,000
12. Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania — Mwadui Lutheran School and Community, \$68,182
13. Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia — Lutheran Hour Ministries, \$100,000
14. Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, \$100,000
15. The Littlest and Least of These — St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy, Dallas, Texas, \$42,000
16. Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp — Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado, \$25,000
17. Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru — La Mision Luterana del Peru, \$56,750
18. "Ends of Earth" Scholarships — Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries, \$50,000
19. Sharing Jesus' Love in India — Lutheran Braille Workers, \$100,000
20. Mission & Outreach to the Least of These — Victory Lutheran Church, K. I. Sawyer Community, \$51,356
21. Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus — Belize Mission Society, \$100,000
22. Ministry Vehicle Fund, Ethiopia, and Sierra Leone — Lutheran Bible Translators, \$70,000
23. Showing God's Love in the International District, Albuquerque, New Mexico — God Cares About You Mission, \$98,000
24. Reaching the Homebound with God's Word — Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. (DBA Worship Anew), \$100,000
25. Missionaries to America Project — Mission Nation Publishing, \$88,000
26. Strengthening the Lutheran Mission to Kuna, Idaho — Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church, \$100,000
27. Expanding God's Love in Uganda — LCMS Office of International Mission, Africa Regio, \$92,000
28. Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach — St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries, \$70,208.

### **Did you know that Grace Lutheran Church Sells SCRIP???**

Grace Lutheran participants in a fundraising program called Scrip where you can purchase gift cards for over 1,000 retailers, entertainment, grocery and more. Examples include: Woodman's, Kwik Trip, Meijer, Menards, Culvers, Kohl's, to name a few. Each merchant sets their own discount percentage, so some scrip purchases "earn more" than others. Each card is assigned a percentage that is given back to the school. And the best part...you get to decide where it goes! It can be applied to your tuition payments at Grace and/or Martin Luther, daycare fees or even a Sponsor-a-Student account to help families receive financial assistance. Please consider purchasing these cards through our program instead of directly from the vendor or retailer. Scrip is sold after most of our worship services.

Gail Nowakowski is our new Scrip Coordinator. If you would like to take a look at what Scrip cards are available to buy to help support the ministries of Grace, please reach out to Gail or grab a Scrip form on the table in the narthex. Gail's contact information is as follows: 414.423.9261 and/or: [gnowakowski@att.net](mailto:gnowakowski@att.net).

### **Greeting Card Ministry**

On the table in the narthex are cards, stamps, names of shut-ins, prayer lists, those on the prayer line and those on the long term prayer list for anyone to take and send cards to. There are t-shirts and note pads as well, to keep track of those who you send cards to. Please feel free to take the cards, stamps and list of names and a copy of the prayer list, send out the cards even if you don't know the people just to let them know they are being prayed for and that we at Grace care.



**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](http://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.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



## **Faster Than Your Pastor**

Are you faster than your pastor? Find out at the Faster Than My Pastor 1K, 5K, Run/Walk at Martin Luther High School, Thursday, August 19, 2021 starting at 6:00pm. Run, walk, and party all night with the Lutheran churches, grade schools, and community of runners. Join us for music, food, games, and more! There is something for all ages and fitness levels. Gather your team, registration is open now at [www.FasterThanMyPastor.org](http://www.FasterThanMyPastor.org)!



You can contact Shari DeBraul at [sdebraal@lhsqgm.org](mailto:sdebraal@lhsqgm.org) for questions about the event.

## **Next Beer Garden Tour Stop**

The next stop on the Grace Beer Garden Tour is at The Vine Humboldt, 3000 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee from 4-7pm on Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Bring family, friends, and a bag chair! Find us under the Sun Flag!

Hope to see you there!!



## **Christian Education Sunday is Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>!!!**

Please mark your calendars as we celebrate Christian Education Sunday on September 12<sup>th</sup> during our 10:00a.m. worship service.

## **Attention 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents**

There will be a Confirmation meeting on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary with Pastor Taggatz.

Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for public school students.

**Fall worship services start again  
on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.  
8:00am and 10:30am**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND  
BIBLE STUDY STARTS  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER  
19<sup>TH</sup>!**

## **Ladies Bible Study**

The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again. Meet us on Wednesday mornings at church beginning, September 15, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. We are studying:

***“God’s Relentless Love:***

***A Bible Study of the Book of Hosea”***

by Sharla Fritz.

**Join us!!!**



# Pray for

REV. PAUL AND GENEVIEVE NELSON  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATOR  
SERVING IN INDONESIA



The Rev. Paul and Genevieve (Gena) Nelson serve on behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Indonesia, based in Medan. In this role, Paul works closely with the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church and helps train and mentor local pastors and lay leaders.

Paul grew up in Mesa, Arizona. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz., and a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Upon ordination, he served as pastor of First Lutheran Church of Camarillo, Calif. (2008–2010) and as pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara, Calif. (2010–2021). He also has 15 years of experience as a senior instructor at the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, Ariz. In his

free time, Paul enjoys reading, writing, traveling, cooking and pocket billiards.

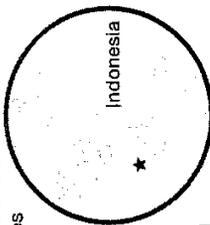
Gena was born in Goroka, Papua New Guinea, where her family served with the LCMS. She received an associate degree in biblical studies from Lutheran Bible Institute, formerly located in Issaquah, Wash., and then completed a bachelor's degree in behavioral science at Concordia University Irvine, Irvine, Calif. She later founded and directed the International Friendship House in Tempe, Ariz. Gena's hobbies include breadmaking, dancing, traveling and tea. The Nelsons have three children: Alec, Mika and Caedmon.

Pray for Paul and Gena as they serve in Indonesia. Pray also for each member of the family as they transition to a new location and culture. Ask God to give them patience and confidence as they learn Bahasa Indonesia, the official language of the country. Pray also that they would be able to establish good relationships with the people around them in their new home. Let us give thanks that the Nelson family is serving in this part of the world.

• BIRTHDAYS: Paul — March 29, Genevieve — Aug. 7, Alec — May 27, Mika — Dec. 17, Caedmon — May 4

• ANNIVERSARY: July 8 • HOME DISTRICT: Pacific Southwest

- Pray daily for Paul and Genevieve — and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit [lcms.org/nelson](http://lcms.org/nelson)
- Learn about LCMS international work at [lcms.org/international](http://lcms.org/international)
- Support and adopt an international worker. Call 888-930-4438.



"HERE AM I... SEND ME!"

## MY SUPPORT OF THE LCMS THROUGH THE WORK OF: Rev. Paul and Genevieve Nelson

Give securely online at [lcms.org/nelson](http://lcms.org/nelson) or fill out the form below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF GIFT:

- A monthly recurring gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the duration of Paul and Genevieve's service. (Please choose a payment method below.)
- A per-year pledge commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be fulfilled:
  - monthly  quarterly  semi-annually  annually
- A special gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### I/WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MY/OUR GIFTS BY:

- Check — Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Write Nelson-Indonesia Support on memo line.
- Automatic Withdrawal — Please include a VOIDED ORIGINAL CHECK. I/we hereby authorize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to initiate automatic debits to my/our account at the financial institution named below. I/we acknowledge that the origination of direct debit (ACH) transactions to my/our account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law. This agreement will remain in effect until The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receives a written notice of cancellation from me or my financial institution.
- Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit/debit card

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type:  VISA  MASTERCARD  DISCOVER  AMERICAN EXPRESS  
 Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • P.O. Box 66861 • St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

QUESTIONS? Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to [mission.giving@lcms.org](mailto:mission.giving@lcms.org).

Gifts received for LCMS international workers are deposited in an account restricted for the support of eligible international workers. Any gifts received in excess of a worker's requirement for a given year are held for that worker until needed. Should a worker's service conclude for any reason, the funds remaining in the restricted account will be transferred to one or more eligible LCMS international workers who most closely fulfill the restrictions of the original gift. With uncommitted donor permission, a restricted gift can also be utilized to support international work budgeted by the LCMS. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



# AT GRACE

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 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. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!



# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 Marlene Voss  
6 Janine Pieper  
6 Joanne Schaefer  
11 Ricky Roberts  
11 Andrea Szeflinski  
11 Tommy Szeflinski  
12 Logan Anderson  
14 Greg Nowakowski  
14 Laura Simmons  
16 Kathy Kolb  
16 Robert Morgan Sr.  
16 Adam Voss  
18 Craig Frank  
19 Chris Edgerton  
19 Emily Kelley  
19 Alyssa Morrissette  
21 James Robinson  
23 Ashlee Koehn  
24 Ethan Concepcion  
24 Chris Meyer  
24 Ariel Wald  
25 Tatiana Concepcion  
25 Phyllis Kraning  
25 Mark Olen  
27 Patricia Groth  
27 Jacob Norton  
28 Harper Heinen  
28 Alex McIntosh  
29 Rodney Novak  
29 Craig Roush  
31 Sarah Anderson

happy  
birthday



## **August Wedding Anniversaries**

8/7 James & Laura Elliott  
8/7 Tom & Lisa Hengst  
8/10 Kevin & Heather Butler  
8/11 Greg & Marlene Voss  
8/12 Craig & Donna Roush  
8/14 James & Jean Robsinson  
8/22 Robert & Gail Olen  
8/31 Larry & Sandy Herte  
8/31 Greg & Karen Puetz





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Summer Worship 10:00 AM Willowcrest Service	2	3 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	4 6:30 PM All Board's Mtg.	5 6:30 PM Worship Service	6	7
8 9:00 AM Summer Worship 10:00 AM Willowcrest Service	9	10 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	11 6:30 PM Council Meeting	12 6:30 PM Worship Service	13	14 8:00 AM Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
15 9:00 AM Summer Worship 10:00 AM Willowcrest Service	16	17 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	18	19 6:00 PM Faster Than Your Pastor 6:30 PM Worship Service	20 4:00 PM Grace Beer Garden Tour	21
22 9:00 AM Summer Worship 10:00 AM Willowcrest Service	23	24 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	25	26 6:30 PM Worship Service	27	28
29 9:00 AM Summer Worship 10:00 AM Willowcrest Service	30	31 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)				

## Radio Worship Service

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

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



## Prayer Hot Line



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

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

### Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com