

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 5th, 2021

“By His Grace you are saved through faith”

Ephesians 2:8



Image: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.” (Luke 3:4b)

Welcome to Grace!

We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins & worship activity bags (age 2-8) 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.

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 "Prepare"

Preparing for Christmas, we buy presents, attend social gatherings, decorate, make plans to gather with family, and some will brace for the pain of grief that can be so difficult this time of year. In the middle of all our preparing, today the voice of John the Baptist rings out, "*Prepare the way of the Lord.*" Undergirding all the preparing we are doing is preparing for the Lord. John calls us to "*bear fruits in keeping with repentance.*" In worship, we do just that. We repent. We turn again to God, seeking His mercy, receiving His forgiveness, partaking of His grace. This leads to bearing the fruit of the Spirit. John highlights the fruit of generosity and contentment. What fruit is God calling you to bear as you prepare for Christmas?

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.** 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.

Order of Service—*“Special Trim the Tree Service”*

✘ PREPARATION ✘

INVOCATION

P: Blessing on Him who comes as King.

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

P: I will hear what the Lord God has to say.

C: **A voice that speaks for peace.**

P: Peace for all people and for His friends...

C: **and those who turn to Him in their hearts.**

P: His help is near for those who fear Him...

C: **and His glory will live in our land.**

P: Blessing on Him who comes as King, who comes in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

P: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.

C: **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C: **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

c: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

Children

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-3

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

(The children are asked to come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung. Children grades Preschool through Kindergarten are invited to come up first, then First through 3rd Grade, and finally 4th through 8th Grade to put an ornament on the Christmas tree...)

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357 vs. 1-2)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

*ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

January, February, & March

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what

sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

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

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

(Those with birthdays in January, February, and March come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “On Jordan’s Banks...” (LSB 344, vs. 1-3)

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.

April

Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord

appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

(Those with birthdays in April come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “What Child is This” (LSB 370, vs. 1 & 3)

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|---|--|
| 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary! | 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts en throne Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary! |
|---|--|

May

Reading: Luke 1:39-42

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

(Those with birthdays in May come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “Let us All with Gladsome Voice” (LSB 390, vs. 1 & 3)

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| 1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given. | 3 We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder. |
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June

Reading: Luke 2:1-5

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be

registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

(Those with birthdays in June come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LSB 361, vs. 1-2)

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep
The silent stars go by; | Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight. |
| 2 | For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels
keep
Their watch of wond’ring love. | O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth! |

July

Reading: Luke 2:6-7

⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

(Those with birthdays in July come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “Away in a Manger” (LSB 364, vs. 1 & 3)

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| 1 | Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet
head.
The stars in the [bright] sky looked down
where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. | 3 | Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender
care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee
there. |
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August

Reading: Luke 2:8-12

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

(Those with birthdays in August come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN "Where Shepherds Lately Knel't" (LSB 369, vs. 1 & 3)

- 1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
 I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
 But there is room and welcome there for me,
 But there is room and welcome there for me.
- 3 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
 His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

September

Reading: Luke 2:13-14

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

(Those with birthdays in September come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" (LSB 368, vs. 1 & 3)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply,
 Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*
- ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

October

Reading: Luke 2:15-16

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

(Those with birthdays in October come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN "A Great and Mighty Wonder" (LSB 383, vs. 1 & 3)

1 A great and mighty wonder,
 A full and holy cure:
 The virgin bears the infant
 With virgin honor pure! *Refrain*

ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:
 *"To God on high be glory
 And peace to all the earth!"*

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
 Those bright angelic bands,
 Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
 And oceans, clap your hands. *Refrain.*

November

Reading: Luke 2:17-20

¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

(Those with birthdays in November come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as

the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379, vs. 1& 3)

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| 1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: <i>Refrain</i> | 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|--|

*ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

December

Reading: Luke 2:34-35

³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

(Those with birthdays in December come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (LSB 366, vs. 1 & 4)

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| 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing. | 4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing. |
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Remembering the family and friends not present

Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

(Anyone wishing to put a decoration on the Christmas tree for other family members not present here today or in memory of those now with the Lord in heaven come forward as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “Joy to the World” (LSB 387, vs. 1 & 4)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

THE NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message "The Word of God for Me!" (Luke 3:1-20) *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 "Get Ready" (Luke 3:1-20)

Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-20—¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Offering/Attendance As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also 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 by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or 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 (*After each petition the Pastor will say, "Lord in Your mercy," and the congregation responds saying, "Hear our prayer."*)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

- 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

LSB 197

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

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!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have

the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request.

Distribution

Instrumental Music

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

- C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of
all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.
- P 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.

Salutation and Benedicamus

- P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
- P Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

- 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.

Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

c: Thanks be to God!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Pam Umaski (healing & strength); Terri Meyer (cancer); Michael Parker (healing) Pauline Parker's Son; Pastor Bill Wurm, Pastor Taggatz's father-in-law; Angela Strasse (cancer) friend of Taggatz family; Leigh Schmeiser (healing); Julia Oelke (Army National Guard Medic and her Unit deployed) Debbie Oelke's daughter; Milwaukee Police Officers; Tom Janes (healing & strength) Diane Pielsnik's brother; Bev Buretta (healing & strength); Donna Horkan (healing & strength) sister of June Roewer; Greg Puetz (healing & strength); Jay (cancer) friend of Lisa Kamprath; Randy (cancer) Lori Kachelmeier's brother; Tom Adams, relative of Pauline Parker; Shirley Stachowiak (cancer) Sharon Iseli's niece; Ken Dotson (healing & strength) Brother of Glenn Dotson; Larry Abelt Sr. (healing & strength) Leah Abelt's Father-in-Law; Kevin (healing & strength) Katie Nowack's friend; Dennis & Mary (healing & strength) friends of Joy Lussier; Andie (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier. Cindy Schmidt (back issues) friend of Lori Kachelmeier; Tim (surgery) Donna Dotson's brother; Gordon (healing) relative of Janine Pieper, Renee Lutzke (healing); Joe Handle; Michelle Stein (cancer) Sister in law of Pat Toman; Christine (healing) friend of Jill Nowack; Bryghtten (healing) relative of Carol Thurber; Greg Nowakowski (healing & strength).

For our Homebound Members at Grace: Carol Loveall, Betty Lemmer, Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, June Roewer, Art Steinborn, Ernst & Patricia Groth, and Gloria Kilponen.

We mourn with the family of Aaron and Shari Sparks, friends of Jason & Beth Stone, Grace School parents, as they mourn the death of their son, *Jackson*. We pray: Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with *Jackson Sparks' family* and all who mourn that, casting every care on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com.

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

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

Assisting with the Divine Service

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

	<u>Thursday 6:30 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Koperud	Adam Voss	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Pastor Taggatz	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>		Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolytes</u>			Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Ushers</u>	Jim Robinson	Larry Herte, Andrea Szeplinski, Tommy Szeplinski	Mike Huber, Bob Olen, Eric Kamprath

GRACE CRAFT NIGHT!

Join us for a Christmas themed craft! No crafting skills needed, come for the fun!

Cost - \$15 per picture, bring a snack to share, drinks provided!

When: Monday, December 13th – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Dachel's House – 9728 S. Rustic Place, Oak Creek – 414.578.0457

The samples in the narthex are examples of the craft being made. This craft involves paint, stain and glue so make sure you wear clothes that can get messy (aprons are available).



Martin Luther High School Music Department invites you to their annual Christmas Concert on Friday, December 10th and Saturday, December 11th at 7:30 pm. The concert, entitled "*Journey to the Manger*" will feature the Troubadours, Chorus, Concert Choir, Brass Choir, Spartan Band, Varsity Band, and Symphonic Band. Please join us for this festive event! Ticket reservations may be made by calling 414.421.4000. Tickets are also available at the door!

Please Help Support our Youth Trip to NYG 2022!

The youth attending the National Youth Gathering are taking special orders for tea towels with scripture and fun sayings. **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER!** Samples and order sheets are available in the church narthex and school office. **Cost: 1 for \$10, 2 or more \$8 each.** All proceeds will go to the youth & leaders attending the 2022 National Youth Gathering to help cover the travel and Gathering costs.

Towel Saying Choices:

- Blessed Are those who do my dishes
- Give us this day our daily bread
- In All Things (Theme for NYG 2022)
- As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord
- As for me and my house, we will serve tacos - Salsa 24:7

Contact Jen Poellet (djpoellet@hotmail.com, 414-759-5685) or Tricia Dachel (Tricia.Dachel@gmail.com, 414-578-0457) with any questions.

RISE & SONSHINE BIBLE STUDY - December 11th - 8:00-9:30 a.m. - at church
We continue with our Deb Burma study-*Be Still and Know: A Study of Refuge and Rest.*

Grace Ladies Guild Meeting Saturday, December 11th - 10:00 am - at church.
Unfortunately, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is not taking homemade cookies this year, due to Covid. Because of this, we will not be able to do cookie packing this year. However, please come to our next meeting, as we will have a time to gather socially together. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Christmas Cards: Please consider sending Christmas cards to the homebound members and to those on the prayer line. There will be Christmas cards and stamps on the table in the back of church. Thank you!

Your 2022 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 2022.****

Mitten Tree

Once again this year, the Mitten Tree has been placed in the narthex. Guild will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves and gloves which will be donated to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns group. Please help us to “decorate” the tree! *All sizes are needed!* If you are a knitter or crocheter...Pauline Parker has bins of yarn to be used for this project...please reach out to her if you need some.

2022 Altar Flowers

- ❖ Sign-up for 2022 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex.
- ❖ Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee: 414.762.0246
- ❖ Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service.
- ❖ You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner.
- ❖ Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday’s services.
- ❖ Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.

Reminder: If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist. Do not put money in an envelope and put it in the offering baskets. It gets too confusing for the counters to keep track of all that money coming in. Thank you.

LUTHERAN HOUR - "Because We Belong" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The world tells us we must be useful in order to belong, but that's not how God sees us. (Luke 1:5-25) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: lhm.org** scroll down the page and click on, “listen now.” Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

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

2021 Holiday Worship Schedule & Lutheran Hour Ministries Devotional for Advent

YOUR KING IS COMING - On Thursday nights during December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek Worship Services at 6:30pm. We will be following the Service of Prayer & Preaching from Lutheran Service Book. The theme this year is, “*Your King is Coming.*” In the season of Advent, we pray that Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, will bring light to the darkening world. We hear with joy the prophetic word “*Your king is coming to you,*” and we embrace the hope that it brings. Through our worship we find enlightenment as we prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of our eternal King. Together we walk in the path of holiness because the King who is coming to us has covered our shame and bids us welcome Him. The season of Advent calls to us to stop, look, and listen for the Lord. Here is the order of holiday worship for the coming month, we hope to see you in worship as we receive Christ’s gifts of Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and salvation. **Please note, there will be no Thursday night worship services on Thursdays December 23rd and 30th since Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve worship services will be held the next day. Also, there will only be ONE worship service on Sunday, December 26th at 9:00 a.m.**

Thursday, Dec. 9th 6:30pm-Advent Midweek 2 “Jesus: King of Guilt” (*Psalm 80*)

Thursday, Dec. 16th 6:30pm-Advent Midweek 3 “Jesus: King of the Low” (*2 Samuel 7:1-17; Luke 1:26-38*)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23 - NO WORSHIP

Friday, Dec. 24th 4pm, 5:30pm-Christmas Eve “Shining in the Darkness” (*Isaiah 9.2-7*)

Saturday, Dec. 25th 9:30am-Christmas Day “Infinite Gifts in Finite Wrappings” (*John 1; Ex. 40; Titus 3*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH - ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY - 9:00 AM (No Adult Bible Class/Sunday School)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30TH - NO WORSHIP

Friday, Dec. 31st 4:00pm-New Year’s Eve “But Deliver Us This Day Our Daily Evil” (*Psalm 90*)

IN THE WORD FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Catechism: Lord's Prayer—Fourth Petition

Verse of the week: 1 Timothy 4:4-5, *“Every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 136

Hymn of the week: (LSB 333) “Once He Came in Blessing” (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Signs of Christ's Coming—Luke 21:25-36

Monday— Gabriel Appears to Zachariah—Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday— The Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday— Watch and Pray for His Coming—Mt. 24:4-14, 36-44

Thursday— The Visitation—Luke 1:39-56

Friday— The Nativity of St. John the Baptist—Luke 1:56-80

Saturday— Isaiah 40:1-11

Stewardship Minute—*“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned”* (Isaiah 9:2). You once were walking in darkness, and the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, has led you to the Light. *“This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”* (1 John 1:5). You, a steward of the mysteries of the Gospel, are to reflect that Light so that others may step out of the darkness that envelops them and walk in the light.

**“THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND
MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US.”
HAVE YOU MADE ROOM IN YOUR
HEART FOR HIM?**

“She gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She
....placed Him in a manger, because there
was no room for them in the inn” (Luke
2:7).



“When we have eyes of faith, eyes that recognize these delights are gifts from God, then we realize that what we’re missing, what we should be longing for, what we cannot live without, isn’t Amazon or Starbucks or McDonalds. It’s Him. And when we have Him, every other gift makes sense. Every other gift falls into its proper place.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life for Lutherans For Life - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

**Growing In Grace
November 24 & 28, 2021**

Offering

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2,797.25	Attendance	148
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	1,689.66	Communed	94
<i>Missions</i>	25.00		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	0.00		
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	110.00		
<i>Lutheran High</i>	0.00		
<i>Bible Study/Sunday School</i>	0.00		
Total	\$4,621.91		

OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Sunday	12/5	8:00 am	Trim the Tree Worship (Mites)
		9:15 am	Sunday School
		9:15 am	Bible Study (school library)
		10:00 am	Willowcrest Worship
		10:30 am	Trim the Tree Worship (Mites)
Monday	12/6	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class @ church
Tuesday	12/7	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ OC Diner
		6:30 pm	Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	12/8	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
		6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Thursday	12/9	6:30 pm	Advent Worship – Week 2
		7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	12/11	8:00 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
		10:00 am	Ladies Guild
Sunday	12/12	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Sunday School
		9:15 am	Bible Study (school library)
		10:00 am	Willowcrest Worship
		10:30 am	Divine Worship

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Duane Meyer	414-840-1873
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor	Rev. John Taggatz	pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Sarah Anderson, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director	Rachel Miliacca	eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office

Mailing Address

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

