

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 26th, 2021

“By His Grace you are saved through faith”

Ephesians 2:8



Image: “And he [Simeon] came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God.” *(Luke 2:27–28)*

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 “*Prepared for Heaven!*”

Are you prepared for heaven? Admittedly, this is an odd question when we are celebrating Jesus' birth. Yet, Jesus was born to die to save His people from their sins. As Simeon held the Christ Child, he couldn't help but say, *“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word,”* while also telling Mary, *“Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed.”* That opposition eventually brought about His death on a cross. Yet, Jesus was born to die and rise to life again so that all who believe in Him might live! That is the best Christmas gift ever.

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—Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Opening Hymn 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (vs. 1-4)



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Confession and Absolution

LSB 203

Stand

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

Stand

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10, read responsively*)

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Kyrie

LSB 204

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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 205

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15*

(The Israelites are to consecrate their firstborn to the Lord.)

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

³Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place...

¹¹“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a, spoken responsively*)

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*

Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a | new song,*

for he has done | marvelous things!

Epistle *Colossians 3:12-17*

(Wrap yourselves with the characteristics, peace, and word of Christ.)

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Verse Luke 2:30, 32

“Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.”

Holy Gospel Luke 2:22-40

(Jesus is brought to the temple.)

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 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.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

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

Sit

Sermon Hymn 370 What Child Is This (vs. 1-3)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

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

Sanctus

LSB 208

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 209

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

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

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 209

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

Pax Domini

LSB 209

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

- C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

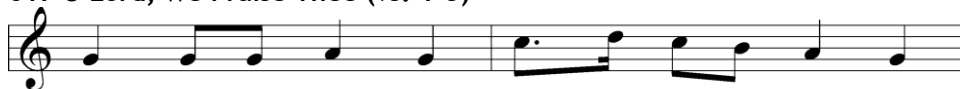
We celebrate the Lord’s Supper

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

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 Hymns:

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee (vs. 1-3)



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

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



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



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

Refrain



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



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
 Depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory
 Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles
 Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people,
 Your chosen Israel.

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

Post-Communion Collect

LSB 212

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

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 212

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn 393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (vs. 1-2)



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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); 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 Burette (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; Andie (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier. Sindy Schmidt (back issues) friend of Lori Kachelmeier; Tim (surgery) Donna Dotson's brother; Gordon (healing) relative of Janine Pieper, Renee Lutzke (healing); 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); Myles King (blood disorder) son of Matthew & Meredith King; James Giambi (healing) Donna Dotson's Sister in Law's Nephew; Cindy Riemer (cancer); Kathy Senger (cancer) Lowell & Pat Johnson's friend.

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 families of **Harold Parker** and **Marion Heinen** (grandmother of Ben Heinen) as they were recently called home to heavenly rest. May God give them comfort in the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation we have through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We thank Pastor Roy Peterson for filling in for Pastor Taggatz while he and his family are away on vacation. We pray that God would continue to bless Pastor Peterson in his ministry to God's people at Concordia University Wisconsin. Pastor Peterson is the President at Concordia University Wisconsin Foundation.

Pastor Taggatz will be on vacation Sunday, December 26th through Thursday, December 30th. If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact Pastor Chris Lockie at: 262-977-5077.

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.

Elders

Readers

Communion Set-up

Linens

Acolytes

Ushers

Sunday 9:00 am

Adam Voss

Beth Jackson

Jennifer Olen

Gail Nowakowski

Tatiana Concepcion

Mike Huber, Bob

Olen, Eric Kamprath

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 at (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. Thank you.

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.

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.****

2021 Holiday Worship Schedule & Lutheran Hour Ministries Devotional for Advent

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30TH: NO WORSHIP

Friday, December 31st, 4:00pm-New Year's Eve "But Deliver Us This Day Our Daily Evil"
(Psalm 90)

LUTHERAN HOUR -"Rite of Passage" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Life proceeds in stages marked by rites of passage. Dr. Zeigler talks about the changes we go through, and the Savior Who goes with us. (Luke 2:21-40) 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

IN THE WORD FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Catechism: Creed—Third Article

Verse of the week: Colossians 3:16, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 139

Hymn of the week: (LSB 897) "O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly"

Bible Readings for the Week:

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

Monday— St. John, Apostle and Evangelist: John 21:20-25

Tuesday— The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: Matthew 2:13-18

Wednesday—"Do Not Be Afraid to Go to Egypt"—Genesis 46:1-7

Thursday— The Ark of the Covenant into the Temple—1 Kings 8:6-13

Friday— New Year's Eve: Luke 12:35-40

Saturday—The Circumcision of Our Lord: Luke 2:21

Stewardship Minute—The wise men brought Jesus gifts, but, before presenting their gifts, they first gave Him honor through giving of themselves. Matthew 2:10-11 says, *“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.”* Before we give God our treasures, He desires that we give Him our hearts. This is the meaning of stewardship. God wants our praise and adoration.

**CHRISTMAS IS THE GIFT-GIVING SEASON.
WE THANK OUR HEAVENLY FATHER FOR JESUS
WHO IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.**

[Mary] shall bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).



“Where are your eyes today? ... Gaze at the baby Jesus in the manger—born into humanity for you. Watch as Jesus teaches, heals, comforts, and calls lost people to Himself. Fix your eyes on Him as He hangs on that cross for you. And look joyfully at Him as He meets you after the resurrection—loving you, forgiving you, and sending you out into His world to share His love with others ... Let’s fix our eyes on Jesus!” *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries - 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.

GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM—When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and nonprofits. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. *****Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program:** Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1-800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT(800-847-4836) and state " *Thrivent Choice.*"

For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to:
<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>

Poinsettias for Christmas!

There are 24 poinsettias placed this year. Thank you to those who helped decorate our worship space.

In honor/memory of:

Janice Barrett (family)	Stan Gumm (wife)	LeRoy Handle (wife)
Sandy Hamburger (husband)	Darlene Urbaniak	Tony Miranda
Larry & Sandy Herte (son)	Barb & Mike Huber	Ron & Mary Savarino
Dave Stecker	Greg & Gail Nowakowski	The Dachel Family
Lowell Johnson	Leah Abelt	Gail Olen
Sharon Russell (mother)	Christine Cooksy	Lori Jablonski (husband, son)
Amy Pankow (father)	Mark & Jennifer Olen (Susan Olsen)	Bev Buretta

**Growing In Grace
December 16 & 19, 2021**

Offering

<i>General Offering</i>	\$3,189.25	<i>Attendance</i>	123
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	1,002.04	<i>Communed</i>	55
<i>Missions</i>	0.00		
<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	\$4,301.29		

OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Sunday	12/26	9:00 am	Divine Worship (ONE SERVICE ONLY TODAY)
		9:15 am	NO Sunday School or Bible Study
		10:00 am	Willowcrest Worship
Monday	12/27	6:30 pm	NO CONFIRMATION
Tuesday	12/28	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ OC Diner
Thursday	12/30	6:30 pm	NO WORSHIP SERVICE
		7:30 pm	NO Choir Rehearsal
Friday	12/31	4:00 pm	New Years Eve Worship
Sunday	1/2	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	NO Sunday School or Bible Study
		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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