

Equippier

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



FEBRUARY

God Has Saved the Best for Last

John 2:1-11—¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

We like to close with something great. We even have a saying for this behavior: “*Saving the best for last.*” God Himself has a way of saving the best for last.

Sometimes, there is an order to the gifts we give. This year, for your friend’s birthday, you have chosen to give her one “big” gift. There are also a few smaller items there, things you picked up that you thought she might enjoy. But this year, there is really just one big gift. As she reaches for the presents, you point to one of the smaller gifts and say, “*Why don’t you open that one first.*” You want the last gift to be the best.

Whether it is presents or food, the order of music at a concert or the series of battles in a film, we like the last one to be the best. We like to close with something great. We even have a saying for this behavior: “*Saving the best for last.*”

We are not the only ones who do this. God Himself has a way of saving the best for last. Adam receives the gifts of creation. All of the animals of the world are brought before him and he names them. The beasts with their many colors. The birds who fill the sky with their flight. But, at the end of the day, there is no helpmate found for Adam. So, God causes a deep sleep to fall upon him and then God comes and offers to Adam someone who is flesh of his flesh and bone of his bones. As John Milton remembers this moment in *Paradise Lost*, Adam says to Eve, “*My fairest, my espoused, my latest found, / Heaven’s last best gift*” (5.18-19). God saved the best for last.

In our gospel reading from John 2:1-11, we come upon the first of Jesus' miracles. It is an odd miracle when you think about it. Jesus is a minor guest at a major wedding. The crowds have gathered, but not for Him. A table has been set, but the guest of honor is not Jesus. A feast is going on, but we are not asked to sit with those who are eating. Instead, John asks us to linger in the background. He wants us to see what is happening on the outskirts of the feast. We never greet the master of the house. We never meet the bridegroom or see the bride. Instead, we find ourselves with the servants in the middle of a crisis. They have run out of wine. And here, in the background of this feast, Jesus reveals the beginning of something new.

Jesus chooses things which are on hand. Six ceremonial jars for washing. Water from a well. And without a word, Jesus changes water into wine. Not just wine, but good wine. Wine that is so good and so abundant it causes the steward of the feast to shake his head in disbelief. *"Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have saved the good wine until now."* (John 2:10) And the steward is not talking to Jesus, he is talking to the master of the feast. *"You saved the best for last,"* he says. The steward is talking about the wine at the wedding. But I wonder if John is talking to us about something more. Perhaps John wants us to hear these words as if they were spoken, not to the master of the feast about the wine, but to God about Jesus. At least, that is what I would like to suggest, because these words are a way of understanding the entire ministry of Jesus. In this, His first miracle, the disciples are just beginning to see how God has saved the best for last.

Lingering on the outskirts of this world's celebrations... there is a figure. He is someone who goes unseen by many, who works in the background, who takes what is at hand and turns it into something beautiful. This one goes by the name of Jesus. He is God's last, best gift.

So often, we can want God to work in ways that are seen and understood by everyone. We have friends who do not believe. We wish there were a way we could prove to them God's presence; show them a work of God they could not question. Give them an answer from God they could not refute. But God chooses to come to us in the humble work of Jesus. He will linger at the outskirts of a wedding. He will be there in the hallway of the hospital. He will place Himself along the way back to the car from a funeral. Wherever the least and the lost are gathered, God chooses to be there.

Why? Because He loves His creation. When He first created the world, He would come to visit Adam and Eve. Now, after they have fallen, after their eyes have been blinded and their hearts have been hardened, after no one believes God could possibly exist, He will come again. Only this time, He will come in the flesh. He will not sit on a throne in Rome but be the guest at a wedding in Cana. He will not command an army of soldiers but offer directions to servants. He works with what He has. But what He does with what He finds is amazing. He will bring all things to their final fruition.

This Jesus will even be found outside the Holy City of Jerusalem, hanging naked and dying on a cross. Why? Because He has come to visit His people, to live among the lost. He came to take all sin and all suffering into Himself that He might rise and bring us into the goodness of God's new creation. There we will experience that which is good. So good and so abundant we will shake our heads in belief and, with the steward and with the disciples and with all who have ever been saved, we will cry out to God the Father saying, *"You saved the best for last."*

See you in worship,

Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

“Return to the Lord!”



Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon Christ’s passion in dying on the cross to save us from our sins. Please note: **ASH WEDNESDAY** is on March 2nd with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m. There will be no Thursday Evening Service on March 3rd. The Lenten Services following Ash Wednesday will be on Thursday nights at 6:30pm without communion. Here is an overview of the series:

Wednesday, March 2nd 6:30pm with Communion — Ash Wednesday: “Return to the Lord, Who Is Gracious”

Joel 2:12–19

Thursday, March 10th 6:30pm — “Return to the Lord, Who Has Redeemed You” Isaiah 44:21–28

Thursday, March 17th 6:30pm — “Return to the Lord, Who Will Restore You” Jeremiah 15:19–21

Thursday, March 24th 6:30pm — “Return to the Lord, Who Will Raise You Up” Hosea 6:1–6

Thursday, March 31st 6:30pm — “Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Change” Malachi 3:6–12

Thursday, April 7th 6:30pm — “Return to the Lord, Who Does Not Tire of Calling You” Amos 4:6–13

Thursday, April 14th 6:30pm with Communion — Maundy Thursday: “The Lord Returns to Jerusalem with Mercy” Zechariah 1:12–17

Friday, April 15th 12:00pm Good Friday Worship no communion — “It Is Finished” John 19:30

Friday, April 15th 6:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service — “The Word of the Lord Returns to Him with Success” Isaiah 55:6–11

Sunday, April 17th 6:00am Easter Sunrise Service, No Communion — “Don’t Seek the Living among the Dead” Luke 24:1–6a

Sunday, April 17th 8:30am & 10:00am Easter Sunday Festival Service with communion — “He Has Risen! He Is Now Here!” Luke 24:1–12

Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

In *Suffering Servant*, we encounter Jesus the Man sent to redeem a lost world. Born in the flesh, Jesus became like us. Taking the form of a Servant, He emptied Himself. Bearing our sins to the cross, He gives us newness of life through His victory over death won for us by His resurrection from the dead.

We are offering these devotions at our Church in both a physical booklet form and we will be emailing them out to our members. This devotional will include our Lenten Worship Schedule for Grace with contact information for our Church. To view the devotions online go to: <https://www.lhm.org/lent/>

Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co-worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord’s passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.

What is Lent? The season of Lent begins in February or March. The word *lent* has its origin in the same root as one of the German words for “spring,” *Lenz*. As nature awakens from the death of winter, so the Christian finds newness of life in Christ, rising from sin’s death. During the 40 days of Lent, God’s baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: *repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving*.

Lent is a time in which God’s people prepare with joy for the paschal feast (Easter). It is a time in which God renews His people’s zeal in faith and life. It is a time in which we pray that we may be given the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

Customs: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when ashes are placed on the forehead to symbolize repentance. The color for this service is black or purple. The color for the rest of Lent is purple. The hymns and services of Lent do not include the joyful word, “*Aleluia*.” Consider fasting during daylight hours. Spend your regular mealtime in prayer and devotional reading. If you cannot abstain from food for health reasons, abstain from something else (e.g., *television or another leisure activity*). Do not fast on Sundays, which are not part of the 40 days of Lent. Read Bible stories with children each day.





Thoughts from another Stephen Minister here at Grace.

Hello, my name is Gail Olen and I am a Stephen Minister here at Grace Lutheran Church. I've been asked to tell you about what being a Stephen Ministry means to me. At first, I felt self conscious and concerned that I would come up with just the right words. But then a series of events spoke to me and helped me draw a parallel between my life and the Stephen Ministry program. It all started when I was waiting in line at a local store. There in front of me I saw a calendar, on the front of the calendar was a quote from Charles Swindall. It read:

I cannot imagine where I would be today if it were not for that handful of friends who gave me a "heart full" of love.

That quote caused me to think about the friends I have had in my life and realize how fortunate I have been to have that small group of "lifelong" friends...those friends who have seen me through the ups and downs of life. You know the ones I am talking about. The ones where you can pick up the phone and call and you start right where you left off, even if it has been a very lone time since you chatted.

I thought further about the friends I have acquired through nursing school, remembering what it was like as a kid of 17 leaving home and going off to school with no money for tuition and often no food. I was working weekends, evenings, and nights as part of my "school training" taking care of patients with illnesses I could never even have imagined could exist in situations of acutely short staffing. (One student for an entire floor of sick children on third shift at Children's Hospital.) Those situations brought fellow students very close together and created a lifelong bond. I think about it as the female version of the popular movie Band of Brothers.

As I further considered relationships with friends, I realized that I had one friend that I could always count on. One who always kept His promises, is always there for me, and never lets me down. The hint for who that friend is can be found in hymn 770, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"...I believe it goes....What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, what a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer. What a wonderful hymn this is! I remember when I first heard that hymn as a child and how often through the years that hymn has brought me comfort. When everyone else forsakes you and everything seems dark and empty, Jesus is always there for us, always by our side. We know that people let us down, even dear friends. Family disappoints us. Work discourages us. Finances seem impossible. But Jesus never disappoints us and always keeps His promises.

A nursing friend of mine who administers chemotherapy made a comment to me a couple of weeks ago. She said she ran across a statement that she has thoughtfully considered. It goes something like this:

"It is a privilege to care for the body, which is the home of the Spirit of God. It is the place where God dwells."

So, as I consider the quote from Charles Swindall that I mentioned earlier, "friends giving a heart full of love," and consider my nursing buddy saying she is "caring for the body which is the place where the Spirit of God dwells" I see Stephen Ministry as a privilege. An "open hand" bringing "a heart full of love" to those in need, whatever the reason.

Finally, as Valentines Day approaches, and you see all the beautiful red hearts scattered all over the windows and stores, please pause for a moment and remember the Stephen Ministry group here at Grace Lutheran Church. That "handful of friends," fellow members in your congregation, are ready to bring a "heart full of love" to you and others.



God's blessing on your day.

Stephen Ministry is a free ministry to our congregation and to the community. We have had 50 hours of training and also ongoing training once a month since 2004. How can you get a Stephen Minister? If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Pastor Taggatz 715-467-/231 or to one of the Stephen Leaders: Jeanne Meyer 423-0010, Chris Cotter 324-9768, Lori Kachelmeier or one of our Stephen Ministers, Pat Lemmer, Donna Wenzel, Beth or Richard Jackson, Adam Voss, Gail Olen, or Pauline Parker. Our Stephen Leaders are also Stephen Ministers.

February 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 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday (Pastor's day off)

Visitations: Monday-Thursday afternoons

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

Pastor John M. Taggatz: 715.467.1231

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



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



The Mites collection dates
for this month are:
Thursday, February 3rd
Sunday, February 6th

A "Thank You" to my Grace Lutheran Family



Dear Friends,

I want to express my thanks to all the members of the Grace community that have been so supportive to me as I've gone through my cancer journey during this past year. I'm thankful for the overwhelming number of prayers, cards, notes and calls you've showered upon me. I continue to appreciate every day that the Lord is giving me, along with the family that all you at Grace provide for me. I do also appreciate your continued prayers, and ask the Lord's blessings on each and every one of you.

With love,
Bev Buretta

Your 2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex of the church. Please pick up your envelopes after worship services. Thank you for your continued support of our church, school and ECC through the stewardship of your time, talents and treasures! God Bless You!!

2022 Altar Flowers ~ LOTS OF DATES AVAILABLE TO SIGN UP FOR!!

- ❖ 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.

Grace Lutheran Greeting Card Ministry

The greeting-card ministry consists of volunteers mailing cards and notes of encouragement to people in nursing facilities, who are homebound, or otherwise can't be at church regularly.

'Think of your neighbor, love your neighbor.' This is the way people answer that message, letting people know they haven't been forgotten. If you would like to share in this ministry, please take a card which is provided for you on the table in the narthex of the church. Remember...you are giving joy to these people. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please contact Pauline Parker at: 414-807-6338 or paulinemom@aol.com



Grace Lutheran School Oak Creek Open House! Come to our open house on Monday, February 7th from 4-6:30pm. Call our School Office to make an appointment and schedule a tour: 414-762-3655. This open house is by appointment only. We accept WI School Choice Vouchers. We are a nationally accredited private grade school. We have a strong academic curriculum and a Christian environment. We have extracurricular programs with boys and girls athletic teams. We also have before and after school programs. Go to our website: graceoakcreek.org



Grace Youth Group Meeting & Game Night at Grace Lutheran School, Friday, February 18th from 5:30-8pm. We will be having a short 30-minute meeting from 5:30-6pm with the parents of the youth that will be going to the 2022 LCMS National Youth Gathering. For the game night, the youth are welcome to bring their own treats. We will also be decorating envelopes that we will be using as part of our National Youth Gathering Fundraiser in March. We hope to see you there! Youth ages 5th grade through High School are invited to attend.



Brrrr! It is cold outside. Warm up with some homemade chili made by the Board of Stewardship. We still have some left...don't delay! Pick up an order form on the table in the narthex. Order and/or pick up after church. Chili order forms can be dropped off at church, school, or ECC, or contact the ECC office: 414-762-8755. The cost for the chili is \$10 per quart. All funds will go towards ECC's re-accreditation process. Thanks for your generosity and support of our Grace Early Childhood Center!!!

UPDATE ON THE PARKING LOT PROJECT AT CHURCH

Currently, we have about \$41,400 in dedicated funds to go towards the repair and replacement of our church parking lot. We have received a generous matching grant offer from one of our members here at Grace of \$10,000. If our congregation can raise an addition \$10,000 by the end of May 2022 we will receive the matching grant money, which will go to replace our Church and ECC 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 Summer of this year of 2022. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries at Grace!!!

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

1 John 4:7-12. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. ... Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School

Adult Bible Study is held in the school library of our school building from 9:15-10:15am on Sunday mornings. In the Adult Bible Study, we are studying the Christian doctrine of *Creation*. Our Sunday School students are meeting in our church sanctuary from 9:15-10:15am on Sunday mornings. Please join us as we study God's Word together!!!

Here is some information on our new Bible Study series on *Creation*. It may come as a surprise, but when the Bible uses the word *doctrines* (teachings) in the plural, the word is presented negatively as coming from men (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7; Colossians 2:22) or from demons (1 Timothy 4:1). Christian doctrine, however, is one. It is one teaching that comes from God, and each component of that teaching plays an integral role in conveying a singular message. Take out one component, like creation, and the whole is adversely affected. Conversely, if we faithfully confess each component of Christian teaching, then the integrity of Christian doctrine is preserved. What does the Gospel of Jesus Christ—His life, death, and resurrection for the salvation of all people—have to do with all this? The Gospel of Jesus Christ—who He truly is and why He came into the world—makes sense only within the biblical worldview that espouses a belief in a divine Creator and His creation.

God's purpose in creation (the reason why He made us) is that He is pleased to love and to give. "God's will to create reveals a will to love by the free giving of himself and all that is his. God, precisely as the absolute Creator, relates to the world essentially as the gracious Giver." (William C. Weinrich, "*Creation ex Nihilo: The Way of God*," *Logia*, Vol. 4, No. 2 [Eastertide 1995], page 39). Creator and creation describe God's love for all that He has made! The creation is God's arena for giving His gifts of love, especially the gift of His Son. The Scriptures show us why we ought to view our Creator and His creation in this way.

In *The Science of God*, British biochemist, historian, and Christian theologian Alister E. McGrath lists several popular uses of the word "nature." McGrath points out that the numerous definitions of nature are not only different, but also inconsistent. However, where they are homogeneous is in their denial of a biblical worldview of our Creator and His creation. As Weinrich notes, God created the world to love and to give. We know this with certainty through God's loving and giving of His divine-human Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. By holding onto the singular doctrine recorded in Holy Scripture, which includes the teaching about God, our Creator and His creation, we hold onto Christ (John 5:39).

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>



Hunger Task Force

Annual Fund Drive



Don't just count your blessings. Be the blessing other people count on!

The *Hunger Task Force* has remained open during the pandemic in order to provide services for children, families and seniors in Milwaukee, while ensuring their operations to keep everyone safe and healthy.

This season the local need is as great as it has been. Pantry traffic is up and the lingering challenges of the pandemic and unemployment are making it harder and harder for parents and seniors to put food on the table.

The best way to support the *Hunger Task Force* during the pandemic is to make a monetary donation. The *Hunger Task Force* will then purchase the food to be distributed to those in need.

You will have an opportunity to contribute to the *Hunger Task Force Fund Drive* from **February 10 thru March 20, 2022**. There will be envelopes on the table in the back of church to put your donations. The envelopes then can be placed in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to: Grace Lutheran Church. Please write *Hunger Task Force* in the memo section of your check.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Evangelism Board

Jeanne Meyer, Suzie Mirenda, Barb Huber, Diane Pielsnik and Mitzi Gamroth



In our stewardship journey, we are transformed into new people who are changed by the Holy Spirit from self-centered to Christ-centered people. In Christ, we are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). We have been changed from selfish to generous people. We move forward in our generosity, learning to give more and more. Our journey will be marked by ups and downs, but with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we continue moving forward by God's grace. Our journey and transformation are only complete in our eternal home with Jesus.



Give Thanks in All Circumstances

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the people in Thessalonica wrote, "...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18). God wants us never to forget to thank Him for all of our blessings we receive daily. In the story of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19), Jesus expressed His disappointment at not being thanked. After Jesus cleansed ten people of their leprosy, only one person thanked Him for the healing that He had provided. Jesus asked, "*Where are the nine?*" (verse 17). Jesus wanted and expected to be thanked by all ten.

Being thankful is a prominent theme in God's Word. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we see God at work in our lives. We are thankful because God is worthy of our thanksgiving. God gives us "*every good gift and every perfect gift*" (James 1:17). In Psalm 136:1 King David wrote, "*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.*" We give thanks for both God's goodness and His steadfast love.

Author William Arthur Ward wrote, "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgiving, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." How often we take the ordinary things for granted! Living with an attitude of gratitude, we appreciate and give thanks to God throughout the day for all things. Our thanksgiving is demonstrated when we use the faith God has given us to live in obedience to His Word. Our thankfulness can be expressed at every level and in every activity of life. "*And whatever you do,*" Paul wrote in Colossians 3:17, "*in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*"

Dr. Robert A. Emmons, a professor of psychology, wrote, "Gratitude is important not only because it helps us to feel good but also because it inspires us to do good." Acknowledging that God has entrusted us with gifts of time, abilities, and money, we express our gratitude by sharing them with others in Christian love. Because we know that God is the provider of our lives and blessings, we hold onto our possessions lightly and with gratitude use them to help others and extend His kingdom.

In her book, *Attitudes of Gratitude*, M.J. Ryan wrote, "Whenever we are appreciative, we are filled with a sense of well-being and swept up by the feeling of joy." May God help us all "*give thanks in all circumstances.*"



Grace Ladies Guild



February Meeting Saturday, February 12th - 10:00am at church 'Missions Unpacked' LCMS Event

We will be traveling to far away countries without even leaving Oak Creek! Join us as we learn how the church is spreading the Gospel, planting Lutheran churches and showing mercy on a global scale.



Thank you to ALL who donated to our Blessing for Baby event! Moms and babies at *A Place of Refuge* will benefit from your generosity.

RISE & SONSHINE BIBLE STUDY

NEW STUDY begins...

Saturdays, February 12th and February 26th
from 8-9:30am at church.

We're visiting our very first study we enjoyed!

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

by Joanna Weaver

LADIES, please consider joining us!

Contact Jennifer Olen with any questions.

414.305.3740



LWML 2023 Convention-Milwaukee

The planning has started for the bi-annual LWML convention to be held in Milwaukee in 2023! At this time we are in need of women to step into a variety of host committee roles. The Guest Services dept. has vacancies in the following areas:

- Child Care Chairman and Directors
- Food Services Chairman and Directors
- Tours Chairman
- Transportation Chairman and Directors

Role descriptions and volunteer applications are available at:

www.lwml-swd.org/events/other

Questions can also be addressed to Jennifer Olen-Guest Services Dept. Coordinator:

jolenlwml@gmail.com or 414.305.3740



AT GRACE

We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center.

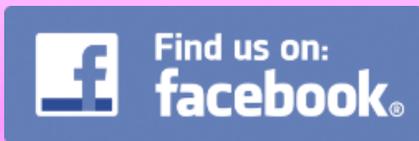
However, most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!

We enjoy using 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

LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!



You can give to our church 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: graceoakcreek.org. You may give a one time gift or set-up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!



KIDS VALENTINE PUZZLE PAGE

♥ What Is Love Word Search ♥

L N U M Z C S T P A P R Z H Q U F H S O
N N H I A O E O I L F E C P A O T E P L
L I I N Y R V K H M R F N R N L R V L D
N O I T O V E D S T T O E D S E E I U B
P U O A M D I X D I D R N C V T W Q N R
P J D O G N L F N O O E U E T D W S F Q
S E N D U R E S E S S N S S O I T U A U
Z S M W E A B Y I S X R Z O T C O M I I
Z T E Z Q P J T R K E J G L J S J N L G
I F U N I B C B F P A Q O Q V S Y Z I I
T Y I Y D P X H P Z Z V V B R R L M N Z
S R Z F C N N G N Y E U H G R J N S G Q
K O A F R W I S J M Y K Y H D E V Z G P
K B Y E V X I K H V H K O P G V P X L D
Z Y C L H V M O A O G O H D L I C L O F
H C W M H T K E V P T U M E J B O T T X
O F K F T H E P U R P N P U A M E T J W
P D X V V I G E N Y T V G L I L U A H N
E X A K E G M Z W S X U L H Q L Z P H Z
S L H B G T D S D S U N P R O V O K E D

Affection

Believes

Devotion

Endures

Fondness

Friendship

Goodwill

Hopes

Kindness

Love

Perseveres

Sweetheart

Trusts

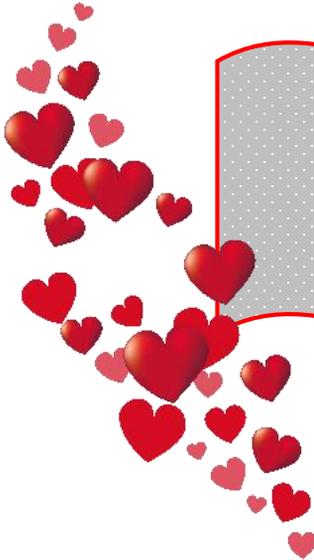
Unfailing



February Birthdays

2/2 Brianna Mallon
2/4 Jessica Mould
2/4 Stephanie Pulkownik
2/5 Renee Lutzke
2/6 Brad Abelt
2/6 Timothy Cooksy
2/6 Heidi Gottwald
2/11 Tony Mirenda
2/11 Cindy Riemer
2/12 Amy Pankow
2/13 Bev Buretta
2/13 Henry Tindall
2/15 Terri Meyer
2/15 Anna Poellet
2/15 Emma Urbaniak

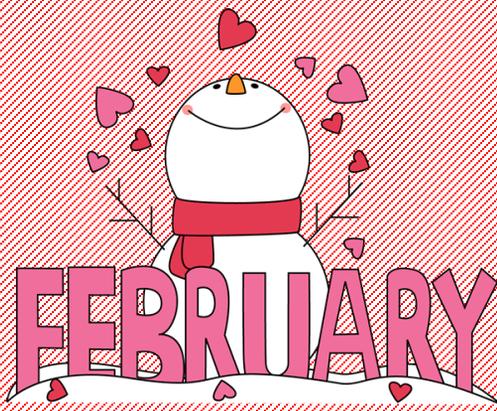
2/18 Elizabeth Kamprath
2/18 Rebecca Kamprath
2/18 Robert Olen
2/18 Emilee Zunker
2/20 Abby Norton
2/20 Jim Sauer
2/21 Leah Abelt
2/21 John Gottwald IV
2/22 Graciana Lutzke
2/23 Sarah Hobart
2/25 Joel Banach
2/25 Samara Svcek
2/26 Melissa Pepler
2/27 Steve Gettelman
2/28 Matthew Campbell



February Anniversaries

2/3 Justin & Jennifer Mendez
2/14 Duane & Chris Meyer
2/16 Derek & Jennifer Poellet
2/19 Cory & Alexandra McIntosh

Calendar of Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Brkfst (OC Diner) 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg	2 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM All Board's Meeting	3 6:30 PM Divine Worship	4	5
6 8:00 AM Divine Worship 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (at school) 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Worship	7 6:30 PM Confirmation	8 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Brkfst (OC Diner)	9 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Council Meeting	10 6:30 PM Divine Worship	11	12 8:00 AM Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 10:00 AM Ladies Guild Meeting
13 8:00 AM Divine Worship 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (at school) 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Worship	14 6:30 PM Confirmation 	15 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Brkfst (OC Diner)	16 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study	17 6:30 PM Divine Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 5:30 PM Grace Youth Group Game Night & Mtg (at school)	19
20 8:00 AM Divine Worship 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (at school) 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Worship	21 6:30 PM Confirmation	22 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study & Brkfst (OC Diner)	23 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study	24 6:30 PM Divine Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	25	26 8:00 AM Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
27 8:00 AM Divine Worship 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (at school) 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Worship	28 6:30 PM Confirmation	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px; background-color: #FFDAB9;"> <p>Reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mites collection dates this month are: February 3rd & 6th ○ Grace Lutheran School Open House-February 7th-BY APPT ONLY ○ The <i>Hunger Task Force Fund Drive</i> starts February 10th ○ Choir rehearsal starts up again February 17th at 7:30pm </div>				

Radio Worship Service

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

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



Prayer Hot Line



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

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com



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Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC