

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## The Epiphany of our Lord (Observed)

January 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"  
Ephesians 2:8



Image: "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "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." (Matthew 2:1-2)

# 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 your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

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 “An Epiphany Moment”**

The darkness of sin and death are as hidden to us as the darkness of night is hidden by the artificial lights of a city. The revelation of God is not only that God is light and in Him is no darkness but that we are in darkness and have no light. The Epiphany moment is that the true light, He who is the light of the world, has come, and in Him we are made light by Baptism and faith. Today, we pray for that light to fill our darkness that we may know the fullness of the revelation of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. His light is so great that it overcomes every enemy and bridges the distance between all cultures and all peoples. We pray the Lord that we may walk in His light even to everlasting life.

### **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...LSB Divine Service Setting 3, pg. 184

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 412

The People That in Darkness Sat (vs. 1-5)

*Stand*

**Confession and Absolution**

*LSB 184*

*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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**



**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

*LSB 189*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, You shined the light of Christ into our world of darkness, division, and death. Grant that we may know Christ, the light of the world, walk in His light all the days of our lives and, by Your grace, be delivered as one people into the place of eternal light and life at the end of all days; 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 *Isaiah 60:1-6***

**(*Arise, shine, for your light has come.*)**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual (*Psalm 117:1-2a; Psalm 96:8, read responsively*)**

**P** Praise the LORD, all nations!

**C** **Extol Him, all peoples!**

**P** For great is His steadfast love toward us,

**C** **and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

**P** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

**C** **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

## Epistle Lesson *Ephesians 3:1-12*

*(The mystery long hidden has been revealed in Jesus Christ.)*

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

*Stand*

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

- C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia Verse for The Epiphany of Our Lord**

*"Alleluia. 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. Alleluia." (Matthew 2:2b)*

**Holy Gospel *Matthew 2:1-12***

*(The star leads the Magi to the place where Jesus Christ was born for all.)*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.  
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "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." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests

and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And 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." <sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And 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. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

LSB 191

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*

**Children’s Message “Come to the Brightness!” (Isaiah 60:1-6)** 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 Hymn 396**

**Arise and Shine in Splendor (vs. 1-5)**

**Sermon**

**“An Epiphany Moment” (Isaiah 60:1-6)**

**Offertory**

*LSB 192*

- C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

### **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](http://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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your 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. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

## Distribution Hymns

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (vs. 1-5)  
400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning (vs. 1-5)

*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*

- A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
C and His mercy endureth forever.
- 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.**
- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And with thy spirit.**

**Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

- A 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 upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.  
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

**Closing Hymn 411**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (vs. 1-3)**

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord  
People: **Thanks be to God!!!**



### 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 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Brandon Dachel	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Cris Evers	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss, Lance Kopperud	Leah Abelt, Paige Vitek, Benjamin Tindall, Henry Tindall	Cathy Weeks, Rick Weeks, Amelia Poellet, Dachs Poellet, Tyler Scheinfeld
<u>Acolyte</u>			McKenzie Isenhart

### WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.* **Chris Evers** (cataract surgery); **Pastor Bill Wurm**, Pastor Taggatz's father-in-law; **Tom Janes** (healing & strength) Diane Pielsnik's brother; **Larry Abelt Sr.** (healing & strength) Leah Abelt's Father-in-Law; **Tim** (healing) Donna Dotson's brother; **Myles King** (blood disorder) son of Matthew & Meredith King; **James Giambi** (healing) Donna Dotson's Sister in Law's Nephew; **Cindy Riemer** (cancer); **Michael Helzer** (cancer) friend of Michael Parker; **Michael Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; **Jim & Kari** (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; **Greg Voss** (healing & strength); **Pam Umaski** (healing & strength); **Curt Bayer** (cancer) former member of Grace; **Sindy Schmidt** (healing); **Lynn Seeger** (heart issues) friend of Chris Evers; **Sandra Mallas** (health, peace, comfort) Mother of Lynn Serdyski; **Claire Dotson** (hospice) mother of Glenn Dotson; **Gary Forsythe** (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; **Jim** (healing & strength) Suzie Mirenda's relative; **Lisa Lampshire** (organ transplants) friend of Dena Guzewicz; **Joe Beiler's stepfather** (healing & strength); **Phyllis Schmidt** (heart issues) friend of Virginia Schmeiser; **Debbie** (healing & strength) daughter in law of Pauline Parker; **Patrick** (healing & strength) neighbor of Marlene Voss; **Lisa Kamprath's sister** (cancer); **Shirley** (healing for fractured shoulder) Dawn Jantz's sister; **Rick Weeks** (knee surgery); **James** (healing & strength) great grandson of Carol Thurber and son of John and Ali Gottwald; **Pam Novak** (healing after a fall), **Mike Huber** (healing after surgery); **Dominic** (recovery from a stroke) nephew of Debbie Oelke; for **Reagan**; **Pastor Chris Lockie** (heart attack) Pastor of Prince of Peace Caledonia, LCMS; **Brittany** (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; **Madelyn Lopez** (hospitalized in a coma) mother of Maddie Lopez, ECC Teacher; **Greg** (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; **Darlene Urbaniak** (cataract surgery); **Dean James** (healing & strength) grandson of Donna Smith; **Sylvia Parker** (recovery from auto accident) daughter in law of Pauline Parker; **Fred Praxel** (healing & strength); **Mary** (recovery from a stroke) Janine Pieper's aunt; **Leigh Schmeiser** (surgery).

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

***We pray for those who mourn:*** Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with the family of **Tootie, a relative of Pauline Parker**, and the family of **Paul, the son of Tom & Carol Sheehan**, who were both called home to heavenly rest, that casting every care on You, they may know the consolation of Your love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. Amen.

**We rejoice with Lacey Sundeen & Jeff Schaefer, who were united in Holy Matrimony here at Grace on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>!!! We pray:** Heavenly Father, Your Son used the joy of the marriage feast as a sign of the joy of Your kingdom. We humbly ask that you would be with **Jeff & Lacey**, whom You have united as husband and wife, and sanctify them with Your love. Bless their marriage Lord, and bring us all at last to the joy of feasting with You in Your eternal kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

***All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues;*** Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: [Paulinemom@aol.com](mailto: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

**We will be holding a special Voters Meeting on Sunday, January 15th, following our 10:30 service.** It will be an opportunity to hear all the happenings of the ministries here at Grace and to share information that you may have an interest in. Our goal as always will be to stick to the point, so it will be a short, but informative meeting. All members of Grace 18 years and older are eligible for voting membership, all you need to do is sign in at the meeting. We will have baked goods, coffee, and time for fellowship following the meeting!

Blessings~Tony Mirenda, Church President

**New Member Potluck & Grace Ministry Fair - following our 10:30m worship service.** On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> we will be having a New Member Potluck and Ministry Fair in our school gymnasium. During the month of January, we have a sign-up sheet in the Church Narthex requesting our members to bring a main entrée, side dish, and/or desserts for this event. Please plan on coming to our New Member Potluck and Grace Ministry Fair to get a chance to meet and get to know our new members and consider the possibility of serving on a board here at Grace.

## **Lutherans For Life Celebration - Sunday, January 15th, 2023**

*“Blessed For Life”* is the theme for our Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Grace Lutheran. Our Life Sunday 2023 theme is based on Psalm 41:2, which says, *“the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.”*

- Blessed with the gift of life.
- Blessed by God for one’s entire life.
- Blessed to be a blessing to others.

### **Blessings for Baby begins Life Sunday-January 15**

We are happy to have Kate Hoffman, Development Director, from A Place of Refuge joining us in our worship services on Life Sunday, January 15. She will be sharing the work being done to support women facing crisis pregnancies. Items can be dropped in the pink tub in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

#### **Items to be collected:**

##### **Refuge House Needs**

- Toothbrushes- adult and children
- Coloring books & crayons
- Ziploc freezer and storage bags
- Paper towels
- Finish Dishwashing Pods
- Dawn dish soap
- Foil

##### **Advocacy Ministry-Moms/Babies Needs**

- Infant sleepers
- Bibs
- Infant socks
- Infant board books & infant toys
- Infant wash clothes & bath towels
- Baby powder

**Your 2023 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 2023.\*\***

## **2023 LWML Convention-June 22-25, 2023**

Want to be a part of the LWML convention?

Areas where we need help: Registration, Directing attendees to meals, Hotel Greeters

Steps to get you involved:

- 1) Fill out the Call to Workers form: [www.lwml-swd.org/events/other](http://www.lwml-swd.org/events/other)
- 2) Register for convention-opens January 9: [www.lwml.org/2023-convention](http://www.lwml.org/2023-convention)  
(registration category- K. Host District Worker)

\*\*Please feel free to contact Jennifer Olen with any questions!

**Poinsettias are available to pick up following worship** You are welcome to pick up your poinsettias that you donated to beautify our Church Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Thank you for making our church beautiful for Christmas and we wish you all God's blessings in the New Year!!!

## **2023 Altar Flowers**

- ❖ Sign-up for 2023 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.

**PRAYER PADS/POCKET PADS:** Some of the ladies at Grace have been making PRAYER PADS and SMALLER POCKET PADS. They are in the back of church on the card table in a basket. Please take one for yourself and for those who could use one. They are a reminder for us to pray and to know that we at Grace are praying for you. They are an addition to our prayer line and our prayer cards that we have been sending out, since 2020. We have sent out over 1,500 prayer cards. If you would like to help there are cards and stamps on the same table along with Christmas cards.

## NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK AT GRACE

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • Jan. 22–28, 2023 • Matthew 28:18-20

Every year, we look forward to National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) and the opportunity it brings to celebrate with over 1,850 schools nationwide. We give thanks for the gift of Lutheran schools to our students, families and the communities they serve. Churches and schools rejoice in partnership with a shared vision for proclaiming God’s grace and mercy to equip the next generation of faithful Christian servants. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to touch the lives of thousands and thousands of children and their families who attend Lutheran schools.

*“Making Disciples for Life”* is the NLSW theme this year, inspired by Matthew 28:18–20: *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with always, to the end of the age.”*

**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 non profits. 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>

**Stewardship Minute**—In the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, he wrote, *“For we are God’s fellow workers”* (1 Corinthians 3:9). As God’s fellow workers, we are guided and equipped by Him to do the works He has prepared for us to do. He calls us to be His instruments through which He shares His grace, love, and mercy with the world. It is amazing that, in spite of our sinful ways, God calls us to participate with Him in sharing the good news of the Gospel. He wants to work with us to bring about His will on earth. God *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4), and He blesses us with the honor and privilege to help others enjoy His kingdom now on earth and to be with Him forever in eternity. Each of us has a purpose to fulfill, so we are an important part of God’s plan.



PEOPLE APPRECIATE NOT ONLY  
THE CONTENT OF OUR THOUGHTS  
BUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY  
ARE OFFERED.

**We use  
kind  
words**

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1).

LUTHERAN HOUR “Gifted” Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler What if we learned to see this world and everyone in it as gifts from God? (Colossians 1:16) The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) scroll down the page and click on, “listen now.” Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

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

“When an abortion is performed, we proclaim that we know better than God. We disregard His wisdom, for He taught us that we should never kill innocent human beings. We proclaim that we do not want or need a gift from God. And in doing so, we seek to make ourselves more powerful than God. We seek to make ourselves God.” *Archbishop Samuel Aquila – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

## IN THE WORD FOR THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

**Catechism:** Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What is Baptism? Which is that Word of God? What benefits does Baptism give? Which are these words and promises of God?

**Verse of the week:** Acts 2:38-39, *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 72

**Hymn of the week:** (LSB 405) “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” (stanzas 2-4)

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday – Baptism of Our Lord – Matthew 3:13-17

Monday – Jacob Returns to Isaac His Father – Genesis 35:16-20, 22b-29

Tuesday – Joseph’s Brothers Sell Him into Slavery – Gen. 37:1-36

Wednesday – Judah and Tamar – Genesis 38:1-30

Thursday – Joseph Is a Slave in Egypt – Genesis 39:1-23

Friday – Joseph Interprets Dreams in Prison – Genesis 40:1-23

Saturday – Exodus 33:12-23

**Growing In Grace  
January 1, 2023**

**Offering**

General Offering	\$1,418.00		
On-Line Giving	\$2,329.20		
Missions	\$0.00	<b>NY DAY Attendance</b>	49
Debt Fund	\$0.00		
Mortgage Offering	\$0.00		
Lutheran High	\$0.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,747.20</b>		

**Please note:** In order to meet budget each week we need to receive \$6,586 in offerings. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We could not do what we do without your prayers, volunteering of your time and talents, and financial support!!!

**OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

Sunday	1/8	8:00 am	<b>Divine Worship-MITES</b>
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship-MITES</b>
Monday	1/9	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday	1/10	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
Wednesday	1/11	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
		6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Thursday	1/12	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
Saturday	1/14	8:00 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	1/15	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		9:15 am	Sunday School
		<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
		11:30 am	Voter's Meeting

## 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) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
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ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262

Pastor		
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