

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 12th & 15th, 2023

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



Image: *"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." (Psalm 41:2)*

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 “Blessed for Life” Lutherans for Life Celebration

“Blessed For Life” is the theme for our Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. 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.

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...as outlined in your bulletin

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn “This is the Day the Lord Has Made”

LSB 903 vs. 1-5

Stand

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P I said, “O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you! *Psalm 41:4*

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**

P His heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. *Psalm 41:6*

C **We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. *Psalm 41:9*

C **We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

P They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.” *Psalm 41:8*

C **We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**

P But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up. *Psalm 41:10*

C **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. *Psalm 41:11*

C **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

P You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! *Psalm 41:12-13*

C **so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.**

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor. In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive. 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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Psalm 41:1-2*

C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

LSB 814 vs. 1-4

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation, grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading *Genesis 1:26-31a*

God creates mankind in His own image

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Lesson *Ephesians 1:3-10*

Our spiritual blessings in Christ

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel *Matthew 5:1-12*

The Beatitudes

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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 “Blessed for Life” (Matt. 5:1-12) 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 “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

LSB 904 vs. 1-4

Sermon “Choose Life-Be a Blessed Blessing for Others” (Deut. 30:19-20)

Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Offering Hymn “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB 781 vs. 1-5

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

Prayer of the Church (*After each petition the Pastor will say, “Lord in Your mercy,” and the congregation responds saying, “Hear our prayer.”*)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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. As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face. 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. 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

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (LSB 621 vs. 1-4)
“O Lord, We Praise Thee” (LSB 617 vs. 1-3)

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.

Sit

Closing Hymn “I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”

LSB 719 vs. 1-4

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>	Greg Nowakowski	Adam Voss	Derek Poellet
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Glenn Dotson	Derek Poellet
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Miranda	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 Isenhardt

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 Serdynski; **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 Guziewicz; **Phyllis Schmidt** (heart issues) friend of Virginia Schmeiser; **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; **Fred Praxel** (healing & strength); **Mary** (hospitalized with a stroke) Janine Pieper's aunt; **Leigh Schmeiser** (surgery); **Barb Praxel** (hospitalized); **Gail Olen** (surgery for hip replacement), **Hadley** (recovery from brain surgery) relative of Craig & Lauren Frank.

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**, who was called home to **heavenly rest**, and the family of **Joe Beiler**, as they mourn the recent death of his **stepfather**. We pray for these families Lord, 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.

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.

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

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



USHERS NEEDED-We are looking for a few more ushers to be put on our schedule. If you are interested, please contact Sarah at the church office by phone or email (church@graceoakcreek.org). Currently we have a need to fill ushers for our 8am worship services in February, October, April, and December. We will also need ushers for the summer schedule of June through August for our worship services on Sunday mornings at 9am from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Thank you for your willingness to serve as an usher here at Grace!!!

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!!!

Grief Share Group

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? We are starting a special seminar and support group that we sponsor for people dealing with the loss of a family member here at Grace Lutheran Church Oak Creek. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families, and we simply wanted you to know about our Grief Share group. It's a place where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help and with the love and encouragement of His Church.

Our Grief Share grief recovery seminar and support group will meet on Monday evenings at Grace Lutheran School starting on Monday, January 30, 2023. This new Grief Share group will be a 13 week session. The sessions are held in our school library from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. The last session will be Monday May 1, 2023, taking off on April 10th for Easter. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oak Creek. Lori Kachelmeier and Jeanne Meyer will be the leaders for this Grief Share Group. Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include *"Is This Normal?"* *"The Challenges of Grief,"* *"Grief and Your Relationships,"* *"Why?"* and *"Guilt and Anger."* For more information or to register: go to the website: www.griefshare.org and enter our zip code "53154" to the left of "find a group" box and do a search. It will bring up our Monday 6:30 pm meetings. For further questions please call Lori Kachelmeier at: 414-828-0290.

New Member Potluck & Grace Ministry - On Sunday, February 5th after our 10:30am worship service we will be having a New Member Potluck and Ministry Fair in our school gymnasium. There is 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.

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.****

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.

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
- 2) Register for convention-opens January 9: www.lwml.org/2023-convention
(registration category- K. Host District Worker)

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

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.

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—The Apostle Paul wrote, "*And God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus* " (Philippians 4:19). Jesus said, "*Give and it shall be given to you*" (Luke 6:38). We have God's promise that we can trust Him for our future. We know we can't outgive Him. We also know it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). As God's people, our thinking should change from "How much money am I going to give" to "How much of God's money am I going to keep?" By God's grace, we understand that all that we are and have are gifts from God, so our giving is merely returning a portion of what He has entrusted to us. May God grant each of us give faithfully and generously.

**THE SUREST ROAD TO CONTENTMENT
IS GRATITUDE. THANKING GOD FOR
ALL HIS BLESSINGS WILL IMPROVE
YOUR ATTITUDE.**

"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need" (Philippians 4:12).



LUTHERAN HOUR "Gifts to Share" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

A body of water becomes stagnant when there is no outflow. The same could be said of us.

(Colossians 1:29) **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 & 6:30 AM

"Christians are to love their neighbors, including the unborn ... (Proverbs 24:11, 29:8-9) ... This means we can and ought to pray for the unborn, for women who have the choice of preserving or ending the life of their unborn child, for women who have had abortions and who need forgiveness in Christ—freely given through faith, for abortion doctors who are directly responsible for killing these children, and for our governing officials." *Pastor David Thompson, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lombard, Illinois - 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.

IN THE WORD FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Catechism: Sacrament of Holy Baptism: How can water do such great things?

Verse of the week: 1 Peter 3:18, "*Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.*"

Psalm of the week: Psalm 67

Hymn of the week: (LSB 394) "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" (stanzas 1-2)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Epiphany 2: Jesus Turns Water into Wine—John 2:1-11

Monday— Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams—Genesis 41:1-36

Tuesday— Joseph Becomes the Prince of Egypt—Genesis 41:37-57

Wednesday— The Confession of St. Peter: Mark 8:27—9:1

Thursday— Joseph's Brothers Journey to Egypt to Buy Food—Gen. 42:1-24

Friday— Joseph Feeds Brothers, Sends Them to Jacob—Gen. 42:25-38

Saturday— 2 Kings 5:1-15a

Growing In Grace
January 5th & 8th, 2023

Offering

General Offering	\$2,704.25		
On-Line Giving	\$3,238.23		
Missions	\$50.00	Attendance	113
Debt Fund	\$10.00		
Mortgage Offering	\$10.00		
Lutheran High	\$		
Total	\$6,012.48		

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	1/15	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		9:15 am	Sunday School
		10:30 am	Divine Worship
		11:30 am	Voter's Meeting
Monday	1/16	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday	1/17	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
		10a-10p	Grace Day at Culver's
Wednesday	1/18	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	1/19	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Sunday	1/22	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		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. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262

Pastor		
Church Office	Sarah Anderson, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
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ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

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