

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26th, 2023

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

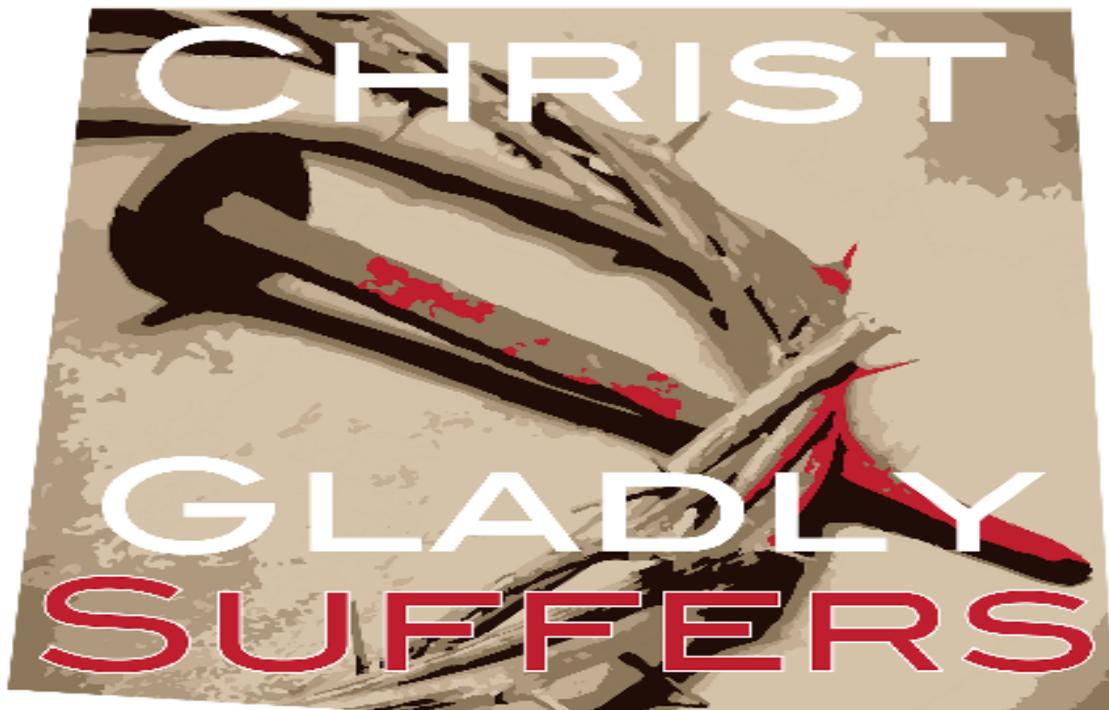


Image: "A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, The guilt of sinners bearing And, laden with the sins of earth, None else the burden sharing; Goes patient on, grows weak and faint, To slaughter led without complaint, That spotless life to offer, He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mockery, and yet replies, "All this I gladly suffer." (LSB 438:1)

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 "We Don't Deserve It"

It is a long-standing tradition in the world of the theatre that when players in a drama or musical are replaced for a given performance, the name of the substitute is inserted into the program or playbill. It is appropriate that the hard work of the understudy be noted by those attending the event. In the weeks of Lent, we focus on the truth that Jesus Christ was and is our substitute, fulfilling the Law of God for us and ultimately paying the price of our sin. He is much more than any kind of understudy! He is our Lord, who willingly takes our place and endures our punishment. In gratitude, we are drawn to the cross!

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 1 pg. 151

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 438

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution

LSB 151

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 116:1-4, 8; antiphon: v. 15, read responsively)

Precious in the sight | of the LORD*

is the death | of his saints.

I love the LORD, because | he has heard*

my voice and my pleas for | mercy.
Because he inclined his | ear to me,*
therefore I will call on him as long | as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid | hold on me;*
I suffered distress and | anguish.
Then I called on the name | of the LORD:*
“O LORD, I pray, deliv- | er my soul!”
For you have delivered my | soul from death,*
my eyes from tears, my feet from | stumbling.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of his saints.

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

During Lent the Hymn of Praise is omitted...

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 156

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

- P Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

(Life is restored in the valley of the dry bones.)

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

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

Gradual (*Hebrews 12:2, read responsively*)

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 8:1-11*

(Life in the Spirit through Christ)

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

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

Stand

Verse (Lent)

LSB 157

- C **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Verse for the 5th Sunday in Lent—*"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."* (John 11:25)

Holy Gospel *John 11:17-27, 38-53*

(Lazarus is restored to life by Jesus.)

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

¹⁷When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that

whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” . . .

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

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

Nicene Creed

LSB 158

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 “The Word Works Wonders” (Ezek. 37:1-14) 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 452

O Perfect Life of Love (vs. 1-5)

Sermon

“The Breath of Life” (Ezek. 37:1-14)

Offertory

LSB 159

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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 160

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 161

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 162

- 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 163

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

- C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)*. Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

- *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*
- *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
- *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*
- *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)*

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

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

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (vs. 1-6)
 560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

Stand

Post-Communion Cantic

774 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy (vs. 1)

1 Feed Thy children, God most holy;
 Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
 O Thou Bread of Life from heaven,
 Bless the food Thou here hast given!
 As these gifts the body nourish,
 May our souls in graces flourish
 Till with saints in heav'nly splendor
 At Thy feast due thanks we render.

Post-Communion Collect

LSB 166

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.**

Benediction

LSB 166

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 436

Go to Dark Gethsemane (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> | Mike Huber | Eric Kamprath | Derek Poellet |
| <u>Readers</u> | Kathy Szefflinski | Erica Vitek | Derek Poellet |
| <u>Communion Set-up</u> | | Jeanne Meyer | Jeanne Meyer |
| <u>Linens</u> | Gail Nowakowski | Gail Nowakowski | Gail Nowakowski |
| <u>Ushers</u> | Jim Robinson, Andrea Szefflinski, Tommy Szefflinski, Ally Hengst | Bob Buzzell, Lynn Buzzell, Payton Weirich | Mike Huber, Bob Olen, Eric Kamprath, Drew Salzer, Eddie Taggatz |
| <u>Acolyte</u> | | | Marty Taggatz |

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. 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); **Sandra Mallas** (health, peace, comfort) Mother of Lynn Serdyski; **Claire Dotson** (hospice) mother of Glenn Dotson; **Gary Forsythe** (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; **Lisa Lampshire** (organ transplants) friend of Dena Guzewicz; **Lisa Kamprath's sister** (cancer); **Pam Novak** (healing after a fall); **Dominic** (recovery from a stroke) nephew of Debbie Oelke; for **Reagan**; **Brittany** (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; **Madelyn Lopez** (healing & strength) mother of Maddie Lopez, ECC Teacher; **Greg** (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; **Dean James** (healing & strength) grandson of Donna Smith; **Fred & Barb Praxel** (healing & strength); **Kurt Schmeiser** (healing & strength); **Gail Olen** (healing & strength), **Hadley** (recovery from brain surgery) relative of Craig & Lauren Frank; **Judy** (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; **Mark** (healing & strength) cousin of Jeanne Meyer; **Sharon Russell** (healing & strength); **Karen** (healing & strength) sister in law of Janine Pieper; **Patricia** (healing from eye condition) Janine Pieper's sister; **Deborah Feller** (healing from Lyme Disease); **Jerry Jenkins** (healing & strength) choir director of Larry & Sandy Herte; **Dawn Jantz** (recovery from procedure); **Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew** (Alzheimer's); **Jim** (Parkinson Disease) friend of Sharon Iseli; **Fred** (Heart issues) Brother in law of Sharon Iseli; **Janine** (breast cancer) sister in law of Jeanne Meyer; **Pastor Dwight** (prostate cancer) friend of Wally & Margie Spaeth; **Linda** (brain cancer) friend of Carol Thurber; **Bryan** (cancer) friend of Wally & Margie Spaeth.

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.

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 |

Easter Breakfast is BACK!!!

Our Youth Group will be hosting their Potluck Easter Breakfast at the school on Easter Sunday, April 9th from 7-9:00am. We are requesting members to RSVP and sign up for a dish to share. PLEASE SEE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX! A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Grace Youth Group. Thank you for your support!!!

CHURCH PICTORIAL PICTURES-SIGN UP NOW!!!

Below you will find the directions to sign-up for the church pictorial pictures. All pictures will be taken at church in the narthex.

- ⇒ Thursday, April 13, 2-8:30pm
- ⇒ Friday, April 14, 2-8:30pm
- ⇒ Saturday, April 15, 10:30am-5:00pm

To schedule your photography appointment **online**, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **wi254** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **-THERE WILL BE NO RETAKES-Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.** If you do not have a computer but would like to schedule a pictorial picture appointment please call Sarah Anderson, Grace Secretary at 414.762.8990. **So far, we have 45 households signed up.**

Reminder...Just a Cup of Coffee

Next Saturday, April 1st, 7:30am
Hillside Coffee House-237 E. Ryan Rd.
LADIES...see you there!

The Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 1st at 3pm. DONATIONS NEEDED. This Easter Egg Hunt will be for preschool through 4th grade, and it will be held at Grace Lutheran School. Our Grace Lutheran Youth Group members and their parents will be helping out with this event. **We are asking for donations of already filled plastic Easter Eggs for this Easter Egg Hunt.** If you would like to drop off your donations, you can do so at church or at our Grace Lutheran School/Church office. We are inviting the families from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center to attend this event. Please join us!!!

Church & School Furnaces Needed

We are currently in need of funding for our aged furnaces at our school and at our church. This fundraiser is to replace the 7 remaining furnaces at our school and the boiler at our church. All units are over 20 years old. The goal is \$50,000. Please prayerfully consider donating above and beyond your general offerings. There will be offering envelopes in the narthex and a donation box for your offerings. Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministries at Grace! God bless you! **Currently we have raised over \$6,600 for the Church & School furnace fund, thank you for your support!!!**

CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE NATIONS WITH LWML IN MILWAUKEE — June 22–25, 2023. On Sunday, June 25, LCMS Director of Black Ministry, Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray Jr. will serve as worship proclaimer for the closing sending worship service. Rev. Gray is also the author of the LWML Sunday materials for 2023. Come and hear him “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations,” as he shares his inspirational message before you journey home.

Vacation Bible School at Grace

Please mark your calendars!!! We will be having our Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran School on Friday, June 16th from 5:30-8:30pm. Our theme for VBS this year will be *Road Trip Route 3:16* and children ages 3 through 6th grade will be able to attend. There will be a special Parent and Child class for those children under 3. If you are interested in helping out with VBS, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent Jill Nowack at: sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org

WE NEED USHERS!!!

We are looking for 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!!!

Stewardship Minute In the *Parable of the Dishonest Manager* (Luke 16:1-13), the master fired his steward or manager, because he was not doing a good job. The steward was not being responsible or was mismanaging his master's money, so he was discharged from his duties. This leads to the question for us: Are we faithfully managing God's possessions? Are we demonstrating our faithfulness by living for and serving God? Jesus ends this parable with the words "*No servant can serve two masters...*" For most of us the ultimate question is "*Are we living for worldly things or are we serving God?*"

UNFORTUNATELY, MANY CHOOSE
A WORLDLY FOCUS, AND THEY
DON'T DISCOVER UNTIL LATER
IN LIFE, IF AT ALL, HOW EMPTY
THE PURSUIT OF WORLDLY
SUCCESS IS.

"For what will it profit a man if he gains
the whole world and forfeits his soul?"
(Matthew 16:26)



IN THE WORD FOR FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Catechism: Ten Commandments—4-6 (Primary Texts) Table of Duties—Of Civil Government: Romans 13:1-4

Verse of the week: 2 Corinthians 12:9 [Jesus said,] "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*" *Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*"

Psalm of the week: Psalm 43

Hymn of the week: (LSB 420) "Christ, the Life of All the Living" (stanzas 1 and 5)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday—"Before Abraham Was, I AM"—John 8:42-59

Monday— Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest—John 18:1-27

Tuesday— Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate—John 18:28-40

Wednesday—Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate —Matthew 27:1-26

Thursday— Jesus Is Crucified—John 19:1-24

Friday— Jesus' Side Is Pierced—John 19:25-42

Saturday— Palm Sunday: Matthew 21:1-9

“The God who chose to give us life at the moment of fertilization is the same God who chose to rescue us and redeem us and give us salvation. And He did it by sending His Son, Jesus, to experience every stage of human life so we could be forgiven and given life everlasting with Him!” Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada - *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.

LUTHERAN HOUR "Is God Missing in Action?" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes. Is God *"missing in action?"* Not if we see things from God's eternal perspective. (John 11) **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 |

Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church
"Catechetical Sermon Series: The Ten Commandments"

During Lent, this season of reflection and repentance, we will take a close look at the Ten Commandments our Lord has given to us. Not only do these commands of our Father guide our behavior, but, most important, they remind us of our deep need for the redemption our Father's Son, Jesus Christ, has come to bring by His death and resurrection. How great is our need for forgiveness! Even more so, how great is our Savior who nourishes us with His body and blood and washes us clean!

- Thursday, March 30th - 6:30pm Lenten Midweek 6: Commandment Four, Luke 2:41–52
- Thursday, April 6th 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday (with communion): Commandment Three, Mark 14:12–26; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17
- Friday, April 7th 12pm - Good Friday Worship (no communion): "From a Distance" Matt. 27:55
- Friday, April 7th 6:30pm - Good Friday Tenebrae Service (no communion): Commandment Two, Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9
- Sunday, April 9th - Easter Sunrise (no communion) 6am: Jesus Is Risen! Bodily! Matt. 28:1-10
- Sunday, April 9th - Easter Day 8:30am & 10am (with communion): Commandment One, Mark 16:1–8, 44



WEE UP
MITE BOX

CHARITY Golf SCRAMBLE

WEDNESDAY

6.21 2023

WESTERN LAKES GOLF CLUB

W287 N1963 Oakton Road Pewaukee, Wisconsin

6:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

7:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

12:30 p.m. Awards Lunch

Sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries



\$100 DONATION ENTRY FEE

Hole in One Prize: \$10,000

closest to the pin(2), longest drive, both men and women.

Scan code or visit lwml.org/golf for registration.



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was founded in 1942. From the beginning, missions have been the focus of the LWML. Many women and men have supported this mission effort by placing funds in their Mite Box (based on the biblical story of the Widow's Mite). Over the past 79 years, God has blessed these donations to bring His saving message to multitudes. Throughout the LWML's history, over 100 million dollars have been gathered to spread the Gospel message.

Growing In Grace March 16th and 19th, 2023

Offering

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| General Offering | \$2,149.25 | |
| On-Line Giving | \$1,429.94 | |
| Missions | \$0.00 | Attendance 104 |
| Debt Fund | \$0.00 | |
| Mortgage Offering | \$0.00 | |
| Sunday School | \$0.00 | |
| Total | \$ | |

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 | 3/26 | 8:00 am | Divine Worship |
| | | 9:15 am | Adult Bible Study |
| | | 10:30 am | Divine Worship |
| Monday | 3/27 | 6:30 pm | Confirmation Class |
| | | 6:30 pm | Grief Share Group |
| Tuesday | 3/28 | 7:00 am | Men's Bible Study & Breakfast |
| | | 6:00 pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Wednesday | 3/29 | 9:30 am | Ladies Bible Study |
| Thursday | 3/30 | 6:30 pm | Lenten Worship |
| Sunday | 4/2 | 8:00 am | Palm Sunday Worship-MITES |
| | | 9:15 am | Sunday School |
| | | 9:15 am | High School Sunday School |
| | | 10:30 am | Palm Sunday Worship-MITES |

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 |
| Principal | | principal@graceoakcreek.org |
| School Office | Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst. | school@graceoakcreek.org |
| ECC Director | | eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org |
| ECC Office | | ecc@graceoakcreek.org |

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

