

# Equippier

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



## April 2023

### Pastor's Message

#### ***“Jesus the Good Shepherd Dies & Rises from the Dead for Us”***

*“So let us keep the festival To which the Lord invites us; Christ is Himself the joy of all, The sun that warms and lights us. Now His grace to us imparts Eternal sunshine to our hearts; The night of sin is ended. Alleluia! Then let us feast this Easter Day On Christ, the bread of heaven; The Word of grace has purged away The old and evil leaven. Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed; Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!”*

*(LSB 458:6–7)*

This month the Christian Church celebrates with overflowing joy her feast of feasts: the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>. Once upon a time (a real time, mind you, not an imagined one), there was a wolf. He was a fat old thing. You see, he had it pretty easy. Whenever he wanted to eat, he only had to walk the door of his cave and look at the sheep that fed right outside. He'd eye this one or that one. Then he'd go after it, and with a pretty minimal struggle he'd bring the sheep down and eat away. And the more that he ate, the bigger he grew, and the bigger he grew, the hungrier he got. He was a wicked old thing; sometimes he'd just poke his head out the door and howl. All the sheep began to shiver at the very sound of him. He'd chuckle to himself, “Yes, you better be afraid, you stupid sheep, because one of these days I am going to eat you, and it won't be pleasant. Oh no, it won't. Ha! Ha!” This big, bad wolf had a name that the sheep feared. They had only to think of his name and they'd get wobbly on their knees and some would faint outright. His name, you see, was Death. And Death was always hungry and never satisfied. He was always eating sheep and always wanting more. And he stank. The very smell of him was worse than his name or his howl. He was altogether dreadful, let me tell you! He was in charge, and all the sheep knew it.

There came a day when he was feeling hungrier than usual. He poked his head out the cave door to roar and he couldn't believe his eyes. Why, right there in front of his door, on his very doorstep almost, was the fattest, juiciest sheep he'd ever laid his eyes on. The effrontery of it! He drew in the air to fill his vast lungs and then he let out a stone-splitting howl. All the other sheep in the vicinity turned tail and ran. They were afraid—all but the sheep that still grazed just outside his cave. That sheep paid him no heed at all. Kept on eating, just like it hadn't even heard him. The wolf was getting mad now. He came bounding out the door and right up to that impertinent animal. Again he sucked the air into his lungs, and this time he breathed out right in the sheep's face. The sheep looked up and blinked as the hideous odor of decay was blasted in its face. Totally unconcerned, the sheep blinked and then stared.

Now the wolf was getting himself into quite a tizzy. “Don't you know who I am?” he snarled. The sheep looked at him and said, “Yes. I know.” Calm, at peace even. The other sheep began to creep back at a distance to watch. They couldn't believe what they were witnessing. “Well,” snarled the wolf, “aren't you afraid?” The sheep looked Death, that old wolf, right in the eyes and said, “Of you? You have got to be kidding!” Now the wolf was so livid with anger that he spoke low and menacing, “You're in for it, lamb chops. You are not going to have it easy. I'm going to take you out slow and painfully.” There was a moment of silence and then the sheep said, “I know.”

The other sheep had all been watching because they'd never heard anything like this before. But the moment that the wolf pounced, they turned away. A great sadness filled them. They had thought—well, they had scarcely dared to hope—but it was just possible that, this once, the wolf wasn't going to get his way. But their hopes were dashed. It was an awful and ugly sight. The wolf chowed down. It was slow and it was painful, just like he said. And in the end, there was nothing left. He turned his rude face, red with blood, to the other sheep, and he belched. They turned tail and ran, knowing that he'd be back for them one day soon.

As the wolf went back to his cave, he took out a toothpick and cleaned his teeth and he thought that he'd never tasted a sheep that was quite so good before. Nothing tough about that meat. It was tender and rich and really altogether satisfying. The thought hit him with surprise. It was almost as though his insatiable hunger had actually been quenched for once. The thought was a little disturbing. Well, no matter, he thought. And off he went to bed.

When the morning came, the wolf wasn't feeling quite himself. It was almost as though he were getting a bit of stomachache. Such a thing never happened. He always woke up ravenous and went off to start eating first thing in the morning, at least a dozen or so sheep before the dew was off the grass. But not this morning. His stomach was grumbling. By noon, he was feeling more than discomfort. He was feeling positively ill. He who had brought such pain on those poor sheep was getting a taste of pain himself—and it was most unpleasant. He kept thinking back to that impertinent sheep he had eaten yesterday afternoon, the one that had tasted so strangely good. Could it actually have been poisoned or something? It wasn't long before he stopped thinking altogether. The pain was just too great. He rolled around on the floor of his den and howled and yammered.

The sheep heard the sound and didn't quite know what to make of it all. They crept cautiously nearer and nearer to the door of his house and turned their heads listening. What could it mean? It was sometime in the dark of the night that the wolf let out a shuddering howl. Something was alive and moving inside his own gullet. Something that pushed and poked and prodded until with a sudden burst, the gullet was punctured and a hole ripped open. And something, rather, someone stepped right out through the hole, right out of the massive stinking stomach. The wolf felt like he was dying. And I suppose in a way he was.

The figure that stepped out of the wolf's belly was totally unknown to the wolf. Why, it looked like a shepherd. He'd heard of such a critter but had never actually met one. With a staff in His hand, He walked around and stood facing the wolf. And He began to laugh. He laughed, and His laughter burst open the door of the wolf's house. He laughed, and the sheep were filled with bewilderment, wondering what was going on in there. He laughed, and He looked the wolf right in the eye.

“So, you don't recognize Me, old foe? It was I who ate outside your house three days ago. 'Twas I that you promised would die horribly, and how you kept your promise. But what do you propose to do about Me now?” “You?” The wolf gasped. The voice was the same; he recognized it. This shepherd was indeed the sheep whom he had swallowed down. “You. But how? Oh, the pain!” The shepherd smiled and said, “Well, I think you're pretty harmless now, My friend. Go on and try to eat some of My sheep. I promise you that as fast as you swallow them down I will lead them right out through the hole I made in your stomach. And then you'll never be able to touch them again! Ha!”

The wolf howled in fear and anger and rage, but there was nothing he could do. The Shepherd had tricked him, fooled him good! And the shepherd then stepped outside the door and called the sheep together. They knew His voice too. They'd heard it before. They stood before the Lamb who had become the Shepherd, and they listened as He told them what would happen to them. “You'll die too. He'll come out in a few days and be hungrier than ever. He'll swallow you down. But don't worry. I punched a hole right through his belly and I promise you I'll bring you out again.”

Once upon a time, and the time was about two thousand years ago, but the promise still holds: Jesus said, “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*” (John 10:27-28) Let the old wolf howl and snarl all he will. We know about the hole in his stomach. We know about the Sheep who is the Shepherd—our risen and reigning Lord, our Good Shepherd.

Prayer: *O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

See you in worship,  
Pastor John M. Taggatz

# April Announcements

## Please Note

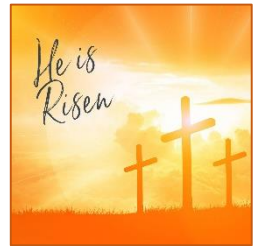
Call the church office at 414.762.8990...

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding, baptism or funeral.

**Monday** 8:00 am-1:00 pm  
**Tuesday** 8:00 am-1:00 pm  
**Wednesday** 8:00 am-1:00 pm  
**Thursday** 8:00 am-1:00 pm  
**Friday** Pastor OFF  
**Visitations:** Monday-Thursday afternoons

*For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.  
Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231*

*Sarah Anderson, Church Secretary: 414.762.8990 | T-W-TH 8:00am-11:30am*



**REMINDER:** If you have any announcements and/or additions you would like printed in the monthly *Equipper* please forward to Sarah Anderson at [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org) by the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## The Mites collection dates

for April are:

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>



**Important**

When you or your group plans to hold a meeting at the Grace Lutheran School campus, it must be cleared by Steve Gettelman. His email address is:

[principal@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org)





## The Grace Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 3pm.

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 inviting the families from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center to attend this event.

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

## SIGN-UP FOR YOUR CHURCH PICTORIAL PHOTO!!

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](http://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 57 households signed up.

## **Easter Breakfast is BACK!!!**

Our Youth Group will be hosting their Potluck Easter Breakfast at the school on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 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!!!



## **USHERS NEEDED/USHER DUTIES**

We are in critical need of ushers for both Thursday and Sunday services. If you have thought about being an usher but are concerned about the duties, please don't be. Here are some of the main duties:

- Arrive 20 minutes before service
- Pass out bulletins
- Collect offerings
- Usher people for communion
- Clean up after service



If you are interested, please contact Pastor or Sarah at the church office by phone (414)-762-8990 or email: [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org).

## **Hunger Task Force - Annual Fund Drive**

The Evangelism Board along with the *Hunger Task Force* held their Annual Fund Drive from February 9<sup>th</sup> through March 19<sup>th</sup>. We raised \$1,070.00 and collected 33 jars of peanut butter for this fundraiser. **Thank you for your generosity and support for those in need!!!**

The *Fellowship Fun Committee* will be hosting "Fellowship Fun Time" after each service the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> after the 8:00am and 10:30am services
- Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> after the 6:30pm service



We will be servicing coffee, water, juice, and breakfast pastries on Sunday and water, juice, and snacks on Thursday. Please join us to take the opportunity to say hi to fellow members and enjoy a snack before you head out for the day/evening.

**Voters Meeting at Grace on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> following our 10:30am worship service.** At this Voters Meeting we will be presenting our proposed budget for the next year. We will also have Board updates, a report from Pastor Taggatz, discuss about the church/school furnace fundraiser, the treasurer's report, and we will have an update on new members at Grace. Please plan on attending the Voters meeting, as your support and involvement in our ministries here at Grace is deeply needed and appreciated. The election of officers will take place at the Voter's meeting in June of this year.

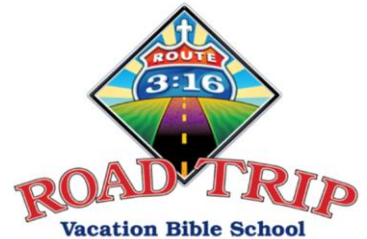


**FURNACE/BOILER REPLACEMENT** We are currently in need of funding for our aged furnaces at our school and at our church. This fundraiser is to replace the 7 remaining furnaces at our school and the boiler at our church. All units are over 20 years old. The goal is \$50,000. Please prayerfully consider 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!!**

### **Vacation Bible School at Grace - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Please mark your calendars!!! We will be having our Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran School on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30pm. Our theme for VBS this year will be *Road Trip Route 3:16* and children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be able to attend. There will be a special parent and child class for those children under 3. Watch for more information and online registration coming soon.

If you are interested in helping out with VBS, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent Jill Nowack at: [sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org)



### **Are you interested in serving on a church board?**

Elections are coming up for various boards at our June Voter's meeting. Do you feel called to serve in leadership here at Grace? If so, please contact the church office and we will let you know what responsibilities each board position has. We will also connect you with the current board members who are serving so that you can ask questions pertaining to their current board responsibilities. The term of service is three years, and your service would begin in July of 2023.

We have openings on:

- Board of Elders
- Board of Finance
- Board of Stewardship
- Board of Properties





# LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES FOR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

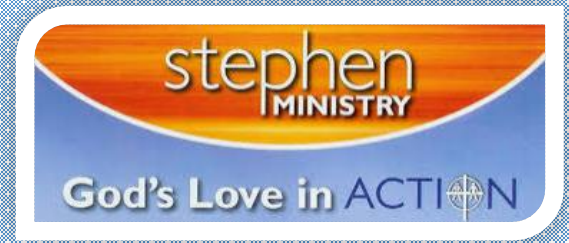
## *“Catechetical Sermon Series: The Ten Commandments”*

Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon Christ’s passion in dying on the cross to save us from our sins.

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, April 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Maundy Thursday (w/communion): Commandment Three, Mark 14:12–26; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17
- Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 12pm Good Friday Worship (no communion): “From a Distance” Matt. 27:55
- Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service (no communion): Commandment Two, Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9
- Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunrise (no communion) 6am: Jesus Is Risen! Bodily! Matt. 28:1-10
- Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Easter Day 8:30am & 10:00am (w/communion): Commandment One, Mark 16:1–8

THESE ARE LETTERS FROM STEPHEN LEADERS AND STEPHEN MINISTERS TALKING ABOUT THE BOOK ON CANCER THAT OUR STEPHEN LEADERS ARE HANDING OUT TO THOSE WHO NEED TO READ THEM. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE PLEASE TALK TO A STEPHEN MINISTER OR STEPHEN LEADER THE BOOK IS CALLED...



## CANCER-NOW WHAT?

**STEPHEN LEADERS AND STEPHEN MINISTERS...**What they are saying about the book *Cancer-Now What?*

"I was right in the middle of my battle with cancer when I received *Cancer—Now What?* It captured so well everything I was going through, offering guidance, comfort, and support. It's a wonderful book for those on the cancer journey and a great resource for Stephen Ministers wanting to better understand the cancer experience."

Anita Hans | Survivor, Stephen Minister | Tampa, Florida

"From front to back, this book is filled with solid information and practical ideas for the person with cancer and the person's family. In addition, it's a great resource for friends, Stephen Ministers, and anyone else who wants to truly understand the needs and perspective of someone going through cancer. Everyone can learn from this book!"

Gordon Muirhead | Loved One, Stephen Leader | Omaha, Nebraska

"*Cancer—Now What?* is a great resource to give to people after diagnosis, helping them know what to expect, reducing their fear, and providing information and ideas for managing the challenges ahead. It's given our Stephen Ministry another powerful way to reach out to people in our church and community who are dealing with cancer."

Jan Forman | Survivor, Stephen Leader | Raleigh, North Carolina

"This practical, all-encompassing resource has been right-on with everything I've experienced. For all Stephen Ministers: This is the book your care receivers should have as they go through cancer. This is the book you should read as you walk the journey with them."

Jeff Osterhout | Survivor, Stephen Minister | Valparaiso, Indiana

"After the diagnosis, when the floor drops out from under you, *Cancer—Now What?* Softens your landing, provides how-to information on what you'll encounter, and gently walks with you through the whole cancer journey. It's a book filled with hope."

Sandy Allen | Loved One, Stephen Leader | Branchburg, New Jersey

"An excellent resource for patients and their families, covering the broad spectrum of issues they're likely to face. It's also a must read for Stephen Ministers, pastors, friends, or anyone else providing help and support."

Jennifer Wilhite | Nurse, Loved One, Stephen Leader | Springfield, Illinois

# Grace Ladies Guild

Just a Cup of Coffee...



Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> - 7:30am  
Hillside Coffee House  
237 E. Ryan Rd., Oak Creek

Please come for coffee and fellowship!

*Ladies of Grace,*



*You are invited on  
Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at  
9:00 a.m. to assist in  
beautifying the  
sanctuary for Easter.*



*Just bring yourself!*

**Grace Ladies Guild – April Mtg.**  
**April Meeting ~ Saturday, April 15**  
**9-11:00am**

**Zone 1 Spring Rally**  
**St. John's Lutheran-Cudahy**  
4850 S. Lake Drive, Cudahy

**Pastor Doug Peters:**  
**Trinity Lutheran-Downtown**  
renovation update

## **LWML SWD - Heart to Heart -Sisters of all Nations Event-**

Saturday, April 15 - doors open at 8:30am  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
13445 Hampton Rd., Brookfield



- ALL are invited to attend this multi-cultural event.
- Worship service at 10:00am

More information:

[www.lwml-swd.org/events/retreat](http://www.lwml-swd.org/events/retreat)

## **Young Women of Grace!**

- Are you attending an higher educational institution of the LCMS for the 2023-2024 academic year?
- Enrolled in undergraduate studies for full time church work in the LCMS?
- Resident of the South Wisconsin District?

The LWML South Wisconsin District offers Female Church Worker's Scholarships to encourage and support those preparing to serve our church and synod.

Applications are now being accepted.  
[www.lwml-swd.org/scholarships](http://www.lwml-swd.org/scholarships)

## **RISE & SONSHINE BIBLE STUDY**

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

## **ROAD TRIP!**

We are headed to St. Paul's Lutheran in Janesville for their Women's Spring Event "Meant for Good" with author Donna Snow. This is a day-long event which contains: general speaker, breakout sessions, and lunch. All for \$10.

If you would like to join us, please contact:  
Beth Jackson.



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

The work continues as we get closer and closer to convention!

Workers are STILL needed! It is NOT too late to sign up! There are an abundance of ways to serve-greeting district buses at local hotels (some are right here on the south side near us!), directing attendees to their meals, checking workers in and out, registration desk, the list goes on and on.

**We are expecting 4000 attendees for the convention...**

so we need **YOU!**

If you have any questions or are willing to serve, please contact Jennifer Olen [jolenlwml@gmail.com](mailto:jolenlwml@gmail.com) 414.305.3740



**First Come,  
First Serve!**



# TEE UP 4 MITES

Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League

## CHARITY *Golf* SCRAMBLE

**WEDNESDAY**

**WESTERN LAKES GOLF CLUB**

W287 N1963 Oakton Road Pewaukee, Wisconsin

**6.21** 2023

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](http://lwml.org/golf) for registration.



**Sign your teams up NOW! Registration forms are on the large table in the narthex of the church!!**

## Made New to Serve

“Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:3-4). We now live new lives. The old is gone; the new is here. Sin no longer enslaves us. We now live new lives. The old is gone; the new is here. Sin no longer enslaves us. We are not bound to obey our evil natures. The Holy Spirit empowers us as new creations to offer ourselves to God as His instruments of righteousness. He equips us to do the good works that He has “prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

OR AREN'T YOU AWARE  
THAT ALL OF US WHO  
WERE BAPTIZED INTO  
CHRIST JESUS WERE  
BAPTIZED INTO HIS  
DEATH?  
- ROMANS 6:3

Having put away the sinful flesh and having put on Christ by God’s grace, we are freed, empowered, and equipped to be the stewards God has created us to be. The Holy Spirit builds faith in us and works renewal in our lives, so that we are no longer slaves to sin but alive in Christ. As we tap into God’s rich supply of His sanctifying power, we are enabled to live lives of service and generosity

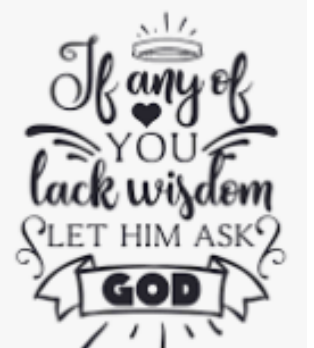
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## Are You Following God’s Wisdom?

In the beginning, “God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’” (Genesis 1:26). In the second chapter of Genesis, we learn that God gave life to Adam and Eve, and, in their perfect state, they followed and trusted in God’s wisdom. His wisdom was evident to them in His Word and in His creation. Life was very good. Unfortunately, they sinned, and the perfect image that was given to humanity is now damaged. Original righteousness was lost when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, so they no longer loved, feared, and trusted God. Because of their sin, which separated them from God, Adam and Eve now followed the world’s wisdom. Their ungodly living led them from true wisdom to folly and from life to death. Without God, all lives end in sorrow and ruin.

As Christians, we are rescued from the domain of darkness that accompanies the world’s wisdom (Colossians 1:13). Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are called and enabled to put off our old self so that the image of God in us can be renewed as we are made righteous and holy in God’s sight (Ephesians 4:22-24). God’s Word frequently reminds us of the foolishness of worldly wisdom. God’s ways are far above the world’s. “*The foolishness of God is wiser than men...*” (1 Corinthians 1:25). In His great wisdom, He sent His Son, Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate (Proverbs 8), into the world to become our sin on the cross. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we have been reconciled to God. As forgiven and redeemed people, we understand how much we are loved and how we hurt our heavenly Father, and ourselves, when we follow the false and foolish wisdom of the world.

Would others identify wisdom as one of your gifts? How does it show? We need wisdom to understand who we are, what we are, and where we are going. Godly wisdom that leads us to fear, love, and follow God is essential if we are to live life wisely. God’s wisdom leads us to be faithful stewards who use our time, talents, and money to glorify Him. With God’s wisdom, we know Whose we are. God through Isaiah said, “*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine*” (Isaiah 43:1). Without Godly wisdom, life becomes disjointed, lacking direction and purpose. Proverbs 4:11 promises, “*I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of righteousness.*” With God’s wisdom, we are able to live prudent lives that give God the honor He deserves. May God help us all follow and trust His wisdom.





# DEVOTIONAL

## Awesome Love in Every Little Thing

*You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. Psalm 65:5*

Is your hope strong today? God is thinking about you and lining up some ways to show how much He loves you. It's okay to let go of the things you were worrying about last night and get excited about seeing how God is going to take care of *every single one of them*. He's going to answer your heart's cry, be sure of it. God answers even when we don't ask. He steps in with strength to shore up our weaknesses because He'll never leave us alone. We're going to get through because *God is who He says He is*.

If we sat down to make a list of the things He's done for us this week, what would it look like? Would seven sunrises and sunsets make the cut? Those are pretty awesome answers to the question, "*Is God faithful?*" Would every moment He gives us to love the people in our lives be noted? Those are amazing answers to the question, "*Is God good?*" Would a home, a good friend, a kind neighbor, health, peace, strength, and joy be written down? Those are comforting answers to the question, "*Does God meet my needs?*" Jesus did what he did so we can be sure the Father will do what He says. And *everything* He does is driven by love.

Next time you start to feel the darkness of the world closing in a little, try to remember the last thing God did to make you smile. No good thing in our lives is accidental, no matter how small. God's love is in all of them. Watch closely. Light will come to make you smile, and Love will be the One sending it.

Father,

Your love surrounds me and

your hope carries me.

My heart is incredibly thankful.



We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center. However, most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!

We enjoy using technology to continue the work of spreading the...

*...Good News of God's Riches at Christ's Expense!*

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



**Facebook:**

*Grace Lutheran Church, School & Early Childhood Center, Oak Creek, WI*



**Instagram:**

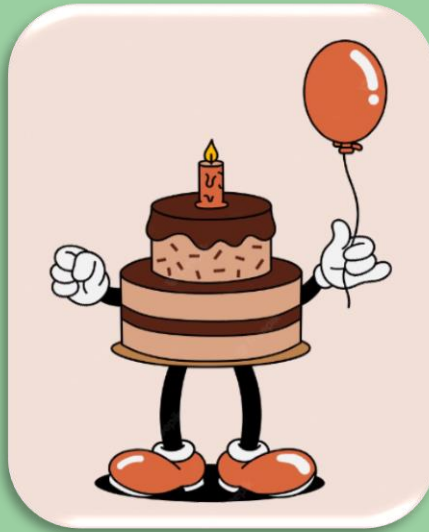
*gracelutheran\_oakcreek*

## HOLY HUMOR



# Birthday Blessings

4/3 Connor Jaskie  
4/4 G. Salzer  
4/5 Garrison Hundt  
4/6 Jan Barrett  
4/6 Jacob Lutzke  
4/6 Marty Taggatz  
4/7 Kristine Vangalis  
4/8 Lucy Thomas  
4/12 Beth Stone  
4/13 Phillip Herzog  
4/13 Michelle Rekowski  
4/16 Brendan Simmons  
4/17 Diane Pielsnik  
4/18 David Pankow Jr.



4/19 Samantha Dotson  
4/20 K. Urbaniak  
4/21 Andrea Kisley  
4/21 Matthew Scherer  
4/24 Don Stewart  
4/26 R. Edgerton  
4/26 Mike Huber  
4/26 Jamie MacRae  
4/26 Amelia Poellet  
4/27 Jane Durant  
4/28 Flynne Mould  
4/30 Mitzi Gamroth  
4/30 Tracie Mallum



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

4/1 James & Diane Pielsnik

4/7 Jim & Clare Sauer

4/17 Dick & Beth Jackson

4/19 Eric & Lisa Kamprath



# APRIL COLORING PAGE



1  
Light Blue



2  
Dark Green



3  
Light Green



4  
Light Pink



5  
Dark Pink



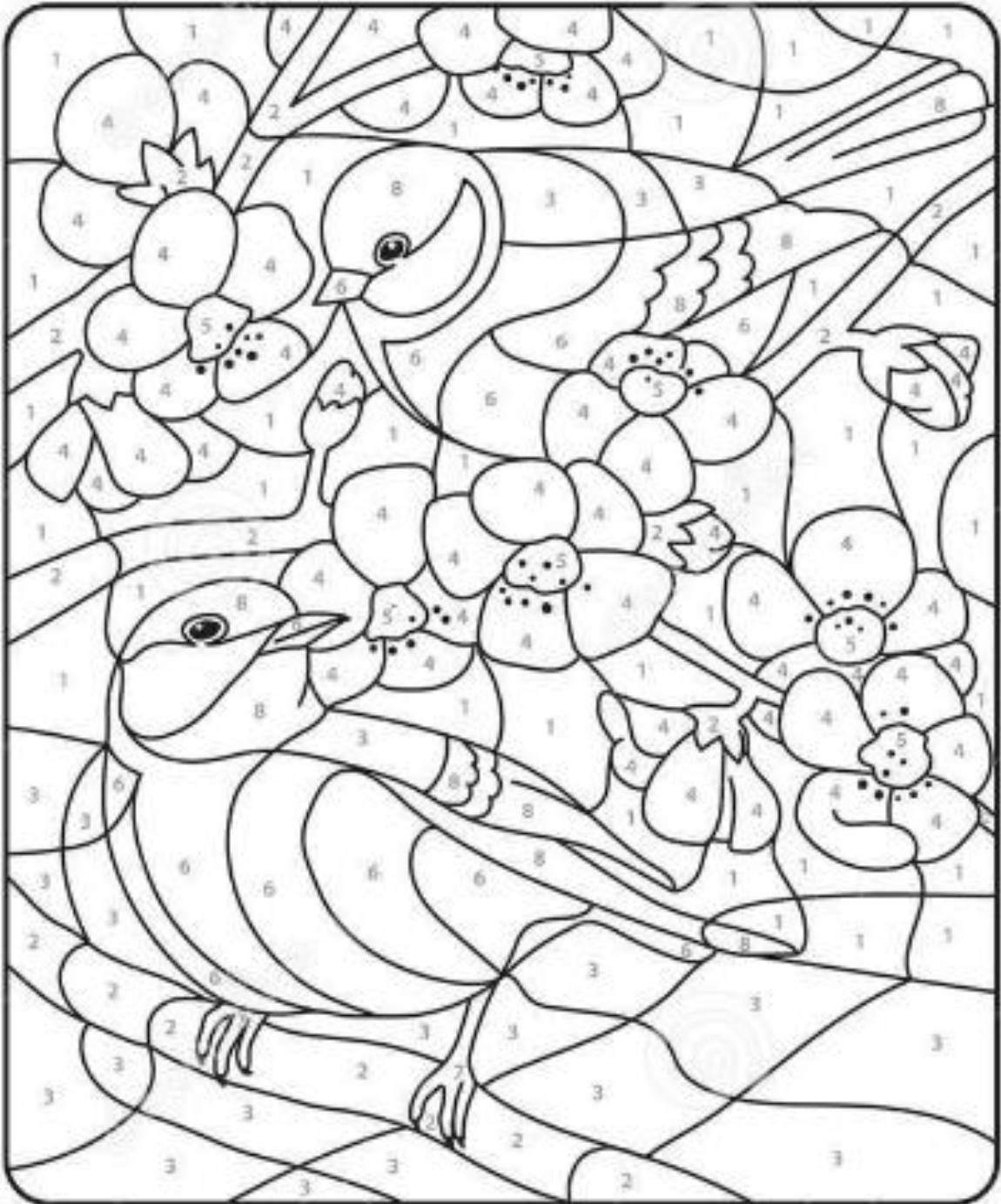
6  
Yellow



7  
Purple



8  
Dark Blue



# April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 7:30am Just a Cup of Coffee 3:00pm Easter Egg Hunt
<b>2</b> 8:00am Palm Sunday Worship-Mites 9:15am Sunday School High Sch. Sunday Sch. 10:30am Palm Sunday Worship-Mites	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Grief Share Group	<b>4</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 12:00pm Good Friday Worship w/o communion 6:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service w/o communion	<b>8</b> 9:00am Ladies of Grace-Decorate for Easter
<b>9</b> <b>6:00am</b> <b>Easter Sunrise Service w/o communion</b> <b>7-9:00am</b> <b>Easter Breakfast</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Easter Day Service</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Easter Day Service</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Grief Share Group	<b>11</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>12</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Divine Worship</b>	<b>13</b> 2:00pm Grace Pictorial Picture Day <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Council Mtg.</b>	<b>14</b> <b>2:00pm</b> <b>Grace Pictorial Picture Day</b>	<b>15</b> 8:30am LWML SWD-Heart2Heart Sisters Event 9:00am Zone 1 Spring Rally <b>10:30am</b> <b>Grace Pictorial Picture Day</b>
<b>16</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Grief Share Group	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>19</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Divine Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Rise & Sonshine Bible Study-ROAD TRIP
<b>23</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Fellowship Fun Time 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Divine Worship 11:45am Fellowship Fun Time	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Grief Share Group	<b>25</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>26</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Fellowship Fun Time	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Divine Worship 11:30am Voter's Meeting						

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- **Mid-week worship this week is on Wednesday!**
- **NO Bible Study on 4/9**

**Faith Step:**  
 Ask Jesus to show you new ways to find joy in serving.

## Radio Worship Service

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

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



## Prayer Hot Line

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

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

### Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

[paulinemom@aol.com](mailto:paulinemom@aol.com)

Thursday Worship 6:30 pm  
Sunday Worship 8:00 am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

PH: 414.762.8990

Pastor John M. Taggatz

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

### WEBSITE

SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE  
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

CHURCH & ECC  
3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
SCHOOL, ECC