

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The 4th Sunday of Easter

April 27th & 30th, 2023

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"

Ephesians 2:8



Image: "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Peter 2:24-25)

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 Tagatz. 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 “Real World? Real Savior!”

We remember that we are living in a difficult world, and sometimes we feel lost and helpless. We can remember that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He leads us through the difficulties of the world. He even entered into those difficulties Himself—*suffering, dying, and rising for us and our salvation*. So, while we live in a difficult world, it is no match for Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

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...*Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 463

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution

LSB 203

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 95:1-3, 6-7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b, read responsively*)

I am the good | shepherd.*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;*
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!
Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;*
let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!
For the LORD is a | great God,*
and a great King a- | bove all gods.
Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;*
let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!
For he | is our God,*
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep | of his hand.

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.

I am the good | shepherd.*
I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

Kyrie

LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 205

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

P Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

(The Early Christian Church was devoted to the Apostles' teaching, prayer, fellowship, and the breaking of the bread)

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

Gradual (*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6, read responsively*)

Christ has risen | from the dead.*
[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 2:19-25

(We are returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.)

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for the 4th Sunday of Easter *"Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia."* (Romans 6:9; John 10:14)

Holy Gospel John 10:1-10

(Jesus is the door of the sheep.)

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

¹[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

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 “God’s Church Grows” (Acts 2:42-47) (Thurs. 6:30pm & Sunday 8am only)
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)

Questioning of the Confirmands (10:30am service only)



Congratulations to our Grace Lutheran Confirmation Students! God’s blessings to ***Edward Taggatz & Tatiana Concepcion*** upon their journey with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, that was started on the day of their baptisms, and has continued to this day of their Confirmation Questioning! Next Sunday May 7th, during the late service, these confirmands will be confirming the Christian faith that God gave to them in their baptism! Congratulations!

Sermon Hymn 709

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1-4, 6)

Sermon

“The Life of the Church” (Acts 2:42-47)

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. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.
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! 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

770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus (vs. 1-3)
710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want (vs. 1-5)

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.**

Closing Hymn 864

Shepherd of Tender Youth (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!!!**



Altar Flowers

Altar flowers today are given by Dick & Beth Jackson
in celebration of their 41st Wedding Anniversary.
Continued blessings to you both!

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	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Glenn Dotson	Derek Poellet
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine Tuskowski	Kathy Szefflinski	Kathy Szefflinski
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss, Lance Kopperud	Andrea Szefflinski, Tommy Szefflinski	Cathy Weeks, Rick Weeks, Amelia Poellet, Dachs, Poellet, Tyler Scheinfeld

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; **Myles King** (blood disorder) son of Matthew & Meredith King; **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 Serdynski; **Claire Dotson** (hospice) mother of Glenn Dotson; **Gary Forsythe** (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; **Lisa Lampshire** (organ transplants) friend of Dena Guziewicz; **Lisa Kamprath's sister** (cancer); **Dominic** (recovery from a stroke) nephew of Debbie Oelke; for **Reagan**; **Brittany** (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; **Greg** (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; **Barb Praxel** (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; **Karen** (healing & strength) sister in law of Janine Pieper; **Deborah Feller** (healing from Lyme Disease); **Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew** (Alzheimer's); **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; **Jenny Rice** (cancer); **Hazel Hermann** (hospice) mother of Terri Meyer; **Bob Morgan** (healing & strength); **Dale** (cancer) friend of Rick & Cathy Weeks; **Cathy** (healing & strength) friend of Jill Nowack; **Mr. Stachowiak** (healing & strength) friend of Sharon Iseli; **Glenn Peronto** (back surgery) friend of Chris Evers; **Cookie** (cancer) friend of Tony & Suzie Mirenda; **Evan** (healing & strength); **Sue Klemme** (pancreatic cancer) friend of Cathy Weeks.

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.

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!!! Heavenly Father, we thank You for hearing and answering the prayers of **Rick & Cathy Weeks**, by granting them the gift of a new granddaughter, little **Giovanna**, the daughter of **Alexandra & Dre Riccobono**. We thank you for the life of little **Giovanna** entrusted to **Alexandra & Dre's** care. Bring **Giovanna** to the saving waters of Holy Baptism and grant her that previous inheritance awaiting her in Your eternal kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We mourn with the family and friends of **Cyndi**, a friend of Marlene Voss, who was also called home to heavenly rest. **We pray:** Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with the family and friends of *Cyndi*, that casting every care on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Comfort them with the promise that because Jesus lives, we too shall live and have eternal life in His name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

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

Voters Meeting TODAY at Grace on Sunday, April 30th 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.

Welcome to our new members here at Grace!!! This month of April we welcome new members here at Grace, they are as follows: *Sharon Bzdawka, Karina Penn, and Melissa & Rick Swainston, and their children Jackson & Logan.* Earlier in the month of January we welcomed Phil & Sue Herzog into our congregation as well. Welcome to our church family, we are so glad that you are here!!!

Our Grace Fellowship Board has planned some time for our church members to have fellowship with one another, they are as follows:

- Thursday, April 27, following our 6:30pm worship
- Sunday, May 21st, following our 8:00am worship and 10:30am worship
- Thursday, May 25th, following our 6:30pm worship

Your 1st Quarter Giving Statements are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace!!!

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!! Graduation is coming up for our 8th Graders at Grace Lutheran School, but also for those in our congregation that are graduating from High School and College. On Sunday, May 21st we will be acknowledging those in our congregation that are graduating from 8th Grade, High School, and College. We are asking that any High School or College age students of our congregation that are graduating would join us for this event. They may also wear their cap and gown to be recognized for their graduation. Please let us know what school they are graduating from, and if it is from college, what is their major? We will publish this information in the church's bulletins on Sunday, May 21st. Please email this info to our Church Secretary, Sarah Anderson at: church@graceoakcreek.org

Are You Interested in Serving on a Church Board?

Elections are coming up for various boards at our Church at our June Voter's Meeting. Do you feel called to serve in leadership here at Grace Lutheran Church? Please consider contacting 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 them questions pertaining to their current board responsibilities. The term of service is three years, and your service would begin in July of 2023. Please call the Church Office for what board positions are currently available for the next term.

Grace Lutheran School Diaper Drive

"Be the Yellow" Campaign is a diaper and wipe drive to show kindness to those in need. Are you in need of diapers or wipes? Stop by Grace Lutheran School on Friday, May 12th between 3-4:30pm and receive some for FREE! Diapers will be packaged in new bags by size. Pull up in the circle, let us know what size you need and we will bring them out to you! You don't even need to get out of your car!

LAST CALL!!!! Please Submit your Family Pictures for The Pictorial Directory if you missed the Directory Photo Shoot-We are asking those families who were unable to have their picture taken for the pictorial directory to submit their pictures to the church office so that we can add them to the upcoming directory. You can submit your photos to our our Church office email at: church@graceoakcreek.org. Please submit your photos by no later than Monday, May 1st. We look forward to sharing the new Pictorial Directory with you soon!!!

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 \$7,540 for the Church & School furnace fund, thank you for your support!!!**

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

To register you child for VBS this year, please go to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6hh9tc5>

Portals of Prayer Devotional

Over the years the church has provided the Portals of Prayers devotional book to our members. Throughout these years the church has carried this expense. To help offset that burden we now have envelopes available in the narthex for our members to designate funds to this devotional book. It is our goal to continue to provide this amazing tool to our members in their faith journey.

Stewardship Minute

In Acts 20:35 we read Jesus' words, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* God uses our generosity to fund the missions of our churches; to provide for the needs of others; to support our pastors and other church workers. Bought by the blood of Christ and brought into faith by the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament, we are to give our firstfruits to God, a proportionate amount of our incomes. We are to give regularly, generously, even sacrificially. As we give, we find ourselves enriched. We experience the joy of giving, the satisfaction that comes from being a channel of God's blessings to us. God promises that He will sustain us as we give. *"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:11).

**WHEN WE ARE FAITHFUL, WISE, AND
FRUITFUL STEWARDS, WE WILL BE
BLESSED.**

"Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions"
(Luke 12:43-44).



IN THE WORD FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catechism: Ten Commandments—9-10 (Primary Texts) Table of Duties—To Parents: Ephesians 6:4; To Children: Ephesians 6:1-3

Verse of the week: Proverbs 3:11-12, *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction; 12 for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights."*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 147:1-11

Hymn of the week: (LSB 742) "For Me to Live Is Jesus" (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday—Easter 4: "Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy"—John 16:16-22

Monday— St. Philip and St. James, Apostles: John 14:1-14

Tuesday— The Peace of Christ—John 14:27-31

Wednesday— I am the Vine—John 15:1-8

Thursday— As the Father Loved Me, I also Have Loved You—John 15:9-17

Friday— The World's Hatred—John 15:18-25

Saturday— The Comforter in Persecution—John 15:26—16:4

“God’s Word is full of stories of people who gave up, got discouraged, and quit. His response to them was words of encouragement and support, a call to courage and perseverance, a call to strengthen trembling knees and put on the armor of God.” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life - 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 "Bridge Builders" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the "air bridge" that saved a city and the cross-shaped bridge God built to break a spiritual blockade. (1 Peter 2:11-12) **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

Growing In Grace April 20th & 23rd, 2023

Offering

General Offering	\$3,318.00	
On-Line Giving	\$1,035.25	
Missions	\$0.00	Attendance 103
Debt Fund	\$0.00	
Mortgage Offering	\$70.00	
Lutheran Schools	\$0.00	
Total	\$4,423.25	

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	4/30	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Study
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		11:30am	Voter's Meeting
Monday	5/1	6:30pm	Grief Share Group
Tuesday	5/2	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
		6:30pm	Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	5/3	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
		6:30pm	All Board's Meeting
Thursday	5/4	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Saturday	5/6	7:30am	Just a Cup of Coffee
		8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	5/7	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Study
		9:15am	HS Sunday School
		9:15am	Sunday School
		10:30am	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
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

