

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The 6th Sunday of Easter

May 11th & 14th, 2023

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



Image: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

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 "Prepared to Make a Defense"

We live in a world where we increasingly hear strange ideas. The people we work, play, and live near increasingly consider the truths that our God created this world and redeemed us to be strange. Jesus, Peter, and Paul lived in a world that had some striking similarities to our own. As we live out our Baptism, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love Jesus and keep His commands. We are urged to always be "*prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you*" (1 Peter 3:15). As we do so, it is easy to fall into the angry, divisive, argumentative patterns that we hear in the political realm. Yet, we are called to share our hope with gentleness and respect, so that we keep a clear conscience and suffer for doing good rather than evil.

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 725

Children of the Heavenly Father (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 119:89-93; antiphon: v. 105, read responsively*)

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.
Forever, O | LORD, your word*
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;*
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.
By your appointment they | stand this day,*
for all things are your | servants.
If your law had not been | my delight,*
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.
I will never forget your | precepts,*
for by them you have giv- | en me life.

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.

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

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. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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

First Reading Acts 17:16-31

(Paul witnesses about the one true God.)

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

"In him we live and move and have our being";

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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 3:13-22

(Be prepared to share your faith with gentleness and respect.)

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

- 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 6th 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. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.”* (Romans 6:9; John 16:33b)

Holy Gospel John 14:15-21
(Jesus is with us, now and forever.)

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

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

- 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 "Still Preach Jesus" (Acts 17:16-31) *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 392

God Loves Me Dearly (vs. 1-5)

Sermon

"Proclaiming Christ's Resurrection" (Acts 17:16-31)

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.**

- 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

**632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee (vs. 1-2)
633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (vs. 1-8)**

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 655

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (vs. 1-3)

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



✿ Altar Flowers ✿

Altar flowers today are given by Tony & Suzie Mirenda in celebration of Suzie's birthday.

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>	Richard Jackson	Brandon Dachel	
<u>Readers</u>	Pastor Taggatz	Cris Evers	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Ushers</u>	Char Klipfel, Doug Klipfel, Mark Roettgen, Connie Roettgen	Leah Abelt, Paige Vitek, Ben Tindall, Henry Tindall	Ron Savarino, Lowell Johnson, Carsen Serdynski, Madeline King
<u>Acolyte</u>			Brilee Simmons

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; **Hadley** (recovery from brain surgery) relative of Craig & Lauren Frank; **Judy** (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; **Mark** (healing & strength) cousin of Jeanne Meyer; **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; **Dale** (cancer) friend of Rick & Cathy Weeks; **Cathy** (healing & strength) friend of Jill Nowack; **Glenn Peronto** (back surgery) friend of Chris Evers; **Cookie** (cancer) friend of Tony & Suzie Mirenda; **Evan** (healing & strength) son of Lance & Susan Kopperud; **Sue Klemme** (pancreatic cancer) friend of Cathy Weeks; **Phyllis Schmidt** (hospitalized) friend of Ginny & Leigh Schmeiser; **Phyllis Berglund** (healing & strength); **Carla & Brandyn Berglund** (healing & strength); **Chad Evers** (blood clots in heart & lungs) brother of Chris Evers; **Doc Medek** (healing & strength); **Bob** (healing after heart surgery) brother of Sharon Bzdawka and Mary Savarino; **Bob Jantz** (healing after medical procedure)

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

We mourn with the family and friends of **Cory Berg**, cousin of Leah Krug, who was 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 *Cory*, 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

A PRAYER ON MOTHER'S DAY—*Holy Father, you gave me a mother to feed me in body and soul. Thank you for strengthening her for that role and for sending your Son Jesus to gain forgiveness for her, whatever her shortcomings may have been. Give my mother joy in the role she plays in my life. Give me an attitude of love and respect for her so that I would care for her when she is old, just as she cared for me when I was young. Strengthen all mothers with deep love for you and for their children's consciences and souls. Amen.*

THE WAY WE LOOK AT MOM THROUGH THE YEARS

At Age 4: Mom knows everything!

At Age 8: Mom knows a lot!

At Age 12: Mom doesn't really know everything.

At Age 14: Mom doesn't know anything.

At Age 16: Mom doesn't exist.

At Age 18: She's old fashioned.

At Age 25: Maybe Mom does know about this!

At Age 35: Before we decide, let's ask Mom.

At Age 45: I wonder... what Mom thinks about this?

At Age 75: I... wish I could ask my Mom about this.

OUR LATEST GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PANTHER NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX FOR ANY PARISHIONERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PICK IT UP TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL.

Fellowship Fun Time

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

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

Important Date for Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Coming Up--This is a reminder that the last day of Sunday School & Adult Bible Class will be Sunday, May 21st. Thank you for having your children attend Sunday School this year, as they have had the opportunity to learn more about God's love for them in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord! The First Day of Sunday School and Adult Bible Class this Fall will be Sunday September 17th.

SAVE THE DATE for Sunday, June 4th Following our 9am worship service our congregation members are cordially invited to attend a celebration of Lisa Hengst's **20** years of service as a teacher and **30** years of service as our organist here at Grace Lutheran Church and School. The celebration will take place at our school gymnasium.

USHERS FOR SUMMER MONTHS We are in need of ushers for Sunday summer services (9:00am). The dates we need help with are as follows: **June 11, July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30**. If you can help, please contact Pastor or Sarah at the church office by phone (414)-762-8990 or email: church@graceoakcreek.org. Thank you to those who have already reached out to help!!

Grief Share Group

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? We are starting a special seminar and support group that we sponsor for people dealing with the loss of a family member here at Grace Lutheran Church Oak Creek. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families, and we simply wanted you to know about our Grief Share group. It's a place where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help and with the love and encouragement of His Church. Our Grief Share grief recovery seminar and support group will meet on Monday evenings at Grace Lutheran School starting on Monday, June 26, 2023. This new Grief Share group will be a 13-week session. The sessions are held in our school library from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. The last session will be Monday, October 2, 2023, taking off on 7/3 and 9/4. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oak Creek. Lori Kachelmeier and Jeanne Meyer will be the leaders for this Grief Share Group. Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include *"Is This Normal?"* *"The Challenges of Grief,"* *"Grief and Your Relationships,"* *"Why?"* and *"Guilt and Anger."* For more information or to register: go to the website: www.griefshare.org and enter our zip code "53154" to the left of "find a group" box and do a search. It will bring up our Monday 6:30 pm meetings. For further questions please call Lori Kachelmeier at: 414-828-0290.

Grace Ladies Guild * Saturday, May 20-10am-11:30am * At church

⇒ "My Soul Rejoices" Prayer Service led by Pastor Taggatz
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND (men and women!)

Military Bible Sticks–CAMPAIGN STARTS MAY25TH

Our congregation has faithfully supported this mission for many years. We prayerfully ask you for this support again this year. The change this year is that Military Bible Sticks will be paired with a new mission from Faith Comes by Hearing. This new effort is called Vision 2033. Vision 2033 involves partnering with other missions, such as Lutheran Bible Translators, to translate the Bible into mission languages. These Bible sticks would have native speakers reading the Word and would be given to the missions in countries all over the world. That way people would be able to hear the Good News in their own languages. We are looking forward to being able to be a part of this new mission by Faith Comes by Hearing. Envelopes will be available for donating to Military Bible Sticks in the narthex on the white board. **A video will be shared with the congregation soon to share this mission's vision. For more in-depth information please go to: <https://faithcomesbyhearing.com/what-we-do/resources-for-churches>**

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

We will be switching to our Summer Schedule here at Grace starting Memorial Day weekend. This means that our Sunday morning worship time will be at 9:00am starting on Sunday, May 28th and this will go through Labor Day Weekend. There will not be Sunday School and Adult Bible Class during the summer. Thursday evening worship at 6:30pm will remain the same throughout the summer. We look forward to seeing you in worship!!!

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!

PANTHER PALOOZA - COME ONE, COME ALL!

Date: Friday, May 19 Time: 5:30-8:30pm Where: Grace Lutheran School

Photo booth, concessions, facepainting, DJ & dancing, silent auction, games and prizes! This is going to be a great way to end this school year! We are currently looking for volunteers (a great way to get your yearly hours) to help with events and donations.

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 your 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.

CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE NATIONS WITH LWML IN MILWAUKEE — June 22–25, 2023. Milwaukee is known for its festivals and the LWML will join in the fun. Friday Fest will run from 7–9 p.m. in the exhibit hall. Come have some laughs playing cornhole or chair volleyball with balloons. There will be music, crafts, and snacks! This will be your opportunity to spend time with the LWML Committee members at their booths, talk with the exhibitors, and shop at the LWML Store. Plan to take photos with your friends at the Photo Op booth and have a great time. See you in Milwaukee!

Stewardship Minute

The society in which we live tells us that to be happy we always need more and more. In our culture, loving money is not a sin, but a virtue. Because the love for nice things is such a subtle problem, we may not be aware how attached we are to the luxuries of life. Money and nice things are not the problem, but the love of these things is a root of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Our goal is to place all things in perspective. With God as our focus, we can live with a detached attitude toward our possessions, and we will be content in our own circumstances.

AS GOD'S STEWARDS, WE ARE TO LET THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINE THROUGH US SO THAT OTHERS SEE CHRIST IN US.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).



IN THE WORD FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catechism: Ten Commandments—First Commandment through the Conclusion (Primary Texts)

Table of Duties—To Employers and Supervisors: Ephesians 6:9; To Youth:

1 Peter 5:5-6

Verse of the week: John 14:2-3, *“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 116:1-7

Hymn of the week: (LSB 532) “The Head That Once Was Crowned” (stanzas 1, 5-6)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— “Whatever you ask in My name...”—John 16:23-33

Monday— The Commission to Baptize and Teach All Nations—Mt. 28:16-20

Tuesday— Mark Records the Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20

Wednesday— Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53

Thursday— Ascension of Our Lord: Acts 1:1-14

Friday— Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas’s Office—Acts 1:12-26

Saturday— A New Heart and Spirit—Ezekiel 36:22-28

“This, dear friends, is why Christ’s ascension is a good goodbye. Jesus leaves you with everything! He has done it all. The grave is empty. Death is defeated. Life is yours. So, people of God, ‘Why do you stand here looking into the sky?’ You have an ascension victory to celebrate and an ascended Savior to proclaim!” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota - 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 "Reason to Hope" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler A brand-new violin needs to mature through time and use. The same goes for followers of Christ. (1 Peter 3:15) **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 May 4th & 7th, 2023

Offering

General Offering	\$4,145.25		
On-Line Giving	\$1,472.10		
Missions	\$0.00	Attendance	133
Debt Fund	\$140.00		
Mortgage Offering	\$300.00		
Lutheran Schools	\$0.00		
Total	\$6,057.35		

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	5/14	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Study
		10:30am	Divine Worship
Tuesday	5/16	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
Wednesday	5/17	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	5/18	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Saturday	5/20	10:00am	Grace Ladies Guild
Sunday	5/21	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Study
		9:15am	Sunday School
		9:15am	Fellowship Fun Time
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		11:30am	Ice Cream Social

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

