

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## The Ascension of our Lord (Observed)

May 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

*God's Grace*

*"By His Grace you are saved through faith"*

Ephesians 2:8



Image: "God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet." (Psalm 47:5)

# Welcome to Grace! We're Glad You've Joined Us!

## **WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS**

**Worship bulletins & worship activity bags** (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our church narthex and entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again! If your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

**We're glad you're with us.** Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

### **As We Gather “*The King Takes His Throne*”**

Ascension Day is an opportunity for God's people to celebrate Christ the King taking His throne in glory, honor, and authority at God the Father's right hand. Like the ancient believers, who clapped their hands and shouted praises to God at the coronation of their king, we rejoice in the victory King Jesus earned for us, His people, by means of His death and resurrection. Our praises keep rolling from our Easter celebration some forty days ago, all the way to today and even beyond, as we witness Jesus now seated in glory and majesty. Shout your praises to God! The same King who is exalted over all things in heaven and on earth is the King who stoops to serve us as we gather to worship Him!

### **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 493

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (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 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5, read responsively*)

God has gone up | with a shout,\*

**the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.**

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,\*

**until I make your enemies your | footstool."**

The LORD has sworn and will not | change his mind,\*  
“You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek.”  
The Lord is at your | right hand;\*  
he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.

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.

God has gone up | with a shout,\*  
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

## 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, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

**First Reading Acts 1:1-11**

***(Jesus ascends to His throne of victory.)***

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

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 Ephesians 1:15-23**

***(Christ is seated at His Father's right hand.)***

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and

power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 Ascension of our Lord "Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia." (Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b)*

## **Holy Gospel Luke 24:44-53**

*(Jesus departs from His disciples and is carried into heaven.)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

<sup>44</sup>Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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 "A Whimper or a Shout?" (Introit for Ascension & Psalm 47:5)** *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 492**

**On Christ's Ascension I Now Build (vs. 1-3)**

**Sermon**

**"Why Did Jesus Ascend into Heaven?" (Luke 24:44-53)**

## 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](http://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:



- 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

- 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. Having revealed Your glory in the face of Your only-begotten Son, who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation, You have exalted Him to the highest majesty at Your right hand, that He might graciously fill all things. Grant us faithfully to eat and drink this Holy Supper, trusting our reigning Savior Jesus, who, though unseen in His ascended glory, is here present to save by His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- 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

- 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**

**575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (vs. 1-4)**

**537 Beautiful Savior (vs. 1-4)**

*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 491**

**Up through Endless Ranks of Angels (vs. 1-4)**

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



## Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Thursday 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Adam Voss	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Glenn Dotson	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Kathy Szefflinski	Kathy Szefflinski
<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

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.* 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); **Keith Iverson** (hospice) brother of Phyllis Berglund; **Jean** (surgery) friend of Janine Pieper; **Jennifer** (skin cancer) daughter of Tony & Suzie Mirenda.

**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](mailto: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

### ***Congratulations to those who are graduating!***



*Kindergarten—those graduating from Grace Lutheran School:*

*Grace B, Titus C, Malani C, Wyatt E, Isla H, Keith H, Evelyn K, Emmarie K, Lily M, Flynn M, Dakota P, Jorie S, Samuel S, Avery S, Julia T, Lyla T,*

*8th Grade—those graduating from Grace Lutheran School:*

*Audrey A, Tatiana C, Katharina D, Tyler S, Edward T*

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade—those graduating from local public schools:*

#### ***High School***

*Sawyer Anderson-Graduating from OCHS-Attending MATC in Fall w/a major in Criminal Justice*

*Gabe Dachel-Graduating from OCHS-Attending UW Stevens Point in Fall w/a major in History*

*Paige Vitek-Graduation from UGHS-Attending UW Oshkosh in Fall w/a major in Medical Laboratory Science & Microbiology.*

*A Prayer for our Graduates—Lord God, Heavenly Father, You provide schools and teachers for faithful instruction and dedicated learning. Receive our thanks for the knowledge gained by those who are now graduating. As they continue to learn and grow, grant them Your Holy Spirit that their talents and abilities may be used for Your glory and as a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## **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!!!

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 21<sup>st</sup>, following our 8:00am worship and 10:30am worship
- Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 this week Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SAVE THE DATE for Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** 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!!

### **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!)

### **Vacation Bible School at Grace**

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. 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)

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

### **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](http://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.

### **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>**

## **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.

## **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.

**Those who have been nominated for upcoming board positions:**

### **Board of Elders (3 needed)**

- Keith Goodle
- Mike Toman
- Ron Savarino
- Lowell Johnson
- John Tindall
- John Penn

### **Board of Stewardship (1 needed)**

- Laura Elliot
- Patrick Manoil
- Pat Toman

### **Board of Properties (2 needed)**

- John Gottwald
- Mark Tuskowski
- Robert Morgan Jr.
- Keith Nowack
- Brent Endres
- Matthew Morrisette
- Jerry Urbaniak
- Anthony Hengst



**CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE NATIONS WITH LWML IN MILWAUKEE — June 22–25, 2023.** LWML Convention Mission Impact luncheon speakers include Rev. Dr. Steven Schave, Executive Director of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP); Rev. Craig Muehler, Chaplain, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces; Phil Zielke, President of Phil's Friends; Rev. Ed DeWitt, President, Chairman of the Board, and Executive Director of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries; and Rev. Doua Xiong, Pastor to the Hmong in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Come and hear their mission stories this June.

### **Stewardship Minute**

*"If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me,"* Jesus declared (Matthew 16:24). The Christian steward taking up his cross is ridiculed by the world, just as his Savior was. The world hated Christ, and the world will hate His followers (John 15:18-19). Still, we are filled with His Spirit, and, equipped with His gifts and renewed in our minds, we joyfully take up the cross He gives us. The cross, rather than being an agent of death, frees us - frees us to serve, to give, to sacrifice willingly and freely. Like our Savior on Whom we fix our eyes, we endure any hardship or discomfort for the joy that lies before us as we surrender our wills to the perfect will of our Father in Heaven (Hebrews 12:2).

**BECAUSE OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US  
IN CHRIST, WE DESIRE TO BE FAITHFUL,  
WISE, AND FRUITFUL STEWARDS OF THE  
BLESSINGS THAT HE ENTRUSTS TO US.**

"It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy" (1 Corinthians 4:2).



## IN THE WORD FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

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

Table of Duties—To Widows: 1Timothy 5:5-6; To Everyone: Romans 13:9;

1Timothy 2:1

**Verse of the week:** Philippians 1:21, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 51:1-12

**Hymn of the week:** (LSB 494) “See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph” (stanzas 1 and 4)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— The Coming Persecution—John 15:26—16:4

Monday— Watch and Pray for Jesus’ Coming—Matthew 24:4-14, 36-44

Tuesday— The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13

Wednesday— Peter’s Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21

Thursday— Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36

Friday— The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47

Saturday— Pentecost: The Tower of Babel—Genesis 11:1-9

“God has chosen each one of us from the beginning of creation. God has also chosen our body to be a temple. He gave us the beautiful gift of a body, and we are called to be stewards of that body, to take care of it and be aware of what we do with it. God also chooses each one of us to belong. We all have a spot and purpose in God’s family—and not one of us is useless or random. God chose us with a purpose. Nothing He does is random.” *Kambria Steinhaus, Knights 4 Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

**LUTHERAN HOUR "Responses to Suffering"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Why does God allow suffering? The answer cannot be that God is indifferent or detached from our pain. (1 Peter 4:12) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://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 11<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Offering

General Offering	\$1,122.00	
On-Line Giving	\$2,203.18	
Missions	\$0.00	<b>Attendance</b> 100
Debt Fund	\$20.00	
Mortgage Offering	\$0.00	
Lutheran Schools	\$0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,345.18</b>	

**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	5/21	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
		9:15am	Adult Bible Study
		9:15am	Sunday School
		9:15am	Fellowship Fun Time
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
		11:30am	Ice Cream Social
Tuesday	5/23	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
Thursday	5/25	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
		7:30pm	Fellowship Fun Time
Sunday	5/28	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>

## 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) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office

#### Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

