

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 13th & 16th, 2023

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"

Ephesians 2:8



Image: "He told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow."
(Matthew 13:3)

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 Sower Knows . . .*”

Though you may be familiar with Jesus' parable of the sower, you may be surprised to hear that you do not really know it yet! That's because on the one hand, the Word of God does not change. Yet on the other hand, we need to keep hearing it again and again, because our circumstances are constantly changing. The parable of the sower tells of this mystery. The seed is God's Word, God's work of planting repentance and faith in ears who hear. We may think of the various kinds of soil Jesus mentions to be various sorts of people. Actually, however, He is describing each individual in their changing circumstances. There are times when we are “*good soil*,” that is, we understand God's Word and take comfort in it. There are other times, however, when we either cannot or will not hear it. Sometimes we become hard paths, rocky or distracted by worries or fears. For this reason, God never ceases planting, speaking, and growing faith in the heart, and we return repeatedly to continue hearing, reading, learning, and receiving God's Word because He never gives up on you.

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 589 Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens (vs. 1-4)

Confession and Absolution *LSB 203*

Stand

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 103:15-19; antiphon: v. 8, read responsively*)

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

As for man, his days | are like grass;*
he flourishes like a flower | of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and | it is gone,*
and its place knows | it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who | fear him,*

and his righteousness to children's | children,
to those who keep his | covenant*
and remember to do his com- | mandments.

The LORD has established his throne in the | heavens,*
and his kingdom rules | over all.

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.

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

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. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

Rite of Holy Baptism (Sunday 9am Service only, LSB pg. 268)—We rejoice in the baptism of *Melissa, Logan & Jackson Swainston* on Sunday July 16th. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!!!

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 55:10-13*

(God's powerful Word for all)

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and

bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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

Gradual (*Romans 11:33, 36, read responsively*)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 8:12-17*

(Life through the Spirit)

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- 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 7th Sunday after Pentecost *"Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia."* (Isaiah 40:8)

Holy Gospel Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

(The parable of the sower)

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

- 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

Sermon Hymn 577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “The Fact’s for You!!!” (1 Cor. 15:1-20)

Sermon Text: 1 Cor. 15:1-20

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. 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

-921 On What Has Now Been Sown (vs. 1-3)

-642 O Living Bread from Heaven (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 923 Almighty Father, Bless the 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 Stan Gumm in celebration of his 92nd birthday!

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 Umaske (healing & strength); Curt Bayer (cancer) former member of Grace; Cindy Schmidt (healing); Sandra Mallas (health, peace, comfort) Mother of Lynn Serdyski; Claire Dotson (hospice) mother of Glenn Dotson; Gary Forsythe (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; Lisa Kamprath's sister (cancer); Dominic (recovery from a stroke) nephew of Debbie Oelke; 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; Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew (Alzheimer's); 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); **Dale** (cancer) friend of Rick & Cathy Weeks; **Cathy** (healing & strength) friend of Jill Nowack; **Glenn Peronto** (back surgery) friend of Chris Evers; **Cookie** (lung cancer) friend of Tony & Suzie Miranda; **Evan** (healing & strength) son of Lance & Susan Kopperud; **Sue Klemme** (pancreatic cancer) friend of Cathy Weeks; **Chad Evers** (blood clots in heart & lungs) brother of Chris Evers; **Keith Iverson** (hospice) brother of Phyllis Berglund; **Jennifer** (skin cancer) daughter of Tony & Suzie Miranda; **Scott** (kidney failure) brother of Pat Toman; **Marlene Voss** (hearing loss); **Rikky** (medical testing) friend of Joy Lussier; **Sally** (medical testing) sister of Pauline Parker; **Dina** (healing & strength) friend of Jill Nowack; **Ethan Summers** (critically injured) former student of Roxanne Taggatz; **Ginny Schmeiser** (healing & strength); **Michelle Lyman** (healing after knee surgery) daughter of Greg & Gail Nowakowski; **Tom Novak** (recovery after a stroke) Rod Novak's brother; **Drew** (healing after surgery) friend of Travis Voss; **Annette** (healing & strength) cousin of Pauline Parker and Rose Adams; **Chad Verzella** (healing after heart attack) Grace School parent; and **Heather** (medical tests) daughter in law of Pauline Parker.

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

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! We thank the Lord that on Sunday July 16th, *Melissa, Logan, and Jackson Swainston* are baptized into the Christian faith through both water and the power of God's Word in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at Grace! We praise the Lord that their names are written in God's book of life!!!

We Rejoice at the Birth of Craig & Lauren Frank's new son, George Ulysses Frank!!! We pray: Heavenly Father, receive our heartfelt thanks for the recent birth of Craig & Lauren Frank's new son, George Ulysses Frank. Send your holy angels to shield little George from all dangers of body and soul. Preserve George according to Your good pleasure until that day when he is brought to the waters of Holy Baptism to receive the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Thank you for this precious gift of life! Amen.

We Mourn: We mourn with the family and friends of *Ernie Groth, Hadley, a relative of Craig & Lauren Frank,* and *Debbie Otzelberger, the mother of Jessica Mould,* who were both called home to heavenly rest. **We pray:** Lord God, heavenly Father, we pray for the family and friends of *Ernie Groth, Hadley, a relative of Craig & Lauren Frank,* and *Debbie Otzelberger, the mother of Jessica Mould,* as they mourn their deaths. Receive our humble thanks for all Your mercies granted to, *Ernie, Hadley and Debbie,* during their earthly lives, especially for calling them by the Gospel and sustaining them in the true faith until their departure. Comfort those who mourn their deaths with the hope of the glorious resurrection and a happy reunion in heaven. Help us to remember that we are mortal, that we may ever prepare ourselves to fall asleep in faith and finally receive the glory promised to all who trust in Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Please note: Even though our Church Secretary position is currently vacant, you can still contact the Church office by email at: church@graceoakcreek.org or by phone at: 414-762-8990.

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: **July 23 and 30**. If you can help, please contact the church office by phone (414)-762-8990 or email: church@graceoakcreek.org. Thank you to those who have already reached out to help!

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree from our Board of Stewardship is up in our church sanctuary. Please consider making a donation to our ministries to help us to continue the mission work of our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center. The needs of our ministries are on the Giving Tree for you to take a look at. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries here at Grace! If you are giving a monetary donation to one of the ministry needs for Grace please write checks payable to: “Grace Lutheran.”

Church & School Furnaces Needed

We are currently in need of funding for our aged furnaces at both the school and 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 \$19,290 for the Church & School furnace fund, thank you for your support!!!**

Grace Fellowship Opportunity on Thursday, July 27th and Sunday, July 30th after worship!!!

Our Fellowship Committee will be having coffee and homemade sweets on Thursday July 27th and Sunday July 30th after each worship service in the church narthex . Please take the opportunity to stay after worship and have Christian fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ! God’s grace be with you all!!!

Volunteers Still Needed – Synod Convention—The LCMS Convention will be held July 29-August 3 at the Wisconsin Convention Center in downtown Milwaukee. Many volunteers are STILL needed to serve in the days leading up to and throughout the convention in various areas. Visit swd.lcms.org/serve to review the available slots. Thank you for considering serving at the Convention!

“Defending the Faith Sermon Series for the Summer of 2023”

This summer we will have a special sermon series on, “*Defending the Christian Faith.*” Have you ever wondered how to answer someone for the hope you have in Christ Jesus and to do so with gentleness and respect, as St. Peter calls us to do in 1 Peter 3:15? Well, this sermon series is for you. Please join us as we will be answering certain objections to the Christian faith with the help of the Holy Spirit from God’s Word.

1. 7-16-23—The Fact’s for You, 1 Corinthians 15:1–20
2. 7-23-23—Seen with Our Eyes, Touched with Our Hands, 1 John 1:1–3
3. 7-30-23—Fallen, but Created . . . and Redeemed, Romans 8:18–23
4. 8-6-23—Not Denial, but the Good News, Romans 1:16–20
5. 8-13-23—God’s Great Big True Story, 2 Peter 1:16–21

Stewardship Minute

Richard Halverson had this to say about money referenced in the Bible: “*Jesus Christ said more about money than about any other single thing, because, when it comes to a man’s real nature, money is of first importance. Money is an exact index to a man’s true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a man’s character and how he handles his money.*” Jesus had a purpose for talking so much about money. He saw in money a very dangerous and threatening obstacle to those who are called to be His followers. He said it was more difficult for a rich man to go to heaven than a camel to go through the eye of a needle (Luke 18:25). By the frequency with which Jesus talks about money we realize that we need to be careful about the effects money can have on our lives. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “*The love of money is a root of all kinds of evils*” (1 Timothy 6:10).

GENEROSITY IS CONTAGIOUS BECAUSE CHEERFUL GIVERS ARE INSPIRING.

“Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord” (1 Chronicles 29:9).

IN THE WORD FOR THE 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—What does such baptizing with water indicate? Where is this written?

Verse of the week: Romans 6:6-7—*Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 19

Hymn of the week: (LSB 562) “All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Christ Fulfills the Law—Matthew 5:17-26

Monday— Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36

Tuesday— Out of Man’s Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts—Matthew 15:1-20

Wednesday— A Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus’ Word—Matthew 15:21-31

Thursday— The Feeding of the 4,000—Matthew 15:32-39

Friday— The Pharisees and Sadducees Seek a Sign—Matthew 16:1-12

Saturday— The Confession of Peter and His Rebuke—Matthew 16:13-23

“Waiting is difficult; in Christ, we have the now and not yet. But as we learn and relearn to wait on Him, we find joy in His good work and patient craftsmanship in our lives. Though under construction, God works through us to bless the world. May you find great joy in fruit-bearing as you faithfully wait on HIM.” *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – 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 "Two Mindsets" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Law of God is a test that judges all who take it. The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus passed the test, in our place. (Romans 8:1-7) **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

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>Elders</u> <u>Readers</u> <u>Communion Set-up</u> <u>Linens</u> <u>Ushers</u>	<u>Thursday 6:30pm</u> Greg Nowakowski Pastor Taggatz Janine Tuskowski Donna Dotson Marlene Voss, Lance Kopperud	<u>Sunday 9:00am</u> Eric Kamprath Cris Evers Lynn Buzzell Donna Dotson Lynn & Bob Buzzell, Leah Abelt
--	---	---

Growing In Grace July 6th & 9th, 2023

Offering

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2,527.00	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$2,208.74	
<i>Missions</i>	\$0.00	<i>Attendance</i> 77
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	<i>Communed</i> 69
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$0.00	
Portals of Prayer	\$0.00	
<i>Total</i>	\$4,735.74	

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	7/16	9:00am	Divine Worship
Monday	7/17	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	7/18	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
Thursday	7/20	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Sunday	7/23	9:00am	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	414-762-8869
	ECC	414-856-9262

Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office		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

