

Equippier

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



September 2023

Pastor's Message



“His Mighty Hand”

“And in the fourth watch of the night [Jesus] came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” (Matthew 14:25–33)

In his painting *“His Mighty Hand,”* Yongsung Kim depicts the moment when Jesus rescues Peter from the water in Matthew 14. When other artists have painted this scene, they have given you a good view of both Jesus and Peter. From a distance, you see Jesus standing on the water reaching out toward Peter who is sinking in a storm. Kim, however, has chosen different perspective. He painted this moment from under the water. Kim invites you to take your place, submerged under water with Peter. As you look up, the water obscures your vision. The body of Jesus is simply a dark shadow. His face is a little clearer. But clearest of all is His hand, breaking through the surface, reaching out to rescue you. In his painting, Kim asks you to imagine that you are with Peter, drowning and yet graciously being saved.

What Kim does with imagery in this painting, Matthew does with dialog in his narrative. If you listen to the dialog between Jesus and Peter, you can hear what it is like to be drowning in your prayers, and yet graciously being saved. As Jesus approaches the boat in the storm, He announces who He is. *“It is I.”* This self-identification is surrounded with assurance. *“Take heart,”* He says. And then, *“Do not be afraid.”* What a powerful presence we have in Jesus. Not only does He walk on water, revealing His power over the storm, but He also comes surrounded with assurance. He has not come to torment or to test. He has come to rescue, to encourage, and to defend His disciples in the midst of a storm.

In the presence of such a powerful self-revelation, however, Peter falls into prayerful confusion. Peter responds to the words of Jesus by saying, *“If it is You, Lord, command me to come to You on the water.”* This is not a confident confession in Jesus, like: *“Since it is You Lord, command me to come to You on the water.”* It is also not a complete dismissal of Jesus: *“Yeah. Right. You’re Jesus. If it’s You, then command me to come to You on the water.”* This is somewhere in between. *“If it is You, and for the sake of argument, let’s say that it is, then...”* Peter is wavering here, like water. He wants it to be Jesus, but he is not completely sure.

How many times have we spoken to Jesus like that? How often have we wavered in the water? Have you ever prayed an *“If You are...”* prayer?

- If You really are out there, Jesus, then help me.
- If You really love me, Jesus, then fix my marriage.
- If You really listen to prayers, Jesus, then help me find a new job.
- If You really care, Jesus, then heal my dad’s dementia.

Peter is wavering here, like water. He wants it to be Jesus, but he is not completely sure. In so many situations in life, we can find ourselves praying like Peter, *“If You are the Son of God, then...”* And, when we do this, we are confused in our prayers, wavering like the waves of the water, and soon to be drowning like Peter. As James writes, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind”* (James 1:5-6).

But that is what is so amazing about this account. When Jesus hears these words from Peter, what does He do? He invites Peter to come to Him. And when Peter fails, He does not let Peter drown. He reaches out and rescues him. Jesus has come to be the Savior of people who cry out to Him, even in prayerful confusion.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He heard the same kind of language. Satan tempted Jesus with his, *“If You are...”* demands. *“If You are the Son of God, then command these stones to become bread”* (Matthew 4:3). *“If You are the Son of God, then throw Yourself down”* (Matthew 4:6). When Satan spoke like that to Jesus, Jesus resisted. Yet again, that is what is so amazing about this narrative. When Jesus hears these words on the mouth of Peter, He does not repel him. He answers him. He invites him. Why? Because Jesus came to defeat Satan, but He did not come to defeat His people. He came to save them. Even when we cry out in wavering prayers, Jesus reaches out to save us with His unwavering grace. A bruised reed, He will not break. A smoldering wick, He will not snuff out. At the heart of it all lies a simple cry, *“Lord, save me,”* and a simple response, Jesus, reaching out to rescue His people from dying.

God has immersed you in the waters of baptism. There, He has joined you to the death of His Son. No matter how far down you fall into the wavering waters of *“If you are...”* prayers, Jesus is there. Today, He has come to say, *“I am here. Therefore, take heart and do not be afraid. I have borne the punishment for sin. I have defeated death itself. I have risen from the grave and rule over all creation. Nothing can separate you from My protection and nothing can separate you from My love.”* Though we may waver in prayerful confusion, Jesus is risen and ruling in His unwavering love.

See you in worship, *Pastor John M. Taggatz*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAMES SCHNEIKER James is a former student of Grace Lutheran School and his grandmother, Kim Gadish, is a member of Grace Lutheran Church. James passed away on August 22nd due to fatal injuries caused by a hit and run accident while riding his bicycle in Mt Pleasant. He just celebrated his 14th birthday in early August. Grace Lutheran is doing a private collection to pass along to the family to assist with medical expenses and funeral costs. Cash or checks made payable to Grace Lutheran School will be collected through September 10th . We have supplied cards to be signed by the church members to pass along our thoughts and prayers to the family. WE will pass along the cards with one check to the family directly.

Announcements

Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990...

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

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday Pastor OFF

Visitations: Monday-Thursday afternoons

For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.

Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231

Church office: 414.762.8990

Church office hours: T-W-Th 9:00am – 12:15pm



REMINDER: If you have any announcements and/or additions you would like printed in the monthly *Equipper* please forward to the church office at church@graceoakcreek.org by the 17th of each month.

**The Mites collection dates
for Sept. are:
Sept. 7 & 10**



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

principal@graceoakcreek.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

During the month of September, we will be worshipping at:

-Sunday, September 3rd at 9:00am

-Sunday September 10th at 10:00am in the church, as we observe Christian Education Sunday, the Church

Picnic will follow at 11:30am in our Lutheran School building.

-Sunday, September 17th (and moving forward) at 8:00am and 10:30am, with Sunday School and Adult Bible Class being in the school from 9:15-10:15am. (Adult Bible Class is every week, Sunday School is 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)

-Thursday evening worship will remain the same at 6:30pm.

Sunday School Begins on Sunday September 17th

Sunday School at Grace begins on Sunday, September 17th for people of all ages! Children preschool through 8th grade, a group specifically for our high school students, as well as an adult bible class! Sunday school is held at our school campus, with adult bible class taking place in the school library. This will be from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday mornings. Please note that adult bible class will be every Sunday of the month and Sunday School will be on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. **You can register your child for Sunday School by going to this link:** <https://forms.gle/UorLacie97zSZDdf8>

WANTED! Sunday School Teachers * Helpers * Subs: If you are interested in helping out with teaching, helping or subbing Sunday School this Fall, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Nowack at: PH: 414-412-8381 or by email: sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org

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.

Sunday, September 10th—Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School!!!! Please join us for our church picnic on Sunday, September 10th. We will have our Christian Education Sunday Worship Service at 10am in our church sanctuary. Then, the picnic will start at 11:30am at the school campus.

Please register by Sunday, September 3rd for the church picnic. You can register on the sign-up sheet in the church narthex, or by contacting the church office via email church@graceoakcreek.org, or calling 414-762-8990. Please note that food and beverages will be provided for this event. Feel free to bring lawn games such as ladder toss and bean bag toss for you and your fellow parishioners to enjoy. As you sign up, please indicate the number of people attending and if you can help with set up, serving, and/or clean up. We are looking forward to seeing you there!!!

Attention 6th – 8th Grade Parents

There will be a Confirmation meeting on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the school with Pastor Taggatz. Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m. for public school students located at the school campus.

Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again. Please join us on Wednesday mornings at church beginning, September 13th, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. We are studying, *“Measured by Grace”* by Sharla Fritz. We will begin our study on the life and ministry of John the Baptist. Readers are invited to re-evaluate their lives through the lens of God’s Word. The world speaks a lot about success, but readers will find peace in the knowledge that God measures them by grace, mercy, and love, not worldly glory. Join us!!!

There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday, September 24th after the 10:30am Worship Service. Please plan on attending as your participation as a member of our congregation is very important for the ministries here at Grace Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Center. Topics of the meeting will include: Pastor’s update, goals for the next year from our Church Boards, Treasurer’s Report, and update on Church Membership here at Grace.



FURNACE/BOILER REPLACEMENT We are currently in need of funding for our aged furnaces at our school and at our church. This fundraiser is to replace the 7 remaining furnaces at our school and the boiler at our church. All units are over 20 years old. The goal is \$50,000. Please prayerfully consider donating above and beyond your general offerings. There will be offering envelopes in the narthex and a donation box for your offerings. Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministries at Grace! God bless you! **Currently, we have raised over \$ 22,811.63!!!**

October ‘23 Stewardship Series for Grace Lutheran Church Oak Creek: *“Bringing Out the Best”*

Sunday October 1st, 2023—*Money: The Problem with Money* (1Timothy 6:17–19)
Sunday October 8th, 2018—*Talents: The Joy of Investing Yourself* (Matthew 25:14–30)
Sunday October 15th, 2018—*Time: Maximizing Minutes for the Master* (Colossians 4:3, 5–6)

Being Available for Service

In every church, there are people who continually rise to the occasion to get the work done. Although God calls each of us to follow and serve Him, many of us are much more concerned about our own lives and goals than assisting in the Lord's work. If we focus on "I, me, mine and myself," we take care of "number one" to the exclusion of helping and serving. In our prayers, we should be asking God to grant us hearts that want to serve, and we should be asking Him, "What do You want to achieve through me today?"

Prayer: Lord, I acknowledge You as the source of all that I am and have. Grant me a serving and generous heart so that I am willing to use my time in ways that extend Your kingdom. Help me to be a channel of Your love to others. In Christ's name I pray. Amen



Blessings on your stewardship journey!

"Plastic Donuts"

Giving for Christians is both a responsibility and a privilege. Through His Word, God commands us to give, and, by His grace, He creates a desire to give as an expression of our gratitude and praise to Him Who gives us this life and the life to come with Him that will last for eternity. Even though God is the source and owner of all things that He gives generously to us, giving can become routine with little or no joy. After we determine the dollar amount of our gifts or we decide on the percentage amount that we plan to give to our church and other Christian ministries or causes, our giving can go on auto-pilot.

Jeff Anderson in his book *Plastic Donuts* points out an important aspect of our giving that we may not always consider. The title of his book comes from a time that Mr. Anderson was playing with his 18-month-old daughter. From her doll house, his daughter gave him a plastic doughnut to eat. He pretended to enjoy it, which delighted his daughter. With big smiles and with glee, she gave him more donuts and other plastic toys to eat. Her joy in giving and his delight in receiving gave them a very meaningful connection.

God knows all things, so we know that He knows what we give. We can imagine that, in the same way that Mr. Anderson delighted in the plastic donuts, because they came from the hand of his little daughter, our heavenly Father delights in our faithful giving to Him. God has created and sustains the world so our gifts to Him are like plastic donuts. Still, He enjoys receiving gifts because they are evidence of our love and gratitude, even though He has no need of the material gifts that we give. Because God knows and is interested in what we give, our thoughts during our giving should be focused on how He is going to react to what we are giving. When we start to see giving from God's perspective, it will make our offerings more meaningful.

The amount we give is determined both by the amount of money that we have and by the spiritual condition of our hearts. Those of us with more money can give larger gifts, but God does not look as much at the size of our gifts as He does at our hearts. He wants gifts that are motivated by faith, love, and trust in Him. When our hearts are right, we will want to give gifts that please Him. With the help of the Holy Spirit, each of us can give gifts that delight the heart of our Father.

SCRIP at Grace Lutheran Church, School & ECC

Grace Lutheran participates in a fundraising program called Scrip, where you can purchase gift cards for over 1,000 retailers, entertainment, grocery and more. Each card is assigned a percentage that is given back to school, church and/or ECC. And the best part...you get to decide where it goes! It can be applied to your tuition payments at Grace, Martin Luther, daycare fees or Sponsor-A-Student account to help families receive financial assistance. Please consider purchasing those cards through our program instead of directly at the vendor or retailer!

Gail Nowakowski is our Scrip Coordinator. If you would like to take a look at what Scrip cards are available to buy to help support the ministries of Grace, please reach out to Gail or grab a Scrip form on the table in the narthex. Gail's contact information is as follows:

➤ 414.791.4075 and/or: gnowakowski@att.net



ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

You can now give to our Church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our ministries here at Grace!!! Text the word: [graceoc](https://www.graceoakcreek.org) to 206-859-9405, use this [QR Code](#) or head to our web-site: [graceoakcreek.org](https://www.graceoakcreek.org). You may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!



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.

Grace Ladies Guild

Rise and Sonshine Bible Study

Promised Rest
“Finding Peace in God’s Presence”
By Michelle Diercks

From the Introduction:

“I created this study as a meditation on the various names and characteristics of God to deepen your understanding of Him and your identity as His child. The names of God reveal important aspects of His character as well as how He relates to you—His beloved child—and how He offers the peace we all crave so much.”

The ladies of Rise and Sonshine are eager to begin this study this month on Saturday September 16, 8am-9:30am, at school.

Ladies of Grace, you are invited to study God’s Word
with your fellow sisters in Christ!

The book is available thru Concordia Publishing House and Amazon.
Feel free to contact Jennifer Olen (olenjennifer@aol.com) with questions.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

To everyone who volunteered, donated items, and prayed for
the 2023 LWML Convention that was held in June.

The convention was a wonderful success- over 3500 attendees came together to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations”!

You can still watch the recording of the convention livestream, view official convention pictures, read the selected biennium grant list and get caught up on all things convention at
www.lwml.org/2023-convention

NEW 2023-2025 Mission Goal is \$2,350,000 to support 31 mission grants!



Grace Ladies Guild

As a restful summer comes to a conclusion, the Guild Board has met to plan
the 67th year of Grace Ladies Guild.

Kick Off meeting
Saturday, September 16 10am-11:30am

At school

We invite all ladies of the congregation to join us this year to:

Serve one another
Study Scripture to know, and
Share CHRIST’S LOVE!

There is no commitment to attend every month, whatever works in your schedule, we would enjoy having you
with us!

A list of dates and activities is posted on the Guild board at the lower church entrance.
If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Olen olenjennifer@aol.com



AT GRACE

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

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

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

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



Facebook:

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



Instagram:

gracelutheran_oakcreek

The Fellowship Committee will be having a Packer Party

Who: The Fellowship Committee

What: Packer Party

When: Nov 5th- game starts at noon

Where: School

We will be supplying ham and rolls, hot dogs, and buns, and water, we ask that you bring sides, dips or desserts to share, please bring your own non alcoholic beverages. You may bring lawn chairs if they would be more comfortable than our chairs for the game. children over 12 are welcome to attend with their parents, but we don't have a place or the people to take care of younger children.

There will be a sign up sheet starting Oct. 1st at the Church, School and ECC. There will be a free will offering.

Watch for some of our upcoming events----Jan. 20th Bingo --- March 16th Tea Party --other events to follow

Birthday Blessings

September Birthdays

9/1 Sandra Hamburger
9/1 Cole Jaskie
9/1 Chase Mallon
9/3 Meredith King
9/4 David Pankow
9/4 Easton Zunker
9/5 John Barrett
9/6/ Justin Mendez
9/8 Rose Adams
9/9 Watson Banach
9/10 Nathan Kamprath
9/12 Payton Weirich
9/13 Gail Olen
9/14 Ben Heinen
9/14 Joseph Perez
9/15 Jordynn Gottwald
9/15 Oleta Partl
9/16 Dylan Kendrick
9/17 Sydney Campbell
9/18 Susanj Kopperud
9/19 Evie McKinster
9/20 Steven Gettelman

9/20 Sandy Herte
9/20 Pauline Parker
9/22 Bryan Meyer
9/22 Ryan Scherer
9/22 Staci Sherer
9/23 Donna Dotson
9/24 Darlene Urbaniak
9/25 Edward Taggatz
9/26 Wyatt Edgerton
9/26 Douglas Klipfel
9/27 Julia Oelke
9/30 Lauria Elliott
9/30 Jorie Schaefer



Happy Anniversary!

September Anniversaries

9/9 Mark & Rachel Miliacca
9/12 Robert & Joanne Morgan
9/15 Timothy & Christine Cooksy
9/19 Brad & Patty Abelt
9/19 Floyd & Marlene Leonard
9/21 Leah & Larry Abelt
9/24 Rodney & Pamela Novak
9/25 Jason & Beth Stone



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31 6:30pm Divine Worship	1	2
3 9:00am Divine Worship	4	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	6 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	7 LWML Mite Collection 6:30pm Divine Worship	8	9
10 Christian Education Sunday LWML Mite Collection 10:00am - 11:00am Divine Worship 11:30am - 1:00pm Church Picnic	11 6:30pm Confirmation Parent Meeting 6:30pm Grief Share Group	12 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	13 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	14 6:30pm Divine Worship	15	16 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 10:00am Ladies Guild
17 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am - 10:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship	18 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Grief Share Group	19 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	20 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	21 6:30pm Divine Worship	22	23 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 10:00am Ladies Guild
24 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am - 10:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship 11:30am Voter's Meeting	25 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Grief Share Group	26 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	27 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	28 6:30pm Divine Worship	29	30

Radio Worship Service

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

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



Prayer Hot Line

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

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com

Thursday Worship 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship 9:00 am

PH: 414.762.8990

Pastor John M. Taggatz

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

WEBSITE

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

Oak Creek, WI 53154

3381 E. Puetz Rd.

CHURCH & ECC



SCHOOL, ECC

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,