

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Christian Education Sunday

September 7th & 10th, 2023

"By His Grace you are saved through faith."



Ephesians 2:8



Image: "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:16)

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 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 "Why Children?"

Lutheran education began in response to some disappointing survey results. It was 1528; the Reformation had been going on for eleven years. Martin Luther was a university professor and wanted to learn how well the teachings of grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone had been absorbed into the local congregations. So, he sent out visitors to the parishes in his German state, Saxony. The survey results prompted the writing of what we know today as Luther's Small Catechism. He was blunt and candid in his preface to the Catechism about what the visitors discovered: *The deplorable, miserable conditions which I recently observed when visiting the parishes have constrained and pressed me to put this catechism of Christian doctrine into this brief, plain, and simple form. How pitiable, so help me God, were the things I saw: the common man, especially in the villages, knows practically nothing of Christian doctrine, and many of the pastors are almost entirely incompetent and unable to teach. Yet all the people are supposed to be Christians, have been baptized, and receive the Holy Sacrament even though they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments and live like poor animals of the barnyard and pigpen. What these people have mastered, however, is the fine art of tearing all Christian liberty to shreds.* (Luther's Small Catechism, © 1986 Concordia Publishing House). The need for faithful Lutheran education has not diminished. Today, we celebrate the blessings God has given us through Lutheran education, and we ask Him for His continued providence on our schools and teaching.

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: *As outlined in the bulletin*

✘ PREPARATION ✘

OPENING HYMN 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (vs. 1-3, Thursday night only)

Grace Lutheran School Choir—"Bless the Lord, O My Soul" (Sunday only)

(Please note: After the students sing, they are dismissed to sit back with their parents after the song)

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Matthew 18:3-4*

Pastor: Jesus teaches us: "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In faith and in God's fear, let us come before God's throne of grace, confessing our sins, and trusting in His forgiveness and restoration.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Merciful Father,

People: we confess that we are not the children You created us to be. Our sin has separated us from You and marked us on the path of death and destruction. We confess that we are sinful by nature and that we have added to this sin by our thoughts, words, and actions that break Your Law. Trusting in the forgiveness Jesus won for us on the cross, we come before You to beg Your mercy and to restore Your fallen children. Forgive us our sins and create in us new hearts that we may love You with our whole heart and in obedience follow You all the days of our lives. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

✘ WORD ✘

INTROIT (Psalm 127; *antiphon: v. 3a, read responsively*)

Pastor: Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD. Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

People: Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Pastor: It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil;

People: for He gives to His beloved sleep.

Pastor: Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,

People: the fruit of the womb a reward.

Pastor: Like arrows in the hand of a warrior

People: are the children of one's youth.

Pastor: Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

People: He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Lord Jesus Christ, You have entrusted to Your people the task of teaching all nations. Enlighten with the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn that the joyous truth of the Gospel may be known in every generation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

BLESSING OF BIBLES (*the Bibles are generously provided from the Grace Lutheran Matt Meyer memorial fund, SUNDAY ONLY*)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord God, by His Holy Spirit, has caused all Holy Scripture to be “written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Such learning takes place when we hear “the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.” It is fitting that these Bibles be sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. (Romans 15:4, Luke 8:15)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You have given us Your holy Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We implore You to bless these Bibles. Enlighten the hearts and minds of those who read them, and open the ears of all who hear the Gospel proclaimed from them, that by Your Spirit they may earnestly hold fast to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord Almighty, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these Bibles.

People: Amen.

THE REDEDICATION OF OUR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL & ECC TEACHERS AND STAFF AND GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (SUNDAY ONLY)

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you are to be re-dedicated as [*name of position(s)*] at [*name of congregation*], a work in which our Father in heaven has great joy. Hear the Word of the Lord:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

Beloved in the Lord, you are to assist me, the minister of Word and Sacrament, in the instruction of God’s people according to His holy Word. You are to prepare yourselves for this work by your individual and corporate study of the Word of God and the faith drawn from it as it has been delivered to us in the Small Catechism. While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the position entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

Teachers: I do.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness Spoken by these men and women. Do you promise to support them in Their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

People: We do.

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I re-dedicate you as [*name of position(s)*] at [*name of congregation*] in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PROMISES OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastor: Now, then, all you who are parents: Will you promise to raise your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord? Will you focus on Christ as the heart of your teaching? Will you set yourselves as examples of Christian living for your family and all you meet in daily living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

Parents: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: And how about you children? Will you promise to listen to your parents, learning from them, and obey them, helping wherever you can? Will you focus on Christ as the heart of your learning? Will you set yourselves as examples of Christian living for your family and all you meet in daily living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

Children: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Finally, I ask all of you: Will you study the Word of God when you have opportunity, here in church and with your families or friends? Will you endeavor to share the faith in your hearts, teaching others by word and example? Will you seek to exhibit Christ as the heart of your living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

People: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your service that you may be good and faithful leaders and teachers in this congregation, and as teachers and learners in your daily living, to the glory of His name and the salvation of His people.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

**INSTALLATION OF MRS. KRISTI DEVRIES, THIRD GRADE TEACHER AT GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL
(SUNDAY ONLY)**

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM (SUNDAY 10AM SERVICE ONLY, LSB pg. 268)—We rejoice in the baptism of *George Ulysses Frank, son of Craig & Lauren Frank*, on Sunday September 10th. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!!!

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 6:4-15*
(Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one.)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

“And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you, for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God, lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CATECHISM *The Table of Duties from Luther's Small Catechism*

Pastor: What do children owe to their parents?

People: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” (*Ephesians 6:1-3*)

Pastor: What do parents owe to their children?

People: Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (*Ephesians 6:4*)

EPISTLE LESSON *Acts 2:37-41*

(Repent and be baptized, every one of you.)

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every

one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:1-20*

(Dealing with & responding to sin in our relationships)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

SERMON HYMN 864 Shepherd of Tender Youth (vs. 1-3)

SERMON “The Greatest” (Matt. 18:1-20)

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 ✠

ADMONITION TO COMMUNICANTS

Pastor: I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note of and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own words administer and receive the Testament. (*From Lutheran Worship copyright © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission*).

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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 161

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

LORD’S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD (*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*)

Pastor: 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.”

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

- 725 Children of the Heavenly Father (vs. 1-4)
- 865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: For the unseen mercy of God that has been revealed to us,
People: we give You thanks, O God.

Pastor: For those who have revealed the Lord's truth by teaching us His Word,
People: we give You thanks, O God.

Pastor: For the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life,
People: we give You thanks, O God. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN 578 Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-3)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



Altar Flowers



Altar flowers this week are given by Bob & Joanne Morgan in celebration of their anniversary.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. **Pastor Bill Wurm** (Alzheimers disease); **Tom Janes** (healing & strength); **Larry Abelt Sr.** (healing & strength); **Myles King** (blood disorder); **Cindy Riemer** (cancer); **Michael Helzer** (cancer); **Michael Parker** (healing & strength); **Jim & Kari** (healing and strength); **Greg Voss** (healing & strength); **Curt Bayer** (cancer) former member of Grace; **Sindy Schmidt** (healing); **Sandra Mallas** (health, peace, comfort); **Gary Forsythe** (dementia); **Lisa Kamprath's sister** (cancer); **Dominic** (recovery from a stroke); **Brittany** (cancer); **Greg** (cancer); **Judy** (poor eyesight); **Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew** (Alzheimer's); **Linda** (brain cancer); **Bryan** (cancer); **Jenny Rice** (cancer); **Dale** (cancer); **Cathy** (healing & strength); **Cookie** (lung cancer); **Evan** (healing & strength); **Sue Klemme** (pancreatic cancer); **Chad Evers** (blood clots in heart & lungs); **Keith Iverson** (hospice); **Scott** (kidney failure); **Marlene Voss** (hearing loss); **Rikky** (medical testing); **Dina** (healing & strength); **Tom Novak** (recovery after a stroke); **Drew** (healing after surgery); **Jennifer** (diagnosed with MS); **Rachel Goodle** (prayers for God's strength); **Rose Adams** (healing & strength); **Pastor Schmidt** (healing & strength); **Cris Evers** (healing & strength); **Brooke Bzdawka** (blood clot); **Daniel Abelt** (cancer); and **Alyssa** (healing & strength); **Lynda** (stroke), and **Phyllis Berglund** (cancer); **Marion Davis** (hospice) relative of Carol Loveall; **Alberta Loomis** (healing & strength); **Michael Abelt** (healing & strength);

Nathan Taggatz (fighting fires near Randall, WA); and **Jerry Svick** (in rehab following major surgery & stroke).

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

Praise God for the installation of Mrs. Kristi DeVries as the 3rd Grade Teacher here at Grace Lutheran School! We pray that the Lord would bless Mrs. DeVries' ministry here at Grace and we are so grateful to have her on our staff this year at our Lutheran Grade School!!! Welcome Mrs. DeVries!!!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We thank the Lord that on Sunday September 10th, *George Ulysses Frank, son of Craig & Lauren Frank*, is 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 his name is written in God's book of life!!!

We mourn with the family of James Schneiker, (former student of Grace Lutheran School) and grandson of Kim Gadish, who was called home to heavenly rest. We pray: *Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort deal graciously with the family of James Schneiker and all who mourn his death that, casting every care on You, they may know the consolation of Your love, help them to know that because Jesus lives, they too shall live and have eternal life in His name. 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

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 9:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Kathryn Szefflinski	Glenn Dotson
<u>Ushers</u>	Jim Robinson	Leah Abelt & Eric Kamprath
Communion Set-Up	Janine Tuskowski & Marlene Voss	
Linens	Donna Dotson	

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.

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.

A black rectangular box containing the text "VOTERS MEETING" in a white, stylized, blocky font. The letter "O" in "VOTERS" has a small white cross inside it.

IN THE WORD FOR THE 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Ten Commandments—Fifth and Sixth Commandments

Verse of the week: Mark 10:7b, 8, 9 “A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh”; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 119:9-16

Hymn of the week: (LSB 740) “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Jesus Cleanses the Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19

Monday— The Burnt Offering—Leviticus 1:1-17

Tuesday— The Sin Offering—Leviticus (4:1-2) 5:1-10 (11-13)

Wednesday— The Restitution Offering—Leviticus 5:(14-16) 17—6:7

Thursday— The Ministry of the Priests Begins—Leviticus 9:1-16, 22-24

Friday— The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-7

Saturday—The Widow of Zarephath—1 Kings 17:8-16

“God has taken away your sins. He has changed your heart. He gives you the ability to put yourself last so that you can humbly serve others. That’s greatness and a great life in God’s eyes. That humble serving attitude values and serves every life whether that life is a few cells old or a gene short of worldly greatness.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

LUTHERAN HOUR "Not Just a Formality" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. After trust has been broken, forgiveness is more than a mere formality. (Psalm 32) **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 103.3 FM Milwaukee, WI Sun 6:30 am

WTMJ 620 AM Milwaukee, WI Sun 5:30 and & 6:30 am

Attention 6th – 8th Grade Parents

There will be a Confirmation meeting on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 pm at the school with Pastor Taggatz. Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 18th at 6:30 pm 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. Our study will begin 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!

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>

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

Starting on Saturday Sept 16, 8-9:30am in the school library our Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Group will be meeting again. We are excited to begin a new study “Promised Rest-Finding Peace in God’s Presence” by Michelle Diercks (available at CPH & Amazon). In this study we will dig into God’s many names to find peace from the worries of the world, and hold onto His name in times of hardship and anxiety. Ladies you are invited to gather with us around fellowship and God’s Word. Starting your Saturday this way doesn’t get any better! Oh and we have treats too! Questions- please reach out to Jennifer Olen at olenjennifer@aol.com

Grace Ladies Guild

Grace Ladies Guild will be starting their 67th year on Saturday, Sept 16, 10 - 11:30 am at school. All ladies of Grace are invited as we kick off our year by looking to what we have planned and sharing reflections of the 2023 LWML convention held in June. Mark your calendar for LWML Sunday- Sept 21 & 24!

Stewardship Minute— When we use our time in service to others, we are using our time wisely and giving God glory. *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...”* (Mark 10:45). It is clear that Jesus wants to develop that same servant heart in us. Our lives are God’s gift to us. How we use them is our gift to God. When we commit our lives and time to service in response to Jesus’ love for us, we are living wisely and fulfilling an important purpose for our lives. Service should be one of the primary uses of our time. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can change from being people who seek to serve ourselves into people who serve others.

Growing in Grace
August 31st & September 3rd, 2023

Offering

<i>General Offering</i>	\$3,120.00	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$455.57	
<i>Missions</i>	\$60.00	<i>Attendance</i> 86
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0	<i>Communed</i> 68
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$1,070.00	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$4,705.57</i>	

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	9/10	10:00 am	Divine Worship – Mite Collection
		11:30 am	Church Picnic
Monday	9/11	6:30 pm	Confirmation Meeting
		6:30 pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	9/12	7:00 am	Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast
Wednesday	9/13	9:30am	Women’s Bible Study
		6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Thursday	9/14	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Saturday	9/16	8:00 am	Rise & SonShine Bible Study
		10:00 am	Ladies Guild
Sunday	9/17	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
		10:30 am	Divine Worship

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		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

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