

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 14<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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



Ephesians 2:8



*Image:* "Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:21-22)

# 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 Tagatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

### **As We Gather “I Forgive You”**

This weekend on the Church calendar (September 16), the bishop Cyprian of Carthage is remembered. As a Church leader in the third century, a time of Roman persecution, Cyprian had to deal with the problem of Christians who denied the faith under persecution but later wanted to be restored to the fellowship of the Lord. Cyprian helped craft a response to the situation that was based on forgiveness, allowing a lapsed Christian to be reinstated after a time in which they lived out their restored faithful confession. His own faithfulness unto death was fully demonstrated as he was executed by Roman authorities for his Christian beliefs in AD 258. Speaking words of forgiveness and living them out can come with a price—but is Christlike in every way!

### **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 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us (vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 143:1-2; antiphon: v. 9, read responsively*)

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!\*  
I have fled to you for | refuge!  
Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!\*  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!  
Enter not into judgment with your | servant,\*  
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

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.

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!\*  
I have fled to you for | refuge!

#### Kyrie *LSB 204*

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

#### Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

C 1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—

**3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205***

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading *Genesis 50:15-21***

***(Joseph and his brothers)***

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

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

**Gradual (Psalm 34:9, 19, alt., read responsively)**

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*  
for those who fear him lack | nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

**Epistle Lesson Romans 14:1-12**

**(We belong to the Lord.)**

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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

*Stand*

**Alleluia Verse for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** “*Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.*” (Matthew 6:14)

## 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.

## Holy Gospel *Matthew 18:21-35*

### *(The parable of the servant who would not forgive)*

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

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Apostles' Creed *LSB 207*

- C **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*

**Children's Message "What to Do When People Hurt Us" (Genesis 50:15-21)** The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)

**Sermon Hymn 843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (vs. 1-4)**

**Sermon "Forgiveness in the Christian Life" (Genesis 50:15-21)**

**Offering/Attendance**

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord's Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!



You can now give online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at [graceoakcreek.org](http://graceoakcreek.org). You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write 'online giving' on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church** (*After each petition the Pastor will say, "Lord in Your mercy," and the congregation responds saying, "Hear our prayer."*)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**Preface** *LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**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

-785 We Praise You, O God (vs. 1-3)

-918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer (vs. 1-3)

*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 763 When Peace, like a River (vs. 1-4)**

**Announcements**

**Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!**

**People: Thanks be to God!**



**✿*Altar Flowers*✿**

Altar flowers this week are given by Sandy Hamburger.

**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); **Pastor Schmidt** (healing & strength); **Cris Evers** (healing & strength); **Brooke Bzdawka** (blood clot); **Daniel Abelt** (cancer); and **Alyssa** (healing & strength); **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) brother of Pastor Taggatz; **Jerry Svcek** (in rehab following major surgery & stroke) father of Nate Svcek; and **Carl Smith** (cancer) son of Donna Smith.

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

**We mourn with the family of Lynda, the cousin of Marlene Voss, 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 Lynda and all who mourn her 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](mailto:Paulinemom@aol.com).

**If you do not have access to a computer you may call:**

Prayers for worship:	Church Office	414-762-8990
Requests on prayer line:	10am-3 pm Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

## Assisting with the Divine Service

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

	<u>Thursday 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Adam Voss	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Pastor Taggatz	Cris Evers	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine Tuskowski	Jeanne Meyer	
<u>Linens</u>	Donna Dotson		
<u>Ushers</u>			

### 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 \$23,311.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!!!**

**There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **Next Sunday is LWML Sunday!**

Next Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, has been designated as Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Sunday. The Lutheran Women in Mission invite the entire congregation to celebrate together as the Body of Christ under the theme, "*The King is Coming.*" Join us and learn how the Lord has worked through Lutheran Women in Mission to bring the lost and the erring into fellowship with Him through mission and ministry.

**Adult Bible Class Topic— God’s Word for Today: 1 & 2 Thessalonians—*The Lord is Faithful.*** On Sunday mornings in the school building, we will be studying 1 & 2 Thessalonians from 9:15-10:15am. In this bible study you will learn that God gave Paul a vision. In it, a man from Macedonia pleaded with Paul saying, "*Come over to Macedonia and help us*" (Acts 16:9). Following the Lord's call, Paul and his entourage eventually reached Thessalonica. In his two letters addressed to the Thessalonian Christians, Paul expresses his deep care as a founding pastor concerned about his fledgling congregation. In addition to christian persecution, the Lord's second coming, the antichrist, and christian discipline, in this bible study you will learn about:

- the power of the word of God;
- the importance of living a God-pleasing life;
- the reason why we are faithful to the bible's teachings.

### **IN THE WORD FOR THE 16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Catechism:** Ten Commandments—Seventh and Eighth Commandments

**Verse of the week:** Romans 13:10, "*Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*"

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 86

**Hymn of the week:** (LSB 919) "Abide, O Dearest Jesus" (stanzas 1-2)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

**Sunday**— Seek First the Kingdom of God—Matthew 6:24-34

**Monday**— The Day of Atonement—Leviticus 16:1-17 (18-19) 20-22, 34

**Tuesday**— The Lord Commands a Census of Israel—Numbers 1:1-4, 17-19, 45-54

**Wednesday**— The Levites Are Called to Serve as Priests—Numbers 3:1-16, 39-51

**Thursday**— The Priestly Blessing—Numbers 6:22-27

**Friday**— The Second Passover—Numbers 9:1-14

**Saturday**— The Lord Raises the Widow’s Son—1 Kings 17:17-24

“No matter what our days bring, God is the answer. His love never ends. His strength is our strength. He cares about each one of us in the most intimate of relationships. Through Jesus, we are His beloved children. We are here, in the land of the living, for His good purpose and at His will. Each day is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.



**LUTHERAN HOUR "Pure Michigan and the Problem of Praise"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler People praise that which they find laudable, valuable, beautiful. But when does praise become a problem? (Psalm 103) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) scroll down the page and click on, "listen now."** Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ	103.3 FM	Milwaukee, WI	Sun 6:30 am
WTMJ	620 AM	Milwaukee, WI	Sun 5:30 and & 6:30 am

### **Ladies Bible Study**

The ladies bible study will be starting up again. Please join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m in the church. 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!!!

### **Sunday School Begins on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>**

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, or 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 414-412-8381 or by email [sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org).

### **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](mailto:olenjennifer@aol.com).

## **Grace Ladies Guild**

Grace Ladies Guild will be starting their 67<sup>th</sup> 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!

## **Lutheran Hour Ministries Convention**

On Saturday, October 14 the North & South Wisconsin Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) District Joint Convention will feature the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) at Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 South Park Ave., Neenah, Wisconsin. You are invited to participate in "*What is a Two Kingdom Church?*" led by Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of LCRL. The 3 sessions are:

- # 1 Two Kingdoms: One Mission & Foundation
- # 2 God at Work: A Two Kingdom Exercise in the American Context
- # 3 Set Free to Live Freely for Others: A Two Kingdom Engagement of the culture for the sake of the mission of the church

Doors open at 8:00 a.m. with the convention opening in worship at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$30.00 per person, which includes lunch. There is no registration fee for pastors to attend. Register today! For more information or questions contact Neal Schalow, No Wisconsin LLL DP by email at [nschalow@juno.com](mailto:nschalow@juno.com); or Thomas Beineke, So Wisconsin LLL DP by email at [tombeineke802@gmail.com](mailto:tombeineke802@gmail.com). Mail your registration form and fees to Peggy Kraase, So Wisconsin LLL Secretary at N115 W16887 El Camino Dr., Germantown, WI 53022. Registration deadline is October 9, 2023.

**Stewardship Minute**— When our houses are built on solid footings of rock or concrete, they won't be affected by the wind and rain (Matthew 7:24-27). In the same way that concrete supports houses, God's Word, when received and applied in our lives, supports and strengthens us. With God's presence, we can withstand the storms of life. In contrast, foolish people rely on themselves and, therefore, don't put God's Words into practice. Their lives are like the house built on sand. There is no strength and support for life's problems. With the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word, we are not only empowered to withstand challenges in our lives, we are prompted to tell others about God's wonderful blessings.

**Growing in Grace**  
**Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> & September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Offering**

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2,092.25	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$2,122.03	
<i>Missions</i>	\$0.00	<i>Attendance</i> 200
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	<i>Communed</i> 103
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,214.28</b>	

**Please note: In order to meet budget each week we need to receive \$6,586 in offerings. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We could not do what we do without your prayers, volunteering of your time and talents, and financial support!!!**

**OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

Sunday	9/17	8:00 am	<b>Divine Worship</b>
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
		<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
Monday	9/18	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
		6:30 pm	Grief Share Group
Tuesday	9/19	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
Wednesday	9/20	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	9/21	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
Saturday	9/23	8:00 am	Rise & Sonshine
		10:00 am	Ladies Guild
Sunday	9/24	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
		11:30 am	Voter's Meeting

## SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Church Office		<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
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### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office

#### Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

