

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Stewardship Emphasis 1

September 28th & October 1st, 2023



"By His Grace you are saved through faith."

Ephesians 2:8



Image: "O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky: We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page, A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age." (LSB 523:1)

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 “*Holding Fast to the Word of Life*”

The number of languages being spoken on our planet today is amazing. There are currently more than 6500 individual languages in use. The smallest group that speaks in a singular language is a tribe of indigenous people in Canada, about 50 in number, who speak a distinct dialect of the Tsuu T'ina tongue. The most widely spoken language on earth is English, with some 1.4 billion users, including a large group for whom English is not their native language. We are blessed by God to hear His Word in our own language. Through Moses, God said to His chosen people: “*Lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, . . . as long as the heavens are above the earth*” (Deuteronomy 11:18, 21). We continue to respond to that directive in our generation by holding fast the Word of life—and by sharing it as well!

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 ✠

Sermon Hymn 605 Father Welcomes (vs. 1-3)

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

Stand

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

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

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

Introit (*Psalm 147:1-5; antiphon: v. 6, sung responsively*)



The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.
**Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.**
The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
**He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.**
He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.
**Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.**

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

The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

Kyrie *LSB 204*

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

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

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

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

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

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

P Let us pray. Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same 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 *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

(The prophet gives words of warning)

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?’ ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away

from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

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

Gradual (*Psalm 91:11; 103:1, read responsively*)

He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

Epistle Lesson *Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18*

(Christians are to look to the interests of others)

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 205*

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse “*Alleluia. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Alleluia.*” (Matthew 28:18b)

Holy Gospel *Matthew 21:23-27*

(Jesus and the elders)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

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

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

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 “With God Nothing Is Something” (1 Timothy 6:6-19) 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 732 All Depends on Our Possessing (vs. 1 & 4)

Sermon “Money: The Problem with Money” (1 Timothy 6:6-19)

Sermon Text—1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and^[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before^[b] Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Offertory 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own (vs. 1-2)

1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 **May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Offering/Attendance

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

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



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface *LSB 208*

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

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 209*

- C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord *LSB 209*

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat;**

this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini LSB 209

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei LSB 210

- C 1 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
- 2 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord’s Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to “*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*” the Good News of God’s Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)*. Before attending the Lord’s Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

- *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*
- *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
- *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*
- *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)*

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and

join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

Distribution Hymns

-628 Your Table I Approach (vs. 1-6)

-739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand (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 809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (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 Tony and Suzie Miranda
in Celebration of their 48th Wedding 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); **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); **Michael Abelt** (healing & strength); **Jerry Svcek** (in rehab following major surgery & stroke); and **Carl Smith** (cancer); **Casondra** (pancreatic cancer); and **Rose Adams** (healing & strength); **Stephanie** (pregnant with twins); and **Doug Klipfel** (procedure on his ear).

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

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 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Mike Huber	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Kathryn Szeflinski	Erica Vitek	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>		Claire Gamroth	
<u>Ushers</u>	Jim Robinson	Nick Norton, Evie Gamroth	Ron Savarino Lowell Johnson Marty Taggatz

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)

During this year's stewardship emphasis, you will receive a Commitment Form as well as a Time and Talents Survey. Please fill these out and bring them to church on Harvest Sunday (Commitment Sunday) Oct. 15th or return it to the church office when convenient. (Extra commitment forms are available on the back table of the church and will be included next week in your bulletin). I, as your Pastor, ask that as you approach your commitment decisions and how God can use your time, talents, and treasures for service in God's Kingdom and in His Church. Please seek God's guidance in prayer. Let the love of God guide you in your decision.

CELEBRATE CHURCH WORKER APPRECIATION MONTH *POTLUCK*** OCTOBER 15, after the 10:30 service.**

Please join us in acknowledging all the Grace Church Workers for Church Worker Appreciation month in October, with a potluck lunch. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex of church to indicate who will be attending as well what items are needed to make the lunch more delicious. Sloppy Joe's, dessert and drinks will be provided.

2023 Church Pictorial Directories are in!!! If you took part in getting you and your family's picture taken for our 2023 Pictorial Directory, you are eligible to receive a free directory. We will be handing the directories out before and after our worship services. Also, an app for your smartphone and/or tablet will also be made available to everyone in our congregation with information from our new church directory, this app will be completely free and look for an email with instructions coming soon to let you know how you can download the app and use it to stay connected with your fellow church members and things happening in our congregation.

Choir at Grace

Choir practice will be starting soon on Thursday evenings. Our first practice will be October 19th.

Please contact Kathy Kolb for further details.

All Saints Day—Any members who would like to recognize those of the Christian faith who have fallen asleep in Jesus this last year from November 2022 to the present, please let our church office know by Monday, October 30th. We will be remembering the saints who have gone to heaven in a special All Saints Day worship service on November 5th, 2023.



4th ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT TO BE HELD AT GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PARKING LOT: Children from Grace Lutheran and the surrounding community are invited to come to a “Trunk or Treat” event at Grace Lutheran School’s parking lot on Friday October 27th from 6:00-7:00pm. The children can come to our school parking lot to receive some Halloween Candy, some Christian tracts, and they will be able to have fellowship with other children and with members of our congregation. We are in need

of volunteers for this event, please contact Pastor Taggatz or the Grace Lutheran Church Office if you are interested in helping out with this event and providing candy for the children through the trunk of your car, truck or van: 414-762-8990 or church@graceoakcreek.org. During a Trunk or Treat event the trunk of one’s car is opened displaying candy, and often games are made available, and certain Halloween decorations. Because this is a Christian event, please do not decorate or come in costume with goblins, witches, and other occult attire. Ideas for how to decorate the trunks of your cars for this event can be found on [Pinterest](#). The Oak Creek Fire & Police Department will be at this year’s Trunk or Treat to talk about fire and public safety with the children and *Better Together Café* will also be there to offer sweet treats and drinks for all who come to this event. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave Oak Creek WI 53154

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 \$23,411.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!!!**

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 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Ten Commandments—Review and The Close of the Commandments

Verse of the week: Romans 6:23, “*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 2

Hymn of the week: (LSB 596) “All Christians Who Have Been Baptized” (stanzas 1 and 4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Man with Dropsy Is Healed on the Sabbath—Luke 14:1-11

Monday— Spies Are Sent into Canaan—Numbers 13:1-3 (4-16) 17-33

Tuesday— Israel Refuses to Enter Canaan; Moses Intercedes—Numbers 14:1-24

Wednesday— The Rebels Are Sentenced to Death—Numbers 14:26-45

Thursday— Rebellion Against Moses and Aaron—Numbers 16:1-19a

Friday— The Lord Confirms That Moses Is His Prophet—Numbers 16:19b-40

Saturday—The Essence of the Law—Deuteronomy 10:12-21

“The science is conclusive: Human life starts at fertilization. The Bible is conclusive: Life is from God, it begins at fertilization, and God’s commandment of ‘You shall not murder’ (Exodus 20:13) certainly applies to the slaying of an innocent child in the womb. Because that little baby in the womb IS a human being.” *Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan – 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 "The Way Through the Maze" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy. When life becomes a bewildering maze, Jesus is our way through and our way out. (Psalm 25:4-5)
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

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; or Thomas Beineke, So Wisconsin LLL DP by email at 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— Through faith, we understand that all that comes to us by grace is a gift from God. By grace we respond to God's call to be stewards of His creation (Genesis 2:15). God's grace not only gives us the privilege and honor to be stewards; we are empowered as stewards to use our gifts in service to others. Through faith we know that we are not to rely on our own power to do all that God asks of us. The Apostle Paul heard the Lord say, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness*" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Sufficiency in God means not being self-reliant. Only God is sufficient for us. He lavishes His grace on us, equipping us for every good work.

GOD WANTS US TO DEVELOP AND LIVE WITH AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

A graphic with the text "Give Thanks with a GRATEFUL heart" in a mix of uppercase and lowercase, handwritten-style fonts. "Give" and "heart" are in a simple sans-serif font, while "Thanks" and "GRATEFUL" are in a more decorative, cursive-like script. "with a" is written in a smaller, simpler font between "Thanks" and "GRATEFUL".

Growing in Grace
September 21st & 24th, 2023

Offering

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2116.25	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$1116.52	
<i>Missions</i>	\$60.00	<i>Attendance</i> 106
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	<i>Communed</i> 76
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$1070.00	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Total</i>	\$4362.77	

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	10/1	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Sunday School Divine Worship Voter's Meeting
Monday	10/2	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Confirmation Class Grief Share Group
Tuesday	10/3	7:00 am 6:30pm	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	10/4	9:30 am 6:30pm	Ladies's Bible Study All Board's Meeting
Thursday	10/5	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Sunday	10/8	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study and Sunday School 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	Heidi Brunzelle, Church Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office

Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

